



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 43 NO. 7

HONOLULU, HAWAII

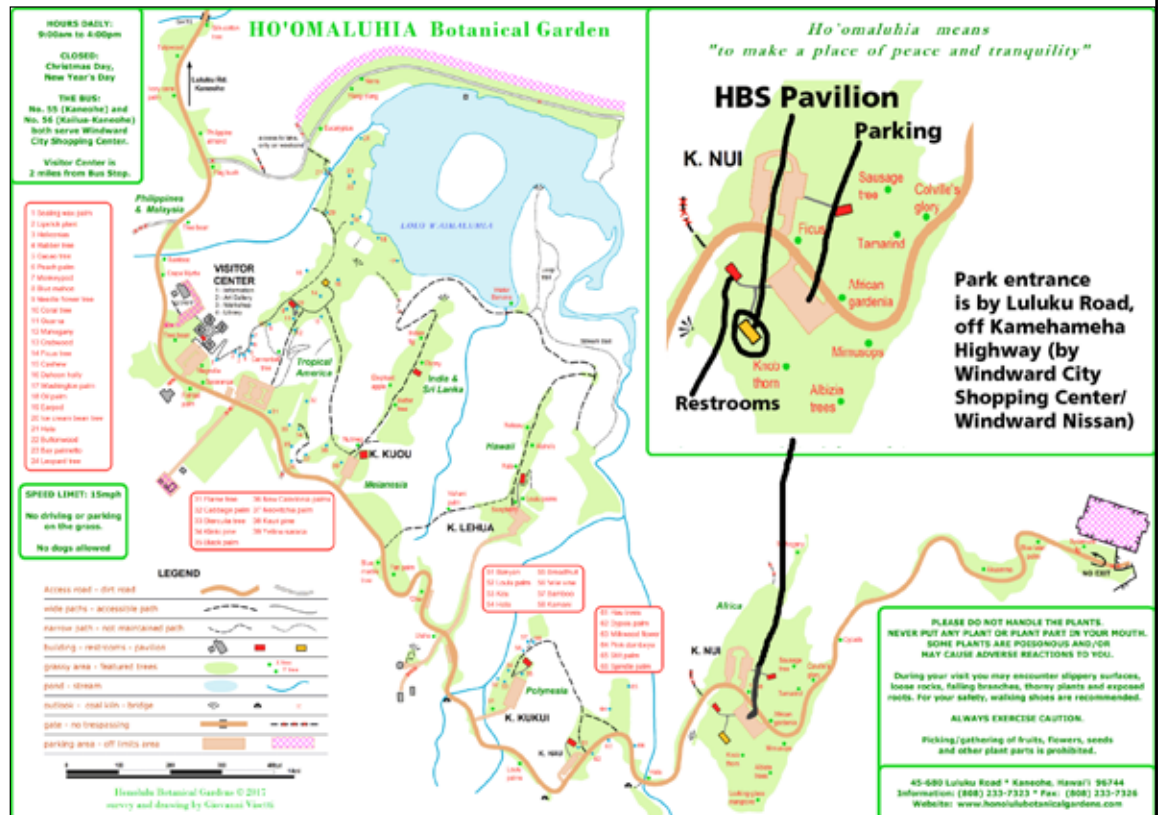
JULY 2020

MEETING SET FOR JULY 18

For our first meeting since February, we will be taking advantage of the great outdoors. This Saturday, July 18, we will gather at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden at 12:30, in the same pavilion where we have our end of the year parties. If you remember the pavilion, you know that there is plenty of room for social distancing, with six picnic tables and several benches, so we can spread out and enjoy the fresh air—through our masks! As the map shows, the pavilion is at the end of the park road. Ho'omaluhia was booked for the last weekend in July, so we will be getting together one week early. There will be a short meeting to catch up on business (including our new t-shirts!), a refresher program on bromeliads, and of course, an auction. Hope to see you there.

Places to Meet?

Our usual Arboretum meeting room is closed for public events and classes, which means that we will probably need to find alternate meeting places for the next few months. Please send suggestions—and any and all suggestions are welcome—to Terese. Also, let her know if you would participate in an electronic meeting, using one of the group meeting programs such as Zoom or Google Meet.



2020 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Terese Leber

TREASURER

Dolores Roldan

HOSPITALITY

Susan Andrade

NEWSLETTER/RECORDING SECRETARY

Stanley Schab

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mischa Kobayashi and Karen Kim

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Taylor

LIBRARY

Leslie Morishige

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Karen Rohter

JULY MEETING

This Saturday, July 18,

we meet at

Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens

at 12:30.

Our hospitality hosts are
Leslie, Terese, and Stan.

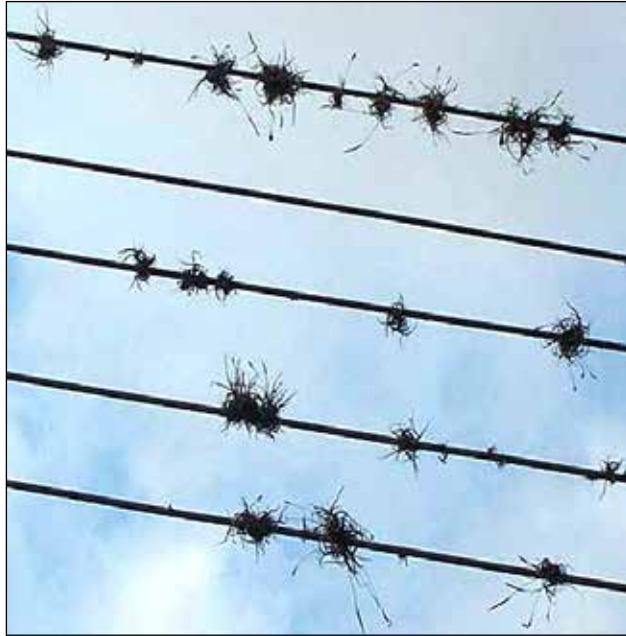
VARIETIES OF BROMELIAD HABITATS

Bromeliads are Neotropical plants, which means that they come from the tropical and subtropical regions of South America, Central America, the Caribbean, and the southern United States. Within those areas, they flourish in a wide variety of environments: from sea level to over 14,000 feet, and from hot, dry deserts to cool mountain tops to steamy rainforests. One way of categorizing them is according to whether they are most commonly found in nature growing in the dirt, on rocks, or in the air.

Terrestrial bromeliad species root in the ground (the way we expect most plants to grow). They may be found in bright sunlit areas along sandy beaches or in the humid, shady understory of a rainforest. They cannot live as epiphytes, attached to another plant or object, but need soil, although the soil can vary widely in terms of its organic and mineral content. The most famous terrestrial bromeliad is the *Ananas*.

Saxicolous species are found growing on rocks. They may grow on hard rocky outcrops, or cling to sheer cliff faces. *Billbergia* are one of the more common rock-dwelling varieties in their natural habitat.

Epiphytic species attach themselves to another plant or object, but they are not parasites. They get their nutrients and moisture from the atmosphere, through scales—trichomes—on their leaves. Unlike terrestrials, the roots of these bromeliads serve almost exclusively to anchor them to whatever bush, tree, rock, fence, or telephone wire is available. Some epiphytic species can survive under dry conditions; others flourish in the rainforest canopy. Unlike most other plants that simply grow up, they can grow vertically, horizontally, upside down, or any which way.



LEFT: epiphytic bromeliads—a *Tillandsia xerographica* from Marie Grininger's old yard, and *T. recurvata* colonizing telephone wires.

BELOW RIGHT: Naty's front garden, built on rock and coral and impacted by sea breezes and salt, offers one kind of environment for terrestrial bromeliads.

BELOW LEFT: *Aechmea blanchetiana* on a dry hillside at Kapiolani Community College; notice the effect of sun and shade on the same plant.

