



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

JUNE 2013

ENCOURAGING PLANTS TO BLOSSOM

We have much to thank the Azores for: the 'ukulele, malasadas, Lusitana Street, Billy Martin (his father was from the Azores). And now, thanks to our Program Chair Troy Oden, we know to thank the Azores for discovering how to force Bromeliads to bloom out of season. On the isle of São Miguel in the Azores, which still hosts an international pineapple festival, growers developed a way to use smoke to force *Anana* to bloom ahead of schedule. Chemists and commercial growers over the years invented several ways to mimic that process, such as by using calcium carbide to make acetylene gas—which caused the plants to bloom, but unfortunately made them unsafe to eat. Commercial growers have now found safer ways to create ethylene gas, which can be used in large “ripening” rooms. The good news for home growers is that ethylene is a naturally occurring plant hormone that encourages the opening of flowers and the ripening of fruit, and there are a number of techniques that backyard growers can use to encourage their plants to blossom.



One easy technique is the old apple in the bag trick. First of all, pick healthy plants that are old enough to bloom and fairly near to their normal blooming season. Don't fertilize

the plants for two weeks before treating them. Dump out any water, so the plants are dry and there is no liquid barrier between the plants and gas. Seal the Bromeliads (potted or unpotted) in a plastic bag with one or two ripe apples—and you don't need to cut the apples. Keep the bag in a shady place, but where it doesn't go below 65° at night, for ten to fourteen days. As the fruit rots, it produces ethylene gas, which should induce the plants to bloom some six to fourteen weeks later. To which all we can say is *Obrigado!*

2013 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT		VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAMS
Susan Andrade		Troy Oden
TREASURER	MEMBERSHIP	WEB MASTER
Tessie Labra	Raleigh Ferdun	Tom Stuart
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY		RECORDING SECRETARY
Marie Grininger		Stanley Schab
HOSPITALITY	LIBRARY	NEWSLETTER
Val Wong	Lynette Wageman	Terese Leber
	www.hawaiibromeliadsociety.org	

JUNE MEETING

This Saturday, **June 29**, we meet at
Lyon Arboretum
at **Noon.**

Our hospitality hosts are
Lynette (drinks) & the **Ferduns** (snacks).

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 30, 2013

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Betty Chang, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Karen Gollero, Annetta Kinnicutt, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Sally Mist, Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Stan Schab, Sid Sneider, Lynette Wageman, Hazel Wong, Randy Wong, and Val Wong.

CONVENED: 12:10; ADJOURNED: 3:00

HOSPITALITY: Our Hospitality Hosts for June are Lynette (drinks) and Marie and Raleigh (snacks).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Our current balance is \$2,445.77. Payments are forthcoming to the Bromeliad Society International for our annual dues and journal subscription, and to Lynette to reimburse her for the Society's post office box rental.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: Lynette reminded members to check their shelves and to return books borrowed from the HBS library, which is housed at Lyon Arboretum; any member can check out a book or journal (but not to keep!).

BROMELIADS IN PARADISE: Here's an update on activity on the conference front.

COUNTDOWN TO WBC 2014: Marie reported that the "Countdown to WBC 2014" schedule will be circulated on Raleigh's Dropbox site before the next meeting; it is also included on pages three and four of this newsletter. The names and contact information for the Committee chairs, announced in February 2013, will be posted on the Bromeliad Society International web site, so that conference visitors and volunteers can seek information or offer services.

Dropbox is a file-hosting service, which among other features, allows users to place files, such as documents or pictures, in a folder that can be accessed through a web site and through mobile phone applications. Users no longer have to send the same photo or information to many different individuals—such as to every HBS member. The basic level of Dropbox service is free. Raleigh has uploaded to Dropbox the "Countdown to WBC 2014," the BSI "Show Rules for 2012," the Refreshment Sign-Up sheet for 2013 meetings, and the current HBS member roster. The address to access Raleigh's Dropbox HBS folder has been emailed to HBS members.

Marie emphasized that the important planning dates are September 2013—one year before the conference—March 2014, when the committees should have a good sense of how things are progressing and if more help is needed, and June 2013, at which point we should know whether to relax and start getting ready to enjoy the conference or to hit the panic button!

ALOHA BASKETS: Karen R. presented a new plan to encourage volunteers to donate items for the baskets-formerly-known-as-raffles: all members who bring in an item—and remember, we need to make fifty Aloha Baskets—will have their names entered for a drawing to receive a plant of their choice from that meeting's auction. The members

approved the incentive plan for volunteers donating items for the baskets.

(moved, Tessie; seconded, Val. Approved).

The winner for May was Val, who donated a selection of yarn lei and Hawai'i-print wrapping paper. For more information on the kinds of items appropriate for the baskets, see the May 2013 newsletter or contact Karen or Helen Friend, the Aloha Team (the Basket Crew?).

BAGS AND FAVORS. Jorji and Troy Oden weren't able to attend the meeting, so Stan circulated some information from Jorji about the wide variety of items available as conference bags, participant gifts, favors for the banquet tables, and awards. The appropriate committee members will continue to look into range and prices of available items.

AWARDS: Marie noted that information will be forthcoming on the number, type, and expense of awards.

PROGRAM: Thank you to Lynette for providing, on short notice, a two-part program. Both parts had something to do with Bromeliads—in different ways! From her garden, she brought in a sampling of blooming *Billbergia*, *Vriesea*, and *Tillandsia*, and pointed out several keys to identifying the varieties from their inflorescences. But she began with a spirited travelogue of her recent journey by plane, boat, bus, and train through French Polynesia and across the Pacific to Peru and on to Machu Picchu. After flying into Papeete, Tahiti, she set sail for Bora Bora, with side excursions by small boat to Huahine atoll and Fakarava. An onboard injury (not to her) prompted the boat to divert from Pitcairn Island (so she was not tempted to join the *HMS Bounty* mutineers), to Rapa Nui/Easter Island, where she saw many of the famous moai. Landing in Lima, Peru she traveled up, up, up, to Cuzco, one of the highest cities in the world, and then by an old bus and older train to Machu Picchu, riding past scores of wild Bromeliads in various states of bloom, especially *Tillandsia*—we have to take her word for it, though, because her camera broke. Many of the crew members on her eighteen-day cruise were young South Asian gentlemen, so as the only Indian guest, she received all the special attention she deserved—and also developed a taste for champagne. Next time, she promises to bring a back-up camera.

AUCTION: Many thanks to Susan for serving as the auctioneer, and for keeping the meeting moving so that we had enough time to have an auction.

COUNTDOWN TO WBC 2014

Prepared by Marie Ferdun

Conference Planning Committee: Lynette Wageman, Troy Oden, Tom Stuart, Marie Ferdun

20 Months Out — January 2013

- Contract with Ala Moana Hotel signed
- Letter dated 1/1/13 with Registration form and tentative event schedule mailed to WBC 2012 Registrants

19 Months Out — February 2013

- Committee Chairs announced
 - Coordinator — Lynette Wageman
 - Treasurer — Raleigh Ferdun
 - Administrative Coordinator — Marie Ferdun
 - Registration — Terese Leber
 - Hospitality — Susan Andrade
 - Awards — Marie Ferdun
 - Aloha Baskets — Helen Friend and Karen Rohter
 - Poster Sessions — Val Wong
 - Tours — Troy Oden
 - Program — Stan Schab
- Committee members solicited

17 Months Out — April 2013

- Flyers sent to HI vendors

13 Months Out — August 2013

- Plant Sale committee mails application for selling at WBC 2014. Vendor letters & e-mails go out and information is listed on web site and published in the BSI Journal. Should include specifics on plant movement in & out of Hawai'i. All vendors from previous two conferences as well as new vendors from Hawai'i should be invited.

12 Months Out — September 2013

- Committee Goals announced. To include current status and projected status as of January 2014.
- Contracts with transporters signed.
- Contracts with PCC signed.
- Conference Update. Include: any Event Schedule changes, confirmed speakers and bios, information on tour registration — paid in advance? Deadlines? At the door? (See update from New Orleans conference.) Note per Bonnie: To be mailed to each BSI affiliate contact and on the BSI web site. BSI has the affiliate contacts on record — this info will come from Bonnie.
- Mail out letter re advertising in the WBC 2014 program. Note per Bonnie: HBS will set the particulars for how it wants to handle the advertising in the program — rates, etc. and draft the letter. Bonnie will give HBS the contact list.
- Donations request form from host society (based on Chicago host society) that allows you to choose where your donation will go. Note from Bonnie: This letter should be published on the web, in the journal and mailed to affiliates. Bonnie will give us the contact list.

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COUNTDOWN TO *BROMELIADS IN PARADISE*

12 Months Out — September 2013

- Also letter re donations for awards (based on 2012 conference). Create a form for suggested donations including advertising, items for the rare plant auction, raffles, availability to help, number of show plants, number of artistic arrangements (based on 2012 conference.) Note from Bonnie: This letter should be published on the web, in the journal and mailed to affiliates. Bonnie will give us the contact list.

11 Months Out — October 2013

- Mail Registration prompt. Note per Bonnie. Not sure if this will be needed — the BSI Journal and Web site may be enough.

10 Months Out — November 2013

- Registration prompt packet. Note per Bonnie: Not sure if this will be needed — the BSI Journal and Web site may be enough.

8 Months Out — January 2014

- Committee Goals status report. To include current status and projected status as of March 2014.
- Treasurer shops for rental costs of 4 cash registers
- Program committee begins to price program printing and reports on Ad Sales.

6 Months Out — March 2014

- Committee Goals status report. To include current status and projected status as of June 2014.
- Deadline for art work for art exhibition is 3/1/14.

5 Months Out — April 2014

- Plant Sales committee to mail reminder Vendor Reservation form

4 Months Out — May 2014

- Mail registration prompt to all affiliate contacts reminding of the August 15th cut-off. Includes letter, final event schedule, info re banquet, plant sale, BSI standard show, rare plant auction, advertising, guest speakers, tours, optional tours, individual tours. Update the web site with cut-off information. (Based on 2010 conference. Note per Bonnie: Not sure if we will need this—just wait and see what our response is at this point.

3 Months Out — June 2014

- Committee Goals status report. To include current status and projected status as of August 2014.
- All Chairs should be familiar with the Ala Moana Hotel meeting rooms that we will be using.
- Plant Sales mails out another Vendor Registration application
- Bromeliad art exhibit timeline/deadline to enter. Note per Bonnie: Hawai'i would be responsible for any local art show that the club wishes to add to the agenda.

1 Month Out — August 2014

- Committee status report. Ready to go!

WBC 2014 September 8–14, 2014

Addendum: All information and announcements intended for the BSI web site must be sent to bbout@aol.com. All printed materials intended for conference distribution must be approved by BSI-attn: Bonnie Boutwell.