



Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

The Bodhi Leaf

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

FALL 2015



Neal Milner as
Dr. Harold Lyon



Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl as
Mary Foster



Craig Howes as
Dr. William Hillebrand

Photos by Sara Collins

The Beginning of a Garden

September 19 & 20

Hana Ho !!!

The Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens is pleased to once again be co-sponsoring, along with the City and County of Honolulu, performances of 'The Beginning of a Garden'. This living history program will take place **Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20** in Foster Garden. Three costumed actors will portray Dr. William Hillebrand, Mary Foster and Dr. Harold Lyon, as they reveal the fascinating history of the garden.

Performances will be held at 3, 3:30 and 4 pm, and are one-hour long. Reservations are required.

Call 522-7066

Admission is free

(Read a related article on page 2)

President's Message

The Story of Foster Garden

How lucky we are to have Foster Garden! The land where Foster Garden sits could have just as easily become a treeless campsite or part of the concrete landscape if it were not for a fortunate chain of events and three gifted and kind people. It was not just luck that Foster Botanical Garden is ours to enjoy. Rare trees don't just plant themselves in the middle of a city and survive for a hundred years. How did this happen? Who made it happen? What made a sickly medical doctor from Prussia with a passion for plants set down roots in Honolulu and populate his garden with trees from around the world? Who persuaded the old-fashioned lady who acquired and loved this garden to gift it to the city as a botanical garden? It's a fascinating story plant-lovers will love. Listen to the voices of the past as costumed actors portray Dr. William Hillebrand, Mary Foster, and Dr. Harold Lyon as they explain how Foster Botanical Garden came to be. It's fun, free, and historically accurate. It's the Friends' gift to its membership and the community. But space is limited and reservations are required. There are three shows (3:00, 3:30 and 4:00 pm) on September 19th and 20th. Call 522-7066 for reservations.

Bill Follmer, President
Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

HAVE YOU VISITED THE FOSTER GARDEN GIFT SHOP RECENTLY?

If your answer is no, then you really should drop in the next time you visit the garden or when you are just driving nearby. Adelaide Kistner, our volunteer gift shop manager, is stocking the shop with some wonderful items that run the gamut from stocking stuffers (yes, shop early) to natural Christmas ornaments and our new and beautiful sea glass and nature inspired jewelry. Remember Christmas is just a short time away and we are open daily from 10:30-2:30. See you soon!



Photo by Alex Kufel

From the Director's Desk

Honolulu Botanical Gardens (HBG) is winding down a busy summer of classes and programs, including the Twilight Concerts and Midsummer Night's Glean.

In her first summer at HBG, Iris Fukunaga, Recreation Specialist II (Education Programs Coordinator) arranged for eight groups, including BG Band with Steve Min, Rob Bruggemann, Royal Hawaiian Band Glee Club, Hawaii Wind Ensemble, Celtic Pipes & Drums of Hawaii, U.S. Air Force "Hana Hou" Band, Sam & the Sumo Ninjaz, and Matt Sproat to provide a wonderful spectrum of entertainment under the stars at Foster Botanical Garden. The Twilight Concerts continue to grow in popularity, and this year, 2,550 people (an average of about 320 people at each concert) visited the garden and enjoyed the free events.

This year's Midsummer Night's Glean on July 18 also broke past records with a whopping 3,954 people attending this special evening event. It definitely took a village of nearly 200 energetic volunteers and the HBG staff to successfully put together an exciting, dazzling, and fun event. Thanks to everyone who contributed to a successful Glean this year – we couldn't have done it without you!

HBG is pleased to welcome a new addition to our staff at Ho`omaluhia Botanical Garden: Faavae Maualaivao, Nursery Worker I. Born in American Samoa, Vae came to Hawaii to live 12 years ago. He brings to his current position, valuable hands-on tree trimming and maintenance experience acquired from previous employment with a private firm. Vae is married and a father of four, and is committed to his family. He also quietly states that he appreciates his new job and fellow workers, and hopes to contribute to improvements in the garden.

Coming soon to Foster Botanical Garden on September 19 and 20 is an encore performance of the Living History Program co-sponsored by HBG and the Friends of HBG. We look forward to collaborating once again on this educational and entertaining event.

Welcome, Faavae!

Winnie Singeo, Director
Honolulu Botanical Gardens



Faavae Maualaivao

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THE DON'T-TELL-ON-ME TREE

by Paul Weissich

HBG Director Emeritus

FHBG Trustee Emeritus

In 1968 Pat, my wife, and I were flown to the Philippines on a private landscape job. Our host was generous. We were given a grand tour of Manila and Manila Bay. When we passed the yacht harbor I spotted a remarkable tree in flower. Nearby was a small 4" seedling which I carefully dug up (swiped!) I moistened a kleenex with saliva, carefully covering the roots, and stored it in an empty cigarette pack wrapper. That tree, *Bombax ceiba*, the Red Silk Cotton Tree, is now 35'-40' tall gracing the Foster Garden parking lot. In flower it is spectacular. Some Asian people collect newly fallen flowers and use them in cooking. It produces a great quantity of fluffy white fibers which cover the surrounding area. Upon being questioned about this by a visitor one of our entry desk volunteers, without cracking a smile, advised that there had been a terrible cat fight out there the night before. The visitor stupidly accepted this reply and was duly impressed. Maybe this should be the cat fight tree?

