



Newsletter of the

Hawai'i Bromeliad Society

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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

SEPTEMBER 2012

ALOHA, MARY LOUISE

by Marie Ferdun

Mary Louise Boyd, long-time friend and member of the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society, passed away on September 1, 2012 from complications of a stroke. She was 91. Mary Louise had only been home from the hospital for a little over three weeks when she passed on, while listening to Mozart.

Mary Louise grew up in La Jolla, California. An only child, she was doted on by her father, who would sneak her ice cream all the time. Her mother was an accomplished pianist, who taught Mary Louise to play at an early age—igniting a lifelong passion. A nationally certified teacher, recognized by the Music Teachers National Association, Mary Louise went on to teach piano for sixty-five years!

Mary Louise went to Pomona College on scholarships. She majored in English with a minor in botany. That's why she always knew the Latin names for bromeliads! When asked how she got interested in bromeliads, Mary Louise said her love for plants started when she was a little girl in La Jolla. She would take walks in the woods with her mother, who not only taught her the names of all the wild flowers, but their meanings as well! After moving to Hawai'i, she slowly narrowed her collection and area of interest to bromeliads.

Mary Louise met her future husband, Frank Boyd, on a blind date arranged by her mother and his mother. Both of them were furious, and protested until Frank rang the bell and Mary Louise opened the door. They saw each other and it was love at first sight. On the good authority of Mary Louise's daughter, Laura, her dad was gorgeous and her mom was a looker. Frank had been a Marine pilot during WWII, serving in the Pacific Theatre. He loved Hawai'i, and after they married in 1945, they moved here. For twenty-two years the Boyds lived on Kāne'ōhe Bay Drive, in a house near the water. After Frank passed away in 1990, the family moved to Olomana—to a house (and back yard) well-known to HBS members. Mary Louise and Frank had three children, thirteen grand children, and two great-grand children.

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

This Saturday, September 29, we meet at **Lyon Arboretum at Noon.**

Our hospitality hosts are
Jorji and Troy,
and our program leader is
Annetta.



Mary Louise, front row, right, at the Hawaii Music Teachers Association Membership luncheon on June 17, 2010 at the Wai'oli Tea Room.

Laura also remembered her mother as a gourmet cook. Both foodies, they were always exchanging recipes and talking food. Mary Louise loved mystery novels as well, and read one a day. Naturally enough, she had been a member of a Book Club, The Garden Club, Fine Arts Council, Hawaii Music Teachers Association, and the National Music Teachers Association, as well as the HBS, often serving as an officer in those organizations.

For many years, Mary Louise was Secretary of the Hawai'i Bromeliad Society. She also served as Hospitality Chair and as Librarian. She was a very active member, always happy to share her vast knowledge of bromeliads with

other members of the Society. She researched and presented a number of interesting lectures on various topics to the group, and at almost every meeting, she was very generous in donating plants to the Auction. What many of us remember best is the way she frequently opened her beautiful home and garden for meetings.

We asked some of her long-time HBS friends to share something special about Mary Louise. Charlotte Fox remembered how, when Mary Louise was bedridden in the hospital and at home, she would play the piano on the bedding with her right hand, hearing the music in her head. Her fingers kept moving almost until the last day. "She was a most unusual person," Charlotte noted, "so talented, so strong."

Susan Andrade, current HBS President, mentioned that Mary Louise took her on as an adult piano student. In addition to the regular content of the piano lessons, they also spent time talking. One day Mary Louise asked Susan what she was cooking for dinner. Her answer was leg of lamb. Mary Louise then waxed poetic about lamb. Her mother was from New Zealand, and when Mary Louise was growing up they had lamb every Sunday for dinner. Mary Louise then commented that leg of lamb was too expensive to buy. Susan told her about Costco's boneless leg of lamb, which was most reasonably priced, and subsequently Mary Louise and her family had lamb for birthdays, holidays, and most recently, to celebrate her homecoming from the hospital.

Hazel Wong remarked how Mary Louise never did anything normal when it came to food. Hazel remembered once when Mary Louise asked her son if he wanted a sandwich, he said no because she could not make a normal sandwich—it had to be gourmet. Hazel laughed that Mary Louise could even turn stuffed eggs into a gourmet delight.

Mary Louise will be fondly remembered, and sorely missed, by all HBS members.

Aloha, Mary Louise.



May 28, 2011: Lynette Wageman reading the HBS proclamation honoring Mary Louise.



THANK YOU, ANNETTA,

for leading us step by step through all that's involved in hand-building our own stoneware pots—and especially for making it both doable and fun, and for encouraging our creativity. And of course, for supplying the clay and the tools, and for persuading the good folks at UH–Windward Community College to fire our creations.

Coming Up This Month: we get to complete our masterpieces, by handpainting and decorating our pots with quick-drying acrylic paints.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Terese and Val are looking for a few good men—and women and children—to volunteer an hour or two to help staff the HBS table at the East-West Center crafts fair. The event will be held on Thursday, November 29, and Friday, November 30, from about 11 to 1. Last year's bromeliad sales raised over \$300 for HBS.

If you're interested in volunteering, let Terese and Val know, and they will give you the details on where (UH-Mānoa campus), when (two hours max), and what (mostly answer basic questions about bromeliads and how to care for them). And of course, besides volunteering time, donating plants and pots will be greatly appreciated.



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2012

Lyon Arboretum

ATTENDING: Susan Andrade (presiding), Betty Chang, Edwin Cheng, Marie Ferdun, Raleigh Ferdun, Marie Gringer, Helen Friend, Annetta Kinnicutt, Tessie Labra, Terese Leber, Troy Oden, Karen Rohter, Stan Schab, Sid Sneider, Hazel Wong, and Val Wong.

CONVENED: 12:15; ADJOURNED: 2:30

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tessie reported that the current HBS balance is \$1,637.77.

PROGRAMS: Upcoming programs include field trips to Foster Botanical Garden and to Karen's house—and of course, our combined November/December meeting, feast, and festival at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden (date and details to follow).

HOSPITALITY: Our hosts for September are Jorji and Troy (who will in Florida on "secret" HBS business); the Maries—Gringer and Ferdun—have volunteered for October.

AUCTION: Thank you Helen, Marie G., and Troy for supplying plants for our August auction.



**Lyon
in the Sun**

**Sunday, September 30
2:30 – 5:30pm
at the Lyon Arboretum**
3860 Manoa Road Honolulu, HI 96822
Admission: \$20 (age 21+) \$10 (20 and younger)

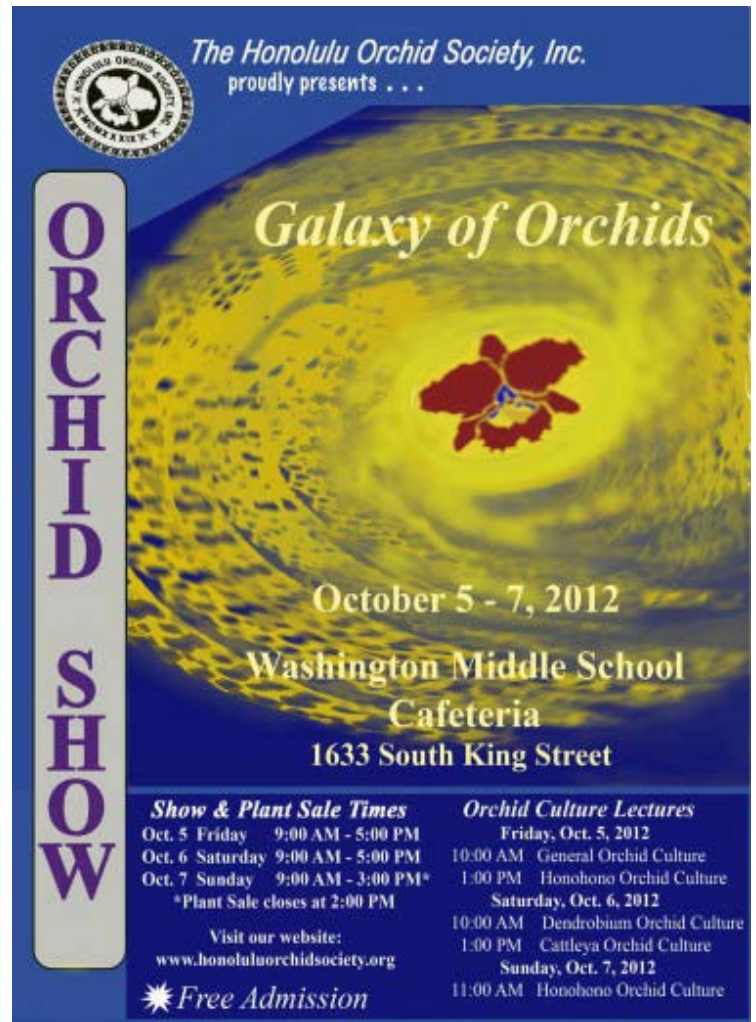
Live Music • Plant Sale • Tours
Hawaiian Cultural Demonstrations
Flower Arranging Tutorials
Five-0 Smoked Ribs Food Truck
Wine & Beer Tastings

Sponsored by





Tickets available at the door or by contacting the Friends of Lyon Arboretum office at 988-0464.



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October 5 - 7, 2012
Washington Middle School
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Show & Plant Sale Times
Oct. 5 Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Oct. 6 Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Oct. 7 Sunday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM*
*Plant Sale closes at 2:00 PM

Orchid Culture Lectures
Friday, Oct. 5, 2012
10:00 AM General Orchid Culture
1:00 PM Honohono Orchid Culture
Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012
10:00 AM Dendrobium Orchid Culture
1:00 PM Cattleya Orchid Culture
Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012
11:00 AM Honohono Orchid Culture

Visit our website:
www.honoluluorchidsociety.org

Free Admission