

FRIENDS OF MAUI BOTANICAL GARDENS
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, PROPAGATION
NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 1985

* * OFFICERS * *

President - Charlie Lindsey - 878-1701
Vice-President - Mary Evanson - 572-9724
Secretary - Linda Nelson - 661-4303
Treasurer - Leslie Hiraga - 669-0703

* * MONTHLY MEETING * *

Members meet at the Maui Botanical Garden the first Thursday of every month at noon. Bring your lunch and join our discussion. We need your input!

* * TEESHIRTS FOR CHRISTMAS * *

Our new teeshirts will be ready in November for Christmas gift giving. The design will be Hibiscus Brackenridgei, and the shirts will come in various colors, both long and short-sleeve. We still have some of the Ohia Lehua shirts available through Charlie Lindsey (878-1701). Come to our meeting, November 7, to see a sample of the new design.

* * PLANT SANCTUARY WORK PARTIES * *

Monthly work parties to our Gressitt Rare Plant Sanctuary are organized by Rene Sylva for the first Sunday of each month. For the next six months, the dates will be November 3, December 1, January 5, February 2, March 2, and April 6. If you want to help, call Rene (579-9616).

* * KAHO'OLAWE REVEGETATION * *

The Friends is now involved in a new project: a native planting on Kaho'olawe. Through the efforts of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana over the past ten years, the Navy has come to realize the benefit of revegetation using native plants, and approached Rene Sylva in March about planting on Kaho'olawe.

Through the hard work of lots of our members and supporters, we now have 2,000 plants ready to transplant on the island. On October 2, we were fortunate to have the plants blessed by Aunty Alice Kuloloio, with a moving chant and hula by Pu'alani Kanahale, giving the appropriate beginning to the project.

The initial planting will take place after the first rain in October. Five members and two alternates for the planting crew have been selected and are on standby to go by Navy helicopter. Ten or more native species will be included in the initial planting, with the beach 'akulikuli as the predominant plant. Hinahina, the plant of Kaho'olawe, will also be planted, as well as naio, 'iliahi, 'aki'aki, 'akoko, kukui, halapepe, and several others. The plants will cover an area of about 300 feet by 300 feet on top of the island.

We hope that the Navy will encourage future plantings with more native species. We are excited to be participating in this effort to bring native plant life back to Kaho'olawe.--Rene Sylva

* * FENCING THE HIBISCUS * *

On March 29, 21 volunteers, ranging from Friends officers and members to people from the community, headed up to the hills behind Waikapu to put a fence around the endemic Hawaiian hibiscus *Mauhaule, H. Brackenridgei*. Friends' president Charlie Lindsey was joined by Chairman of the Board Rene Sylva, secretary Linda Nelson, treasurer Leslie Hiraga, member Jay Speakman, Sylva's nephew Willie and 15 members of Roselle Bailey's Kauai and Hilo based hula halau, Ka Imi Na'auao O Hawaii Nei, on the second fencing venture within the past year.

Permission to fence the area was granted by councilman Charlie Ota, who leases the land from Wailuku Sugar Company. According to Lindsey, Ota was "very helpful." He not only gave the go-ahead, but also provided materials (barbed wire and metal stakes), transportation, and expertise in the form of his ranch supervisor, Casper Burns.

The purpose of the expedition was to partially fulfill the Friends' goal of "locating and establishing enclosures for endangered plants." However, it was also, in Lindsey's words, "a mission of love," to save the sixty or so plants from the cows that were "munching on them. A lot of hard work and sweat went into the project," Lindsey said, "hauling...digging postholes to support eight-foot, sixty-pound corner posts." He expressed his gratitude to those who helped out in the full day of work.

In the near future, another project will be undertaken to fence the Hawaiian gardenia *Nanu, G. brighamii*, and the green silversword on top of Eke Crater in the West Maui Mountains. This will be done to protect the endangered plants from the pigs that are inching their way to the top. Much help is needed in this next "mission of love".

To those who gave a bit of help, a bit of love, and a bit of themselves to the last project, Lindsey sends, "many thanks and aloha. Without all the help, it would never have been done." Hope to see you on the next one!--Charlie Lindsey

* * CHANGES AHEAD * *

We need your help in selecting a new name. As our newsletter shows, our projects have expanded as we pursue our major goal of "saving Hawaiian plants." Now we are looking for a name more reflective of these activities. If you have ideas, either call one of the officers or come to the noon meeting on November 7. At that time, we'll discuss name possibilities and any by-law amendments necessary to bring about these changes. Our findings will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting on January 9. Come and make your views known so we can grow in ways we all want.