



## History of Ethnobotany at the University of Hawai'i

Open Science Network  
in Ethnobiology (OSN)  
Fall Meeting – Oct. 6, 2012  
Al Keali'i Chock

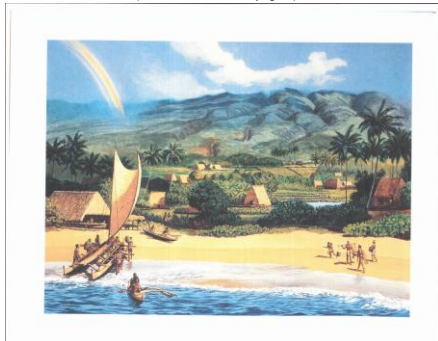


## Ethnobotany

'IKE NO'EAU I NĀ LĀ'AU  
LIKE 'OLE O NĀ KANAKA

### The First Hawaiian Ethnobotanists

(Herb Kane, 1991, *Voyagers*)



### College of Hawaii

Land Grant College

- **College of Agriculture & Mechanic Arts**, (Act 24, Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii, Mar. 24, 1907); first classes in 1908.
  - Willis T. Pope, BS, Acting Dean, Professor of Botany & Horticulture [on leave from Vice-Principal, Territorial Normal School (TNS)], 1907-08; Horticulturist, 1921-1937.
  - Warren G. Ross, BSAgr, Instructor in Agronomy & Botany. 1908-09.
  - **Vaughan MacCaughey**, BSA, (Assistant, first year) Prof Bot & Hort (from TNS staff; became Superintendent of Instruction in 1919), 1910-19.
- **College of Hawaii**, (Feb.3) 1911-1920 (1912 move to Mānoa campus)
  - **Joseph F. C. Rock**, Botanist (1911-20), Professor of Systematic Botany (1919-20; Office of Foreign Seed & Plant Introduction, USDA).

### College of Hawaii - 1908

- **Botany 1. *Phenogamic Botany***. This course considers the general morphology, physiology, and classification of the seed plants, with special reference to those common in Hawaii. The instruction is designed to give the student training in observation and scientific reasoning. **An endeavor is made to acquaint the student with the economic significance of the plants studied, with references to agriculture.** Lectures, recitations, laboratory exercises, and excursions. 1<sup>st</sup> semester, 3 credits.
- **Botany 2. *Cryptogamic Botany***.
- **Botany 3. *Dendrology***.

### College of Hawaii - 1910

- (Report of) *Botany and Horticulture in the College of Hawaii, 1910-1911*. Vaughan MacCaughey.
  - **The life and customs of the ancient Hawaiian is to the botanist a fruitful field for study.**
  - . . . a bewildering array of introduced plants.
  - **The Hawaiian . . . had a minute and exact knowledge of the varieties of food crops . . . and their cultural requirements. Much of this old knowledge could be profitably revived.**



## University of Hawaii

1920 - College of Arts & Sciences

1971 - Sea Grant College

1989 - Space Grant College

- **Otto Degener**, MS, Instructor of Botany, 1925-27 [*Plants of Hawaii National Park*, 1930].
- **Harold St. John**, PhD, Professor of Botany, 1929-1958 [Wilder Professor of Botany (1950-58)].

(First listing for **Bot 160, Flower and Tree Identification**, was in 1940).



## University of Hawai'i

1959 – Constitutional Agency (Article X)  
2000 – Constitutional autonomy

1965 - State Department of Education technical schools become state-wide system of **Community Colleges**

(**Honolulu, Kapi'olani, Kaua'i**, and **Mau**i; 1968-b, 1969-**Hawai'i**, 1972-**Windward**).

1970 - **University of Hawai'i at Hilo**.

1972 – first campus renamed: **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**.

1976 – West Oahu College, renamed 1989 as **UH-West Oahu**; opening of new campus in Kapolei, 2012.

1990 – Hilo campus split into UH-Hilo and Hawai'i Community College.

## University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Campus renamed in 1972



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA



Dedicated Nov./ 29, 1971  
Named in honor of Harold St. John (1892-1991). (UHM photos)

## Botany 105

Two credit hours: 1942-1963

- (1942-43 catalog) **Economic Plants of Hawaii & Polynesia**. first semester, 2 credits, repeated, second semester. Harold St. John; *The cultivated and wild plants used in ancient and in modern times by the Hawaiians and Polynesians. Nature of these economic plants and their use for food, drink, fabric, dye, medicine, and utensils. Two lectures a week.* (Not listed in 1944-45; Izzie Abbott was TA for Botany 100).
- (1950-51 catalogue) **Economic Plants of Hawaii**.
- (1954-55 catalogue) **Economic Plants of Hawaii & Polynesia**.
- (1958-63) **Economic Plants of Hawaii**. Irwin E. Lane (1958-60); Al Keali'i Chock (1961-63).

## Other Ethnobotany Courses

(1952-1961)

- **Botany 110. Plants and Man** (1952-1961). (2) II. E. J. Britten; (1955: G. Girolami; 1958: I. E. Lane). *The influence of a dozen important plants upon man and man upon plants. The development of such plants as corn, wheat, rice, cotton, etc. The story of how plants have affected civilization.* (Alternate years; offered 1952-53).
- **Botany 262. Structure of Economic Plants** (1952-1958) (3) II. E. J. Britten; (1955: G. Girolami) *A study of the anatomy of the important field and garden crop plants representative of Hawaiian agriculture.* One lecture and two laboratory periods. Prerequisite: Botany 100. (Alternate years; offered 1952-53).

## 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Science Congress



- 1961 (August 21 – September 6), held at the University of Hawaii.
- Ethnobotanical section chaired by Jacques Barrau (then with the South Pacific Commission, Noumea, New Caledonia).

## Botany 105 Ethnobotany

Three Credit Hours, 1964-2005

- 1964 – increased from two to three credits.  
Three lecture sessions @ week.
  - **Al Keali'i Chock**, until 1967; summers, 1965- .
  - **Beatrice H. Krauss**, 1968-74.
  - **Isabella Aiona Abbott**, 1975-95 (two lecture sessions, morning demonstration @ week).
  - **Will C. McClatchey**, 1996-2010.
  - **Tamara Ticktin, Mark Merlin, Anthony Amend, Al Keali'i Chock**.



## Additional Ethnobotany Courses (21<sup>st</sup> Century)

**Will McClatchey, Kim Bridges, Tamara Ticktin**

- Botany 446 – Hawaiian Ethnobotany (3).
- Botany 440 – Advanced Ethnobotany (3).
- Botany 442 – Medical Ethnobotany (3).
- Botany 448 – Cognitive Ethnobotany (3).
- Botany 449 – Ethnobotany Practicum (varied).
- Botany 640 – Quantitative Ethnobotany (3).
- Botany 644 – Ethnoecological Methods (3).

## Botany 105

### Introductory Ethnobotany

- 2005 – Course revision: video lectures and one weekly recitation section. Addition of a separate, optional Ethnobotany laboratory section. **Will McClatchey**. 2006-2012 (FGC).
- 2011 – Two lectures, one laboratory session, videos supplementary. Separate ethnobotany lab discontinued. **Mark Merlin, Tamara Ticktin**
- 2012 – Botany 105A, honors section.
- 2012 – Separate video section (**Dave Reedy**).

## B. S. in Ethnobotany

- Ethnobotany Track for a *B.S. in Ethnobotany* approved by Board of Regents at July 18, 2005 meeting; effective Spring semester 2006.
- First ethnobotany degree program established in the US. Multi-disciplinary program (theoretical and applied research aspects): botany, anthropology, geography, Hawaiian studies, and biology.
  - Will McClatchey, Track Advisor
  - David Reedy, Track Coordinator
- Current (since Fall 2010 ) Advisor: Tamara Ticktin.



**SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY** since 1959  
Fostering research and education on the past, present, and future uses of plants by people.

- **1992** – 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting *Islands, Plants, and Polynesians* .
- **2001**- 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, joint with the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (May 28-June 2) *Building Bridges with Traditional Knowledge II* (an international summit meeting on issues involving indigenous peoples, conservation, sustainable development, and ethnosience). **Will McClatchey**.



**SOCIETY FOR ECONOMIC BOTANY** since 1959  
Fostering research and education on the past, present, and future uses of plants by people.

### DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIC BOTANISTS

- **1992** - **Douglas E. Yen**, Affiliate Professor of Anthropology
- **2001** – **Isabella Aiona Abbott**, Wilder Professor Emerita of Botany
- **2009** – **Nina Etkin**, Professor of Anthropology