

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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Dr. Charles Lamoureux

at November night meeting

Dr. Charles Lamoureux, director of Honolulu's Lyon Arboretum, presented slides at our November 15 night meeting. Attendees learned about the past, present, and future roles of botanical gardens in "Conserving Hawaii's Rarest Plants, the Role of Botanical Gardens." Dr. Lamoureux first showed the reforestation of Oahu's Manoa Valley through the arboretum's tree plantings in the early 1900s. Amassing collections of such plants as ficus, aroids, and orchids occupied the arboretum's efforts from the 1930s through the '80s leading to work in cloning that enabled the arboretum to step into its high-tech focus for the 90s: embryo culture of rare native species. Taking any kind of seed with a viable embryo, Lyon's technicians can make dozens of plants with the genetic makeup of the seed. Dr. Lamoureux hopes to use botanical gardens throughout the state to outplant these species. Some may even find homes in appropriate NHPS enclosures.

Refreshments were donated by Maui Coffee Roasters and KookWeez cookies. Thanks also to Laurel Murphy for her Maui News article about the meeting.

-Linda Nelson

PETER J. CONNALLY

1944-1994

Born in Honey Grove, Texas, Peter Connally was first introduced to the beauties of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States Marine Corps. After his discharge, he returned to Hawaii to earn a Bachelor's degree in Chinese History, and a Master's in Educational Communications. A scholarship took him to Australia, and he served with the Peace Corps in Thailand.

In the 70s, Maui called Peter to different roles: media director at Maui Community College, field director for the American Lung Association, and professional fisherman. He became increasingly involved in lobbying for increased environmental awareness and preservation issues like the Kanaha Pond sewage treatment plant.

Feeling the pressure of increasing urbanization, Peter opted for a job with the State Library on the Island of Lanai. When a job opportunity presented itself, he transferred to DLNR as a Conservation Enforcement Officer. Peter spent long hours patrolling Lanai's coastline on the look-out for illegal fishing practices and had many stories to tell: one arrest was made by swimming out to a boat with only his badge and swimming trunks.

While aware that game mammals on Lanai were causing irreparable harm to the land, Peter was responsible for the enforcement of hunting laws. Goats, sheep, and deer continued to damage an island already devastated by feral animals running wild since the 1860s; silt from the degraded uplands had been washing down for decades, smothering Lanai's reefs. Building on an agreement between Koele Company (the land management arm of Dole Company) and the State of Hawaii, Peter spearheaded efforts to eradicate feral goats on the island using many volunteers from Maui, Hawaii and Oahu. Although the volunteers sometimes grew weary of the long steep hikes with few chances of even seeing a goat, Peter and his volunteers were determined to achieve goat eradication on Lanai. They kept up the battle for a number of years.

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One day while Peter was out looking for goats, he stopped to take a break in a remnant native dry forest on the northeast slope of Lanaihale. As he sat, he noticed a tree trunk that looked out of place. When he saw the leaves atop the tall spindly trunk, he knew he had found something rare. It was later described as a new species, *Hibiscadelphus crucibracteatus*, the only known specimen of a species endemic to Lanai.

Tramping Lanai gave Peter a familiarity with the vegetation that led to informal botanical walks and talks for various groups. He helped with transects for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and organized a volunteer effort to fence Kanepuu, the dryland native forest now protected by The Nature Conservancy. By the early 80s no goats could be found on the slopes of Lanaihale. The steeper slopes, the last refuge of some of the rarest native plants, were now safer from the browsing of at least one feral mammal.

In 1985 Peter returned to Maui to work with the Resource Management division of Haleakala National Park. HNP was renewing its efforts in goat control which included plans for fencing the entire park. The goats were finally eradicated in Haleakala National Park through the combined efforts of HNP personnel and a dedicated corps of volunteers.

Peter's on-the-job conservation work was only part of his life's work. He was a great organizer of many expeditions into the hinterlands where the few remaining specimens of myriad taxa of native plants could still be found. Peter could always be counted on to bring all the right equipment, get permission from the land owner, get materials from DLNR and get the fence built strong and straight. We all have fond memories of trips to the South slope of Haleakala to fence out cattle, goats or pigs that would otherwise have wiped out many a species' last survivors.

As the Lanai representative of the Hawaii Audubon Society Peter reported on several unusual sightings of birds; he also served as a member of the Sierra Club Maui Group Executive Committee and was a strong supporter of The Nature Conservancy.

Peter was married to Tanee Hamaishi and had one daughter, Samantha Hana, now 9 years old.

We will all miss Peter for his determination, sense of humor and irreverence, dedication and stubbornness in opposing human activities that threatened Maui's environment.

-Pat Conant

Kahului Library Courtyard Garden Dedication

With a celebratory chant and hula by Gordean Bailey's halau, Wehiwehi o Leilehua, the Kahului Library Courtyard Garden officially opened on October 15. For over a year, volunteers headed by Eda Kinnear and Mike Perry had worked to change a grassy backwater into a show place for such native dryland and coastal species as Pa'u O Hi'iaka (*Jacquemontia ovalifolia*) and Hinahina (*Heliotropium anomalum* var *argenteum*). After the dancers, NHPS president Linda Nelson placed a commemorative plaque in the garden. Refreshments were served by Girl Scout Cadet Troop 460. Future plans include an educational display, featuring plants found in the Garden, to be mounted on the courtyard wall. Brochures with a map of the Garden planting are available at the library reference desk to help you explore and enjoy the garden. -L.N.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

for Maui Girl Scouts

Cadet Troop 460 from Kula has been in the public eye lately for their work at Kanaha Pond. Sponsored by NHPS, they cleared a weedy area near the oceanside fence. Almost immediately native makaloa (*Cyperus laevigatus*), 'akulikuli (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*) and 'aki'aki grass (*Sporobolus virginicus*) sprouts appeared. This spring George Allen celebrated their work with one of his eighty paintings for the Maui Arts and Cultural Center's Castle Theater foyer. Now, the six Scouts and their leader, Jackie Richie, will travel to Washington DC on November 27 to receive the Environmental Protection Agency's PRESIDENT'S AWARD. While there, they'll be treated to four days of sightseeing. Also, two weeks ago, the Maui County Council read into the Council record recognition for their work at the pond. -L.N.

Xmas Party

The location of the NHPS Christmas party has changed! It will be held at the Raymond house in Kula (300 Copp Rd.) (rather than at Camp Pecusa, as was announced in our October postcard) on Sunday afternoon, December 11, from 1 pm til dusk. Call Linda (661-4303) or Lisa (878-3564) for directions or other information, and to RSVP. Bring food and drink for a mid-afternoon potluck. We'll provide turkey and a big pot of rice. -L.N.

Maui Botanical Garden

Rene Sylva retired in January 1994 and I was hired as park caretaker to replace him in March. Since then things have moved slowly but positively forward. To restore the Garden, I have created a new landscape design using xeriscaping or water-saving techniques. This concept has the support of the County Water Dept which may provide future funding. The plant collection will concentrate on Maui species and emphasize coastal and dryland varieties, with a wetzone near the entrance for plants requiring more water. Future plans include a sand dune project. The rest of the Zoo grounds will house my continually expanding collection of Polynesian introduced ethnobotanical plants.

Of course, implementation of this design depends on getting the funds allocated in the 1995-96 budget. I am asking for about \$20,000, half of which will be for a new irrigation system. Most important, however, is funding for the creation of a Botanical Garden Supervisor position to empower me to carry out the design. Please let your new Council members and Mayor know you support the long overdue restoration to this once-beautiful and unique Botanical Garden. If you would like to give personal testimony at any of the budget hearings, please call Mary Evanson, President of the Friends of the Maui Zoo and Botanical Garden (572-9724), or me (878-3564-h, 242-7337-w). *Mahalo nui* for your support and come see me at the Garden! -Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond

Native Plants

Where to see native plants: hapu'u (*Cibotium* sp.) at Kula Fire Station; koa (*Acacia koa*) at Waipuna Chapel; nehe (*Lipochaeta* sp.) at Holy Rosary Church and MCC Parking lot; 'ohi'a lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) at Kula Ball Park; many species (*Scaevola coriacea*, *Vitex rotundifolia*, *Ipomaea pes-caprae*, *Wikstroemia* sp., *Gossypium tomentosum*, etc.) at Wailea Point along the seaside sidewalk.

Auwahi Exclosures

Remember the December 10 trip to the Auwahi NHPS exclosures! 4X4s are necessary; reservations required. Contact Richard Nakagawa (877-4024) for details.

In Memoriam

Memorial donations in Peter's memory have been made by Gordean Bailey, Sheila Conant, and George Theros.

Honokowai Valley Hike

With perfect fall weather, 26 NHPS members and guests hiked into Honokowai Valley on October 23. The trail is part of Pioneer Mill's irrigation maintenance system and contours along the Lahaina side of the valley to a waterworks system at 1600 ft elevation. West Maui native species, such as lama (*Diospyros sandwicensis*) and olopua (*Nestegis sandwicensis*), are easily seen from the trail. Because of your interest, we had more responses to our postcard announcement than we could take. We may go again in early 1995 if there is enough interest. Call Linda at 661-4303 for more information.

-L.N.

Arborist support

The Maui County Arborist Committee had recently published its County Planting Plan. It has two proposals of special interest to NHPS. First, the Plan mandates the use of native species whenever feasible. Second, it calls for the hiring of a professional arborist to care for our public trees, supervise plantings and train others in proper tree-care techniques. These proposals are exciting! Native trees have been too long ignored in our public plantings. Also, a professional arborist would "do the job right." Having watched the sad condition of tree plantings along our highways, we all know this is needed. The County will soon start preparing for its 1995 budget. Please, call, fax or write your Council member to let them know you that you support the planting of native trees in our parks and the hiring of a county arborist in 1995.

-L.N.

New Teeshirt

Looking for holiday gifts? Our new a'ali'i teeshirt, with artwork by Pamela Hayes, is available. It comes in regular and China Tee styles, with sizes from Small to Extra Large. Prices start at \$12.00. Sweatshirts are also available. Order them from Becky Lau (575-2369) or pick one up at the Xmas party.

Membership Dues Reminder

It's that time again! 1994 is ending and your 1995 membership dues are due. Please fill out and return the form on the back of this newsletter with your check.

-L.N.

Newsletter layout and final editing was provided by Philip Thomas.



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