

the  
**News From**

The Urban Garden

**Gardens for Dry  
 Times**

The Xeriscape Hui has completed several projects at The UGC that visitors can see for ideas on growing plants preferring drier conditions; in-ground or in containers. There are succulents in containers near the Main Office, succulents in bowls along George Way, xeric fruit trees in large containers near the Vine Arbor, Hawaiian Natives in containers near the Gazebo and succulent-formed ‘critters’ in bowls in the Alika Rabbit Garden. The major, multi-year project undertaken by the Hui has been the Xeriscape Display Garden at Loulu Landing; planted primarily with Hawaiian Natives. New this year: 3 new Loulu Palms, other trees and shrubs and a border of arbor stone. Once you have wandered through Loulu Landing’s display, rest awhile on the newly refurbished bench, the handiwork of Emeritus M.G. Glenn Cordeiro. This display garden exists due to hardworking Hui members, other UGC volunteers & M.G.s, Boy Scout Troop 326 and the Ag. Techs.



**Wander Through The UGC &  
 Then Rest Awhile**

Over 25 plus years, the volunteers, M.G.s and Staff of The Urban Garden Center have created an interesting display for the O’ahu home gardener to visit. These small gardens within The UGC are living examples from which the home gardener can take inspiration.

In this issue of the “News From The UGC”, we share with you all a photo sample of these gardens, along with news of various activities from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2015.

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## Small Gardens @ The UGC

Take a stroll through the UGC

### Pizza Garden

The Pizza Garden was the first garden completed and features plants found on a pizza. It measures 15 ft. across and was renovated in 2015.

### Hawaiian Ecosystem Garden

The garden contains coastal, mesic and dry land plants, the three primary ecosystems in this garden. The boundaries are not well defined and the garden is currently under renovation.

### Idea Garden

The Idea Garden is a sample of what gardeners can grow on O'ahu: UH varieties of, for example, cucumbers, soybeans or lettuce. Hard to find cultivars of different vegetable are grown seasonally. Various containers and beds are on display.

### Alika Rabbit Garden

This interactive garden is adapted from The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter. It includes some unusual ornamental plants, a variety of vegetables, along with garden art, structures, designs and gardening techniques.







## UGC Grafting Hui 2016

Since its inception, the Grafting Hui has attracted much interest. This speaks to the interest of the O'ahu gardening community's desire to learn and grow!

The primary purpose of the Hui is to support The UGC by: giving volunteers/M.G.s an opportunity to learn & practice the art of grafting & other propagation techniques, generating funds for The UGC via The UGC Ohana's 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday plant sales of grafted & other propagated plants and admission fees to "Art of Grafting" and "Fertilizing Your Plants" classes at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at the Garden in March and April respectively, providing outreach to the O'ahu gardening community via classes and demonstrations and providing free demo classes to the UGC volunteers and M.G.s, as requested. To meet the increased demand, the Grafting Hui meets regularly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday and, as plants flush and grafting opportunities allow, other times of the month in 2016.

Active volunteers at The Urban Garden Center, including M.G.s, are welcome to join, learn, and participate with the UGC Grafting Hui. The expectation is that each member of the UGC Grafting Hui puts in at least 10 – 15 hours during the year in the Hui grafting, propagation, maintenance, and educational activities. Interested volunteers should email Richard Karamatsu at [rkaramatsu34@gmail.com](mailto:rkaramatsu34@gmail.com). and cc Steve Oshiro at [steveo94357@gmail.com](mailto:steveo94357@gmail.com).

## Helpline Office Tutorial



M.G. Todd LaVine ran a three-hour M.G. Helpline Class on Friday 8 Jan. attended by 20 M.G.s. The goal of the session was to encourage M.G.s and instill confidence in order to staff the helpline.

During the session, the M.G.s reviewed Helpline Office procedures for about 30 minutes. Then they studied several requests for information submitted by the public on gardening issues. Finally, Desmond Ogata, UH Plant Disease Pathologist discussed plant diseases and fielded many questions from the group.

Hope to see inspired M.G.s in the Helpline Office in the future.

*"Pictured: E.M.G. Robert Seronio, help-line Maestro"*

## Display Gardens @ The UGC

### Rose Garden 2016 Renovation

The Honolulu Rose Garden Society volunteers and The UGC Rose Hui members have been hard at work in the Rose Garden. Near year-end 2015, old roses were taken out and dozens of new, bare root roses were planted in newly created rose beds. We all look forward to the new blooms as the warm sun encourages the new growth.



### Medicinal Botanical Hui Garden

The Medicinal Botanical quadrant of the Herb Garden is currently under renovation. The path is being reconstructed and new medical plants are being propagated. The Hui is focused on supporting each other, working to renovate the garden and developing knowledge of medicinal botanicals via informal discussions and fabulous potlucks. Join the Hui on the 2<sup>nd</sup> SA of each month, as well as working on other Hui activities MO, WE, TH and FR ea. month. Contact Coordinator M.G. Susannah Reid or M.G. Lana Brodziak & check the VMS for info.



### All American Selection Team 2016

The All American Selection (AAS) Team for 2016 is working in close collaboration with Jayme and Steve. The AAS Team members currently are: Aryana C. -Admin, Lee Ann Y. - Design & Implementation, Brandon Y. -Propagator, Jan N. - Admin support. This year our team has taken on the challenge of the National AAS display gardens.

inviting garden and yet be

able to be fluid enough to allow future Master Gardener's room to design within their own creative talents. Lee Ann & Aryana conferred on that fluid design plan with Jayme & Steve and Aryana created a schematic reflecting our discussions.

The goal of The UGC AAS Team is to create an attractive and Steve N. and Richard F., with the team of Ag. Techs are helping to put the plan into place for the hardscape.

## Wander Through The UGC

As all gardeners realize, once a garden is created, it needs to be maintained and, perhaps, renovated or altered over time. These small gardens are waiting for helping hands to guide them through the next 25 years. As one wanders through The UGC, pick a project with which to volunteer. M.G.s can see a complete listing of projects on the VMS. Volunteers are welcome to participate with those projects also, as well as the various other small gardens within The UGC. See the bulletin board in the Field Office for a list of all garden displays requiring volunteer assistance at The UGC.

The Sprouts meet weekly for plant propagation and provide an ideal forum from which to learn. The various M.G. Hui are another source from which to learn. The opportunities are limited only by one's time and imagination!

Spend some time wandering the display gardens at The UGC. Do consider volunteering to work on one. Then as you enter the far reaches of The UGC, take a rest on the renovated garden bench at Loulu Landing and savor the memory of all you have seen.

## Hawai'i Foodbank Loves UGC Deposits

The Fruit Hui has been harvesting fruits from The UGC Orchard and donating the fruits to the Hawai'i Foodbank on a regular basis since 2012.

The HI Foodbank is a non-profit organization that collects, salvages and distributes grocery

and household items to other non-profits. Included in these recipient organizations is KEY Project,

Susannah Wesley Community Ctr., Shriners Hospitals for Children Honolulu and The Food Basket, Inc. These organizations distribute the food and other items free of charge to the unemployed, homeless, elderly, young, disabled, mentally and physically challenged and working poor.

According to a 2014 report by Feeding America, 287,000 different people benefit from this food/other distribution. That is approximately 1 for every 5 of the population here.

Looking at it from another perspective, in January 2016, the HI Foodbank distributed over 1 million pounds of food.

During 2015, the Fruit Hui donated 7230 pounds of fruit to the Foodbank! The HI Foodbank and its recipients are most grateful.

Additionally, the Fruit Hui is maintaining the orchard and it is looking healthier, as well as being an abundant fruit producer. Join in for this worthwhile and rewarding activity.

Mahalo, Fruit Hui!





## Salt & Pepper is so Passé!

A long-time component of the 4 quadrants within the 'Herb Garden' is the edible herbs quadrant. Coordinator of this quadrant is Emeritus M.G. Amy Teves. Join Amy and the other volunteers in the edible quadrant of the Herb Garden on FR mornings.

This winter, Amy has been starting a large variety of herbs (& veggies.) at her home: Italian parsley, curly parsley, Toscana and curly kale, broccoli, tomato, peppers mostly sweet varieties and some hot, nasturtiums, pollinator flower mix, marjoram, fennel, eggplant (Thai and long purple), chervil, sunflowers, green onions and... Most of those plants will be offered for sale at a SSAG. Check it out!

Amy shares her gardening insights on herbs as well as veggies. With those who strive to 'grow their own'.

Advice From Amy:

It is a warmer than usual year. Plant cool season crops starting in the fall October through March. Onions, garlic (plant Oct-Nov after cold stratification), Broccoli, kale, beets, carrots, peas, cilantro, chervil, fennel, parsley, and most of the lettuce and greens taste better and don't bolt as easily in the cooler weather. Because it has been warmer than usual, tomatoes (min 50 degrees F) and most peppers (68 degrees F) can be planted when the minimum temperatures are met. As of 1<sup>st</sup> of March, you can start planting the warm season crops: beans, corn, tomatoes, sunflowers, hot peppers, squash and herbs with large leaves like basil, herbs with very small leaves & gray-green leaves like lavender, and oregano, sage, thyme, marjoram, borage, and

dill. You can grow some cool season plants if you live at the higher elevations where it is cooler and you can provide afternoon shade and adequate water. Prepare the soil by adding 4-6 inches of compost and fertilizer. Water deeply and mulch well to conserve moisture at least 4-6 weeks before planting if you can. June-August harvest, cover and mulch the garden. Head for the beach and give the garden (& yourself!) a rest.

## Vertical Garden Wall Challenge

The Vertical Garden Wall began as a M.G. Class Project. Since that beginning, M.G.s Merita Kimball and Jan Pappas have continued to work with this concept. Merita's husband had designed some nice planter boxes and Merita & Jan refurbished and replanted both walls; but twice the sprinkling system has failed and killed all the plants. They are reluctant to plant again since neither is out there on a daily basis.

Fortunately, a bunch of Cosmos and a hardy 'Ilima plant are doing well on the corner, and a few succulents are hanging in there in the planter boxes. Jan may try to start some plants at home and bring them down for another try. Mahalo to Merita and Jan for their work on this. Anyone interested in helping with this project, especially with the irrigation set up?



## *Did ever grow anything in the Garden of your Mind? \**



Mahalo to all the contributors/photographers who have shared interesting projects with The UGC gardening community this past five years. Kathy and Barbara have enjoyed putting out this "News From The UGC" newsletter. Our hope was to not only chronicle and share the on-going projects, but also to pique the interest of those in this gardening community that are still searching for an avenue to explore/ a way to volunteer.

Sharing is a most important feature of gardening. We so appreciate the updates that folks have shared with us. At the same time, it has been rather frustrating not to hear from more of you that we know are contributing to this UGC gardening community in one fashion or another.

We now feel that it is time to pass along this newsletter project to someone else. *Mahalo and Good Luck.*

\* Let's ponder an excerpt from a song that the late Mr. Rogers sang. We have a wonderful gardening resource in The UGC, so after we think, we can literally grow!

*Garden of Your Mind*

*Did ever grow anything in the Garden of your Mind?*

*You can grow ideas*

*In the Garden of your mind*

*It's good to be curious about many things*

*You can think about things and make believe*

*All you have to do is think*

*And they'll grow*

