



Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

The Bodhi Leaf

FALL 2016

180 N. Vineyard Blvd • Honolulu, HI • 808-537-1708 • friendsgardens@aol.com

The Beginning of a Garden

The Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens is proud to present **The Beginning of a Garden**, a living history program featuring costumed role-players portraying Dr. William Hillebrand, Mary Foster, and Dr. Harold Lyon, three gifted and kind individuals who were instrumental in establishing, creating, and preserving the treasure that is Foster Garden.

Performances take place at Foster Garden on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 & 2, at 3, 3:30 and 4 pm. Admission is free. Reservations are required. Call 522-7066 to reserve your spot.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens and the City and County of Honolulu.



Photo by Milani Inoue

President's Message

Emmy's Notes.....

The Friends enjoyed a very successful Plant Sale in May with beautiful weather and classes filled with enthusiastic listeners. In July the Friends co-sponsored a new event, "Plants and Healthy Living" which featured children's activities, growing vegetables, healthy food for purchase to eat, etc. We are looking forward to several viewings of "The Beginning of the Garden" the weekend of October 1 - 2. If you have not attended this living history presentation it is a must see! And our education program continues in October.- (see article below). The Friends have also agreed to purchase \$2,000 of botanical reference books and a new computer for Honolulu Botanical Gardens to further our mission to promote education.

Emmy Seymour, President
Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

Garden Tour - Elsie Nakasone Cacti, Tillandsia & Succulents

October 22, Saturday, 9:30 am: We will visit the garden of Elsie Nakasone and will view her collection of cacti, tillandsia and succulents. Elsie has been an avid collector for many years and was a regular vendor at the Friends' Plant Sales. Map will be provided. Cash-only sales will be available. The fee is \$15 for FHBG members; \$20 for non-members. Please call 537-1708 or email friendsgardens@aol.com for payment information and to reserve a space.



Photo by Bill Follmer

Donations

The Board of Trustees of the Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens would like to thank the following for their generosity and the gift of their time. Mahalo!

In Memory of Marion Follmer

Jann & Greg Boxold
Lois Taylor Clarke
Adelaide Kistner
Art & Leslie Monteville
Emmy Seymour

In Memory of Paul Heyd

Anne McKay

Friends In Deed

All the wonderful volunteers
at our Spring Plant Sale

from the Director's Desk

By the time you read this article, a major project with long-term impact at Foster Botanical Garden (Foster) will be completed.

You will probably NOT notice what has been accomplished as you walk on the level and lush lawn of the main terrace, because all the work was underground and is now out of sight. Under the green cushion of grass and soil is a network of newly laid irrigation pipes that crisscross the entire area. This new irrigation system replaces the original galvanized irrigation pipes that records show were installed in 1961. Over the years, countless emergency patches and by-passes were made as leaks developed from rusty and corroded pipes.

This project was accomplished due to the help of many capable people: Dave Kumasaka, Landscape Architect of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Division of Urban Forestry (DUF) designed the new irrigation system; Alfred Pacoba and irrigation specialists/plumbers from DPR's Maintenance Support Services installed a new backflow preventer, controller boxes (which can turn irrigation on and off electronically) and pipes; Clifford Umebayashi, Branch Chief, DUF Horticulture Services loaned us trenching and other equipment to work more effectively and efficiently; Justin Rickard, Foster Supervisor, coordinated the project and oversaw the work of trenching/filling lines by staffs from Foster and other gardens; Joshlyn Sand, Horticulturist, ensured that all permits were in place, and provided advice on root pruning of trees.

Our City professionals put their considerable, collective expertise and experience together to come up with a solid project, and with the support of Michele Nekota, DPR Director, Stan Oka, DPR/DUF Administrator and Craig Mayeda, DPR/Parks Maintenance and Recreation Services Administrator, Foster now has an irrigation system that we hope will reliably serve to provide water to our plant collections for the next 50 years!

With the groundwork literally completed, the "hula mound" stage will be renovated next.

Foster's main terrace will be a beautiful venue for the exciting Honolulu Biennial art exhibit scheduled in March - April 2017. Performers at July's Midsummer Night's Glean next year and in the future will be able to enjoy a new performing platform; the audience, an unobstructed view.

I'm glad that I was able to see this significant project completed at Foster, as well as the many other improvement projects at this garden, Lili'uokalani, Ho'omaluhia, Wahiawa and Koko Crater over the past 26 years that I've been at the Honolulu Botanical Gardens (HBG).

I will be retiring on October 1 of this year and will rest easily, knowing that the conscientious and committed HBG staffs and volunteers will continue to care for the gardens because you are simply - The Best! It has been a privilege and joy working with all of you.

Thank you to the Friends of HBG for your support, which enabled us to finance many of the improvements over the years. Coming soon: look for new directional signage at Foster, funded by the Garden Club of Honolulu and the Friends of HBG.

Best wishes to everyone!

Winnie Singeo, Director
Honolulu Botanical Gardens



Photo by Derrick Miyasaki

Address Service Requested



TREE STORIES - PART 3

by Paul Weissich

FHBG Trustee Emeritus & former Director HBG

A very special palm may be seen at Foster Garden, the Doum or Gingerbread Palm (*Hyphaene thebaica*) from Egypt. Dr. Joseph Rock, "Pohaku", then living in his birthplace, Vienna, visited Egypt as a boy. It was there that he learned Arabic and saw his first Doum Palms. In 1920 Pohaku again visited Egypt and at Thebes found ripe fruit for sale. He bought several and found that it was far from palatable. He pushed 2 or 3 into his coat pocket where he discovered them upon returning to Hawaii. He gave them to Dr. Harold Lyon, then Director of Foster Garden. The single, mature specimen in the lower garden is the result.

The palm's branching habit is of interest: each branch end develops two equal branches. Unfortunately male and female components are carried on different plants and therefore the Foster Garden specimen bears no fruit except for an occasional hybrid fruit when the nearby *Hyphenae coriacea* is in flower.

Another view of the Doum Palm may be seen on the front page of this newsletter.

