



### SPRING AND SUMMER CAME AND WENT FRIENDS OF HALAWA XERISCAPE GARDEN HAD A LOT GOING ON!

As mentioned in our previous Xeriscape Quarterly our 2012 FOCUS was to increase volunteer participation at the garden. Our first step in doing this was to host a new member orientation. Offer additional volunteer opportunities by posting new positions, office helper, themed garden master, nursery helper, workshop assistant and student volunteer opportunities! Board of Water Supply helped to bring people into the garden on Wednesdays by adding Brown Bag Lunch/Tours to the garden event calendar, approximately 12 individuals took advantage of that learning opportunity!

Workshops sponsored by FOHXG have been well attended! We serviced a total of 303 adults and 60 Keiki from July 2011 – through Aug. 2012, and the number of guest continue to grow each year. (Total does not reflect the number of people who attended the Plant sale workshops.)



Spiral "Keyhole" Garden



Aquaponics

Decorate Eggs the Xeric Way



User Friendly Compost



Pumpkin Pumpkin



Succulent Living Wall Art

Kadomatsu, Fantastic Uses of Neem, are two new workshops being offered for our next educational season September 2012 – through – July, 2013.

We hope to see more members attending the workshops.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER.

Brown Bag Lunch and Guided Tours at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden – each Wednesday from 12:00 – 12:45

Free community mulch is available at Halawa Xeriscape Garden during public hours which are; Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Roll-out of FOHXG website and Face Book page, due to technical difficulties will not happen until 2013.

Xeric Theme of the Month and Plant of the week series – Published each Wednesday before noon - visit the Honolulu Board of Water Supply Face Book page or the Halawa Xeriscape Face Book page to enjoy these Xeric tidbits. Theme for October was “The Haunting of October”, November and December’s theme is “Spice up your Holidays.” Each month’s theme coincides with the social holidays for that month! All featured plants are unthirsty plants!

### Scenic Hawaii Sponsorship

FOHXG also sponsored the Scenic Hawaii’s Xeriscape Award and this year’s Award of Excellence was presented to Phillip and Gerry Ching, and the Award of Honor to the Katsura Residence. Visit <http://www.scenichawaii.org/> for more information about Scenic Hawaii.

Pictured in the photo from left to right:

*Carl Kim (SHMember) Amy Tsuneyoshi (FOHXG Secretary), Elsie Nakasone (FOHXG Nursery Chair) Judy Philson (FOHXG Treasurer) Donna Ching (Scenic Hawaii Nominator) Phillip Ching (Awardee) Carol McAuliffe (FOHXG President)*

**Front Row:**

*The Ching’s grandson, Andrew Roch and Gerry Ching (Awardee) Cicely Crocker George (Scenic Hawaii).*



## FIRST EVER MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION!

We had a great turnout at the New Member Orientation. Members learned about the programs FOHXG supports, about their membership benefits, volunteer opportunities, sign-ups for field trips were conducted and last but not least, a social time to greet and eat with board members, other new FOHXG members and employees from the of Water Supply. Will we do this again? You bet!



## HXG Workshop Highlights Benefits of Neem Trees

*The first-ever Neem tree workshop kicked off the 2012-2013 xeriscape workshop schedule.*

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) and Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden (FOHXG) kicked off its 2012-2013 Xeriscape workshop schedule with another successful workshop! Forty Four, (44) garden enthusiasts attended the first-ever Magnificent Neem Workshop at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden (HXG) on Saturday 9/15/12. Participants were treated to a lively presentation by Dr. Saleem Ahmed, who discussed the roots of the unthirsty Neem tree and its many beneficial characteristics.



**Packed house.** *The garden pavilion was filled to capacity as attendees took detailed notes on how to grow and maintain a Neem tree.*

Known as the “Divine Tree” in its native country of India, Neem trees are valued for their anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties, serving as a key ingredient in organic toothpaste, soap, lotion, anti-inflammatory skin cream, and other products. Neem trees were brought to Hawaii sometime in the 1800s and are more commonly used for insecticidal purposes, as Neem leaf sprays and pastes can be used to control unwanted garden pests. Neem trees are quite versatile, capable of growing comfortably in a small pot along a terrace or planted in the ground, where they can grow as high as 50 feet. Additionally, well established plants require little watering to thrive!

By the workshop’s end, attendees were equipped with ideas and recipes on how to use Neem’s potent leaves as an everyday household remedy. Participants also enjoyed a capful of freshly brewed Neem tea, which can be used as a cough suppressant or to combat various medical conditions.



**Bittersweet Neem tea.** *(above left) Dr. Ahmed looks on as participants pour themselves a capful of potent Neem tea. **Home gardening.** (above right) BWS retirees Takao and Lorene Fujimoto take home their very own Neem tree seedling.*

Due to overwhelming public interest, a second Magnificent Neem Tree workshop will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013. Should you have any questions about workshops at the HXG, contact the BWS Communications Office at 748-5041.



## **MEMBERS ENJOYED A FIELD TRIP TO ZAC'S EWA BLUE WORMS AND RABBITRY**

**It was a great time had by all! We were surprised to find worm bins under his rabbit cages! There was no odor at his rabbitry because the worms consumed the rabbit waste almost as quickly as it was made! By adding garden waste and moist burlap cover to the tops of the worm bins, Zac is able to claim fame to a Hybrid Vermicast! His setup was unique in that he takes extra steps to produce safe, rich vermicast that could be used in edible gardens as a soil amendment, foliar tea-spray or seed starter.**

**He also taught us about the many edible plants, leaves and flowers growing about his rabbit's landscape, which he and the rabbits snack-on regularly. He was very generous offering slip-cuttings to FOHXG members, letting us sample the hibiscus tea and his fresh grapes, right off the vine! All grown via his super vermicast!**

**You can purchase vermicast or rabbits from Mr. Johnson by calling him at 808-672-3989 or by e-mail at [ewablueworms@gmail.com](mailto:ewablueworms@gmail.com)**

**Our next field trip will be to visit Belo Palalay's (member of FOHXG) garden sometime in early 2013!**

# “TEAM EFFORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS MAKE THINGS HAPPEN”!

The Board of Water Supply’s Saturday “Pumpkin, Pumpkin” workshop at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden (HXG) is made possible by FOHGX and the hard work and support of a handful of special people who have lent their skills and contributed supplies to the effort.

This two-part educational parent-keiki workshop taught families about outdoor water conservation using the magnificent pumpkin plant as an example of a plant with its own water system! The group planted pumpkin seeds in two places; one went into the pallet-patches at HXG’s Pu’u Pala’ai (Pumpkin Hill). The families were encouraged to return between workshops to care for their plants at the garden. The other was planted in a pot for them to take home and watch it grow. In October (2<sup>nd</sup> workshop) participants were able to harvest 9 pumpkins from their patch (FOHGX purchased additional pumpkins so that each child would have one to carve) just in time for Halloween!

Class coordinator Community Relations Specialist Diane Moses gratefully noted the contributions of:

- Field Operations Grounds Keeping crews, for supplying the amended soil and working hard to prepare the area in the garden to be easily implanted with the pumpkin seeds; and
- Ryan Char (husband of BWS Information Specialist Kymber-lee Char) who donated the wooden pallets which will serve as protective frames for the plantings; and
- Friends of Halawa for supplying the fertilizer and drip irrigation for the project and additional pumpkins for carving.

**Prep work. (L-r)** Grounds keeper Mark Moran and Grounds Maintenance & Lands Supervisor Dave Inouye work diligently to set up the area for the workshop plantings.



## When volunteering we all benefit!

*Photo on the right.* Halawa Xeriscape Garden offers Volunteer opportunities for students needing to meet community service hours to satisfy school requirements. Meet Seth Aiona 6th grade student volunteer from Hoala School he's teaching grandma Linda Aiona how to clean the Halawa Xeriscape Garden's worm bin.



*Photo above;* Employees from Ewa Makai Middle School trim the Peperomia groundcover at HXG and instead of throwing the clippings away they will recycle it into their school’s landscape!



## HALAWA XERISCAPE GARDEN OPEN HOUSE AND UNTHIRSTY PLANT SALE IS A GARDENER'S DELIGHT

It was a "green" day for garden enthusiasts at the Board of Water Supply's (BWS) 24th annual Halawa Xeriscape Garden Open House and FOHXG Unthirsty Plant Sale. Hundreds of Oahu residents were immersed in the wonders of outdoor water conservation as they purchased unthirsty plants, took home free mulch, and most importantly, learned how they can conserve water through water-efficient landscaping, otherwise known as "xeriscaping."

"This community event is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn about the different ways to practice water conservation outdoors," said Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle. "It also reflects the commitment by the City and County of Honolulu to work with the public to achieve a more sustainable future."

"Research has shown that about half of the water used by the average single-family home on Oahu is consumed outdoors," said BWS Chairman Duane Miyashiro. "By incorporating xeriscaping techniques, people can reduce their outdoor water consumption anywhere from 30 to 80 percent."

"The BWS, along with the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden, have been holding this event for the past 24 years to demonstrate that people can still have beautiful green gardens, while using less water," said BWS Manager and Chief Engineer Ernest Lau. "It is delightful to know that our customers are actively looking for and learning new ways to conserve water both indoors and outdoors."

The Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden and more than a dozen local nurseries offered a variety of drought-tolerant, less-thirsty plants for purchasing. Free educational workshops on xeriscaping, composting, rain barrel catchment systems, container gardening and other workshops were also part of the event festivities. Additional activities included keiki games, keiki garden planting, guided tours of the three-acre demonstration garden, and a free mulch giveaway.

Proceeds from the plant sale will support educational programs and classes at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden. The open house was co-sponsored by the Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden, a non-profit community group that supports educational programs related to water conservation in the landscape.



Xeriscaping is based on seven fundamental principles that serve as guidelines on how to plan, plant, and maintain a garden that takes advantage of natural climate conditions to make efficient use of irrigation. To learn more about xeriscaping, the Halawa Xeriscape Garden, or for water saving tips, visit [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com)<<http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/>>. Article supplied by BWS;