



# FRIENDS OF HĀLAWA XERISCAPE GARDEN

*P.O. Box 3089, Honolulu, HI 96802*

*SPRING 2020*

## Peace Garden “in progress” at HXG

We’re excited to share that the Hālawā Xeriscape Garden is newly recognized by the Hawai‘i School Peace Gardens (HSPG) as a Peace Garden “in progress.”

On February 6, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Outreach College hosted a Sustainable Development Workshop. Kyung Hee University students from South Korea spent two weeks learning about sustainability efforts in Hawai‘i, which included a presentation about the Hālawā Xeriscape Garden and kindness rock art by the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.



Students drew a Hawai‘i memory on small rocks to take back to Korea, and on a larger rock, they drew positive messages for our new peace garden.

Our long-time friends with 808Rocks have gotten us started with some beautiful and positive messages that have been placed around the garden for years, and we look forward to adding some new rocks by Kyung Hee University students.

[When the garden reopens] Come and visit to see these beautiful kindness rocks and enjoy the quiet beauty of Hālawā Xeriscape Garden.



Mahalo to UH and the Kyung Hee students, 808Rocks, Vangie Pangelinan (FOHXG), the STEMgrows program, Debbie Millikin (Iolani School), Hawai‘i Farm to School, and Jeannie Lum for their help in getting us started! We’re excited about our peace garden and we hope that more volunteers will join our efforts for this important project.

Updates will be included in future newsletters.



## *WHAT'S NEW AT THE GARDEN*

Aloha! Our sincere apologies for the necessity of this message from the Board of Water Supply.

Due to the confirmed COVID-19 cases in Hawai'i, the Board of Water Supply is taking the extraordinary measures to decrease the potential of community spread of the virus and to protect employees by canceling or postponing BWS public events/activities and participation in local events until further notice. This includes the temporary closure of the Halawa Xeriscape Garden, as well as the cancellation of facility tours, workshops and ceremonies.

There will be no workshops or Free Xeric Seed of the Month during this time.

We apologize for any and all inconvenience. MAHALO!

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## *NURSERY HAPPENINGS*

*By Lynne Berry Westlake (Nursery Chair)*



Did you know that a *Dracaena* can be planted in the ground and require little or no watering? This past week (March 4) we had two large inflorescence spikes on this mother plant in the nursery. This was the first time we had seen it bloom.

Isn't nature simply amazing?

[When the garden reopens] If you have Wednesday mornings free, come join us in the Nursery (9a-12noon) and share in our wonder and make new friends while learning about xeric plants.





## VOLUNTEER CORNER

We welcome our newest FOHGX member and volunteer, Valerie. Val recently retired and was excited to help out in the nursery since working with plants connects her to her Mom.



*Val (right) pictured with another FOHGX volunteer Joanne (left)*

We also say a fond aloha and best wishes to Syan and Roz (our dynamic duo in the propagation group) as they leave the islands for the Mainland. We will miss you but we're excited about your new adventures!



*Syan (left) and Roz (right) having fun in the nursery taking care of the plants.*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in getting your hands dirty and spend time outdoors? The Hālawā Xeriscape Garden is looking for volunteers!

- Propagation– This group meets on Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm to grow plants to sell at the plant sale in August and throughout the year. Learn to how grow plants from seeds and cuttings from Master Gardeners. No experience needed, just a willingness to get dirt under your fingernails and have fun!
- Garden– Under the guidance of the garden staff, you can work alone or in a group to help maintain and improve the garden. Work at your own pace weeding or pruning, or tackling special projects. Wednesdays/ Saturdays 9am– 3pm

If you prefer not to get dirty, but would like to help the garden, there are many things you can do to help in the office.

- Office– There is a variety of tasks you can help with from making seed packets and informational sheets for the free plant-of-the-month to checking people in to the garden/workshops. Wednesdays/Saturdays 9am– 3pm

Please contact us at (808)748-5315 for more information or stop by the garden on Wednesdays/Saturdays to learn more about what we do.

## In Memoriam of Elsie Tokie Nakasone

*by Wayne Sasaki*



Courtesy of the Nakasone Family

On December 17, 2019, we loss Elsie at age 91, and we will forever miss her cheery disposition. She was buried at Punchbowl along side her husband, Larry, on January 31, 2020. Elsie was a long time member of the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden. She was a founding member of the propagation group and a plant vendor at the Friend’s annual plant sale.

For many years, Elsie was in charge of running the Wednesday Propagation Group which raises plants for the Friend’s annual plant sale. She and Alice Kadowaki, a founding member of the Friends who started the propagation group, were close friends from Hilo, so Alice recruited her since she knew Elsie loved plants particularly cactus and succulents. Elsie was also a longtime member of the Cactus and Succulent Society for over 40 years.

For those who worked with Elsie on Wednesdays, they always enjoyed each others company and had fun while working hard to produce plants for the plant sale. Elsie was also very generous in sharing her plants she grew at home with the Wednesday group and donating her plants even when she stopped being a plant vendor. She always did well at the plant sale and she would always say “I did well, not taking many plants home today.” She was always thanking people for even the little things most people take for granted.

I will miss Elsie at our Holiday Luncheon for volunteers, in my eyes, she had become the official photographer and would always share the group picture that was taken with her camera. Those of us, who didn’t take pictures, would always get a picture from Elsie. As the Friend’s Plant Sale Chairperson, I will miss her encouragement and kind words, as she leaves behind with us many fond memories.



## ***PEST ALERT!* AVOCADO LACE BUG**



Avocado trees are starting to flower right about now, but have you noticed their leaves turning brown for no apparent reason? Do the leaves look burnt? The Hawaii Department of Agriculture recently reported a new pest attacking avocado trees— Avocado lace bug (*Pseudacysta perseae*). It was first reported in December 2019 in the Pearl City area.

Avocado lace bugs lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves, which are tiny black dots covered in their feces. If you see a leaf with yellow or brown patches, flip it over to see if there are any insects. The eggs, nymphs and adults are tiny but visible without a magnifying glass. The adults have orange and black markings (see picture above). The avocado lace bug is reported to have a 22 day life cycle from egg to adult.

Left: Avocado tree with damaged leaves  
Top Right: Avocado lace bug eggs underneath the leaf  
Bottom Right: Close up of adult Avocado lace bug with eggs

Helpful links for more information:

<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2020/01/Avocado-Lace-Bug-flyer-1-7-2020b.pdf>

<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2020/01/avocado-lace-bug-field-ID-photo-guide-1-15-2020.pdf>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN16600.pdf>

[https://biocontrol.ucr.edu/hoddle/avocado\\_lace\\_bug.html?fbclid=IwAR2EdSrS4V5A4QRwV6NB1bVIF1mgA\\_wFxXW6S1NQIXpWupKThBDDTtoawGSE](https://biocontrol.ucr.edu/hoddle/avocado_lace_bug.html?fbclid=IwAR2EdSrS4V5A4QRwV6NB1bVIF1mgA_wFxXW6S1NQIXpWupKThBDDTtoawGSE)



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Follow us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/BWSHXG/?fref=ts>



Friends of Hālawā Xeriscape Garden is a 501(c)(3) organization to promote water conservation through xeriscaping.



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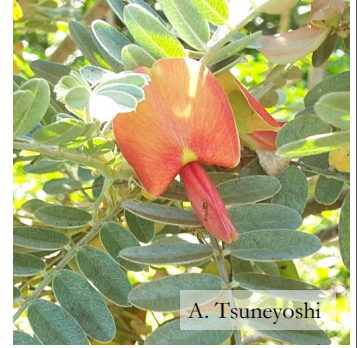
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## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Lynne Berry Westlake  
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Amy Tsuneyoshi



'Ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*)  
Endangered  
Endemic to Hawaii, coastal shrub

A. Tsuneyoshi

## Elsie's plant cleaner

Soap Spray  
1 tsp each:  
dishwashing  
soap  
Baking soda  
Cooking oil  
1 qt. water

Courtesy of the Nakasone Family

### FOHXG Workshop Schedule

<http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/news-events/workshops/workshop-schedule>

### Xeric Seed Program

<http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/conservation/xeriscape/xeric-seed-program>

## President's Corner

by Amy Tsuneyoshi



Aloha FOHXG members!

Spring is here. Time to gather those empty pots in your garden to make room for new plants, and maybe add a kindness rock or two. It's also a good time to do a routine survey of your plants for pests or diseases. Who knows, you could discover a new pest species like the Avocado lace bug attacking your plants. But, before you reach for the insecticide, be sure you know what critters you have and if it is listed on the label. You don't want to kill a beneficial insect that is helping you control your pest problems.

For this issue, Elsie Nakasone's family graciously allowed us to reprint Elsie's recipe to clean plants. I'll fondly think of her every time I use it. Now, I just need to figure out how to keep the 4-legged critters out of my plants.

Just before sending out this newsletter, we received notice of the temporary closure of the garden in efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Corona virus). Please stay healthy everyone and stay tuned for updates regarding the garden and workshops.

Happy gardening!

Amy

