



Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

AUGUST 2017

## AUGUST FIELD TRIP TO WONG HALE

Members are in for a treat this month: our August meeting will be at Val and Randy's home. Many thanks to the Wongs for inviting us; as Terese said at our last visit, "just being here is an education." The environment is sure to be both calming and inspiring, as we will get to see how the Wongs have redesigned their property, cultivating bromeliads, fruit trees, watercress, taro, and more around a spring-fed pond.

In addition to learning from the Wongs the story of how their house came to be—and came to be home to a striking variety of bromeliads—this meeting will focus on members' favorites and on plans for the upcoming East-West Center Craft Fair.

For this month's Show and tell, please bring your favorite bromeliad to share with members, and explain why it's your favorite.

The annual East-West Center Craft Fair will be held this year on Friday and Saturday, November 30 and December 1. For several years, this event has proven to be a major fundraiser for HBS. Please come to the meeting with ideas of what we might do for this year's event. Program Director Gail will bring samples of what she has planned for the sale.

And as always, please donate a plant (or more!) to the auction to help build up our savings to support activities such as our holiday party and subsidizing student help in the Bromeliad Garden.

Val, Randy, and finny friends at home.



### 2017 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Terese Leber

TREASURER

Dolores Roldan

HOSPITALITY

Susan Andrade

NEWSLETTER/RECORDING SECRETARY

Stanley Schab

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR

Gail & John Ishihara

MEMBERSHIP

Open

LIBRARY

Merrill Cutting

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Karen Rohter

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

## AUGUST MEETING

This Saturday, August 26,  
we meet at **Val and Randy's House**  
at **12:30.**

Our hospitality hosts are  
**Susan and Stan.**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JULY 29, 2017

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Paulette Casey, Edvah Chang, Merrill Cutting, Naty Hopewell, John Ishihara, Mischa Kobayashi, Terese Leber (presiding), Wendie Liu, Colleen Mau, Larry McGraw, Linda McGraw, Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Lynette Wageman, Val Wong. Guests: Cheryll.

CONVENED: 12:50; ADJOURNED: 2:40.

Terese welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Merrill and John for the food and drinks, and John for conducting the program in Gail's absence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Lynette noted that long-time member Helen Friend had sold her house—no word yet on what will happen to all her bromeliads—and that grower and hybridizer David Fell had sold Sunshine Nursery, though the new owners seem to be continuing his work with bromeliads.

TREASURER: Our balance as of June 30 was \$10,181.64, which includes the \$1,000 paid to Lyon Arboretum to support student help in the Bromeliad Garden. The June auction brought in \$193.

Lynette raised the possibility of offering guest speakers honoraria. She acknowledged that we are not in the position of organizations like the Garden Club of Honolulu that can pay travel expenses and substantial fees, but suggested that we consider providing honoraria of \$50 or \$100. The idea was tabled for later discussion.

HOSPITALITY: Our hospitality hosts for August are Susan and Stan.

LIBRARY: Terese welcomed Merrill as the new HBS librarian.

MEMBERSHIP: In light of our influx of new members, Terese noted that an updated membership list will be circulated at the August meeting.

PROGRAMS: The August meeting will be held at Val and Randy's house; directions will be provided.

OLD BUSINESS—LYON ARBORETUM BROMELIAD GARDEN: Terese invited members to come help with the weed pulling, planting, and upkeep of the bromeliad garden—also known as the HBS Outdoor Spa and Health Club (healing mud baths, gentle valley rains, gardening calisthenics . . .). Lynette suggested devoting a section of the garden to hybrids from Sharon Petersen's nursery.

OLD BUSINESS—HBS HOLIDAY PARTY: Susan reported that Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden is completely booked for the first two weeks in January, when we had voted to have our holiday party. The only available date was Saturday, December 2, which she reserved. Members voted

**to change the date of the holiday party to December 2, 2017.**

(Naty moved, Larry seconded. Approved).

The party will be a pot luck, and will be held in the Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden pavilion; directions will be sent out closer to the event. HBS will thus meet as regularly scheduled on Saturday, October 28, 2017, and on Saturday, January 27, 2018, with no meeting in November.

AUCTION: Thank you to all who donated plants for the auction, and to Larry for serving as auctioneer.

Auction Score: Two wood-mounted hanging clusters of *Neoregelia* cultivars 'Domino' and 'Mo Peppa Please.'





## SHARING ODD AND FAVORITE PLANTS

For our July meeting we were asked to bring in uncommon and interesting plants—bromeliads “with a story”—and the resulting show and tell highlighted the range of our members’ plant varieties, displays, and growing experiences. We were treated to beautiful mountings, such as Dolores’s *Tillandsia* “tree” (bottom right) and Ed’s wood-mounted *Tillandsia chiapensis* (top left) and *Tillandsia purpurea*; and to examples of less common varieties, including the yellow form of the *Tillandsia capitata*, a *Quesnalia* ‘Tim Plowman’ cultivar, and a multiple-keikied *Hohenbergia correia-araujol* (top right).

We also saw some plant “accidents” with unexpected results—such as the differences in color in examples of *Tillandsia* ‘Tricolor,’ *Neoregelia* ‘Tiki Torch,’ and the John Arden cultivar *Vriesea* ‘Sweet Success’ grown in sun and shade; premature blooms on the small keiki in Ed’s *Tillandsia filifolia* (below); and wide differences in color, variegation, and size between parent and pup bromeliads—including one of Sharon Petersen’s *Neoregelia* cultivars (bottom left).





## BROMELIADS THAT BITE

As part of our members' Show and Tell on bromeliad oddities, Lynette Wageman focused on three hard to handle varieties known for their thorny spines: *Dyckia*, *Orthophytum*, and *Puya*.

Because they evolved in harsh natural environments, these genera tend to be hardy plants that are slow growing—Lynette has been cultivating some specimens since 2012—but hard to kill and easy to maintain. They can be grown successfully under many of the same conditions as a cactus garden. Like many succulents, because of their thick leaves, these varieties can survive in full sun; in the wild they are often found in rocky, sunny locations. In cultivation, they grow better planted in a potting medium with good drainage, rather than mounted on trees. Similar to *Cryptanthus*, they do not have a central water reservoir, so they do need to be watered on occasion.

*Dyckia* are known for their cactus-like, thorny foliage. Their leaves are covered with scales, which make most *Dyckia* grayish to silvery white, although the color does become more pronounced with greater exposure to sun. They are terrestrial or ground-dwelling bromeliads, whose inflorescence grows out from the leaves of the plant, on a tall spike, and not from its center.

Like *Dyckia*, *Orthophytum* tend to be small plants. In the wild, they are saxicolous—which means they grow on rocks. Their leaves are usually green or copper, and grooved or crinkly, like *Cryptanthus*, and of course very spiny. *Orthophytum* feature a straight, tall inflorescence that is usually two to three times bigger than the size of the plant. *Dyckia* and *Orthophytum* are also viviparous: they germinate while still attached by stalks to the mother plant.

In the wild, *Puya* tend to be large, terrestrial, high-altitude plants; they can be found growing in the Andes at 14,000 feet. They are also not “social” bromeliads—they don't clump together, but are usually found standing alone. They are also famous for their long-lasting inflorescences, which are often five or six feet tall. Only a few *Puya* varieties work well as potted plants.

LEFT: *Orthophytum* 'Brittle Star,' a Lisa Vinzant cultivar of 'Hatsumi Maertz'; BELOW LEFT: *Dyckia* 'Silverado' BELOW RIGHT: *Puya prosanae*.

