

# The Native Hawaiian Plant Society

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



## Christmas Cheer

Come celebrate the holiday season at our Christmas Potluck at Camp Pecusa on Sunday, December 19 from noon to sunset. Located in Olowalu, the Camp has plenty of space for kids, and a wonderful snorkeling beach with great kayaking near shore. We'll be grilling hot dogs and chicken. Also available at the party will be our new NHPS T-shirts featuring makaloa and Hawaiian stilts by Anna Duvall. Just the Christmas present you've been looking for. Call Linda Nelson at 661-4303 for details.

Remember, you can cut your own Christmas tree and help remove an alien species from Haleakala National Park by helping clear pines from Puu Niauniau on Saturday, December 18. For more information, call Forest Starr at 572-2352.

## Workshop on Propagation & Sale of Threatened / Endangered Plants

Join NHPS on January 27, 2000 at 6 PM for the workshop, "Propagation & Sale of Threatened/Endangered Plants." It will be held in the Cooperative Extension Service's meeting room at Maui Community College. State Botanist, Vicki Caraway, will explain the new state regulations concerning endangered species and how they will affect both professional nurseries, landscapers, and homeowners.

Our co-sponsors for this free workshop are the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Maui Community College. For more information call 876-1813.

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## MEMBERSHIP

It's time to show your support for protection of Maui's native plants by renewing your annual NHPS membership. Simply fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter and return it with your check. Be sure to check 'I would like to volunteer' if you want to be contacted about ongoing projects.

## NHPS

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~thomasp/nhps

## ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY, 2000

7 PM on Friday, February 25, 2000  
Tavares (Upcountry) Community Center, Pukalani  
Meeting Room 2, lower level

Our first public meeting of the millennium will feature a slide presentation of fabulous native plants and birds. *Midway Atoll and the Other Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, will be presented by Kim Martz and Forest Starr, who recently returned from a three month stint as volunteers on Midway. Before the show we will have our annual meeting to elect the 2000 Board of Directors, and to ratify the amended bylaws. (A copy of the amended bylaws is available at the Kahului Library for review).

## MISC HIRES ALIEN "SWAT TEAM"

By Pat Bily

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) has recently hired a work crew, whose job will be to begin controlling new plant and animal threats to Maui. These target species are identified in the MISC Action Plan as incipient invaders, ones that may be just getting established in Maui County. It includes prevention, eradication, and containment goals. For example, preventing the establishment of any fountain grass found on Maui through intense survey and control work, will save Maui from the immense fire hazard and impact to native dry forests presented by this weed. Fountain grass is considered out of control on Oahu and Hawaii, where it has severely altered native dry forests, lava flows, and fire regimes. MISC will also be working with DLNR on a prevention program poised for rapid response to any snake sightings.

Miconia, a major threat to native wet ecosystems, will now have another team giving it pursuit, in addition to the Hana miconia crew funded by Maui County. The MISC crew recently accompanied me on a miconia scout/control trip through the rough terrain of Nahiku, proving their hardiness and keen eye in detecting miconia in dense jungle.

Other pests this crew will attempt to contain, or even eradicate, include the noisy Caribbean frog, ivy gourd, and wild pampas grass. With a field crew of five full-time staff, it's expected that the MISC "Swat Team" will accomplish a lot within their limited one year of funding. Only through lobbying and letters to the State legislatures (from citizens like YOU!) will any funding be renewed for the future. Dr. Lloyd Loope, Research Scientist for USGS-BRD at Haleakala National Park, sums up how many Mauians perceive the need for a group like MISC. "The majority of Maui residents understand the threat of alien species' introduction not only to natural areas, but to agriculture, health, the visitor industry, and the quality of life for all of us." For more information on the Maui Invasive Species Committee, call 579-2115.

## Goodbye Gressitt Sanctuary

Started by NHPS founder Rene Sylva in 1983, Gressitt Sanctuary was our oldest project. Several hundred plants were put there, from koas to naupaka. Everything changed in February, 1998, when a wildfire burned 90% of the Sanctuary. Although most of our plantings were destroyed, the Board took a "wait-and-see" approach. We

would wait until October 1999, when our lease came up for renewal, to make a decision whether or not to continue the project. Would the plantings resprout or recover? Would weeds take over bare areas? On a site visit in October, we found few natives recovering and aggressive weeds covering much of the Sanctuary. With

## EXCLOSURES REPORT

by Richard Nakagawa

**AUWAHI:** The construction of a new enclosure which will contain an impressive number of different species is a major project at Auwahi. When completed, it will safeguard a significant number of the very rare endangered *Melicope adscendens* plants. We wish to thank all those involved in the building of this very difficult fence. Also of importance is our continued support of the USGS / BRD project near our enclosures which will include weed control and out planting. As stated in previous newsletters, the combined efforts of numerous people and organizations are critical to the survival of this unique native forest.

### **AWIKIWIKI and HIBISCUS**

**BRACKENRIDGEI:** Because of the dry year in leeward areas, work at our dryland enclosures was scaled back mostly to monitoring the sites. The major projects at the *H. brackenridgei* enclosure were controlling the very stubborn weed *Panicum maximum* (guinea grass), and building a foot path to insure safe footing and reduce rock slides.

regret, we decided that the Sanctuary's problems were overwhelming and to not continue working there. We will, however, periodically monitor our surviving plantings. Also, the Kapalua Nature Society will make memorial plantings of native species throughout the site.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**2000** promises to be an exciting year for NHPS. We will expand our efforts at dry forest preservation with a new project at Puu o Kali below Kula. The Puu o Kali area is being heavily impacted by axis deer and the remnant dry forest found there is being literally eaten away. We will be part of a team headed by Art Medieros, USGS/Biological Resources Division (BRD) biologist, that will fence 200 acres of the best remaining forest there. We also work with Art on forest restoration in Auwahi. How exciting to be a part of figuring out how to bring a threatened forest back to life! Then there's Kealia Pond. NHPS will celebrate National Wildlife Refuge month next October with a volunteer day at the Pond.

The newsletter usually includes a volunteer project schedule for members for the second Saturday of each month. We'll change that this year. The combination of continuing leeseid drought and new projects makes scheduling for a whole year impossible. Instead, we'll put the information on our voicemail at 877-7717, It's especially important that you check the volunteer box when you renew your membership so that we can contact you. Thank you all for your support through the year and let's work together to make 2000 a great year for native plant preservation.

Aloha, Linda Nelson

## Mahalo!

Many mahalos to:

**Eda Kinnear and her dedicated crew** for the beautiful native plant garden in the Kahului Library courtyard. It's a serene, lovely place to sit with a good book . . .

Our public meeting speakers **Paul Higashino**, for his informative update on the Kaho'olawe restoration project, and to **Dr. Sam Gon III** for his inspirational overview of the native Hawaiian attitude towards the natural world . . .

**Maui Coffee Roasters and Cook Kwee's Maui Cookies** for providing the dandy refreshments at our public meetings . . .

**Maui Land and Pineapple Company** for use of their conference room for our Board meetings and for their support of conservation on Maui . . .

**Mahealani Kaiakamelie and his hard-working crew** for fencing our new Auwahi enclosure, protecting *Melicope adscendens* and other rare native species.

## MARY EVANSON HONORED

**Congratulations** to one of Maui's own. Longtime conservation activist Mary Evanson, has been recognized by the National Sierra Club with the Barbosa Grant for conservation advocacy. Mary has "fought the good fight" on such issues as the Kahului Runway Extension moratorium and Keopuolani Park drainage problems. She created the nonprofit Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and helped to found NHPS and the Friends of Haleakala National Park.

## MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS - THE LONG WAIT -

The Maui Botanical Gardens development project is a partnership between Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, Inc., the Tri-Isle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., and the County of Maui. The master plan for the project was completed in January of this year. The garden has also been identified as the Cultural Learning Center for Maui by the Bishop Museum's Native Hawaiian Culture & Arts Program. All the necessary start-up funds have been encumbered and we are ready to begin. The final hurdle will be approval of the lease by the County Council. If all goes well, we could begin the project as soon as February of 2000.

If you are interested in testifying or writing in support of the project, please contact me for more information. Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond 876-1813.



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## Membership Form

Your name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Amount enclosed:

- Individual membership  \$15.00  
Family membership  \$20.00  
Other contribution  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New member       Renewal member       I would like to volunteer

Change of address:

*Please give us notice; our new, economical nonprofit mailing rate does not include forwarding.*