

the  
**NEWS FROM**

THE URBAN GARDEN CENTER



Congratulations,  
Phillip, and  
Mahalo to Him  
and Troop 326!

## The Eagle Soars

The Xeriscape Hui has been working on a xeric demonstration garden at Loulu Landing for the past year. Earlier this year the Hui was presented with a plan by Life Scout Phillip Cyr to work towards his Eagle Scout rank by performing a service project at the Xeriscape Demo. Garden. Hui members were very open to and excited about the prospect of having Phillip and members of his Boy Scout Troop 326 complete some added features to this demo garden. Cont'd on Pg. 6



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## Mangoes and More Mangoes!

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, the Fruit Hui and other interested UGC volunteers, including members of the Grafting Hui were lead on a tour of Makaha Mangoes. Farm owner, Mark Suiso, may be a familiar face to those who graft at The UGC and who have participated in the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers' Conference. Mark has about an acre of various varieties of mango trees. Mark has continued to add mango trees to the orchard, supplementing those planted many years ago by his father.

Mark had the group taste several varieties of fresh mango. The ripeness was determined by reading of the Brix meter. Mark demonstrated to the group how to use this meter. There were so many tasty bites of sweet-tasting mangoes... Yum!

This time of the year was yielding so many ripe mangoes that the Suiso family was harvesting, at times, twice a day. Makaha Mangoes are available at certain retail outlets and they are also sold to restaurants.

Mark took time from his busy schedule to lead the group to his brother's farm. That site is growing Frankie's Red Pitaya (a Dragon Fruit in the Cactus family). According to one of the fruit tasters, this fruit was very tasty and had a much better texture than the larger Dragon Fruit.

For more information about Makaha Mangoes, check out their website:

[makahamangoes.com](http://makahamangoes.com)

Mahalo, Mark, for an informative and sweet tour!



## Kainalu Elem. School Garden Blooms Into Annual Festival

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner took place 22<sup>nd</sup> April on the grounds of Kainalu Elementary School, Kailua. Local chefs from Uahi Grill, Kailua prepared the main course using produce harvested from the school garden.

In addition to an ono dinner, visitors to the school also had a chance to tour the school garden and see the amazing work product of the children working there.

M.G.s Lisa Leydon and Dave Watson, joined by Oahu M.G. Program Coordinator Jayme Grzebik, staffed a booth and sold seeds and talked gardens to many visitors. A popular topic was Papaya.

Let's hope the school children's enthusiasm and the dedication of the school garden adult volunteers continues so that Oahu M.G.s may look forward to participating in future Annual Harvest Dinners.



## Herbs as Art

In mid-April, several Oahu M.G.s attended the dedication of the newly installed Herb Garden at Spalding House. The garden had been a project of, among others, Oahu M.G.s. The chef at the café at Spalding House will have fresh herbs to use in the kitchen. Also, this adds another aspect of 'art' for the many school groups that come to view the rotating art exhibits in the galleries and on the lawn.





## Waiau Seniors Explore UGC Orchard

Ten seniors from the Pearl City area, with their Rec. Ctr. Director, explored The UGC Orchard on 20th April. That was a Monday harvest day, however, M.G. Glenn Cordeiro took time away from harvesting to give the seniors an impromptu tour of a portion of the orchard. The group really appreciated Glenn's tour and his sharing of his knowledge of the orchard with them.

They were excited about the otaheite berries and enjoyed tasting them and learning about the acerola cherries, dwarf wi, and guavas & tasting them, too.

M.G. Mary Takeshita shared her experiences

making otaheite jam and preserves. She also made sure the group was aware of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SA @ The UGC events that are held most months. This group's enthusiasm shows that one is never too senior to enjoy the excitement of plants & gardening at The UGC.



## So Much to Learn!

At the end of May, the Xeriscape Hui traveled to Kahuku for a tour of noted plants man Angel Ramos' garden/nursery. Angel has an extensive collection of plants that just love the dry, hot climate of that area. He shared his vast knowledge of plants, especially succulents, and the group was inspired by the enthusiasm Angel has for plants. Mahalo!

## A Barrel of Fun @ The UGC

M.G. Glenn Cordeiro gave an interactive and thorough demonstration of making a rain barrel at the 11<sup>th</sup> April SSAG event at The UGC. The visitors were shown the materials, in detail, which would be needed to make their own rain barrel. Glenn also answered numerous questions throughout the class.

Home gardeners wishing to utilize nature's irrigation system were given a primer on the subject that will, hopefully, encourage them to set up a rain barrel for use in their home gardens.



## Beneath The Magnificent Ko'olau Mountains

The UGC Ohana organized a field trip to The Plant Place Nursery in Waimanalo on 18<sup>th</sup> April. The nursery site offers a spectacular view of the Ko'olau Mountains. More than a dozen UGC volunteers and were lead on a tour of the nursery by the co-owner.



The nursery offers a selection of ornamentals, fruit trees, bedding plants as well as some Hawaiian native plants. We were also offered a look at some of the landscaping that the owners established at the site, done in an Eastern-style. A lunch at the Olomana Golf Links restaurant followed. Mahalo to the Ohana for this informative plant trip.



Karen S. & Mary T. working on a Sr. Food Drive.  
“UGC volunteers also lend their help to community efforts.”

## The Eagle Soars (cont'd from page 1)

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Phillip had to follow BSA protocol and submit a written plan to the BSA Honolulu Council for approval. He worked with Hui Co-coordinators Barbara Alexander & Kathy Ano to determine a list of priorities for the site and determined materials needed and other resources need. He was also assisted through this process by Scout Troop 326 Co-leader & Oahu M.G. Emeritus Brian Cyr (A.K.A. 'Dad'). Phillip drew up a work plan that included pre-work day items and then a detailed workday plan that included work steps for three teams of scouts and a team of Hui members. Philip was the overall supervisor (as well as a worker) for this project.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> March, Phillip and his crew of fellow scouts & adult volunteers & Xeriscape Hui members assembled at The UGC and proceeded to set out boulders, add mulch/cinders to the planting mound, laid out a path that circled the demo. garden and installed pavers along the path and laid paver observational pads at two points at the demo. garden, as well as a pad for a seating area with bench. These paved pads will serve as assembly points when the Hui conducts tours later this year of the demo. garden. The teams also performed several other tasks, which overall, have given visitors to The UGC an inviting area to study xeric plants.

Phillip's project has, we are happy to report, lead to his achieving his rank of Eagle Scout. The Xeriscape Hui is so pleased with Phillip's achievement and the results of his project at the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden.

## The Art of Grafting



Thirty-one participants paid to attend the “Art of Grafting” workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> May at The UGC’s SSAG. M.G. Richard Karamatsu, Coordinator of the Grafting Hui and several Hui members did an outstanding job of presenting this interesting and challenging subject to the public. Some members of the Hui also audited the class.

Plants used for the grafting demo. and the hands-on grafting by the class were mainly avocado, but also some citrus and hibiscus rootstock.

This class was also a learning experience for the Grafting Hui who, armed with the responses from several class evaluations, will conduct a new and improved class at some future date! Participants completing the class survey rated this class “excellent”.

Four participants also expressed an interest in future volunteering at The UGC. Mahalo to the Grafting Hui for an outstanding introduction to the art of grafting and for encouraging future involvement with The UGC.

## 2015 Master Gardener Class Presentation Session

Culminating their 16 week training period, this year's Master Gardener Intern class provided several presentations and written reports on their assigned efforts with the All American Selection ("AAS") Program.

Specifically, the interns were tasked to observe and report about the individual AAS plants that were grown or attempted to grow. They used pictorial displays and informative charts to discuss problems encountered such as disease and pests and if their planting was considered successful. This project encouraged resource research and will benefit the interns for assisting on the MG Helpline. NOTE: For those interested, the CTAHR/UGC Organizational Charts were included in the May/June, 2014 "News From The UGC" Newsletter. Check the VMS for this issue.



### **The Oahu M.G. Advisory Board Wants You!**

The O.M.G. Advisory Board has been meeting monthly to discuss issues relevant to Master Gardener activities. Committees have been formed to address several of these issues. O.M.G. Hui present monthly updates on their activities.

M.G.s Bob Speer has acted as Facilitator, Paul Marshall as Note taker and Anna Yorba as treasurer. M.G.s for these tasks are being sought as well new committee members.

This Organization draws strength and dynamism from its members. Please consider participating and help enrich everyone's Oahu M.G. experience. As Hawaii's students have said "Hiki No" ...Can do!

Thanks to all who submitted photos, articles & information. We appreciate all who contribute to sharing their volunteer activities with other volunteers at The UGC.

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Newsletter Coordinators