



# Fascinating are the flowers and other parts...

Sunday, May 3 (May Day weekend) will mark our Board's inaugural evening fundraising dinner, titled "A Night with the Flowers: Nanea nā pua". The phrase comes from the organization which helped form Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, the Native Hawaiian Plant Society. Their motto, written by George L. H. LeBouvier (1921-1996), "Nanea nā pua o ka 'āina aloha" translates to "Fascinating are the flowers of our beloved land". The word "Nanea" means both to pass time pleasantly, and fascination of or absorbing interest. This special evening will be a chance to help support the programs that create interest in native Hawaiian plants, as well as a good time in and of itself. More details about this event can be found on page 6.

May Day in Hawai'i is a merging of ancient Hawaiian and ancient Roman traditions having to do with flowers. Lei Day in Hawai'i began in 1928 when two journalists sought to create a new holiday to celebrate the tradition of making and giving lei. In America, the giving of flowers often symbolizes romantic love. In Hawai'i, the giving of lei can symbolize love, respect, ceremony, or be an everyday adornment.

Of course, lei are also made with



*A haku lei of Native flowers and foliage.*

other plant parts, and for many native Hawaiian plants, flowers are small or sparse. Modern landscape plants have responded to the expectation that a garden is for ornament, or flowers, alone. But the plants at MNBG evolved to survive without any help from humans (native plants), or were cultivated to enable humans to survive (Polynesian-introduced plants). The expectation of large or vividly colored flowers means that visitors sometimes

think native Hawaiian plants aren't "sexy". But look a little closer – or perhaps through a different lens. In honor of the symbolism of flowers that May Day represents, we found legends, sayings, and traditions that show the romantic side of Hawaiian plants.

The kō variety Manulele (*Saccharum officinarum*, sugarcane, Polynesian) is one of more than 40 different types of kō growing at MNBG. Manulele means "flying bird", and this kō was one that was used in hana aloha (love magic), performed with the agreement and help of a kahuna (priest). The "flying bird" winged the pule (prayer) to the intended laden with mana (power) to induce feelings of love for the client (Handy and Handy). Manulele was one

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*Layout Editor, U'i Naho'olewa*

*Fascinating are the flowers - and other parts... continued*

of four kō varieties that was used for hana aloha, and it was particular for inducing desire in a distant person or one you might be nervous to approach (Lincoln, in press). More than one rowdy high school group has become respectful and silent when this story is being told.

Our stately ‘ulu (*Artocarpus altilis*, Polynesian) trees have many romantic meanings. *Maui lou i ka ‘ulu i luna lilo, o lou hewa i ka ‘a ‘ai ‘ole; eia no ka ‘ulu kea lo*. Don’t hook the breadfruit away up lest you hook an imperfect one; take the one in front of you. Why reach afar for a mate? Choose one from among your own acquaintances (Pukui). Wakea and his wife Papa lived above Kalihi Valley. From the beach, Papa saw Wakea being taken prisoner. She tore off her skirt of pōhuehue, and caught the group near a sacred ‘ulu tree. She begged to be allowed to say goodbye to her husband. She wrapped her arms around him and whirled him into the trunk of the ‘ulu. After making offerings, the men cut down the sacred tree, but its trunk was solid, and the couple were safe at home. The pōhuehue (*Ipomoea pes-caprae* ssp. *brasiliensis*, indigenous) still grows on the beach where Papa dropped it (Pukui and Curtis).

*Keke‘e hau o Ma‘alo* means Crooked



*A low hanging ‘ulu develops at The Gardens.*

are the hau trees of Ma‘alo, Maui. The hau grove from this area in Kāupo was known as a place for illicit love affairs (Pukui). Hau (*Hibiscus tileaceus*, Indigenous or Polynesian) is also well known for providing strong fibers for cord, and stripping the bark for this purpose exposes a slimy sap. The sap was used to make a medicine to help ease the passage of a child (Whistler), and ease pain in childbirth (Krauss).

The base of the flowers are chewed to induce lactation (Whistler).

But of course, flowers also have their romantic place in Hawaiian tradition. ‘Ilima (*Sida fallax*, Indigenous), is valued for lei; it takes more than 1,000 flowers to make an ‘ilima lei. *Ke kui la i na ‘āpiki lei o Makaiwa*. ‘Āpiki is another name for ‘ilima. Stringing the lei ‘ilima at Makaiwa, a beach near Lahaina, is a boy’s boast of sexual activity (Pukui). Some rocky, dry lands were known as wao ‘ilima, “realm of the ‘ilima”; the flowers in lei were said to attract mischievous spirits that lead to fun and adventure (Lincoln). ‘Ilima flowers were given as medicine to ease the pain of childbirth, along with hau sap (Krauss). Red hibiscus flowers from endemics such as *Hibiscus kokio* var. *kokio* and *Hibiscus clayi* were worn by single adults of both sexes over the left ear, but this was kapu (forbidden) to married women in some places (Whistler).

These stories are part of our new Hana Aloha (Love Magic) tour, which was first given to the Kaunoa seniors on April 2. Flowers have a beautiful romantic symbolism for Western culture. How lucky for us to live in Hawai‘i, where romance is associated with all parts of plants, not only the flowers!

## A Message from the Board President

Aloha kākou,

First, thank you for all that you do for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens! It is because of you that 2015 is off to a great start. New funding and staff have reinvigorated MNBG and we are excited to offer an abundance of workshops and events.

To sustain and support this new momentum, the Board of Directors is excited to announce our first inaugural benefit fundraiser for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens – “A Night with the Flowers: Nanea Nā Pua”, to be held Sunday, May 3, from 5 to 9 p.m.

The evening will begin with an “Aloha Hour” featuring signature cocktails using fresh sugarcane juice from our collection; wine, beer, and ‘awa. As well as pūpū; and short tours and cultural demonstrations. A full dinner featuring locally sourced Hawaiian ingredients will be provided by local chefs: Maui Breadfruit Company, Tim Garcia and Food Art, and the Vineyard Food Company. We have a great lineup of music from the students of the Institute of Hawaiian Music and the Jeff Teves trio from Honolulu, protégés of Kahauanu Lake. The dancers of Wehiwehi O Leilehua will grace us with hula and feature na maoli Pua (the native flowers) in an evening welcoming the full moon in our Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

Mahalo nui loa for all your support. Come join us for a beautiful evening celebrating the rich heritage of native Hawaiian plants!

Cynthia Nazario-Leary  
President  
MNBG Board of Director



## With Gratitude from Our Garden:

Connie Luk for 5-gallon buckets, Diane Carr for paper plates and latex gloves, Anna Mae Shishido for volunteer drinks, Alaka'i Paleka for hand towels, Jennifer Rose for 5-gallon buckets, gloves and garden clippers, Tom Takeuchi for volunteer snacks, Paul Kastner & Phyllis Sato for hand pruners, latex gloves and scrubbers, Anne Carter of Kulamanu Farms for 26 māmaki trees for Arbor Day 2014, DLNR for fence posts and building labor, Bill & Anne Ripperger for 5-gallon buckets, and the Seabury Hall Winterim Program for clippers and insect repellent.

## MNBG Community Contributions:

Nani Kani O Hula (wauke), Halau Kekuaokalā'au'ala'iliahī (Ma'o & 'uki'uki), Baldwin High School ('ūlei), Maui High School ('ape, 'ōhai, *Hibiscus clayi*, and 'uki'uki), Kamehameha Schools Maui (māmaki & 'ōhai), and Ho'omana La'au Lapa'au ('uhaloa).

## Mahalo to our Interns & Volunteers:

Bianca Johnson, Bill Ripperger, Daven & Henry Lindo, Tamulei, Kui and Hopena Ross, John McDonald, Traci Palermo, Jessica Walker, Justin Walker, Kelsey Ota, Rachel kaulupali, Kauī Pu'u, Kaulana Kino, Zachary Salvador, Jasmine Pagaduan, Maui High School's Workplace Readiness Program, Kamehameha Schools' Keiki O Ka 'Aina Scholarship volunteers, and Seabury Hall's Winterim Volunteer Program.

## Wish List

- Clipboards (for visiting students)
- Clean 5-gallon plastic utility buckets
- Garden gloves (all sizes)
- Rakes (leaf or landscaping)
- Handicapable gardening tools – for ideas, see <http://disabilityworktools.com>
- Medium sized picks
- Shovels
- Sickles
- Hand pruners (clippers)
- Clean 5-gallon utility buckets
- Outdoor tables & chairs
- Table cloths for 6' size tables
- Hawaiian Miles (for interisland travel to conferences)
- Vacuum

\*If you would like to contribute to the purchase of one or more of these items please call 808-249-2798.

### LOCATION & HOURS

150 Kanaloa Avenue  
Keōpūolani Park, Kahului  
Across from the War Memorial Sports Complex  
Monday-Saturday  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm\*  
Closed Sundays & Major Holidays  
\*Weather permitting

### GROUP RESERVATIONS

Reservations are required for group activities.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing: P.O. Box 6040  
Kahului, HI 96733  
TEL: (808) 249-2798 FAX: (808) 249-0325  
Email: [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org)  
Website: [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org)



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Maui Nui Botanical  
Gardens on Facebook!

Receive updates on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and learn more about Hawai'i's unique plants within 'MNBG's Hawaiian plant of the day' photo album!

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### SAVE A TREE!

If you would like to receive your newsletters via email, please email us at [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org).  
You may also view them on our website at : [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org)

# New Staff and Grants

## New Grants from HTA and Hawai'i Community Foundation

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority / Hawai'i Community Foundation Kūkulu Ola Living Hawaiian Culture Program and the Natural Resources Program both approved grants for MNBG totaling \$75,543 for 2015. This much needed funding made it possible to create a new staff position, the Plant Collections Manager, which was filled by Chris d'Avella in January. The Kūkulu Ola grant is intended to "Promote Visitor and Community Connection to Traditional Hawaiian Crops", and the Natural Resources grant is titled, "Seed Storage of and Increased Community Access to Rare Native Hawaiian Coastal Plant Species".

Seed storage is the most economical technique for preventing extinction of endangered native plants. It can also provide common native plants for large scale restoration. Currently, the vast majority of seed banks in Hawaii focus upon high elevation species; there is no other facility devoted to coastal native plants and coastal plant seed storage in the state. This grant enables us to upgrade our current seed storage equipment so that we can drastically increase the lifespan of stored seeds. In addition, it will allow us to reach out to conservation partners and other groups that do coastal plantings in natural areas to determine what coastal species are most needed for projects. As part of this program, Weed and Pot Club volunteers will be visiting coastal restoration sites on Maui as part of their regular field trips to see and understand the types of plants that are being used to re-vegetate our beaches and wetlands. We began by visiting Kanahā Beach Park in January, and Kanahā Wildlife Refuge in February.

This grant enables us to improve our collection of the Hawaiian varieties of kalo (taro), 'uala (sweet potato), kō (sugarcane), 'awa (kava), and mai'a (banana), to help meet community demand for some 159 heritage cultivars of these crops. It will also allow us to create 4 new interpretive signs and new visiting school activities. Last but not least, this grant is making it possible to bring in noted experts from all over the state to lead workshops that allow people to taste these different varieties and learn about their history and culture (see our Calendar of Events on Page 5).



**Chris d'Avella**  
*Plant Collections Manager*

Chris has a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies – Environmental Studies: Agroecology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and brings his experience in farm and nursery production of food crops and ornamentals, strong data management skills, and an interest in ecological approach to agriculture.



**Bruce Dudoit**  
*Plant Collections Manager*

Bruce has a wide range of construction and landscaping experience and is currently a student at the University of Hawai'i Maui College. He is studying Hawaiian plants and agriculture, and has a passion for learning about Hawaiian traditional arts such as a recent project making throw nets.



### **Kaulana Pu'u & Traci Palermo:**

#### **2015 UH-Maui College Mālama Ahupua'a Interns**

Mahalo to the 2015 UH-Maui College Mālama Ahupua'a Program for two amazing interns. They have been working on improving signage in the Garden and helping to keep our volunteers busy.



# Events & Workshops 2015

**For more information on all events at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, please email us at [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org) or call (808) 249-2798.**

**Saturday, May 23rd, from 9 AM to 12 PM: Na Kō O Hawaii (Sugarcane Workshop) with Noa Lincoln**

*Come taste the difference that is true Hawaiian kō (sugarcane)! Noa Lincoln will teach participants how to identify Hawaiian varieties of kō, followed by a varietal tasting of fresh squeezed sugarcane juice comparing different cultivars. Noa recently received appointments with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the Ngai Tahu Research Centre at the University of Canterbury. His second book will be released this year focusing on the Hawaiian varieties of kō. Cost: \$45 Visitors; \$20 Members, Please call 808-249-2798 for reservations. Mahalo to our sponsor the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.*

**Saturday, May 30th, from 9 AM to 12 PM: Kalo Workshop with Jerry Konanui**

*The people of Hawai'i developed the cultivation kalo (taro) than any other culture, and grew hundreds of distinct kalo (taro) varieties. Today, there is a revitalization of kalo growing that is helping to save the less than 70 varieties that remain. Cultural practitioner and accomplished mahi'ai (farmer), Jerry Konanui, will teach participants how to identify the Hawaiian varieties, discuss traditional cultivation methods, and teach about the cultural relevance of this crop and these unique varieties. A tasting portion will allow comparisons between varieties. Cost: \$45 Visitors; \$20 Members. Please call 808-249-2798 to reserve your space. Mahalo to our sponsor the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.*

**Saturday, June 27th, from 9 AM to 1:30 PM: Ni'ihau Method of Ipu Decorating and Dyeing Workshop**

*The traditional Ni'ihau style of processing fresh ipu (gourds), decorating, and drying will be taught. Students will be able to create their own designs based on traditional Hawaiian designs and learn about native ipu dyes and dye methods. Instructor: Lisa Raymond. Cost: \$125 Visitors; \$100 Members; includes all materials.*

**Saturday, August 15th, from 9 AM to 12 PM: 'Ulu (Breadfruit) from Root to Fruit, with Ian Cole**

*Ian Cole, Collection Manager and Curator at National Tropical Botanical Garden's Breadfruit Institute, discusses the cultural history of 'ulu, propagation, planting, harvesting, preparing, and eating! An 'ulu based lunch prepared by John Cadman of Pono Pies is included. Date, time, and cost still to be determined; please email [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org) for more info.*

**Saturday, August 22nd, from 9 AM to 12 PM: 'Uala (Sweet Potato) Workshop**

*'Uala was second only to kalo (taro) in importance as a food in ancient Hawai'i. Aurora Kagawa-Vivani from Pauoa, Oahu will lead a talk about the cultural importance of 'uala or Hawaiian sweet potato, traditional farming practices, and her work to discover which varieties grown today in Hawai'i represent ancient cultivars. Recipes will be shared using all parts of the plant, such as palula salad and koele palau. Cost: \$45 Visitors; \$20 Members, Please call 808-249-2798 for reservations. Mahalo to our sponsor the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.*

**Saturday, August 29th, from 9 AM to 12 PM: Native Hawaiian Plant and Taro Sale**

*Promote the survival of Hawai'i's Native plants by growing them in your backyard! MNBG invites many local native plant growers to sell their offerings at this awesome event. Plant experts will be available to help pick out the perfect plants for your residence. Email [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org) for a complete list of plant available.*

**Saturday, November 7th, from 9 AM to 12 PM: Arbor Day 1,000 Hawaiian Tree Giveaway**

*In celebration of Hawai'i's native trees, MNBG partners with Maui Electric Company and Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program to give away 1,000 Hawaiian trees, free, to anyone willing and able to care for them! Experts will be available to recommend the best Hawaiian tree for your area of residence. The celebration also features free demonstrations on proper tree care, and community organizations sharing information about caring for our environment.*

Save The Date

# A Night with the Flowers

Nanea nā pua o ka 'āina aloha  
"Fascinating are the flowers of our beloved land"  
– Native Hawaiian Plant Society motto, by George LeBouvier

A Benefit Fundraiser for



MAUI NUI  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS

**SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015 • 5 PM - 8 PM**

150 Kanaloa Avenue, Kahului, Maui

Come join us for a beautiful full moon evening celebrating  
the rich heritage of Native Hawaiian plants.

Tickets:  
**\$100**  
\$750 for a table of 8

Hawaiian music, hula, and dinner prepared by local  
chefs, featuring: The dancers of Wehiwehi O Leilehua  
and the Jeff Teves trio The Institute of Hawaiian Music  
John Cadman and Maui Breadfruit Company

For tickets: [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org) • (808) 249-2798

Casual aloha attire; 21 and over only.

# Volunteer Central



MNGB's Weed & Pot Club had the opportunity to mālama the coastal plants on the dunes at Kanahā Beach Park and the Kanahā Wildlife Refuge this winter! This was a great way for our volunteers to observe the many Hawaiian plants native to the sandy dunes along the shore. Mahalo to our host, Mike Perry, who has continued to maintained portions of the coastline for 15 over years.



The MNGB staff and volunteers would like to bid a fond farewell to long time Weed & Pot Club member, Diana Schulte. A memorial service was held for Dee on Saturday, February 28th. Diana was witty and approachable, which made new volunteers feel welcome from the moment they arrived at the Gardens.



MNGB's Weed & Pot Club Volunteers: Mikki Clark, Jennifer Rose, Paul Kastner, Linda Tesar-Amimoto, Darryl Amaral, Gloria Adlawan, Connie Luk, Maggie Sniffen, Marilyn Hopkins, Christa Seidl, Malie Unabia-Verkerke, and Anna Mae Shishido.



If you love working with native plants, you'll love the Weed & Pot Club! This volunteer gardening group meets every Wednesday morning, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Spend your morning helping the Gardens thrive through weeding and propagation. Off site field trips, workshops and lectures are scheduled several times a year for our volunteers only. Come prepared to work with covered shoes and gardening attire.

## Mahalo Weed & Pot Club

Anna Mae Shishido	Gloria Adlawan	Mikki Clark	Robin Yamashita
Becky Lau	Jackie Kovarsky	Maggie Sniffen	Susan Bradley
Cindy Singer	Janet Allan	Paul Kastner	Tom Takeuchi
Connie Luk	Jennifer Rose	Phyllis Sato	Vilma Seiler
Darryl Amaral	Linda Tesar-Amimoto	Raymond Higashi	
Diane Carr	Mālie Unabia-Verkerke	Renee Leiter	
Enid Sands	Marilyn Hopkins	Robert Pitts	



MNGB appreciates Kaunoa's RSVP partnership for its support of MNGB volunteers. Like MNGB, Kaunoa provides opportunities for people 55 and better to learn and grow through a variety of programs throughout Maui Nui. Call (808) 270-7986 for more information.

## Check Out What's Blooming!

### 'Uhaloa ('Ala'alapūloa)

*Waltheria indica*

Indigenous

'Uhaloa is the kinolau (body form) of the Hawaiian god, Kanaloa. It features tiny yellow flowers resembling miniature hibiscus or 'ilima. In old Hawai'i, the bitter inner-bark of the roots of 'uhaloa were used as a pain killer to ease sore throats. On sea voyages, the leaves were pounded and used for filling in cracks of canoes. 'Uhaloa is drought, wind, salt and heat tolerant





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Krysta Fries

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 Robert & Doreen Hobdy  
 Bob Jones  
 Pamela Kantarova & Richard Sylva  
 Paul Kastner & Phyllis Sato  
 Ron & Blossom Kawahara  
 Hinano & Andrea Kaumehiwa  
 Byron Kelly  
 M. Verdine Kong  
 Lawrence & Mary Ann Lambert  
 Ron & Becky Lau  
 Renee & Elliot Leiter  
 Mette W. Lyons  
 Murlin Marks  
 Martha E. Martin  
 Paul & Michele McLean  
 Geary Mizuno  
 Joan Nielsen  
 Margaret Nielsen  
 Orchids of Olinda, Inc.  
 Dr. Benton Pang  
 Hilary Parker  
 Rob Parsons  
 Walette Pellegrino  
 Scott Purvis  
 Dorothy Pyle  
 Leilani Pyle  
 Marilyn Ratcliffe & Tom Huber  
 Tom Reed & Judy McCorkle  
 Dorli Reeve  
 R. E. Remington  
 Bill & Anne Ripperger  
 Robie Price Photography  
 Frank G. Rust & Angela Kay  
 Kepler

Mary Cameron Sanford  
 Anna Mae Shishido  
 Norman & Florence Shotts  
 Oscar & Barbara Soule  
 Kathleen M. Spalding  
 Anudeva Stevens  
 Kenneth Swan & Mary Perez  
 Charmaine Tavares  
 Peter Van Dyke  
 Dieter & Susan Walz  
 Melody Watral  
 William Weaver  
 Tina Whitmarsh  
 Susan Wirtz  
 Armin & Linda Yamada  
 Brian & Sharon Yamada  
 David & Robin Yamashita

**In Memoriam**

Meleana Hoggins  
 Charlie Lamoureux  
 Diana Schulte

# Donate Your HI5 Funds to MNBG at Aloha Recycling!

In partnership with Aloha Recycling, supporters of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens may donate their HI5 recyclable funds to MNBG from any of the 5 Aloha Recycling Redemption Centers in Maui! This is a great way for our non-profit to raise money, and we are so grateful to the team at Aloha Recycling for the opportunity to participate in this program.

To have your items credited to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, just advise the staff when you bring in your recyclable items.

MNBG also collects donations through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and [Paypalgivingfund.org](http://Paypalgivingfund.org) (formally known as MissionFish). Mahalo in advance for your support, and please help us spread the word!



# Conserving Hawaiian Plants & Cultural Heritage

MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS  
P.O. Box 6040  
Kahului, HI 96733

Visit us on the web at: [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org)



## MNBG's 1st Annual Benefit Dinner

**Sunday, May 3rd, from 5-8pm**

For tickets, visit:  
[MauiNui2015.EventBrite.com](http://MauiNui2015.EventBrite.com)

## Call to Action: MNBG needs your support!

The Maui County Council members will begin their annual budget deliberations in Spring 2015. The County is one of the Gardens' most important financial partners, and the annual grant they provide supports critical operating funding at MNBG.

We strongly urge members, volunteers, partners, grantors, and all organizations who have benefited from services provided by Maui Nui Botanical Gardens to show you support for us now. Please send a brief letter, fax, or email in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens to your County Council member or send it to:

MNBG: Letters of Support  
PO Box 6040, Kahului, HI 96733  
Email: [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org)  
Fax: 808-249-0325