

## From the Director's Desk

Dear all,

It's been a few months since our last Kukui Leaf and as per the norm a lot has been going on at Lyon! A few things came to mind as I was thinking about what to write. Some of these topics are featured in a lot more detail in other sections of the newsletter – but they include a highly successful revamped plant sale held at the end of November, some major changes on the arboretum grounds that are underway, and our ever-increasing visibility!

First off, a quick shout out to the plant sale! This plant sale was a huge success and broke all manner of records in terms of attendance, plants sold, and the general diversity of activities available to those who came. The feedback provided was extremely positive, and all this despite some terrible weather - it lashed rain (sideways) and was extremely windy and cold. A great success overall (we may have been completely overwhelmed had it been sunny and nice) and we hope to build on this new more versatile approach to our events in upcoming activities. While the April plant sale has been postponed as we focus on getting our greenhouses in order, we hope to have another raucous plant sale in November and hope you will join us!



There have been some major overhauls on the Arboretum grounds – these include a completely new and exciting First Valley Trail that opens up a whole wing of the Arboretum to hiking enthusiasts; the overhaul of Spice Hill and creation of a centralized more accessible space to bring school kids and other visiting groups (see photo); and a revamped Garden of Remembrance (yes again), but this time with the help of Green Walls Hawaii. All of these projects are still currently being worked on as of this writing but we hope they will be finished in the next few months, thereby adding a broad range of new activities for visitors to the Arboretum.

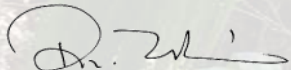
Finally, I wanted to highlight our increased visibility that has come about in a variety of ways. First, we have a spiffy new website using the new UH campus-wide template as the main platform for seamless integration with other campus websites. Check it out here: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/lyon/>. Second, we have increased our social media presence thanks to the concerted efforts of a number of our staff and in particular our Facebook and Instagram accounts – look us up and see! Finally, we have held several public events that received a lot of publicity and interest including an artist sketching workshop led by the fantastic Sarah Simblet who was visiting from the UK, she does drawing of many things but plants and trees

in particular are an incredible forte of hers; and more recently an outdoor open air fundraising concert with more than 50 attendees to see the Music in the American Wild ensemble play an all Hawaiian classical music repertoire! A great way to spend a Saturday afternoon at Lyon and somehow it chose not to rain! Finally, we were recently featured in the New York Times in a very favorable travel piece highlighting potential activities when visiting the Honolulu area!

The article can be accessed here: <https://nyti.ms/33Uv37b>

I'll close with a recent update as I wrote this piece a couple of weeks ago and since then the COVID-19 situation has engulfed all of us. At Lyon we have closed to the public for the foreseeable future and we are minimizing staff on-site work as much as possible. I hope all of you out there are taking all necessary precautions to stay safe during these really difficult times.

Mahalo,



# MAHALO TO OUR LYON VOLUNTEERS!!!

On Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> our volunteers and staff got together to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work all the volunteers do for the Arboretum at the Volunteer Appreciation Party. Volunteers that provided service in 2019 were invited to the annual celebration. Originally the party was going to be at the Arboretum, but alas, the winds were a bit too strong to set up our party tent so at the last minute, the event was relocated to Paradise Park.

As the theme was a Happy Belated Valentine's Day celebration, there was a lot of handmade Valentine heart décor in the beautiful room that the Wong family of Paradise Park graciously allowed us to use for the party. Guests were treated to a delicious brunch menu prepared and cooked by the Arboretum staff. What was extra special was that some of the food was locally harvested- meaning harvested from the Arboretum itself, such as the ulu in the ulu-banana bread. All the jams and the chutney served was prepared by the talented Jams & Jellies group. Nate from Grounds shared his foraging and his culinary skills with a delicious stir-fry made with his smoked meat, hō'i'o fern fiddleheads harvested from the grounds, and wild wood ear mushrooms (pepeiao) also harvested from the grounds .

For the activities, the guests could sign up for a tour for either the grounds or the Hawaiian Rare Plant Program lab Micropropagation and Seed Labs. It never occurred to us that some of volunteers only see the department that they volunteer in and not any other part of the Arboretum. Thank you, Randy Wong, who volunteers in the Children's Garden, for making the suggestion! Another activity was the Arboretum bingo game, which listed many of the funny or odd things we see at the Arboretum, like tourists going on hikes in fancy clothes. The game was a blast and everyone wanted to win the prizes, which were beautiful centerpieces with tillandsias and bromeliads made by the Grounds and Horticulture staff. Guests were also given the arboretum's 2020 calendars as party favors and access to a cut-flower bar, where they could make their own bouquet or arrangement from a variety of foliage and flowers harvested from the grounds.

The planning for the next Volunteer Appreciation party has already started. Hopefully, volunteers who weren't able to make this party will be able to attend, as well as our current regulars, and new volunteers that have joined our ohana this year! The committee chairs, Jessica Adinolfi, our GIS Lab Manager from Grounds, and Jenna Watling, Education Associate in the Education Department did a fine job and will now hand over the reins to Tylor Schwarze from Grounds to lead the party planning. The Lyon staff is truly grateful for all the time and effort our volunteers provide to us. The party is just a very small thank you from everyone on the staff. We know we have some very special volunteers. Some of the volunteers wanted to volunteer to help with the preparations and even during the party!

- Raedelle Van Fossen

MAHALO!



## ***Volunteer at Lyon!!***

*Interested in volunteering at Lyon? Check out our web site at:*

***<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/lyonarboretum>***

*Once there, look under the "Support" menu. Select "Volunteer".*

*Follow the instructions, and pick a group or department that interests you.*

## MUSIC IN THE LYON WILD!



Lyon Arboretum was very lucky to have the American Wild Ensemble performing original works as part of their Music in the American Wild project. The ensemble often performs in the majestic settings of national parks across the country and the original compositions they play inspires their audiences to experience the environment through a different perspective, fostering a relationship between the musicians, audience, and the location. Emlyn Johnson, co-director of the ensemble, contacted the Arboretum a year ago and expressed that the group was very interested in performing at the Arboretum.

The ensemble caters their program to the location where they perform and for their time in Hawai'i, they featured works by University of Hawai'i music department members. The ensemble performed pieces by University of Hawai'i Department of Music faculty, Takuma Itoh, Michael-Thomas Foumai, and Byron Yasui. They also performed music by Tonia Ko, who was inspired by her childhood growing up in Hawai'i. The music focused on Hawaiian wildlife, geography, and culture to help raise awareness about environmental issues and efforts throughout the state and beyond. Takuma Itoh's new piece, *Adaptation Variations*, was inspired by the adaptive radiation of Hawaiian honeycreepers. Michael-Thomas Foumai's composition, *E Mālama I Ke Kai* encourages the care and protection of the marine ecosystems of Hawai'i. The piece by Byron Yasui, *Dance of the Goddess (Pelehonuamea)* was about the volcanic activity on the Big Island.



The concert was held on February 15<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon and was sold out! The three composers from the University attended and spoke a little about their compositions. The Arboretum was blessed with beautiful weather and the ensemble performed under the kukui trees in the Ethnobotanical Garden.

Our Director, Rakan Zahawi, spoke about the Arboretum's conservation efforts in between the songs and there were other special guests as well. As the ensemble performed, the Arboretum's resident cockatoos and shama thrushes "sang" along with some of the performances. The concert could not have happened without the support of The Friends of Lyon Arboretum (FLA) who helped to sponsor and host the event. It was a wonderful afternoon of music and light pupus afterwards. The success of this concert may inspire the Arboretum to have more events such as this in the near future!



- Raedelle Van Fossen

## DR. SARAH SIMBLET VISITS LYON ARBORETUM



In January, the arboretum hosted visiting artist, Dr. Sarah Simblet, from the University of Oxford. The Friends of Lyon Arboretum cosponsored a public talk and offered three drawing sessions at the arboretum. The FLA would like to recognize Hugh and Melissa Kim Mosher for extending this unique learning opportunity. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the events and your support of the arboretum.

- Cara Oba



# WHAT'S SPROUTING IN THE HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT?

First of all, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who attended our Holiday Plant and Craft Sale last fall! Despite the moist conditions, and changes to the format of the sale, we had a great turnout and many of you left Lyon that day with plants in hand and a smile on your face. The staff and volunteers here at Lyon put a great deal of effort into preparing and executing our sales, so we greatly appreciate your continued support and patronage.

After a great deal of consideration, we have decided to cancel our Spring Plant and Craft Sale. This will allow our staff to focus time and resources on renovating our aging greenhouse facilities. Lyon's Horticulture and Facilities Departments will be working together to complete this important infrastructure project. The Hawaiian Rare Plant Program is first on the schedule to be renovated, and after some initial troubleshooting, we are making good progress on installing the new roof panels (see photo). Renovations to Lyon's Palm House and the Main Greenhouse are also scheduled for the coming year. Once the greenhouses have been re-roofed, we will also be looking into replacing the benches and installing irrigation systems in order to more efficiently manage our plant collections. These improvements to our horticulture facilities will allow us to better curate our living collections, as well as to produce higher quality plants for future sales.



Currently, our plan is to hold the Holiday Plant and Craft Sale at Lyon in November of this year. The Horticulture Department is working hard in meantime to select and propagate new, interesting, and unusual plants for our upcoming sales. *Philodendron*, *Monstera*, carnivorous plants, and natives (including 'ōhi'a) are some of the plants we are currently developing. As usual, you can also expect to find a selection of edibles, colorful ti, gingers, Anthurium, and Begonia (to name a few) at our future sales. But, if you can't wait until November for your plant fix we also offer a small selection of plants for sale in front of our Gift Shop during regular business hours.



*Camelia sinensis*



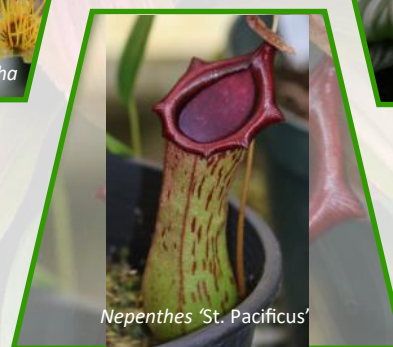
*Metrosideros polymorpha*



*Calathea orbifolia*



*Philodendron* 'Florida Beauty'



*Nepenthes* 'St. Pacificus'

Thank you for your understanding and patience while our greenhouse facilities are undergoing renovations. We look forward to seeing you at Lyon in the fall for our Holiday sale! For any questions regarding Lyon plant sales please contact the Horticulture Department at (808) 988-0472.

- Timothy Kroessig

## MEET WHO'S NEW AT LYON

Meet **Nate Kingsley**, our new Seed Lab Technician. Nate can quote the entire list of English prepositions in alphabetical order, eat a whole ghost pepper without water, has bowled 2 perfect games, and loves cheese-cake! Welcome, Nate!



Meet **Miriam San José**, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow! Miriam is from Mexico and has her PhD in Biological Sciences. She works with ecological restoration and landscape ecology and will be spending the next two months in Costa Rica hugging (measuring) trees. We gladly welcome Miriam!

Meet **Hadley**, our new Education Specialist! She was named after a family friend, who was named after Ernest Hemingway's first wife, Hadley Hemingway. She also goes by Scarlett O'Hatred, but only when she's playing roller derby. We gladly welcome Hadley!



## LYON IN THE TREES

Arborist Isaiah Hualani “Hua” Kalahiki, and Botanical gardener Tylor Schwarze represented Lyon Arboretum at the Fourth Annual Tree Jamboree hosted by the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG), in Koloa, Kauai, on February 22nd. The annual tree climbing competition is an event proudly put on by the Aloha Arborist Association to showcase modern tree climbing techniques and promote safe practices in the arboriculture industry. Contestants from around the islands and nation jostle for the top spot in a series of events designed to test their speed, balance, accuracy and competence navigating one of nature’s mightiest organisms, the tree.

The event kicked off on Thursday, the 20th with a volunteer work day. Tylor joined a crew of volunteer tree workers to complete an estimated 10,000 dollars worth of work across NTBG’s grounds. The following day, Lyon Arborist Hua hit the ground running and completed the safety check for the team’s tree climbing gear. Ropes coiled, hardhats cinched down, Lyon’s tree climbing delegation was ready to rock!

On competition day, Saturday the 22nd, the sun rose over Alerton garden’s picturesque scenery to illuminate the five Monkeypod trees (*Samanea samans*) in which the days events were to be held. The Jamboree consisted of five events; throwball, speed ascent, speed climb, rescue climb, and work climb. After a quick walkthrough to explain the competition rules, the contestants were soon up in the canopy, and out on a limb.

After a long day of climbing, the events closed and the judges convened to tally the scores. Hua scored well and demonstrated his technical skills in the rescue climb, while Tylor scored best in the speed climb. Both contestants were honored to have had the opportunity to climb for Lyon, and look forward to next year’s competition on Oahu. Special thanks to the Aloha Arborist Association and NTBG for setting up and hosting this year’s event. Stay tuned to the Aloha Arborist Association’s website for full contest scores!

- Tylor Schwarze

# A Special Mahalo to These Generous Donors

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(\$500 and Above)

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(\$250-\$500)

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## Ilima

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## ***Mahalo for your support!***

*Tuline Nonomura—Snacks for Arboretum staff and volunteers*

*Thomas & Allison Daniel—Strawberry Guava for Jams & Jellies*

*Mandy Bowers—Guava for Jams & Jellies*

*Alpha Delta Kappa—Donation to the Lyon Education Department*

Lyon Arboretum would like to thank the following people that have made generous food and monetary donations to assist our student employees in these unprecedented and trying times.

- *Jackie & Traver Carrol*
- *Allison Fujimoto*
- *Brianna Lloyd*
- *Roger Sorrell*
- *Alvin Yoshinaga*

Mahalo for thinking about our student employees!



It takes more than a few words to describe a place as diverse and ambitious as the Harold L. Lyon Arboretum. Its range of activities, breadth of research, strength of commitment, and depth of knowledge make it the dynamic facility we've loved since our childhoods.

You already know this. You support us with your participation and donations. You improve it with your feedback and relationship-building. When we need a helping hand, you reach out in kindness, because you understand the importance of the work done here. You believe in Lyon.

As the Director of Development, it is my goal to connect your passions to Lyon's mission, so together we might continue the important work in Manoa Valley for the good of Hawaii.

With so much going on in the arboretum, there are many ways you can direct your generosity. I'm excited to work with you in working toward our shared goals. Whether you'd like to establish a scholarship, endow a research project, bolster Lyon's facilities, or ensure a bright future for our classes and excursions, please reach out to me at [audrey.hirayama@uhfoundation.org](mailto:audrey.hirayama@uhfoundation.org) or call (808) 956-9172. Let's talk about your passions and the mission of the Harold L. Lyon Arboretum.

***Please send donations to: Lyon Arboretum / UHF***

***386o Mānoa Rd, Honolulu, HI 96822***

***You can also donate online: [www.uhf.hawaii.edu/LyonArboretum](http://www.uhf.hawaii.edu/LyonArboretum)***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method: \_\_\_\_\_ check (payable to Lyon Arboretum/UHF, Attn account #12043404)

Or Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ (Visa) \_\_\_\_\_ (Master Card)

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**University of Hawai'i-Mānoa  
Harold L. Lyon Arboretum**

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Phone: 808-988-0456  
manoa.hawaii.edu/lyonarboretum

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**Arboretum Hours:**  
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Closed on Sundays & Holidays  
  
\$10 Docent led tours  
available at 10am, Monday-  
Saturday. Please call  
988-0461 for reservations.

**Arboretum Staff**

***Director***

Dr. Rakan Zahawi

***Administration***

Destin Shigano, Derek Higashi

***Education & Volunteer Programs***

Raedelle Van Fossen, Jenna Watling,  
Hadley Anderson

***Grounds & Collections***

Liloa Dunn, Nathan Kamaka, Robert Santiago,  
Isaiah Kalahiki, Jesse Adams, Tylor Schwarze,  
Richard Sears

***Micropropagation Lab***

Nellie Sugii, Cindy Yamamoto,  
Doug Okamoto, Sam Champine-Tocher,  
Libby Dingeldein, Miriam San Jose

***Seed Lab***

Dr. Anna Sugiyama, Nathaniel Kingsley

***Horticulture***

Tim Kroessig, David Shepard

***GIS Lab Manager***

Jessica Adinolfi

***Facilities / Maintenance:***

Clancy Ako, Kim Zane

**LYON ARBORETUM IS CLOSED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
DUE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC**  
Please check our website for updates on when  
we will be open.  
**MAHALO & BE SAFE!**

**2020 Upcoming Classes**  
*Our summer class schedule will be available soon, and will ONLY be sent by email or via our website. If you would like the most current class schedule, please go to our website <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/lyonarboretum> and sign up to be on our email list. Look under the "Support" section, and go to "Newsletter". Fill in the fields, and you're done!*

***Wish List***

- *Fruits for Jams & Jellies*
- *Gardening Gloves (Various Sizes)*