



Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

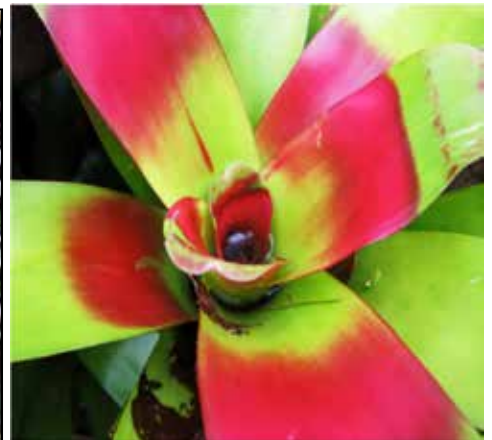
FEBRUARY 2015

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM TO FEATURE LYON ARBORETUM

The relationship between the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society and Lyon Arboretum goes back to our organization's founding. Our very first meeting, on April 30, 1977, was held at the Arboretum, at the invitation of Yoneo Sagawa, one of our founding members, who was also Professor of Horticulture at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Director of the Arboretum, and to this day the Arboretum, currently directed by Carl Evensen, continues to serve as our home base for meetings and for the Society Library and Archives.

But how much do many of us really know about our host facility? It rains—on average 165 inches a year, with some years upwards of 200 inches; the drive up from Mānoa can be . . . challenging; it hosts great plant sales; it can be muddy, and not just in our Bromeliad garden.

This meeting we will have a chance to learn more about the Arboretum, its history, and its many educational, research, and community activities. Our February Program will feature an Educational Docent who will tell us all about the Arboretum, and guide us around some of its twelve gardens, research facilities, and other features. This event will give us the opportunity to see behind the scenes areas, ask questions, and find out everything we ever wondered about the Arboretum. Just remember the advice we gave tour participants in the World Bromeliad Conference last Fall: be ready for mud, rain, and bugs, with good walking shoes, mosquito repellent, and an umbrella or rain gear.



### 2015 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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Terese Leber

TREASURER

Dolores Roldan

HOSPITALITY

Susan Andrade

NEWSLETTER/RECORDING SECRETARY

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Karen Rohter

[www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org](http://www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org)

## FEBRUARY MEETING

This Saturday, February 28,  
we meet at 12:30 at  
**Lyon Arboretum.**

Our hospitality hosts are  
**Gail and John.**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 31, 2015

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Frances Arakawa, Nancie Arakawa, Marcy Doseo, Raleigh Ferdun, Helen Friend, Karen Gollero, Marie Grininger, Nancy Hiraoka, Naty Hopewell, John Ishihara, Terese Leber (Presiding), Ed Nishiyama, Gail Rabideau, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Lynette Wageman, and Randy Wong. Guest: Susan Lee.

CONVENED: 12:30 ADJOURNED: 2:30.

Terese introduced the HBS officers for 2015.

MEMBERSHIP: Raleigh, filling in for 2015 Membership Chair Val Wong, collected dues for 2015, and reminded everyone of the Cardinal Rule: if you think you have paid your dues for 2015, but don't have a receipt, then you haven't paid your dues. Terese noted that Val will be following up with some of our absent members, to see if they still wish to belong to the Society.

HBS TREASURER'S REPORT: New treasurer Dolores reported that our balance as of January 26 was \$9,418.18. She has been busy processing the revised account signature card, and reminded everyone to please keep receipts related to HBS expenses, because of Cardinal Rule # 2: no receipt, no reimbursement.

BSI MEMBERSHIP: The Society moved

**to sign up for a three-year membership with the Bromeliad Society International, rather than the usual single year.**

Lynette will follow up with BSI.

PROGRAMS: John welcomed suggestions for HBS programs for 2015, including speakers, field trips, and educational events. Possibilities mentioned include trips to the Halawa Xeriscape garden, which has recently been remodeled with new features, to Dole Plantation Village to see the bromeliads and ride the train, and a day trip to Hawai'i Island to visit nurseries and gardens; as well as sessions on making planters out of unusual or recycled material.

HOSPITALITY: A Hospitality sign-up sheet was circulated for 2015. Our February hosts are Gail and John, and for March, Dolores (food) and Ed (drinks). To sign up, or for more information, contact our new Hostess Chair Susan Andrade.

UPCOMING ORCHID SHOWS: Terese asked if we wished to provide a display for the 2015 Spring Windward Orchid Society Show, "35th Anniversary & Still Growing." The meeting consensus was a strong yes. Lynette agreed to contact the Show organizers to reserve space for our display, and Terese will be contacting members about providing plants and setting up the display. The show will be held at the King Intermediate School Armory in Kaneohe from Friday to Sunday, March 20 to March 22, with the display set up scheduled for Thursday, March 19. Karen pointed out that those are the same dates for the 61st Annual Kunia Orchid Society Show, which will be held at Leilehua High School. For admission tickets to the Windward Orchid Society show, see Terese; for tickets to the Kunia Orchid Show, see Karen.

OLD BUSINESS: Lynette noted that she will follow-up on our decision last year to order one hundred copies of *Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual*, the introductory guide by Herb Plever (who we now know from the conference!) and Joyce L. Brehm, from the Bromeliad Society International. The booklets cost 2.25 each, and are given free to all new members.

NEW MEETING TIME: At the request of Lyon Arboretum, we will be changing our meeting starting times to **12:30**.

LIBRARY: Lynette and new librarian Karen reminded members that the Society maintains a lending library at Lyon Arboretum. If you would like to borrow a book, or have any appropriate books that you might want to donate, see Karen or Tessie.

SHOW AND TELL: Thank you Lynette for bringing in a *Guzmania*, so that we can practice identifying specimens from their blossoms, and a *Tillandsia cyanea*, from two Christmases past, to provide a sense of growth over time. She also brought in a sample "Trunk" disease—showing what happens when you forget how tall your *Guzmania* blossom is and shut it in the trunk of your car!

AUCTION: Many thanks to Matt for donating some of his displays, and to Ed for providing several beautiful plants for auction.





## A SUCCULENT SHOW AND TELL

New Program Chair John Ishihara got our January meeting and our new year off to a great start with an entertaining and informative talk and show-and-tell by Matt Bowden, proprietor of Once Again nursery in Waimānalo. Matt's talk focused on succulents, those popular cousins to bromeliads, and on creating intriguing and attractive displays from items that might otherwise wind up in a landfill.

Matt came to the nursery business after several other careers. A Kamehameha School grad, Matt studied tropical agriculture at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and then spent time, among other things, in the pizza and restaurant business—he once held the record for making the world's largest spam musubi!



Inspired by seeing a picture of a succulent garden in a wine bottle, Matt dedicated two years to learning how to work with glass in ways that wouldn't automatically kill any plants trying to grow in them. The commercial plant industry, Matt let us know, "is based on the premise that people kill plants," and

that the general public is actually a little afraid of plants, and embarrassed about killing them. So Matt decided that he wanted to learn how to make gardens from things people didn't want, and thus to start a viable business where he could teach people how to keep plants alive while creating attractive displays from things that would otherwise get thrown away: discarded dishes and cups, and overruns of floor tiles, for example.

Before opening Once Again this past Fall, Matt and his wife, who is a water plant specialist, showed their wares at various craft fairs and venues around town, including sharing a space with Geobunga's Waimānalo site.

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Photos by Susan Lee.



## DISPLAYING SUCCULENTS IN REPURPOSED POTS

Continued from page 3.

Matt is particularly known for turning items like SPAM and tuna cans into succulent gardens—which is not as easy as simply opening a can, eating the contents, and sticking in a plant. Through lots of experimentation, he developed a treatment to keep the cans from rusting, rotting, and disintegrating, and thereby killing the plants. His other special touches include using an imported, high-end European drilling system to create drainage holes that will allow plants to flourish. “The process is never quite what you think,” Matt explained, about the extensive trial-and-error work that goes into making his unique gardens.

All the plants in the gardens Matt brought to show us were succulents. There are thousands of varieties, he explained, some of which flower, but many of the more attractive ones do not. He also reminded us that, for horticulturists, succulents do not include cactuses.

Propagation techniques vary for succulents. While they can be grown from seed, the process is difficult, time consuming, and has poor results. Matt prefers to use unrooted cuttings, which can grow to a transplantable size a matter of weeks. Drainage, Matt emphasized, is extremely important for succulents. He has developed his own planting medium combining turface (a clay-based soil additive that helps with water retention), peat, and perlite—and of course, his planters all have good drainage holes. One tip Matt gave us was to water your succulents as if they were still living in the desert: “mimic flash floods,” giving the plants lots of water, but making sure that they drain well.



The flyer is for the Windward Orchid Society's 35th Anniversary & Still Growing event. It features a large pink orchid in the center. Text on the flyer includes: "Windward Orchid Society 35th Anniversary Spring Orchid Show", "Flower Show and Plant Sale '35th Anniversary & Still Growing'", "FREE ADMISSION DONATIONS ARE WELCOME", "EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS", and a schedule of events for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The location is listed as S.W. King Intermediate School, Kaneohe. Logos for Facebook, Visa, Mastercard, and American Express are also present.

Windward Orchid Society  
35th Anniversary Spring  
Orchid Show

Flower Show and Plant Sale  
"35th Anniversary & Still Growing"

FREE ADMISSION  
DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Friday, March 20, 2015  
10:00am General Orchid Culture  
1:00pm Cattleya Orchid Culture  
4:00pm Honoheo Orchid Culture

Saturday, March 21, 2015  
10:00am General Orchid Culture  
2:00pm Plants of Bonaire  
4:00pm Honoheo Orchid Culture

Sunday, March 22, 2015  
10:00am Bromeliad Culture  
12:00 noon General Orchid Culture

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015  
& SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015  
9:00AM - 7:00PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2015  
9:00AM - 4:00PM

S.W. King Intermediate School  
46-155 Kamehameha Highway  
Kaneohe (Two Blocks North of Windward Mall)

Facebook

VISA

MasterCard

American Express

### WINDWARD ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING SHOW "35TH ANNIVERSARY & STILL GROWING"

As in previous years, HBS will be sponsoring a display at the Windward Orchid Society Spring Show, which will be held in the King Intermediate School Armory, near Windward Mall in Kaneohe. This year's show will be on Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 7 pm, and on Sunday, March 22, 9 am–4 pm

Volunteers are needed for the **display set up**, on **Thursday, March 19**, from **9 to 11 am**, and **breakdown on Sunday**, at **4 pm**. This year's display will be based on what we did at the World Bromeliad Conference, only instead of two tables end to end, they will be side by side.

Please bring your plants and items for display either to the **February meeting** or the **display set up**. Don't forget to label your plants, because you will get them back. And please consider helping out with the set up and breakdown. For more information, contact Terese.