



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

APRIL 2014

JOINT MEETING WITH THE IKEBANA INSTITUTE

In cooperation and consultation with members and principals of the Ikebana Institute of the Ohara School, we have planned a special set of activities for our April meeting, which will be held as usual at Lyon Arboretum on the last Saturday in April—April 26—but with a little different timing and organization.

First; we will convene a **half hour early, at 11:30** instead of Noon, for a short business meeting.

Second, **the parking lot will be crowded**; we urge members to car pool. Some of us have arranged to meet at Mānoa Recreation Center around 11 to car pool to the Arboretum.

At Noon, we will be joined by about twenty members of the Ikebana Institute, led by Elaine Arita. Our own Tom Stuart will kick off the proceedings with an Introduction to Bromeliad Varieties and Cultivation, designed to enlighten the Ikebana specialists about Bromeliad basics, and to answer their questions about Bromeliad types and how to take care of them. After a short break for refreshments, Sensei Arita will introduce us to some of the principles and techniques of their school, through a demonstration and lecture.

We will then set up the room for a hands-on arranging workshop to practice what we've learned. Observers are welcome, but the workshop will be limited to thirty-two participants—sixteen from each organization. We will be seated four to a table (two HBS and two Ikebana Institute members), so we can learn and ask questions. Plus, their sensei and experienced members will be roaming the aisles to aid and impart knowledge.

HBS workshop participants should bring small clippers, with your names on them, and if you have them, two to four bromeliads and greenery to use and share in the activity—we will be providing most of the plants for the Ikebana participants. The plants should be small and compact, up to about four or five inches across. *Neoregelia*, small *Vriesea*, and *Tillandsia* would be ideal. Lynette will try to bring extra plants courtesy of Sharon Petersen—Thank You, Sharon and Lynette—so don't worry if you don't have any appropriate plants.

Dishes and arranging materials will be provided by the Ikebana group. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN DISH**—you can transfer your arrangement to your own dish later at home.

The workshop is scheduled to end around 2:30 with a joint clean up. There will be no auction. For additional information, check your Membership Roster and contact Terese Leber.



Arrangement by Elaine Arita, Splendors of Ikebana exhibit, March 18, 2014. Photo by Roger Tinus.

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APRIL MEETING

This Saturday,

April 26,

we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**

at **11:30 am.**

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 29, 2014

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Betty Chang, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Helen Friend, Karen Gollero, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Edward Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Dolores and Jaime Roldan, Stanley Schab, Hazel Wong, and Lynette Wageman.

CONVENED: 12:15; ADJOURNED: 2:30

INJURY REPORT: Best wishes to Susan for a full recovery from her broken ribs, and thanks for soldiering on with presiding over our meeting.

LIBRARY REPORT: Lynette reminded members to check their shelves for books borrowed from the HBS library; according to her records, Troy, Sally, and Tom currently have books on loan.

WINDWARD ORCHID SHOW: Terese expressed her gratitude to all who contributed their plants, time, and talents to our successful participation in the Windward Orchid Society's Spring show, and especially to Susan and Karen for the loan of the horse and pagoda. Now we need to start thinking about our "Host" display for the Bromeliads in Paradise conference.

PROGRAM: For our March program, Lynette challenged us with an ID game, sharpening our skills at identifying at least genuses, if not species. *Guzmania* and *Vriesea* proved relatively easy to differentiate if the plants were blossoming—*Vriesea* often really do feature v-shaped blossoms—but difficult to tell apart when not flowering. Members found it relatively easy to identify *Cryptanthus*, the low-growing "earth star" whose small root systems are often held in place with toothpicks or chopsticks, and *Tillandsia*, perhaps because Lynette featured specimens of *Tillandsia* 'Sandy,' a David Fell cultivar



of *Tillandsia cyanea*. Members had no trouble picking out *Billbergia*, with their vase shapes, short lived blossoms, and unusual leaf colors, and *Orthophytum*, with their succulent-like growth patterns. The non-blossoming *Neoregelia* and *Nidularium* proved to be the most difficult to identify. And Helen stumped us with a mystery Bromeliad that grows in her yard as a ground cover, likes shade, and occasionally flowers like *Guzmania*.

AUCTION: This month's auction featured *Achmea calyculata* from the Arboretum Bromeliad garden and samples of Sharon Petersen's as yet unregistered hybrids of *Neoregelia* 'Mulberry.'

BROMELIADS IN PARADISE CONFERENCE REPORT

ALOHA BASKETS: Karen and Helen displayed sample baskets. Members were pleased by the quality and amount of goods, which Lynette noted was more than had been included in the 2012 Orlando conference raffle baskets. Lynette also reviewed the legal constraints on holding raffles in Hawai'i, and described a silent auction method for featuring our Aloha Baskets. Members suggested the idea of themed baskets, focused on kitchen goods, for example, or items for children. Karen noted that the Aloha Basket committee will need volunteers when it comes to actually assembling the baskets, which can be done in advance of the conference. She also passed out a chart of current Aloha Basket donations, observing that we probably have enough baskets, but could still use additional items to fill them.



FINANCES: Thank you to “Friends of Lynette” for donations of about \$900 toward the conference. If other members would like to seek support, Lynette has a sample letter for friends and potential donors, and conference brochures to include. Raleigh reported that the Conference account has accumulated \$3,285 in income, which includes the \$2,000 seed money from the Bromeliad Society International, against \$263.85 in expenses. He reminded members to keep receipts, and that checks for the conferences should be made out to *WBC 2014*, because they will be deposited in the conference account and not the regular HBS account. Raleigh has also been pricing cash register rentals for the plant sale. Not many companies rent cash registers, but the going rate seems to be \$80 per week per machine. Each register can be set up for twenty-four vendors, and as of now, we only have about ten. The plant sale registers will be used to accept cash and checks; BSI will provide iPads to process credit cards.

REGISTRATION AND HOSPITALITY: Terese noted that the Registration Committee will need additional volunteers to staff the registration tables; she also urged members to consider perks that we can provide HBS and non-HBS members for volunteering at the conference. Suggested rewards include subsidizing attendance at the conference banquet, which will cost non-registrants about \$60, or providing gift cards from specific vendors for use at the plant sale. Terese also reported that she will contact Jorgi about the shell leis to use as lanyards for the conference name tags, and will meet with Hospitality Committee members to discuss ideas and needs.

TOURS: Lynette observed that HBS should cover the air fare and fees for volunteers who accompany the optional Sunday tour to Hawai'i Island to visit David Shiigi's and David Fell's nurseries, Volcanoes National Park, and other sites. The fee for that tour has been set at \$100, plus air fare, which participants take care of themselves. Lynette noted that the Home and Garden tour has become a Mānoa Valley tour focused on Lyon Arboretum and its restored Bromeliad Garden, the Mānoa Heritage Center, and Helen's garden.

SEMINAR SPEAKERS: Lynette reported that she has approached *Honolulu StarAdvertiser* columnist Heidi Bornhorst to gauge her interest in presenting a Poster Session talk on the history of pineapples in Hawai'i.

PUBLICITY: Lynette noted that she will also discuss with Bornhorst ways to publicize the conference.

WALLY BERG AWARD: Lynette agreed to look into nominating a prominent Hawai'i grower and long-time friend of HBS for the BSI Wally Berg Award of Excellence, the BSI's highest honor, which will be presented at the Conference banquet.

PUTTING THE INTERNATIONAL IN *BSI*

One of the perks of being a Bromeliad Society International chapter is that we get to correspond with, and sometimes even meet, Bromeliad aficionados from around the world. One good method to find out what other groups and growers are doing is to look up different chapters on the BSI web site (www.bsi.org), and read their newsletters. Steve Goode and the Bromeliad Society of Greater Chicago, for example, put out an attractive and informative newsletter every other month.

Recently we were very pleased to be contacted by the folks from the East London Bromeliad Society—and that's not East London, Ontario, or even London's East End, but East London, South Africa! East London, it turns out, has many similarities to Honolulu. It's on the ocean—the Indian Ocean—in South Africa's East

Cape Province; has a long and complicated history—including ancient footprints going back some 200,000 years—bringing together Native inhabitants, the Xhosa people, with settlers from many different areas and cultures; and it's known for a wide variety of outdoor and sporting activities. The East London metropolitan area is home to over a million people, and is currently known for its beautiful beaches and tourism, and as a major automobile manufacturing site. Situated between the Buffalo and Nahoon Rivers, it's also the only river port in South Africa.

Their February 2014 newsletter features an informative article by the Society Chair Dudley Reynolds on Variations Found in Bromeliad Leaves. As we remember from Troy's programs, some Bromeliads are referred to as Discolor, where the tops and undersides of the leaves are different colors, usually a shade of green on top and maroon on the bottom, but these plants are not considered variegated. Variegation is most commonly used to refer to those stripes—typically shades of yellow, green, and red—that add color and variety to our Bromeliads. White and yellow vertical stripes down the center of the leaves,

like those on Helen's plant, are typical variegata, which take on different technical names depending on their number and width, color, and whether they go down the middle or around the edges of a leaf. And what causes variegation? Mr. Reynolds observes that variegation can be brought on by various factors, including genetic mutations; viruses that infect the veins that run lengthwise in Bromeliad leaves; environmental factors such as light, temperature, humidity, and chemical substances; and stress from dehydration, poor nutrition, or events such as freezing, flooding, or fire.

Want to know more about East London and Bromeliads in South Africa? Check out their newsletter, and come to Bromeliads in Paradise, and meet their visiting members.



Note the longitudinal striping on Helen's "mystery" Guzmania. Photo by Terese Leber.