



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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APRIL 2019

NEOREGELIA SEX!

Now that we have your attention . . . Our next meeting will feature David Fell, who will be talking about breeding *Neoregelia*, particularly through hybridization. *Neoregelia* can reproduce by pupping—take a gander below at the cluster in Larry's yard—but they are also a good species for hybridizers. The Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies lists about one hundred *Neoregelia* species, and over a thousand cultivars! Whether you're an experienced hybridizer, always wanted to try your hand at it but weren't sure how, or just curious about how growers create such varied and beautiful plants, don't miss the April meeting.

David's *Neoregelia* cultivar "Pink Magic"



"Golden Brooms," the 2019 Australasian Bromeliad Conference, will be held on Queensland's Gold Coast, at the Sea World Resort (about an hour's drive from Brisbane), from October 17 to 20. Along with speakers from Australia, New Zealand, Latin America, and the US, there will be a competition judged under the Bromeliad Society International rules. Growers will also be offering their latest plants for sale, and societies and growers will be staging displays. Registration for Golden Brooms is \$350.00 until 30 June, and \$375 after that. This fee includes entry to all presentations, the Welcome BBQ and Conference Opening, the Banquet, a full-day tour of gardens, and morning and afternoon teas and lunches on conference days. The conference hotel is offering accommodations for \$209 per night. For more information, see the conference website, www.goldenbrooms.com.

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APRIL MEETING

This Saturday, April 27,
we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**
at **12:30**.

Our hospitality hosts are
Stan and Ed.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 30, 2019

Larry McGraw's house

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, David Fell, Naty Hopewell, Elsie Horikawa, Gail Ishihara, John Ishihara, Sandi Kasman, Mischa Kobayashi, Terese Leber (presiding), Georgia Lyman, Larry McGraw, Sally Mist, Leslie Morishige, Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stanley Schab, Brian Taylor, Lynette Wageman, and Shar Yoshida. **GUESTS:** Diana, Jesse, and Kim.

CONVENED: 1:00; **ADJOURNED:** 3:00.

Terese welcomed everyone, and thanked Larry for welcoming us to his home and garden (and for the ribs!), and Dolores and Jaime and David and Sandi for the terrific food and drink.

HOSPITALITY: Susan noted that hospitality hosts are needed for the October meeting. Our April hosts are Stan (food) and Ed (drinks).

MEMBERSHIP: Terese handed out member lists, updated to February 2019, and reminded HBSers to see our new membership chair Naty if you still need to pay your dues for 2019 (or can't remember if you've already paid!).

PROGRAMS: David will be the featured speaker for the program for our April meeting, which will be held at Lyon Arboretum. He will discuss breeding *Neoregelia*.

OLD BUSINESS—WINDWARD ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW: Gail provided a debriefing of the HBS participation in the Windward Orchid Society spring show, held last week at King Intermediate School. At the invitation of the WOS, our society created a two-table display—and the reaction was unanimous that it was our most elegant display to date, due in part to Dolores's white on charcoal hand-lettered plant labels. The core group of Gail, Shar, and Dolores devoted hours to brainstorming the display, obtaining and organizing plant donations, and creating a prototype, so that the actual set up went smoothly, taking less than two hours, with help from David, Naty, Lynette, Terese, and Marcy Doseo, who also had her own table at the show. Gail, who has taken the lead in organizing our display for the past several shows, thanked Dolores and Naty for agreeing to take the lead on our participation next year. They are already considering changing categories from a tabletop presentation to a more ambitious floor display.

OLD BUSINESS—LYON ARBORETUM STUDENT HELP: Terese reported that the Arboretum has hired a new student worker who will be partially funded by the \$1,000 HBS donation approved at our January meeting. Dylan should be devoting about three out of his ten work hours per week to helping in the bromeliad garden. Karen, who has been the mainstay of the garden crew for the past several months, is working with him, explaining what we would like him to do.

NEW BUSINESS—HBS BROCHURE:

At our January meeting, Terese convened a committee, led by Naty, to consider producing a brochure that would inform the public about bromeliads and the HBS. Reporting on her work to date, Naty circulated sample content pages. She explained that she envisioned a brochure that was not too heavy on text, but included information on cultivation and on the Society. Her initial design is a trifold brochure that would focus on eight of the more common varieties—probably *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Cryptanthus*, *Guzmania*, *Neoregelia*, *Tillandsia*, and *Vriesea*, and perhaps *Alcantarea* or *Dyckia* or *Weraubia*. She asked members to send her two-inch-square photos of plants that could be used to illustrate the varieties. Naty pointed out



the advantages of HBS having its own brochure, and noted that we have the money for a good quality production. She has gotten one quote for 500 brochures on a light gray 32 lb. stock for \$1400, with an initial setup charge of \$200 to \$300. Members thanked her for all the work she has put into researching and designing the brochure, and agreed that she should go ahead with the project, including getting additional bids, and report back at the next meeting.

AUCTION: Thanks to all who donated plants for the auction, especially our speaker Jerry and host Larry, who was cheerfully ripping plants out of his garden to offer up. *Tillandsia* varieties for auction included *juncea-balbisiana*, *chiapensis-jalisco-monticola*, *funckiana-recurvata*, *funckiana-ionantha*, and *ionantha-fasciculata* crosses, as well as specimens of *capitata rubra*, *compressa*, *caput-medusea* (mounted on coconut), and just for a change, *Quesnalia marmorata*.

JERRY DOMINGO INSTRUCTS AND ENTERTAINS

“Hi. My name is Jerry Domingo and I’m a bromeliad addict. . . .” If you thought Jerry Seinfeld was funny, you missed an even better program at our March meeting, as *Tillandsia* specialist Jerry Domingo talked about his life with bromeliads. A friend and tennis partner of Larry’s going on thirty years, Jerry began his gardening career with orchids, switched to *Tillandsia* ten or twelve years ago, and is now probably the biggest grower on the island. His program focused on Hawai‘i’s long and distinguished history with bromeliad cultivation. In addition to *Tillandsia*, the Bromeliad Society International Cultivar Register includes about 200 *Neoregelia*, 100 *Vriesea*, and 100 *Billbergia* hybridized by Hawai‘i growers. Jerry



Compare these two *baileyi* crosses—above left: ‘Patricia McKeon,’ a *baileyi* x *bulbosa* hybrid, and middle: ‘Kawaii Kauai,’ a *baileyi* x *funckiana* cross (photo by Jerry Domingo). Above right: ‘Sarah,’ a *xerographica* x ‘Old Gold’ cross (photo by Jerry Domingo).

brought in samples of many of his own registered *Tillandsia*, and described the ups and downs, and challenges and discoveries he encountered in developing them. The astonishing variety and beauty of his creations would captivate any gardener, from casual hobbyist to dedicated grower—except of course for those people who tell him, “I don’t like this *Tillandsia*—it looks like a bromeliad!”



Name That Plant—OK, now that we’ve learned about *Tillandsia*, see if you can identify this cluster from Larry’s backyard (hint: he’s provided trays of them for shows and auctions).

THE HANGING GARDENS OF NUUANU

In addition to the formal program, members had a great time touring Larry's garden, seeing what can result from a creative imagination, hard work, and a lot of rain. Along with his famous "hanging wall," Larry stages his plants on benches under shade cloth, in pots and trees and bushes in the landscape, and on architectural features around the house—and that's not counting the "volunteer" specimens that have moved in because they like the neighborhood. The hanging wall, made from plastic chicken coop fencing, features mini-*Neoregelia* and lots and lots of *Tillandsia*, in all sizes and varieties. Part of Larry's scarce greenhouse space is also devoted to seeds and seedlings, as he hybridizes and cultivates crosses from seed. Fortunately, we managed to keep him from completely tearing up his house and garden for auction items. Mahalo, Larry, for hosting a memorable visit.



SPRING CLEANING

Long-time HBS member Marie Grininger is clearing up her lanai. If you are interested in inheriting some of her bromeliads, check out the auction items on Saturday.



FREE BROMELIADS!

Jan Werner, a friend of Elise Horikawa and Karen Kim (the potter), has some large bromeliads to give away. They are at least three feet tall and all the same species—judging from the picture, possibly an *Aechmea blanchetiana*. If you are interested please call or text her (see Terese for the number).

