



Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 39 NO. 3 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I MARCH 2016

## FROM SEVEN PLANTS TO A FULL HOUSE

Our February meeting featured a presentation by Gail Rabideau Ishihara and John Ishihara on their beautiful and (over?)growing collection of bromeliads, along with the stories of how they acquired the plants. Their journey began just three years ago, on Valentine's Day 2013, with seven bromeliads, a gift from John. At the time, Gail was redesigning her house in the Pacific Palisades watershed to include a two story atrium. Discovering that bromeliads were not just relatively easy to grow and hard to kill, but featured a wondrous variety of foliage and flowers, they soon became enamored of the plant family, and joined the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society—in time to serve as mainstays of the 2014 BSI International conference in Honolulu. In just three years the atrium has become full, and their growing areas have expanded to include a bromeliad patio that blends into the yard. At present, their collection features *Nidularium*, *Tillandsia*, and a range of *Neoregelia* cultivars, including 'Apricot Brandy,' 'Baby Skotak,' 'Crimson Tide,' 'Dana,' 'Granada,' 'Papaya Moonlight,' and 'Tiger's Blood.'

We're looking for volunteers, for members willing to share photos of their gardens and displays, their greatest successes, and interesting "not successes." The photos could be of large growing areas or of particular microclimates, or even of individual plants or small groupings. Pictures could show off display ideas, spectacular blooms, or striking foliage—or problem areas, where we're looking for advice and suggestions. This could also be a good way to get help in naming that plant whose ID has been lost or forgotten. Photos could be printed out or digital; we'll work with you on how best to display the images.

Photo by Terese Leber.



### 2016 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR
Terese Leber	Marie Ferdun & Gail & John Ishihara
TREASURER	MEMBERSHIP
Dolores Roldan	Open
HOSPITALITY	LIBRARY
Susan Andrade	Karen Gollero & Tessie Labra
NEWSLETTER/RECORDING SECRETARY	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Stanley Schab	Karen Rohter

[www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org](http://www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org)

## MARCH MEETING

This Saturday, March 26,  
we meet at **Val & Randy's**  
at 12:30.

Our hospitality hosts are  
**Dolores and Ed.**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2016

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Nancy Arakaki, Frances Arakaki, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Gail Rabideau Ishihara, John Ishihara, Terese Leber (presiding), Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong.

CONVENED: 12:45 ADJOURNED: 2:30.

Terese welcomed everyone to the meeting, and announced that the Society has a number of tickets to the March shows being organized by the Kunia Orchid Society and Windward Orchid Society. She reminded members that because the Windward Orchid Society has changed its venue and downsized the display area, HBS would not be preparing a display or participating in the show this year, but that HBS members Nancy Arakaki, Marcy Doseo, Karen Gollero, and Tessie Labra would be selling plants at the Kunia Orchid Society Show.

Lynette reported that Paul Isley, the distinguished *Tillandsia* hybridizer and cofounder of Rainforest Flora, had been in Honolulu this month to present a talk to the Garden Club of Honolulu, but that it had not been open to the public, although Sharon Petersen and Larry McGraw had been invited as guests.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dolores reported a balance of \$9,947.15, with proceeds of \$158.25 from our January auction (25 cents? somebody got a bargain!).

MEMBERSHIP: If you have not yet done so, please give Dolores your dues for 2016—\$15 per person, \$20 per family.

HOSPITALITY: Thank you, Gail and John, for the great hospitality spread. Our March hosts are Dolores (food) and Ed (drinks).

PROGRAMS: Terese thanked the members and Program Chairs for suggestions. Next month we will meet at Val and Randy's house. Subsequent programs may include a talk by Angel Ramos, of the Cactus and Succulent Society, and field trips to Sharon Petersen's nursery and the Koko Crater Botanical Garden. A nursery and garden trip to Hanelei was proposed for our next off-island excursion. Additional program suggestions are always welcome.

LIBRARY: Lynette checked on the HBS "library cabinet," which has been moved to a screened greenhouse area; our collection seems to be holding up well. Susan noted that she had inherited a lot of material from previous presidents. She and Lynette agreed to sort through the items to see what should be added to the collection. A copy of Victoria Padilla's 1973 classic work *Bromeliads* was offered for sale.



SHOW AND TELL: Lynette provided a mini-tutorial on plant identification by bringing in four plants similar in size and shape but with their inflorescences hidden in bags. Once the bags were removed, it was easier to distinguish between the *Vriesia*, with its V-shaped bloom, the *Guzmania*, with its torch blossom, the *Aechmea*, marked by its beady inflorescence and the *Tillandsia*—although Lynette was quick to remind us of the many exceptions to these generic markers.

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# RESURRECTING THE BROMELIAD GARDEN

HBS members Terese Leber, Karen Rohter, Stan Schab, and Randy Wong met with Lyon Arboretum's Karen Shigematsu to discuss plans for working with Arboretum staff to maintain Lyon's Bromeliad Garden. The Arboretum is particularly interested in having HBS members help with identifying plants and creating signs and maps. We are currently planning a regular schedule of work sessions. Anyone interested in working in the Garden, or in helping to identify plants, please contact Terese.



RIGHT: An example of the plant signs needed.

BELOW: Overcrowded beds need thinning.

BELOW LEFT: Karen surveys the terraces created in 2014.

BELOW RIGHT: Karen Shigematsu indicates bromeliads donated by David Fell for replanting in the Garden.

Photos by Terese Leber.



## MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2016

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**NEW BUSINESS:** In light of our new program featuring pictures and videos of members' gardens, Terese reminded members that pictures can be worth a thousand words. She described the digital projector she had brought to the meeting, and presented a short video of her yard. Members moved that

### **HBS should purchase a digital projector.**

Nancy agreed to ask her son to check on prices and varieties, and Marie and Lynette agreed to draft rules for its use.

**AUCTION:** The auction featured Ed's wood-mounted bromeliads; specimens of *Billbergia* 'Bellesima' and *Billbergia* 'Grasshopper'; an unusual (for us) *Hechtia argentea*; and several of Gail's *Neoregelia* hybrids, including *Neoregelia* 'Dana', *Neoregelia* 'Granada, Lisa Vinzant's cultivar 'Apricot Brandy,' and David Shiigi's 'King Kamehameha II.' Thanks to all who contributed plants.