



Newsletter of the

# Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

VOL. 37 NO. 5

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

MAY 2014

## TELLING STORIES WITH FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

At our April meeting, the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society was honored to host Elaine Arita and members of the Ikebana Institute of the Ohara School for a joint introductory lecture, demonstration, and hands-on workshop on incorporating bromeliads in the centuries-old tradition of ikebana flower arranging.

After our business meeting, the joint session began with a talk by our own Tom Stuart on the range of bromeliad genres and on the basics of growing, tending, and displaying the different types.

Elaine Arita, sensei of the IIOS, with over forty years experience in this classical Japanese art, then introduced some of the history and basic principles of the tradition. We learned how ikebana arrangements reflect Japan's natural world of islands and mountains, as well as the impact of Buddhist ideas and practices. Arita Sensei demonstrated the three elements of line, volume, and accent that are combined to form the basis of an arrangement. Her remarks revealed her passion for promoting this art form, and suggested the years that it takes to develop an aesthetic sense and freedom in designing the arrangements.

We are grateful to Arita sensei and the IIOS members for sharing this event with us, and for starting us on our own journeys toward telling stories with our bromeliads.



LEFT: Tom Stuart and Arita Sensei's associate Betty of the Ikebana Institute of the Ohara School. ABOVE: one of the beautiful arrangements Arita Sensei brought for display (except where noted, all photos in this issue by Terese Leber).

### 2014 OFFICERS OF THE HAWAI'I BROMELIAD SOCIETY

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

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## MAY MEETING

This Saturday,

May 31,

we meet at **Lyon Arboretum**

at **12:00 noon.**

# REPORT OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2014

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Marcy Doseo, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Helen Friend, Karen Gollero, Nancy Hiraoka, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Karen Rohter, Dolores and Jaime Roldan, Stanley Schab, Tom Stuart, Lynette Wageman, Randy Wong, and Val Wong. Guests: Susan Lee, Genie Trapp

CONVENED: 11:30; ADJOURNED: 12:00

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tessie reported that our current balance is \$2,734.77.

CONFERENCE REPORT: Marie reported that she had made preliminary inquiries about conference t-shirts prices and varieties with Certified Hawaiian, Inc., the company that produced the conference bags.

Raleigh reported that the conference treasury was going up. A group of eleven participants from Australia had made tour reservations, which brought the current total of reservations for the Sunday tour of Hawai'i Island nurseries to between ten and fifteen, with five or six signed up for the Polynesian Cultural Center and Dole Village tour. He also reminded members to keep track of expenses for reimbursement and tax records. Lynette reported that the special rate for conference air fare that had been negotiated with Hawaiian Airlines has been cancelled because of lack of requests. She also noted that she had received conference donations from her nephew, her financial adviser, a former colleague, and her sister.

Lynette reported that Heidi Bornhorst has agreed to speak at the conference, on the history of bromeliads in Hawai'i, and will write an article about the conference for publication in the *Honolulu StarAdvertiser* in June or July.

Lynette indicated that she will find out from the Ala Moana Hotel about the number, size, and location of display areas. David Fell and the Cactus and Succulent Society of Hawai'i have expressed interest in creating displays, and other organizations, such as bonsai, orchid, and garden clubs will be contacted.

Lynette described the ongoing work preparing the Lyon Arboretum Bromeliad garden for conference visitors.

In reference to attracting more volunteers for the conference, Marie suggested continuing groups like the Ohara School of Ikebana and the Windward Orchid Society

## Bread Pudding

Susan Magdaloyo, Times Beretania

- 1 loaf King's Sweet Bread
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ cup golden raisins
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 5 cups milk
- 5 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- fresh blueberries or cranberries, optional

Grease a 9x13 pan. Break bread in large pieces into pan. Mix raisins with bread. Melt butter, sugar, and milk in pot. Make sure mixture isn't too hot. Add eggs. Add vanilla and pour over bread. Sprinkle cinnamon. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or when butter knife comes out clean.

Note:: better to grease pan with butter than with cooking spray.

Thank you to everyone who contributed refreshments to our last meeting. Both HBS and IIOS members commented on how good they were. Receiving special notice was Marie's adaption of a Times employee's bread pudding recipe, reproduced here for your home enjoyment.





## "ON A SCALE OF 1-10, THIS WAS A 10 WORKSHOP"

*I think it was a wonderful idea, well thought out and carried out! I especially liked the pairing—an effective teaching method. The one-on-one teaching allowed questions and personal demonstrations on what goes into an arrangement. Would love to do it again!*

*It was good to be together with another organization and to learn about each other. The presentation by Mr. Stuart was informative as he presented just enough information to keep my interest.*

*Thanks for putting on this workshop.*



Photo by Val Wong.

*I thoroughly enjoyed our joint meeting. I enjoyed the introduction by both Sensei and Tom. I learned a lot (since I knew nothing about Ikebana before). Having the Ikebana members present at the table, at the hands-on section, was a great idea. I was able to ask questions and experiment with my ideas under their knowledgeable supervision. I was very happy with my "creation."*

*My only criticism was that at times it seemed chaotic during the hands-on with so many people walking around to select additions to their creation. Also, I would have liked to see some of the other creations.*

*It was a well-planned session and I appreciate all the work that went towards the successful event.*

*Tom Stuart's presentation was excellent. I'm a teacher/trainer by background so I can be critical. He was not only very knowledgeable but knew what was important to tell us in the brief time he was given. Sometimes when you have so much knowledge, you tend to give too much detail and miss the big picture.*

*Tom was able to give us novices enough info to help us make sense of the bromeliad world. I learned how to distinguish some of the main types and what their needs are. Lucky for my bromeliads at home, huh. I think they're happier now.*

*The members were also helpful. The gal I sat next to taught me plenty in our brief time together. It was fun bc she loves plants like I do. Since moving to Aina Haina and trying to put in the yard, we've developed this pile of coral rock in the front yard for disposal. Or so we thought, until the workshop. Now I have orchids and bromeliads (I didn't know they didn't need soil!) placed on the pile of coral! Or course, ikebana principles are used, too, in arranging the bromeliads. What a hoot! The pile of rocks that looked like rubbish now looks so elegant!*

*My friend had given me a tillandsia that was growing on her lemon tree. Cut off the branch and gave it to me in a boat-shaped container. Left it outside and it's been thriving. Now I know what to call it and added two more air plants to the arrangement!*

*Sometimes information is just that. Sometimes, when the learned has a real desire to learn, knowledge gets absorbed and put to use immediately, making for a fun and lasting learning experience.*

*Many thanks to you and your classmates. Everything was well organized and I was happy with the materials given for the arrangement. On a scale of 1-10, this was a 10 workshop for me.*

*I think that having the 'kits' prepared in advance by the ikebana group was helpful, but not sure how we could have better managed the folks walking around to select additions to their arrangements, especially with the limited space and large number of participants. In hindsight, I do agree that if we did have a bit more time, it would have been a good idea to have several examples brought to the front of the class for comment by Arita Sensei and/or some of her senior students so that we could pick up upon possible adjustments in angle, length, space, etc. Another idea may have been to take photos for sharing after the workshop via the newsletter. Something to keep in mind if we decide to do something similar in the future. :-)*



*first of all, thank you very much for hosting this ikebana session. i enjoyed the venue and the lecture since i am not familiar with all the different kinds of bromeliads. i certainly learned alot.*

*the program was a little disjointed since we had to break for lunch and re-shuffle the tables and chairs. in that sense, we could have had refreshments after the session. the space was a little crowded. maybe it would have worked better if we had less sign ups. the amount of attendees even car pooling made the parking difficult.*

*i think overall, the workshop was very good, but would have been better in a larger setting,*

*i did like intergrating with the hbs people, too.*

*thank you again for all the work that went into this event. making the holes in the loop was a brilliant idea!*

*I really enjoyed the class. The sensei's presentation was very informative and the style good. The hands on workshop was also good.*

*My experience was interesting in that the sensei helped me arrange my bromeliads and then two students separately told me I should arrange them differently.*

*We have all been talking about the fun we had. I think having the guest speaker, demo, beautiful venue, and good food is the key for a most enjoyable event. You kept all the elements in check and yes, my arrangement is still here. (Wow) you worked VERY hard and a very successful event is proof of that.*

*I truly enjoyed the workshop and learned a lot about bromeliads, which are thriving on my balcony. Tom Stuart gave me a better understanding about bromeliads. Also, members of the bromeliad society are very generous about sharing their plants and ideas.*

*Thank your class and yourself for the planning and coordinating.*

*I couldn't wait to come home from church to re-do in a vase.*

*I learned which bromeliads shouldn't be in water, especially because I do want to plant these. So one is hanging on the line material and one in separate container w/o water.*

*I have a new respect for the bromeliads I already have and will speak much more nicely to them in the future.*

*Many thanks, Sensei, for your superb lesson and to Lindsey for a must-keep ikebana accessory.*

*And, many thanks to the Friday night class. Hard act to follow, whoever does next year's workshop. Hope not our class! Yikes!*





*Enjoyed his talk on bromeliads, however, it was a bit "here & there." Info was interesting. Good that he had a lot of samples.*

*Betty did a great job explaining Sensei's presentation. As usual Sensei is so good w/ her demos—backwards too!*

*Overall, it was a good workshop—learning & hands-on.*

*Thank you very much again for the wonderful workshop. the knowledge I gained from Mr. Tom Stuart was tremendous. Please pass my appreciation of the bromeliad knowledge learned from him.*

*It was a successful workshop for both bromeliad and Ikebana flower arrangement. I am so grateful that I can attend and learned from our sensei's talented skills. Of course, you had worked hard to arrange the workshop. Thanks again,*



*-It was fun to learn something new.  
-The demo by the Sensei was fine, but the hands-on activity was a little chaotic.  
-I appreciate the effort that went into the prep by the Ikebana students.  
-It was nice to have something to take-home.  
-I would be interested in having similar joint activities but would prefer not trying to combine them with regular meetings.*

*Because of the large number of participants:  
Sensei needed a microphone.*

*We needed more IIOS members to have learned how to do the whole arrangement before the workshop and then be assigned to each table to help the HBS students*

*After the initial instructions on how to begin, it was difficult to know what came next.*

*The refreshments were wonderful and generous.*

*Sensei was extremely generous in the number of examples she showed. Maybe we could have had less.*

*I think the HBS members enjoyed the class and their pieces. I only have the circles and plate left. The materials are long gone.*

*Thanks again for the tremendous amount of time and energy you and the Friday night class exerted in putting on this workshop. It was impressive how both organizations came together to accomplish this.*





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Photo by Ruth Komatsu.

*Mahalo  
Val (HBS)  
&  
Susan (IIOS)  
who organized  
and coordinated  
the event!*

