



NEWS FROM

THE URBAN GARDEN CENTER



VOL 18

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NEW MASTER GARDENER CLASS GRADUATES

Welcome new interns to the Oahu Master Gardeners!

Irene Irons, Stacy Holdbrook, Aleks Durupan, Zac Glade, Larry Oswald, Penny Hirata, Linda Inouye, Steve Oshiro, Merita Kimball, Dorothy Mulkern, Lynn Mayekawa, Iris Fukunaga, Scott Cole, Sue Vanderhoofven, Stacy Holbrook, Todd La Vine, Jo-Ann Maeda, Carolyn Naun, Tiana Bolosan, MaxRol Brister Thomas, Karen Sept, Gloria Yau, George West, Philip Vanderhoofven, Momi Music, Jadine Lee, Keti Kamalani, Lewllyn Kamalani.



Special Guest Dr. Carl Evensen, CTAHR Associate Dean & Director of Extension

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MAY SSAG IS LEI DAY

Ladies of the Hui O' Makani Windward Oahu FCE Council put on a very educational and fun workshop on SSAG May 11 teaching children, women, and some men the techniques of haku lei wristlet and ti leaf lei making. Some flowers and ferns were gathered at UGC on Friday. They were very busy all morning long and the resulting leis and wristlets were beautiful. The Oahu Urban Garden Ohana sponsored the SSAG May 11 featuring a grafting class and

a hands on haku lei wristlet and ti leaf lei making. The grafting class was taught by OMG's Richard Karamatsu, Wally Kaniaupio Jr., George Kubota, and Dr. Ken Takeda. Lunch was provided by the Ohana with the help of Roger Olegario, who ordered the catering, and Aileen Omori, and Roxy Fujiwara. Leah Rothbaum, Jean Benfer, and Stanley Yomen did a good job with the parking. Mahalo to the Thursday Sprouts for setting up and pricing all the

plants. Nory Balantac donated daikon from his garden for the plant sale. On May 14, Nory Balantac celebrated his 88th birthday. This is a significant milestone in oriental culture. Happy Birthday, Nory! He has been a longtime volunteer. Nory has a "green thumb" and successfully grows all kinds of veggies in the Idea Garden.

GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES SERIES FINALE

Designated Emeritus M.G.s Mhel and Brian Cyr conducted the final class in the "Grow Your Own Groceries" series sponsored by the O'ahu Resource Conservation & Development Council in Kunia on 1st June, 2013. The topic of this class was Organic Pest Control and Pest ID. The class included

in-the-ground demonstrations and hands-on experiences by the 26 class participants. The participants received an excellent and comprehensive handout prepared by the Cyrs.

The participants were divided into three groups and they were tested on hands- on pest

ID and how to control the pest using Integrated Pest Management.

Mahalo, Brian and Mhel for educating the gardening public with this "up close and personal" approach to gardening



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NEW MGS GRADUATE



Newly Certified M.G.s

The Master Gardener program on O'ahu completed another training class on May 31, 2013. 27 trainees completed the required classes and tests. The class used the University of California MG Handbook for reference and created an online "Cohort" page where all local resources, CTAHR publications and related materials were compiled. You can see an example of what was compiled by visiting: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/uhtm/Oahu/2013-cohort.aspx>

In addition to tests, the Trainees were asked to complete a group project. They presented their projects to each other and to Veteran Master Gardeners on the last day of class. The 2013 project topics were Edible Xeriscape Container Gardening, Vertical Wall Garden, Punahou Sustainability Day

Project, Solar-powered Aquaponics, LICH Native Plants Poster, and Edible Garden Design. The goal of all projects was to engage Trainees in the UGC Gardens, to work with Veteran M.G.s and to learn by getting dirty! All projects will be uploaded to the Cohort page, to share with you. We are truly humbled by the caliber of presentations from this 2013 Training Class.

The Interns and Veterans were treated to a luncheon provided by the Oahu M.G. Veterans Assn. During the luncheon, several M.G.s were honored and achieved the M.G. Emeritus designation. Several other M.G.s were awarded certificates by the O.M.G.A. for local businesses for special categories of achievement. Congratulations!

M.G. Glenn Cordeiro

presented M.G. Jan Dill a farewell gift of a handcrafted koa box. Jan is returning to live on the Mainland. Mahalo for her service while on Oahu.

Special Guest Dr. Carl Evensen, CTAHR Associate Dean & Director of Extension. Dr. Evensen thanked M.G.s for their continued support providing research based information generated in CTAHR to the gardening public.

SPECIAL AWARDS



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AWARDS

During the Graduation/ M.G. luncheon in May the following M.G.s received these awards:

Master Gardener Special Award winners for 2012-13

Most hours served vets: Bob Speer & Glenn Cordeiro

Most hours served interns: Betty Mowbray & Merita Kimbell

Most hour helpline vet: Robert Seronio

Most hours helpline intern: Bill Clark

They each received a gift card to local retailer City Mill for \$10.

Newly Designated Emeritus Master Gardeners for 2012-2013:

Brian Cyr, Imelda ('Mhel') Cyr, Phyllis Fong, Susanna Reid, Stanley Yomen, Anna Yorba

Mahalo for your dedicated volunteerism!

CALLING ALL MASTER GARDENERS to VOLUNTEER

As each new class begins the Master Gardener Training Program, the participants are asked to make a commitment to perform volunteer duties in fulfillment of the Master

Gardener Program mission. In May, after months of training by dedicated instructors, the participants, having fulfilled class requirements, become "Trainee Master Gardeners".

No sooner do they heave a huge sigh of relief, they then begin their volunteer activities. The first year after graduation, the focus of these Trainee M.G.s is primarily the Helpline. Hours spent volunteering is entered into the Oahu Master Gardener Hours Log ('OMG Hours Log').

Every year, the Executive Committee of the Oahu Master Gardener Ass'n. ('OMGA') and Jayme Grzebik update each M.G.s volunteer hours as recorded in the OMG Hours Log by June. If there is no record of volunteer activities, every effort is made to contact M.G.s to let them know they are important to the program and to send any hours logged so that these hours can be recorded.

Those that contributed 1-50 hours are asked if they would like "Pending" status, which means that they are given an extension until August to complete their commitment. Once 40 hours (for Veteran M.G.s) or 50 hours (for Interns/Trainees) is completed, they start to log hours towards Certification for the next year. After 5 years of Certification, Emeritus Status is awarded,

and M.G.s become a "Certified UH M.G." for life!

All M.G.s are encouraged to participate in the scheduled activities and if there is an opportunity to volunteer beyond those scheduled activities, M.G.s are asked to e-mail Jayme a description of the activity so that it can be logged for Certification hours. As long as the activity meets the mission of the UH M.G. program, the M.G. formally represents themselves as an M.G. volunteer (wear official nametag, hand out Helpline Cards, or give formal presentation to the group about the UH M.G. program) and the M.G. is not acting in a paid position, we are happy to have M.G.s volunteering in our local community.

Please join your fellow M.G.s in volunteering to assist the gardening public!

Thank You For All You Do!

Jayme Grzebik



During the month of May, The Organic Hui visited the campus of Kapiolani Community College (KCC). Volunteer Moriso Teraoka lead a tour of the cacti garden he initiated, as well as the vegetable gardens he started in containers originally used to transport fresh fish. Sam Camp of KCC helped with the tour. All had an intimate look at this garden and received gardening tips/ideas.

June found the Organic Hui on the road to Kamaaina Nursery in Waialua. Tina Jensen and Bernie Moriaz own Kamaaina Land Plant Nursery. Bernie is also a Landscape Designer and Tina does amazing things with interior plants and orchids. They also own and operate a farm that grows organically local produce including citrus (tangerines, tangelos, lime, lemons, oranges, grapefruit), lychee, papaya, bananas, avocado, mango, star fruit & fig, and herbs. Members of the Hui helped harvest some lychee on this visit!

LCC STUDENTS LEARNING AT THE UGC

Last semester, Nicky Davison of U-H ran a lab at The UGC for LCC's "Intro. to Organic Agriculture" class. Students planted test plots in the All-American Display Garden field as well as learning the benefits of composting.

The eight students wrapped up a semester of labs at The UGC in May. As part of their class they had to plant a 50 ft sq. plot and build and monitor 2 compost piles. Students were tasked with planting crops representative of Solanaceae, Curcubit, Legume and Brassica plant families and combining those with suitable companion plants to help with crop growth and pest/disease issues. Students were offered a selection of AAS seeds to include in their plots and planted Jasper tomato, 2 varieties of watermelon and marigolds, alongside other crops from UH seeds. There were successes and failures, but at their final May lab students were able to utilize the new classroom kitchen oven and fresh produce from their plots to bake their own (from scratch) pizzas!

We hope these students are enthused from their hands-on experiences at The UGC and continue their agricultural studies.



NEW SUCCESSES IN THE UGC ORCHARD

M.G.s Candice Tan and Robert Seronio planted some new Lilikoi vines in The UGC Orchard some time ago. Candice started them at home using seeds from Dr. Skip Bittenbender's purple lilikoi Hybrid plants that were sampled during his Tropical Fruits class at UH. Lilikoi used to grow there and they were trying to start some up again.

They arranged for irrigation (which was installed by Richard Fisher), applied some vermacast and left them alone. The weeds are ruthless out there. They've removed them a couple of times, but they come back with a vengeance.

Even given these challenges, the vines have an abundance of fruit this summer. When will there be a taste test?!

HALAWA XERISCAPE GARDEN



Honolulu Magazine has recognized the Halawa Xeriscape Garden (“HXG”) in its Fitness and Outdoors category in the ‘Best of Honolulu 2013’ issue. M.G. Diane Moses, an employee with the Board of Water Supply, is integrally involved with the operations of the ‘HXG’. Congratulations, Diane!

For those who have not yet visited the HXG, please plan a trip. The garden offers examples of water-wise gardening and sponsors special classes. Mark your calendars: this August 3rd is the Annual Plant Sale at HXG. See: <http://www.hbws.org/cssweb/display.cfm?sid=2128>

Plan to visit and see the wide array of water-saving plants that you can recommend to Oahu’s home gardeners.

VOLUNTEERS EXPERIENCE OTHER OAHU GARDEN OPERATIONS

On Saturday, June 22, UGC and Master Gardener volunteers enjoyed a field trip to Mari’s Gardens, Na Mea Kupono Lo’i Kalo, and Kahuku Farms.

At Mari’s Gardens, the aquaponics tour focused on this sustainable method of gardening. Different systems and experiments with various crops were presented. It was interesting to note that swide, a type of fish, is being tested for commercial production. Some say it’s better tasting than mahimahi.

A lo’i at Na Mea Kupono in

Waialua was examined after the guide’s review of kalo in Hawaii’s history and culture.

The group then went on to Kahuku Farms where everyone boarded a tractor pulled wagon for a 45 minute guided tour of the family farm. Papayas, bananas, Japanese eggplants, and other fruits and veggies were featured. The farm to table concept was carried out by a delicious lunch of vegetarian panini, pizza, salad, and mango ice tea at the Farm Café.

Roxane Fujiwara and Roger Olegario made all the arrangements and the Oahu

Urban Garden Ohana sponsored the admissions to the above sites.

COMMENTS FROM THE NEW M.G. INTERNS

HELPLINE PHOBIA? NO WORRIES!

Upon completing the classroom portion of Master Gardener training, I'm pretty sure there was some anxiety among the newest trainees preparing to man the helpline.

Sure, we had gone through a fairly rigorous set of classes but we all knew it was just the tip of the iceberg. The key for me turned out to be teaming up with knowledgeable experts such as Jean Benfer and Bob Seronio. I was very surprised how fast the 3 hours passed; answering the phone, responding to e-mails and gleaning valuable information from other experienced cadre nearby.

I did learn to say, "I don't know, but I'll look it up" more than a few times, but I'm confident I'll acquire better skills as time goes on and more

phone calls are under my belt.

M.G. Trainee Todd LaVine's Initial Helpline Experience

ANOTHER VIEW FROM THE HELPLINE

My first day was a blast. I arrived a little early and met my fellow classmate Penny in the Master Gardener office. We let ourselves in the helpline office and started turning on the computers and looking for the forms we would be filling out when we talk to our customers. Before we knew it, it was 9:00 and our M.G. had not shown up yet, then the phone rang. Penny looked at me and I took the call. About a half an hour later our M.G. showed up and helped us and we were totally busy looking up answers to such question as: how long do eggplants live? My eggplants

were heavy producers for 6 months now they they have spots and aren't producing anything. Then the other phone rings and somebody has a potted citrus that has yet to have any flowers or fruit.

Good grief, there are real people out there with plant problems. Our M.G. helped us to attach CTAHR documents to e-mails and shoot them out to the customers. 12:00 noon arrived before we knew it, and it took us another 30 minutes to properly secure the computers and the office. There is so much to learn; what a terrific program. We were well prepared from the M.G. training, and we knew enough to tell our customers "I don't know, I will look it up and get back to you."

2013 M.G. Trainee Larry Oswald

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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NOTE: PLEASE SEND ARTICLES/PHOTOS/INFORMATION FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER TO THE ABOVE INDIVIDUALS BY MID-AUGUST