

# HAWAII TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

*A Garden in a Valley on the Ocean*



Dan Lutkenhouse - Founder

April 2017

[www.hawaiigarden.com](http://www.hawaiigarden.com)

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*A non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the preservation of nature and its beauty*

# Garden Updates

with Executive Director David Tan

Dear members and friends of HTBG,

Great news! The Garden was host to a record 102,581 visitor admissions last year and the first three months of this year has the Garden on a pace for even more visitors in 2017. The Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism projects a 1.5% increase in arrivals for the year so it seems the Garden will continue to welcome record numbers.

It is not surprising that both Hawaii and the Garden continue to attract more and more travelers from all over the globe. Is there a better way to de-stress in these times of uncertainty and political strife than spending a week on our islands of aloha or a few hours communing with nature in our botanical garden?

Despite the increase in visitors, HTBG is large enough to provide a scenic and relaxing get-away from-it-all experience that both tourists and locals can enjoy. Garden Co-Founder Dan Lutkenhouse had this in mind when establishing a botanical garden at Onomea. He wanted to protect the natural environment but also provide access for as many people as possible to enjoy its many benefits.

According to Co-Founder Pauline Lutkenhouse, Dan once remarked "If we could have 50 visitors every day we would really be in business!" I can only imagine how he would feel knowing that hundreds are enjoying his garden every day.

Speaking of Mrs. Lutkenhouse, much fun was had and great food was shared as friends, family and garden staff got together to celebrate her 90th birthday in February. A great time was had by all!

Cover: The *Chaconia* or *Warszewiczia coccinea*, also known as Wild Poinsettia is a small ornamental tree that is unrelated to the true poinsettia. It is the national flower of Trinidad and Tobago since it blooms around their date of independence . You can find it growing along the edge of Lily Lake .

In early March we were very pleased to assist PHD students from the University of Helsinki in their study of the worldwide distribution of microscopic stream organisms called Diatoms or Bacillariophyta.

Diatoms are algae that form part of the base of aquatic food webs in marine and freshwater habitats. They have distinctive, transparent cell walls made of silicon dioxide hydrated with a small amount of water.

Diatom species have distinct ranges of pH and salinity where they will grow. They also have ranges and tolerances for other environmental variables, including nutrient concentration, suspended sediment, flow regime, elevation, and



*PhD students from the University of Helsinki sampling Onomea Stream for Diatoms*

different types of human disturbance. Much can be learned from an environment by examining which diatoms are present, so as a result, diatoms are used extensively in environmental assessment and monitoring.

Their sampling method was to brush a few cobble sized stones from the stream, take a water sample, and record some physical measurements (pH, conductivity and water velocity). The sampling did not harm the stream or water quality in any way.

The students said they would share the results of their study with us, we are looking forward to hearing about what they find.



*Maelisa Evangelista and her Easter Seals Group*

Another special visit in March was a return visit by Maelisa Evangelista and her Easter Seals group from Keaau. Everyday, Easter Seals of Hawaii empowers local people with disabilities or special needs. We are always happy to extend our free educational program for Hawaii students to other non-profit groups working to better our community.

Improvements to garden infrastructure continue to move along. The widening and repaving of the MonkeyPod Trail has been completed. Great care was taken in the process to protect the roots of the monkeypod trees which run under the trail, while allowing room for them to grow. The existing asphalt was removed and the roots were partially excavated to allow a PVC covering to be placed over them. The covering should provide ample room for growth while leaving the asphalt undisturbed for a much longer period. This method should drastically reduce the maintenance of the trail. Now we are repaving the Twin Rocks Area to be followed by a revamping of the Cook Pine Trail.

We will soon be introducing a new and more accurate color map produced with GIS technology and we are also planning on our first Member Appreciation Month coming this August. A preview is to the right with more details to come in the July newsletter. Until then, I'll leave you with this Chinese proverb "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

## Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden's Member Appreciation Month

August is the anniversary of the Garden's opening so it is the perfect month to thank our members who continue to support the Garden's growth.

### Members, start your holiday shopping early at the Garden:

August 1st-9th take an additional 10% off ornaments

August 10th-16th take an additional 10% off children's books and toys

August 17th -23rd-take an additional 10% off t-shirts

August 24th-31st take-an additional 10% off jewelry items

### Gift membership promotion:

During the month of August, current members who purchase a new (recipient has never been a member of the Garden) gift membership will receive an additional two adult comp passes.

**Current members are automatically entered into our weekly prize drawings held each Thursday in August. Winners to be notified via phone or email.**

Grand Prize: complimentary membership at current level for one year. Other Prizes include:

Complimentary upgrade to the next level of membership when you renew (individual to contributing levels only)

Private tour for four adults with the Garden's horticulturist

Four adult complimentary passes to give to friends

Garden Christmas ornaments and caps

## From the Garden Gift Shop

The Garden Gift Shop has a gorgeous new line of jewelry made from actual butterfly wings.

The butterflies come from butterfly farming projects and rain forest sustainable use systems.

The butterflies live out their natural lives and are then harvested. By the marketing of these and similar sustainable use products, rainforest's gain economic viability,



creating a strong incentive to leave them in their natural state, while at the same time providing needed income for local peoples. Visit our gift shop to purchase one of these dazzling earring or pendants and support sustainable farming and rainforests at the same time!

### GARDEN MEMBERSHIP

Has 1,383 members as of March 31, 2017. Our thanks to all of you who so generously support our preservation of Onomea Valley.

If you'd like to become a member or purchase a membership as a gift, please call us at 808-964-5233 or visit our website [www.hawaiigarden.com](http://www.hawaiigarden.com). Your membership is 100% tax deductible.

### SPECIAL THANKS

To Leonard Gines and Kai Quintal for their donation of species orchids.

To Charman Akina, Alan and Susan Wyatt, the Krishnamurthy Foundation, Marian S. Kobayashi, Leo and Jonie Dignan, and Gene Barber for their recent generous donations to HTBG.

Dan Lutkenhouse, Founder  
Pauline Lutkenhouse, Co-Founder & President

David Tan, Executive Director  
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#### Board of Directors

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Kylan Damo - Maintenance  
Scott Pondela - Security  
Raymond-James English - Gardener

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Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden  
Nature Preserve and Sanctuary located at Onomea Bay, Island of Hawaii  
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