



Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

# The Bodhi Leaf

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

SPRING 2011

## *It's Official – We're Golden!*

This year the Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens celebrates its golden anniversary...we're 50!

A milestone. We are exceedingly proud of having supported Honolulu's magnificent botanical gardens for half a century. And we're in a mood to celebrate. We'd love to see you at our Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 26, at the Waioli Tea Room. Registration will begin at 9:30 am, followed by a scrumptious breakfast buffet, and then the meeting itself.

For reservations please call the Friends' office at 537-1708.

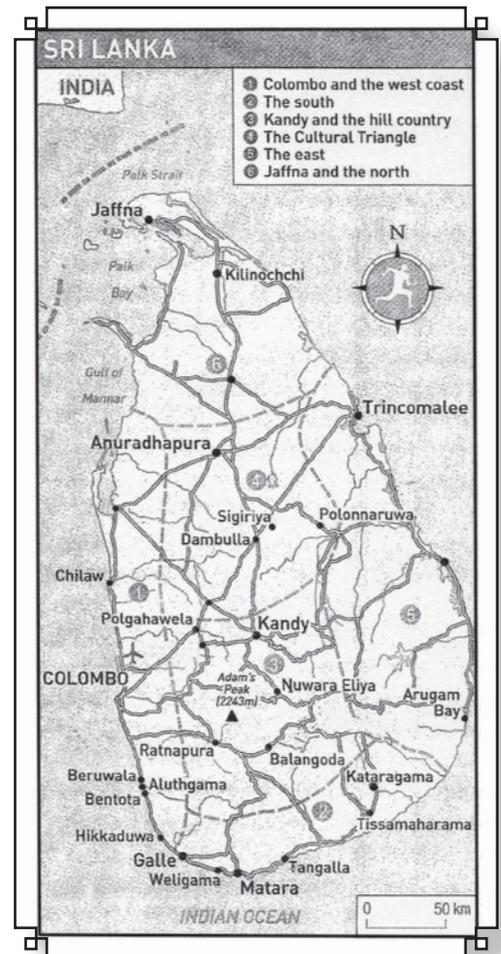
Thank you for being part of our mission.

## PURE SERENDIPITY

Join us this fall while we do a fascinating 17-day tour to Southeast Asia focusing on Sri Lanka. The tour, the high point of our Golden Anniversary celebration, also celebrates the life of Mary Mikahala Foster whose generosity resulted in the creation of Foster Garden, a green jewel in the downtown Honolulu concrete jungle. Her generosity extended to Sri Lanka where she funded facilities for free medical services for the poor as well as various Buddhist programs. The wonderful Bo Tree in Foster Garden was a gift, a token of thanks from Sri Lanka. It is a piece of the ancient Bo Tree in Anuradhapura which was planted in 288 b.c. It in turn was a piece of the tree in northern India under which Prince Gautama meditated until achieving enlightenment. We will visit that venerable tree. Our group, limited to twenty participants, will first visit Singapore where the great botanical garden there will be toured with an experienced English-fluent guide. 'Down time' there will provide a 'rest up' after the flight from Honolulu.

A short flight will see us in Colombo, Sri Lanka where we will see the Mary Foster funded medical facility. That visit is a token of our respect, aloha and mahalo. Then in an air-conditioned, chartered bus on up to the coolness of Kandy and a visit to the magnificent Peradeniya Botanical Garden and to the Temple of the Tooth.

(Continued on page 4)



# President's Message

Dear Friends,

The upcoming Annual Meeting marks the beginning of our 50th Anniversary as an organization. We have a proud and eventful history. Now we must look forward to the next 50 years. What are our priorities in fulfilling our mission to support the City's five botanical gardens? How can the members help us, the Board of Trustees to be more effective? As citizens of Honolulu, and as members of the Friends you have a right to make your wishes known to our city officials and we are one of the best conduits. We want to hear from you. You may send us emails, phone our office or send us post cards or letters. We want to hear from you. Tell us which garden is your personal or family favorite, which garden has or has not something you think essential. What would you like to see in the future...plant wise? Are the Gardens visitor friendly = would you like audio docenting, more activities? Tell us how you think our organization can do more to support our members; do you have any ideas on how to increase our membership? What do you think of our new increased educational activities program? Don't be shy, we really value your opinions and suggestions.

**Sincerely, Grace Dixon**

*Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens*

## New Masthead

For a few years now the Friends has been using the bodhi leaf (also known as bo) as its logo, appearing on our stationary and related items...now we've incorporated it into our newsletter masthead. We chose this particular leaf for several reasons. According to Paul Weissich, Director Emeritus of Honolulu Botanical Gardens and long-time Trustee of the Friends, the bodhi tree (*Ficus religiosa*) in Foster Garden is the most significant tree in Hawaii. It is a keiki from the sacred Bo tree in Sri Lanka which is a keiki of the tree in northern India under which the Buddha achieved enlightenment. Its heart-shaped leaves are quite distinctive and are easily recognized. We are proud to identify the Friends with this important historic symbol.



Foster Garden's Exceptional Bo Tree  
(Photo by Heidi Bornhorst)

## Twice in a Row!



Kathy receives her award from  
Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle

Did you know Friends' Administrative Coordinator, Kathy Tosh, is a fine artist in her time off? She was recently in the news for winning the Mayor's Holly Award in the Honolulu City Lights Wreath Contest. This is the second year in a row Kathy has taken home the best in show award. In addition to dried plant material Kathy works with a variety of other media. Her wool rugs are regularly seen in Hawaii Craftsmen shows, and have received two Awards of Excellence. Her paintings, drawings and fiber sculptures have appeared in five Honolulu Academy of Art 'Artists of Hawaii' exhibitions, and in five one-woman shows. The Friends has Kathy to thank for the enchanting mural that cheers our office. The next time you are in the Foster Garden gift shop, look into the adjoining office and admire it.

# 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!

## \$99 and below

Yuklin Aluli  
Gerry Ching  
Anthony L Clapes  
Patricia Dunn-Rankin  
Rom & Barbara Duran  
Joe & Joan Farrell  
Henry H Gomes  
RA & Susan Girton  
James & Priscilla Growney  
Donald & Shirley Hasenyager  
Janet Henderson  
Ruth Hirahara  
Melanie S Ito  
Janice Itsuno  
A Robert Iverson  
Kenneth & Mary Kaneshiro

D Piilani Kaopuiki  
Anne A Kase  
Hideko Kondo  
Barbara Kuljjs  
Robert & Doris Lee  
Sylvia Y Matsui  
Anne W McKay  
Elsie Nakasone  
Shigeki Nii  
Jenny M Nishimura  
Mark & Paula Nokes  
Mary & Bradley Oliver  
David Orr  
Angel M Ramos  
Scott & Ingrid Rolles  
Pat Schnack  
Marian Shimabukuro

Frank Skrivanek  
Joyce Spoehr  
Mitsue Stout  
Allison Takamine  
Lois Taylor Clarke  
Pauline Thaler  
Laura Thompson  
Barbara B Tilley  
Latha Tornquist  
Trees of Hawaii, Inc.  
Aiko Yamamoto

Elizabeth Keller  
Tom & Lynn Lalakea  
Mary Jane Lee  
John HR Plews  
Jean Rolles  
Emmy Seymour  
Pat & Gary Wassel  
Thomas S Witten  
Patricia U Wong

## \$100 to \$499

Jack Baumer  
Rosemary T Chun  
Sharon E Geary  
Tokio Harada

## \$500 - \$1000

Dr. Robert & Adelaide Kistner  
Duncan MacNaughton  
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney  
Paul R Weissich  
Charlene Van der Pyl-Chee

## from the Director's Desk

I am pleased to report that the number of staff at the Honolulu Botanical Gardens (HBG) has increased by three. Filling the position of Secretary is Jeanine Nichols, who previously worked at another City & County facility, Hanauma Bay. Our new Cashier Clerk at Foster Botanical Garden, who also has work experience at Hanauma Bay, is Anna Marie Mentac. Both women have traded their panoramic view of the ocean for the splendor of HBG's tropical plant collections. Green is their new favorite color! Mike Crinella is another new member of the staff at Foster Garden. Mike started work at the garden in 2010, and is actively learning the ropes in grounds maintenance. HBG consists of five separate garden sites totaling 650 acres. Jeanine, Anna and Mike are welcome additions to the clerical, grounds, and professional staff that now totals thirty for all sites. We look forward in anticipation to being able to fill several other vacancies in the near future.

Also new: HBG is now on Facebook, and tweeting from Twitter. Find us at Facebook by searching the name of your favorite garden, and follow us on Twitter at hnl\_HonBotGdn. Staff is working to have the icons for the links placed on the website for easy access and greater outreach. Check HBG's website [www.honolulu.gov/parks/hbg](http://www.honolulu.gov/parks/hbg) for the latest updates on special activities, events and programs planned at all the gardens, such as arts, crafts, photography, cooking, and educational classes. Coming soon is the schedule for the Summer Twilight Concerts, and the Midsummer Night's Gleam. Stay tuned.

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



Mike Crinella



Anna Marie Mentac & Jeanine Nichols



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Honolulu, Hawaii



## **PURE SERENDIPITY** *(Continued from page 1)*

Next we will move north in the 'cultural triangle' to Anuradhapura (377 b.c. – 993 a.d.), which among other ancient Buddhist treasures, is the great, sacred Bo Tree. Visits to Polonnaruwa (12th century), the ancient capitol of Sri Lanka, the fabled Buddhist cave temples of Dambulla and the famous cliff paintings of Segirya (3rd century b.c. - 485 a.d.) complete our heritage destinations.

We return to Kandy where the group will board a train for Nuwara Eliya high in the mountains. It is cool and moist and the site of extensive tea plantations developed by the British in the 19th century. We will enjoy the Victorian St. Andrews Hotel there and take trips into the countryside. Finally we will board the train again, traveling through lush jungle areas to Colombo. And then on briefly to Bangkok to see outstanding sights. And back to Honolulu. Those who wish to visit the great temples of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom in Cambodia may buy into an extension. A detailed itinerary and cost-out will be available very soon. Plan to join us. It will be a unique experience.

## **GET UP AND GO!**

We are celebrating fifty years of serving the Honolulu community and Honolulu Botanical Gardens by greatly expanding our Education Program. You will soon receive information about this program and be urged to participate. We have engaged Jackie Lee Ralya to manage the system which will be entirely electronic (e-mail). If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to part of our effort please e-mail Jackie at [jralya@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jralya@hawaii.rr.com). In addition to hikes, walks and talks we are planning a fabulous Golden Anniversary trip to Sri Lanka, two tours to Kyoto and two to our Pacific West Coast as well as two neighbor island tours: Hawai'i, Kaua'i. We have several unusual programs: Fun in the Mud, Sex in the Garden (PG13), and a series of single plant studies (Plumeria, Anthurium, Hibiscus et al) and repeats of the very successful "To Grow an Island: Roots of O`ahu". Our committee, Heidi Bornhorst, Tamara Rigney and Paul Weissich, will work very closely with Jackie. We welcome your thoughts relative to new program ideas and constructive criticism of current programs. Join us. It's fun, it's about plants and you'll meet new plant friends.

