



West Hawai'i Master Gardeners Spring Newsletter 2016

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MG Mentoring Program

West Hawai'i Master Gardeners are excited to have launched our very first Mentoring Program for our 2016 MG Volunteer Training Program. MGs and Trainees are establishing mutually-agreed upon goals, methods of meeting those goals, and time frames. This is our largest training program ever, so we have an excellent opportunity to help Trainees on their path to becoming an MG. We are eager to measure the difference in the mentored group and previous years' non-mentored groups' percentage of Trainees who become Certified Master Gardeners.

Hawaiian Chocolate Factory Tour

We all thoroughly enjoyed our tour of the Hawaiian Chocolate Factory. We learned about growing cacao trees, harvesting the fruit, the many steps of processing the fruit and how the fermented, sun-dried and roasted nibs are finally made into chocolate.



Big Island Bees Tour

We not only enjoyed our Big Island Bees tour, we enjoyed getting there, as we had a wonderful pot luck lunch at Rebecca's house overlooking Kealahou Bay before heading over to Big Island Bees.

At the Big Island Bees museum, we learned about the history of beekeeping and honey production, and we saw tools, pictures and sculptures related to bee keeping.

We then took a tour of part of their bee-keeping operation, where we saw where the queen resides, how the hive is organized, and what makes bees so special and interesting.

We all enjoyed sampling several flavors of honey, each made from the flowers of different trees (Ohia Lehua, Macadamia and Wilelaiki,) so we were able to see how important the various trees are for honey making.

