



NEWS FROM

THE URBAN GARDEN CENTER

VOL 21



IN THIS ISSUE

- HECO Arbor Day
- Mochi Pounding
- O.M.G.A president
- Next 25 years
- Food Bank
- Aloha
- Native Pollinators
- VMS system

HECO Tree Giveaway Program Still Excites Home Gardeners

Due to the efforts of many volunteers at The Urban Garden Center, the 2013 Arbor Day Tree Giveaway was a success. M.G. Bea Sailer and Sprouts/Ohana member, coordinated the efforts of the Sprouts in growing 2700 plants for the giveaway. They propagated twenty different varieties of plants over nearly a yearlong effort.

Prior to the giveaway day, volunteers were busy separating and counting out @ 450 plants to go to each of the six giveaway sites. These plants were then loaded and delivered to the giveaway sites. This was no small feat and mahalo to all for their contribution for making this happen!



Cont'd on page 4



Pounding Ushers in New Year

On the 28th December, there was a mochi pounding and kadomatsu making year-end celebration at The UGC. Approximately 30 folks were in attendance and several worked at pounding, while there was an assembly line of others fashioning the mochi into balls and inserting An into some of them. Each attendee received a container of several mochi tsuki to take home.

There was a luncheon of ono foods following all that hard

work. The UGC Ohana supplied beef, roasted on a spit that morning, along with several accompanying dishes and water. Attendees contributed pupu and desserts. We guarantee that no one left hungry!

Energized by the lunch, everyone who drew a number picked up his or her pre-assembled three lengths of bamboo tied with twine. Volunteers had earlier taken many cuttings from The UGC

that were sitting waiting for the creative kadomatsu-makers to get to work. The resulting kadomatsu were exceptionally lovely.

Mahalo nui loa to the many Ohana members and other volunteers whose efforts made for a lovely send off to 2013. May 2014 be a year to continue the celebration of The UGC and to the many people who have made it what it is today.

Jessie Kojiro, New O.M.G.A. President

Upon the resignation of Pres. Terri Langley, Jessie Kojiro has now assumed the Presidency of the Oahu M.G. Association ('O.M.G.A.'). Jessie is a M.G. from the Class of 2009 and has served as co-V.P. for several years.

Mahalo Jessie for steering the O.M.G.A. as it makes the transition to 2014 and a possible new organizational structure.

Mahalo nui loa to Terri Langley for her dedicated service this past year.



Cont'd from page 1

Arbor Day

M.G.s, other volunteers and Hawaiian Electric Company ('HECO') employees/arborists were on-hand at the giveaway site; handing out brochures and answering plant/pruning questions. At The UGC giveaway site, M.G. Brian Cyr was one of Boy Scout Troop # 326 leaders who coordinated the nine boy scouts who helped 'customers' with their plants.

This Arbor Day event was supported by grants from HECO and Kaulunani. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Arbor Day event, HECO sponsored the planting of 20 Hawaiian Legacy Hardwood trees for 20 lucky Arbor Day attendees.

Attendees lined up well before the opening of the give-away sites. The most popular tree at two of the sites was the Meyer Lemon. Other edible trees were also sought after at the sites. The enthusiasm and interest of the attendees were fitting tributes to the efforts of all who gave us the Arbor Day 2013 Tree Giveaway.

Planning The Next 25 Years @ The UGC

On 23rd Nov., 2013, a meeting "UGC- A Vision of the Future" was held to brainstorm about the future of The Urban Garden Center. About thirty staff, M.G.s and other

volunteers were in attendance. Initially, Ray Uchida, Oahu County Administrator, Jayme Grzebik and Steve Nagano each gave their own visions about the UGC.

Following their introductory remarks, the participants were divided into five discussion groups. Group leaders/facilitators were: Brian Cyr, Steve Nagano, Bea Sailer, Dale Sato and Amy Teves. Each group focused on the following areas: personnel, infrastructure, grounds, education, funding, volunteers and tours. After the groups brainstormed, all participants came together again in the classroom and each group presented their ideas on the areas of discussion. Ideas included a building for meetings, etc., additional pathways, more classes and more personnel at The UGC!

Steve Nagano will compile the suggestions/ideas and this summary will be sent to all participants. Suggestions will be priority-ranked and discussed at a follow up meeting in the Spring, 2014.

If you were unable to attend the November meeting, look for the posting of the Spring, 2014 meeting. Please plan to attend. We all have an interest in The UGC being the best it can be and your contributions are essential.

Mahalo to The UGC Ohana for providing tasty breakfast snacks and a delicious buffet luncheon. Mahalo to all other volunteers that kept participants well hydrated and

fed throughout the morning.

Here's to the next 25 years @ The UGC!

Living Holiday Décor

The Xeriscape Hui met in early December 2013 to create holiday arrangements using succulent plants. The Hui's individual members had purchased a variety of plants at an earlier year field trip to Pang's Nursery, Kaneohe. Succulents are a good plant for long-lasting and attractive arrangements. They were now ready to be incorporated into wreaths, terrariums and other imaginative arrangements.

After a morning of creation, the Hui members enjoyed seeing each other's works of "living art". Their homes will be graced by these beautiful creations for the holidays.



Stocking The Pantry Shelves



The Fruit Harvest Hui regularly harvests fruit from The UGC Orchard. The Hui has also begun harvesting produce from the All-American Display Garden. This bounty is then donated to the Hawaii Foodbank. The Hui's total produce donation to the Food Bank for the 2013 calendar year was 4533 pounds. The Hui thanks all for their effort and hard work throughout the year to have made this possible.

Hui Coordinator Susie Ota arranged with the Foodbank for the Hui to tour the Foodbank's Honolulu facility. On the 18th November, over a half-dozen interested volunteers were given background information and a tour by Anna Ramos, Volunteer Manager Coordinator for the Hawaii Foodbank.

The Mapunuapuna warehouse is relatively small by national food bank standards and the community it serves is mid-range. There is also a Foodbank warehouse in Lihue, Kauai. Even so, over 12 million pounds of food (perishable and non-perishable) were distributed from these warehouses in 2012. The Hawaii Foodbank partners with nearly 250 agencies on Oahu and Kauai. These agencies actually

distribute the food to local community members. Through the Hawaii Foodbank Partner Distribution Organizations, the Maui Food Bank and The Food Basket on Hawaii Island, nearly 167,00 pounds of shipped food helped feed people on the Neighbor Islands.

The Fruit Harvest Hui is happy to be a contributor to the worthwhile efforts of the Hawaii Foodbank.

If you would like to join the Fruit Harvest Hui on one of its twice-monthly harvest days, please contact Barbara Alexander or Susie Ota.



Aloha Richard



On 18th December, volunteers, M.G.s and staff at The UGC came together to bid Ag. Tech. Richard Fisher a fond “aloha.” Of his 20 years with UH, we have been fortunate to have him working at The UGC the last 6 years. Richard will be moving on to a permanent position at the Mealani Research Station in Kamuela, Hawaii Island, where he will be the responsible for several hundred head of cattle.

Richard will be an Ag. Research Tech- V: Herdsman. Richard attended UH-Hilo and his specialty is the many facets of large animal husbandry.

Approximately 40 were in attendance for a potluck luncheon feast of chili, chicken, veggies (!) and loads of ono desserts. The lunch food fueled everyone’s creative talents in assembling swags of on-site natural plant materials. And the festive feeling energized all in playing the game “Left-Right-Center” and participating in a song competition.

Richard left The UGC with kind words by Steve Nagano, lei, a beautiful swag presented by Merita and music ringing in his ears. Many thanks to program coordinator Bea Sailer.

Aloha and Mahalo nui loa, Richard!



Native Plant Pollinator Garden at The UGC

At our September 14 SSAG event, Native Plants and the Environment, M.G.s Brian Cyr and Jody Smith were joined by the Waipahu Honor Society to install a native plant pollinator garden in the All-American Select Garden plots. With guidance from Dr. Ethel Villalobos and Scott Nikaido of the UH Honeybee Project, Jayme Grzebik selected native plants. This field trial will determine which of these plants will flourish at The UGC and nourish our honeybees and Hawaiian pollinators. There are four major threats to honeybees: pests, diseases, pesticides, and poor diet. The pollinator garden was established to help improve bee nutrition with minimum pesticide use.

Mahalo to the ambitious team of honor students from Waipahu High School who, with help from Scott Nikaido and Jackie Smith, quickly put over 50 plants in the ground! Take a stroll over to that section of the garden to see examples of the flower of O‘ahu ilima papa, the Hawaiian cotton plant m‘ao, our state flower ma‘o hau hele, the endangered ‘ihi molokini, as well as many other interesting plants. A full list of the plants we installed can be found at:

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/uhmg/Oahu/downloads/UGGNativePollinatorGarden.pdf>

Keep an eye out to see what grows best at the The UGC!



The UH M.G. Volunteer Management System

All UH M.G. Coordinators have been working behind the scenes to get our version of the Volunteer Management System (“VMS”) ready for our UH M.G.s on all islands. By the end of January, each M.G. will be given a link to create a personal password. Master Gardeners will be able to log in, see calendars of events, sign up for events, and log hours. The site will alleviate some of the hardships we’ve encountered keeping hours up-to-date and posting events where M.G.s can easily sign-up or cancel their attendance to educational outreach events. We hope to use this site as a place to post announcements of upcoming advanced trainings or simply as a communication tool for Hui and different groups in our program. As we transition, Jayme Grzebik, Statewide M.G. Coordinator can see that it will take a few months to get everyone online and to see how to accommodate those without computer access. We’ll continue to send out our monthly list of announcements. Please visit this site for a sneak peak of all the tools available:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/vmshelp/about/Site_Overview/

Or see more about the *Event Calendars* function:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/vmshelp/about/Site_Overview/Event_Calendars/

The UGC is what it is due to all the hard work and efforts of the Staff and the many volunteers who contribute their time. As another year has ended, wander the entire garden and take a first-hand look at all the improvements that were done in 2013.

We all look forward to exciting changes that 2014 may bring to The UGC. Mahalo everyone!

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 & Catherine Ano kthy_sahli@yahoo.com

[Newsletter Coordinators](#)

NOTE: PLEASE SEND ARTICLES/PHOTOS/INFORMATION FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER TO THE ABOVE INDIVIDUALS BY MARCH 1ST.