



## Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

SEPTEMBER 2019

## GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES

Our September program will feature a presentation by Mischa Kobayashi and Brian Taylor on gardening and displaying plants in apartments, condos, lanais, and spaces besides the great outdoors. Houseplants can be an inexpensive way to decorate (especially if you buy plants at our auction), are therapeutic, fit smaller living spaces, and are ideal for sharing on social media—but they also come with their own challenges. How do you deal with indoor lighting, heating/air conditioning, dryness and humidity? What about watering—and dripping water? What plants adapt well to an indoor or lanai environment? Come prepared to learn from Mischa and Brian, and to share your own experiences with growing bromeliads in urban environments. (Chef Brian may also provide a special treat!)

## OFFICERS AND CHAIRS WANTED

It is not too early to start thinking about how you would like to participate in HBS next year. We are looking for officers and chairs (not office chairs) for 2020. At the next couple of meetings, we will go over the duties (few!) and rewards (a grateful membership?!) of the various positions. In particular, we encourage volunteers, or teams of volunteers, to consider serving as president (anyone? please!) and vice president and program chair. Volunteering for one of these positions really is a good way to learn more about bromeliads, and your colleagues in the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society.

## PARTY TIME

It is never too early to start thinking about parties. For the past couple of years, HBS has held its annual holiday get-together in early December in Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden. Please come to the next meeting with ideas about what you want to do this year, and where, and when.

## CRAFT FAIR PREP TIME

It is also not too early to start thinking about our participation in the East-West Center's 18th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, a major annual fund-raiser for HBS. We will have two six-foot tables to display plants and other items for sale. The fair is usually held on a Thursday and Friday in late November or early December, so please start taking a look through your garden, and seeing what you might have available to donate around that time. Past sales suggest that small *Vriesea*, mini-*Neoregelia*, and *Tillandsia* sell well, especially if they are wood-mounted or otherwise creatively displayed. Our October meeting will focus on preparations for the sale, and any and all ideas and contributions will be welcome.



### 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

MEMBERSHIP

Naty Hopewell

LIBRARY

Merrill Cutting

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Karen Rohter

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

This Saturday, September 28,  
we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**  
at **12:30.**

Our hospitality hosts are  
**Karen and David.**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 31, 2019

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Naty Hopewell, Elsie Horikawa, Karen Kim, Huang-Chi Kuo, Terese Leber (presiding), Jeanie Li, Wendie Liu, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stanley Schab, Tom Stuart, and Lynette Wagemen. GUEST: Chris.

CONVENED: 1:05; ADJOURNED: 2:50.

Terese welcomed everyone, and thanked Naty for sharing her home and gardens with us, and Lynette for the deviled eggs, rice casserole, and salad.

HOSPITALITY: Our hosts for September are Karen R. (food) and David (drinks).

TREASURER: Dolores reported that our current balance is \$14,064.24, and that our annual post office box renewal is due.

MEMBERSHIP: Naty and Terese agreed to check on long-time members who have not been to meetings for several months.

LIBRARY: Lynette explained how to borrow materials from the HBS library at the Arboretum.

PROGRAMS: Upcoming programs for this year include next month's presentation by Mischa and Brian on gardening in small spaces, and an October preview and workshop for the Fall craft fair.

OLD BUSINESS—LYON ARBORETUM: The Society decided to hold off on the next payment of \$1,000 to Lyon Arboretum to fund student help in the Bromeliad Garden, based on input from Karen R. and Stan that the payment for last semester's hours had not yet been fully expended. Terese reported on good and bad developments for the Garden: good is that the repair work to the Arboretum's entry road has been finished, and that a new entrance sign and a separate staff parking area will soon be completed; bad is that the Arboretum is out of mulch, and none will be obtained until a new source is found for mulch that is certified to be free of the coconut rhinoceros beetle. Tom explained the recurring difficulties created by the discovery of the beetle on Oahu, and noted that the Arboretum's long-term plan is to purchase equipment to make its own mulch and compost (for more on *O. rhinoceros*, see page 4). Members moved to

**reimburse HBS members for supplies and expenses incurred in maintaining the Bromeliad Garden.**

(moved Wendie; seconded Naty; approved).

OLD BUSINESS—BROCHURE: Members agreed to revisit the issue of the brochure at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS—WINDWARD ORCHID SHOW: Terese related the history of our involvement with the Windward Orchid Society's annual Spring Show, noting the different ways HBS participation has been organized. Karen K. described how the WOS plans its own displays, which includes appointing a chair, asking for volunteers, and inviting everyone at a general meeting to participate. She also noted that the theme for Spring 2020, in honor of a long-time member, will involve ideas of ruby (slippers), a yellow brick road, and the Wizard of Oz. Members discussed the need to decide on a design for our combination table and floor display, and the value of having a chairperson who can set basic plans and then select a group to help implement them. Everyone should be invited to contribute, but with no promises that their plants will be included. On the urging of members, Dolores agreed to chair next year's display and participation.

NEW BUSINESS—ELSIE'S POTS AND PLANTS: Elsie announced that she is in the process of downsizing her collection, and has pots, ranging from two inches to fifty gallons, as well as some plants, that have to go. Interested members should contact her directly.

AUCTION: Thanks to auctioneer Tom, and to all who donated items for the auction, including samples of *Tillandsia concolor* and *stricta*, *Cryptanthus* 'Roman Candle,' *Achmea gamosepala*, and a healthy pile of *Neoregelia* '696,' free for the taking.



### BSI SEED FUND REBORN

Thanks to Lynette for reporting that the Bromeliad Society International is reviving its seed fund. To encourage the propagation of bromeliads, BSI is both requesting the donation of seeds—species preferred, but some hybrids will be accepted—and offering seeds for sale: a ten-seed packet can be purchased for \$3.00, or exchanged for donated seeds. Currently available seeds include *Aechmea bracteata*, *A. nudicaulis* La tigre, *A. politii*, *A. recurvata* red form, *A. tillandsioides*, *Catopsis nutans*, *Catopsis sessiliflora*, *Deuterocohnia longipetalia* silver, *Fosterella* species 1983-0041A, *F. spectabilis*, *F. villosula*, *Guzmania monostachia* var. *alba*, *Orthophytum foliosum*, *Pitcairnia maidifolia*, *Pitcairnia nigra*, *Pitcairnia staminea*, *Puya mirabilis*, *Tillandsia cucaensis*, *T. elizabethiae*, *T. floridana*, *T. limbata*, and *T. pruinosa*. Only BSI members can order seeds, so if HBS members are interested, we could put in a group order.



## NATY'S NEW GARDEN—REDONE IN ONE MONTH!

If you ever want to know how to deal with a variety of challenging microclimates on one relatively small property, talk to Naty. At our August meeting, members got to see firsthand how she combines bromeliads with succulents, palms, and other plants to create entrancing landscapes along roadways, on beach-side cliffs, and on coral rock pathways—always with an eye toward highlighting colors, heights, and textures. It's nice to see those auction plants put to such good use!





## IF YOU LIKED DOWNTON ABBEY . . . CHECK OUT DUNMORE'S FOLLY

Dunmore Park, the ancestral home of the Earls of Dunmore, in southern Scotland, includes the Dunmore Pineapple, a folly that ranks as one of the strangest buildings in Scotland. In the 1700s and 1800s, country estates usually contained walled gardens, where high walls of stone or brick provided shelter and created a microclimate for growing fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants that otherwise couldn't grow on the estate. Usually at least one of the walls was hollow or a double wall that contained furnaces and openings that funneled heat into the garden, allowing in particular fruit trees and grape vines to flourish. In 1761, John Murray, the fourth Earl of Dunmore, began building a hot house in the



south-facing wall of one of his gardens. He covered the hothouse with glass windowpanes, and added a furnace system to circulate hot air through the building. In 1771, King George III named Murray the Governor of the Colony of Virginia—a plum appointment until he got chased out in 1776. Upon returning to Scotland, the Earl had built on top of the garden wall two apartments for gardeners, and in between he added an intricately carved, forty-six foot high, stone pineapple. Each of the pineapple's segments were carved separately and graded to allow for water drainage and to prevent frost. The pineapple is made of the same stone as the building, and the height, from the ground to the top of the pineapple is exactly half of the building's width, which gives it, despite its bizarre topping, a classical feel (which the designer added to by disguising the furnace's chimneys as Grecian urns). The Dunmore estate was broken up and sold in 1970, and the "Pineapple Lot," including the Folly, the walled garden, a small lake, and sixteen acres of land, became part of the National Trust of Scotland. It is open to the public, and in fact, you can stay in the gardeners' apartments and pineapple building as a (short-term) holiday rental.

"Folly" is generally applied to a building that appears to have no practical reason for being, or a purpose that has little relation to its unusual or extravagant design. For example, landscape designs in the 1700s and 1800s often included fake Roman temples, Chinese pagodas, Egyptian pyramids, or similar features, and architects created unnecessarily large, expensive, and extravagant design features to show off the wealth or idiosyncratic tastes of the estate owners.

Brought to Europe from the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe by Christopher Columbus in 1493, pineapples became a rare delicacy and a symbol of wealth, power, and hospitality. They could even be rented for display on special occasions, and the pineapple became a prominent motif in interior and exterior decoration, furniture, and fabrics.

Photo of Dunmore's Folly by Kevin Rae, Wikimedia Commons.

## NO MULCH? BLAME *O. RHINOCEROS*

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) is a target species of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee, with Department of Agriculture status as "injurious wildlife." The adult is about two inches long or longer, stout and black. Both males and females are characterized by a horn projecting from its head, with the male's horn about twice as long as the female's. The beetles chew into the emerging fronds of coconut palms, feeding on the sap, laying eggs, and either killing the trees or weakening them to the point that they are susceptible to other pests and diseases. The beetles are active at night, and live four to nine months. The beetle grubs are big: about two to four inches long, and curved like the letter C. Besides coconut palms, the rhinoceros beetle is considered a threat to palms in general—including Loulu—betelnut, pandanus, banana, pineapple, and sugarcane. The beetle has spread from Africa, India, China, and Southeast Asia to the Pacific. First found in Hawai'i at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam in December 2013—possibly brought in from Guam, where it was discovered in 2007—the beetle can be easily spread through yard waste and compost. If you see one, you are urged to call 643-PEST, or report it at [www.643pest.org](http://www.643pest.org).



Life-size adult male *Oryctes rhinoceros*.  
Photo John Ska, Wikimedia Commons.