



Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

The Bodhi Leaf

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

WINTER 2013

NEW LOULU PALM BOOK

by Heidi Leianuenue Bornhorst

A long awaited new book by longtime friend, supporter and rare plant collector Don Hodel has just been published. This book is easy to read and has lots of good pictures. It covers the history, botany, identification, distribution, ecology, ethnobotany, conservation, propagation and culture of our native Hawaiian loulu palms.

Donald R. Hodel went to UH Manoa graduate school where he did his dissertation on our native Hawaiian loulu palms. While there he met Director Emeritus Paul Weissich in Foster Garden one day back in 1974. He was glad to meet Weissich and get to know him and our world-class palm collection. Weissich mentored Hodel over the years and their friendship remains strong.

The palms at HBG include wild collected, documented loulu, scientifically known as *Pritchardia* from all over Hawaii, as well as other South Pacific islands. Many are over 100 years old. Some were collected by Dr. William Hillebrand, some by Don Hodel. Some are extinct or very rare in the wild. All of our five HBG gardens have loulu palms growing in the living collections and there is a wealth of information in our historical accession books and scientific database.

Loulu is the only palm native to Hawaii. The taxonomy is difficult for traditional taxonomists who study plants by looking at dried herbarium specimens. The flowers stalks are huge, the fruit is unwieldy and the large fan shaped fronds are hard to fold onto an herbarium sheet of paper. It's also hard to collect from towering palms, which like to grow on steep remote pali or sea stacks, safe from alien animals and even from overzealous human collectors of rare plant species.

Hodel is actually a horticulturist with a strong botanical leaning as well as an exceptional photographer. He lived in Hawaii for years and I first met him in Foster Garden in early 1976 at the start of my botanical gardens career. Hodel was then working as Horticulturist at Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden (PTBG) on Kauai. PTBG became NTBG or the National Tropical Botanical Garden when they added the Kampong in Florida to this botanical marvel. Hodel was also our teacher and mentor at PTBG. I am always happy to spend time with him in the field or in our gardens.

Hodel later had plant nurseries in Kona and in Tahiti, specializing in loulu and other rare palms as well as many other unique tropical plants. If you look in our accession books, or botanic garden database, you will see hundreds of rare and special plants that grow in the gardens thanks to Hodel's diligent collecting adventures in Hawaii as well as far flung locales like New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and New Guinea. They grow in our HBG gardens and when Hodel comes to town he likes to visit and check up on his "keiki".

Loulu (Continued on Page 4)



President's Message

People and Projects

As your President, I find myself "responsible" for a wonderful array of events and projects that I am struggling to know more about. It's no secret that I rely heavily upon our secretary and some very dedicated volunteers. These are the people that make the Friends work and deserve the credit for our accomplishments. Most of these people prefer to live in the shadows and find reward in the success of their endeavors. "Too bad," I thought at first, for I was tired of getting credit for things I didn't do, and I was all set to pass out credit to those that deserved it. But then it hit me that praise from someone just learning the job would not be the reward I intended and you have only to look at the left side of our letterhead stationery to get a glimpse of most of the heroes that make this organization function. Recognizing their achievements individually also entailed two serious downside risks. It would run the risk of losing the support of those who really enjoy the anonymity of their contribution and the opposite risk of inadvertently omitting or understating the contributions of those who deserve better treatment. So in lieu of a comprehensive set of praises to all of our deserving volunteers, let me briefly single out two who I believe deserve special mention and whom I think you would like to know more about.

The first is our Executive Secretary, Kathy Tosh. Although Kathy is employed by the Friends and is not a volunteer per se, she has the true volunteer spirit and takes personal responsibility for making things work. Without her "corporate memory" and subtle oversight of the day-to-day Friends' business and its leadership, we would not be the happy and productive organization I enjoy being a part of.

The other person deserving special recognition is our 2nd Vice President Paul Weissich. What an amazing man! Twenty-five years ago during my first tour as president and while he was the Director of the Honolulu Botanical Gardens, Paul was the only man I knew who could make work fun. Fortunately for us, he hasn't changed and is still a source of great ideas and accomplishments. He is the brains behind our Education Program. If you haven't been on one of his tours, you have something to live for. He is also the driving force behind our Mapping and Identification project. Currently, in our five magnificent gardens, we have 1,410 unidentified accessions and the garden maps showing the location and status of all our plants are outdated. Paul is working with experts in mapping and plant identification and with the city to design a plan that will allow us to go after grants that will fund a project that will correct this situation. It's a huge task.

Finally, listed below are some of the Friends' 2013 activities and events that our volunteers and employees are working on. These are things you are "responsible" for and, like me, should consider learning more about:

Activities and Events

- Education Program (fantastic tours throughout 2013)
- Annual Meeting (March 16, 2013 at Waimea Valley)
- Spring Plant Sale, Theme: Fragrant Plants (May 25)
- Midsummer Night's Gleam support (July 20)
- Foster Garden Gift Shop (plant-related gifts)
 - Monday 10:30 am–1:30 pm
 - Tuesday–Friday 10:30 am–2:30 pm
 - Saturday & Sunday 10 am–3 pm

Bill Follmer, President

Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens

Projects

- Plant Mapping & Identification
- Mary Foster Living History Dramatization
- Membership Drive
- Annual Donation to City
(In 2012, it was \$12,000 for a garden label engraver, its software, and training)

from the Director's Desk

For many years, the "priority one" item on the Honolulu Botanical Garden's (HBG) list of projects in need of funding has been the replacement of Foster Botanical Garden's wrought-iron fence along Nuuanu St. and Vineyard Blvd. The badly rusted fence valiantly held together over the years through a spreading patchwork of improvised repairs. Metal rods and expanded metal screens held in place with sturdy wires became an integral part of the ageing enclosure. It was thus with great excitement and anticipation that staff learned earlier this year that Foster Botanical Garden would be getting a replacement fence! The project involves replacement of the existing wrought-iron fence, along the economic garden on Nuuanu St. to the staff entrance along Vineyard Blvd. The perimeter gates to the staff and Maunakea St. entrances and the interior gate by the ramp to the business office will also be replaced. As Nuuanu and Vineyard are high traffic areas that give the public a first glimpse into the garden, this facelift is a welcome improvement. Work began on the last week of November, and weather permitting, should be completed by the time you read this.

This year, HBG welcomed two more additions to the staff, filling gaps left as previous staff retired and/or left. This brings the total number of staff at all five garden sites to 36 (29 full-time and 7 part-time), and the hope that more vacancies will be filled in the near future. Wayne Sasaki joined HBG in mid-June, filling in the position of Recreation Specialist II (Community Gardens Coordinator). Wayne has worked for many years at the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, including a short stint as Wahiawa Botanical Garden Supervisor in the early 1990's. Among his many after-work activities, Wayne is a long-time volunteer at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job of overseeing the Community Gardens program. In mid-August, Dominic Cullen joined Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden's work force as a Nursery Worker 1.

Dominic's previous landscape maintenance experience and eagerness to learn has enabled him to fit right in at HBG's largest garden.

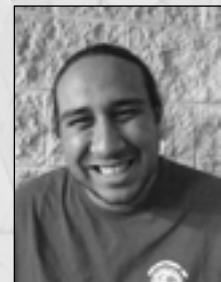
As we approach 2013 with optimism and enthusiasm, HBG staff and I look forward to continuing improvements. We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Winnie Singeo, Director
Honolulu Botanical Gardens



Wayne Sasaki

Photo: Winnie Singeo



Dominic Cullen

Photo: Alma Phocas

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!

Milo (\$1 - 99)

Greg & Jann Boxold
Phillip & Gerry Ching
Norma Jean Geil
James & Priscilla Growney
Donald & Shirley Hasenyager
Janet Henderson
Ruth S. Hirahara
Xuan Huynh
Anne Irons-Palma
Kenneth & Mary Kaneshiro
Elsbeth Kerr
Carol Y. Kim
Barbara & Andrew Kuljis
Dave & Lydia Kumasaka
Doris & Robert Lee
Allison Lee-Takamine
Bob Lormand
Anne McKay
Elsie Nakasone
Diane Nielsen
Jenny Nishimura

Barbara Stehouwer
Mitsue Stout
Esther Suzuki (in memory of Dr. George Suzuki)
Lois Taylor Clarke
Sadako Tengan
David Watson
Alex & Naomi Weinstein
Jean White

Kukui (\$100 - 499)

Tanya Alston
Jack Baumer
Jim & Mary Ann Bell
Amy & Doug Blagriff
Carole C. Chun (in memory of Trudie Taylor)
Cleo K.H. Chun
Peter Drewliner
Rom & Barbara Duran
Sharon M. Fairbanks
Tokio Harada
Derral R. Herbst (in memory of Stanley K. Yamashita)

Diana D. Jardine (in memory of Trudie Taylor)
Elizabeth Kell
Tom Lalakea
Michael Lee
Bob Pedigo
John H.R. Plews
Pokey Richardson
Mr & Mrs Scott Rolles
Emmy Seymour
Laura L. Thompson
Paul Thurston
Pat U. Wong
Elissa Yellin

Koa (\$500 - 999)

Dr. Robert & Adelaide Kistner
Paul Weissich
Thomas S. Witten (in memory of James T. Witten)

Friends of Honolulu Botanical Gardens



180 N. Vineyard Boulevard • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
friendsofholonulubotanicalgardens.com

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1287
Honolulu, Hawaii

Address Service Requested



Loulu (From Page 1)

Hodel has worked for years as an extension agent in California and he has written other great books that need to be on any plant lover's shelf, but this is his life's work for sure. It's a great book and I was honored to get to review it. I am still going back and reading more of the details and looking at the great illustrative photographs.

The book is called '**LOULU The Hawaiian Palm**' and it was published by U.H. Press. Anyone who loves our gardens, is interested in loulou, botany or Hawaiian natural history needs to own this fine book. It is filled with pictures, clarifies the taxonomy of this special Hawaiian plant. The book details threats to loulou palms and outlines what we can all do to perpetuate this unique and precarious, beautiful and historic Hawaiian plant.



Bob and Doreen Hobdy, Heidi Bornhorst, Don Hodel and Leland Miçano
at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden celebrating loulou palms

