



Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 34 NO. 6

HONOLULU, HAWAII

JUNE 2012

## MEETING OUR PRICKLY & JUICY NEIGHBORS

For our June HBS meeting, program chair Marie Ferdun has arranged a special treat: a tour of the University of Hawai'i at Kapi'olani Community College Cactus and Succulent Garden, hosted by Moriso Teraoka, who created and helps maintain the garden.

Given our focus this year on identifying and classifying plants, I think we can all agree on one thing: lucky we picked Bromeliads. We have one family to worry about it: *Bromeliaceae*. Succulents—water-storing plants—comprise well over over fifty families, and thousands of genuses. All cactuses, from the one on your windowsill that refuses to bloom at Christmas to the giant Saguaro in the Sonoran desert, are members of the family *Cactaceae*, and all *Cactaceae* are succulents. But by no means are all succulents cactuses. One list prepared by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America ranges from aloe to the zebra plant and zygocactus, and from the *Acanthocereus* to the *Yucca* family. While not encompassing Bromeliads, the Cactus and Succulent Society does acknowledge a few genuses as cousins, or at least worth cultivating—specifically mentioning *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Puya*, and some *Tillandsia*. Come to our next meeting and see for yourself the variety and charm of some of our most striking and unusual plant neighbors.

And to answer the single most asked question about this family of plants: no, tequila does not come from a cactus, but from another succulent, an agave.

For more information, and directions, see page 4.



### 2012 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Susan Andrade

TREASURER

Tessie Labra

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Marie Grininger

HOSPITALITY

Val Wong

LIBRARY

Lynette Wageman

VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAMS

Marie Ferdun

MEMBERSHIP

Raleigh Ferdun

RECORDING SECRETARY

Stanley Schab

NEWSLETTER

Terese Leber

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

## MAY MEETING

This Saturday, June 30, we meet at the Kapi'olani Community College Cactus Garden at Noon.

Our hospitality hosts are

Randy & Val (drinks, chips and dip)  
& Karen (cookies).

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MAY 26, 2012

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Betty Chang, Edwin Cheng, Helen Friend, Sam Kagesa, Troy Oden, Karen Rohter, Sid Sneider, Tom Stuart, Lynette Wageman, Hazel Wong, Randy Wong, and Val Wong. GUESTS: Jiwon Chang, Toni Choy

CONVENED: 12:15; Adjourned: 2:00

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Susan shared two thank you letters to the Society—one from Lyon Arboretum for our recent donation of \$250, and one from Mary Louise Boyd for our March work session and subsequent help in her garden. Susan also passed around the recent newsletters from the Arboretum.

MEMBERSHIP: The membership list is being updated upon receipt of dues and contact information from new members. Sid (now a veteran member of three months) volunteered to look into making name tags. An up-to-date membership list is being sent with this newsletter, and Membership chair Raleigh Ferdun would like to remind members that upon request he can provide an electronic membership file.

PROGRAMS: A field trip to the Cactus and Succulent gardens at Kapi'olani Community College was confirmed for the June meeting.

COMMUNICATION: The hosting for the HBS web site will end in June, so the committee will plan to meet soon to make a decision on how to proceed.

HOSPITALITY: Our hosts for June are Randy and Val for drinks and chips & dip, and Karen for cookies. And to help plan the rest of your year: Susan is hosting the July meeting, Annetta Kinnicutt and Betty have August, Troy and Jorji will cover September, and Helen and the Maries—Grininger and Ferdun—have volunteered for October (the November/December meeting will be our pot luck holiday party).

OLD BUSINESS: Lynette reported that we have not yet heard from the Bromeliad Society International about hosting their 2014 international conference, but Troy has assembled more detailed information on procedures, permits, and restrictions on importing bromeliads to Hawai'i.

MAY PROGRAM: *Billbergia*, *Aechmea*, and *Guzmania*

Presentation by Lynette and Tom, with hand-outs by Marie Ferdun. Lynette and Tom brought a variety of samples of each genus to allow members to see and feel the foliage and inflorescences, while they being were described.

*Billbergia* tend to grow in tubular clumps, and are characterized by a few stiff, tall leaves that are often spotted or banded with complex patterns. They are one of the more easily identifiable genuses because of their shape. *Billbergia* are popular plants for rock gardens. They have shallow roots, and often need support. One trick is to use chopsticks to keep them steady. They need lots of light, and can tolerate sun. *Billbergia* blossoms can be spectacular, but only last about a week. *Aechmea* have thicker leaves than *Billbergia* and sharper thorns. *Aechmea* are also tubular in shape, but tend to open more, and their blossoms can last up to a few months, with spectacular flowers and stalks of colorful berries. They can be grown in partial shade to full sun, taking on more color with more sun (but they do need water too!).

(continued on page 3)



*Guzmania* have soft leaves and should be grown in partial or total shade. Their leaves are pointed and their inflorescences tend to be rounded, in contrast to *Vriesea*, whose inflorescences are more sword-like in shape.

All three varieties need adequate air circulation. When in bloom, the bracts on *Billbergia* and *Aechmea* are extremely colorful.



*Aechmea blanchetiana*



*Billbergia 'Alii'*



*Guzmania 'Puna Gold'*

---

Sid shared an idea for displaying bromeliad plants using recycled window louvers. He will bring photos to a future meeting so the membership can better envision the results of his project.

Tom brought recycled wire, that he found via Honolulu Free Recycle, that members can use to secure their plants. Thank you, Susan, for patiently separating the wire into bunches so it could easily be distributed to the members.

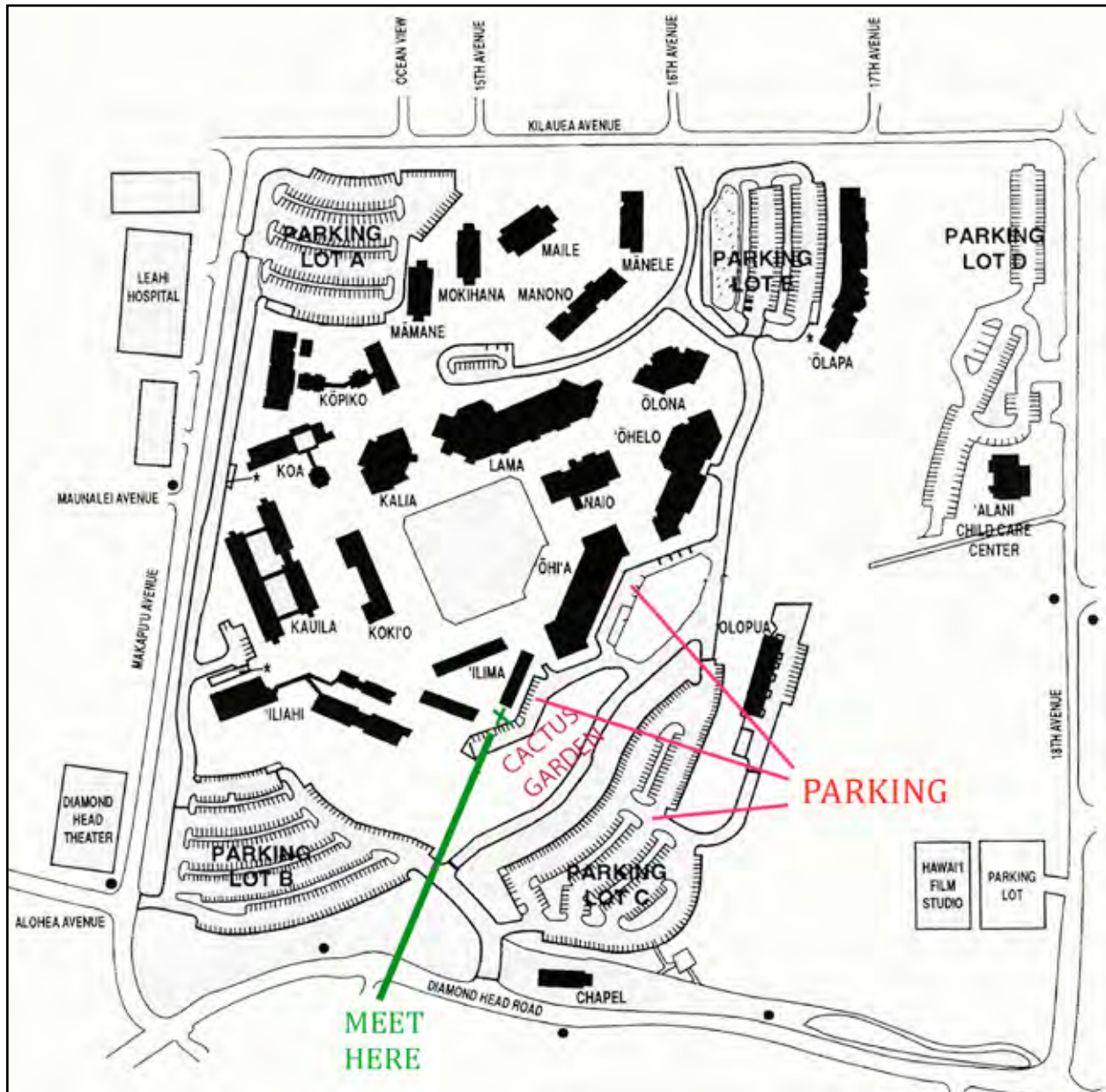
The auction, featuring contributions from Tom, Lynette, Troy, Helen, and others, resulted in \$42 for the HBS coffers.



---

### Name This Plant

This award-winning display at the recent Garden Club of Honolulu show is Liz Keller's twenty-year old *Deuterocohnia brevifolia* (sometimes known as *Abromeitiella brevifolia*).



Kapi'olani Community College is located at 4303 Diamond Head Road. By the time we meet, the Saturday morning farmers' market should mostly have packed up, so we should be able to park in Lot C (the one closest to Diamond Head), or in the small lot between the Ilima Building and the Cactus Garden (where there are three handicapped stalls), or on the road that runs along the bottom of the garden and above Lot C. During non-school hours, it is okay to park in any stall. We will meet at the two picnic tables at the top of the garden, just below the Ilima Building.

Check out the KCC web site for great pictures of the garden and Moriso's own story. A Wainaku Mill Camp boy from north of Hilo (where he became *very* familiar with the *Ananas comosus*), he served with the 100th Battalion, and after retiring from Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, he started taking cooking classes at KCC. In 1988, he volunteered to create the Cactus and Succulent Garden—but let's let him tell us the rest of that story.

