



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

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SUCCULENT SPECIALIST TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER

Using everything from eggshells to teacups to recycled bottles and repurposed dishes, Matt Bowden and his wife, Lynn Leith-Bowden, specialize in creating small, medium, and large, easy-to-care gardens featuring succulents and other “brown thumb” plants. The proprietor of Once Again Nursery in Waimānalo, Matt will be our special guest at the January meeting.

Matt is a regular participant in the weekly farmers’ market at Pearlridge Center. You may also have seen Once Again displays in the Made in Hawaii Festival at the Blaisdell Center and “Unthirsty Plant Sales” hosted by the Board of Water supply, or read about the Bowdens in the *Honolulu StarAdvertiser* garden column (check out the October 3, 2014 article).

Once Again Nursery is one of the newer nurseries in “Nurseryland”—aka green and growing Waimānalo. After sharing space with Geobunga’s landscaping and garden acreage, this past Fall Matt opened his own nursery, and as the name suggests, one of his key commitments is to sustainable and environmentally responsible gardening. But he is equally committed to making gardening enjoyable and “doable” for even the most inexperienced gardeners.

Besides talking about possible uses and proper care for succulents like the Euphorbia, Echeveria, and Sempervivum (“Hen and Chicks”) featured below, Matt will be offering great tips on reusing and repurposing neglected objects as attractive planters. Thanks to Val Wong for suggesting Matt as a speaker, and to new Program Chair John Ishihara for getting our new year’s slate of programs off to a great start.



2015 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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HOSPITALITY

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JANUARY MEETING

This Saturday, **January 31,**

we meet at **Noon** at

Lyon Arboretum.

Our hospitality hosts are

Terese and Stan.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2014

Kahala Park

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Marcy Doseo, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Karen Gollero, Nancy Hiraoka, John Ishihara, Annetta Kinnicutt, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Larry McGraw, Ed Nishimura, Gail Rabideau, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Genie Trapp, Lynette Wagner, Randy Wong, and Val Wong.

CONVENED: 12:05 ADJOURNED: 1:00 to tour Andy Butler's house and gardens.

BETTY CHANG MEMORIAL: Susan reported that on behalf of HBS she sent an arrangement of bromeliads and anthuriums to Betty's funeral, and Marie sent a card to Hazel.

CONFERENCE FINANCIAL REPORT: Conference treasurer Raleigh reported that he had processed all the HBS reimbursements for conference expenses, sent the remaining balance—\$58,854.53—to the BSI treasurer, and closed out the conference account. Plant sale vendors should have already received their payments from BSI.

HBS TREASURER'S REPORT: Tessie reported that the current balance is \$4,095.35, with an outstanding check of \$200 to Lyon Arboretum.

HOLIDAY MEETING: HBS does not hold regular meetings in November and December. Members decided that instead of meeting at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden for a holiday pot luck, as we have for the past several years, we should spend some of our hard-earned Conference money and have our year-end meeting at The Willows Restaurant. The gathering was set for December 13, from 12:30 to 2:30. Members will be asked to pay \$10, with HBS subsidizing the remaining costs. Lynette volunteered to take care of the gift plants and grab bag plant exchange (everyone attending will receive a gift bromeliad; and if you bring in a plant for the grab bag, you get to grab another one to take home!).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Karen Gollero and Terese Leber agreed to serve on a Nominating Committee to oversee the selection of HBS officers for 2015.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2014

The Willows Restaurant

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Nancy & Francis Arakawa, Marcy Doseo, Marie and Raleigh Ferdun, Helen Friend, Karen Gollero, Naty Hopewell, John Ishihara, Tessie & Dennis Labra, Terese Leber (presiding), Larry McGraw, Ed Nishimura, Gail Rabideau, Karen Rohter, Dolores and Jamie Roldan. Lisa and Ken Vinzant, Lynette Wageman, Val and Randy Wong

CONVENED: 1:42 ADJOURNED: 1:51 — SHORTEST BUSINESS MEETING EVER!

On behalf of the Nominating Committee (Karen Gollero and Terese Leber), Terese announced the proposed slate of officers for 2015:

President: Terese Leber; Vice President/Program Chair: John Ishihara; Treasurer: Dolores Roldan; Membership: Val Wong; Corresponding Secretary: Karen Rohter; Recording Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Stan Schab; Hospitality: Susan Andrade; Librarians: Tessie Labra & Karen Gollero.

The slate was approved unanimously.

Current officers were encouraged to pass on any records and supplies to their successors before or at the January 2015 meeting. Terese passed out copies of HBS by-laws (as of 1993), and historical highlights of HBS from its founding in 1977 to the present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tessie reported that the current balance is \$10,109.88.

Incoming Vice President and Program Chair John asked membership for ideas for meetings in 2015. It was agreed that the January meeting should be at Lyon Arboretum.



Hail to the Chief? Our new President and Membership Chair!

REPORT OF THE PARTY OF DECEMBER 13, 2014



Photos by Dolores Roldan.

NEW YEAR'S BUSINESS

DUES ARE DUE!

Please come to the January meeting ready to pay your HBS dues for 2015 (unless you've already mailed in a check). Dues remain \$15 for an individual member and \$20 for a family, and may be paid by cash or by check made out to the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society. The Membership Chair will issue you a receipt that will mean that you are a paid up member in good standing.

Also, please come with ideas for a brief discussion about Membership. What are, or should be, the perks of membership? Receiving the newsletter? The right to participate in our bargain-priced auctions? Discounts for HBS events? What should we be providing our members for their hard-earned dues?

PROGRAMS PLEASE

So, what should we be providing our members for their hard-earned dues? Program Chair John Ishihara welcomes suggestions for our 2015 HBS meetings. Ideas for guest speakers? Topics that you would like to know more about? Suggestions for hands-on workshops? Gardens that you would like to visit on field trips? Yards that could use our neighborly help with a work session? Events that you think HBS might like to participate in, such as the Windward Orchid Society show, or organizations that we might want to meet with, like the Ikebana Institute?

Please forward any suggestions to John, or bring them up at one of our meetings.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality Chair Susan Andrade will be putting together a list of hospitality hosts for our 2015 meetings. Please let her know what months you would like to volunteer to bring snacks or drinks.

A NEW EDGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

These past holidays, some of us may have been gifted with new pruning shears and saws, but many of us have been using the same garden tools for so many years now that we're practically chewing through stems and branches. There are a lot of methods and devices for sharpening tools, including grinders and sharpening stones, but a sharper, more effective and efficient cutting edge can be restored to most pruning shears with just a little effort, not much expense, and a bastard—a mill bastard file, that is.

Pruning shears have two blades: a thick, blunt base blade, and a sharp, curved blade that cuts by moving against the thicker blade. These blades are ground at the factory to create an efficient cutting angle. Wear and tear—including not cleaning the shears—can lead to the loss of that cutting edge and angle. But by resharpening these blades along the lines of the original factory-cut bevel, you can restore an almost-like-new cutting edge, and eliminate some of those chewed-off-looking stems.

Before beginning, make sure the pivot nut that holds the shears together is tight (and put a little oil on it, while you're at it). If you can put your shears in a vise, sharpening is easier and safer, because you can use both hands on the file, and the shears will be steadier. If you are holding your shears in one hand, remember to always file away from yourself (to avoid having to use your home gardening bandaid kit). Work the file in one direction only, in long strokes along the length of the blade. These files only work on the "push" part of the motion; pushing and pulling across the edge can ruin both the file and the shears. You'll soon see the blade getting brighter and sharper.

With gardening as with most other activities, the job isn't over until the paperwork, or in this case the clean up, is done. Wipe your shears clean after each use. A wire brush or steel wool is good for removing dirt and light amounts of rust; removing sticky plant sap might require a solvent. If you are concerned about spreading plant diseases, you can wipe the shears with isopropyl alcohol. Then apply a little 3-in-One oil or something similar—Martha Stewart claims to use cooking oil spray on her rose bush pruning shears!

WBC 2014 IN WORDS AND PICTURES

One of the interesting aftermaths of the 2014 World Bromeliad Conference is hearing from our visitors about their impressions of Hawai'i and of the conference. The excerpts on this and the following page are from articles by Herb Plever in the newsletter of the New York Bromeliad Society, Lyn Wegner in the East London Bromeliad Society of South Africa newsletter, and Preciosa Soliven in *The Philippine Star*. And incidently, reading the newsletters of BSI affiliate societies is a great way to keep up with our new friends, and to pick up a lot of handy tips and information about Bromeliad cultivation.

"Hawaiians have a pervasive Aloha spirit of cheerfulness and friendship that affects everyone they meet, so we were all smiley and had lots of fun. That spirit seems to have infected the BSI; the new Board of Directors meeting held the day before the conference was very productive. We have some new, energetic and involved directors on the Board; there is more transparency and cooperation and the Board took first steps to address some difficult issues."



Photos are by Dolores Roldan and John Ishihara.



"There was a veritable mob assembled at the door to the Plant Sale and Exhibits room when it opened at 4 pm on Thursday. Registrants rushed into the room to quickly gobble up all the goodies on vendor's tables. Lisa Vinzant's Olomana Nursery table was virtually empty by Friday and all other vendors were selling out fast. Pam Koide-Hyatt had brought some of her highly awarded Tillandsia 'Samantha' that were all sold in 15 minutes."



"Arriving mid morning after a 13-hour flight from rain-soaked Manila, the clear blue sky of Honolulu dotted with white clouds and the circle of green mountains were a welcome sight—truly Aloha."

"I can't describe how wonderful it is to meet with so many brom addicts from all over the world! I have become addicted to brom conferences too! There were numerous tours, some optional extras. Included with our registration was a visit to the Lyon Arboretum. We didn't have enough time there but the vegetation was lush and thick with an average rainfall of 4 metres! I saw the hugest clump of dichorisandra (commonly referred to as blue ginger) that I have ever seen. I have it in my garden and I love it."

WBC 2014 REMEMBERED

"We only saw one garden, a pity, but it was filled with foliage vriezeas and heaps of alcantareas, some neoregelias and tillandsias. All growing in full sun and absolutely beautiful. There was a long flat mounting of Neoregelia 'Fireball' which had Tillandsia araujei positioned on top of it. A nice, yellowy contrast with the red Neoregelia 'Fireball' foliage, which had some bronzy markings from too much sun (just like ours get here in SA). It made a stunning display. Larry McGraw, whose garden we visited, had another interesting feature. About 2 metres long and about waist height, a neatly pruned hedge. On top he had laid bird netting and this had tillandsias positioned randomly. Super healthy specimens! He says he removes the netting wire with the tillandsias attached when he prunes, which he does regularly. I'm not sure how easy that is though!"



"What made the biggest impression on me? The vegetation. I loved it! Heliconias, gingers, anthuriums, tree ferns (large Australian and a smaller Hawaiian variety), acalypha, raphiolepis (Indian Hawthorn), asparagus cat's tail, amatungulu (our numnum), crocosmia, fuschia, cyperus, ixora, crotons, bougainvillea, frangipani, spathiphyllum (peace lily), delicious monsters, pentas, strelitzia, hibiscus, ferns, palms & heaps of beautiful cordylines. They have beautiful huge trees. I was surprised to see many schefflera actinophylla or the umbrella tree as we call it. In Hawaii it is referred to as the octopus tree. I have a few of these in my garden too! Constant reminders of Hawaii!"



"I loved the bread rolls! Greyish small round rolls but when broken open they were a beautiful lilac colour! I believe taro was an ingredient."



"The Willows was crammed with brom people; there was a line at the open bar so after awhile the place was really hopping and joyous. The food was good and the hula dance entertainment was performed by two young girls instead of the usual extravaganza. When they invited all women to come up and join them, the stage was jammed with brom hula 'dancers'."



Photos are by Dolores Roldan and John Ishihara.