Pursuit of Passion

By: Tamara Sherill

What’s your passion? People of many different backgrounds and interests continue to inspire us to see Hawaiian plants and Hawaiian culture from a new perspective. Here are a few that inspired us recently.

**Artistic pursuits:** We’re inspired by Ken Kenar. Ken is the owner of Pizza in Paradise in Kahului, and has recently been seen wandering the garden on many mornings. Turns out he has been taking high-resolution, macro photos of the plants in the Garden and insects that visit them. You can see some of his images on our Facebook page, and in this newsletter on the back cover.

We’re inspired by the kumu who have taught workshops this year: Lisa Raymond, Lei Ishikawa, Hokua Pelligrino, Kapono’ai Molitau, and Angela Kepler. We gratefully acknowledge the many years of focused scholarship that they bring to MNBG. They use experiments to uncover old techniques for making traditional Hawaiian objects of usefulness and beauty from Hawaiian plants, as well as ways of using traditional foods. Our workshops are a great way to get creative inspiration for learning both new and old ways to use raw plant materials. We are starting to schedule workshops for 2015 – see “Save the Date” on page 2.

**Teaching keiki:** We’re inspired by Ashlyn Ku’uleialoha Weaver. Ku’ulei is currently in school at California State University-Sacramento after completing her Associate degree in Hawaiian Studies at UHMC. She wants to become a Hawaiian studies teacher when she returns. She says she found herself asking, “what can I bring to the table for the Hawaiian Community?” and wrote to us offering to “volunteer by computer”. Since then, she has become our Education Program digital angel. As different school groups schedule visits, we email Ku’ulei questions to investigate to help us improve the experiences for these groups. So far, she has provided us summaries about plants used in tattooing, plants that are native to the Pauku-kalo area, and the history of the practice of lā’au lapa’au (Hawaiian healing and medicine).

We’re inspired by Gloria Adlawan, Linda Tesar-Amimoto, Malie Unabia-Verkerke, Becky Lau, and Diana Schulte. These regular Weed and Pot Club volunteers have jumped in with both feet by leading activities for pre-school and elementary school children, which include an activity book written by former Director Joylynn Paman, ‘ipu planting and newspaper pot making, painting pictures of Hawaiian plants with hala seed brushes, making ooe (kamani nut whistles), lei making, and making “soap” with ana-panapa or ‘awapuhi. We now have some new activities for our visiting middle and high-school students: a new tour about plant migrations to Hawai’i, a seed-collecting activity, and a plant terminology scavenger hunt. These activities introduce concepts related to evolution, botany, taxonomy, and seed collecting for propagation.

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Layout Editor, U'i Naho'olewa
Pursuit of Passion continued

If this sounds like fun, our Docent Program is for you. Our next Docent training session is being planned for late winter. Contact us at 249-2798 or info@mnbg.org.

Creative cooking: We’re inspired by the collective knowledge of the Hawaiian people of old, who expertly cultivated hundreds of unique crops. We’re also inspired by the hard-working people who farm on Maui. The traditional Hawaiian food plants, and the many different Hawaiian varieties that we have collected over the last decade, are a precious resource at MNBG. Most people have never tasted different varieties of kō (sugar cane), compared poi made from the Kā ‘ī kalo (taro) group to that made with the Lehua group, or know how to cook the delicious ‘ulu (breadfruit). We occasionally make these foods available for people to taste, such as at our kalo (Hawaiian taro), ‘awa (Hawaiian kava), and mai’a (Hawaiian banana varieties) workshops this year.

We have been growing and distributing Hawaiian kalo varieties to farmers and growers for several years now under a grant from the Ceres Trust, and we have shared kō varieties several times with farms on Maui, including Ocean Vodka and Oprah’s Farm. We want this valuable collection to reach chefs and other cooks interested in the unique qualities of traditional Hawaiian foods and introduce more cooks to the different varieties in our collection. We are seeking ideas and funding to help us expand this goal.

A passion for love: We’re inspired by an idea from a long-term garden member, Lesley Czechowicz. Lesley asked us if we could do a tour of the plants as they relate to love stories and the practice of hana aloha, or love magic. And a new tour was born! There are many stories, traditional practices, and interesting facts about Hawaiian plants that relate to love and/or reproduction, both human and botanical. This new tour is offered to those 18 years of age and over only. To make an appointment for this or any other tour of the gardens, call us at 249-2798.

There are millions of different ways of fostering appreciation of Hawaiian plants and Hawaiian culture. Whether it’s a full-blown passion or a little “spark” of interest, we welcome you.

Save The Date!

Saturday, January 24, 2015. 9 am-12 pm:
Kaula (Cordage) Workshop

The craft of using cordage or rope to bind materials together was highly developed in Hawaiian culture. Everything from tools to hale to boats relied at least in part on this skill. In this class, students will explore fibers from a variety of native plants from the Garden and learn a variety of techniques for making kaula. Instructor: Lisa Raymond. Cost: $55 Non-members; $30 Members

Saturday, February 21, 2015. 9 am-12 pm:
Ipu ‘aha hā wele (The Tied Gourd) Workshop

Learn the traditional method of tying a water carrying gourd. Students from the Kaula (Cordage) class will have the skills to create their own cord of native plant materials for this project. Instructor: Lisa Raymond. Cost: $55 Non-members; $30 Members

The Board of Directors and staff welcome Nursery Horticulturalist, Christa Seidl, to the MNBG team! Christa has a Bachelor of Science in both Botany and Environmental Studies, and has extensive experience as an environmental educator and field botanist. She recently completed her AmeriCorps internship with the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project. Christa will be working with volunteers in the nursery and assisting with record keeping for our living collection.

The MNBG Staff & Volunteers will bid a fond farewell to Garden Technician, Alex Quintana, this Fall. Alex will be continuing his education at UH-MC, and looks forward to working more in the conservation field. Good luck, Alex!
With Gratitude from Our Garden:
Raymond Higashi for rare books on Hawaiian plants and volunteer snacks, Becky Lau for planting pots, The Johnston Family for a memorial bench honoring Beverly Ann Hendrickson, Connie Luk for garden gloves and 5-gallon buckets, Susan Bradley for volunteer snacks, garden gloves, and a copy of The World of Bananas in Hawaii: Then & Now, Cindy Singer for garden gloves, volunteer snacks and utensils, and Paul Kastner for volunteer drinks and plates.

MNBG Community Contributions:

Mahalo to our Interns & Volunteers:

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/shop-by-tool-type/lawn-garden-fruits-vegetables/gardening/*
- 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)

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

Event Review: Ola Ka Honua 2014

At Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, our mission is to foster appreciation and understanding of Maui Nui’s plants and their role in Hawaiian cultural expression by providing a gathering place for discovery, education, and conservation. On Saturday, July 12, people gathered to celebrate this mission during Ola Ka Honua 2014. Mahalo to our first-time sponsors of this event, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. They, and generous donors such as First Wind and Hawaii Grower Products, made it possible for Hawaiian entertainers and cultural practitioners to share their talents with the public for free. Mahalo to Hālau O Ka Hanu Lehua and Hālau Kekuaokalāʻauʻalaʻi-liali for their first-rate performances. Alaka‘i Paleka was indispensible as our mistress of ceremonies – no one does it better. We would like to recognize the hardworking kumu who gave everyone a chance to make kapa, twist kaula (cordage), make and take home an oe oe (kamani whistle) or lei, and play Hawaiian games. We greatly appreciated the talents and dedication of all our amazing volunteers and board on that day. A special mahalo for Tom Takeuchi who really went the extra mile!

We are grateful to Mayor Arakawa for taking the time to come and speak. We are also, as ever, very grateful to the Office of Economic Development, County Department of Water Supply, and County Department of Parks and Recreation for their continued support of all community events at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

Event Review: Native Plant Sale & Lecture Series

Mahalo to all who joined us at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens’ Native Plant Sale & Conservation Lecture Series on August 23. Our sincere thanks to Penny Levin, Art Medeiros, and John Fitzpatrick for three great conservation lectures about Indigenous Hawaiian Crop Preservation, Dry Forests of Maui County, and Kūpuna Corals, Sharks and Rays at Olowalu. Over 40 species of Native plants were available for sale, produced by some of Maui’s best local growers including Kulamanu Farms, Native Nursery, and New Moon Enterprises. Many thanks to UH-MC professors Ann Emmsley, Mach Fukada, and Pam Shingaki for serving as our plant experts at the event. Mahalo to Cub Scouts Pack 68 for camping overnight to guard the plants, and to the Kamehameha Schools National Honor Society for their courteous help with our customers. Look forward to a kalo sale at the Gardens in early winter!
1,000 Hawaiian Tree Giveaway

Saturday
November 1st, 2014
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

At Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, 150 Kanaloa Avenue in Kahului

Free Admission, Free Parking and a Free Hawaiian Tree!


- Free demonstrations on proper tree care and water saving techniques.

- Learn about the great works of many local nonprofit conservation groups and how you can get involved in your community.

- Delicious food for purchase including Bradda Pops, Lau Lau Plate, Kalbi Plate, and freshly pressed Sugar Cane Juice!

Across the street from the War Memorial Stadium.

www.mnbg.org       phone: (808) 249-2798

1,000 Native Hawaiian & Polynesian-introduced trees will be given away.

Donations

The Leiter Foundation donated $5,000 towards new self-guided tour brochures and new plant identification signage in the Garden. Thank you to this great foundation for their long-standing support of the educational program at MNBG.

The Wailea Community Association donated $600 towards our intention to rebuild the fence around the niu (coconut) trees next to the playground. The fence protects keiki and their adults from falling coconuts so that visitors can see the trees in full fruit.

We were a little star struck when the Sylva Cecho-va, farm manager for Oprah Winfrey’s Kula farm, came to us seeking Hawaiian plants for the property. The MNBG nursery gave an assortment of Hawaiian kalo or taro varieties (Mana ‘ulu, Piko lehua api’i, Piko ‘ula ‘ula, Kumu ‘ele ‘ele, and Kalalau), ’awa or kava (Kūmakua, Papa ‘ele ‘ele, and Hokane ‘iki), and kō or sugarcane (Pakaweli, ‘Ula ‘ula, and ‘Iliopua). We hope they are growing well, and we thank the Oprah farm for becoming members of the Gardens.

Guided Tours & Activities

MNBG’s volunteer docents led guided tours and cultural activities for many residents, visitors and schools this season. These include the Alu Like Pualama I Na Keiki Program, MPD Drug Abuse Resistance Education Summer Program, Maui Keiki Paddlers, Haleakalā National Park’s Pōhai Maile Interns, Malama Family Recovery Center, Kaunoa Civic Adventures, Kihei Charter School, Maui High School Eco Club, UH-MC’s Hawaiian Field Biology Class, Maui Economic Opportunity Youth Services and the Valley Isle Key Club.

Guided tours at MNBG are available for $10 per person on weekdays at 10 a.m., by appointment only. Call 808-249-2798 or email info@mnbg.org for reservations. Self guided audio tour wands are now available for $5, and walking tour brochures are available for $4. Contact the Gardens office for student rates.
Volunteer Central

MNBG’s littlest volunteers from Alu Like’s Pūlama ʻI Nā Keiki Program came in last month to help us water plants! Mahalo e Nā Keiki!

Mother/daughter volunteer duo, Kaleʻa & Makamae, serve ‘awa to guests at MNBG’s August Plant Sale.

Mayor Arakawa poses for a photo with MNBG volunteers, Vilma, Gloria and Paul at MNBG’s Ola Ka Honua 2014 event.

Weed & Pot Club

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

Amy Hodges
Becky Lau
Cindy Singer
Connie Luk
Diane Carr
Enid Sands
Diana Schulte
Gloria Adlawan
Gordean Kakalia
Jackie Kovarsky
Janet Allan
Jennifer Rose
Kara Johanssen
Linda Tesar-Amimoto

Marilyn Hopkins
Marilyn Jansen-Lopes
Mikki Clark
Maggie Stiffen
Paul Kastner
Peter Wing
Phyllis Sato

Raymond Higashi
Renee Leiter
Robin Yamashita
Susan Bradley
Tom Takeuchi
Vilma Seiler

MNBG appreciates Kaunoa’s RSVP partnership for its support of MNBG volunteers. Like MNBG, 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!

Naio

*Myoporum sandwicense*

Endemic

In old Hawai‘i, naio wood (called ‘a‘aka) was used in home construction. It also made great firewood, as ‘a‘aka is long burning with a clear light. The wood of this native continues to be used in wood craft today. Naio is drought, wind and salt tolerant.
Mahalo to our new & returning donors!

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We are extremely grateful to all who have made donations to the Gardens over the years.

We make every effort to assure an accurate membership list; however, if your name was omitted or misspelled, please contact us at info@mnbg.org and we will be happy to update our records.

SAVE A TREE!
If you would like to receive your newsletters via email, please email us at info@mnbg.org. You may also view them on our website at: www.mnbg.org

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 and Paypalgivingfund.org (formally known as MissionFish). Mahalo in advance for your support, and please help us spread the word!
Donations of monetary or in-kind contributions are greatly appreciated. To contribute, please fill out the enclosed donation envelope, call 249-2798 or visit www.mnbg.org to donate online.

Yearly memberships help to fund important botanical and educational programs, research and conservation efforts. Fill out the enclosed donation envelope or call 249-2798 to become a member.

Play a lasting part in protecting Hawai‘i’s native plants through planned giving. Consider making a bequest to the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in your will or trust. Call 249-2798.

Give a gift of time. Volunteering at MNBG helps the Gardens accomplish many projects and also gives you an opportunity to learn about and work with native plants. Join our Weed & Pot Club every Wednesday morning from 8:30 am - 10:30 am. Call 249-2798 or visit www.mnbg.org for more information.