



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 34 NO. 8

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

AUGUST 2012

VRIESEA, NIDULARIUM, AND NEOREGELIA

At our July meeting, Lynette Wageman (subbing for Annetta Kinnicutt, whose program has been rescheduled for August), and using plants from her own garden, focused on tips for identifying *Vriesea*, *Neoregelia*, and *Nidularium*.

Compared to the *Guzmania* we've studied at previous meetings, *Vriesea* have tougher leaves—usually shiny green, and often patterned with dark bands, spots, or blotches. *Vriesea* like light, but not a lot of direct sun; in fact, they tend to open at night. Though generally vase-shaped, *Vriesea* usually have broader bases than *Billbergia*, and inflorescences that can vary from simple to multibranching spikes, with brightly colored paddle- or sword-shaped spikes.

Nidularium, which get their name from their nest-like, symmetrical, fan shape, come in many varieties. They tend to have stiffer leaves than *Vriesea* or *Guzmania*, but not as stiff or serrated as *Neoregelia* or *Aechmea*. *Nidularium* leaves are generally glossy and fine-toothed, and often green and white striped. Like *Neoregelia*, *Nidularium* do not feature flower stalks; their inconspicuous flowers are usually hidden within an inflorescence that barely rises above the plant's central cup, which often turns red when the plant is about to bloom.

Among the most diverse of Bromeliad genres, *Neoregelia* compensate for their lack of showy flowers through their wide range of leaf colors and patterns. A well-shaped *Neoregelia* opens and spreads as it grows. Lynette emphasized the importance of air circulation for *Neoregelia* and these other varieties, noting that bromeliads in general need room to breathe, or they become susceptible to insects, diseases, and malformation.



TOP: Thank you, Lynette!
ABOVE: *Nidularium* from Helen Friend's garden (photo by Raleigh Ferdun).

2012 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Susan Andrade

TREASURER

Tessie Labra

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Marie Grininger

HOSPITALITY

Val Wong

MEMBERSHIP

Raleigh Ferdun

LIBRARY

Lynette Wageman

www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org

VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAMS

Marie Ferdun

WEB MASTER

Tom Stuart

RECORDING SECRETARY

Stanley Schab

NEWSLETTER

Terese Leber

AUGUST MEETING

This Saturday, August 25, we meet at **Lyon Arboretum at Noon.**

Our hospitality hosts are Annetta (drinks) and Sid (cookies).

This will be a special, hands-on meeting with HBS member and potter extraordinaire Annetta Kinnicutt.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JULY 28, 2012

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Helen Friend, Marie Grininger, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Sally Mist, Karen Rohter, Stan Schab, Sid Sneider, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong. GUEST: Edward Nishiyama, Renee, Larry

Convened: 12:15; Adjourned: 2:45

ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Mary Louise's Plants Must Go.** Susan announced that Mary Louise Boyd is recovering from her stroke, but she will be moving to Hawai'i Island to live with one of her sons. The family is preparing to sell her house, and would like most of the bromeliads removed—Mary Louise really wants them to go to “good homes.” Susan encouraged HBS members to stop by Mary Louise's and help clean up her yard while acquiring some choice bromeliads. The Society would also formally like to acknowledge and thank Troy Oden for watering, tending, and generally looking after Mary Louise's plants over the past few weeks.

PROGRAMS: The August program, at Lyon Arboretum, will feature a pottery demonstration by HBS member Annetta Kinnicutt, an accomplished potter. You may remember seeing some of her work when we toured her fairy garden in February. Annetta will help us make our own small pots, which we can fill with bromeliads and sell at the East-West Center Crafts Fair in December. The idea for this program was sparked by Terese at the January meeting, when she mentioned that buyers at the 2011 Fair seemed to prefer bromeliads in small pots to give as gifts. This should be a fun program.



TREASURER: Our current balance is \$1,569.27.

HOSPITALITY: Our hosts for August are Annetta (drinks) and Sid (cookies).

AUCTION: Lynette donated two books to the auction: *Bromeliads for Modern Living*, which she acquired at the recent Friends of the Library sale, and *Bromeliad Hybrids: Book 1, Neoregelias*, by Australian growers Margaret and Bill Paterson. Thanks to all who brought plants to the auction, and thank you, Terese, for subbing for our auctioneer Tom.

And many thanks to Sid for providing us with name tags.



FALL 2012 COURSES AT LYON ARBORETUM

The Arboretum has released its Fall 2012 schedule of courses. In addition to the usual training classes for guides, and courses in cooking and crafting with locally available plants, one course might be of particular interest to HBS members:

HOLIDAY BROMELIAD WREATHS. Instructor: Gail Hutchinson

Learn how to construct a colorful holiday wreath using bromeliads. This is a hands-on class, so dress comfortably and bring your own pliers and clippers. Bring your own grapevine wreath blank (about 14") if you already have one, or purchase one (\$10) from the instructor. Friday, November 9, 9:30-11:30; \$15 + \$5 (or \$15 supply fee)

For more information, or to register for courses, call the Arboretum's business office at 988-0456 or consult the Arboretum's web site www.hawaii.edu/lyonarboretum.