



Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

The Bodhi Leaf

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FALL 2017

AN EXTRAORDINARY HISTORY



On Saturday & Sunday, October 28 & 29, the Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens and the City and County of Honolulu will present **The Beginning of a Garden**.

This living history program features 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 will take place on the Daibutsu Terrace in Foster Garden. There are three shows (3:00, 3:30 and 4:00 pm) each day. Admission is free, however space is limited and reservations are required (522-7066). It's fun, it's free, and it's historically accurate.



Photo by SL Choy

President's Message

Emmy's Notes.....

Fall is on its way and with the coming of fall we celebrate Mary Foster's birthday. This year we are celebrating the weekend of October 28th and 29th with several performances each day. It's a grand way to spend time at Foster Garden, meet interesting people and learn some local history along the way. These weekend performances are co-sponsored by Honolulu Botanical Gardens and the Friends of HBG. We are constantly looking for more ways to co-sponsor events as they bring more people to the gardens and create more opportunities for educating us all about the value of the gardens and their importance in our lives.

FHBG joined with The Garden Club of Honolulu in support of a project to improve the pathways and plantings in the Prehistoric Garden at Foster Garden and to provide additional signage to direct visitors around the special features of the Garden. Watch for these improvements over the coming months.

And fall brings another season of Educational Tours available for our members and friends. Make sure we have your email address so you will receive all the information in time. Send your email address to friendsgardens@aol.com or call the Friends Office at 808-537-1708.

Have a wonderful fall season and we hope to see you at a "The Beginning of a Garden" performance.

Emmy Seymour, President
Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

Donations

The Board of Trustees of the Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens would like to thank the following for their generous donations. Mahalo!

\$500-\$1,499

Spoehr Family Fund

\$100-\$499

Sarah Economou (in memory of Leilani Steele)
Gordon Fujiwara
Hawaii Quilt Guild
Kuaika Jendrusch
Mary Jane Lee

Up to \$99

Theresa Hornick (in memory of Leilani Steele)
Melanie Ito
Ursula Meier
Jean Miyashiro

Friends in Deed

Debra Balfour and Joette Wheelon

From the Director's Desk

As the dog days of summer wind down, we are excited about what's in store for fall. The HBG Fall Program is out, so check out the great classes and events at www.honolulubotanicalgardens.com. Interested in Tropical Flower Arranging or Orchid Culture? Want to develop a Meditation practice or learn new Photography tips? We love to dream up new ways to bring the gardens into your life.

The HBG is pleased to partner with the FHBG to bring you "*The Beginning of a Garden*" performances at Foster Garden on Oct. 28th and 29th. At this free, "living history" program you meet Mary Mikahala Robinson Foster, Dr. William Hillebrand and Dr. Harold Lyon as portrayed by an excellent cast of costumed actors. Call 522-7066 for details. Hope you can join us.

We have new HBG staff members to introduce! This summer, Ho'omaluhia welcomed Jessica Boylan, Alika DeRego and Roxanne Otsuka to our busy Programs Staff. The Ho'omaluhia Grounds Maintenance staff welcomed Jarrett Machado and Douglas Loring joins us at Koko Crater. Great to have you all on the team.

Did you see it? After 25-years of service the majestic Talipot Palm flowered at Foster Garden! This palm is famous for having the largest inflorescence in the world, often towering 26' above the massive fronds. The process from flowers to seed can take about 8 months. Afterward, this "monocarpic" palm dies, similar to Agaves and our Hawaiian Silversword. If you did miss this "floral phenomenon", please enjoy the photos.

See you in the Gardens!

Joshlyn D. Sand, Director
Honolulu Botanical Gardens



Address Service Requested



TREE STORIES - PART 5

by Paul Weissich

FHBG Trustee Emeritus & former Director HBG

THE GIANT BAOBAB TREE Just prior to World War II Dr. Harold Lyon planted a seedling of the great Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) growing on the grounds of the Queen's Hospital, probably a Hillebrand introduction around 1859. This seedling, now a large specimen in Foster Garden's lower garden, will eventually rival those found in its native dry tropical Africa. There it grows to 60' in height, developing a greatly swollen, water-storing trunk up to 35' in diameter. Its flowers and pendent fruit have given rise to the name "dead rat tree".

An African legend relates how certain tribes attribute their genesis to fine, hardwood trees but say the white man came from the worthless pith of the Baobab. In times of drought elephants sometimes strip the bark of the Baobab to access the water there. The base of the trunk may become hollow and has been used for storage, a residence, even a jail.



Photo: Alexander Kufel

