Rene Sylva, a visionary conservationist and the Maui Nui Botanical Garden’s Founder, passed away at his home on Pā‘ia Bay on December 28, 2008. He was a one month shy of his 80th birthday.

Rene leaves an incredible conservation legacy. His passion for the preservation of native Hawaiian plants and sea life inspired generations of us; now tasked with carrying on his vision. The life path guiding him to become a leading conservationist began many years ago. After time spent in the military, and a brief construction career, Rene became a fisherman. After noticing the declining turtle population, Rene abandoned his occupation and destroyed all his nets. He went on to become the only fisherman to publicly testify to have Hawaiian sea turtles put on the Endangered Species List. In 1994, he was honored for his actions by the Chevron-Times Mirror magazine with its Conservation Award recognizing natural resources conservation efforts. Rene, for all his passions, was a very humble and rather shy person and though honored for his conservation work several times, would usually dodge the spotlight, and became famous for not showing up at the ceremonies.

January 27, 1929 – December 27, 2008

Rene was appointed caretaker of the newly opened Maui Zoological and Botanical Gardens in 1976. He single-handedly, and with his own resources, created an outstanding native Hawaiian plant collection that was recognized throughout the state. Famous botanists such as Dr. Harold St. John and Dr. Otto Degener sought him out for his remarkable skill at recognizing and remembering the location of native plants. Once he had found a plant, he always remembered exactly how to find it again sometimes many years after it was first discovered. He used traditional skills not the modern GPS equipment we have today.

He had a brilliant mind. Even though

Continued on pg. 2

NEW MNBG EMAIL !!!!
info@mnbg.org
We are so sorry to lose another great soul and artistic talent, our friend Bob Wagstaff, a naturalist painter of flora and fauna. Bob blessed us with his remarkable talent; and many of our homes and offices display his work of beautiful native plants and birds. They portray Hawaii’s remarkable natural heritage in exquisite detail, and serve as reminders to take time in our daily lives to appreciate God’s handywork.

My first contact with Bob and his lovely wife Winnie was in 1994 when the book, Peter Panini’s Children’s Guide, The Living Treasures of the Hawaiian Islands, was first published. I bought it for my children and was captivated by the lovely illustrations. I looked up the artist’s name in the phone book and called him to tell him that I really liked his paintings. I don’t know what possessed me to do this. I’m not the kind of person who just calls people I don’t even know. Bob was so nice and said that he appreciated that I called and that if I ever needed anything to call him. Well, about a year or so later we needed to design a logo for our Garden. I called him to ask if he would do it, and he graciously agreed. We talked about what the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens would be doing, and that we wanted a plant that would reflect our location and conservation focus. We selected the endangered creeping naupaka or Scaevola corriacea. Our logo depicts the half flower typical of all naupaka, its black shiny seed, and a backdrop of a sand dune and blue sky.

Bob & Winnie often visited the Gardens to photograph plants in our collection that Bob would later paint. We will miss him very much.

You can see more of Bob’s works on his website http://www.wagstaffdesign.com/
Arbor Day Lawn & Garden Fair

The Arbor Day Lawn & Garden Fair was a tremendous success! Over 1,000 native trees were given away and 1,500 people attended the event. We would like to extend a heart-felt mahalo nui to our sponsors and volunteers for all their support to make this event a success.

Mālama i ka ‘aina award
Jonathan Keyser and Ethan Romanchak of Native Nursery are honored with the Mālama I Ka ‘Aina award by the Maui Invasive Species Committee. Pictured with them are Teya Penniman, MISC Manager and Gary Tavares of the County of Maui.

Workshop Announcement

Bud Grafting with Richard Nakagawa

Saturday, May 16, 2009
9am-12pm

Please join us for a 3-hour workshop on the techniques of bud grafting. Participants will have the opportunity to graft a selection of citrus varieties. Richard Nakagawa has over 20 years of experience in grafting and propagating trees of all kinds including many species never before grafted.

The class is $50 for members and $75 for non-members
Additional fee: $20 materials fee per rootstock (limit 2 per person).

Tools & grafting material will be provided
Space is Limited so call 249-2798
Register ASAP

MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is to foster an appreciation and understanding of the Hawaiian Islands of today, emphasizing the plants of Maui Nui (Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i and Kaho‘olawe), and providing a center for environmental education, Hawaiian cultural expression, conservation, biological study, and recreation.
Executive Directors Message

We all know these are trying times, and it has been a rough few months for the Gardens, our families, our community and our country. We have lost loved ones and felt the pinch of our increasingly difficult economy. However, there is so much to be grateful for, and we continue to count the many blessings we have received, and keep “facing future” with a full heart.

We are so grateful to Maizie Sanford for her donation, and look forward to constructing an educational hale in memory of her husband, Wallace G. Sanford. Architect Hans Riecke and Landscape Designer Susan Wyche have donated many hours to its design. We hope to have it constructed by the end of the year.

We are also so grateful for our excellent Board members and outstanding volunteers. These hard-working volunteers keep us going and we could not survive without their unvarying support.

I am also so indebted to have such an excellent staff. It is remarkable that with just four staff members we are able to maintain 5 acres and hundreds of rare plants, coordinate major events, manage volunteers and interns, give tours and provide educational materials, write grants, and much more… This could not be done without the most excellent and dedicated people.

So, we hope we can count on your continuing support. We invite you to visit the Gardens and join us at our Earth Day Celebration on April 18th; for there is much to celebrate and much more work to do. And when you do join us, let our staff, volunteers and partners know that you value their contributions, and the great work they do.

Mahalo! Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond

2009 Calendar of Events

April 10-12, 2009 Friday - Sunday
April 18, 2009 Saturday 10:00am - 3:00 pm
April 16 - 18, 2009 Thursday - Saturday
April 25, 2009 Saturday
August 29, 2009 Saturday 9:00am - 12:00 pm
November 7, 2009 Saturday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ritz Carlton Kapalua’s Celebration of the Arts
7th Annual Earth Day Celebration
Monarch Festival
East Maui Taro Festival
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Plant Sale
Arbor Day Celebration - Lawn & Garden Fair

With Gratitude from Our Garden

Mahalo to our service learning students:
Larissa Sullivan, John Aquino, Curt Hiraga, Palika Bell-Cockett, Sara Weese, Michael Marcil
Mahalo: Special Volunteer: Honeygirl Duman & to our Intern: Makala Kaupalolo
Mahalo for the following donations:
Eko Compost, Ho’okahua Program, Andrew Wright & Lisa Fitkin for the DVDs, Stanley Raymond for the Lawnmower, Weed & Pot club, Jackson Bauer for providing video coverage of Rene’s funeral, David Malafu of Malafu Contractors, Jeff Gray, of Maui Eko Compost for the mulch, Sacred Heart’s School, Hiki Hanai I Ka Ipu

MNBG Community Contributions

We have been fortunate to work with and share the special gifts of the Gardens with some wonderful groups in our community. MNBG has made donations to the Maui Coastal Land Trust, Sacred Hearts School, Amy Greenwell Botanical Garden, DLNR Forestry & Wildlife Kanahā Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, Waimea Arboretum and Lyon Arboretum

SAVE A TREE!

If you would like to receive your newsletters via email, please email us at info@mnbg. You may also view them online on our website at www.mnbg.org.
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Presents the 7th Annual
SUNDAY. April 18, 2008
10:00am to 3:00pm

· Hawaiian Plant Sale · Free Parking
· ‘Ono Food · Free Admission
· Silent Auction

Entertainment
Performers:
· Three Time Grammy Award Winner
  George Kahumoku Jr.
· Haku Mele Award Winner 2007
  Pekelo Cosma
· Ahumanu
· Maui Kāne

Hula Hālau:
· Na Hanona Kūlike ʻo Piʻilani

Education
Over 30 conservation organizations will share information about Hawaiian species, resource conservation and recycling.

Hawaiian Cultural Activities
Hands-on kapa, cordage and lei making. Poi pounding. Spear throwing, ulu maika and kōnane. Lua demonstrations by Nā Koa Kau I Ka Meheu O Nā Kūpuna. All activities are free and fun for the whole family!

Join Us at:
150 Kanaloa Ave. in Kahului
Across from the War Memorial Stadium
(808) 249-2798 email: info@mnbg.org
www.mnbg.org

Sponsors
County of Maui, Dept. of Water Supply, Tri-Isle Resource Conservation & Development, DLNR-Natural Area Reserve, Native Hawaiian Plant Society, Maui Sierra Club, Friends of Haleakalā, Hawai‘i Tourism Authority
Garden News

Volunteer of the Year
Stephanie Seidman, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Nursery Manager, was recognized as “Volunteer of the Year” by the Friends of Fleming Arboretum. Stephanie has worked tirelessly to organize activities and hands-on work opportunities for the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Weed & Pot Club. She also serves as a Board Member for the Native Hawaiian Plant Society. Both of these organizations have volunteered their time and energy at the Fleming Arboretum.

The Onipa’a Award
Kīope & Lisa Raymond were honored to received the Maui Sierra Club’s highest honor at their annual meeting on February 7, 2009. The Onipa’a Award is given for outstanding contributions to Maui and its environment. Kīope is a Professor of Hawaiian Studies and Language at Maui Community College and Lisa is the Director of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Mālama Chun donated the beautiful tribute, a hoe(canoe paddle). Mālama is a woodwork artist who specializes in beautiful koa paddles.

Aloha & Mahalo
A great big MAHALO to Nick Turner for three and a half years of great service. Nick has been our landscape maintenance go-to guy both part-time and full-time over the years while he was a student at M.C.C. He plans to transition to U.H. Hilo soon. Thanks for all the great work you have done! You will be missed.

Aloha to New Staff
Maui Nui Botanical Garden is delighted to announce two new staff members. Tamara Sherrill, some of you may remember was one of our first Nursery Managers. She has recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from University of Hawai‘i and has returned to Maui to become our new Garden Manager.

Also, welcome Nohea Daliva, our new Programs Manager, another recent graduate of Mānoa with a Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Studies. Nohea desires to learn more about our native Hawaiian plants, and has taken classes in Ethnobotany, lā‘au lapa‘au and fiber arts from U.H. Mānoa. She also has six years of experience in the non-profit sector.
Weed & Pot Club

Weed, pot plants, eat, drink and be merry!

Come join us every Wednesday from 8:30am till 10:30am to participate in weeding and plant propagation at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens! Occasional field trips are made to participate in outplanting, invasive-species removal and cultural education. Please come ready to work with closed-toe shoes. Sunscreen, tools, gloves, refreshments and fun provided! For more information, please call: 249-2798.
Ma'o Hau Hele ($5,000+)
AHS Foundation
Atherton Family Foundation
Cook Foundation, Limited
Dept of Water Supply
Leiter Family Foundation
Mary Cameron Sanford
Tri-Isle Resource Conserv. & Development Council
Ka Palupalu O Kanaloa
($1,000 - $4,999)
Anne Carter
Graham Family Foundation
Ho'olo House
Angela Kay Kepler &
Frank Rust
Geary Mizuno
Jim Moriyasu
Cynthia & Terry Quisenberry
Stanley Raymond
Zadoc W. Brown & Lawrence
N. Brown Foundation
'Ilii ($500 - $999)
Caron & Jeffrey Casey
Goodfellow Bros. Inc.
Raymond S. Hagashi
John & Susan Kea
Richard Langford
Anders Lyons &
Kiera Strohm-Herman
Maui Garden Club
Native Hawaiian Plant Society
K.M. Spalding
Robert &
Cherry Anne Sutherland
'Ilima ($50 - $499)
Halau Hula I Kona Maui Lima
A&B Foundation
Wendy Adamik
Gail & Don Ainsworth
John Minamina Brown Trust
George & Janet Allan
Kate Ames
The Thomas Ames Family
Linda Andersen &
Michael Dahlem
Lahela & Randy Augustin
John and Gordean Bailey
Debbie Brown
Nanette Cabatbat
Tom Cannon
Vickie Caraway
Bob & Tess Carnwright
James & Sally Casey
Chris Curtis Landscape
Jill Christierson
Bobby Coe
Fred Coffey
Dan Cohen
Patrick Conant &
Stephanie Nagata
Joan & Roger Crouse
Dougal & Ann Crowe
Lesley & Paul Czechowicz
Marleen Davis
Dary Davis, Pat Acia, Isaiah
Acia, and Micah Acia
Antoinette Lucienne deNaie
Dorvin D. Leis Co., Inc.
Dorothea Jean Dunn
Colin & Melanie Dunn
Moana Eisele
Pamela Elishaya & Irvin Pike
Chelsea Fashfoltz
Patience Ruth Gaia
Ann Glen & John C. Fairbank
Susan Root Graham
Lee Guthrie
Haleakalā Ranch Company
Hawai'i Grower Products
Jim & Honey Bun Haynes
Lorna Hazen
Derral Herbst
Lacy B. Herrmann, CEO
Dale & Patricia Hillman
Robert & Doreen Hobdy
Mimi Hoffman
Christine & Frank Hustace
Brian R. Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Judge
Paul Kastner
Hinano & Andrea Kaumeheiwa
John, Cheryl &
Maka'a Kaupalolo
Ronald Kawahara
Lan'ue Keating
Byron P. Kelly
Deborah Kremins
Tom Krueger
Labaina Restoration
Foundation
Lawrence &
Mary Anne Lambert
Ron & Becky Lau
Dorvin & Betty Leis
Jon & Roslyn Lightfoot
James & Paula Loomis
Paul & Judith Mancini
Martha Martin
Maui Association of
Landscape Professionals
Maui Oil Company
Maui Tomorrow
Foundation, Inc.
Marie McDonald
Alice A. Morison
Amy Muramatsu
Glynis Nakai
Howard & Janis Nakamura
Napili Kai Beach Resort
Norman & Linda Nelson
Orchids of Olinda
David Orr
Maui Outdoor Circle
Peter & Marion Pickens
John H. R. Plews
Bill Prucha
Dorothy & Bill Pyle
Marlyn Ratcliffe & Tom Huber
Tanya Raymond &
Jamie Gentry
Dorli Reeve
Keali'i Reichel
Ernie and Alene Rezents
Robert & Carolyn Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. William Ripperger
Lisa & Howard Rodrigues
Jennifer Rose
Marguerite A. Sanford
Thomas & Janice Savidge
Mark & Jamie Schattenburg
George Schattenburg
Dick & Chris Schmidt
Chris Seidman &
Barbara Gallisath
Anna Mae Shishido
Sierra Club Maui
George & Jeanie Smith
Dr. Oscar Soule
Tama Starr
Hugh & Erin Starr
Anudeva Stevens &
Hanna Hammerli
Charmaine Tavares
Claire Terry
The Village Gallery
Eugene & Linda Wasson
Melody Ann Watral &
Tim Donahoe
Ipu
Lagenaria siceraia
Polynesian Introduced