



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

JUNE 2011

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BROMELIADS BEST IN SHOW

Our May program featured tips and tricks from Lynette Wageman and Tom Stuart on how to help our bromeliads look their best. Members brought in a variety of challenging varieties for Lynette and Tom to work their magic on. A judges' manual helped them describe what to look for in each species, but no matter what the variety, whether showing in the "pot" or "no pot" category, certain principles held true.

First of all, show plants should be cleaned really well, and one good way to do that is to hold them or hang them upside down and wash them with a hose. Once the plant is clean, it is easier to identify what needs to be trimmed—and that includes any dead, damaged, stained, split, or spotted leaves; leaves with brown margins, or with claw, teeth, or weedwhacker marks also should go. If a leaf isn't green, it isn't helping the plant with photosynthesis, and it can probably safely be trimmed. Leaves can be cut to match one another, and in trimming, keep all three dimensions in mind. Judges like both horizontal and vertical symmetry, so pay particular attention to shaping the long leaves. And don't forget to weed the roots too, and to get rid of any other debris. And finally, moving plants between sun and shade—done at the right time, of course—can really enhance the color of the leaves.

Much of the discussion focused on how to encourage bromeliads to bloom just in time for a plant show. Cutting off blossoms can stimulate new growth, for example, and bagging bromeliads with apples has been known to encourage flowering. Cutting off keikis can also shock the mother plant into reproducing. Keiki are best separated when they are about 1/3 to 1/2 the size of the mother plant; sprinkle the keiki with a rooting hormone like Rootone, and repot them. In general, flowering can be induced by mild trauma—moving the plant, for example, cutting off old blooms or keiki, or scarifying it with a nail or screw. As the saying goes, don't be too timid: if your plant is not blooming, screw it

In potting bromeliads, including keiki, a mixture of coir and cinder or peat moss works well. Use of a top dressing such as redwood shavings can also really enhance a plant's appearance. Tillandsia should be secured so that they show straight. And remember to keep an eye out for attractive pots and planters; any plant can be helped by an eye-catching cachepot.



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www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org

JUNE MEETING

Remember: This Saturday, JUNE 25, we meet at Lyon Arboretum at noon.

Our hospitality hosts are Raleigh and Marie (chips and dips), Val and Randy (cookies), and Terese and Stan (drinks).

• Please bring at least one display plant to the meeting—the more the merrier.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MAY 28, 2011

Lyon Arboretum meeting room

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Mary Louise Boyd, Betty Chang, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Karen Gollero, Sam Kagesa, Lum Keith, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Sally Mist, Stan Schab, Laura St. Denis, Tom Stuart, Lynette Wageman, and Hazel Wong

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The HBS proclaimed Mary Louise Boyd an Honorary Member of the Society, presenting her with a lantern ilima lei, a gift certificate, and new clippers. For the text of the proclamation, and Mary Louise's response, see page 4.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have a balance of \$1,192.78. The Society moved that
in the future, income be categorized by source: membership, auction, miscellaneous sales, etc.

HOSPITALITY: Lum announced that this would be her last meeting, because she will be moving to Napa Valley to be near her granddaughter—but not before she finished landscaping her property with bromeliads. Refreshments for April will be hosted by Raleigh and Marie (Chips & Dips), Val and Randy (Cookies), and Terese and Stan (Drinks). *Thank you, Karen, for agreeing to serve as Hospitality Chair.*

MEMBERSHIP & DUES: Marie called the Foxes about their HBS dues, and reported that they find it difficult to come to the meetings, leading to a discussion about membership categories and benefits, and specifically whether we should have a non-dues paying category for inactive members. Marie will ask the Foxes if they wish to continue as members; Karen and Tessie will similarly check with Neil Takabayashi.

LIBRARY: ** Please return books borrowed from the HBS library. **

You can renew them if no one else wants to use them.

PROGRAMS: ** Please bring a display plant or two to the next meeting. **

Let's show off all we learned today!

NEW BUSINESS: Laura announced that she had retired, basically just a few hours before our meeting, but that she would now devote at least 100 hours a week to the HBS!

Because we are a dues-paying affiliate, HBS members can have full access to the information and publications on the Bromeliad Society International web site. Our username is 1241; the password is bsi.

Janice Crowl of *Hana Hou*, the Hawaiian Airlines in-flight magazine, contacted Tom Stuart about an article she is writing about bromeliads in Hawai'i. She had already talked to David Shigi and Sharon Peterson, and Tom suggested that she contact David Fell, Lisa Vinzant, and Peter De Mello. The article probably won't appear for a couple of months, but HBS should get some good publicity—and maybe some new members (a good reason to work on our web site and business cards).

AUCTION: Even after the program, we still had energy for a small auction, featuring the usual big bargains.

ALOHA AND MAHALO, LUM
& good luck cultivating
Bromeliads in Napa!



HATSUMI MAERTZ, 1920–2011

Hatsumi Maertz, one of our Founding Members, died peacefully in her sleep on June 1, 2011, with all her children present. She had moved to Oregon in October to live with her son Allen. Private services were held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on Friday, June 10.

Hatsumi contributed greatly to the growth of the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society. She did a lot of work with hybridization, and was always proud to bring her results for "Show and Tell" at the meetings. She was very knowledgeable about bromeliads, and always had the answers to our many questions. She was very active in the Society, being President for a number of years and holding various other offices over the years. She and her husband Warb spent many hours working in Lyon's Bromeliad Garden, making it (at one time) the showpiece of the Arboretum.

When she again pursued her interest in ceramics, she charmed us with her many creations. Most of the members were thrilled to become owners of her whimsical and practical pieces. We all have pleasant memories of visits to her beautiful home and her garden, with all those wonderful bromeliads around her house and hanging from her plumeria trees. We love you and will always remember you. Hatsumi, may you rest in peace.



"Ionantha Lei,"
by Hatsumi Maertz



Dice 2 *Neo*, simmer with an *Aechmea* puree . . .



Before . . .

. . . and After

ok, maybe not quite so
much trimming next time

Keep an eye
out for those
nice cachepots
(display by Tom
Stuart)



HBS PROCLAMATION HONORING MARY LOUISE BOYD

by Lynette Wageman

Mary Louise Boyd has been a member of the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society for many years. She recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday, and until a few months ago was extremely active putting around in her bromeliad garden—barefooted.

She has been a very active member, contributing her vast knowledge of bromeliads, and always sharing this knowledge with other members of the Society. She has researched and presented a number of interesting lectures on various topics to our group. At almost every meeting, she has been very generous in donating plants to the Auction. She has frequently opened her beautiful home and garden for meetings, so that members from the Windward side would have to drive less miles to attend meetings.

Because of her attention to detail and her avid interest in bromeliads, she has most of her plants tagged with their names, which she *remembers*—something that most of us find very difficult. Oh yes, whenever she brings her plants in for “Show and Tell,” she always comes prepared to tell us something interesting about the plant—the meaning of the name, for example, or its origin.

When I asked Mary Louise how she got interested in bromeliads, she said her love for plants started when she was a little girl living in La Jolla in California. She and her mother would take walks in the woods near her home, and there her mother taught her the names of all the wild flowers and the meanings of the names. Later, she took a course in botany at the University of Arizona at Tucson, and that further contributed to her interest in plants. When she came to Hawaii in 1946, she started out with plants in general, then slowly narrowed her collection to bromeliads.

Mary Louise has served as Hospitality Chair and as Librarian. She was also Secretary for many years, contributing interesting information to the Newsletter.

Mary Louise, the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society voted unanimously that your name be added to the list of our Honorary Members because of your many contributions to the Society. We treasure you and wish you many more years of bromeliad cultivation and gardening.

— Hawai'i Bromeliad Society, May 28, 2011

MAHALO FROM MARY LOUISE

Thank you! Thank you! I'm quite overwhelmed by being made an honorary member of the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society, and am wondering why I should be. It's true that I consider the study and the love of Bromeliads (in fact, all plants) as a hobby to be taken seriously. If that is sufficient for honor, then I'll say again Thank you! (and another thank you for the ilima lei and the monetary gift).

—Mary Louise Boyd, June 2011



Portea petropolitana

Mary Louise has a few of these plants available for intrepid gardeners. As she could tell us, *Portea* are named after French botanist Marius Porte, and are natives of the eastern coast of Brazil. They do well in strong light, and have lengthy inflorescences, with lavender flowers and dark purple berries—but they are said to be sensitive to frost!

