

The Native Hawaiian Plant Society

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

March 1996 Vol. 13 No. 1

MAUI BOTANICAL GARDEN NEEDS URGENT ACTION!

We could lose the Garden! Without immediate support from the County and you, the public, it will be lost. What a tragedy that would be!!! The animal exhibits of the Maui Zoological and Botanical gardens were closed to the public on January 1, 1996. Over the next several months the animals will be removed and the Botanical Garden is slated to expand into the old Zoo's space. However, the future of the Botanical Garden is not secure. The County Government has done little to secure funding for operations once the animals have left. A budget proposal (including staff) for fiscal 1996-97 was submitted. It would save the County over \$40,000 from what it would have cost to run the Zoo for another year. The budget was not accepted. Instead, all staff positions have been cut so there will be no maintenance, security, or supervision for the Gardens. Restoration and expansion cannot occur without adequate staffing and financial support.

The Botanical Garden and NHPS have worked for years to educate the community on the importance of preservation of our native flora. We have all come so far. Now is the time for the Botanical Garden to take the lead in providing a community educational resource on conservation and preservation of our unique Hawaiian plants. Here's how you can help.

Read and respond to the Maui Botanical Gardens insert in this newsletter. If you are interested in more detailed information, I have a project summary and three-year development plan available.

-Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond

Mahalo!

We want to say *Mahalo* for donations during 1995 from Geary Mizuno, the Anne and Jacob Starr Foundation, John Plews, Katie Baldwin Achaval, Deborah Brown, and the Lawrence N. Brown Foundation.



Makaloa Weaving Meeting/Workshop

Learn about the art of Makaloa weaving when NHPS hosts the Makaloa Weaving Restoration Project on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00pm at the Upcountry Community Center in Pukalani (Maui). Speakers will be Auntie Elizabeth Maluihi Lee, master weaver, with Peter Van Dyke and Kathleen Fetters of the Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden. First, Peter will show slides about the natural and cultural history of makaloa and the Ni'ihau mats made from it. Kathleen will describe the Makaloa Habitat Study she is conducting for the National Biological Service. Auntie Maluihi will tell of rediscovering techniques of plaiting makaloa, unused for 100 years.

On Wednesday, April 17, from 9:00am to 2:00pm, Auntie Maluihi will lead a hands-on weaving workshop. Preregistration is necessary, so call Eda (871-4891) or Linda (661-4303) to sign up. There will be a \$10 materials fee.

The finest mats of Hawai'i were woven on Ni'ihau, using *makaloa* (*Cyperus laevigatus*). Soft and flexible, they were valued by ali'i, but have not been woven for at least a hundred years. The Makaloa Weaving Restoration Project is in its third year, funded by Bishop Museum's Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program. Hosted by the Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, the Project holds workshops throughout the state.

Earth Maui Nature Summit

Watch for the First Annual Earth Maui Nature Summit, scheduled for August 23-24 at Kapalua. NHPS will mount a native plant exhibit. Other events will include seminars, field trips, and tours.

Miconia calvescens Update

The battle against *Miconia calvescens* continues. This member of the melastome family has been called the most damaging and invasive of alien plant species to wet forests of Pacific Islands. It has devastated parts of Tahiti. Introduced to Maui near Hana in the 1960s, it has spread, but eradication is still considered possible. The East Maui Watershed Partnership, a coalition of business, government, and conservation organizations, was formed three years ago to fight *Miconia* infestations in East Maui. Aerial spraying and hand weeding have been the main tools. In 1995, DLNR made access roads into the worst concentrations. This year, road building and weeding will continue. Operation *Miconia*, a public information program, will be held April 13-14. If you're interested in helping, call Pat Bily at the Maui office of The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii (572-7849) or Wes Wong at DLNR (243-5352).

Miconia on the Web

Check out the NEW *Miconia* information resource on the world-wide web at <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~halesci/MiconiaInHawaii.html>. This page is dedicated to dissemination of up-to-date information about *Miconia calvescens* as a noxious weed in Hawaii (and the Pacific). It's updated frequently and will contain information from a number of sources, including YOU if you care to contribute! Send correspondence and/or comments to me via e-mail at halesci@hawaii.edu. Coming soon: MAPS of *Miconia* distribution in Hawaii and Tahiti!

-Philip Thomas

(continued in next column)

Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group

In November, NHPS was invited to join the Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group (HRPRG). A coalition of botanical gardens, government agencies, private organizations, and the national Center for Plant Conservation, HRPRG is organizing an effort to save rare native species. Also, it will coordinate growing of plants throughout the state for reintroduction both to gardens and to the wild (where appropriate). DLNR's Kahului Basyard will be one of the growing sites. Some of our projects will be homes for future plantings. Richard Nakagawa, our Auwahi project leader, will represent NHPS at the meeting in March. We are very pleased to be a part of this very important conservation effort.

PROJECT REPORTS

Kanaha Pond

Over the last twelve months, we have made exceptional progress in our native plant restoration effort at Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.

Lately, we have been concentrating our efforts to clearing areas essential to nesting adult Hawaiian stilt and the survival of their young. This area had always been a prime nesting site with many young hatched here. However, the survival rate was minimal because many young chicks had difficulty moving from their hatching site to their feeding sites. There were large sections of very tall and thick non-native vegetation blocking their paths. Stilt chicks are tiny and need flat open space to reach their feeding areas. Unfortunately, even when the chicks reached these feeding areas, many perished because heavy vegetation prevented their feeding in safety.

We completely cleared all non-native vegetation from this large area. This was accomplished with over 1200 hours of volunteer work. We are confident our efforts will result in a major improvement in the stilt survival rate in 1996.

Since the clearing and because of an exceptionally wet winter, many naturalized native plants have already started to colonize these areas, providing cover for stilt nests and food for now-hatching Hawaiian coot chicks. We are helping the process by planting over 200 native plants and spreading seed from Kanaha native plants; we expect good results.

All the work was done by volunteers. Most notable was Mr. Edward Tamayose, who contributed more than 350 hours. Lorna Harrison also contributed many hours. Also lending a hand were the Aloha Club, science clubs from Baldwin High School, other individuals from the community--and even a few tourists!

If you are interested in helping too, call Mike Perry at 572-9836. We normally work every Tuesday and Saturday from 8:00 to 11:30am, meeting at the back gate on Amala Rd.

-Mike Perry

Kahului Library Courtyard Garden

(Project Reports continued on p. 3)

(Project Reports continued from p. 2)

The ALOHA for the NHPS's Kahului Library Courtyard Garden of native Hawaiian plants is spreading. A mainland couple, members of the Virginia Native Plant Society, recently visited the garden at the suggestion of Elderhostel. On the same day a local man said, "Thank you for the nice garden," and inquired about *mehame* (*Antidesma pulvinatum*) about which he was writing a song. He left the Library with a copy of Plants and Flowers of Hawaii and my promise to send him a NHPS Membership form. Such are the joys of maintaining the garden. Call Eda (871-4891) if you have suggestions or time to help.

-Eda Kinnear

Gressitt Sanctuary

We had two big jobs at Gressitt Sanctuary in 1995, restoration and weed control. More than 30 new plants, all West Maui species, were planted, some near the stream and some on an open hillside (mahalo to Hank Oppenheimer for the plants). Weeding took the rest of our time. Besides broomsedge, we now have *Tibouchina herbacea* to contend with. This is the weed of West Maui nowadays. Spread by wind, it covers any open areas, choking out everything else, including our precious natives. It took three extra work parties to control it in the planting area. Our March work party will discover how successful we've been. To join us, call Linda at 661-4303.

-Linda Nelson

Auwahi Exclosures

Our project continues to be more rewarding as the weeds become less of a problem. A few stubborn weedy species such as *Bocconia frutescens* still persist and we need continued efforts to control them. Seedling of a'ali'i (*Dodonaea viscosa*), maile (*Alyxia olivaeformis*), and akoko (*Chamaesyce celastroides* var. *lorifolia*) are appearing and seem to be establishing themselves.

-Richard Nakagawa

(Project Reports continued in next column)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's 1996 and membership renewal time! Your contributions pay for the projects you've read about in this newsletter. Please take the time to fill out the membership blank and send in your check. Mahalo!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed, and it was a busy one. Some of our projects were in the news, like our efforts to preserve the Botanical Garden by working on the Maui County Council subcommittee deciding the fate of the Maui Zoo. (The Zoo was closed but the Garden may yet be safe.) Our Awuahi project received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fence around two rare species: *Melicope adscendens* and *Ochrosia haleakalae*. We had three successful night meetings, covering alien plant pests with Dr. Isabelle Abbott; native lobelias with Rick Palmer; and newly-found treasures of Kahikinui with Mahealani Kai'iaokamalie. Our Christmas party at Pat Bily's house in Kula was a great way to finish the year.

You'll see the same officers and Board of Directors this year, with one addition: Ray Keenan has joined the Board.

Oh, and one more thing! We still have our beautiful a'ali'i teeshirts for sale, with some new colors and sizes. Call Becky at 575-2369 for information.

-L.N.

(Project Reports continued from previous column)

La Perouse Exclosure

The awikiwiki (*Canavalia pubescens*) vines are healthy and reproducing. Several hao (*Raovolfia sandwicensis*) seedlings have appeared under the existing trees. We do need help here as weeds such as *koa haole* and morning glory continue to be problems. If you want to help with a special work party in mid-March, call Richard at 877-4024.

-R.N.

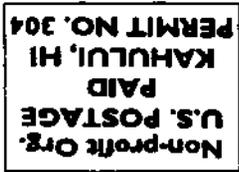
Hibiscus brackenridgei Exclosure

Winter rains have caused the usual sprouting of many *ma'o hau hele* (*Achyranthes splendens*) and a'ali'i seedlings. Unfortunately, many weedy species have also benefited. We are still continuing efforts to rid this exclosure of *koa haole*.

-R.N.



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