

The Native Hawaiian Plant Society

Nanea na Pua o ka Aina Aloha

Annual Newsletter February 2005

OFFICERS

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Treasurer: Becky Lau
575-2369

Secretary: Fern Duvall
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MEMBERSHIP

It's membership renewal time again. Please show your support for protection of Maui's native plants by sending in your membership dues. You can check your dues status by looking at the number at the **top right** of your mailing label. **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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MARIE BRUEGMANN

At FEBRUARY 18 Annual Meeting

It's coming! The long awaited Mid-Elevation Nursery for very rare Maui plants will be built this year by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Here to tell us about the plans will be Marie Brueggemann, Plant Conservation Coordinator for USFWS, speaking at the poolside meeting room at the Tavares Community Center (Pukalani) on Friday February 18, at 7 PM.

Marie, a USFWS botanist stationed on Oahu, has been working with the Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group (HRPRG), a consortium of government and private organizations, to prevent the extinction of critically rare native plants. They have devised a 'genetic safety net' (GSN) list for each island of species with less than 50 individuals remaining in the wild. This year, the group will focus on Maui and construct the Olinda Rare Plant Facility to propagate Maui's GSN species. This holds great promise for our restoration projects! Marie will give us the details.

This is our annual meeting and before Marie speaks we'll have a short business meeting to elect our Board. See you there.

UPCOMING

NHPS EVENTS

February 18: Annual meeting with Marie Brueggemann on the new Olinda Rare Plant Facility 7 PM, Tavares Community Center poolside meeting room

March 19: Ma'o Hau Hele Exclosure trip (see project report). To go, call Hank at 669-4985

April 9: Ohai Exclosure trip (see project report). To go call Linda at 661-4303

April 23: Earth Day at MNBG from 10 AM-3PM. We'll have a table display

TEESHIRTS AND POSTCARDS

Our newest fundraiser is a postcard of **Haleakala Splendor**, a print by Maui artist Pamela Hayes. Known for her beautiful depictions of native plants, Pam has generously allowed us to print the postcard in regular postcard size for \$.75 and \$1.50 for a 6"x8" size suitable for framing (discounts for larger quantities). It features the subalpine shrub land plants hinahina, ohelo and pukiawe. We'll have them available at the February 18 meeting, along with our logo teeshirts.

KANAHA POND

NHPS has been working at native plant restoration in the Kanaha Pond Wildlife Refuge since 1990 when President Eda Kinnear asked members to help restore native vegetation to improve the quality of the bird habitat around the Pond. Located in Kahului near the airport, the Pond was infested with alien weeds such as California Bull Rush and *Pluchea indica* which were choking out nesting habitat. Over the years our devoted volunteers have worked with community groups such as the Baldwin High Science Club, the Tongan Eagle Scouts, the Seabury Hall science class and Girl Scout Troop 460 (which received the EPA's President's Award in 1994 for their work there) to clear, outplant or weed nearly 60 acres. Some areas, such as the lookout, have been replanted in suitable groundcovers such as akulikuli, ilima and akiaki grass.

These days, the "Thursday Gang" of Lorna Hazen, Becky Lau, Muffie Davis, Martha Martin, Jay Magalianes Janet Allan, Cynthia Quisenberry and their friends carry on the work. Every Thursday morning they meet to work on a project in the refuge. If you like working with plants in an easily reached location plus wonderful native birds, this is the project for you! You can join them by calling Lorna at 572-6338. Large groups are welcome! NHPS also has an annual service party in November.

Haiku School

This is our newest project. It began as a native garden project in the school courtyard by our treasurer Becky Lau, who worked at the school. From the courtyard, it expanded to the parking lot and the fence facing Pauwela Road. The school recently gave them \$200 for trees around the playfields. Becky and friends work there on Monday mornings. Call her at 575-2369 for more information.

AUWAHI UPDATE

Begun in 1987, this project of 10 exclosures protects rare dry forest species on Ulupalakua Ranch uplands and near Keone'o'io (La Perouse) Bay. The Keone'o'io exclosure is a lowland kipuka holding awikiwiki (*Canavalia haleakalensis*), hao (*Rauvolfia sandwicensis*), maiapilo (*Capparis sandwichiana*), and wiliwili (*Erythrina sandwicensis*). We visit there once a year and also weed the nearby anchialine pond.

The upland exclosures protect increasingly rare dryland trees such as holei (*Ochrosia haleakalae*), a'ia'i (*Streblus sandwicensis*), and the 'largest' sandalwood tree on Maui (*Santalum freycinetianum*). Some exclosures are small, barely enclosing one or two trees. The largest is a small gully with hundreds of plants. Over time, the bigger exclosures have proved the most successful with lots of seedling recruitment when we removed the grass and weeds.

This is our most remote project, reached only by 4x4 vehicles on ranch roads. If you like a touch of adventure with wonderful views and fabulous plants, you'll love this project. We go in the summer. Call project leader Richard Nakagawa to find out more.

MA'O HAU HELE EXCLOSURE

In 1985, 21 NHPS volunteers, ranch employees, and Roselle Bailey's hula halau built an exclosure around one of the last wild populations of our state flower, ma'o hau hele (*Hibiscus brackenridgei*), on Maui. It was our first exclosure. The area was a shrubland that had pastured cattle for many years. It was full of weeds such as koa haole and guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*) but also natives such as *Achyranthes splendens*, nehe (*Lipochaeta lobata*), ilima (*Sida fallax*) and a'ali'i (*Dodonea viscosa*). As we've beaten back the weeds over the years, that beautiful native shrubland has returned. The contrast with the pasture outside is very clear! We'll be working here on Saturday, February 12 and Saturday, March 19. To join us call project leader Hank Oppenheimer at 669-4983 or hlo@lava.net.

MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

MNBG and NHPS have a long history together. In fact, NHPS was started in 1983 as a support group for Rene Sylva who created the original native plant garden that was to

become the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. At that time it was part of the old Maui Zoo.

When the Zoo closed in 1996, we worked with Lisa Raymond and the County to create the entity that would become Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Since then it has succeeded beyond our hopes. The staff and volunteers keep the garden looking good and their public events are securing a following in the community. For example, the Arbor Day Tree Give-away in November saw 1000 plants distributed as well as giving tree planting, pruning and climbing demonstrations by certified arborists. They also hosted a fascinating lecture by Jonathan Price of the Smithsonian about Maui's geological past and how mountain development combined with sea level change to create our distinctive botanical diversity. Good stuff!

We'll be joining their Earthday Celebration on April 23 with a table display. To help, call Linda at 661-4303

OHAI

In 2002, a wild population of ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*) was discovered near Kahakuloa on the coast. We partnered with Hawaii State DLNR and Na Ala Hele to build an enclosure to protect the plants. Working together we cleared the site of weeds such as Xmas berry (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), Koa haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*), and lantana (*Lantana camara*). In 2003 we did two plantings of ohai within the enclosure as a

part of the DLNR's Year of the Forest. We expanded the plantings last year with more ohai plus a'ali'i, and other plants from seed collected in the area.

This year we'll visit the site April 9 to weed around the plantings. To join us call Dan Cohen at 572-0300, Linda Nelson at 661-4303 or Richard Nakagawa at 873-3504 for information

INVASIVE SPECIES

Want to help stop the next invasive species catastrophe before it starts? The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) will begin a training program this spring for concerned members of the public to help actively search for a carefully defined set of target species. To participate, call MISC at 573-6472

PUBLIC MEETINGS

We had great speakers in 2004. In February, Marie MacDonald and Paul Weissach, authors of *Na Lei Makamae, The Treasured Lei* gave us wonderful stories about the creation of their book. Nellie Sugii of Lyon Arboretum, our speaker in June, showed us how she uses microropagation techniques to grow more than 300 of the rarest native plant species. Dr. Don Hemmes, author of *Mushrooms of Hawaii*, spoke in November on the edibility of new mushrooms found in Hawaii. Using freshly collected specimen, he detailed some of the fun and perils of local gathering. Great stuff!

MAHALO TO:

- *Cook Kwee's Maui Cookies for donating those tasty cookies for our meetings
- *Maui County Parks Department for use of their Community Center meeting rooms for our public meetings
- *Hawaiian Canoe Club for use of their meeting rooms for our Board meetings
- *Our enclosure partners, Ulupalakua Ranch, Donna and Alan Ting, Sandalwood Golf Course and State DLNR for working with us to save rare plants in the wild
- *Eda Kinnear for the beautiful native plant garden in the Kahului Library Courtyard
- *Our public meeting speakers, Marie McDonald, Paul Weissach, Nellie Sugii and Don Hemmes for their wonderful presentations
- *Our generous donors, especially John Plews, Geary Mizuno, Raymond Higashi, and Anna Mae Shishido
- *Our faithful Board and volunteers who keep our projects going year after year

NHPS BOARD

Lee Altenberg
Muffie Davis
Lorna Hazen
Becky Lau
Martha Martin
Linda Nelson
Irene Newhouse
Hank Oppenheimer
Anna Palomino
Tamara Sherrill
Tricia Scott

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Membership Donation Form

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Name (please print) _____

New member _____

Address _____

Renewal _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Volunteer _____

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Email (please print CAREFULLY) _____

Donation Categories: Individual \$15.00 _____
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