



NEWS FROM

THE URBAN GARDEN CENTER



School Garden Basics Workshop Hosts a Full House

Oahu Master Gardeners (including M.G. Interns) held the Second Annual School Garden Workshop for Educators 22nd & 29th of September at The Urban Garden Center.

Anna Yorba, Coordinator of the School Garden Hui, had the daunting task of organizing and keeping M.G. on-task, wearing many hats during the yearlong preparation, including being a presenter. Obviously, a lot of hard work went into this from all involved.

So many teachers and parents signed up this year, some had to be turned away due to classroom space constraints. Obviously last year's workshop was well received and the word got out! As it was, the classroom was as full as possible.

In addition to the Six Modules presented in the classroom, participants and presenters ventured out into the various gardens, getting a little dirty in the process. Lots of hands-on, sampling and dialogue made for some very fun and interesting lessons.

A Ma'o Farms graduate prepared and served wonderfully

delicious lunches that easily could have been served in a 4-star restaurant!

Many positive comments were heard as the workshop concluded on that last warm afternoon; "This was great!" was one, "I learned so much!" was another. One could see just how grateful they were by the looks on their faces. Volunteer M.G.s wore satisfied looks as well, and maybe relief that it was pau. This workshop took a tremendous amount of effort and cooperation by all involved.

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Down and Dirty Family Activity Night

“*Get Down and Dirty*” was 2 hours of family oriented educational and fun activities to promote building a healthier community held at Ben Parker Elementary School, Kaneohe on 19th October. Sponsors wanted to demonstrate and inspire people to grow their own fresh foods, regardless of how much or how little space they have in which to garden. Stations were set up to display information and there were hands-on-activities for all ages. The stations were also an opportunity to showcase and connect with community resources/organizations. Oahu M.G.s Diane Moses and Barbara Alexander of the Xeriscape Hui were on hand to share information with young (& older!) growers about food plants that can be grown with less water requirements. Mahalo, Diane, for putting together a very informative display board.



The Scent of Gardenias is in the Air

Enthusiastic attendees included many families as well as adults also looking for information on growing edible plants.

You may have noticed a new addition to the gardens at The UGC. There is now a Gardenia Garden off the road just before one reaches the Upper Nursery. This garden is located in an area that was originally set-aside as a gardenia garden long ago when Dale Sato was manager of The UGC. A large water pump house was sitting on the site. After it was demolished some gardenia plants were planted along with the gardenia trees along the periphery. The current garden was developed by the Sprouts Hui with the advice of now Volunteer Dale Sato, who also donated plants for the project. The UGC Ag. Techs. also helped by digging the holes for planting and spreading the gravel along the new pathway. The garden is not quite completed (what garden ever is?). Additional cultivars are sought for planting and a bench and container plantings will be added to create a seating area. The Sprouts Hui is made up of longtime UGC Volunteers and Master Gardeners. One of the goals of the Sprouts Hui is to help maintain other gardens at The UGC.





Water is Life

Water is such a vital resource both to humans and to their gardens. The Sept. SSAG had some thought-provoking and informative displays and demonstrations on water. Several Oahu M.G.s had a detailed display and were available to explain sustainable storm water practices. There was also an aquaponics display with UH staff on hand to explain this method of gardening to the public. The Board of Water Supply had a poster display explaining how to construct a rain barrel. And to complement the public's acquired knowledge of water-wise practices, the Ohana plant sale introduced to home gardeners *Gardenia volkensii*, an African native, which has lovely, fragrant blooms while enjoying a low water regime! This plant can be seen in the new Gardenia Garden. Of course, where would our

gardens be without bees? UH staff had an informative display and answered questions on the honeybee project. George and the other dedicated SSAG M.G. volunteers conducted composting and worm casting "how to" demonstrations, as well as staffing the "Plant Doc" booth. And on behalf of the visitors to the SSAG as well as other special events at The UGC, we extend a "Mahalo" to The UGC Ag. Techs. Richard Fisher and 'Lito' Cacho for their efforts setting up and breaking down the booths for the various displays as well as being on hand the day of the events to direct traffic and to help out as needed. Mahalo to all whose efforts make for such a rewarding experience for the gardening community when they visit The UGC.

Aloha Oahu Master Gardeners



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I accept my new position as President of the Oahu Master Gardener Association. The mission of our program is **Public Outreach of Gardening Related Information Based On University Research** - it is a worthy cause in my view and I strongly believe in it. I also believe volunteer time is our most precious resource and I will strive to protect it and enhance recognition and appreciation of it. Enjoying our activities along with fairness, honesty, and transparency shall be the hallmarks of our organization. I intend to pursue more ways to make our activities fun and rewarding in the next year and will seek your input and support in pursuing these objectives.

I look forward to working with all of you.

Robert G. Speer

Cooking, Plants and Worms, Oh My!

The final SSAG for 2012 was held in October and was attended by over 200 people. The Filipino Women's League conducted very popular cooking demonstrations: "Filipino Cooking Using Unusual Fruits and Vegetables." Attendees were given delicious samples to taste. The Ohana was on hand selling plants for those gardeners looking for those special plants found at The UGC. And the Plant Doc Booth was staffed with M.G.s to answer queries from the gardening public about their plants. Our dedicated volunteer M.G.s that demonstrate and discuss vermiculture were on hand and assisted by a few Girl Scouts from a local troop. The Scouts got their hands dirty while learning about worms. The FCE ladies were on-site gearing up for the holidays by teaching how to make your own decorations.



Tropical Fruit Growers Pear with Hawaii M.G.s

The UH Master Gardener Program was a supporter of the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers (HTFG) International Conference, held on 13th-16th of September, at the UH Manoa campus on O'ahu. Included with this conference was the UH Master Gardener Program's 'Grow Together in 2012' which provided advanced training sessions and a Luncheon Awards Banquet to Statewide M.G.s. We want to congratulate the Oahu M.G. award recipients: Margaret Mortz- Outstanding Leadership; Glenn Cordeiro- Outstanding Service; Robert Seronio- Outstanding Public Outreach.

See the UH M.G. Program website for photos and details:

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/uhmg/conference/index.asp>



Hawaii Food Bank Welcomes Fresh Fruits!

UGC Volunteer Susie Ota is coordinating harvesting in The UGC Orchard each month. The Fruit Hui/Orchard Harvesting group has been meeting the first and third Mondays, from 9am-11am to pick fruit in the orchard. On most harvest days, Susie has even been delivering it to the Hawaii Food Bank.

M.G.s, UGC volunteers and EFNEP coordinators have all contributed to this effort. Consider joining them! Contact Susie Ota at miekomail@aol.com or by cell (292-1650).

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There are so many benefits to having children grow gardens in their schools. Imagine the pride it can instill in children who get to bring home some fresh green onions, tomatoes, kale or corn they helped to grow with classmates. Imagine their families making dinner together with some of those fresh ingredients!

The School Garden Basics Workshop provides teachers and school volunteers with the necessary tools, which will promote successful experiences for students in their school gardens.

**The 6 modules can be accessed by M.G.s at:
2012 School Garden Basics Workshop for
Educators**

Introduction to School Gardens Program
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/downloads/SG-Intro_School_Garden_Programs_2012.pdf>

The Natural Environment of Hawai'i
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/downloads/SG-Hawaii_Natural_environment_2012.pdf>

Let's Plant!
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/downloads/SG-Lets_Plant_2012.pdf>

The Life of Plants
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/downloads/SG-Life_of_Plants_2012.pdf>

Soils and Composting Module
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/downloads/SG-Soils_Composting_2012.pdf>

Insects, Diseases and IPM
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/downloads/SG%20-Insect_Diseases%20_PM_2012.pdf>

at:

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/UHMG/school.asp>

Listen and See*!

Several Oahu M.G.s volunteered for the recent HPR Pledge Drive to help this most worthwhile service in our state. Over a half dozen M.G.s were on hand on 10th October and several more filled in later that week as the Pledge Drive was extended. New OMGA President Bob Speer was on hand to field pledge calls as well as to promote the Master Gardener Program on air. Mahalo HPR for helping to spread the word about Oahu M.G.s!

* HPR 'tagline'

New OMGA Executive Committee

The September OMGA General Membership meeting was held on 19th September and included the election of Executive Committee members for the next two years. They are:

President: Robert Speer

Co-Vice Presidents: Terri Langley and Jessie Kojiro

Secretary: Lana Brodziak

Treasurer: Richard Karamatsu

Mahalo to all for their willingness to serve the Oahu M.G.s in these capacities.



All We Are Saying is Give Peace a Chance*



The sun shone brightly on the Peace Day event held at The UGC on Sunday, 24th September. Oahu M.G.

and UH Education Prof. Jeannie Lum coordinated this event. From the conch shell opening to the closing blessing upon the planting of a new 'Bodhi' tree for the new peace garden path at The UGC, visitors were invited to reflect and celebrate.

In 2007, the Governor of Hawaii signed H.B. 345 into law as Act 23, stating "September 21 of each year shall be known and recognized as "Peace Day" to promote peace programs, improve international relations and increase educational awareness of peace." This made Hawaii the 1st state in the U.S.A. to officially recognize the United Nation's International Day of Peace and Non-Violence, now celebrated in more than 200 countries worldwide. The day's program began with a welcome oli, chanted by Kaya Kamakau'i Patterson (an 8th grader at Halakumana School). Welcoming the visitors was new CTAHR Dean Maria Gallo. A highlight of the formal program was the presentation of Distinguished Peacemaker Awards to: 2011 Recipient: Ha'aheo Guanson and 2012 Recipient: Gigi Coquio.

Ms. Guanson stated, upon receiving her award, "this day is a reminder to continue reconciliation." Mr. Coquio whose work with "The Farm" at Makaha Elementary School has made many kids working on the farm "feel safe and loved" (in their words). Guest Speaker Maya Soetoro-Ng, spoke of "Peace Education" and "choosing to participate". Kerrie Urosevich and Laurie Faure augmented that by speaking of the Seeds of Peace and the UH Lab School Peace Gardens programs, respectively.

Visitors were entertained with music by slack key guitarist extraordinaire Jeff Peterson, the SGI Ukulele Youth Group and the Makiki Serenaders. The Garden Hula Dancers danced to "Hawaiian Lullaby" and the Waikiki Acrobatic Troupe also performed. UH Extension's Ray Uchida, Steve Nagano and Jayme Grzebnik shared with visitors the background and current undertakings of The UGC. Honolulu Rose Society members were available for questions at the newly built pergola in the new Rose Garden. In addition to tours of the gardens, visitors could sample a 'peace salad' served up by Chef Dale Thomas of KCC, enjoy a meal from the Pacific Gateway Ctr's. Lemongrass Café and sample delightful cupcakes from La Dolce Vita Cakery and Peace Day coffee, local Hawaiian grinds. Event supporters, many of whom presented various table displays, were: Soka Gakkai International, Zhou Enlai Peace Institute, World Institute of Medicine, Healing Hands of Lights, St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Hawaii Tents and Events. Volunteers through 'Olelo filmed the Peace Day Hawaii event.

"There is no path to peace, peace is the path." Mahatma Gandhi

*Lyrics to "Give Peace a Chance" by John Lennon's Plastic Ono Band (1969)

URBAN GARDEN CENTER

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Thanks to all who submitted articles and photos