

The Native Hawaiian Plant Society

Nanea na Pua o ka Aina Aloha

Annual Newsletter February 2003

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MEMBERSHIP

It's membership renewal time again; time to show your support for protection of Maui's native plants by sending in your membership dues. Dues are unchanged with \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Simply fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter and return it with your check. Please print carefully, especially your email. Be sure to mark the "I would like to volunteer" box if you want to be contacted about our ongoing projects.

NHPS

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BRUCE KOEBELE TO SPEAK ON FEB 28

Join us for Bruce Koebele, of Oahu's Ka'ala Farm, speaking on "Volunteers Making A Difference In Native Hawaiian Plant Restoration." Bruce, co-author of A NATIVE HAWAIIAN GARDEN: HOW TO GROW AND CARE FOR ISLAND PLANTS, will describe his work with volunteer and semi-volunteer groups to restore native plant communities along Oahu's leeward coast. He'll also cover the native gardens he's established at Ka'ala Farm's Cultural Learning Center as part of the Farm's program to teach about traditional Hawaiian practices. The meeting will be held on **Friday, February 28, at 7 PM** at the **Tavares Community Center** across from the Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center, **lower floor meeting room**.

PROJECTOR DONATION

Do you have a slide projector to donate to NHPS? Last year we asked for, and got, a screen (thank you Elaine Wender). Now we're looking for the projector to go with it. It needs to accept a universal carousel. If you have a projector that you can donate, call Linda at 661-4303

WAIHEE PRESERVE

Maui Coastal Land Trust (MCLT) is buying the old **Waihee Dairy site** for a coastal preserve. Located on the coast near Waihee town, the 277 acre preserve will include the last intact sand dune on the island plus wetlands, seabird nesting areas and archaeological sites. Restoration of native vegetation will be a high priority and NHPS will be involved, both with expertise and on-the-ground volunteer projects! First, however, comes the money part, the \$6 million purchase and endowment price. MCLT already has \$4 million from various government agencies, a very good start. To complete the purchase and get stewardship moneys, they will kick off a \$2 million fundraising campaign on March 15. I've been involved with MCLT since its beginning. It's a great organization with lots of local support. I believe that they will be able to secure the funds and restore one of Maui's best natural areas. Interested? Call 244-5263 to learn more.

-Linda Nelson-

Earth Day

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (MNBG) will host **Earth Day** on **April 19** and it promises to be a great event. Aiming at local families, MNBG will bring

together community groups, Hawaiian cultural groups and government agencies to show the connections between Hawaiian traditions and conservation. Along with hands-on activities, entertainment, door prizes, the event will emphasize career opportunities in conservation for our local youth. NHPS will be there and we're looking for volunteers to man our booth. Call me at 661-4303 to help.

-Linda Nelson-

Lloyd Loope on June 6th
Lloyd Loope, of USGS-BRD at Haleakala National Park, will speak at our June 6 meeting on **Needs and possibilities for better quarantine to protect biodiversity in Hawaii: New Zealand as a model.** Lloyd was a founder of the Melastome Action Committee (now the Maui Invasive Species Committee) in 1993. He recently went to New Zealand, best in the world at alien species control, and now wants to bring their methods to Hawaii. This is a subject we need to learn about and support! We'll meet at the **Tavares Community Center** across from the Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center, **lower floor meeting room, at 7 PM.** See you there.

President's Message

It's been busy times at NHPS. Last winter's rains brought significant seedling germination in our exclosures for the first time since the drought. We spoke out on critical habitat for endangered species, native plant landscaping for Makena State Park, the open space

amendment to the county charter and preservation of the Waihee Dairy site, issues we supported in 2002. Hosted by Martha Vockrodt, we learned air layering and grafting on Puu Mahoe's rare species.

In 2003, we're adding two new Board members. Tamara Nelson is growing plants for the restoration of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Dr. Lee Altenberg is an associate professor in computer science at UH and a hands-on conservationist. He is restoring his Kihei neighborhood gulch with South Maui dryland species. With all that's happening, we should have a very productive year.

-Linda Nelson-

KANAHA POND

This year the Kanaha Tuesday morning weeding and planting gang has been concentrating on the areas that have been reinfested with *Pluchia*. Once an area has had an initial clearing, four or five reweeding efforts are necessary to keep on top of things. Other groups have been taking on most of the arduous initial clearing. With the NHPS follow-up work, progress is being made. We hope to get all of this mopup work done by April 1st when most of the Pond is off-limits for nesting season.

Another accomplishment this year was the out-planting of 19 kou. These trees were generously donated by Glynnis Nakai, manager of the USFWS sanctuary at Kealia Pond near Kihei. These trees are doing well so far and only require

watering one or two days per week. Hopefully, we will soon have a nice grove along the Kanaha Beach Road fence. There are 20 more kou to plant before April 1st.

Many thanks to Janet Allan, Niel Bordmeyer, Dan Cohen, Muffy Davis, Jack Hazen, Pamela Jayne, Becky Lau, Collin McCormick, Martha Martin, Janet Magalanes, Linda Nelson and Tammie Paul for helping out this year
--Lorna Joan Hazen--

LA PEROUSE/ AUWAHI UPDATE

In 2002 we continued maintaining these exclosures with weeding and fence maintenance. Over the years, we have witnessed varying degrees of natural regeneration of native plants. Unfortunately, we have also seen a succession of different weeds...some very nasty! Our basic plan of letting the natives come back on their own seems to be working but very slowly.

Depending on the situation, we may need to modify our basic strategy. For instance, to augment the natural growth, we have started a modest seeding program in some exclosures. In other cases, we may also do outplanting. Whatever the case, I would like to thank everyone who has helped over the years and invite others to experience a unique opportunity to learn and work with rare native plants. Call me at 873-3504 to join one of our trips.

--Richard Nakagawa--

MA`O HAU HELE EXCLOSURE

The past year has been one of big changes for the Society's *Hibiscus brackenridgei* project. There are new landowners, and a new superintendent at the Sandalwood Golf Course. However, the great news is that we will still be allowed access to the site. We continue to make significant progress removing the most invasive weeds, and the natives are thriving! Of course, we can always use more help, so check our website or call (Hank Oppenheimer at 669-4983) to participate in our next service trip. It's rewarding AND fun!

Mahalo nui loa to Avery Chumbley, Sandalwood Golf Course, and Donna & Alan Ting, and all our hardworking volunteers.

— Hank Oppenheimer—

MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

Arlene Taus, our arborist and volunteer coordinator, has been planting new species at a prodigious rate at the garden. She has been experimenting with planting procedures and has lots to share about the best procedures for adapting rare native species to cultivation. Volunteer opportunities abound. The projects we need help with include: planting for the Pu'u o Kali seed bank project, clearing new areas and designing new beds, installing new drip irrigation, transplanting seedlings in the nursery, and many others.

On December 18 and 19, 2002, Bob Hobdy of DLNR and MNBG staff and volunteers went to Moke'ehia Islet off Kahakuloa, Pu'upehe and Po'opo'o Islets off Lana'i, and Alau Islet off Hana to plant *Scaevola coriacea* rooted cuttings from the Waiehu sand dunes population. In order to maintain genetic diversity within the species, each group of plants contained individuals from each of the 39 parent plants that contributed cuttings from the dunes. Plantings on December 21 and 27 completed the project. Claire Cappelle and David Matilla of the Hawaiian Islands Hump-back Whale National Marine Sanctuary also assisted by donating their research boat to get to the islet.

On **Saturday, February 22**, from **9 am to 12 pm**, MNBG will be holding a sale of rare and endangered native and Polynesian introduced plants. *Ma'o hau hele* (*Hibiscus brackenridgei*), creeping *naupaka* (*Scaevola coriacea*), 'Ohia, native ferns, and several dryland taro varieties will be among the nearly one hundred species available. Come early for best selection! MNBG is located at 150 Kanaloa Ave., across from War Memorial Stadium. Call 249-2798 for information.

-Lisa Schattenburg Raymond-

OHA'I

Two years ago, NHPS partnered with State DLNR and Na Ala Hele to protect a newly discovered population of ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*) near

Kahakuloa. Under the supervision of Terry Quisinberry, the plants were fenced against grazing animals and weeds like koa haole and christmas berry cleaned from the exclosures. Two years later the ohai plants have doubled in size, many ohai seedlings have sprouted, and the exclosures remain largely weed free. In April, we'll help with a Na Ala Hele outplanting there of species such as alahe'e and a'ali'i. These natives are no longer in the exclosure but are found in nearby areas and were doubt-less there before grazing de-graded the site. To volunteer, call Dan at 572-0300.

MAHALO TO:

Elaine Wender for donating a screen for our meeting slideshows

Cook Kwee's Maui Cookies for donating those tasty cookies for our meetings

Hawaiian Canoe Club for use of their meeting rooms for our Board meetings

Maui County Parks Department for use of their Community Center meeting rooms for our public meetings

Our public meeting speakers, **Brian Valley** and **Dr. Lee Altenberg** for showing us conservation at work in Hawaii

Martha Vochrodt for the opportunity to learn airlayering and grafting techniques

Eda Kinnear for the beautiful native plant garden in the Kahului Library Courtyard

Our exclosure partners, **Ulupalakua Ranch, Donna and Alan Ting, and State DLNR** for working with us to save rare plants in the wild

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Membership Donation Form

Date _____

Name (please print) _____

New member _____

Address _____

Renewal _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Volunteer _____

Telephone (res.) _____ (bus.) _____

Email (please print CAREFULLY) _____

Donation Categories: Individual \$15.00 _____
Family \$20.00 _____
Other \$ _____