

# The Native Hawaiian Plant Society

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

June 1995 Vol. 12 No. 1

## KAHULUI LIBRARY COURTYARD 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.

-Linda Nelson

## ISABELLE ABBOTT NIGHT MEETING REPORT

Warning that this year's garden sensation can become next year's Banana Poka, Dr. Isabella Abbott, UH botanist and longtime NHPS supporter, gave her slide show on "New Plants: Friends or Foes" on March 28th at the Paia Community Center. She showed some familiar threats to the native forest such as gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and *Tibouchina herbacea*. Our role in protecting Maui from this problem is to be vigilant. If you see an unfamiliar plant, check it out. You might stop a problem before it gets started. For example, ivy gourd, *Coccinia grandis*, is a vine with white flowers and red ovoid fruits. It has taken over Oahu in ten years but is not yet infested Maui. A food plant in Vietnam, it was probably brought into the state by immigrants. Isolated plants without fruit have been found on Maui. Be on the alert for this potential disaster.

-L.N.



## PROJECT REPORTS

**Auwahi Enclosures:** The last several trips showed that we are successfully keeping the weeds out of our enclosures. *Bocconia frutescens* remains a small problem because of seedlings and stubborn larger plants.

-Richard Nakagawa

**La Perouse Enclosure:** Again, our efforts have been very successful with just a handful of koa haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*) plants resisting us. The target plant, *Canavalia pubescens* ('awikiwiki) is very healthy: flowering, seeding and reproducing.

-R.N.

**Hibiscus brackenridgei Enclosure:** We need help here. The koa haole and lantana (*Lantana camara*) are major problems. The mao hau hele (*H. brackenridgei*) has been able to reproduce and the last trip showed numerous small seedlings.

-R.N.

**Gressitt Report:** The story at Gressitt Sanctuary is new plantings and big weeds. Concentrating on West Maui species, we planted lama (*Diospyros hillebrandii*), maile lauli'i (*Alyxia oliviformis*), loulou (*Pritchardia forbsiana*), and naupaka (*Scaevola gaudichaudii*) in March. We've also made headway against our major weed problem, fireweed (*Tibouchina herbacea*), a scourge all over West Maui. We've managed to control it in the planting areas. Now we'll expand our efforts to include the whole reserve with special work parties. (Call Becky 575-2369) to volunteer for a special work party in May.) Also in the works, a sign along the entrance road announcing the Sanctuary.

-L.N.

## KANAHA POND REPORT

The Native Hawaiian Plant Society has been involved at the Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary for many years. The Sanctuary is an essential habitat for the Hawaiian stilt, the Hawaiian coot, and the Hawaiian duck. Additionally, the resident black-crowned night heron and many migratory shore birds and waterfowl also use the Sanctuary. The Society became involved after the discovery that many native plant species still survive in this location and that these native species were slowly but surely being overrun and replaced by non-native plants. Worse, these non-native plants were clogging up the wetlands, depriving native birds of nesting and feeding sites and degrading the quality of the water. Since that discovery, many groups and individuals have put in thousands of hours to clear away the non-native plants, especially at the edges of the wetlands. This effort has been responsible for at least 15 acres of non-native plants being manually removed.

Many species of native plants have been slowly recovering and filling in the cleared areas. It's wonderful to watch these plants grow and survive naturally without interference from non-native plants. We have witnessed greater use of these areas by native and migrating wetland birds. In April, two baby stilts were discovered in an area we cleared approximately 10 months ago. We have also seen an increase in the Hawaiian coot, the Hawaiian duck, and migratory birds using these cleared areas.

This extraordinary effort to clear out non-native plant species from Kanaha Pond is made possible by the support of the Native Hawaiian Plant Society and the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife. It is totally dependent on volunteers. In the last 12 months, volunteers have contributed 1800 hours of hard work. We were helped by Girl Scouts, high school students, and many other individuals. This project is a continuous effort, and will require many more volunteers.

We meet regularly on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Additionally, we accommodate individuals and groups who wish to volunteer at times other than those regularly scheduled. Anyone interested in helping us may call Mike Perry at 572-9836 for details.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1995 has already been a busy year. As announced at the March night meeting, the 1994 Board agreed to serve again in 1995 with me as President. One change is Leslie Hiraga replacing Peter Connally as Secretary. Mike Perry remains as Vice-President and Becky Lau as Treasurer.

Since March, I've worked with the County Council to preserve the Maui Zoo and Botanical Garden. At this time, the County seems to be supporting our recommendations to make the facility into a showcase of Maui plants and animals. Also, the animal housing problems will be corrected. Hooray!

The problems caused by alien plants were brought into sharp focus when I received a letter from the East Maui Watershed Partnership (EMWP) about the *Miconia* infestation on East Maui. EMWP is a cooperative effort by Hawaii State DLNR, East Maui Irrigation Co., Haleakala National Park, County of Maui, The Nature Conservancy, Keola Hana Maui, and Haleakala Ranch Co. to give "long-term protection to the East Maui (Haleakala) watershed."

Threatening the watershed is *Miconia calvescens*, a tree from Latin America which has virtually taken over the forest on Tahiti and near Hilo on the Big Island. It was introduced as an ornamental on Maui around 1970 and has since spread to 1500 acres near Hana. Control efforts started in the early 1990's and in EMWP's view "action to control this weed must be pursued actively within the next 2-5 years...to be effective". "We believe our best chance of success is to seek widespread support of our efforts at this crucial juncture." They ask our help to spread the word and to "support our efforts to obtain the necessary appropriations to do the job".

To help this effort, call your representative and senator. Tell them of your concerns about *Miconia* and urge them to support control appropriations in next year's legislature. If you want to volunteer, call one of EMWP's members, and they'll put you to work.

-Linda Nelson

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10 (Saturday) La Perouse Exclosure work party. Call Richard (877-4024)

June 24 (Saturday) Waihee Ridge Trail membership hike. Call Linda (661-4303)

July 8 (Saturday) Gressitt Sanctuary work party. Call Linda (661-4303)

August 5 (Saturday) Waikamoi Reserve's Ainahou Pali membership hike. Numbers limited so call Pat Bily 878-2441 for reservations.

August 12 (Saturday) Auwahi Exclosures work party. Call Richard (877-4024)

September 9 (Saturday) *Hibiscus brackenridgei* Exclosure work party. Call Richard (877-4024)

September 15 (Friday) Night meeting. Speaker to be announced.

October 14 (Saturday) Gressitt Sanctuary work party. Call Linda (661-4303)

November 4 (Saturday) Lualailua Membership Hike. Call Fern (572-1584)

November 10 (Friday) Night meeting. Speaker to be announced.

November 11 (Saturday) Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary work party. Call Mike (572-9836)

December 2 (Saturday) Xmas Party at Maui Zoo & Botanical Garden

December 9 (Saturday) Auwahi Exclosures work party. Call Richard (877-4024)

## BRIEF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1994

Balance as of January 1, 1994	\$8,053.44
Receipts for 1994	5,685.30
Disbursements for 1994	5,982.59
Balance as of Dec. 31, 1994	7,765.15

—Becky Lau, Treasurer

## COURTYARD GARDEN AT LIBRARY

The Society's Courtyard Garden at the Kahului Library is proving to be a great pleasure for the public and a safe, happy home to native Hawaiian plants. Visit the garden now and you will see u'ulei (*Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*) bearing bunches of rose hips; the lily 'uki 'uki (*Dianella sandwicensis*) developing lapis blue seeds, and a mejiro nesting in the Hawaiian cotton, ma'o (*Gossypium sandwicensis*).

Over the last several weeks, Eda and crew have been working on refurbishing some beds. They have made some design improvements and have had the sprinkler system upgraded. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the lovely garden!

## ANNOUNCEMENT

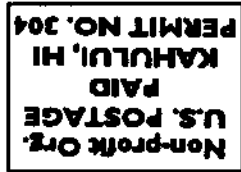
The pamphlet *Native Hawaiian Plants for Landscaping, Conservation and Reforestation* by Bornhorst and Rauch is available at the Cooperative Extension Service in Kahului or by writing to: Cooperative Extension Service, USDA UH Manoa, 3050 Maile Way, Honolulu, HI 96822-2279.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

If your dues are overdue, please fill out and return the form on the back of this newsletter with your check to keep your membership up-to-date!



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**NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANT SOCIETY**  
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Your name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Res.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Bus.) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed:

Individual membership  \$10.00

Other  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New member

Renewal member

I would like to volunteer

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** Please give us notice; our new, economical non-profit mailing rate does *not* include forwarding.