



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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OCTOBER MEETING FIELD TRIP

Our next Hawai'i Bromeliad Society meeting will be a field trip, our first in a couple of years. We've been invited to visit Andy Butler's house in Kahala, which is landscaped with an amazing variety of bromeliads, palms, orchids, and succulents, and furnished with items he's recovered on dives around the Pacific. Andy is the former president of the Hawaiian Malacological Society (seashells!), and his garden features a good variety of types and sizes of seashell planters. Andy took up diving when he moved to Hawai'i in 1959, and over the course of hundreds of dives around the state, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and across the Pacific, including Midway, Tahiti, Fiji, Tonga, and Palau, besides shells, he has rescued and repurposed in his home landscape a pre-contact, lava rock canoe anchor from Honolulu Harbor, and part of a World War II airplane propeller.

Andy's house was built in 1927, and in the almost forty years he has lived there, he has completely refurbished and redecorated the property, inside and out—placing every plant and tree by hand. Trained in the agricultural sciences, Andy has developed the eye of a landscape artist as well, as shown by the inclusion of his home in the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens.

When asked what qualities attracted him to Bromeliads, Andy pointed to their striking colors and long-lasting growth patterns, and to the fact that "they're like furniture"—they can be moved around, indoors and out, to show off their best features, qualities that keep Andy still working in his garden, arranging plantings of his new finds.

Instead of meeting at Lyon Arboretum, we will meet on Saturday, October 25, at noon at Kahala Park for a short business meeting. Kahala Park is just down the street from Kahala Mall, and next to Kahala Elementary School—there is usually plenty of street parking. After our business meeting, we will carpool to Andy's house, near the Waialae Country Club.

Thank you to Karen for organizing this special event!



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www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org

SEPTEMBER MEETING

This Saturday, **October 25**,
we meet at **Noon** at
KAHALA PARK.

Our hospitality hosts are
Dolores and Jaime (food)
and **Terese** (drinks).

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Francis Arakaki, Nancy Arakaki, Marcy Doseo, Raleigh Ferdun, Karen Gollero, Nancy Hiraoka, Naty Hopewell, John Ishihara, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Larry McGraw, Ed Nishimura, Gail Rabideau, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Genie Trapp, Lynette Wagner, Randy Wong, and Val Wong.

CONVENED: 12:15 ADJOURNED: 2:30.

CONFERENCE: HBS President Susan opened the meeting by calling for a motion:

that we all agree to never, ever do this again!
(Passed Unanimously)

Susan then went on to note that the friendliness, flexibility, and positive feedback from the BSI participants made all the work worthwhile. She thanked the HBS volunteers for their dedication, remarking how impressed she was by how well the conference went, and how proud she was of our members, and overwhelmed by the way that everyone rose to the occasion.

FINANCES: Conference treasurer Raleigh reminded all HBS members who had received reimbursements for conference expenses to please cash their checks promptly, because once the checks to our members are cleared, the conference bank account will be closed and the remainder will be sent to the Bromeliad Society International.

The Society moved that

the cost for HBS volunteer lunches during the conference should be reimbursed prior to settling the account.

Raleigh explained that BSI will be paying the plant and craft sale vendors, so the sooner we settle our own accounts and transfer the remainder to BSI, the sooner the vendors will be paid. Thousands of transactions were recorded over the two and a half days of the sale, bringing in upwards of \$49,000 in proceeds. Karen and Tessie reported that the vendors in general were happy. David Fell's Fantastic Gardens HI, Liza Vinzant's Olomana Tropicals, and Pamela Koide-Hyatt's Bird Rock Tropicals seemed to do particularly well.

Raleigh discussed options for the cash registers that he bought for the conference for \$100 each. HBS moved

to authorize Raleigh to try and sell the registers on Craig's list, and if there are no buyers to find an organization that would accept them as donations.

Lynette read several post-conference thank you notes and emails she had received, including one from the Bromeliad Society of South Florida. Bonnie Boutwell, BSI Vice President and Conference Chair, wrote that she was proud to have been part of the conference, and that it had been wonderful to work with HBS.

TOURS: Lynette discussed the bus problems that impacted basically all the tours, including the transferring of participants to minivans to go to Lyon Arboretum, and to allow a few registrants to visit Larry's house; the inability of the buses to complete the Nursery tour in Waimanalo because of low-hanging wires and trees; and the tire blow-out on the Sunday Hawai'i Island trip. She reported success, however, on her early morning dash to the Dole Plantation village to make sure all the participants on the Dole/Polynesian Cultural Center trip got tickets to ride the Plantation Village garden train.

Gail reported that at the banquet, David Shiigi had been talking about how his daughter would be taking over Bromeliads Hawai'i, leaving him more time for his other pursuits. Members suggested considered planning our own Hawai'i Island nursery trip next year.

BANQUET: BSI decided to conduct a silent auction for everything except plants. Lynette reported that both auctions seemed to go smoothly (Thank you, Helen, for organizing and preparing the items, and overseeing the auction room): the pineapple quilt, for example, sold for \$350 at silent auction; and in the spirited live auction, Sharon Peterson's new hybrid, that the buyer got to name, sold for \$650. Susan noted how much the auctioneer enjoyed the event, and Lynette thanked Gail for pushing the bidding, and John for taking such good care of everyone. The wooden pineapple banquet favors, with Larry's *Tillandsia* centerpieces and Lynette's mirrors, were also a hit.

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ALOHA, BETTY

Our friend and colleague Betty Chang passed away this September. A long-time, active member of the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society, Betty was eighty-one. She is survived by her husband Harry, five children (Avery, Willard, Vernatta, Melanie, and Serena), five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

A good cook and baker, Betty's talents were particularly appreciated by HBS members during the years she served as Refreshment Chair. But not many members knew that Betty was also a painter, who decorated the walls of her own home—though we might have guessed from her success at shaping and painting clay pots and her skillful contributions to our HBS floral displays.



HBS member Hazel Wong and Betty lived around the corner from each other, and Hazel really got to know Betty on the long drives to HBS meetings. Whether it was volunteering to cook or provide food to folks in financial troubles, participating in the Kailua Seniors Club, where Betty was named volunteer of the year, or serving as a trusted “cat sitter” for Hazel, Betty was always very generous and giving of herself, her time, and her skills. As Hazel put it, “whatever she did, she did well.”

Aloha, Betty, you will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.



REPORT OF THE MEETING: CONFERENCE WRAP UP

WILLOWS DINNER: Lynette described the difficulties at the Willows banquet caused by the undercounted reservations: the restaurant had to add three extra tables, and HBS had to scramble to buy additional lei to serve all 114 attendees. Lynette also described how she pushed the poi and lomi salmon on our visitors, and in particular, how mesmerized the guests were by Karen's daughter's hula.

HOLIDAY MEETING: HBS does not hold regular meetings in November and December. Instead of gathering, as usual, at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens for a pot-luck holiday celebration, members decided to spend some of our hard-earned conference proceeds by having our year-end celebration at the Willows Restaurant, on Saturday, December 13, at 12:30. HBS will partially subsidize the cost of attendance; members will only pay \$10 each. As is traditional, members are asked to bring a plant to exchange at the dinner. Attendees will also receive a gift plant courtesy of the Society. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

AUCTION: HBS members got to bid on one remaining Aloha Basket, which a participant had neglected to pick up at the conference. Containing an assortment of local food, drink, and crafts, the basket was a steal at \$32. Thank you to Ed and Lynette for providing plants for the auction, including assorted *Aechmea*, *Neoregelia*, and *Billbergia*, including one of Lisa Vinzant's *Billbergia* 'YouTube.' Thanks also to Larry for serving as the auctioneer.



Billbergia 'YouTube' photo by L. Vinzant

BROMELIADS CAN GET SUNBURNED TOO

The South East Michigan Bromeliad Society offers “Extensive Information on Growing Bromeliads in Northern Climates,” and even the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies provides several publications offering tips on how to harden and prepare your bromeliads for surviving freezing conditions—debating, for example, whether varieties such as *Neoregelia* should have their central wells filled with water or empty during a freeze.

Fortunately, that’s one issue we don’t have to deal with here. But as we learned at our last meeting, long periods of hot sunny weather can also challenge the health and well-being of our bromeliads. This summer especially reminded us that weather even in Hawai’i impacts how our plants grow: increased exposure to sun can lead to

more and brighter color in our plants, but too much sun, too soon, especially with a lack of air circulation, can result in bleached, faded leaves, dry edges, and burn spots. Dry conditions combined with sunny, windless days can stress plants (especially if they are followed by a hurricane!). “Hard leaf, hard light, soft leaf, soft light” is the common rule, but even tough, thick-leaved plants like *Hohenbergia* and some *Aechmea* will thank you for a little shade, even from other nearby plants. If they are going to be in full sun from sunrise to sunset, be prepared for at least a little bleaching.

It is also important to give plants time to acclimate—you can’t take a plant from a shady spot and place it in direct sun without getting some burning or bleaching. Sudden changes in the length of sunny periods and amount of humidity and air circulation can also cause problems, even for healthy plants. And of course, as Lynette showed us, it’s important to remember that the laws against leaving keiki in cars should also apply to our bromeliads.

Here are some of the experts’ suggestions for full-sun bromeliads: *Aechmea*, particularly species like *blanchetiana*; *Hohenbergia*; *Portea petropolitana* (currently flourishing in partial sun in the Lyon Arboretum Bromeliad Garden); *Neoregelia*, including common varieties like *burle-marxii*, *compacta*, *marmorata*, and ‘Fireball’; most *Dyckia* and *Hechtia*; and several of the popular *Tillandsia*, including *capitata*, *xerographica*, *bulbosa*, *ionantha*, and *usneoides*; and of course, *Ananas comosus*. But even with these plants, if they have been growing in shade, don’t introduce them directly to full sun. As Larry put it, it’s good to shock your plants sometimes, but don’t electrocute them!



ABOVE: Notice the difference between the sunburned *Neoregelia* along the walkway and the partially shaded plants.

LEFT: One good spot to see the impact of sun and shade is the Bromeliad Garden at Kapi’olani Community College.