



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 42 NO. 10

HONOLULU, HAWAII

OCTOBER 2019

OCTOBER MEETING TO FOCUS ON CRAFT FAIR

We are fast approaching our major fund-raiser of the year. The East-West Center's 18th Annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Thursday and Friday, December 5 and 6, in front of Burns Hall, on the corner of East-West Road and Dole Street, adjacent to the University of Hawai'i Mānoa campus. The event hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., but the selling usually starts early. This year we will have two six-foot tables on which to display our plants and other items for sale. Past events have shown that small *Vriesea*, mini-*Neoregelia*, and *Tillandsia* are popular sellers, especially—as we learned at our last meeting from Mischa and Brian—if they are wood-mounted or otherwise creatively displayed. The October meeting will focus on preparations for the sale. If you have plants or other items to donate—such as attractive or eye-catching pots or mounting materials—please bring them to the meeting, or talk to Terese about picking them up or dropping them off closer to the sale. And everyone, please bring your ideas to the meeting about what you think would make for a successful event.

GROWING HAPPY PLANTS IN SMALL SPACES

Ever wonder how to keep a plant alive in that corner of the living room which only gets two hours of reflected sunlight a day? Or how to water your plants without flooding your neighbors? If not, then it's probably been a while since you lived in an apartment, condo, or dorm room. But whether you're living on a multi-acre spread with morning sunlight and gentle evening showers, or in a basement apartment, you could have learned a lot from our September program by Mischa Kobayashi and Brian Taylor on small space, indoor gardening. Brian and Mischa focused on tips and challenges for those of us who want to grow bromeliads but who don't have greenhouses, yards, or even lanais, but do have some creativity and a willingness to learn and to try different things.



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"Our apartment is THIS big!"

2019 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Terese Leber

TREASURER

Dolores Roldan

HOSPITALITY

Susan Andrade

NEWSLETTER/RECORDING SECRETARY

Stanley Schab

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mischa Kobayashi

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP

Naty Hopewell

LIBRARY

Merrill Cutting

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Karen Rohter

OCTOBER MEETING

This Saturday, October 26,
we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**
at **12:30.**

Our hospitality hosts are
Elsie and Karen.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Merrill Cutting, David Fell, Naty Hopewell, Elsie Horikawa, Gail Ishihara, John Ishihara, Karen Kim, Mischa Kobayashi, Terese Leber (presiding), Larry McGraw, Leslie Morishige, Judy Nakamura, Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stanley Schab, Brian Taylor, Chris Taylor, Randy Wong, and Val Wong.

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

Terese welcomed everyone, and thanked Karen for the food (make-your-own burritos!), David for the drinks, and Brian for his “practice-exam” coffee and lemon macaroons—definitely A+.

HOSPITALITY: Our hosts for October are Karen K. and Elsie.

TREASURER: Dolores reported that our current balance is \$14,137.74, with \$166 earned at the July auction and \$73 at the August auction.

MEMBERSHIP: Naty prepared an updated membership list, which will be available at the October meeting. She and Terese agreed to cooperate on checking in with “dormant” members to see if they are interested in signing up for the new year.

LIBRARY: Merrill reminded members that meeting days are the best time to check out material from our library, which is in the downstairs classroom at the Arboretum, and which she can show people before or after the meetings.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Mischa encouraged members to post photos to our Instagram account—and is happy to show any “tech-challenged” members how to do so. She also noted that our account can have multiple mediators; anyone interested should contact her.

PROGRAMS: Our final program for this year will include a preview and workshop for the Fall craft fair, and a report by David on “Golden Broms,” the 2019 Australasian Bromeliad Conference scheduled for October 17–20 on Queensland’s Gold Coast.

OLD BUSINESS—LYON ARBORETUM: Terese reported that she will schedule a meeting with Liloa Dunn, Arboretum grounds manager, who also monitors the student help, to find out when student helpers are assigned to working in the bromeliad garden, and whether our last payment of \$1,000 has been expended.

OLD BUSINESS—BROCHURE: Naty reported on the informational and promotional brochure she has designed, with input from David. Her most recent quote for the trifold brochure brings the cost to well under \$1.00 per copy. Members voted that

Naty should go ahead with the production, as specified in the most recent bid.

Naty will give the brochure to Stan, who will prepare the master copy for printing. She hopes to have the brochure available to give away at the Fall craft fair.

OLD BUSINESS—WINDWARD ORCHID SHOW: Terese confirmed with Dolores that she will supervise our participation in the Windward Orchid Society’s Spring show next March, and serve as chair of the display committee. For the first time, HBS will present a floor display, and Dolores circulated a preliminary design, which features two eight foot tables placed at right angles in the form of a V, leaving a gap between them for a tree on which to hang bromeliads. The display will thus be multidimensional, making use of the space from floor to table and above, and will be open to viewing on all sides. (We’re going to need plenty of plants!) As the design develops, she will forward the information to Karen Kim, Vice President of the Windward Orchid Society. Karen noted that the show features talks by growers and specialists in different areas, and that in previous years speakers from HBS, including Tom Stuart and Lynette Wageman, had given presentations on general bromeliad culture. Members agreed to authorize Karen to schedule a bromeliad talk on the Sunday of the show at noon, with the speaker to be determined later (volunteers welcome).

OLD BUSINESS—ELSIE’S POTS AND PLANTS: Terese reminded members to contact Elsie if they are interested in obtaining any of the pots, from large to small, that have become available from her downsizing her garden.

NEW BUSINESS—CRAFT FAIR: Terese noted that the East-West Center craft fair will be December 5 and 6, the first Thursday and Friday in December, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS—HOLIDAY PARTY: Terese reminded members of the HBS tradition of an end-of-year party, and explained that recent events have been held at Ho’omaluhia Botanical Garden and the Willows Restaurant. She surveyed the members about where and when they would like to hold this year’s event, and the preferred venue was Ho’omaluhia, on a Saturday in either early December or early January. She will check on the availability of the Botanical Garden for December 7 and 14.

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TIPS AND TRICKS FOR URBAN GARDENERS

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Although it's true that plant sellers love apartment dwellers—replacing all those dead plants is a steady source of income—bromeliads can still be an inexpensive way to decorate an indoor, urban living space. But how do you know which plants adapt well to an indoor environment? And how do you deal with the challenges of poor lighting, dryness and humidity, and watering? Members of the millennial generation—and more broadly, those who don't have a house and yard and don't plan to have one anytime soon, but who still want to experience the pleasures of cultivating and living with plants—have been forced to invent new ways to use space, and to come up with different methods of growing. Urban gardeners, in other words, have to get creative.

Mischa and Brian talked about how finding small planters, and repurposing fun, eye-catching items as planters, enables them to turn shelf space into attractive staging areas for plants. Solving the issues of light and water—necessities for any plant—also takes creativity. As Brian put it, “you can't just turn on the hose, unless you really want to meet your neighbors.” Apartment air conditioners also can cause plants to dry out quickly. Mischa and Brian use misters on their bromeliads, but since misting alone will not keep plants alive, they also dunk them in the sink or tub—”mist every day, dunk weekly.” This of course means that their plants, and pots, must be movable. Being movable also helps indoor bromeliads get the lighting they need. Brian and Mischa have no direct sunlight into their building, and plants

can't grow just on reflected light. They do use simple grow kits—a technology that is developing rapidly to include things like programmable banks of LED lights—and they move their plants around to find the best light. But they also sometimes just take their plants down to the pool for a few hours. And they don't place them near hot areas such



as the kitchen, where the plants will dry out particularly fast.

Mischa and Brian also reminded us of the challenges pets can pose, as indoor plants need to be kept out of climbable reach, as cats in particular will tear plants down and then tear them up—not good for the plants or the cats.

Indoors or out, plants want to survive, and with a little creativity and experimentation, bromeliads can be great additions to indoor, urban environments. And be sure to share pictures of your successes (or failures) on the HBS Instagram account, Instagram #Hawaii-Bromeliad_Society.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

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NEW BUSINESS—OFFICERS AND CHAIRS: Terese explained the duties of the different HBS officers and chairs, as specified in our bylaws, and called for volunteers for the various positions. Dolores agreed to continue as treasurer; Susan was voted in as hospitality chair in absentia (unless she really doesn't want to!); Stan agreed to serve a final year as newsletter editor; Mischa agreed to continue as social media chair, with cochair Karen Kim; Leslie agreed to become librarian; and Chris agreed to serve as membership chair. We are still looking for volunteers for president and vice president/program chair.

SHOW AND TELL: Thank you to David for bringing in samples of albamarginated "Sandy," a cultivar he created from a (formerly *Tillandsia*) *Wallisia cyanea*.

AUCTION: Thanks to auctioneer Larry, and to Larry, David, Ed, Jaime, and all who contributed plants to the auction, including specimens of the Chester Skotak *Neoregelia* cultivars 'Ivory' and 'Martin,' a *Vriesea* 'Golden Rocket,' *Tillandsia albida*, *capitata* mauve, *recurvata*, and *tenuifolia*, *Ionantha* cultivars 'Fuego' and 'Zebrina,' and a King of Siam croton.



ABOVE LEFT: Karen, with a couple of auction bargains.

ABOVE RIGHT: *Wallisia* 'Sandy' and their creator.

LEFT: Larry with one of Ed's wood-mounted *tenuifolia*.

BELOW: One of Ed's well-fertilized *recurvata*.

