



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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BROMELIAD GROWERS MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS



Program Chair Lynette Wageman began our last meeting by announcing that Helen Friend, bromeliad grower, neighbor, and widow of UH botanist and Arboretum Board member Douglas Friend, asked if we could help prepare her yard for a major tree cutting by helping her cull her bromeliad plantings. So after our regular meeting, many of us followed Lynette across Mānoa Valley to Helen's beautiful—and hilly—home and gardens, where we helped thin out and move some plantings that were in the path of a soon-to-be-toppled giant albizia.



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HOSPITALITY

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

This Saturday, **OCTOBER 29**, we meet at **Val & Randy Wong's** at **Noon**.

Our hospitality hosts are Karen (chips and dip), Hazel (cookies), and Terese (drinks).

- Remember, this is our Halloween meeting—so bring scary plants, if you dare.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

PLACE: Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade, Mary Louise Boyd, Betty Chang, Marie Ferdun, Releigh Ferdun, Karen Gollero, Marie Grininger, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Karen Rohter, Stan Schab, Tom Stuart, Lynette Wageman, Hazel Wong, Randy Wong, and Val Wong. GUESTS: Nancy and Frances Arakaki.

MEETING: 12:10; ADJOURNED: 2:45

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have a balance of \$1,536.78

HOSPITALITY: for October, **Terese—drinks; Tessie—chips & dip; Karen—cookies.**

LIBRARY: Tom tracked down the new book Lynette had recommended the Society buy for our library, using funds donated in memory of Hatsumi Maertz. *Bromeliad Hybrids: For My Own Satisfaction*, by Queensland, Australia, bromeliad fanciers Margaret and Bill Paterson, features 625 photos of their home-grown *Neoregelia*—and as we learned, hybrids specifically refer to cross-bred plants, as opposed to cultivars, which are naturally occurring varieties.

PUBLICATIONS

WEBSITE: The Society moved that

Stan be authorized to contract for up to \$500 on website design.

He will contact Amanda Jutte, an independent designer, and Randy Gamabon, with 'Ōlelo Community Media, to confirm their interest in the design project, and to give them the specifications.

Marie explained that, because she knows the people involved, she would have to recuse herself from mediating any disagreements among Society members.

PROGRAM: Our Program this month (Thank You, Lynette) focused on plant names and recognition. Of course, inflorescence is a key identifying marker—so to make it a challenge, Lynette made sure that most of the plants she brought in were not in bloom! One of the tips that we learned is that “spear point” *Aechmea* are named for the shape of their leaf tips. With their thick, serrated leaves and bead-like inflorescence, these plants flourish in full sun, and do well being moved seasonally. Because of their vase-like shapes and color patterns, *Billbergia* are among the more recognizable genera, even when not displaying their short-lived blooms. From her own home-grown collection, Lynette was also able to introduce us to less familiar *Dyckia* and *Puya* specimens; both genera are similar to cactus in their sharp, thorny foliage. We also learned that among the more familiar shade-loving, soft-leaved varieties, *Guzmania* tend to have more showy blossoms than the closely related *Vriesea*, which are often recognizable by leaf banding and coloration. And even though the popular foliage bromeliad *Neoregelia* varies greatly in size and color, look for “Neos” to open up and out, with small, center-growing blossoms.



SOCIETY SHOW & TELL: SPRING 2012

The Hawai'i Bromeliad Society has been invited to participate in the Windward Orchid Society Spring 2012 show, which should be one of Honolulu's major gardening events of the season. The event will be held March 16, 17, and 18 at King Intermediate School in Kāne'ohe. The Windward Orchid Society will allow us two to three tables or equivalent space to prepare a display. An event of this magnitude will involve as many HBS members as possible, preparing specimen plants, signage, educational material, brochures, and information for prospective members. To begin planning and to oversee our participation, a Display Committee was created, comprising Val, Terese, and Tom, who met at the recent Honolulu Orchid Society show, "Planet Orchid," to spock out possibilities and get their creative juices flowing.



MEMBER PROFILES: WE ARE WHO WE WERE . . .

In his 1978 New Year's Greeting, Bromeliad Society President BRIAN HEPTON wrote,

We are a young, enthusiastic, but still inexperienced society with much to learn. . . . We are indeed very fortunate to live in Hawai'i, to be blessed with a beautiful climate—ideal for growing bromeliads. . . . The success of this society is very dependent on the members, help is always needed. So don't be afraid to volunteer. Suggestions and criticism are also important, so speak up. . . . My thanks to the bromeliads and the people who grow them. (Caricature from 1979 HBS Scrapbook.)



Early on, one of the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society's most knowledgeable and respected members was RICHARD LUM. A business machines manager outside of the garden, Richard was a charter member of the Society, and served as its Vice President and Program Chair during its first year. He also chaired the Society's first two Christmas parties. He frequently contributed to the newsletter, and taught classes and workshops at Lyon Arboretum and the UH College of Continuing Education, particularly relating to *Tillandsia*. Besides his work with bromeliads, Richard served as President of the Honolulu Orchid Society, and was named HOS Orchidist of the Year for 1974 (an honor received in 2010 by Bob Moffitt).

C IS FOR . . . CANISTROPSIS?

by Tom Stuart

We know in our bromeliad alphabet that C stands for *Cryptanthus* and *Canistrum*, but *Canistropsis* is new for most of us. *Canistropsis* is a reclassification of some small bromeliads that previously were in *Nidularium*.

They were called *Nidularium citrinum* at one time, which is the name most of us know them by. They are about eight inches across, have light green leaves, bright yellow bracts, and tiny white flowers. If you went to Helen Friend's house after our last meeting, you saw a large bed of them lining the walkway just past her house.

A plant with a different coloration was called *Nidularium purpurata*, but it was combined with *citrinum* and renamed *Nidularium billbergioides*. They have both now been classified in *Canistropsis* and given a varietal name based on the color: Apricot, Blood Orange, Citron, Guava, Lemon, Mulberry, Persimmon, Tamarillo, and Tutti Frutti. Although *Canistropsis* 'Citron' is the most common variety we see in Hawai'i, Mary Louise Boyd has a small patch of 'Persimmon.'



These are shade-loving plants, very easy to grow, and multiply readily. Give them the same care you would *Vriesea* and *Guzmania*.

If you would like more information, we have a book by Elton Leme in our library, *Canistropsis: Bromeliads of the Atlantic Forest*. To check it out, see Lynette Wageman at our next meeting.



Canistropsis 'Persimmon' and *C.* 'Citron' (photos by Tom Stuart).

MEMBER PROFILES! AND WHO WE ARE TODAY . . .



Terese Leber was born and raised in a world center of bromeliad cultivation: the San Fernando Valley! So years later, it was certainly no shock to her when she moved to Costa Rica, where she did two tours in the Peace Corps, and then continued to live through most of the 1970s. Following some government work in Medellin, Colombia, she landed in Honolulu, as a graduate student in the University of Hawai'i's School of Library Science. Soon after graduating, she was hired as a Librarian by the East-West Center, where she has now worked for almost 30 years.

In the mid-1980s, Terese moved to Pālolo Valley, to a hillside with poor soil, spotty drainage, and lots of rocks—perfect bromeliad country!

She now shares her back yard with hundreds of Neos—what she calls *corriente* or common varieties—a few huge *Aechmea blanchetiana*, and assorted *Tillandsia*, and since joining the HBS, some nice auction-bought *Vriesea* and *Guzmania*.