



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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MAY 2017

MAY MEETING TO FEATURE MEMBERS PLANT SALE

Our meeting this month will highlight the return of an old favorite: a members plant sale! Ransack your gardens, your greenhouses, your yards, your neighbors' yards for plants that you would like to sell—that you're proud of, or that you have plenty of, or that you're just tired of looking at. Clean them up and bring them in—potted, mounted, or bare root—name your price, and let your fellow HBS members hand you money: 20 percent goes to HBS and you get to keep the rest. Or, if you have all the money you need?, donate your plants to the auction that will follow the sale, where as usual all the proceeds will go to HBS.

Among the special offerings at the sale will be some of Gail and John's *Neoregelia* keiki, including such prize plants as the Sharon Petersen cultivar *Neoregelia* 'Aloha.' Gail and John will also be offering—at the incredible price of \$5—specimens of *Aechmea recurvata* grown by Dennis Heckart in Hilo, and while supplies last, a set of two decorative canvas potholders for \$5—items that proved to be a big hit at the 2016 East-West Center craft fair. So bring your plants and your wallets (and your rich friends), and prepare to have fun.



TOP RIGHT: *Aechmea recurvata*.

BOTTOM RIGHT: set of canvas potholders, with water-resistant inner lining,

BOTTOM LEFT: *Neoregelia* 'Aloha.'

2017 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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TREASURER

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LIBRARY

Open

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Karen Rohrer

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MAY MEETING

This Saturday, May 27,
we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**
at **12:30.**

Our hospitality hosts are
Larry and Tessie.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 29, 2017

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Merrill Cutting, Naty Hopewell, John Ishihara, Mischa Kobayashi, Wes Kobayashi, Terese Leber (presiding), Wendie Liu, Larry McGraw, Linda McGraw, Sally Mist, Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong, and Val Wong.

CONVENED: 12:50; ADJOURNED: 2:30.

Terese welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Karen for the make-your-own burritos spread, and Wendie for the pumpkin muffins.

Terese displayed the bowl that HBS received from the Windward Orchid Society for our participation in its Spring Show, and organized a drawing to pick a member to receive the bowl, which was won by Karen.

Lynette noted that Foster Botanical Garden will host its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 20. Sharon Petersen will be giving a lecture on *Tillandsia* cultivation, and vendors will include Sharon's Plants and Peter de Mello.

TREASURER: Dolores reported that our balance is \$11,562.64, including \$180 from the March auction.

HOSPITALITY: Our hospitality hosts for May are Larry (snacks) and Tessie (drinks).

LIBRARY: Terese reported that Jaime and Dolores found a metal storage cabinet at Fisher Hawai'i's Mapunapuna store that could replace Lyon's old wood-veneer cabinet as the new home for the HBS library, and that she and Lynette had gone to look at it, but actually found a similar cabinet that they preferred: a metal cabinet, approximately 2 feet deep by 5 feet tall by 3 feet wide, with five adjustable shelves. The cabinet was missing its wheels, but Fisher agreed to order and install the four castor wheels, and to add a lock. With the wheels, lock, and delivery to the Arboretum, the price would be \$450. HBS members moved

to purchase the cabinet, if the wheels and lock are installed, and both work.

(Naty moved, John seconded. Approved).

Terese will follow up with Fisher on the purchase and delivery.

PROGRAMS: Gail reported that the May program will feature a Members Sale, in which HBS members can bring plants—excess plants, keiki, the overabundance of your gardens—and offer them for sale to other members and guests. You set the price, and keep 80 percent of the proceeds. Gail also suggested discussing with Lyon our participation in the Arboretum's sales.

NEW BUSINESS—LYON ARBORETUM BROMELIAD GARDEN STUDENT HELP: Terese reported on her meeting with Arboretum director Carl Evensen and head groundskeeper and ethnobotanist Liloa Dunn. They discussed how Lyon would like to feature the Garden more, especially because it is very visible, on one of the Arboretum's main trails. To increase the Garden's educational value, they would like more signs that, beyond just identifying genus and species, would include information about the plants, such as their blooms or size or growing patterns. Terese described the difficulty HBS faces in maintaining the garden, and brought up the possibility of providing funding for student help that would be hired, paid, and supervised by Lyon staff, but would work with HBS members in the Bromeliad Garden. Evensen proposed trying one year of student help at \$1,000 a semester (\$2,000 a year), which would pay for approximately 83 hours a semester, or four or five hours a week. HBS members moved

to approve a one-year trial of student help to work with HBS volunteers in the Bromeliad Garden, at a cost of \$1,000 a semester.

(John moved, Val seconded. Approved).

Terese will follow up with Dolores and Evensen on processing payment and scheduling the student work.

NEW BUSINESS—2018 BROMELIAD SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: Terese reminded members that May 31 is the deadline for early registration for next year's BSI conference, "Fiesta de las Bromelias," which will be held in San Diego from May 29 to June 3. Until the end of May 2017, conference registration costs \$350; from June 1, 2017 to May 2018, \$390, and \$425 at the door; individual membership in BSI costs \$45 a year.

AUCTION: Thank you to all who donated plants for the auction—especially Ed for a *Neoregelia stolinifera*, a variegated *Neoregelia* 'Fireball,' and a fudge ripple-like *Cryptanthus* 'Elaine,' and Larry for a *Tillandsia schideana* and an *Aechmea* 'Samurai' (which he swore was reverting back to *chantinii*).

THE DOWN AND DIRTY OF SEPARATING PLANTS

As we all know, bromeliads are viviparous: a fancy way of saying that new plants will develop while still attached to the mother plant—in other words, keiki. At our last meeting we learned that separating plants—detaching keiki from the mother plant—is hands-on work. Lynette Wageman showed us that, no matter if a plant is big or small, you have to dig down, feel around for the keiki, and find the joints. She then uses a knife or clippers to cut as close as possible to the mother plant.

Once she has separated the keiki, she washes out the cut plant, removes dead or weak leaves and any leaves low on the stem, puts some rootone on the new plant, and sets the plant in a pot that will hold the keiki but is not too deep—and if it is, she'll fill the pot with sufficient drainage material to raise the bottom. She then packs in her planting material (discussed at our February meeting) so that the plant is in the middle of the pot, upright and straight, such that you can tip the pot without the plant falling out, while making sure that the planting material does not cover any leaves. Finally, she reminded us, tag the plant, because you'll never remember it's name or parentage. Lynette stakes wobbly plants with chopsticks or toothpicks, or locks them in place with rock, coarse bark, or something similar. *Cryptanthus*, for example, are notorious for breaking or falling off the mother plant, leaving the new plant with no butt, so those she sets in potting material and stakes with toothpicks.

Keiki in general should be about one-third the size of the mother plant before separating, but it's easy to dig too far into the mother or keiki. If a plant is too small, one alternative to repotting it immediately is to place it in the center of another plant, or simply prop it up in an empty pot until roots begin to grow. Lynette also reminded us of the need to be more careful with older, larger, thicker stemmed plants. Separating and growing bromeliads can be easy, she noted, but there are lots of little things to watch out for.



VIDEOS OF LEADING BROMELIAD GROWERS

Our April program featured videos and photos taken by John Kawamoto (who presented a memorable program in September 2016 on the fascinating *Ceropegia*) on a recent excursion to Hilo to attend the Spring 2017 sale of the Big Island Nurserymen's Association and meet with Bromeliad growers David Shiigi (below right) and Dennis Heckart, and by our own John Ishihara of HBS member Larry McGraw's garden. Mr. Kawamoto's beautifully made videos can be seen on YouTube: go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=H61ggM1rwbA, for a tour of Dennis Heckart's plants, and to www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1_H2WIGUNg&spfreload=5 for a visit to David Shiigi's greenhouse.



SAY WHAT? SOME TERMS FOR DESCRIBING BROMELIADS

In case you've ever wondered what some of our speakers (or auctioneers) may be talking about when they refer to a plant as albo-marginate or discolor, here is a glossary of some common descriptive terms for bromeliads.

Alba, albica: white or pale. **Albo-marginate:** variegation where the edge of the leaf is white or pale.

Banded: marked with cross-bars, ribs, or horizontal lines of contrasting colors.

Bi-color or **Discolor:** two-colored, usually referring to leaves where the top and bottom are contrasting colors.

Bivittatus: double stripe lengthwise.

Blushing: the reddening of the centers of bromeliads as they approach blooming.

Bulbosa: like a bulb.

Capitata: like a head; a dense or compact cluster.

Crypt-, crypto-: hidden; covered; concealed.

Epiphyte: an plant that uses another object as a means of support, but that gets its moisture and nutriment from the air.

Fasciata: marked by broad parallel stripes of color; banded.

Fulgens: shining; glistening.

Inflorescence: not the flowers, but what displays the flowers.

Ionantha: violet-flowered, wine colored.

Marginata or **Marginate:** having a distinctly colored edge or margin.

Monostachia: having one spike; **Polystachia:** having many spikes.

Nudicaulis: bare-stemmed.

Punctata: spotted; **Punctissima:** very spotted.

Recurvata: having leaves that bend or curve downward or backward.

Striata: striped variegation, marked by lengthwise lines.

Variegata or **Variegated:** irregularly colored or blotchy; usually refers to lengthwise stripes, and often to leaf areas that have no green pigment, resulting in pale stripes, spots, or bands.