

# *Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens*

180 N. Vineyard Boulevard • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

friendsofhonolulubotanicalgardens.com

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## **TREE STORIES - PART 1**

*by Paul Weissich*

*FHBG Trustee Emeritus & former Director HBG*

**THE BO TREE** (*Ficus religiosa*) is by far the most significant tree of Honolulu Botanical Gardens large inventory. Some 500 years ago Prince Gautama of India is said to have meditated under this tree, achieving enlightenment and becoming the Buddha, the 'enlightened one'. In 288 B.C. a plant propagated from that tree was planted in the temple grounds of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. It still grows there. I have seen it. In response to Mary Foster's large donations to various Buddhist programs in Sri Lanka she was sent a plant propagated from that venerable tree. It was planted in her garden and is now 100 years old and may be seen at the `ewa end of the second terrace at Foster Garden near the visitor entry. Note the unusual shape of the foliage. It is an important Buddhist art motif.

*This is the first in a series of tree stories about those magnificent trees in the Honolulu Botanical Gardens. Each of these stories is written by someone with first-hand knowledge of how that tree came to be planted in our gardens and what makes it special. Let us know (537-1708 or email [friendsgardens@aol.com](mailto:friendsgardens@aol.com)) if you like these stories and want this series to continue.*



Photo: Alex Kufel





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# The Bodhi Leaf

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

SPRING 2015

## SPRING PLANT SALE



Foster Botanical Garden

Saturday, May 16

9 am to 2 pm - 8:30 for members

Sign up for Classes at the Friends Booth

(class information on page 2)

Photo: Bill Follmer

## *Growing Smarter*

by Bill Follmer, *President, FHBG*

Don't you just hate it when your orchids shrivel and die from mysterious causes, or when your potted plants look like death row for daisies, or when your favorite water lilies lie submerged under a toxic algae scum? Aren't you tired of your yard winning first place in the neighborhood ugly contest? Isn't it time for your luck to change? If you think you're cursed by bad luck, then I have wonderful news for you. It's not luck that's the problem. It's you. That's good news because you can't change your luck, but you can change you. As I used to tease my math students who would not take responsibility for their sad scores: "Stop being like that fool sitting behind that person in front of you. Get smart."

"Growing Smarter" is the theme of our May 16th Plant Sale. In addition to having a wonderful assortment of fantastic plants, we will be offering several different ways you can raise your plant IQ. As in the past: We will have a Plant Doctor Booth where you can ask a board-certified expert for help on a specific problem.

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## *Growing Smarter* continued from page 1

The ONGA nursery growers will be there selling plants and offering their practical expertise on how best to grow them. Guided tours of Foster Garden will again be conducted by HBG-trained docents. And, the Oahu Invasive Species Committee will be there to help you with information on the early detection of insect pests.

What is new at this plant sale is: classes. We will be offering three 45-minute classes in the HBG classroom located right next to the glass house in the middle of the plant sale. You can sign up for the classes at the Friends Information booth. We only have room for 25 "students" for each class, so sign up early. We know you can't get smart by taking just one class, but each class will make you a little smarter and it will introduce you to one of the many resources available on Oahu that can help you continue your plant education. We will have class notes at the Friends Booth for those that can't attend and also instructions on when and where these classes can be taken later. Our class schedule is:

<u>Class Time</u>	<u>Topic Title</u>	<u>Instructor/Position/Organization</u>
10:00-10:45	General Orchid Culture	Scot Mitamura/Orchid Horticultorist/Honolulu Botanical Gardens
11:00-11-45	Container Gardening for Edible Plants	Robert Seronio/UH Master Gardener/Urban Garden Center
12:00-12:45	Water Plants for Beginners	Brian Panee/Owner Happy Koi Nursery/ONGA(President)

### Class Descriptions

*General Orchid Culture*: This class will cover all aspects of growing orchids successfully and will address various challenges and give simple solutions.

*Container Garden for Edible Plants*: This class will cover how it's possible to get various types of trees to bear fruit in pots by using the right containers, potting soil, and maintenance (e.g. fertilizer, repotting, and watering) techniques.

*Water Plants for Beginners*: This class will cover both how to start a water garden and how to keep it lovely through proper maintenance.

## Year-End Donations

The Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

### Koa (\$500 – 999)

Dorothy B. Anderson Charitable Trust

### Kukui (\$100 - \$499)

Anonymous  
Cleo K.H. Chun  
Tokio Harada  
Daniel & Jane Katayama  
Ellen Osborne

### Milo (\$1 - 99)

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HEI Charitable Foundation  
Elspeth Kerr  
Bob Lormand  
Susan Girton  
Joyce Nishiye  
(in memory of Nobuo Yoshioka)  
Harold Palmer  
(in memory of Elizabeth Palmer)  
Pokey Richardson

### Friends in Deed

*(special volunteers)*

Cathy George & Associates, Inc.  
Barbara Kuljis

# From the Director's Desk

More good news! The staff at the Honolulu Botanical Gardens (HBG) now numbers a full 40 (32 full-time and 8 part-time employees) with the addition of three more professionals.

Iris Fukunaga is our Recreation Specialist II, in charge of HBG's educational programs and events. Iris has 20 years of experience with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) as Recreation Director as well as Recreation Specialist II at Kualoa Regional Park. There she gained a great deal of experience planning, coordinating and supervising small and large special programs and projects. Iris is responsible for the educational events and programs at all HBG garden sites.

By the time you read this newsletter, the first event Iris will oversee, the Volunteer Appreciation at Ho`omaluhia on April 9, will be over. Coming up next is the Mayor's Memorial Day at Punchbowl, where Iris is supervising making of ti leaf lei. The goal is 5,000 lei made at HBG, and with the help of staff and many willing and skillful volunteers, this goal will soon be reached. She will also work with other DPR staffs to coordinate the collection of tens of thousands more lei from other community centers on the island for placement at Punchbowl prior to Memorial Day.

Spring and summer are the busy months, with educational classes, the popular summer twilight concert series (Thursdays in June and July), and HBG's big event of the year, the Midsummer Night's Glean on July 18 overlapping each other. Iris has unhesitatingly jumped right into the HBG special programs.

Brian Groelsma is the Supervisor at Ho`omaluhia Botanical Garden. He is an ISA certified arborist with extensive landscape maintenance experience. Prior to coming to HBG, Brian worked at "Shangri La," the Doris Duke estate, as well as Kualoa Ranch, Aikahi Services, and Mainscape, Inc. Brian works at HBG's largest, 400-acre garden site, and no doubt is already aware of how much patience and flexibility he must have to succeed at our gardens.

Cory Mullen, Nursery Worker I, joins longtime veteran, Robin Sunio, at Koko Crater Botanical Garden (KCBG). Cory graduated from University of Hawaii in Hilo, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Tropical Agriculture, and a minor in Plant Tissue Culture. He and Robin are the only two employees based at HBG's second-largest, 200-acre garden site. This is Cory's first job, and he's proud of it. He already voices his hopes that more visitors will visit and appreciate his garden.

We are pleased to welcome Iris, Brian and Cory to the HBG!

**Winnie Singeo, Director**  
*Honolulu Botanical Gardens*



Iris Fukunaga



Brian Groeisma



Cory Mullen