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**NEWS FROM**

THE URBAN GARDEN CENTER



## **I Think That I Shall Never See a Poem Lovely As a Tree\***

The August SSAG saw members from the Aloha Arborist Association (“AAA”) giving home gardeners a workshop on fruit tree care. This workshop was so popular, that a 2<sup>nd</sup> venue had to be set up for all the interested gardeners.

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## Busy Bees!



U-H graduate student Scott Nakaido is teaching the new bee class. He is the contact with the U-H Bee Project and works with Dr Villalobos (U-H, Manoa) on the surveillance and management of the varoa mite.

Scott has been giving the Bee Hui advance training on the first Saturday inspections of the hives. There were only 15 slots in the bee class and most of them were filled with 2015 M.G. Interns. The class will be meeting once a month for the next six months.

The classes are on Saturday and each class lesson is followed by hands-on practice working in the bee yard. The way the class was set up was with no commitment required. The class could work on getting their own hives and, if they want, they can join the Bee Hui. They can drop out of the class at any time. Unfortunately, no one can drop in.

Scott did say that anyone who was allergic to bee stings could not be in the bee class or the Bee Hui since, if they intended to work with the bees, they will have to expect that at some point in time they are going to get stung as no bee suit or glove is 100% sting proof.

M.G.s Laura Mizumoto, Rick Chavez, and Amy Teves have been training with M.G. Ann Tanaka from the Bee Hui for a few months. Laura has been training for over a year, at this point.

Scott recommended that the students also participate in the honey harvest. The Bee Hui harvests honey and sells it @ The UGC. Eventually the Bee Hui may do outreach and teach future classes. They have had requests but no one is comfortable enough yet to give classes.

Late this summer, the students were treated to a rare sight. When they went out to the hives, the class 'test' was to light the smokers. When they got to the bee yard the 'Ilima hive was in the process of swarming. So they got to watch the bees as they circled around the hive like a tornado and then watched as they settled on some mulberry shrubs about 25 ft. away.

Such is the life of busy bees. We thank them for what they do for our gardens @ The UGC! Mahalo to those training to become beekeepers and future monitors of the health of these bees.

Submitted by Amy Teves



## Students Explore Their Environment

On the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2015, The UGC hosted a Disney-Foundation-funded 4-H Day Camp for students who were off on their fall break. Attending were 79 students from the Kalihi, Kapolei and Mililani YMCA Programs as well as students from P.A.C.T. programs at Puuwai Momi Housing and Kuhio Park Terrace.

The theme of the day camp was: “Exploring Your Environment”. Each of the three days, the students were divided into two smaller groups and began the day with a “Welcome!” in the Soka Peace Garden. They then spent the remainder of the day in ‘workshops’ learning about sensory plantings, xeriscape plantings and beneficial critters in the garden.

Students spent time in the Sensory Garden, blindfolded, and challenged to I.D. what they were sensing. Feeling hungry, the students next visited the Pizza Garden and then went to the Classroom to prepare for a pizza lunch. The Soka Peace Garden boulders made fine dining tables/chairs from which the students enjoyed their lunches. After lunch, the students learned what a xeriscape garden is all about and then had an opportunity to create a mini-xeriscape garden.

They got to select from various water-conserving plants and plant them in small dish gardens. Fingers-crossed these dish gardens will thrive under their care.

Gardens cannot exist without visits from friendly critters and the students learned about the important role that bees play in our gardens. These fortunate students also got to sample honey from the bee hives @ The UGC!

Lastly, the students were asked to ‘Take Note of Nature’ and apply that to their homes, as well as considering ‘Environmental Ethics’. There was an evaluation to see what the students had absorbed during their full day @ The UGC. The students were definitely enthusiastic as they made their way from one activity to the next.

4-H coordinators of this event will be conducting their own evaluation of the Day Camp. Perhaps there will be more in the future? Mahalo to the U-H Bee Program folks, The UGC’s Xeriscape Hui, the F.C.E. ladies and Rose S. for coordinating and leading the various activities for this Day Camp.

We all hope that the environmental awareness discussed with the students in this Day Camp will become a part of their lives.





## Waimanalo Learning Center Now Open for Business!

The Waimanalo Learning Center ('WLC') is located at the Waimanalo Research Station. The WLC is an educational outreach venue that is an addition to the University Research that is conducted there. CTAHR's goal is to host public educational outreach events at this Station. UH M.G.s will assist in hosting a "Got a Plant Question Booth" or docent tours at Public Field Days.

To date, we have had a handful of UH M.G.s on O'ahu attend our Advanced Training Sessions at WLC. Master Gardeners attending have been responsible for sharing the information they learned through a working document that will become a Docent Manual for the WLC. UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service Stations are not open to the Public daily, due to the fact that research is being conducted on these sites and there is not a main office for Visitor check-in. M.G. Volunteers have been asked to help to prepare for this Station to be open on Public Field Days so that we can offer a "Got a

Plant Question Booth" or docent tours. Unless an official M.G. event is posted on the VMS, M.G.s and the public are to ask Jayme about visiting this property. Currently, UH M.G.s are only invited on the Station upon official Master Gardener events posted on the VMS and for Public Field Days coordinated by CTAHR Specialists and Researchers. Thank you to those UH M.G.s that have attended and contributed to the docent manual working draft. Please tune into the VMS to future training dates, Public Field Days or docent trainings at the WLC.

The Station Manager, Roger, who lives on property with his family, kindly asks that all M.G. Volunteers treat the Station with this respect and contact Jayme prior to going onto the property.

Submitted by Jayme Grzebik

## SSAG Workshops Popular with the Gardening Public

The O'ahu gardening public continues to come to the informative workshops offered at the SSAG monthly events. In July, M.G. Kathy Ano led a session on 'Fruit Fly Suppression', which entailed a lively round of Q&A. In September, a wet Saturday did not dampen the enthusiasm of the attendees at the SSAG grafting workshop. M.G. Steve Oshiro led the popular workshop, assisted by the dedicated members of the Grafting Hui. The efforts of those leading and coordinating these workshops continue to assist the O'ahu gardening public. Mahalo also to those that conduct in-the-garden demonstrations for the gardening public; ranging from soil prep. to managing worm bins.



## Farewell to Long-time UGC Volunteer

Long-time volunteer, Onorio “Nory” Balantac, passed away in September 2015. He worked daily in the plots ‘behind’ the Herb Garden with his fellow gardening enthusiast volunteers.

Please see the article on Nory in the May-June, 2012 “News From The UGC” newsletter (available on the VMS, as well as posted on the bulletin board in the Field Office).

His smiling face will be missed.



## Volunteering at the Halawa Xeric Plant Sale

The Halawa Xeriscape Garden holds an annual “Xeric Plant Sale” with demonstrations/ activities in August. This year, there was a Plant Doc Booth, staffed by M.G.s. M.G. Dave Watson shared some questions from gardeners: “I just bought this cute little succulent, how should I grow it?” “I live in Manoa, will this do well there?”. There were opportunities for teaching and a lot of helping folks care for these dry-land babies.

Submitted by Dave Watson

## M.G.s Paul and Todd Coordinated a Post-tour M.G. Lunch at Pearl Harbor.



## Hard Working F.C.E Ladies Have Fun Too!

## I Think That I Shall Never See a Poem Lovely as a Tree\*

(Cont'd from page 1)

Jay Zambo, Pres. of the AAA & G.M. of Aloha Arbor Care, and arborists, Steve Connelly from HECO and Dudley Hubert, owner of Trees of the Tropics, conducted an excellent step-by-step workshop, to the overflow crowd, on the appropriate care of fruit trees, beginning with the purchase of your fruit tree. Arborist Steve Nimz conducted the workshop to those attending in the Classroom and then led interested folks into The UGC orchard to demonstrate. Additionally, Arborist Consultant Carol Kwan conducted a Tree Doc Booth on-site.

If a tree with good form is purchased, it will not be necessary to do much, if any, pruning for some time. However, twisted and other distortions in the form can be removed at any time. The key to a healthy and productive fruit tree is proper care on a regular basis. Appropriate pruning when a tree is young will help the tree develop with strong structure and desirable form. An added benefit is that the tree will require less corrective pruning later in life.

One particular “no-no!” that was emphasized in the workshop is the detrimental and improper topping of trees. This practice stresses the tree, causes decay and creates hazards, among other detriments. There are alternative techniques that can be used but, most importantly, choosing an appropriate tree for its new home is critical.

There are good pruning techniques but unfortunately, as illustrated by attendees at this workshop, some folks have ‘inherited’ trees that were subjected to improper pruning. Some species adapt and can recover better. A general rule about improper pruning mentioned at the workshop: The faster a tree grows/softer the wood- those are most susceptible to damage/death from improper pruning. The slower the tree grows/dark wood- those are more resistant to bad pruning.

Just as Sly & The Family Stone said “Different strokes for

different folks”, so it is with trees. While there are general rules for developing a strong tree with good form and proper practices for planting and caring for your tree, some of these general rules may not apply in the tropics.

This is especially relevant since the annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway is just a few weeks away. While HECO will have some of their arborists and other arborists may volunteer at this event, M.G.s volunteering at this event can really help the fortunate person taking home their new tree. There will be hand out materials for the new tree owners. Also, encourage those new owners to utilize the CTAHR website. There they will find research-based papers on a variety of trees and information pertinent to caring for those trees in Hawaii.

Mahalo to the arborists for sharing valuable information on tree care at this SSAG event. Happy trees make for happy gardeners and a better environment!

\* Poem by Joyce Kilmer



## M.G. Certification Celebration

On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015, a celebration of the certification of the 2014 M.G. Class Interns, as well as the re-certification of others and naming of Emeritus M.G.s, was held in the Rose Garden at The UGC.

The lovely evening was made so delightful by the buffet prepared by Chef Dale Thomas, KCC Culinary Instructor and Hale Koa Chef. The Rose Garden pavilion was beautifully decorated and all enjoyed the ono food and lovely roses in the garden. Of the 2014 M.G. Class of @ 40 students, the following 24 Interns achieved their volunteer hour commitment and became certified. Congratulations to:

Jeff Bailey, Quintin Bray, Aryana Channe, Jane Duncan, Dan Falardeau, Debra Gray, Eric Griffin, Priscilla Growney, Magaly Lainez, Sarah Leone, Arlene Liao, Glee Logsdon, Vanessa Lum, Paul Marshall, Barb Morgan, Jan Nadamoto, Jan Pappas, Bethany Porter, Kathryn Sunada, Mel Sunada, Patrice Thomas, David Watson, Jennifer Welch, Lee Ann Yuen

Family and friends also attended and shared in the camaraderie that evening efforts made this evening so special.



### 2015 Emeritus Master Gardeners Feted at June M.G. Celebration

The following dedicated M.G.s from the 2010 M.G. Class have all attained Emeritus status. This status is conveyed when a M.G. has performed the required volunteer hour commitment for five years.

Congratulations! Rick Chavez, Glenn Cordeiro, Richard Karamatsu, Bob Leinau, Jeannie Lum, Laura Mizumoto, Diane Moses and Jack Sharpsteen

**ALOHA to M.G. Anna Yorba who will be leaving us for the mainland at the end of October. She has been instrumental in a variety of projects at The UGC. She served as the President of the O.M.G.A, Treasurer of the A.B, served on several working committees, and provided plans for several gardens at The UGC.**

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

Barbara Alexander [ba@ladybuglan.com](mailto:ba@ladybuglan.com) & Catherine Ano [kthy\\_sahli@yahoo.com](mailto:kthy_sahli@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Coordinators