MAUI BOTANICAL GARDEN NEEDS URGENT ACTION!

We could lose the Garden! Without immediate support from the County and you, the public, it will be lost. What a tragedy that would be!!! The animal exhibits of the Maui Zoological and Botanical gardens were closed to the public on January 1, 1996. Over the next several months the animals will be removed and the Botanical Garden is slated to expand into the old Zoo’s space. However, the future of the Botanical Garden is not secure. The County Government has done little to secure funding for operations once the animals have left. A budget proposal (including staff) for fiscal 1996-97 was submitted. It would save the County over $40,000 from what it would have cost to run the Zoo for another year. The budget was not accepted. Instead, all staff positions have been cut so there will be no maintenance, security, or supervision for the Gardens. Restoration and expansion cannot occur without adequate staffing and financial support.

The Botanical Garden and NHPS have worked for years to educate the community on the importance of preservation of our native flora. We have all come so far. Now is the time for the Botanical Garden to take the lead in providing a community educational resource on conservation and preservation of our unique Hawaiian plants. Here’s how you can help.

Read and respond to the Maui Botanical Gardens insert in this newsletter. If you are interested in more detailed information, I have a project summary and three-year development plan available.

Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond

Makaloa Weaving Meeting/Workshop

Learn about the art of Makaloa weaving when NHPS hosts the Makaloa Weaving Restoration Project on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00pm at the Upcountry Community Center in Pukalani (Maui). Speakers will be Auntie Elizabeth Maluhi Lee, master weaver, with Peter Van Dyke and Kathleen Fetterman of the Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden. First, Peter will show slides about the natural and cultural history of makaloa and the Niihau mats made from it. Kathleen will describe the Makaloa Habitat Study she is conducting for the National Biological Service. Auntie Maluhi will tell of rediscovering techniques of plaiting makaloa, unused for 100 years.

On Wednesday, April 17, from 9:00am to 2:00pm, Auntie Maluhi will lead a hands-on weaving workshop. Preregistration is necessary, so call Eda (871-4891) or Linda (661-4303) to sign up. There will be a $10 materials fee.

The finest mats of Hawaii were woven on Niihau, using makaloa (Cyperus thinellus). Soft and flexible, they were valued by ali'i, but have not been woven for at least a hundred years. The Makaloa Weaving Restoration Project is in its third year, funded by Bishop Museum's Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program. Hosted by the Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, the Project holds workshops throughout the state.

Earth Maui Nature Summit

Watch for the First Annual Earth Maui Nature Summit, scheduled for August 23-2 at Kapalua. NHPS will mount a native plant exhibit. Other events will include seminars, field trips, and tours.
**Miconia calvescens Update**

The battle against *Miconia calvescens* continues. This member of the melastome family has been called the most damaging and invasive of alien plant species to wet forests of Pacific Islands. It has devastated parts of Tahiti. Introduced to Maui near Hana in the 1960s, it has spread, but eradication is still considered possible. The East Maui Watershed Partnership, a coalition of business, government, and conservation organizations, was formed three years ago to fight *Miconia* infestations in East Maui. Aerial spraying and hand weeding have been the main tools. In 1995, DLNR made access roads into the worst concentrations. This year, roadbuilding and weeding will continue. Operation *Miconia*, a public information program, will be held April 13-14. If you're interested in helping, call Pat Bily at the Maui office of The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii (572-7849) or Wes Wong at DLNR (243-5352).

**Miconia on the Web**

Check out the NEW *Miconia* information resource on the world-wide web at [http://www2.hawaii.edu/~halesci/MiconiaInHawaii.html](http://www2.hawaii.edu/~halesci/MiconiaInHawaii.html). This page is dedicated to dissemination of up-to-date information about *Miconia calvescens* as a noxious weed in Hawaii (and the Pacific). It's updated frequently and will contain information from a number of sources, including YOU if you care to contribute! Send correspondence and/or comments to me via e-mail at halesci@hawaii.edu. Coming soon: MAPS of *Miconia* distribution in Hawaii and Tahiti!

-Philip Thomas

(continued in next column)

**Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group**

In November, NHPS was invited to join the Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group (HRPRG). A coalition of botanical gardens, government agencies, private organizations, and the national Center for Plant Conservation, HRPRG is organizing an effort to save rare native species. Also, it will coordinate growing of plants throughout the state for reintroduction both to gardens and to the wild (where appropriate). DLNR's Kahului Basyard will be one of the growing sites. Some of our projects will be homes for future plantings. Richard Nakagawa, our Auwahi project leader, will represent NHPS at the meeting in March. We are very pleased to be a part of this very important conservation effort.

**PROJECT REPORTS**

**Kanaha Pond**

Over the last twelve months, we have made exceptional progress in our native plant restoration effort at Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.

Lately, we have been concentrating our efforts to clearing areas essential to nesting adult Hawaiian stilt and the survival of their young. This area had always been a prime nesting site with many young hatched here. However, the survival rate was minimal because many young chicks had difficulty moving from their hatching site to their feeding sites. There were large sections of very tall and thick non-native vegetation blocking their paths. Stilt chicks are tiny and need flat open space to reach their feeding areas. Unfortunately, even when the chicks reached these feeding areas, many perished because heavy vegetation prevented their feeding in safety.

We completely cleared all non-native vegetation from this large area. This was accomplished with over 1200 hours of volunteer work. We are confident our efforts will result in a major improvement in the stilt survival rate in 1996.

Since the clearing and because of an exceptionally wet winter, many naturalized native plants have already started to colonize these areas, providing cover for stilt nests and food for now-hatching Hawaiian coot chicks. We are helping the process by planting over 200 native plants and spreading seed from Kanaha native plants; we expect good results.

All the work was done by volunteers. Most notable was Mr. Edward Tamayose, who contributed more than 350 hours. Lorna Harrison also contributed many hours. Also lending a hand were the Aloha Club, science clubs from Baldwin High School, other individuals from the community—and even a few tourists!

If you are interested in helping too, call Mike Perry at 572-9836. We normally work every Tuesday and Saturday from 8:00 to 11:30am, meeting at the back gate on Amala Rd.

-Mike Perry

**Kahului Library Courtyard Garden**

(Project Reports continued on p. 3)
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed, and it was a busy one. Some of our projects were in the news, like our efforts to preserve the Botanical Garden by working on the Maui County Council subcommittee deciding the fate of the Maui Zoo. (The Zoo was closed but the Garden may yet be safe.) Our Auwahi project received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fence around two rare species: Melicope adscendens and Ochrosia haleakalae. We had three successful night meetings, covering alien plant pests with Dr. Isabelle Abbott; native lobelias with Rick Palmer; and newly-found treasures of Kahiniku with Mahealani Ka'iulani. Our Christmas party at Pat Bily's house in Kula was a great way to finish the year.

You'll see the same officers and Board of Directors this year, with one addition: Ray Keenan has joined the Board.

Oh, and one more thing! We still have our beautiful 'a'ali'i teeshirts for sale, with some new colors and sizes. Call Becky at 575-2369 for information.

-L.N.

La Perouse Exclosure

The awikiwiki (Canavalia pubescens) vines are healthy and reproducing. Several hao (Raovolfa sandwicensis) seedlings have appeared under the existing trees. We do need help here as weeds such as koa haole and morning glory continue to be problems. If you want to help with a special work party in mid-March, call Richard at 877-4024.

-R.N.

Hibiscus brackenridgei Exclosure

Winter rains have caused the usual sprouting of many ma'o hau he'e (Acyranthes splendens) and 'a'ali'i seedlings. Unfortunately, many weedy species have also benefited. We are still continuing efforts to rid this exlosure of koa haole.

-R.N.
NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANT SOCIETY
P.O. Box 5021
Kahului, Maui, Hawaii 96732

Your name (please print) ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City __________________________________ State ________ Zip __________

Telephone (Res.) ____________________________ (Bus.) __________________

Fax ____________________________ E-mail ____________________________

Amount enclosed:

Individual membership □ $10.00

Other □ $____________

New member □ Renewal member □ I would like to volunteer □

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please give us notice; our new, economical non-profit mailing rate does not include forwarding.
MAUI BOTANICAL GARDENS
A collection of Native and Polynesian Introduced Hawaiian Plants
Kanaloa Avenue, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

With the closure of the animal exhibits (by mid 1996) of the Maui Zoological and Botanical Gardens, the botanical gardens will begin an extensive restoration and expansion program.

Because of the financial uncertainty of the times, we will be largely dependent on help from the private sector to make our plan a reality. We are in desperate and immediate need of people with fund raising and grant writing skills as well as volunteers to work at the garden itself.

This centrally located Botanical Garden is the only public garden in all of Hawaii that is devoted entirely to native and Polynesian introduced plants. Many prominent botanists, plant enthusiasts, school children, and tourists have visited and benefited from this collection was created in 1976 by Rene Sylva, Maui's renowned native plant expert. Rene was a man ahead of his time. He was one of the first to recognize the plight of our native plants and their rapidly vanishing habitat. His efforts have influenced an entire generation into awareness of conservation, and appreciation of Hawaii's unique flora. We must carry on his vision.

The Mission of the Maui Botanical Gardens is to foster an appreciation and understanding of the living Hawaiian island of today, emphasizing Maui County's plants and providing a center for environmental education, biological study, and recreation. The Botanical Gardens is important for conservation of important Hawaiian cultural plants as well as endangered species. The Garden will also promote conservation of our limited island resources by providing on site recycling, composting and water conservation through xeriscaping demonstrations.

PLEASE HELP! Write to the Mayor and to the County Council asking for financial and adequate staffing support, for the restoration and expansion of the Maui Botanical Gardens.
The first draft of the 96-97 budget will be out March 15. Public hearings will be held the last week of March and the first two weeks of April. Please let your voices be heard by attending a meeting in your area and addressing the needs of the Botanical Garden.

For information call Mary Evanson 572-9724 or Lisa Raymond 878-3564
Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle, County of Maui, 200 S. High St. Wailuku 96793
Councilman Alan M. Arakawa, Chair, Parks & Recreation Committee, 200 S. High St. Wailuku 96793
Alice L. Lee, Council Chair, 200 S. High St. Wailuku 96793

NAME:_________________________ ADDRESS:__________________________ PHONE:___________
I want to volunteer. Please call me____________________
I want to make a donation to the Maui Botanical Garden Fund $________
Please mail to: Native Hawaiian Plant Society, P.O. Box 5021, Kahului, HI 96732
NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANT SOCIETY
1996 WORKPARTY SCHEDULE

APRIL: Auwahi Exclusions
   Call Richard (877-4024)

MAY: *Hibiscus breckneridgei* Exclusion
   Call Richard (877-4024)

JUNE: Greissitt Sanctuary
   Call Linda (661-4303)

JULY: La Perouse Exclusion
   Call Richard (877-4024)

AUGUST: Auwahi Exclusions
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   Call Linda (661-4303)

NOVEMBER: Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary
   Call Project Leader Mike Perry (572-9836) also
   Tuesdays & Saturdays, 8:30-11 AM

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Meet at 8 AM on the second Saturday of the month. Bring lunch tools, water, gloves, sunscreen, and rangear. Call the Project leader for detailed information on each activity.

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