



Newsletter of the

# *Hawai'i Bromeliad Society*

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

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## **PINEAPPLE IN HAWAI'I – THE EARLY YEARS**

The history of pineapple domestication is largely unknown. *Ananas comosus* is indigenous to South America, where it was probably cultivated by the inhabitants of southern Brazil and Paraguay, from whom it spread to the Mayas and Aztecs and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, including the island of Guadeloupe, where Columbus “discovered” it in 1493. He brought the *piña de Indes* back with him, thus probably making the pineapple one of the first bromeliads to be seen in Europe. Carried on European sailing ships to help prevent scurvy, the pineapple had made its way to Hawai'i at least by 1813, when Francisco de Paula Marin was recorded as cultivating it. The first group of US missionaries to Hawai'i in the 1820s found pineapple growing both in gardens and in the wild.

Successful, large-scale commercial cultivation of pineapple in Hawai'i is correctly associated with James Dole, but an important, lesser known figure in the industry's development is John Kidwell. Born in north Devonshire, England in 1849, Kidwell became apprenticed to a nurseryman in London. In 1872 he immigrated to the US, eventually settling in San Francisco, where he worked as a gardener and nurseryman. Visiting clients from Hawai'i convinced him that Honolulu would be a great place to start a gardening business, so he came here in 1882 and opened a nursery.

At the time, pineapples—mostly wild-grown on Hawai'i Island—were being sold in the US, and there was a growing market for the fruit, but the wild pineapples varied greatly from plant to plant, and the long voyage to San Francisco didn't help the fruits' quality. Kidwell eventually acquired and tested thirty-one varieties of pineapple on ten acres of land in Mānoa Valley, before settling on a cultivar known as ‘Sweet Cayenne,’ which he bought from Jamaica. Over the subsequent decades, the industry-sponsored Pineapple Research Institute conducted the world's largest pineapple breeding program, but could find no cultivars better than ‘Smooth Cayenne’ for commercial growing and canning.

To solve the shipping problems, Kidwell partnered with a plumbing and hardware importer named John Emmeluth in experimenting with different methods of canning, and with a Honolulu fruit exporter named Peter Camarinos in marketing the fruit. And it was in those partnerships, and the political turmoil of the end of the nineteenth century, that Kidwell's business became inseparably entangled. He spent years in a lawsuit with Camarinos, and eventually joined the Reform Party and formed the Hawaiian Fruit and Packing Company with Emmeluth and Lorrin A. Thurston, both prominent members of the Committee of Public Safety, centrally involved with the 1892 overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani. Ironically, one of the Legislative Assembly final acts before the overthrow was an economic diversification law designed to encourage the cultivation and canning of pineapples by removing all duties from equipment and containers used in growing, canning, or preserving the fruit. In 1898, Kidwell retired from the pineapple business, settling in the then-countryside of O'ahu Avenue. He became active in establishing the Shriners' Aloha Temple, and died in Queen's Hospital in 1922.

James Dole, meanwhile, founded his first pineapple company on sixty acres near Wahiawa, which he bought in 1900. Quickly acquiring more land, he soon began to produce more fruit than he could process in his small cannery, so in 1907 he had a new facility built in Iwilei, and twenty years later, the Dole Company erected probably the world's largest bromeliad—a giant pineapple, sixty-two feet tall and over one hundred feet around—above what for a time was the largest cannery in the world. (The pineapple was actually an emergency water tank, holding about 100,000 gallons in reserve for the cannery's sprinkler system). Until its closing in 1991, generations of workers, including undoubtedly HBS members, relatives, and friends, worked at the cannery, helping transform Honolulu's labor and social fabric—but that's a story for another issue.

### 2014 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Susan Andrade

TREASURER

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Karen Rohter

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WEB MASTER

Tom Stuart

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Stanley Schab

NEWSLETTER

Terese Leber

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

This Saturday,

February 22,

we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**

at **Noon.**

Our hospitality hosts are

**Susan Andrade & Marie Ferdun.**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2014

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Marie Ferdun, Helen Friend, Karen Rohter, Stanley Schab, Lynette Wageman, Hazel Wong, Randy Wong, and Val Wong. GUESTS: John and Gail.

CONVENED: 12:15; ADJOURNED: 2:00

NEW OFFICERS: Karen Gollero has agreed to serve as Hospitality Chair, and Karen Rohter has agreed to become Corresponding Secretary for 2014. Thank you, Karen and Karen, and thanks to Susan, Raleigh, Tessie, Tom, Stan, Terese, and Lynette for continuing to serve as HBS officers.

HOSPITALITY: Our Hospitality Hosts for February are Susan and Marie; volunteers are welcome for March and subsequent months.

MEMBERSHIP: Dues for 2014 are now due (\$15 per person/\$20 per family), so please do give or mail Raleigh your renewals.

THANK YOU, SUSAN, for hosting Malveena Sargeant, a visiting bromeliad fancier from Australia. Ian Hook, the president of the Bromeliad Society of Australia, had let us know that Auntie Mel was passing through Honolulu on a cruise, and was interested in meeting with bromeliad growers. Susan went above and beyond the call, giving up her post-Christmas rest—and braving Ala Moana Shopping Center on December 26—to take our visitor shopping and show her around town.

BSI DUES: Members moved to

**pay \$150 to the Bromeliad Society International to cover our 2014 chapter dues and journal subscription, and to contribute to their ongoing projects.**

PROGRAMS: Suggestions are welcome for 2014 programs. We will probably need to devote at least a couple of meetings to work sessions preparing the Lyon Arboretum bromeliad garden for conference visitors by identifying and labeling plants and cleaning up the area. We will also need to consult with Helen on helping her prepare her garden for the conference tour.

CONFERENCE REPORT: Marie and Lynette reported that registration has been slower than expected for the conference, and that participation might be closer to 150 or 200 people than 300. Consequently, BSI is cutting back on events and revising the schedule; the most recent version is included on page 3. The main revisions include eliminating the luau planned for Wednesday night—a fifth seminar has been added instead on Wednesday afternoon—and dropping the Saturday farmers' market plant sale; instead, the plant sale will run from 9 to 5 on Saturday on site at the conference.

VENDORS: Marie has prepared a mailer inviting growers and vendors to participate in the conference. Because the federal government has not agreed to relax its import rules for the conference, only US vendors and growers will be sent the material. Stan has prepared an accompanying flyer that provides information about advertising in the conference program. The material will be mailed on February 1.

TOURS: Lynette passed along the latest information from Troy, who has been busy adjusting the itineraries for the conference tours. Three tours will be open and free to all registrants. A city tour, which will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, will focus on downtown Honolulu, with visits to the Pali Lookout, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Chinatown, 'Iolani Palace and the King Kamehameha Statue across the street, and Ala Moana Park and Magic Island. The Home and Garden Tour will be offered on Thursday morning, and will tour Mānoa, visiting Lyon Arboretum, the Mānoa Heritage Center, and Helen's home. Also included with the conference registration is a Friday afternoon nursery tour that will traverse East Honolulu and Sandy Beach to Waimanalo, for visits to Sharon Petersen's nursery, Sharon's Plants; David Fell's Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery; and David Yearin's home. Troy has also solidified plans for the two optional tours. Participants can select an all-day tour on Saturday that will visit Dole Plantation and the Polynesian Cultural Center, returning in time for the conference banquet on Saturday evening. The optional Hawai'i Island tour on Sunday will include visits to Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery (David Fell's Big Island location) and David Shiigi's Bromeliads Hawaii Nursery, with a stop for lunch at Nani Mau Gardens, and an afternoon visit to Volcanoes National Park. Final prices have not yet been set for the optional tours.

ALOHA BASKETS: Karen reported that she and Helen are continuing to collect items for the conference Aloha Baskets, and raised the question of when they should begin buying items. The consensus was that the number of participants should be clearer by March, as well as how many baskets would be appropriate. Lynette donated a few books that she had found at the recent Friends of the Library book sale that could be included in the baskets.

BAGS: Marie reported that she has processed the order for conference bags, paying Certified Hawaiian half the price. It was decided to stay with an order of 300 bags, since the reduction in price for an order of 200 or 250 would be minimal.

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**REVISED  
SCHEDULE**

*BROMELLADS IN PARADISE*  
Ala Moana Hotel — Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Bromeliad Society International – World Conference  
September 8 – 14, 2013

<b>Monday, Sept. 8</b>	Arrivals / Hotel Chick-in	
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 9</b>	8 am – 9 am 9 am – 9:30 am 9:30 am – 5 pm 9 am – 5 pm 12 noon – 1 pm Afternoon 6:30 pm	Board Registration and Continental Breakfast BSI Annual General meeting BSI Annual Board Meeting Judges School #2 BSI Board and Judges School Luncheon City Tour – Included in Registration Board Cocktails and Dinner
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 10</b>	8 am – 5 pm 8 am – 3 pm 9:30 am – 10 am 10 am – 3 pm 10 am – 11 am 11 am – 12 noon 12 noon – 1 pm 1 pm – 2 pm 2 pm – 3 pm 4 pm – 5 pm	Conference Registration, Hospitality, and Aloha Baskets Plant Sale Vendor Set-Up Welcome Address: Jay Thurrott, President Plant Show Entries Accepted Seminar #1 Seminar #2 Box Lunch — All Registrants Seminar #3 Seminar #4 Seminar #5
<b>Thursday, Sept. 11</b>	8 am – 5 pm 8 am – 2 pm 8 am – 9 am  9 am – 12 noon 9 am – 5 pm 12 noon – 2 pm 1 pm – 4:5 pm 2 pm – 9 pm 7 pm – 9 pm	Conference Registration, Hospitality, and Aloha Baskets Plant Sale Vendor Set-Up Plant Show Late Entries Judges and Clerks Continental Breakfast Home/Garden Tours — Included in Registration Plant Show Judging Luncheon — All Registrants City Tour — Included in Registration Plant Sale — Open to Registrants Only Plant Show — Open to Registrants Only
<b>Friday, Sept. 12</b>	8 am – 5 pm 9 am – 5 pm 9 am – 5 pm 9 am – 5 pm 9 am – 10 am 10 am – 12 noon 12 noon – 1 pm 1 pm – 5 pm 1 pm – 5 pm 6 pm – 7 pm 7 pm – 10 pm	Conference Registration, Hospitality, and Aloha Baskets Plant Show — Open to the Public Plant Sale — Open to the Public Secure Auction Holding and Packing Room Available to Registrants BSI Website and Journal: Evan Bartholomew Round Table Discussion: Bromeliads – Hawaiian Style Box Lunch — All Registrants Nursery Tours — Included in Registration Auction Items Accepted and Set-Up Auction Preview and Cash Bar Rare Plant Auction
<b>Saturday, Sept. 13</b>	9 am – 3 pm 9 am – 3 pm 9 am – 5 pm 9 am – 5 pm 6 pm – 10 pm	Plant Show — Open to the Public Plant Sale — Open to the Public Secure Plant Holding and Packing — Phyto Certificates Issued Optional All-Day O'ahu Tour — Additional Cost to Registrants Cash Bar and Banquet
<b>Sunday, Sept. 14</b>	All Day	Optional All-Day Tour to Hilo — Additional Cost to Registrants

## GORGEOUS COLORS OF ORCHIDS — AND BROMELIADS

The Windward Orchid Society will host its thirty-fourth annual Spring Show and Plant Sale from Friday, March 21, to Sunday, March 23, 2014, at the King Intermediate School Armory, in Kāneʻohe. The theme for the show is “Gorgeous Colors of Orchids,” and for the third year running, HBS is planning to host a table of bromeliads. The HBS display committee (Terese, Val, and Tom) is hard at work planning this year’s display, and is once again calling on HBS members for plants and help.

Aloha Everyone —

We’re really looking forward to this year’s show, because it will give us a great opportunity to practice for our “Bromeliads in Paradise” conference host display. This year we want to showcase the variety and attractiveness of the different genres of bromeliads. Bloomers and bright colors are great, of course, but we are also looking for interesting foliage and leaf patterns—whatever makes a plant special to you.

In addition, we are looking for a few potential display objects, something that would work well on a table top, perhaps twelve to eighteen inches high: a horse (2014 is its year), a Buddha or other figure, as well as driftwood mounted with bromeliads.

We would really like to include YOUR plants. The more the merrier. And 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

Besides plants, we also welcome volunteers to help with the set-up, which will take place on Thursday, March 20.

Please BRING plants to the HBS meeting on February 22 OR bring to a drop-off point near you on Saturday or Sunday, March 15 or 16 (drop-off locations will be decided at the meeting).

Questions? Call Terese (542-5766) or Val (521-8414).



### REPORT OF THE MEETING

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**AWARDS:** Marie reported that in addition to five major “best of category” awards, which will feature the bowls made by Ed Nishiyama’s friend Larry Rodrigues, eleven or twelve each silver and bronze awards will be needed. As a possibility, Helen flourished a golden trowel she had created from a run-of-the-City Mill utensil.

**PUBLICITY:** Lynette noted that she will again ask Heidi Bornhorst about helping to publicize the conference.

**POSTER SESSIONS:** Lynette reported that she is still seeking a poster session speaker to talk about the history of pineapples in Hawai‘i, but that the Roundtable of Hawai‘i-based bromeliad growers was set.

**AUCTION:** Thank you, Lynette, for supplying plants for the auction, including assorted *Tillandsia* from your own garden; a beautiful *Neoregelia* ‘Caviar,’ a mini hybridized by Lisa Vinzant; and a new and as yet unnamed hybrid from Sharon Petersen, a cross between a *Neoregelia* ‘Pink Sensation’ and a *Neoregelia* ‘Purple Rain.’