



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 41 NO. 3

HONOLULU, HAWAII

MARCH 2018

HBS DISPLAY FEATURED AT WINDWARD ORCHID SHOW



Congratulations all around to the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society for its very successful educational display at the Spring 2018 show, "Pot o' Orchids," organized by the Windward Orchid Society and held from March 23 to 25 at King Intermediate School in Kane'ohe. A real team effort culminated in one of our best displays ever. The HBS tables featured plants from over a dozen members, beautifully arranged by a creative team led by Gail, Val, Terese, Dolores, and Tom.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

MARCH PROGRAM: MEMBERS SHOW AND TELL

Calling All Members! For our March program, you are invited to bring in your favorite plant or plants for show and tell. Share why it's so special. What attracted you to the plant? How did you acquire it? How do you care for it? Do you talk to it? (Does it talk back?)

As we just proved to visitors to the Windward Orchid Society show, our members' gardens are full of treasures. Please share one or two plants at our next meeting.



2018 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAII BROMELIAD SOCIETY

PRESIDENT
Terese Leber

TREASURER
Dolores Roldan

HOSPITALITY
Susan Andrade

NEWSLETTER/RECORDING SECRETARY
Stanley Schab

VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAM CHAIR
Gail & John Ishihara

MEMBERSHIP
Val Wong

LIBRARY
Merrill Cutting

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Karen Rohter

MARCH MEETING

This Saturday, March 31,
we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**
at **12:30.**

Our hospitality hosts are
Dolores and Jaime and Karen.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2018

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Merrill Cutting, Marcy Doseo, David Fell, Naty Hopewell, Gail Ishihara, John Ishihara, Mischa Kobayashi, Wes Kobayashi, Terese Leber (presiding), Ed Nishiyama, Karen Rohter, Dolores Roldan, Jaime Roldan, Stan Schab, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong, Val Wong.

CONVENED: 12:45; ADJOURNED: 2:40.

Terese welcomed everyone, and thanked Val and Randy and Ed for serving as hospitality hosts for the meeting.

TREASURER: Dolores reported that our balance as of January 2018 was \$13,393.23, which does not reflect the \$300 and \$1,000 payments to Lyon Arboretum for our annual donation and to fund a student worker in the bromeliad garden for another semester. The January auction raised a whopping \$290.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Karen reported that she had sent thank you letters to David Fell and Sharon Petersen for their donations of plants for the 2017 end-of-year party.

HOSPITALITY: Our hospitality hosts for March are Dolores and Jaime (food) and Karen (drinks). If you are interested in volunteering as a hospitality host, contact Susan; there are still openings for the July, August, and September meetings.

MEMBERSHIP: Dolores reported that we have received \$230 in membership dues; if you haven't yet paid (or can't remember if you have!), check with her at the next meeting.

PROGRAMS: Gail reported that the April meeting will feature a field trip to David's home and a tour of his nursery and prize plants.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Mischa reported that HBS already has fifty-eight followers on our new Instagram account.



OLD BUSINESS—OOPS!: Lynette provided a lesson in the importance of the inflorescence for plant identification, by showing that a plant we had identified at the last meeting as a *Guzmania* was actually a *Tillandsia leiboldiana*, which only became clear as the plant began to flower.

OLD BUSINESS—WINDWARD ORCHID SHOW: Terese provided logistical information for the Windward Orchid Society Spring show, "Pot o' Orchids," which will be held from March 23 to 25, at King Intermediate School. Display set up is scheduled for 9 a.m., Thursday, March 22, and breakdown on Sunday, March 25, at 4:01 p.m. Gail, Dolores, Val, and Terese will get together to brainstorm designs; they hope to have a plant or two from every member. Terese reminded

members to put their names (inconspicuously) on their plants, to ensure that they will be returned safely. Plants can be bare root or potted or mounted, as the display will feature the screen Jaime made for the East-West Center craft fair, providing a frame for hanging plants.

NEW BUSINESS—AZIZ AGIS: Terese welcomed Aziz Agis to the meeting. Since last Fall, he has been our invaluable student worker, helping to transform and maintain Lyon's bromeliad garden. Aziz grew up on a farm in Texas, the second youngest of six kids, and is currently pursuing a range of environmental studies at the University of Hawai'i, where he is also the president of the Sustainability Club. And he even brought his homemade flan to the meeting!



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.

TILLANDSIA LESSONS FROM PETER DE MELLO

In February, HBS members were treated to a crash course in *Tillandsia* cultivation from our old friend and renowned grower Peter De Mello, Jr., who shared some of what he has learned from over forty-five years of propagating, growing, and showing *Tillandsia*. They will grow anywhere that any bromeliad can grow, he pointed out; their range stretches from the southern US throughout South America. There are *Tillandsia* species native to the sand, salt, and seacoast environments of Chile, Peru, and Brazil—home to a giant, salt tolerant *neglecta*—but there are also species at home in harsh cliff, mountain, and desert environments, as well as in jungle forest canopies. This variety means that no matter where you live, you should be able to grow *Tillandsia* successfully. The wide range of species, along with their small size and ease of care, also make *Tillandsia* ideal plants for condo dwellers.

Early on, Peter became interested in growing *Tillandsia* from seed, buying and trading for seeds. He emphasized that the seeds need to be grown on a medium where they can dry out, such as dry coconut or bark, because—whether seed or adult plant—*Tillandsia* need air circulation to survive, and can rot from too much water.

Peter spends one or two days a week pollinating and transplanting his *Tillandsia*. He waters by sprinklers twice a week for three minutes, and fertilizers about once a month, using quarter-strength fertilizer. Overfertilization, he pointed out, can cause your plants to flower too fast, when they are still immature. When you do want to encourage flowering, one tip is to gently stress your *Tillandsia*, for instance by relocating them.

Tillandsia are the largest genus in the bromeliad family, and while Peter didn't really bring in a specimen of each of the approximately one thousand different varieties, he shared a good sampling of his own crosses, including an *Ionantha* 'Fuego' crossed with a *Xerographica* that he hybridized over twenty-five years ago, and that is still thriving.



HBS AT "POT O' ORCHIDS"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

Many thanks to set up and break down crew members David, Dolores, Ed, Gail, Jaime, John, Karen, Merrill, Randy, Stan, Susan, Tom, Terese, and Val—the many hands, and creative brains, truly made light work. And above all, mahalo to all the HBS members for contributing beautiful plants, pots, fixtures, and ideas for the display.

Special recognition to Marcy for providing plants for both the HBS and Cactus and Succulent Society displays, while also working as a vendor at the show.



ABOVE: Braintrust at work!

BELOW: Some of the treasures from our members' gardens.



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2.

AUCTION: Many thanks to John for serving as auctioneer at our wild and woolly auction—although it was actually more like a fire sale, as Gail and Larry and Ed, in the process of “spring cleaning” their yards and greenhouses, provided a seemingly endless variety of plants that were snapped up at low, low, low prices (\$2 for *Neoregelia* cultivars, like this ‘Orange Crush’).



Just shows what can happen when you come to the meetings!