



HAPPY NEW YEAR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF HALAWA XERISCAPE GARDEN,

We apologize for the delay in getting the “Xeriscape Quarterly” to you. We’ll call this episode “Xeriscape’s Fantastic Year” there was no way to fit our fantastic year in the smaller pamphlet type flyer that you are accustomed to receiving. It has truly been a great year for Halawa Xeriscape Garden. Many projects were completed; many new workshops offered to the community and many new members are now on board.

The FOCUS during 2012 will be to increase volunteer participation at the garden. We will be hosting a new volunteer orientation sometime in the spring, with a slide show presentation of the planned volunteer assisted projects from themed garden designs and general beautification/conservation projects throughout the garden to decent training for Xeriscape Garden tours.

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A small pond and walkway was installed at the garden last spring. The pond is used to demonstrate micro climates and how they can be used to encourage beneficial insects to a home garden. The pond was built with reclaimed items. Three throw-a-way plastic drums were placed into holes in the ground, (no need for felt or plastic lining) the edges were lined with lava rocks from other areas of the garden. The ponds were initially filled with water and have since counted on Mother Nature to keep them filled. Water irises were donated by Shelly Yorita, lifetime member of the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden. To keep the mosquito population under control guppies were donated by Scott Calistro volunteer at Halawa Xeriscape Garden and succulent plants were donated from the FOHXG nursery group and as a finishing touch Diane Moses FOHXG Board Member donated a birdbath!

Since the pond's arrival we have seen mongoose and an increased number of birds, spiders and bees enjoying the area. We are still waiting for a frog or toad to move in and make its home, which would absolutely complete this mini environment!



Pond

Pond just after being built



Pathway leading to pond



Pond

Pond today



Pathway leading to pond

23RD ANNUAL HALAWA XERISCAPE GARDEN'S OPENHOUSE AND UNTHIRSTY PLANT SALE

Members of FOHXG, if you missed the opportunity to join us on August 6, 2011 at our Annual Open House and Unthirsty Plant Sale, you missed a great event. We had over 14 different xeric plant vendors and the largest assortment of Xerophytic plants we've ever seen in one place! The conservation workshops were awesome, Xeriscape 101 by Mark Takemoto, Friendly Compost by Teri and Kanani Langley, Creative Container Gardening by Brian and Mhel Cyr and Good Bug Vs. Bad Bug by Diane Moses, were all well attended by community members. Our workshop guests went home armed with information and eager to apply new practices in their home landscapes!

We had educational booths as well, Ewa Blue worms and bunnies, an interactive booth which taught people about different types of compost teas made especially for plants. (Workshop is offered again on January 14th call today to reserve a seat 748-5363) Garden guests were encouraged to bring a sample of their troubled plants for diagnosis to the Pearl City's Urban Garden Plant Doctor Booth. Here Certified Master Gardeners answered a variety of questions regarding ailing plants.

Our Keikiscape activities were visited by over 90 keiki. At the Hawaii Nature Center's interactive booth Keiki learned how to make canoes with African Tulip seed pods (great reuse of invasive specie's pod). Keiki who entered the "Who's that Bug" Face-Painting Gazebo selected a garden bug sheet which taught them whether or not their bug was a friend or foe to gardens. When they were done reading about their bug our artistically talented volunteers, Isabella Forster, Hana Allison, Shelly Yorita and Meredith Moses applied that bug to their faces, arms and in some cases bald-heads (even adults got in on the act)! The first 50 Keiki to complete visits to all the keiki activities were able to select a plant and plant in the Keikiscapes flower pots (decorated recycled tires). They are encouraged to come back during the year to visit their plants. (Later in the year volunteers will recycle these plants into the garden).

Free garden tours were sponsored by FOHXG and BWS, free compost and mulch was donated by Hawaiian Earth Products. BWS announced the opening of their Social Media Plan and visitors to the garden could sign up that day for Face Book and Twitter. The new 2011-2012 Workshop schedule was released for the first time that day. **REMINDER:** Year-round advance registration is a benefit for being a member of the FOHXG. Members are encouraged to sign up for workshops as soon as possible to ensure they have a seat in upcoming workshops. The 2011-2012 Workshop schedule is enclosed in this flyer.



Scenic Hawaii, Inc.

Xeriscape, Award of Honor Nakasone Residence, Pearl City



Our very own Elsie Nakasone receives the prestigious Scenic Hawaii’s Betty Crocker Award of Honor for Xeriscape.

Elsie currently leads our nursery group at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden and has been a member of the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden for 20 years. She is also an active member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Hawaii. When asked how she keeps up with her commitments to volunteering, she replied, “Because I love working with plants and my fellow volunteers.” She says the volunteer group at the Halawa Nursery is the best bunch of friends to work with and the camaraderie they share keeps her healthy active and alert which keeps her coming back for more!

Betty Crocker Awards 2011



Elsie Nakasone
Lead Propagation

Walt Miyashiro
FOHXG Volunteer

Rene Kurasaki
FOHXG Volunteer

The following are some of her favorite plants. Easy to grow and beautiful to look at and work with.

Echeveria,



Sedum



Kalanchoe,



ANNOUNCING

Xeric Theme of the Month & Xeric Plant of the Week

The Board of Water Supply has launched its ongoing Xeriscape Education as part of their Social Media updates to the community.

The theme of the month will feature plants that somehow tie in with current holiday or social events. For example, November's theme was "Fall Colors," December's theme was "Holiday Expressions" and January's theme is "Nature's Fireworks." Each Saturday morning the Xeric plant of the week will be uploaded to the BWS face book page. Please visit Honolulu Board of Water Supply at facebook.com while visiting please notice the "LIKE" at the top of the page click it, then feel free to share the xeric news with your friends by adding the tidbit and photo to your own wall. You'll be pleasantly surprised to learn just how many xeric plants you and your friends may already own!

The Xeric Theme of the Month and Xeric Plant of the week will also appear in the Friends of Halawa new website which will be completed by the end of January along with our own face book page. A simple internet search at the end of the month should get you to us.

See below for a sample of theme of the month entry to facebook.com

XERIC THEME OF THE MONTH: Holiday Expressions
XERIC PLANT OF THE WEEK: Annato (Achiote, lipstick tree, alaea laau, kumauna)

CARE: Annato is a popular garden tree because of its lovely fragrant pink flowers and bright red seeds and looks great in landscapes when managed. Seed pods can be used in floral arrangements or crafts! Here in Hawaii its invasive, so if you own one be sure to monitor its growth. This plan...See More



NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS ISSUED 2011

This year new membership cards were issued to members who renewed their memberships on or before their expiration dates. Some renewed their memberships at the Plant Sale in August. If you renewed your membership and have not yet received your new card, (see photo below). Please contact Diane Moses at 808-748-5363.

FRONT



BACK



NEW SHADE AND MISTING TABLE FOR NURSERY

In November the nursery received its first misting/shade table to aid the development of seedlings and new propagated plants, it was developed and constructed by volunteers.

The nursery volunteers have already planted many slips of the Princes Michiko Hibiscus which will be one of the featured plants in the 2012 Annual Halawa Xeriscape Open House and Unthirsty Plant Sale



The Xeriscape Garden receives long awaited informational bulletin boards!

After several months in planning this project was brought to fruition by BWS carpenter Paul Suginaka. The boards will be used to communicate events and other pertinent information for Community Members as well as Members of the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape (FOHXG).

When visiting the garden don't forget to stop by the pavilion and check out the information. On the Community side of the bulletin board you will find workshop information, Xeric theme of the month, Xeric plant of the month and volunteer opportunity information. On the FOHXG side you will find interesting articles in the "Meet Our Volunteers" section, membership and board member updates, project progress section.



DONATIONS OF NEEM AND WILIWILI TREES

Halawa Xeriscape Garden recently received two Aiea Trees one from Kenard Chong (which will be dedicated to his father Sam Tan Pau Chong) and the other by Doug Hom. The two trees are currently being nurtured by volunteers Elsie Nakasone and Rene Kurasaki.

We also received twelve neem plants which were donated by Dr. Saleem Ahmed. He also provided an educational packet about the care of and the many uses for neem as well as several recipes to get us started in using neem in our garden and workshops. The workshop "Multifunctional Neem" debut in our 2012-2013 conservational workshop calendar.

We also received from an anonymous donor four Wiliwili seedlings. Our nursery group will eagerly tend to all these young trees until they are hardy enough to be planted in the garden.



Aiea Tree



Neem Tree



Wiliwili Tree

2010 – 2011 Workshop Highlights



Spiral Garden



Decorate Eggs the Xeriscape Way



Good Bug
Vs.
Bad Bug



Rain Barrel Water Catchment



Pumpkin,
Pumpkin (Part 1)
Planting

Pumpkin, Pumpkin (Part 2)
Decorating



Xeriscape Holiday Wreath



Sponsored by FOHXC