



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 41 NO. 1

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

JANUARY 2018

JANUARY MEETING A DUAL TREAT

For our first meeting of 2018, program chairs Gail and John Ishihara have arranged a double-feature. Brought back by popular demand, David Fell has agreed to talk about fertilizing, one of the most debated aspects of bromeliad cultivation. Some do, some don't; what to use and how to use it; and when—David will be ready to share his experiences and answer our many questions. In addition, our educational specialist Lynette Wageman will present a refresher on Bromeliad Basics—for everything we've forgotten since our last meeting in October.

Besides our speakers, the meeting will include a report (with photos!) on our highly successful participation in the East-West Center craft fair, with the chance to pick up at bargain prices any plants or items left over from the fair, and a discussion of HBS plans for the upcoming year.

World Bromeliad Conference 2018

San Diego



May 29 - June 3, 2018

fiesta de las bromelias

LATEST ON BSI CONFERENCE

Several members have expressed interest in attending this year's BSI World Bromeliad Conference in San Diego, "Fiesta de las Bromelias." Planning for the conference is well underway. It will be held at the Paradise Point resort, and besides the conference sessions, will feature tours to bromeliad growers, nurseries, and gardens, including a dinner at the San Diego Botanic Garden. Given the San Diego climate expect to see lots of *Puya*, *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Billbergia*, and *Tillandsia*.

After the conference's inaugural session on Wednesday, the plant sale opens to registrants only. Thursday will feature the plant show and judging, and tours; on Friday there will be seminars, speakers, and a rare plant auction. Seminars, tours, and the concluding banquet will take place on Saturday. Registration is \$290 (plus \$45 for BSI membership, if you're not a member). For more information or to register, check the San Diego Bromeliad Society Facebook page or the Bromeliad Society International website.

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.hawaiiibromeliadsociety.org

JANUARY MEETING

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

Our hospitality hosts are
Stan and Susan.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2017

Naty Hopewell's home

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Merrill Cutting, Marcy Doseo, David Fell, Natty Hopewell, Gail Ishihara, John Ishihara, Mischa Kobayashi, Terese Leber (presiding), Wendie Liu, Cheryl Oda, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Brian Taylor, Lynette Wageman. GUESTS: Beth, Molly.

CONVENED: 1:20; ADJOURNED: 2:50.

Terese greeted everyone, and thanked Natty for welcoming us into her home, and for providing a great hospitality spread of ribs, somen salad, and brownies, deliciously complemented by contributions from Wendie, Merrill, Susan, and Dolores and Jaime. Terese also applauded the way Natty rearranged her home so that we could meet and eat inside, instead of out on the lanai as planned—that is, until the weather cleared up, and we were all able to go out and see how Natty has transformed her yard with bromeliads, many of them bought at the HBS auctions.

TREASURER: Our October balance was \$11,088.03, with the September auction bringing in \$433.

LIBRARY: Merrill brought in one of the rare items from our HBS library: *Blooming Bromeliads*, by Ulrich and Ursula Baensch, a beautiful, large-size book, with many color illustrations that can help us identify our unknown plants. Published in 1994, copies of the out-of-print book now sell for as much as \$500—but HBS members can borrow the volume for free from our librarian. Lynette explained that Ursula Baensch is still living, and in Hawai'i, but not currently active in the bromeliad world, although the Bromeliad Society International (BSI) has made overtures to her about publishing an updated version of the book.

Terese noted that Lynette has received the 150 copies of *Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual* that we purchased from BSI for \$266.13. New members get a free copy of the guide, which provides basic information on bromeliad cultivation and the most popular genera, and we also sell the booklet for \$5.

HOSPITALITY: Our hospitality hosts for January are Stan (food) and Susan (drinks).

MEMBERSHIP: Terese encouraged early registration for 2018—individual membership is still \$15 per year, or \$20 per family—and invited volunteers to serve as membership chair.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Don't forget to share your favorite bromeliad photos on the HBS Instagram account Mischa has set up: #Hawaii_Bromeliad_Society (or you can email them to her). Include a story, if you wish—and of course the plant's ID.

PROGRAMS: Program chairs Gail and John are already planning some great events for our 2018 meetings. David Fell has graciously agreed to host us in February; January will feature a refresher on bromeliads and on HBS's mission. As recurring features, members are encouraged to "Ask the Doc" and play "What's My Name?": bring in your ailing or "No-Name" plants and get the help of HBS members in identifying the plant or what's wrong with it—and how to fix it. Ideas for programs? Gail and John invite your suggestions.

ANNUAL PARTY: Susan reminded everyone that our annual holiday blow-out is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, from 11 to 2 at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden. We have reserved our usual pavilion, at the end of the road. It's a pot luck extravaganza, so please RSVP to Susan, letting her know what category of goodie you will be bringing (entree, salad, dessert, drinks, etc.). December 2 is the same day of as the Kaneohe Christmas parade, so plan accordingly. Besides good food and company, there will be a plant exchange, and Lynette is arranging for each attendee to receive a free plant donated by local growers.

CRAFT FAIR: Gail described the plans for the East-West Center craft fair, which will be held on Thursday, November 30, and Friday, December 1, from 11 to 1, on the grounds of the East-West Center, next to the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa campus. The event will feature about twenty vendors, and primarily attracts University of Hawai'i clientele. Parking will be available on the grass next to the fair site for \$5. The HBS booth will include two tables, and hand-made displays for hanging plants (thank you, Jaime!). Volunteers are welcome to help Molly, Gail, Brian, Susan, Val, and Terese set up (10 to 10:30) or staff the tables. Items for sale will include display stands made by Karen Rohter, macrame hangers made by Brian, Tillywire in various colors, and ceramic pots. And of course, lots of bromeliads: trays of *Tillandsia gardneri* from Larry, mounted and hanging *Tillandsia* and *Neoregelia* from Ed, and all the plants—*Vriesea*, *Neoregelia*, *Tillandsia*, *Quesnalia*, *Guzmania*—members have donated to the sale. Terese heartily thanked Gail for pulling this all together.

AUCTION: Thank you to all who donated plants for the auction, which featured some great specimens of *Quesnalia marmorata* from David, and *Neoregelia caroliniae* and *Neoregelia* 'Madrid.'

2017: HBS YEAR IN REVIEW

Thanks to our creative program chairs John and Gail, and to our intrepid members, 2017 turned out to be an active, enjoyable, and profitable year, as HBS pursued its goals of promoting knowledge about and enjoyment of bromeliads. The year began with a mission that was part good will and part for our own education: in January, several of our members spent a day at Sharon's Plants, helping prominent grower and HBS supporter Sharon Petersen ready her nursery for state inspection. Our February meeting featured presentations by our own educational specialist Lynette Wageman on "Bromeliad Basics," and Larry McGraw on mounting and displaying bromeliads using Tillywire and Tillytacker. Larry then invited members to his house to see how he put together his hanging plant wall, and to tour his garden.



Our March meeting featured a return visit from *Tillandsia* growers extraordinaire Judy and George Hidano. This visit they focused on *Tillandsia* propagation and division, watering, and fertilization in addition to answering a wide range of questions, from novice to expert, and offering a variety of plants for sale.

TOP: Jaime, Dolores, and Ed, and Val and Randy at Sharon's Plants; MIDDLE: Lynette discussing bromeliad identification; BOTTOM LEFT: Larry and his hanging gardens of Nuuanu; BOTTOM RIGHT: George and Judy Hidano, with some of their plants.

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2017: HBS YEAR IN REVIEW

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March proved to be a particularly busy month, as in addition to the Hidano's visit; HBS members prepared a beautiful display for the Windward Orchid Society annual spring show. The April meeting was a movie day, as Gail and John showed videos of their trip to Hawai'i Island to attend the plant sale of the Big Island Association of Nurserymen and to visit David Shiigi's and Dennis Heckart's nurseries. In May, HBS brought back an old favorite: a members plant sale. Our June and July meetings focused on "thorny" and unusual bromeliads, as Lynette presented educational programs on *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckia*, *Orthophytum*, and *Puya*, and members shared some of their favorite and less common plants.

Over the summer we also purchased a new, wheeled cabinet for the HBS library—and thank you, Merrill, for agreeing to serve as our librarian, and welcomed several new members, including Paulette, Edvah and Wendell, Mischa and Brian, Wendie, Colleen and Jane, and Cheryl—who quickly discovered the benefits of our monthly auctions!



LEFT: The crew behind the Windward Orchid Society display.

BOTTOM LEFT: Thanks to our auctioneer Larry, for explaining (and not bidding on) all the plants.

BOTTOM RIGHT: new members Paulette and Katherine with some of their auction loot.

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2017: HBS YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from page 3.

Our Fall HBS meetings featured two field trips, as Val and Randy Wong and Naty Hopewell welcomed us to their homes and gardens. And if those visits proved anything, they showed that bromeliads can indeed thrive in vastly different environments. Val and Randy live in a comparatively cool, wet, upland environment, over a spring-fed, koi-filled pond. Naty lives on a transformed, coral and rock, ocean-front property, a much drier, windy, and sea-salted environment, but they both have created homes for a variety of bromeliads.

This fall also featured a special program with David Fell, one of the world's foremost hybridizers of *Vriesea*, who based on his own experiences, discussed and demonstrated both the theory and practice of bromeliad cultivation—and graciously answered so many questions that he agreed to offer another program this Spring. David also very generously donated dozens of bromeliads—*Alcantarea*, *Vriesea*, and *Neoregelia*—to HBS for planting in the Lyon Arboretum Bromeliad Garden, currently maintained by HBS members along with an HBS-funded student helper, Aziz Agis.

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ABOVE: Val and Randy, and Naty describe their adventures in bromeliad growing. BELOW: Karen and Aziz, and Jaime and Dolores, flank David, pictured with one of the *Alcantarea odorata* he donated to the Bromeliad Garden.



2017: HBS YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from page 5.

Our HBS year concluded with two special events: the East-West Center craft fair and the holiday get-together at Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Garden. The plant sale was by far HBS’s most successful fundraising endeavor ever. Thanks to Gail (and “honorary member-for-life” Molly), John, Brian, Jaime, Dolores, Susan, Karen, Wendie, Val, and Terese, and all who donated plants and materials for the sale. And thanks to Susan and Lynette for organizing an appropriate holiday party send-off to an event-filled year. See you all in 2018.



TOP: Gail making a sale, and some of the available bargains.

MIDDLE: Gail and Molly, and Gail, Molly, and Brian.

LEFT: Jaime and Dolores.

RIGHT: Gail, Wendie, and Terese.

