



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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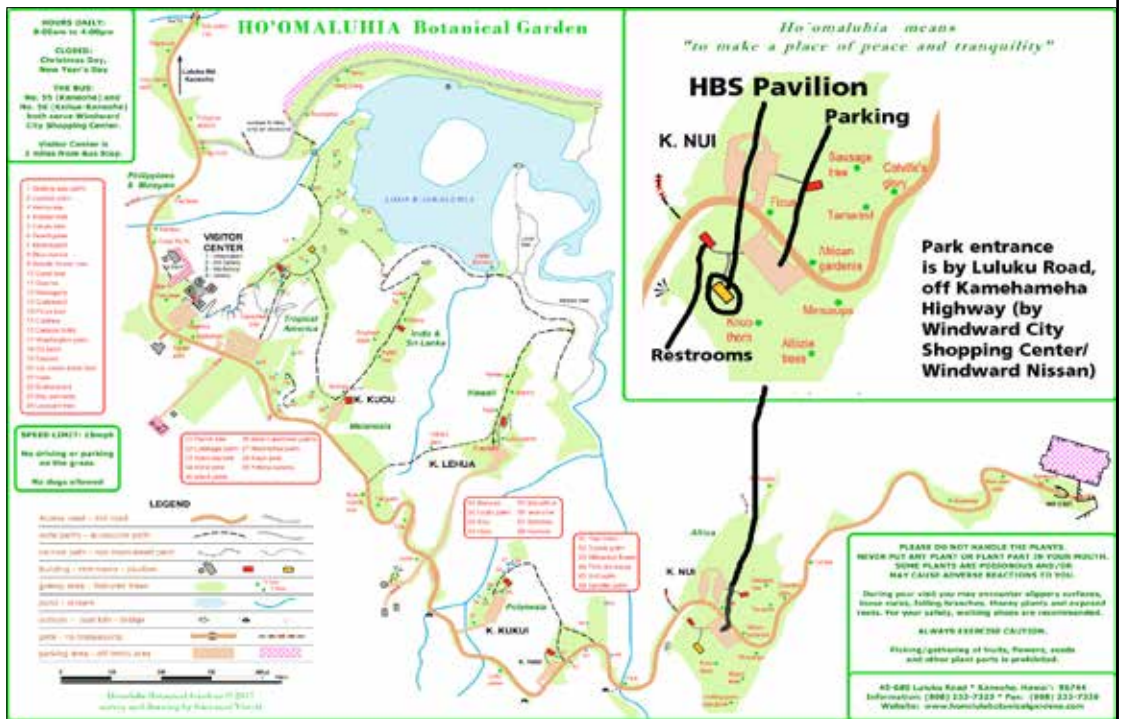
MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 24

Happy Anniversary! It was just over one year ago that we last met (July 18, 2020, for those keeping score). This Saturday, **July 24**, we will gather at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden, at **11:30**, in the same pavilion where we have had our end of the year parties. The City and County of Honolulu has made it to Tier 5 (Woo-Hoo!), the last stage of the Covid protocols, so we are allowed to gather outdoors in groups of up to 75 people. Masks are not required, but you're more than welcome to wear one if you wish.

The City and County has made one important change to its botanical garden rules. At present, they are not allowing groups to reserve the pavilion. **The facility is first come, first serve**, so we may have to share the space with other people. That is also why we have **changed our meeting time to 11:30**. If you remember the site, you know that there is plenty of room to spread out, and if the pavilion is too crowded, we can comfortably set up on the lawn, enjoy the fresh air, and still be close to the restrooms and other facilities. We're going to bring a few folding chairs, just in case, and encourage everyone, if possible, to bring something portable and comfortable to sit on.

We will also bring the plants that were left unsold at the Lyon plant sale (yes, amazingly, we kept them alive since May!), and for show and tell, some special items we've collected for our library. But what we're really looking forward to is seeing each other, catching up on what we've all been doing, and hearing how our gardens are growing.

Hope to see you on Saturday (masked or unmasked!).



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JULY MEETING

We will meet on

Saturday, July 24, at

Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens,

at **11:30 a.m.**

Our hospitality hosts are

Terese and Stan.

NEW DISCOVERIES ON PLANT LIGHTING

Strange things happen when artists and scientists get together. For the past two years, in Lelystad in the Netherlands, a Dutch artist named Daan Roosegaarde has been working with plant biologists to create solar-powered light installations that shine blue, red, and invisible ultraviolet lights on fields of leeks. Plant photobiologist Jason Wargent is working with Roosegaarde to program the plants by using the varieties of light to trigger mechanisms that help the plants fight pests and disease, and increase growth and yields (though they'll still taste like leeks).

Bromeliad growers of course are very familiar with the impact of different kinds of light, as seen in the two plants below, growing within five feet of one another in the Bromeliad Garden: the *Canistrum aurantiacum* on top is shaded by a large growth of *Aechmea blanchetiana*, while the bottom specimen is a stand-alone.



WHAT WAS THAT NAME AGAIN?

For years, most of us have known the plant below as *Vriesea splendens*. But when it was first described by botanists in 1845, it was identified as *Tillandsia splendens*. Now, following DNA analysis in 2016, it has been reclassified as *Lutheria splendens*—though whatever it's called, it remains an easily grown, eye-catching addition to any garden.



Similarly, the spectacular plant below was known as *Vriesea* 'Nova,' but because of confusion with previously named plants, it is now referred to by its parentage: *Vriesea gigantea* v. *seideliana*. The Bromeliad Garden has two great specimens, donated by David Fell, just coming into bloom.

