



Native Hawaiian Plant Society Nanea Nā Pua O Ka 'Āina Aloha

NHPS Newsletter

February 2012

Celebrating Lorna Hazen: Quintessential Volunteer and Leader by Fern Duvall

After 23 years of volunteer service, Lorna Hazen is stepping down as NHPS Project Leader at Kanahā Pond Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS). Lorna began volunteering at KPWS in 1987, and in 1995 became the Native Hawaiian Plant Society's Project Leader there. From the start, she made removing non-native plants and planting natives a priority, and continued doing that in a big way throughout her years of service. In 1995-1996 alone, close to 4 tons of debris and weeds were removed from KPWS, and 500 native plants were grown and out-planted. Over the years Lorna and her volunteers, logged some 17,000 hours. To put it in perspective, that's 2,125 8-hour days, or more than 8 years of full-time work—with no pay or vacation!

As Project Leader, Lorna headed up countless volunteer groups and individuals from many organizations and walks of life for the KPWS Restoration Project. Early on she successfully organized a core-group of inveterate volunteers, the "KPWS regulars," Janet Allan, Muffie Davis, Eda Kinnear, Becky Lau, Jaye Magalianes, Martha Martin, Mike Perry,

Jennifer Rose, and Ed Tamayose. Remarkably, for the last 23 years, Lorna, her regulars, and many other capable volunteers, have been at work at the Pond every week on Thursdays, in addition to all the larger action volunteer days.

The NHPS Newsletters repeatedly recount Lorna's accomplishments, but it is hard to fully express the effect this powerhouse had on KPWS. She organized and lead volunteer work parties from Baldwin High Science Club, the Baldwin Environmental Studies Class, the King Kekaulike EcoAction Club, Girl Scouts Troop 460, various Waihe'e School classes, the Science Bus, and on,



Lorna, and a few of her "inveterate" volunteers, Jaye, Carl and Martha.

and on, and on. Real science at KPWS was also Lorna's interest. She was field-assistant in the ground breaking, federally funded Predatory Mammal Diet and Trapping Research Project. Also, in 2009, due in large part to Lorna's initiative as NHPS lead, thousands of native coastal plants were propagated and outplanted on 20 acres of KPWS that was cleared of mesquite (kiawe) and chipped. KPWS now has an impressive expanse of native ecosystem.

There is no real way to fully and adequately honor or thank Lorna Hazen for her many years of service at KPWS. Her joyful thoughtfulness in leadership, her absolute focused determination, and her staying power made KPWS a better place. I hope, as she "retires" as Project Leader, she takes pride in knowing that, by her actions, Kanahā is better off, that the 'ae'o, 'alae-ke'oke'o, and koloa-maoli can now better thrive, that the beloved native coastal flora is expanding, and that the 'aina truly is enriched. Sincere thanks to a very great lady. One final note: While Lorna may be retiring from KPWS, but she has not retired from NHPS. **Lorna is the new Project Leader Kahului Library Courtyard Garden. (See more on Page 3)**



Lorna, working hard at Kanahā Pond.

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‘Āwikiwiki Enclosure by Irene Newhouse



‘Āwikiwiki Enclosure in Kanaio.

Katie and Carl reinforce fence.

Above: *Hibiscus brackenridgei* flower.Below two photos: *Hibiscus brackenridgei* seedling and seeds

Photos by Hank Oppenheimer



Native plant landscaping behind playground at Ha'ikū School.

In April 2011, NHPS volunteers visited the ‘Āwikiwiki Enclosure in Kanaio. The fence was originally built in 1988. Posts had rusted off at the bottom and fencing was lying down in places. Luckily, the goats hadn't figured out how to get in yet, otherwise, the plants would be nubbins! We performed temporary repairs with the tools we had on hand, propping up posts with lava rock and bracing with other posts left over from building the fence. This should hold until we can figure out the best way to repair or replace the fence. Both the ‘āwikiwiki (*Canavalia pubescens*) and the koali ‘awa (*Ipomoea indica*), a common indigenous plant, had died back, but some ‘āwikiwiki was coming back, and there were lots of seeds. There was more *maia pilo* than there used to be and—at last!—one ‘a‘ali‘i. Other native species in the enclosure include *alena*, *hao*, *wiliwili*, *kolomona* (*Senna gaudichaudii*), and *uhaloa*.

Service trip volunteers included Becky Lau, Carl Martin, Irene Newhouse, Shannon Paapanen, Katie Romanchuk, Isabelle Walker and Amber West. **PLANT FACT:** According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the conservation status of ‘āwikiwiki is “vulnerable,” and it is a pending candidate for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Hibiscus brackenridgei Ma‘o hau hele by Hank Oppenheimer, Project Leader

We made two trips to the enclosure this past year, in May, and just last month. The ongoing drought conditions have meant little plant growth, including weeds. The recent trip confirmed this but we were able to make a big dent in what weeds were there. We concentrated again on the *koa haole* and *Guinea grass*. It seems like our efforts to control *glycine* are paying off. The fence was in good shape.

The *ma‘o hau hele* were just beginning to awaken from their dormant dry-season phase, and a couple had some young flower buds. There were about twenty seedlings that survived the summer and should thrive with the first rains. The *Achyranthes splendens* looked healthy, and there were some *kupala* (*Sicyos* spp., native cucumber relatives) seedlings.

We are in another *La Nina* year climate-wise, which should mean close to normal or slightly above average rainfall. There were no brush fires this year but the threat is constant. The State Division of Forestry and Wildlife as well as Maui Fire Department are aware of the enclosure and always work to protect the area in the event of fire.

Duane Ting of Flyin’ Hawaiian Zipline, the landowner, has also been working on restoration of our State Flower, and has folks plant or water along the route. This is a great safety net in the event of a catastrophic fire. Duane found a couple of *ma‘o hau hele* plants outside the enclosure this year which was pretty exciting. The zipline route ends almost directly over the enclosure with one of the longest runs in the world. They have been incredible supportive providing access etc. *Mahalo* Duane, as well as all the volunteers who come out to weed.

There has been a lot of interest in service trips lately, but due to the sensitive nature of the site and limited space in 4WD vehicles, we have to keep the number of volunteers relatively small. If you want to participate, keep a close eye on the NHPS website for the next trip.

Ha‘ikū School Landscaping by Becky Lau, Project Leader

What a problem to have! In May 2011, the native plants at Ha‘ikū School were thriving so vigorously we had to have a volunteer day just to prune and clean up. We trimmed *pohinahina* (*Vitex rotundifolia*) from the sidewalk and fence. We weed-eated grass and mulched with the trimmings to deter weeds. Volunteers included Becky Lau, Jennifer Rose, Katie Romanchuck, Lorna Hazen, Muffie Davis, Irene Newhouse, Shannon Paapanen, Carl Martin, and Ron Lau. If you would like to help, I work there almost every Sunday morning with a small group. Please contact me at (808) 575-2369.

2011 President's Message by Martha Martin

NHPS started in 1983 as a non-profit membership association to support the preservation and restoration of native Hawaiian plants and ecosystems.

Last year NHPS cooperated with government, public, and private groups which work for these goals. Our members went on excursions and did work projects to share information on the importance of native Hawaiian plants and protect areas where they grow.

NHPS has the following projects: Kanahā Pond, an *āwikiwiki* (*Canavalia pubescens*) exclosure, an *Hibiscus brackenridgei* (*ma'o hau hele*) exclosure, the Kahului Library Courtyard Garden and the Ha'ikū Elementary School landscaping.

The members of the Board of Directors in 2011 were: Lorna Hazen, Becky Lau (Treasurer), Martha Martin (President), Irene Newhouse (Secretary), Katie Romanchuk, Tricia Scott, Philip Thomas, and Isabelle Walker. Shannon Paapanen edited and produced a color newsletter for the internet and a black and white print edition. Everyone enthusiastically shared in the planning and success of our events.

55 paid memberships were current in 2011. A mailing list of 150 names includes 112 Maui residents plus 38 living elsewhere.

Please renew your dues for 2012 and help NHPS grow stronger!



Martha at Kahului Library
Courtyard Garden

New *Makaloa* Bog at Kahului Library Courtyard Garden By Lorna Hazen, Project Leader

In addition to general upkeep and maintenance of the Kahului Library Courtyard Garden, in Summer 2011 NHPS volunteers installed a new *makaloa* (*Cyperus laevigatus*) bog. It was simple. We dug a hole, lined it with a pond liner (perforated for drainage) and filled it with a mixture of peat moss and sand. The garden is irrigated, so the bog will remain wet. The *makaloa* has been a little slow getting started, but I am confident with more time and care, it will take hold. We also planted more *mau'u 'aki'aki* (*Fimbristylis cymosa*) and we have been weeding and trimming.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped, and give a special thanks to Stephanie Seidman of Maui Nui Botanical Garden for propagating the plants.

If you would like to help at the garden, we work there on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested. Lorna Hazen: (808) 572-6338.



Above: Installation of bog, before and after.

Below: Identification rocks purchased for Library.

Also, New at the Library—Plant Identification Stones

In keeping with the NHPS mission to engage in informational and educational efforts to increase public awareness of the unique qualities and biological importance of native plants, we purchased 13 laser-engraved rocks featuring the Hawaiian plant names of some of the plants at Kahului Library Courtyard Garden. They include *'ahu'awa*, *'ala'ala wai nui*, *'ēkaha*, *'ihi'ihī*, *kupukupu*, *makaloa*, *manono*, *mau'u 'aki'aki*, *moa*, *naio*, *palapalai*, *'uki'uki*, *'ūlei*. The stones will be installed near each plant.

NHPS would like to extend a special "thank you" to Leslie & Nelson Hiraga and Cynthia & Terry Quisenberry for their special donations in memory of Eda Kinnear that made this project possible. Mahalo!



Fleming Arboretum at Pu‘u Mahoe by Irene Newhouse



View from North Hill (above)
Fleming Arboretum at Pu‘u Mahoe.
View from South Hill (below)



Coastal sandalwood - 'Iliahi alo'e
(*Santalum ellipticum*) at Pu‘u Mahoe.



Katie, Irene and Philip work the NHPS booth at *Ulupalakua Cares*.



Crowd gathers for tour of *Ulupalakua* trees with Ernie Rezents.



Lei of 'ōhi'a twigs, moa, and hao on a twisted ti-leaf base made by Irene.

Our June 2011 service trip was to the Fleming Arboretum at Pu‘u Mahoe. Led by Friends of Fleming Arboretum president, Martha Vockrodt-Moran, our group included Janet Allan, Becky Lau, Martha Martin, Irene and Elena Newhouse, Katie Romanchuk, Isabel Walker, and Jeffrey Friedman. We first worked on "North Hill," the slope above the cabin, opposite the Arboretum proper where the Maui Police Department now has an emergency communication tower. 'A'ali'i and 'ā kia have been planted along the fence between the Arboretum and the tower. We weeded the planted area, as well as around *Podocarpus* trees that were recently planted to form a new windbreak for future expansion. We also spread enhanced chicken manure to replace the nitrogen that will be taken up when the mulch decomposes. We checked the ties on the staked trees—not all of them were tied with bowline knots that had loops large enough to permit the trees to grow—and replaced the slip knots at the stake end with square knots.

After a short break, we headed to South Hill where the Arboretum fence has been moved upward on the lip of the cinder cone, adding another acre for planting. A double row of native windbreak had been planted the previous week by a Maui Association of Landscape Professionals service trip—the upper row consisting of *alahe'e* and the lower row mixed color 'ō hi'a—and we weeded out guinea grass so the windbreak could be extended. We also fertilized the newly planted trees with enhanced chicken manure.

Finally, we adjourned for one of Martha's wonderful lunches at the cabin, topped purple cow desserts, of course. The weather was beautiful, and Pu'u Mahoe was, as always, magical. *Mahalo nui loa* to all the participants.



A busy bee in some *ko'oloa 'ula* (*Abutilon menziesii*) at Pu‘u Mahoe. Photos by Irene Newhouse

Ulupalakua Cares by Irene Newhouse

In September 2011 NHPS participated for the first time in *Ulupalakua Cares* at *Ulupalakua Ranch*. Katie Romanchuk, Philip Thomas and I attended. Philip's truck was indispensable for hauling everything, we needed, and Katie supplied a table and lovely cut plant specimens for the visitors to see. As visitors passed by, I made lei using plant materials from Lorna Hazen's garden. Philip brought a large stack of his outstanding photographs and allowed visitors to select a favorite and self-address it so he could send it to them later in the mail as a memento. This event, which is free and features music, food, wine tasting and educational seminars, showcases exhibits from conservation groups. There seemed to be a high percentage of visitors who were either growing or know native plants, and we had many interesting conversations. This year included a walking tour of *Ulupalakua's* historic trees by Arborist Ernie Rezents.



The *Ulupalakua* Hō 'awa (*Pittosporum confertiflorum*) fruit and flowers.



Ulupalakua 'Ōhai (*Sesbania tomentosa*)

Tsunami of March 11, 2011 Pummels Kanahā Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

by Fern Duvall

In the early morning hours, beginning 03:30 a.m. on the 11th of March 2011, ocean surges caused by an 9.0 magnitude tsunami originating 80 miles east off the island of Honshu, Japan, began to strike Maui. It is estimated that the water surges that actually affected Kanahā Pond Wildlife Sanctuary (KPWS) began moving in by 05:30 a.m. Brave Isabelle Walker of AmeriCorps went to KPWS before the “all clear” sounded to photograph some of the tsunami effects.

The surges completely knocked down 2,200 feet of the northern perimeter fence, snapping galvanized metal fence posts and breaking locks and blowing open the “beach road gate.” (Picture 1) The surges traveled one-third of the distance across the width of the sanctuary at its greatest extent, and measured up to 4.5 feet in depth, filling normally dry areas of KPWS with seawater, some unfortunate sea life, coral rubble, and loads of diverse trash along its extent. (Pictures 2 and 3) A scientific study of the effects of the tsunami on the KPWS coastal ecosystem was planned by Chuck Chimera, Weed Risk Assessment Specialist of Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), and myself, Fern Duvall, State Wildlife Biologist. Photo documentation and data point collection is currently underway.

Early effects on plants show that, overall, native coastal plants fared better than introduced species. (Picture 4) However, some native species have not withstood the tsunami inundation. Once the tsunami effects study is completed the details will be published.



Picture 1—“Beach Road Gate” on Amala Place opened by tsunami flooding. View looking into KPWS. (Photo by Isabelle Walker)

Picture 2—View west along Amala Place of north perimeter fence destroyed by tsunami waves. (Photo by Isabelle Walker)



Picture 3—Science Pond over-filled with tsunami seawater. (Photo by Isabelle Walker)

Picture 4—Diverse, dying weed species. Photo taken June 9, 2011. (Photo by Fern Duvall)

Images from Hakalau 2011—Don't miss this year's trip in July ! (See page 7)



Photos by Carol Gentz & Tamara Sherrill

Coming soon! Ha'ikū
Ho'olaule'a—Saturday, March 31st, 2012 9am—4:30 pm



Photos by Irene Newhouse, Katie Romanchuck & Shannon Paapanen

Upcoming NHPS Events & Announcements

Annual Membership Meeting & Lecture

February 24 (Friday) 7:00 pm

Ethnobotanist Cathy Davenport will give a talk entitled "Canoe Cordage Comparisons: *Hau, Niu, Olona*" answering the question: "If the endemic Hawaiian plant *Olona* is the strongest plant fiber in the world, why wasn't it used extensively for canoe cordage?"

Location: Hannibal Tavares Community Center, Poolside Room, Pukalani.

Note: The Annual NHPS Membership Meeting will be held at **6:00 pm** just prior to Cathy's lecture to elect the 2012 Board of Directors.

Regular Service Trips

Kanahā Pond (1st and 3rd Thursdays 8:30-11am)

Contact Becky Lau (808) 575-2369

Ha'ikū School (Every Sunday 8:30 am)

Contact Becky Lau (808) 575-2369

Kahului Library (2nd Thursday)

Contact Lorna Hazen (808) 572-6338 or email lornajack@clearwire.net

Special NHPS service trips, hikes and other events are scheduled frequently.

For up-to-date information, contact Irene Newhouse at einew@hotmail.com (808) 264-6977

Annual Ha'ikū Ho'olaule'a



When: Saturday, March 31st, 2012 9am—4:30 pm

Where: Ha'ikū Community Center

Why: Join us at the NHPS booth for lei making with native plants, *talk story* and fun. (Photos from last year's event on page 6.)

Annual NHPS Trip to Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge



When: July 20-22, 2012

Where: Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, Mauna Kea, Hawai'i Island

Why: To experience some of the finest remaining stands of native mountain rain forest in Hawai'i, see endangered forest birds in their natural habitat, be a part of a meaningful restoration projects, make new friends and reacquaint with old. Space is limited. Contact Irene Newhouse einew@hotmail.com or (808) 264-6977. (Photos from last year's trip on page 6.)



The NHPS Website has information on service trips, projects, resources, copies of past newsletters and more. Go to nativehawaiianplantsociety.org.



NEW SmugMug Site! Thanks to the generosity of the photo sharing website, SmugMug, NHPS now has a site for photos. Our Galleries include photos from Service Trips, Ongoing Projects, Presentations/Speakers, and Native Hawaiian Plants. Check out nhps.smugmug.com OR get there through the "Online Resources" link on our website.



Calling all Members! We're missing copies of the 1986, 1987, and 1993 NHPS Newsletters. Do you have them? Please contact Irene at einew@hotmail.com. *Mahalo!*

Mahalo's

Donors

NHPS extends a special *mahalo* to the following donors for their generous contributions in 2011

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Cook Kwee's Maui Cookies for donating cookies for our member meetings.

Maui County Parks and Recreation for the use of Hannibal Tavares Community Center Pool Room.

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for propagating plants

Exclosure Partners: Duane Ting and family, Hawai'i State DLNR, and Ulupalakua Ranch.



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