



Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 42 NO. 3

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

MARCH 2019

## MARCH TO LARRY'S

Two fieldtrips in a row! For our March meeting we will gather at Larry McGraw's home in lush Nuuanu at 12:30. And if you think you know *Tillandsia*, be prepared to be educated and amazed. Happily growing on trees, hedges, rocks, and a specially created hanging wall, Larry's plants come in many sizes and from many sources—some cultivated from seed, some liberated from the wild, some that just liked the neighborhood and moved in—and his collection highlights the fascinating variety of plants found in this most prolific genre of bromeliads.

Thank you, Larry, for hosting us, and hope to see you all there.



A section of Larry's hanging garden of *Tillandsia* (below), and yes, that's one plant ball that Terese is standing next to.



### 2019 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Terese Leber

TREASURER

Dolores Roldan

HOSPITALITY

Susan Andrade

NEWSLETTER/RECORDING SECRETARY

Stanley Schab

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mischa Kobayashi

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR

Gail Ishihara

MEMBERSHIP

Naty Hopewell

LIBRARY

Merrill Cutting

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Karen Rohter

## MARCH MEETING

This Saturday, March 30,  
we meet at **Larry's House**  
at **12:30**.

Our hospitality hosts are  
**Dolores and Jaime and David.**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2019

Karen Rohter's house

**ATTENDING:** Susan Andrade, Merrill Cutting, David Fell, Naty Hopewell, Gail Ishihara, John Ishihara, Terese Leber (presiding), Wendie Liu, Georgia Lyman, Leslie Morishige, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stanley Schab, Tom Stuart, and Marsha Tamashiro, Chris Taylor, and Shar Yoshida.

**CONVENED:** 12:45; **ADJOURNED:** 3:00.

Terese welcomed everyone, and thanked Gail and John and Georgia for serving as hospitality hosts, and especially Karen for welcoming us all to her home—and at short notice, due to a late-scheduled event at Lyon Arboretum.

**HOSPITALITY:** Susan circulated a sign up sheet for hospitality hosts for 2019. Our March hosts are Dolores and Jaime (food) and David (drinks).

**MEMBERSHIP:** Terese handed out updated member lists, and thanked Naty for agreeing to serve as membership chair—so if you haven't paid your 2019 dues yet, please see Naty. As is customary, Terese also gave out copies of the Bromeliad Society International booklet *Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual* to new members.

**PROGRAMS:** Our program for the March meeting will feature Larry McGraw, who will focus on *Tillandsia* basics. The meeting will be held at his house in Nuuanu; directions and parking instructions will be forthcoming.

**TREASURER:** Dolores reported that the January auction brought in \$399, which together with membership dues for the year brings our account to \$15,006.02. This amount does not, however, reflect outstanding payments of \$600 to the Bromeliad Society International to cover HBS's dues as an affiliate BSI member for 2019, 2020, and 2021, as well as support for the publication of the *Journal of the Bromeliad Society* and other BSI projects; and to Lyon Arboretum of \$300 as our annual contribution for meeting and keeping our library there, and \$1,000 to fund a student worker for the bromeliad garden for the first half of 2019.

John pointed out that because our auctions can get rambunctious, it can be hard for Dolores to keep track of who has purchased the plants and for how much. He suggested that members wait to pay for their purchases until the end of the auction, and that someone help her keep track of the buyers and amounts.

### OLD BUSINESS—WINDWARD ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW:

Terese reminded members that HBS has been invited to prepare a display for the Windward Orchid Society's 39th Annual Orchid Show and Plant Sale, "Game of Trophies," which will be held March 22 to 24 at King Intermediate School. As usual, set-up for the show will take place on Thursday morning, with clean up on Sunday at 4 p.m. Lynette discussed how members should groom their plants for display, especially by flushing them and taking off any dead leaves. Gail, who is organizing the display, emphasized that she is looking for plants with a "wow" factor: statement plants that will anchor the corners of the tables, and set off the levels of the display. She is looking for nicely potted or mounted plants; blooms are a plus. Send pictures of plants that you think might work to Gail. A goal this year is to have all the plants uniformly named and labelled, at least by genus. The display will also include educational and membership materials.

**AUCTION:** Thanks to all who donated plants for the auction, including the *Hohenbergia correia araujoi* (aka fudge ripple) and *Portea kermesiana* and 'Ted Teves' (a Vinzant cultivar) from Tom, and the specimens of *Neoregelia* 'Bossa Nova' and *Aechmea gamosepala* and *kertesziae*.



## PROS AND CONS OF BROMELIAD FERTILIZATION

As part of the "Bromeliad Basics" program in January, we got some good information on bromeliad fertilization from a real pro. David Fell noted that while it is possible to kill plants with fertilizer as well as help them, he reminded us that "bromeliads are biological systems, like people, and need the same things we do—so feed them if you want them to grow." He uses a combination of liquid fertilizer, delivered twice a week through his watering system, and slow release pellets. In choosing a fertilizer, he recommends looking for one that is low in phosphorous and high in potassium. Some bromeliads benefit more from fertilizers than others: *Guzmania*, for example, are hungrier than *Vriesea* or *Tillandsia*, and *Neoregelia* and *Billbergia* can develop shorter, chubbier leaves without much color if overfed. A liquid fertilizer applied once a month, on the plant leaves and not the central reservoir, would be a safe and effective choice for the casual grower.

## A VISIT TO KAREN'S HILLSIDE HOME

Many thanks to Karen Rohter for welcoming the HBS to her home for our February meeting. Prior to Lynette Wageman's program on uncommon bromeliads, Karen led members on a tour of her property, sharing stories of how she has incorporated bromeliads into the different growing environments on her Waialae Nui hillside, above Kahala Mall. The yard offers a variety of landscaping challenges (or opportunities!): sharp drop offs and slopes reaching down toward Kahala, some very large rocks, rock walls, storm drains, and a wide range of sun and shade. As for climate, her property shares aspects, though not the extremes, of both Naty's ocean-front landscape (Waialae Nui can get windy!) and Larry's Nuuanu home, site of our next meeting (occasional stretches of heavy rain). Her solutions include planting the sturdier bromeliads, including *Neoregelia*, *Aechmea*, and *Billbergia*. Because of her yard's microclimates and variations in sun and shade, her plants, even of the same species, show wide differences in color and variegation—between, for example, a potted *Neoregelia* on her porch, where it receives full sun, and the same plant under a shade-casting tree.

Thank you, Karen, for showing us another creative way to use bromeliads to help create a beautiful and welcoming home environment.



## LYNETTE'S LESSONS ON UNCOMMON BROMELIADS

If you have ever wanted to expand your bromeliad collection beyond the better known varieties of *Tillandsia*, *Neoregelia*, *Vriesea*, *Cryptanthus*, *Aechmea*, or *Guzmania*, last month's program was designed just for you. Lynette Wageman highlighted the features of several less common types—including why many people don't like to deal with them (most of them are Really Pokey, with dentate or serrated edges like teeth or saws).

The genera she discussed included *dyckia*, a terrestrial plant that flourishes in rocky, sunny locations, has no central water reservoir, and tough, succulent-like leaves that are often grayish to silvery white in color; *deuterocohnia brevifolia*, known for its mounded shape of tightly clustered spiny leaves; *hechtia*, a bromeliad that most resembles agave; *hohenbergia*, with its large, vase-like shape and striking leaf markings; and *orthophytum*, another saxicolous or rock growing variety that can take strong light and is marked by crinkly, spiny leaf rosettes that, in some species, turn red before blooming.

A big thank you to Sharon Petersen for providing samples of these uncommon plants.

Lynette points out the differences between *Billbergia* and *Quesnalia* (below), and shows off a *Hohenbergia correia araujo* (aka 'Fudge Ripple').



## TRIUMPHANT SHOWING AT GAME OF TROPHIES

This past week HBS was well-represented by an elegant and informative display at the Windward Orchid Society's spring show, "Game of Trophies." Thanks to Gail, for her vision and leadership of the project; to Naty, for her educational brochure; to Dolores, for the plant labels; to the production team, David, Dolores, Jaime, John, Shar, and Terese; and to all who contributed plants and ideas.

