

The Native Hawaiian Plant Society

Nanea na Pua o ka Aina Aloha

Annual Newsletter February 2004

OFFICERS

President: Linda Nelson
661-4303
VP: Irene Newhouse
891-2252
Treasurer: Becky Lau
575-2369
Secretary: Tamara Nelson
357-6082

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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nhps@maui.net

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<http://www.angelfire.com/hi4/nhps>

MARIE McDONALD & PAUL WEISSICH ON FEBRUARY 20

Join us for a slide presentation by Marie McDonald and Paul Weissich, authors of *NA LEI MAKAMAE, THE TREASURED LEI* on Friday, February 20, 2004 at 7 PM at the Kamehameha Middle School Dining Hall (275 A'apueo Parkway, Pukalani). Ms. McDonald, master lei maker and recognized as a "Master of Traditional Arts" by the National Endowment for the Arts, is the author of *Ka Lei*, the pictorial benchmark of lei making. Mr. Weissich is former director of the Honolulu Botanical Gardens and coauthor of *PLANTS FOR TROPICAL LANDSCAPES: A GARDENER'S GUIDE*. Their slide presentation will tell the tale of Pele and Hi'iaka as they journey through our islands, stopping to make leis along the way. We will have copies of *NA LEI MAKAMAE* available at the meeting.

On Saturday, February 21, they will hold a Talk Story & Lei Making Demonstration at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (150 Kanaloa Avenue, Kahului) from 10AM to 12 noon. Lei plants will be available at the demonstration.

Digital Newsletter

To save postage and printing costs, we would like to send you future newsletters and postcards by email. If you are interested, please send an email with **NHPS digital newsletter** in the subject line to linda@maui.net.

WAIHE'E PRESERVE

On November 15, I went with several NHPS members on our first site visit to the Maui Coastal Land Trust's (MCLT) new Waihe'e Preserve. What we found was a beautiful and very promising restoration site! Called Kapoho (bowl) by the ancient Hawaiians, the Preserve is a tall dune facing the ocean with a large wetland at its base. Archaeological sites dot the shoreline. Though highly disturbed by cattle grazing and suffering from a long dry season, we still found hearty natives such as naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*), nehe (*Lipochaeta integrifolia*) and the rare *Nama sandwicensis* along the dune.

This year we'll work with MCLT and a consortium of local and government groups to begin the restoration. In fact, the restoration has already begun with a \$107,000 grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. You can be involved in two ways. First, we'll do service trips to help

with surveying for natives and alien species removal. To volunteer, call me at 661-4303. Second, you can donate to MCLT. While they have secured \$4,000,000 towards the property purchase, they are fundraising another \$800,000 to complete the purchase and \$1,200,000 for a management endowment. If you can help, contact them at 244-5263. — Linda Nelson-

Earth Day

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (MNBG) will host the **2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration** on **April 17th 10:00AM to 3:30 PM**. This free family event will have music, Hawaiian games, prizes, a native Hawaiian plants sale, and over 30 information booths. Come find out what's happening in our local environment and talk to the people working on the front line of conservation. NHPS will be there and we're looking for volunteers to man our booth. Call me at 661-4303 to help. —Linda Nelson-

President's Message

2003 was a year for great presentations at our public meetings. Bruce Keobele showed us how education and conservation can work together to empower Hawaiian children. Lloyd Loope gave us 'the big picture' on where alien species control needs to go to be successful. Art Medeiros showed us the vision of high altitude reforestation on Haleakala which will bring back many native forest species while insuring the island's

water supply. In addition, our sister organization Maui Nui Botanical Gardens became recognized as a voice for native plant conservation throughout the island.

It was also a good year for books on native plants. Besides the gorgeous *NA LEI MAKAMAE*, I recommend two manuals published by UH-CTAHR: *WEEDS OF HAWAII'S PASTURES AND NATURAL AREAS* and *GROWING PLANTS FOR HAWAIIAN LEI, 85 PLANTS FOR GARDENS, CONSERVATION, AND BUSINESS*. Both are filled with pictures, descriptions and management recommendations. They are available through the Agricultural Extension office on the MCC campus.

-Linda Nelson-

KANAHA POND-HAIKU SCHOOL

The Thursday morning weeding party continues with habitat restoration at Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. Twenty members of the Baldwin High School Environmental Studies class helped us out one weekend and the Eco Action Club at King Kekaulike High School will do a service trip this weekend. We hope to get more organizations to come in and help remove more of the invasive weed, *Pluchia*. To let us know of any interested groups or to join our group, call Lorna at 572-6338.

During the 6-month Refuge nesting season when no one is allowed near the water, the Thursday gang worked the area across from

the sewage treatment plant clearing out the obnoxious Kahki weed. It is a prostrate plant thickly sprinkled on top with skin piercing burrs. Thanks to Janet Allan, Muffy Davis, Summer Yadao, Becky Lau, Jay Magalianes, Martha Martin, Cynthia Quisenberry, Stacia Bobikevich, and yours truly, we've almost got it.

We've also spent several mornings working at the Haiku School native plant garden. Aloisha Latendresse has agreed to take charge of this project. Thank you Aloisha! Call her at 575-9975 if you would like to help out with this beautiful planting.

- Lorna Hazen 572-6338 -

AUWAHI UPDATE

In 2003 we continued maintaining these exclosures with fence repair and weeding. The slow natural regeneration of native species within the exclosure continued and we broadcast a'ali'i (*Dodonea viscosa*) seeds as a pioneer species to speed the process. After the heavy rains of December and January, we expect many seedlings to sprout. Unfortunately, we also expect to see lots of weeds...some very nasty! We'll be working up there mid-year weeding and possibly outplanting.

We visited the exclosure near La Perouse Bay after the winter rains to weed and check fencing. During the drought years, the awikiwiki (*Canavalia pubescens*) had struggled but the rains have brought it back. 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

We made good progress in the *Hibiscus brackenridgei* enclosure in 2003. There is much less *koa haole* and guinea grass, and the natives are thriving, including the rare *Achyranthes splendens* and *Schiedea salicaria*. We continued to measure & monitor the regeneration of the *ma'o hau hele* to help us better understand its lifecycle. A large wildfire to the north during the fall luckily stopped short of reaching the site. Please join us on a service trip in 2004 and help preserve our critically endangered State Flower. *Mahalo* to all our volunteers, the Ting Family, and the Sandalwood Golf Course.
— Hank Oppenheimer—

MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

This has been an exciting and productive year for MNBG. We have a new hale completed this past September by Maui Community College's Office of Continuing Education and Training Indigenous Hawaiian Architecture class. It is a beautiful addition to the garden, with real *loulou* (*Pritchardia* sp.) thatching. We are busy improving the grounds with new species collected from Native Hawaiian Plant Society maintained areas, including *Sesbania tomentosa* (an endangered species) and

Schiedea salicaria (a species of concern). NHPS did a workday at the garden this summer, where we planted the remaining endangered *Gouania hillebrandii* seedlings from this year's Pu'u o Kali outplanting. They are flourishing. This past December, Bob Hobdy, Jeremy Spencer, Carl Martin, and Tamara Nelson took a service trip to check on the endangered *Scaevola coriacea* plants that were planted at Pu Ki'i, in Hana bay, in 2002. Six healthy plants had survived the year and were starting to set seed. The group pulled the rest of the weeds that remained at the top of the islet. Our native plant sales keep getting better, with better selection, more growers, and plenty of interest from the community at large. Mahalo to NHPS members for helping at our past plant sales and our annual Arbor Day giveaway this year.

We also have a new website! Go to mnbg.org to renew your membership, purchase t-shirts, or check on upcoming events.

—Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond—
mnbg@maui.net
(808) 249-2798

OHAI

In 2003, we continued our partnership with State DLNR and Na Ala Hele to maintain the enclosure protecting a newly discovered population of ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*) near Kahakuloa. As a part of the DLNR's celebration of the Year of the Forest, we did two plantings within the enclosure.

We planted ohai seedlings grown from seeds gathered in the enclosure the previous year. With irrigation to get them through the dry season, the plants thrived. By December, the biggest plants were five feet across. Moreover, they were planted in areas cleared of Christmas Berry (*Schinus terebinthifolius*).

This year we hope to plant out seedlings of the common natives of the area such as A'ali'i (*Dodonea viscosa*) and Alahe'e (*Psydrax odoratum*). To join us, call Dan at 572-0300.

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, 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, Bruce Koebele, Art Medeiros Lloyd Loope for showing us the future of conservation in Hawaii

*Our generous donors, especially John Plews, Geary Mizuno, Raymond Higashi, and David and Martha Moran

*Our faithful Board and volunteers who keep our projects going year after year

with surveying for natives and alien species removal. To volunteer, call me at 661-4303. Second, you can donate to MCLT. While they have secured \$4,000,000 towards the property purchase, they are fundraising another \$800,000 to complete the purchase and \$1,200,000 for a management endowment. If you can help, contact them at 244-5263. — Linda Nelson-

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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 \$ _____