



Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

The Bodhi Leaf

SPRING 2014

180 N. Vineyard Boulevard • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • Phone 808-537-1708

SPRING PLANT SALE

Foster Botanical Garden

Saturday, May 24

9 am to 2 pm - Free Admission

Rick Barboza of Hui Ku Maoli Ola

Photo: Heidi Bornhorst

 *This year's theme is Container Plants for the Lanai & Edible Plants*

 *Large selection of rare and unusual plants*

 *Garden Tours at 9:30, 11:00, and 1:00*

A variety of Native Hawaiian plants, Native Hawaiian ferns including young hapu'u (tree ferns), palapalai, Polynesian-introduced plants such as kalo, 'uala, ko, orchids, heliconia, gingers, bromeliads, cacti & succulents, live spirulina, bamboo, terrariums, aquatic vegetables, air plants, ceramic planters, miniature dish gardens, Hypertufa pots, loose & mounted tillandsias and bromeliads, ti plants, chocolate mint herb, soursop tree seedlings, jaboticaba & lansone fruit trees, anthuriums (30+ varieties from miniature to giant obake) new releases & many unusual plants not found in garden shops.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Early Detection of Invasive Insects

Co-sponsored by Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens, City & County of Honolulu, and ONGA

President's Message

GIVING TO THE FUTURE

We owe so much to the effort of people who have gone before us. Isaac Newton recognized his debt to the past when he said: "If I have been able to see further, it was only because I stood on the shoulders of giants." Newton, an extraordinary genius, took these gifts from the past and turned them into gifts to the future. On a lesser scale, most of us want to be like Newton and do something lasting and meaningful that future generations can appreciate. We don't expect our name on it (like Newton's Three Laws of Motions), but it would be pleasing to think that someday someone will notice something that we had a hand in preserving or creating and think it's wonderful too.

Most of us are already doing good things through our daily life and profession that future generations will appreciate. Parents, doctors, teachers, artists, businessmen and scientists (to name just a few occupations) create and preserve wonderful things. But beyond our professional lives, there are other things we could do for the benefit of the future. The Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens offer you that opportunity. We are all about preserving and creating wonderful things. Just by being a member and paying dues or responding to our Appeal Letter or remembering us in your will, you are helping to fund our organization and its wonderful projects. So far this year that would include donations to the City's Plant Identification Project (identifying previously unidentified plant accessions in our botanical gardens), the purchase of the engraving machine that makes the plant labels for all five of our gardens, and funding various expenses of our Living History Program (video production of the Beginning of a Garden event). If you have some free time and want to contribute in a more "hands on" way, why don't you call Kathy (537-1708) and volunteer your services for our Plant Sale or other future events or projects. Just let her know your special talent and availability, and we will try to use you to preserve a tradition or create something lasting and meaningful.

Bill Follmer, President

Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

Year-End Donations

The Board of Trustees of the Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens would like to thank the following for their generous response to our year-end appeal. Mahalo!

Lehua (\$1000 or more)

John R. Halligan Charitable Fund

Koa (\$500 - 999)

Sharon Geary

Kukui (\$100 - \$499)

Bob Lormand

Charlene Van der-Pyl Chee

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

Milo (\$1 - 99)

Anonymous

Susan Girton

Robert & Doris Lee

David Taylor

(in memory of Trudie Taylor)

THE GLEAM IS COMING !!!!
Saturday - July 19th, 4-9 pm



Photos: Alex Kurfel



Another Blooming Corpse Plant

The weekend of April 12th & 13th was an exciting one at Foster Botanical Garden since one of our Corpse flowers (*Amorphophallus titanum*) bloomed. This spectacular plant with its giant flower and horrid smell is always a crowd pleaser. Hundreds of people came to the garden to have this unique experience and we even made the Friday evening news.

I will share with you some facts that raised a few eyebrows with our guests -including TV personality Guy Hagi! The Corpse Plant or Titan Arum is in the same plant family as Taro (Kalo), and it actually has an edible underground tuber! Have you ever eaten konnyaku in a Japanese stew or soup? Konnyaku comes from the tuber of *Amorphophallus konjac*, a different species in the same genus as our Corpse plant.

The unusual flower may be better understood if you think of an anthurium flower – another member of this Aroid family (Araceae). The long pointy part is called a spadix and the large petal is called a spathe. Technically, this whole structure is called an inflorescence as the tiny true flowers are hidden at the base of the spadix, protected by the spathe.

Why does it make such a horrible smell? Similar to other flowers that make stinky smells, this odor attracts carrion beetles to pollinate the flowers. Not only does the plant smell of rotting meat, but it actually heats up to disperse the aroma! People most commonly describe the smell to be like finding a dead rat or rotting fish. In fact, chemical analysis has shown that the stench shares similar compounds with limburger cheese, sweaty socks, and rotting fish.

Why is this a rare event? Corpse plants do not produce a flower every year. One plant takes about ten years to gather the “strength” it needs to send up such an ornate flower and for these ten years the plant produces only a single large leaf each year. The plant stores energy in its ever-growing starchy tuber. When it has reached reproductive size, the plant might flower every three to five years, with a leaf produced during non-flowering years.

This particular individual is about 15 years old and has a tuber that weighs around 80 pounds. The inflorescence reached just about 6 feet in height. This plant was part of a very generous donation given to us in 2012 by Louis Ricciardiello of New Hampshire. He donated seven large tubers which arrived via air freight in a giant watermelon crate!

Please come visit us to see these amazing plants in the Conservatory! Even if you missed the Corpse plant in bloom, you can still see others in their vegetative or leaf stage. It is quite an impressive leaf, like a small tree with a spotted trunk!

by Naomi Hoffman, *HBG Botanist*



Photo: Scot Mitamura

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What's Hypertufa?

By Brian Panee - Happy Koi Nursery

Once upon a time, in a far off land known as Wahiawa, a small nursery tried to find very nice pots for their plants. They tried the ceramic pot makers, too expensive. They tried the plastic pot makers, too cheap. Then they tried the internet and found out how to make their own pots out of magical stuff called hypertufa, and it was just right!

Working with hypertufa is easy. You get one part cement, one part perlite, and one part peat moss. Add a little bit of water and squish it into whatever kind of pot you want or, rather, have the skill to make. It's that skill that makes the difference. We don't consider ourselves to be artists, just very experienced with the media.

Hypertufa gives us the freedom to take a concept from imagination to reality and has become a fantastic part of what we're known for. We still can't quite believe it when we see our work featured in homes and even public spaces like the Manoa Library.



Photo: Inez Brunson

It really is just like a real-life fairytale and is - quite literally for some of our pots - a dream come true. Detailed information on how to make your own hypertufa creations can be found on our website at happykoinursery.com.

Editor's Note: Hypertufa Pots will be sold by Happy Koi Nursery and Inez Brunson at the Spring Plant Sale

