



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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MOSQUITOES & BROMELIADS

by Tom Stuart

Mosquitoes can be a nuisance in Hawai'i. With the recent threat of dengue fever, they can actually become a hazard. Because bromeliads hold water in their center, some people think that mosquitoes are inevitable, but that's not true. The following is based on information received from the State of Hawai'i Department of Health.

The mosquito's life cycle includes various stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. If the life cycle is interrupted, then the mosquito can't reproduce. This interruption can occur in several ways.



Prevent Standing Water: Each of these stages requires water. Most of us don't have old tires and tin cans in our gardens, but we do have plant saucers, empty pots, and even African snail shells. Carefully walk through your yard looking for anything that can hold water. A small container left outside for a week can provide a breeding ground.

Flush with Fresh Water: If the mosquitoes are removed from the water during any of the intermediary stages, the cycle will be broken. If you don't have many bromeliads, you can flush out the old water with a strong squirt from a hose. You have to be sure you get all of your bromeliads and flush each one well. Repeat weekly.

Spray with Soap Solution: Each of the stages depends upon the surface tension of the water. The adults rest on the top, and the other forms hang below the surface. If the surface tension is broken, then the life cycle is interrupted. Use a dilution of one tablespoon of liquid soap to one gallon of water. Use a mild soap such as Ivory, not a harsh detergent. The solution will break down, so it should be repeated weekly. The easiest way to spray is to use a bottle sprayer attached to a garden hose. This dilution is recommended by the Hawai'i Department of Health and Department of Agriculture, and should not harm your plants.

If you need further information, call the Hawai'i Department of Health, Vector Control Branch, at 483-2535.

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WHAT IS VECTOR CONTROL?

A vector is an organism, such as a mosquito or tick, that can carry disease-causing microorganisms from infected individuals to other persons, or from infected animals to human beings. The dengue virus is spread through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes; it is not spread directly from one person to another. The Vector Control Branch is a statewide regulatory program, mandated by law to control and prevent the spread of insects, rodents, or other organisms that are able to transmit infectious agents of disease.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 26, 2011

Lyon Arboretum meeting room and Nancy Ekern's home

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Raleigh Ferdun, Karen Gollero, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Sally Mist, Laura St. Denis, Lynette Wageman, Val and Randy Wong. Visitor/New Member: Marcy (Marielina) Doseo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We are a wounded group: Laura has had cataract surgery, Lum has pneumonia, Tom has hurt his back, Raleigh has "leprosy"—really dermo-treatments on face, and Susan's sciatic nerve is acting up. Laura reminded folks about the Lyon Arboretum Sale on April 2.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have a balance of \$1,456.08. A \$100 check was sent to the Ray Baker Foundation. Corresponding Secretary Val will send a get well card to Lum, who has really been smacked with ailments, culminating in pneumonia

MINUTES/NEWSLETTER: Members provided corrections to last month's minutes, which will be incorporated into archive copies and given to Lynette at the next meeting. Several members did not receive the emailed newsletter. Terese is sure Stan sent them out to the correct addresses, so some investigation is needed. Karen, Tessie, and Marie would like paper copies sent them instead of electronic. President Laura again congratulated the newsletter editors on an excellent issue.

HOSPITALITY: Refreshments for April will be hosted by Susan—Chips & Dips, Lum—Cookies, and Tom—Drinks.

MEMBERSHIP & DUES: Raleigh says only a few unnamed members have not paid their dues. To check if you've paid, email Raleigh at rferdun@yahoo.com. New member Marcy is in attendance today. Please add her to your membership rosters. Her address is 98-1450 Kaonohi Street, 'Aiea, 96701, and her email is mdoseo@yahoo.com. Also please correct your contact information for Lum Keith. Her address is 226 Lewers Street, Suite 154, PMB 306, Honolulu, 96815.

LIBRARY: Lynette announced we received 3 copies of *Bromeliaceae of Venezuela*. Since we already have a good library copy, the three extra copies were purchased by Raleigh, Hazel (in absentia), and Tessie.

PROGRAMS: Where to go next? Marie Grininger's yard in April: (see page 1). May will be a learning experience (there's something we don't know?!!) at Lyons. For future meetings, Nathan Wong has provided a contact to approach about a guided tour of Foster Botanical Garden.

OLD BUSINESS: Tom talked with the bromeliad group at the recent Windward Orchid Society's show; they thought we didn't have a website. Raleigh noted that the domain name has been renewed at a cost of under \$150/year. His server is dying, so we need to move the site to a new server. Laura will go to the Mac store to see about getting the domain name and our site moved to her computer. Although the address is temporary, pending a domain name change, as of April 21, Laura has successfully moved our website to

<http://web.me.com/bromeliadshawaii>.

For old school communication (no "snail mail" for bromeliads), Lynette has renewed our PO Box.

AUCTION: A small auction was held featuring Laura's Neoregelias and some ornamental pineapples.

AN INVITATION/REQUEST FROM MARY LOUISE

Mary Louise is no longer able to give her bromeliads proper care, watering, repotting, etc. Her yard is full of hundreds of the usual genera. From 50¢ on up, the plants will be happy to find a new home. Please call her at 262-8357.

GOOD SAMARITANS ON THE JOB

Following the March business meeting and the auction, our hardy members carpoled to Nancy Ekern's Mānoa house for an hour of fun plant control and investigation of some awesome (literally) bromeliads, tall ginger, heliconias, and paths leading everywhere. And we got to admire Randy Wong's bucket of tools and. . . .



INFORMATION FOR THE APRIL MEETING

Remember: This April 30, we do NOT meet at Lyon Arboretum. Instead, we convene in the wilds of Kalama Valley, for a business meeting and work session at Marie Grininger's house at 1218 Ka'eleku Street. Our hospitality hosts are Susan (chips and dips), Lum (cookies), and Tom (drinks).

- Our Friends from the Windward side, Mary Louise and Betty, two-thirds of the Kailua trio, could use a ride to the April meeting. Please call Mary Louise at 262-8357.

Directions to Marie's House

From Kalaniana'ole Highway,
look for Kealahou Street:

(if you're driving from Honolulu, and you reach the Hawaii Kai Golf Course, you're out of bounds; coming from Kailua/Kāne'ōhe, if you reach Sandy's, you're all wet!)

turn onto Kealahou Street, go 0.9 miles

turn right on Mokuhano Street, go 0.2 miles

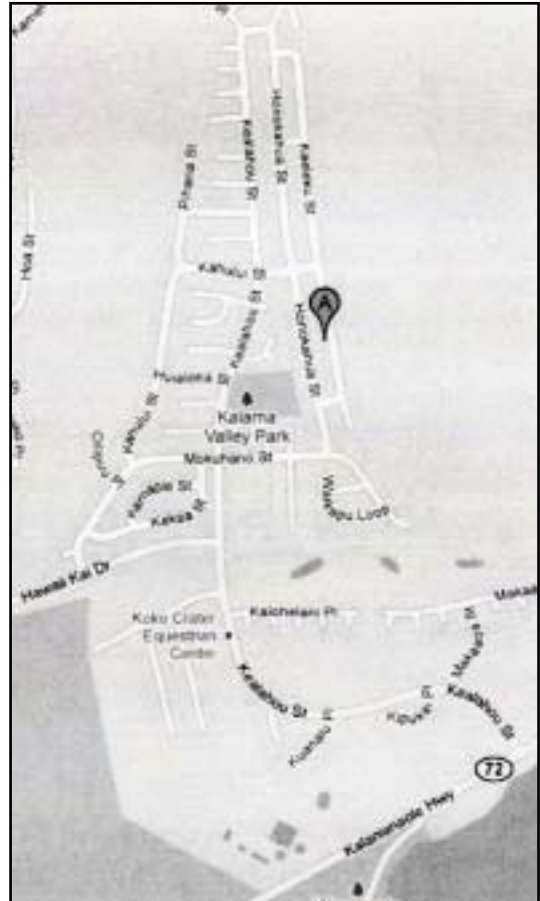
turn left on Honokahua Street,

turn right on Kepaniwai Street,

turn left on Ka'eleku Street

1218 is about 0.1 miles ahead on your left

(street parking)



ABOVE: Our newest lifetime member.

LEFT: Name That Plant (courtesy of Val and Randy Wong).