



MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS



Fall 2015 . Newsletter . Volume 43

Seed banking to support a diversity of coastal plants

By: Tamara Sherrill

How many native plants grow on your favorite Maui beach? If you are like me, your favorite South shore beach has two: naupaka kahakai and pōhuehue, and your favorite North Shore beach has three: ‘aki ‘aki, ‘ākulikuli, and one lonesome ‘ōhelo kai. Although they didn’t all occur together, more than 100 native plant species once thrived in coastal and wetland areas on Maui. Imagine our beautiful sandy beaches if they had the full complement of native plants that once grew there!

You can still see intact coastal vegetation at The Nature Conservancy’s Mo‘omomi Preserve on Moloka‘i, and Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve on O‘ahu. On Maui, Kanahā Beach Park near the sewage treatment plant is replanted with native plants that have been lovingly tended for years, mostly by a single volunteer. Mauka is Kanahā State Wildlife Sanctuary, where native birds, native plants, and a natural wetland are carefully protected, as they are at the Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge across the isthmus. The Hawai‘i Islands Land Trust’s Waihe‘e Coastal Dunes and Wetland Refuge has a beautiful assemblage of coastal native plants along the rocky beaches. If you are willing to hike farther, the King’s Trail at ‘Āhihi Kīna‘u Natural Area Reserve will lead

you to Kanaio Beach, which still has naio, pā‘u ō hi‘iaka, and others. Places and projects like these show us that although Maui’s most popular beaches are fringed by non-native species, they don’t have to be.

Because Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is located on a remnant consolidated dune system, we’ve been growing coastal Maui Nui plants for more than 15 years. We want the Garden to become more useful to people who currently protect native plants and natural areas, and those who wish to do so in the future. To do this, we are taking steps to improve the way we manage our seed bank of coastal, low elevation, and wetland Maui Nui plants, both rare and common.

“Seed banking” means long-term seed storage, using a variety of techniques. Seed banks use the least amount of space, money, and effort to ensure that plant populations are adequately backed up in case of a population decline or extinction in the wild. Seeds of some species, if stored properly, can remain viable for decades. This can buy valuable time for land managers who are trying to protect rare plant populations but may not yet have a fenced or secure site for new seedlings. In the case of forest fires, seed banking of large amounts of common native species can assist in restoration



MEO AmeriCorps Volunteer, Jessy, collect pua kala seeds for ongoing research at UH-Mānoa examining anti-herbivore defenses in Native Hawaiian plants.

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Seed banking... continued

already an important part of conservation programs at Lyon Arboretum and the O'ahu Army Natural Resources on O'ahu, the National Tropical Botanical Gardens on Kaua'i, and the Hawai'i Forest Institute on Hawai'i. These organizations, along with the National Center for Germplasm Resources Protection in Colorado and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Millennium Seed Bank, form the Hawaii Seed Bank Partnership.

We want to be a part of this important work, and this year, a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and Hawai'i Community Foundation is helping us take the first step. For many years at MNBG we have collected, labeled, and stored seeds in a dedicated refrigerator to assist in backing up our own plant collection. A recent inventory of these seeds by University of Hawai'i intern, Ivey Luedtke, showed that we had 501 separate seed acces-

sions, 221 of which were endangered species. Of 132 species represented, 103 were coastal species. Although we use our seeds for propagation for our own events and landscape, it is time to take a harder look at what we have, why we have it, and how we store it.

A survey is going out to Maui organizations that manage natural areas, to determine what species are of interest to their projects. With this information, we will make a priority list of which species to grow, collect seeds of, and store at MNBG in future. We have cleared office space and will be purchasing new equipment that will allow us to process, dry, weigh, catalog, and store seeds for much longer, test the seeds periodically for viability, and track which seed belongs with which project. Our Plant Collections Manager, Chris d'Avella, is traveling to 'Oahu next month to receive training in seed storage techniques from staff

at Lyon Arboretum and other visiting experts. We're excited to take this next step. Mahalo to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and Hawai'i Community Foundation for providing the funding for this project. We would like to also recognize Marian Chau and Tim Groessig of Lyon Arboretum, Margaret Clark of National Tropical Botanical Garden, Jill Wagner of the Hawaii Island Native Seed Bank, Hank Oppenheimer of the Plant Extinction Prevention Program, and Alvin Yoshinaga, who have been generous with their encouragement and technical expertise.

continued on page 3



Save the Date!

'Ohana Eats Dinner Series at Vineyard Food Company

By Catering from Soup to Nuts, Inc.

*A portion of the proceeds will support
the Mission and programs of
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens*

**Thursday & Friday,
October 22nd and 23rd:
Seating begins at 6 P.M.**

Cost: \$58 per person + tax
BYOB (Wine & Beer only, please)
1951 E. Vineyard Street, Wailuku, HI 96793

For Reservations,
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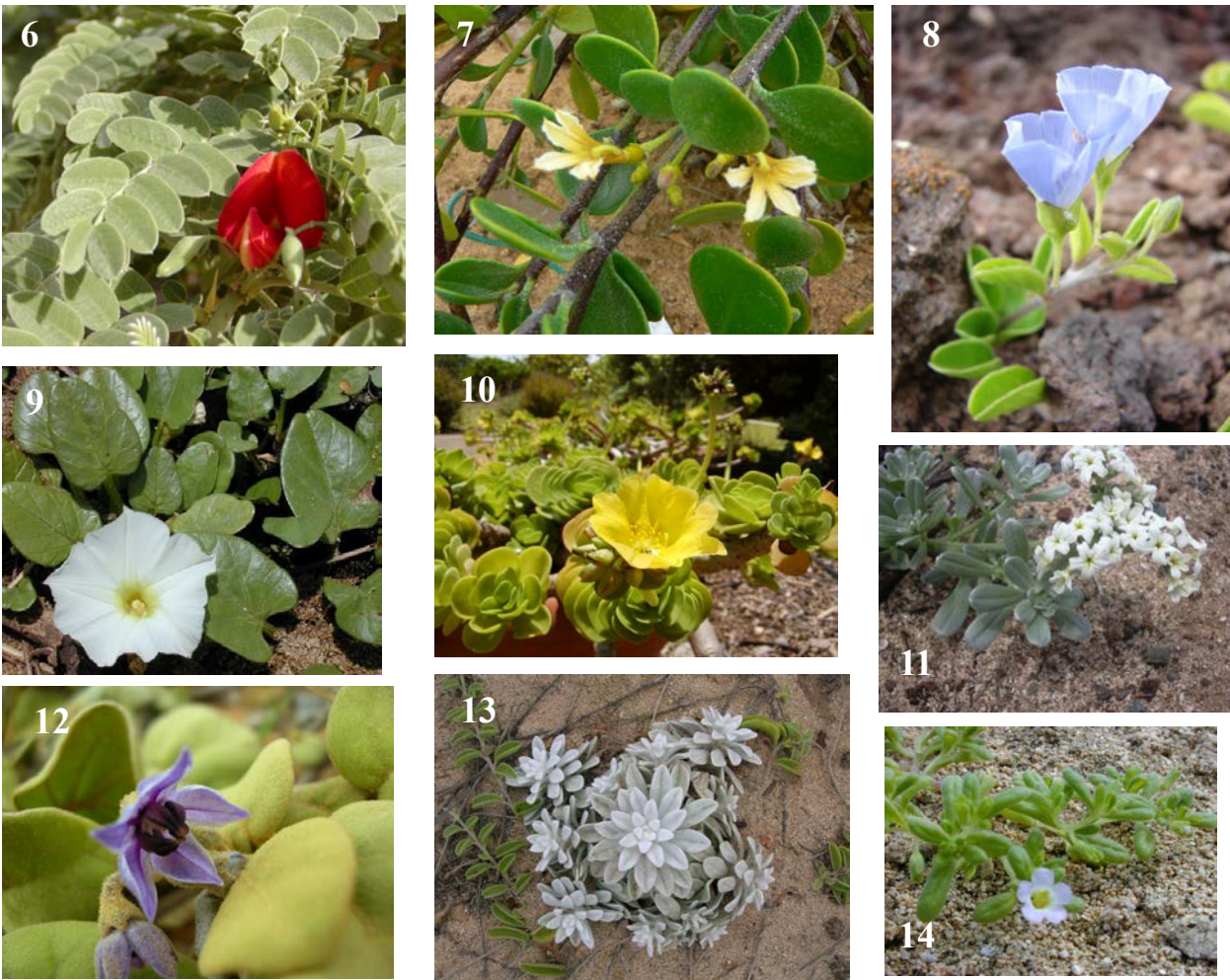
Plants commonly seen on Maui beaches



Introduced (non-native): 1) ironwood; 2) tree heliotrope.

Indigenous (native to Hawai‘i and elsewhere): 3) naupaka kahakai; 4) ‘aki ‘aki; 5) pōhuehue.

Plants less commonly seen on Maui beaches—some no longer found (extirpated)



Endemic (native only to Hawai‘i): 6) ‘Ōhai, endangered; 7) Dwarf naupaka, endangered; 8) Pā ‘ū ō hi‘iaka, still relatively common in natural areas but not recreation areas; 9) Hunakai, extirpated; 10) ‘Ihi, extirpated; 11) Hinahina, extirpated; 12) Pōpolo, candidate species and extirpated; 13) ‘Ena ‘ena, endangered; 14) Nama, rare. Photos by MNBG and Forest and Kim Starr.

These are examples of coastal plants that have been grown at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. However, some of these species need to be propagated and reintroduced into natural areas if they are to continue to exist.

With Gratitude from Our Garden:

Connie Luk for 5-gallon buckets, Jeff Gray for dump truck services and labor, Linda Tesar-Amimoto for pots and flats, Maggie Sniffen for gardening knee pads, rags and Goo Gone, Jennifer Rose for a desktop drawer organizer, Robin Yamashita for Goo Gone, Raymond Higashi for botany textbooks, Seth Welcker for I.T. services, Anna Mae Shishido for herbicide, and Anne & Bill Ripperger for 5-gallon buckets.

MNBG Community Contributions:

Native Hawaiian Plant Society (Lei Making Materials for Ha'iku Ho'olaule'a), UH-MC Student 'Ohana for Sustainability Earth Day event ('ihi, 'ilie'e, 'ilima papa, pōhuehue, pā'ū o hi'iaka, nehe, aweoweo), UH-MC Hawaiian History 107 ('awa, māmakī, awapuhi), Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (Mahina'ai Nights event centerpieces, and coastal natives for Kihei Boat Ramp plantings and outreach event), Kamehameha Schools Maui (noni roots), Hālau Wehiwehi o Leilehu (assorted groundcovers), Hālau Ka Mālama Mahilani (wauke), Maui High School ECO Club (hame), Puanaleo Hawaiian Immersion PreSchool (kō), 'Awa Workshop presented by O.H.A. ('awa), Hawai'i Community Foundation (kalo), Lahaina Restoration Foundation (noni and 'ōhi'a lehua), Ho'oulu Event at Princess Nahi'ena'ena Elementary School (Ti, noni, awapuhi, kukui, hame, kalo, kō), Maui Kapa Hui (wauke), and Pu'ukoholā Heiau Anniversary Event (kukui, kō, niu).

Mahalo to our Interns & Volunteers:

Shermila Sioson, Floyd Niezman, Ivori Sombelm, Kylie-Ann Pastor, the Native Hawaiian Plant Society, Ivy Luedtke, Andy DeMichele, Jessica Feister, Bruce Rivkin, Roxanne Agtang, Pauahi Scholar Parents, and a special mahalo to MNBG's Board Fundraiser helpers, Hawaiian Plant Sale volunteers, Baldwin High School Key Club and DLNR Natural Area Reserves.

Wish List

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

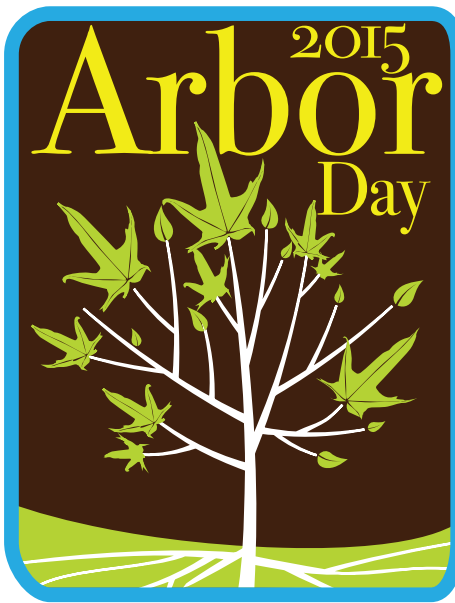
*If you would like to contribute to the purchase of one or more of these items please call 808-249-2798.

Guided Tours & Activities

MNBG's staff and volunteers led guided tours and cultural activities for many residents, visitors and schools this season. Our tour participants included the Maui Economic Opportunity Head Start Program, Kihei Charter School, UH-MC's Hawaiian Ethnobotany Classes, UH-MC ESL Program, UH-MC Indigenous Knowledge in Engineering ('IKE) Summer Bridge Program, UH-MC Ma'awe Hawaiian Fiber Arts Class, UH-MC Hawaiian Field Biology 105, Haleakalā Waldorf School 5th Grade, Kamehameha Paukukalo Preschool, Maui Police Department's Summer Leadership Program, Queen Lili'uokani Children's Center Staff, Nā Hau'oli Kukini, Kamehameha Elementary School, Pōmaika'i Elementary School 4th Grade, Maui Waena School 4th Grade, and Kamali'i Elementary School 4th Grade.

Individual 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 at least 48 hours in advance. Self guided audio tour wants are available for free with the price of admission. Contact the Gardens office for student rates.





1,000 Hawaiian Tree Giveaway

- Free Trees Available: 'a'ali'i, 'ānapanapa, hala, hame, hao, hau hele, kamani, koa, koki'o 'ula'ula, kou, kukui, lama, māma-ki, māmane, ma'o, milo, naio, nānū, noni, 'ōhai, 'ōhi'a 'ai, 'ōhi'a lehua, pōhinahina, and wauke.
- Free demonstrations on proper tree care.
- Learn about the great works of many local nonprofit conservation groups and how you can get involved in your community.
- Free activities featuring Hawaiian trees in action including: makahiki games, kapa making, hala weaving, lei making and more!

Saturday
November 7th, 2015

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens,
150 Kanaloa Avenue in Kahului

Free Admission
Free Parking
Free Hawaiian Tree!

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



Winner of the
International Society
of Arboriculture
2015
Gold Leaf Award for
Outstanding Arbor Day
Activities!

1,000 Native Hawaiian & Polynesian-introduced trees will be given away courtesy of Maui Electric Company, Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program, The County of Maui's Office of Economic Development, and Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.



Garden News

MNBG partners to protect wild endangered population of logo plant by Tamara Sherrill

After many months of coordination, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens has signed a Right of Entry agreement with the County of Maui Parks and Recreation Department to begin working to protect the last significant population of the endemic plant that appears on our organization's logo, the endangered dwarf naupaka (*Scaevola coriacea*). This coastal dune species was once common on consolidated sand dunes on all the main Hawaiian islands except Kaho'olawe, but has been reduced to a few individuals on two offshore islets, and a single population on property owned by the County. The Maui dwarf naupaka population has about 100 plants as estimated in 2006 by the Maui Nui Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP). Originally a project initiated by the Native Hawaiian Plant Society (NHPS) and PEPP, MNBG offered to take the lead in partnership with these groups.

MNBG will rely on the experience and guidance of PEPP and NHPS members to train our volunteers in the proper techniques for working with wild populations of plants. We hope to make at least 6 work trips to the site in the next year.

The dunes where the Maui plants occur are threatened by introduced plants such as buffel grass, kiawe, haole koa, and lantana, so volunteers will begin by clearing weeds around individual plants and helping



PEPP to monitor the health and numbers of the plants. We hope the work will encourage new recruitment of seedlings with the winter rains. MNBG has many examples of dwarf naupaka in the Garden, sourced from Mokuho'oniki islet near Moloka'i as well as from plants collected on Maui in the late 1970's. It is an easy species to propagate and is long lived in our sandy soil.

Working with an endangered plant in the wild is different than growing it in a landscape. The work requires a delicate touch, permits from the State of Hawai'i and the observance of strict protocols to avoid unintentional harm. Mahalo to the MNBG volunteers, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Native Hawaiian Plant Society, and the Plant Extinction Prevention Program for their willingness to partner in this exciting new project.



Mahalo to the Hawaii Community Foundation and Hawaii Tourism Authority for sponsoring a new interpretive sign featuring Hawaiian Coastal Plants at MNBG.



A new fence was installed around our coconut trees by DLNR's Natural Area Reserve System team with help from a grant from the Wailea Community Association.



Christmas came early! MNBG received a new gardening cart from an Anonymous donor this season! Mahalo Nui!

Volunteer Central



Becky Lau is our Volunteer Hero!

The MNBG staff & board would like to recognize Becky Lau as our County of Maui Volunteer Hero! Becky has been volunteering with Maui Nui Botanical Gardens since its inception as part of MNBG's Weed & Pot Club, volunteering each Wednesday, for two hours. Becky's knowledge of Hawaiian plants is so vast she is one of the few volunteers we feel comfortable both having her lead group activities or work independently. Becky also serves as a volunteer docent for the Gardens, leading tours for visitors and school groups from preschool through college aged. The group activities she leads cover Hawaiian cultural practices, botany, and ecology. When not at MNBG, you can find Becky working in another garden of native plants at Haiku Elementary School. She has maintained the school's plantings for over 20 years; a sculpture garden, the islands in the school parking lot, and most of its perimeter. Becky is a member of the Native Hawaiian Plant Society and serves as their Treasurer. Mahalo nui for your hard work and dedication, Becky!



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. 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	Jamie Grime	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	

Check Out What's Blooming!

Nohu

Tribulus cistoides, Indigenous

Nohu feature bright yellow flowers and sharp fruits with spines long enough to puncture a foot, even through thin-soled shoes. Early Hawaiians also gave the name, nohu, to an endemic reddish colored scorpion-fish with poisonous dorsal and pectoral spines. While the seedpods of nohu plants are not poisonous, they do defend themselves just as effectively as the ocean fish with the same name. Nohu is also one of the names for a reddish colored taro variety, 'Ele 'ele makoko.



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 Anuhea Yagi
 Lee Yakote
 Brian Yamada
 Linda Yamada
 Margie Yasui

In Memoriam

Charlie Lamoureux
 Diana Schulte
 Ed Tamayose
 Bob Wagstaff

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.



Become a friend of
 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!

www.facebook.com/mauinuibotanicalgardens

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

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
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 TEL: (808) 249-2798 FAX: (808) 249-0325
 Email: info@mnbg.org
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Artist & photographer, Ron Scholefield, recently re-staged a popular vintage photo by John Melville Kelly at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. The original piece, titled "Breadfruit Girl Hawaii", appeared on a restaurant menu cover at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel (The Pink Palace of the Pacific). See more of Mr. Scholefield's artwork at www.ronscholefield.com

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

Visit us on the web at: www.mnbg.org



SUPPORT THE GARDENS & HELP NATIVE PLANTS THRIVE

Kupu means to sprout or grow. Just like the kupukupu ferns, you can help the Gardens grow through donations, memberships, bequests or by volunteering. Your contribution helps to ensure the survival and perpetuation of native Hawaiian plants and culture.

DONATE

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.

MEMBERSHIP

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.

LEAVE A LEGACY

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.

VOLUNTEER

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.