



Newsletter of the *Hawai'i Bromeliad Society*

VOL. 34 NO. 2

HONOLULU, HAWAII

FEBRUARY 2012

CALLING ALL PLANTS (FOR THE WOS SPRING SHOW)

Aloha Everyone —

Our HBS will have a display table of bromeliads at the Windward Orchid Society's thirty-second annual Spring Show, which will be held March 16–18, at King Intermediate School in Kāne'ohe (46-155 Kamehameha Highway. Set-up will be on Thursday, March 15. We want to showcase the variety and attractiveness of the different genres of bromeliads. Naturally we are looking for bloomers or bright colors, but also for interesting foliage and leaf patterns.

We—the HBS display committee (Tom, Val, and Terese)—have created the basics of a table display, but now we are looking for YOUR plants. The more the merrier. It will really help us plan the display if we can SEE the plants beforehand.

Remember, we are only borrowing your plants, caring for them like family, and returning them afterward. Security is provided at the show, so no worries. Please be generous.

- No need fancy pots; plastic (we will cover them) or even NO pot is OK
- Any size is OK
- Blooming is best (but not necessary)
- Bright colors OR interesting Foliage/Leaf patterns (whatever makes it special to you)
- Driftwood with bromos, like we made in January, or similar displays are OK

Please BRING plants to our HBS meeting on February 25 at Annetta's OR bring to a drop-off point near you on Saturday or Sunday, March 10 or 11 (drop-off locations will be decided at the meeting).

Questions? Call Tom (239-7611), Val (521-8414), or Terese (542-5766).



2012 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT Susan Andrade	VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAMS Marie Ferdun
TREASURER Tessie Labra	MEMBERSHIP Raleigh Ferdun
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Marie Grininger	RECORDING SECRETARY Stanley Schab
HOSPITALITY Val Wong	LIBRARY Lynette Wageman
	NEWSLETTER Terese Leber

www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org

FEBRUARY MEETING

This Saturday, FEBRUARY 25, we meet at **Annetta's** house at **Noon**.

Our hospitality hosts are Marie and Raleigh.

- We'll be working on plant identification, and also preparing for the Spring Show—so please bring plants or anything else that might contribute to the display.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2012

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Betty Chang, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Annetta Kinnicutt, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Jorji Oden, Troy Oden, Karen Rohter, Stan Schab, Tom Stuart, Lynette Wageman, Hazel Wong, Randy Wong, and Val Wong. GUEST: Dennis Labra

CONVENED: 12:20; Adjourned: 2:40

2012 OFFICERS: The Society moved to install the following slate of officers for 2012:

President: Susan Andrade, Vice President and Program Chair: Marie Ferdun; Treasurer: Tessie Labra; Membership: Raleigh Ferdun; Corresponding Secretary: Marie Grininger; Recording Secretary: Stan Schab; Librarian: Lynette Wageman; Hospitality: Val Wong; and Newsletter: Terese Leber.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have a balance of \$1,614.81. Expenses and reimbursements for the Holiday Party have been deducted, and the \$300 raised by selling bromeliads at the East-West Center Craft Fair have been deposited. The Craft Fair proved to be a great success—thank you Terese and Val—and we hope we can count on you for a repeat performance next year. Terese noted that potted plants, about 4 to 6 inches in size, that fit on windowsills, were the best sellers, particularly if they were blooming.

PROGRAMS: Marie urged members to return the Program Questionnaire, and to forward any ideas for programs to her. This year she would like to focus on plant identification and classification.

HOSPITALITY: Members decided to keep the current Hospitality set up, with different sweet and savory snacks, and drinks, provided by three members for each meeting.

MEMBERSHIP & DUES: Raleigh circulated a membership list for 2012.

OLD BUSINESS: Lynette will draft a letter to the Bromeliad Society International declining the opportunity to serve as the local host for their 2014 international conference. Marie explored the prospect with the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau and the Hawai'i Convention Center, and concluded that, although it would be good for HBS's reputation, and would provide a great opportunity to attend the conference, we would need many more people than are currently members of HBS to organize and administer such an event, including overseeing the importing of plants, working with vendors, and coordinating tours and special events, as well as taking care of the thousands of conference attendees.

Stan reported that the HBS web designer is finished with her design, and that the cost will be about \$265. He was authorized to tell the designer to beta-test the web site and then load it online for public use.

NEW BUSINESS: The Display Committee (Terese, Val, and Tom) talked about HBS participation in the Windward Orchid Society Spring Show, to be held next month at King Intermediate School (see page 1). Going to the Honolulu Orchid Show got their creative juices going, and so they are planning for a two-table display that will highlight the generic variety of bromeliads, and will also include literature and handouts about the plants and the HBS. Susan has signage from previous shows, and Tessie noted that she and Karen will be working at the Show, as will Nancy Arakaki, so they can help answer questions about the HBS displays.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM: Following a quiz on the meaning of genus, family, and species, Tom reviewed the basic classifications for bromeliads (see page 4), and talked about how to separate pups and how to clean plants for display. As we move our plants between living room, lanai, and landscape, it's important to consider the three dimensions to display: looking down, up, and across the plants. Tom also reminded us to tag and date our bromeliads when planting them, particularly those hard to distinguish hybrids.



MEMBER PROFILES: SUSAN ANDRADE

by Marie Ferdun



Meet HBS's president Susan Andrade. Susan was introduced to HBS by one of her former clients, Tina Rose Cager, sometime around 2000. Susan says she has no green thumb, but she enjoys HBS because it is a small group of nice people.

Susan's home is on the slopes of Punchbowl. There is no room for a garden, so her plants are placed in pots in a small yard in front of her house. She admits that she would have many more bromeliads if she removed the pups from her plants!

Susan and her sister Emily (Darrow) moved to Hawai'i in 1962, where she worked as a social worker and probation officer for over 37 years. Her goal in her retirement was to bring music back into her life. So, when she met HBS member Mary Louise, she began taking piano lessons from her.

Traveling to see family and a few good friends is also important for her. Susan and two of her college roommates plan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation from the College of Wooster in Ohio. However, her main interest seems to be her dogs Puff, Bonnie, and Darcy. Obedience training every day at Thomas Square Park and two evenings a week gives Susan and her dogs great exercise!

BEST WISHES MARY LOUISE — GET WELL SOON

Mary Louise Boyd, as we learned at our last meeting, recently fell and fractured her pelvis. But Susan reports that she is definitely on the mend. Mary Louise is currently in the Ann Pearl Care Home in Kāne'ohe (45-181 Waikalua Road), where she has already begun physical therapy. She can't put weight on her left leg yet, so she is really working on her upper body strength. She will probably be in Ann Pearl for a few more weeks, but is in good spirits, and is welcoming visitors—afternoons are better, after she finishes her morning workout. Mary Louise's daughter Laura has come home, and has put the men to work on a major house cleaning. Susan will follow up with Mary Louise on how HBS members can help her maintain her garden.



RALEIGH'S GONE TO SEED — EPISODE ONE

Although last year Peter De Mello told us how difficult it is to grow bromeliads from seed, Raleigh, undaunted, brought in his latest show and tell project: a seedbed he created from rescued seeds and backyard wood. Besides keeping a photo record, Raleigh agreed to report back periodically on how the seeds are growing. For those of us similarly inclined to try growing those special plants from seed, before cutting off the old inflorescences, feel them over for solid pods, which when opened up reveal seeds that can be placed by hand on a wide range of growing media.



G IS FOR *GUZMANIA*

by Tom Stuart

At the January meeting we continued our discussion of the bromeliad family with the genus *Guzmania*, and saw several examples of blooms. *Guzmania* comes from the rainforests of South America and is usually found growing on trees in nearly full shade. The leaves of the plant are thin, green, and non-serrated (or smooth) along the edges, similar to *Vriesea*, which they resemble when not in bloom. Slide your fingers along the side of the leaf then compare it to the serrated leaves of *Aechmea* and even some *Neoregelia*. Bromeliads with serrated edges on the leaves generally need more sun than those with non-serrated leaves. Even though these are shade-loving plants, some hybrids which have reddish colored leaves will need some sun to fully develop the color.

As usual with bromeliads, the actual flowers are very small, but the bracts surrounding them can be yellow or red. The bracts can be flat with the top of the leaves or can extend up to 18 inches above them. Recent hybrids such as ‘Puna Gold’ and ‘Kapoho Fire’ have very showy inflorescences.

A *Guzmania* plant will usually develop several pups as it finishes blooming. These can be separated when they are 1/3 to 1/2 the size of the mother plant, or if you have a large enough pot, they can be left together to form a cluster. Once the inflorescence starts to fade you can cut it off to encourage the growth of pups. If you use the “sore-thumb” method, you just trim off the inflorescence when it starts to look unsightly to you.

Look for *Guzmania* the next time you are in Kahala Mall around the center stage. They are also commonly seen on television shows as potted plants in the background.



TOM'S GUIDE TO TAXONOMY

Plants are scientifically classified by:

- Kingdom
- Division
- Class
- Order
- Family
- Genus
- Species

For our purposes, we only need to understand from the Family level down—though if anyone cares, the family bromeliaceae belongs to the order poales, the class monocotyledon (or liliopsida), the division angiosperm, and, well, you can guess the kingdom.

I follow the following guides for naming:

—Genus and species names are italicized:

genus is singular, genera plural; species is both singular and plural (specie refers to what we are chronically short of).

—A binomial is a scientific name consisting of a genus and species, such as *Aechmea blanchetiana*.

—If another species in the same genus is referred to, the genus is usually abbreviated, such as *Ae. gamosepala*.

—A hybrid is a cross between two naturally occurring species.

—The genus name is italicized, the hybrid name is not and is enclosed in single quotes, such as *Guzmania* ‘Puna Gold,’ or *Disneydwarfianis* ‘Sleepy.’

The best single source for confirming spelling is the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies at www.fcbs.org. Their “Photo Index” lists thousands of species, including hybrids, and most are illustrated with photos.

CRAFTING BROMELIADS

BELOW: Karen; RIGHT AND MIDDLE: many hands at work (such concentrated faces!); BOTTOM LEFT: Troy—the finished product; BOTTOM RIGHT: you've got to hand it to Betty.



Thank you, Terese, for a great, hands-on workshop on tips and techniques for creating “craft” bromeliads—now we’ll all be raring to go for the next Holiday Fair.

