

# The Native Hawaiian Plant Society

The newsletter of The Native Hawaiian Plant Society, heretofore published annually, highlights matters of interest to its members

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After two very productive years, Richard Nakagawa has declined a third term as NHPS president. Instead, he'll focus his energies on our Auwahi and *Hibiscus brackenridgei* exclosure projects. The Board has chosen me as his successor. Other 1994 officers are: Vice President--Mike Perry (572-9836), Secretary--Peter Connally (572-1499), Treasurer--Becky Lau (575-2369). The other Board members are Pat Biley (878-2441), Fern Duval (571-1584), Carol Gentz (242-5534), Lorna Harrison (572-6338), Leslie Hiraga (669-0703), Eda Kinnear (871-4891), Lisa Shattenburg-Raymond (878-3564).

Under Richard's tenure, we've kept the membership mailings to a minimum, concentrating on educational meetings and field work. Evening meeting and membership outings were well attended. Indeed, over 400 people saw Dr. Abbott's delightful presentation. Our ongoing field projects also reflect this attention. Regular maintenance and weed control have given the native species breathing space. The result is native seedlings and new growth in the protected areas. Our plan for 1994 is "more of the same." -Linda Nelson (661-4303)

## NHPS 1994 Dues Reminder

If the number on the upper right corner of your address label is not "94," you need to pay your membership dues for calendar year 1994. Please complete and return the membership form on the cover of this newsletter to NHPS with your check.



## REPORTS FROM PROJECT LEADERS

### Auwahi Exclosures

After several years of hard work by many volunteers, we finally have the major weeds, such as kikuyu grass and *Bocconia frutescens*, under reasonable control. Our efforts are being rewarded by natural regeneration of natives such as 'a'ali'i (*Dodonaea viscosa*), 'akoko (*Chamaesyce celestroides* var. *lorifolia*), maile lauli'i (*Alyxia olivaeformis*), po'ola (*Claoxylon sandwicense*), naio (*Myoporum sandwicense*), and the native sedge *Mariscus hillebrandii* ssp. *hillebrandii*. The exclosures still need to be regularly weeded but more importantly, we may finally be able to turn our attention to learning more about the native species. -Richard Nakagawa (877-4024)

### La Perouse 'Awikiwiki Exclosure

We are finally eliminating the weedy koa haole and morning glory vine from the exclosure, which protects several healthy individuals of the native 'awikiwiki (*Canavalia pubescens*). Other good news is that numerous seedlings of 'awikiwiki, mai'apilo (*Coparis sandwichiana*) and wiliwili (*Erythrina sandwicensis*) are appearing when the weeds are cleared. -Lorna Harrison (572-6338) & Mike Perry (572-9836)

### Gressitt Rare Plant Sanctuary

Despite uncooperative weather, we managed three successful work parties to Gressitt Sanctuary in 1993. Our hard-working volunteers cleaned around plantings, cleared trail and continued to weed out such pests as molasses grass, guava, Christmasberry, and *Tibouchina*. In 1994, we start on a new five-year lease and new emphasis. Instead of planting species from other islands, we'll concentrate on West Maui species. Also, we'll

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# *Native Hawaiian Plant Society 1994 Calendar*

Pin this on your bulletin board!

**Monthly work parties.** Meet at 8am on the second Saturday of each month. Bring lunch, tools, water, gloves, protective clothing, sun screen and rain gear. Call the Project Leader for detailed information about each activity.

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|--------------------|--|
| <b>May 14</b>      | Hibiscus Brackenridgei Exclosure<br>Meet at Ma'alaea/Kihei triangle parking lot.<br>Project leader: Richard Nakagawa (877-4024)        |
| <b>June 11</b>     | Gressitt Preserve Work Party.<br>4X4 necessary so reservations required.<br>Project leader: Linda Nelson (661-4303)                    |
| <b>July 9</b>      | La Perouse exclosure.<br>Meet at Polo Beach Park.<br>Project leaders: Mike Perry (572-9836) & Lorna Harrison (572-6338)                |
| <b>August 13</b>   | Auwahi Exclosures.<br>4X4 necessary; reservations required.<br>Project leader: Richard Nakagawa (877-4024)                             |
| <b>Sept. 10</b>    | Hibiscus brackenridgei exclosure.<br>Meet at Ma'alaea/Kihei triangle parking lot.<br>Project leader: Richard Nakagawa (877-4024)       |
| <b>October 8</b>   | Gressitt Sanctuary.<br>4X4 necessary; reservations required.<br>Project leader: Linda Nelson (661-4303)                                |
| <b>Nov. 12</b>     | Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.<br>Meet at the parking/lookout area off the airport highway.<br>Project leader: Eda Kinnear (871-4891) |
| <b>December 10</b> | Auwahi Exclosures.<br>4X4 necessary; reservations required.<br>Project leader: Richard Nakagawa (877-4024)                             |



Also, don't forget these special events:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>June 4</b>     | (Saturday) Hike to Waihee Ridge; National Trails Day (call for place & time; see announcement).   |
| <b>July 19</b>    | (Tuesday) Dr. Don Hemmes of UH Hilo will give a slide presentation on native mushrooms at 7:00 pm at the Upcountry Community Center (see announcement). |
| <b>October 15</b> | (Saturday) Dedication of the Kahului Library Courtyard Native Plant Garden (time to be announced; see announcement).                                    |

## EVENTS

### *National Trails Day Hike*

As part of the National Trails Day celebration on June 4, we will hike the Waihee Ridge trail above Waihee on Maui's windward side. We'll concentrate on plants so we may not go the three mile length of the trail listed in guide books. Bring lunch, sunblock and rain gear. We'll be using the Na Ala Hele Trail guides. Reservations required; call Linda (661-4303) for details about place and time.

### *Native Hawaiian Mushrooms Meeting*

If you've ever wondered about mushrooms in Hawaii, come to our meeting on native fungi at the Upcountry Community Center on July 19, 1994 at 7:00 pm. Dr. Don Hemmes, botany instructor at UH/Hilo for twenty-one years, will give a slide presentation on native fungi. He has been working on these little-known natives for 5 years. They live on dead leaves and other organisms on the forest floor. By recycling dead material, they return nutrients to the soil and actually produce soil. They are found only in native forest and are largely undescribed by science. In fact, Dr. Hemmes hopes to describe and name the bigger and more colorful ones this summer. He'll share his findings with us at the meeting which is co-sponsored by the National Park Service. Hope to see you there.

### *Recognitions*

Mahalo to our hardworking volunteers, plus: Dr. Isabella Abbott; Baldwin High School Aloha Club; Bailey Farms; Mr. Pat Bily; The Lawrence Brown Charitable Trust; Mr. Zadoc Brown; CookKwee's Maui Cookies; Mr. Pardee Erdmann; Ms. Deybra Fair; Dr. John Frostad; Girl Scout Cadet Troop 460; HGP, Inc.; Haleakala National Park; Haleakala Ranch; Mr. Skip Hau; Hawaii Audubon Society; Ms. Pamela Hayes; Mr. Robert Hobdy; The Honolulu Advertiser; Ho'olawa Farms; Hopaco; Kahului Public Library; Ms. Judy Mancini; Maui Coffee Roasters; Maui Land and Pineapple Company; The Maui News; Maui Print Kwik; Mr. Art Medeiros; The Nature Conservancy; Oasis Maui, Inc.; Mr. Hank Oppenheimer; Mr. Charles Ota; Paia Video; Ms. Anna Palomino; Mr. John Plews; St. Anthony High School Interact Club; Ms. Lani Scott; Seabury Hall students; Sierra Club (Maui Chapter); The Anne & Jacob Starr Foundations; the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (Division of Forestry & Wildlife); Wailuku Agribusiness; and the following radio stations: Hawaii Public Radio, KAOI, KMVI, KNUI, and KPOA.

## 1993 IN REVIEW

- Jan 9 Hibiscus brackenridgei Exclosure work party.
- Feb 13 La Perouse Exclosure work party.
- Feb 24 Dr. Isabella Abbott gave a wonderful slide show and talk on "Near Shore and Marine Plants at Ahihi Kinau, Maui."
- Mar 13 Gressitt Sanctuary work party.
- Mar 27 Zadoc Brown, with Bob Hobdy and Art Medeiros, showed the native dry shrublands to NHPS members in a hike around Pu'u O Kali below Kula.
- April 10 Work party to Auwahi exclosures.
- April 25 NHPS volunteers walked the Lahaina Pali Trail to survey the native plants for Na Ala Hele, in preparation to opening the trail for the public.
- May 5 Pat Bily of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i presented a slide show of the TNC's Waikamoi Preserve to a packed house at the Pukalani Community Center.
- May 8 Work party to the Hibiscus brackenridgei exclosure.
- Jun 2 First planting at the Kahului Library Courtyard Native Plant Garden.
- Jun 12 Weeding and plant maintenance at Gressitt Preserve on West Maui.
- Jun 13 The Pu'u O Kali hike was so popular that Zadoc Brown and Bob Hobdy did it again, taking hikers over the Pu'u itself.
- Jul 10 Koa haole eradication at the La Perouse exclosure.
- Jul 31 TNC/NHPS Waikamoi hike.
- Aug 14 Auwahi exclosures work party.
- Sep 11 Weed control at the *Hibiscus brackenridgei* exclosure.
- Oct 9 Gressitt Preserve work party.
- Nov 13 Work Party to Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Nov 23 Bob Hobdy and Art Medeiros gave an informative and moving slide show and talk on "Sandalwood: Past, Present, and Future."



("Reports/Gresslett," continued from p. 1)

emphasize weed clearing to encourage regrowth of the native species already in the Sanctuary. —Linda Nelson (661-4303) & Becky Lau (575-2369)

### *Hibiscus brackenridgei* Exclosure

This exclosure protects our state flower, ma'o hau hele (*Hibiscus brackenridgei* ssp. *brackenridgei*), and needs a lot of work. Several trips in 1993 removed some of the major weedy species such as non-native grasses, lantana, and koa haole. The January 1994 trip revealed many seedlings of ma'o hau hele, 'A'ali'i, and a native amaranth, *Achyranthes splendens* var. *splendens*. —Richard Nakagawa (877-4024)

### *Kahului Library Courtyard Garden*

In 1993, the Society began work on a lowland coastal demonstration garden in the Library courtyard. Anna Palomino contributed the original garden design and plants were purchased from Ho'olawa Farms. The first planting was June 2 with 'ohi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), 'uki'uki (*Dianella sandwicensis*), 'ulei (*Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*), as well as creepers and vines put into the ground. Unobtrusive plant identification signs with Hawaiian and botanical names clearly indicated have been generously donated by the Lawrence Brown Charitable Foundation. Work parties are scheduled by Mike Perry as needed. Call him to arrange to help with the project, or contact Linda Nelson (661-4303). The Garden will be dedicated October 15, 1994. —Mike Perry (572-9836)

### *Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary*

Since 1988, the Society has contributed to the restoration of the Kanaha Pond wetland ecosystem. The Tuesday "come rain or shine" volunteers have removed twenty tons of weeds, mostly *Pluchea*, koa haole, and kiawe. Mike Perry, especially, has devoted many extra hours to weed removal. As areas have been cleared, desirable native coastal species have been planted to replenish them. Wiliwili (*Erythrina sandwicensis*), 'akoko (*Chamaesyce celastroides*), 'a'ali'i (*Dodonaea viscosa*), 'akia (*Wikstroemia uva-ursi*), naio (*Myoporum sandwicense*), 'anaunau (*Lepidium bidentatum*), *Achyranthes splendens*, and many others were planted in 1993.

Guided field trips brought 700 students through the Pond last year. Also, Girl Scout Troop 460 worked through the year to clear, plant, and maintain a part of the pond which had become landlocked and could not be used by the birds. They named "their" pond Wai Nō'i (water returning the riches of life). NHPS

member George Allen has commemorated their work with a painting to be put on permanent display in the new theater lobby of the Maui Performing Arts and Cultural Center. —Eda Kinnear (871-4871) (Also contact Mike Perry [572-9836] or Joy Tamayose [876-0828].)



**Alula in the Garden.** An unusual member of the Hawaiian native plant flora, the alula, is on display at Kahului Library's courtyard garden. The plant, which is found in the wild off the cliffs of Molokai, is currently in bloom. The courtyard garden is stocked with a variety of indigenous plants by the Native Hawaiian Plant Society. The alula plant was recently featured on a National Geographic television special. In the show, the rare plants were being hand-pollinated by a staffer from the Hawaii Plant Conservation Center who was suspended off a cliff by ropes. It is possible the species once populated Maui although none are known in the wild today. [From The Maui News, Sunday, August 22, 1993.]

### *Accolades...*

To father and daughter, Edward Tamayose and Joy. Ed has worked hard and cheerfully on the Kanaha project since its inception, ONLY taking time off to have hip surgery. Joy celebrated her birthday this year by organizing a Sierra Club work day at the Pond. Could she have bribed the group with a promise of delicious pau hana kaukau? O NO!