



MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS



Conserving Hawaiian Plants & Cultural Heritage | Summer 2022 Newsletter | Volume 56

New Volunteer Work Area Completed

by Tamara Sherrill, Executive Director

The 20' by 40' dual work areas combine equipment storage and plenty of space for our expanding "Weed and Pot Club".

Those of you who contributed to the annual appeal last year helped us reach a milestone: we now have a new, sheltered volunteer work area. This will be the huina ke'a (intersection) of our new nursery and our equipment baseyard, and it begins with this massive improvement your donations helped us complete. After adding the finishing touch of a compacted gravel work surface, we will be ready to start moving in the equipment our volunteers will need for comfort and efficiency. The storage areas are now being used for our garden tools and equipment. Mahalo to Matson shipping for their generous donation of a 40-foot container that was worked into the design. We are indebted to the expertise of our project manager, Bill Keele, designer Kim Harter, and Torsten Ericson of MauiScapes. Mahalo as well to Jeff Gray for tree trimming, Sniffen and Sons for container placement, the Weed and Pot Club for painting and weeding, and Force Builders. This project was supported by a grant from the Strong Family Foundation.

The second phase will complete the area by moving the current nursery. To this end, we must now raise money to remove additional weedy trees, assemble volunteer worktables, construct bench space, and build out irrigation that improves nursery water conservation. Our plan for the volunteer shelter includes allowing for different table heights to prevent stooping, better structures for handling of media, cart pathways to give access to less mobile volunteers, and ergonomic and enabling tools. The new nursery will have pathways that allow for mechanical rather than manual movement of plants, flooding rather than jet type irrigation, and better sanitation measures to ensure plants are free of pests and diseases. This means planning and the build out of new irrigation that utilizes a new water source that will reduce our use of potable water. We are all excited for this improvement and invite everyone to come take a look next time you are in town.

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Garden News

Upcoming Workshops

Imu Building Workshop with Chris Ikaika Nakahashi

Friday, July 29th (10am–6:30pm)
& Saturday, July 30th (8:30am–1pm)

This two-day, in-depth workshop will teach many aspects and benefits of cooking in an imu (traditional Hawaiian underground oven). Hands-on instruction will include how to plan, build, and cook from an imu. Participants will be able to include a pan of their own food in the imu. Imu cooking is a healthy and delicious method of food preparation that perpetuates the Hawaiian culture and sustainability.

Cost: \$100 for current MNBG members, \$125 for new members.

Kāi Kalo with Namea Hoshino

Sat., Aug. 27th | 9am–12pm

Learn about the Kāi family of kalo (taro) with MNBG Hawaiian Cultivars Manager, Namea Hoshino. Participants will learn about the cultural uses of the Kāi group of kalo and identification techniques. Samples for tasting will be included.

Cost: \$25 for current MNBG members, \$50 for non-members (includes one-year membership).

‘Ula’ula Kalo with Namea Hoshino

Sat., Sept. 24th | 9am–12pm

Learn about the ‘Ula’ula family of kalo (taro) with MNBG Hawaiian Cultivars Manager, Namea Hoshino. Participants will learn about the cultural uses of the ‘Ula’ula group of kalo and identification techniques. Samples for tasting will be included.

Cost: \$25 for current MNBG members, \$50 for non-members (includes one-year membership).

Living Wreath Making with Native Plants

Saturday, December 3rd

Two Sessions: 9am–12pm & 1pm–4pm

Make a holiday wreath with living, growing native plants; cut, green and dried native plants; or both! The living wreaths made in this class will grow outdoors for months or years if watered regularly. Cut foliage wreaths need no special care. Join Executive Director Tamara Sherrill and Horticulturalist Emme-ly Felipe in this annual Maui Nui Botanical Gardens tradition. This class will be held twice, once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

Cost: \$45 for current MNBG members, \$70 for non-members (includes one-year membership)



Left: Ikaika Nakahashi builds an imu with workshop participants. Center: Namea Hoshino shares about kalo. Right: Living Wreath workshop participants.



Kō Workshop participants tasting several different varieties.

Kō Workshop Recap

by Michael Stevens, KUPU Service Member

Did you know that Hawaiian kō (sugarcane) could be differentiated into more than fifty varieties? This is only scratching the surface of the many things that Noa Kekuewa Lincoln, an assistant professor at UH Manoa, discussed at a workshop in February at Maui

Nui Botanical Gardens. He delved into the turbulent history of sugarcane in Hawaii, from uses and eventual hybridizations in the colonial sugar plantations to their applications in traditional Hawaiian agriculture. We learned the individual names of each kō variety, which were hallmarks of their characteristics and even their traditional uses.

As part of my service term with Kupu, I have been re-planting kō varieties into the MNBG collection. If kō is something that interests you, please check out Noa's new book: *Kō: An Ethnobotanical Guide to Hawaiian Sugarcane Cultivars*.

Aloha Chris!

We bid a fond farewell to our excellent Garden and Nursery Manager Chris d'Avella, as he moves into a new position with Haleakalā National Park. Chris began with MNBG in early 2015 and grew into an important leadership position. He became top notch at leading volunteers, designing irrigation systems, and growing some of the healthiest plants we've ever seen. Many of you are now nurturing plants that he started. Mahalo to Chris for his many years of dedication and for always looking for chances to learn. We'd like to especially recognize him for the care he took to sustain one of two remaining *Kanaloa kahoolawensis* for seven long years. We know his expertise will be put to good use growing silverswords on the mountain.



Welcome Christina & Aaron

A genial welcome to new staff members Christina Levang and Aaron Guerrero (Grounds and Maintenance). We are excited to start a new chapter with these new, part-time employees. You may see Aaron at the Weed and Pot Club or find Christina in the nursery once a week. Please say hello if you see them at the Garden.



Left: Aaron Guerrero working in the coastal section. **Right:** Emmely Felipe and Christina Levang tending to some 'ilie'e near the office.

Spotlight: Kupu Member, Michael Stevens

Michael Stevens is serving with Americorps at the Gardens this year through the Kupu Conservation Leadership Development Program. Michael is a Maui High School graduate now attending U.H. Maui College. As a Kupu member, Michael assists with anything and everything having to do with our mission, and gets cross training and field experience. Michael has taken on projects to improve plant identification signage, built new



irrigation systems, augmented the kō (sugarcane) collection, and collecting coastal native species in the wild under the direction of Seed Storage Technician Cathy Davenport. E ho'omau i ka hana maika'i - keep up the good work!

Try Our Improved Audio Tour

In 2021 the Atherton Family Foundation supported our transition of the audio tour from handheld wands to smartphone, which allows us to edit as needed and adds new features. Visitors scan a QR code to access Hawaiian conservation or ethnobotany focused audio messages for 114 different plants, along with photos and text. A new grant by the Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation will allow us to upgrade our plant identification signs so that visitors can access the QR code for each plant. Keiki especially are enjoying listening, and choosing which plants they learn about as they wander the Garden. You can access the app right now by scanning the QR code, and then come to the Garden and give it a try!



Scan this code to listen to audio about plants featured at the Gardens.

Community Partnerships



MNBG docent Maile Unabia-Verkerke leads students from Carden Academy in processing fibers and making kaula from 'ahu 'awa stems.

School Groups Returning

The easing of the pandemic has resulted in a welcome return of congregating outdoors. The Hawaiian Language Immersion Schools fundraiser, Ho'omau, finally returned after two years of cancellations due to gathering restrictions. The event had a record attendance and the most beautiful decorations yet. Other schools are starting to return. Our Education Program has hosted Kaehu Youth Enhancement Mentorship Program; Keiki o Ka 'Āina; Tutu and Me; Emmanuel Lutheran; Maui Waena Intermediate School; UH Maui College Environment and Ecology, Biology and Society, Ethnobotany, and Hawaiian Food Plants classes; Maui Family Support Services; and Carden Academy. Students have taken our docent led ethnobotany tour, made oeo (kamani nut whistles), and harvested materials from the gardens for their own projects.

We encourage those interested in bringing your group for a tour and activity to reach out by calling 808-249-2798. We will do our best to tailor activities to your curriculum, and donations are optional for Hawai'i students.

New Native Garden at Baldwin High School

by Emmely Felipe, MNBG Horticulturalist

Baldwin High School reached out to us in September 2021 to consult on a project they've been planning for a couple of years: planting a Native Hawaiian Garden. BHS Photography teacher Roselani Aiwahi and BHS Head Grounds & Maintenance Foreman Les Vida, coordinated the project. I was graciously given the opportunity to help their vision come to life by giving them feedback and suggestions on the plants they selected. On November 22, 2021, I was invited to their planting day.

Students and staff from the Photography, Agriculture, and Hawaiian language classes, as well as BHS Administration, attended the event. The students and staff were assigned a plant to put inside each of the three planter boxes that were built which consisted of 'ākia, ma'o, naio, 'ihi (*P. molokiniensis*), pā'ūohi'iaka, 'ākuliku-



li, 'ilima, 'ōhai, 'ōhi'a lehua, and kupukupu. As this project was finally coming to life, it was made as an inspiration for the students to be more aware and have appreciation of Native Hawaiian plants. I truly believe that outreach and education is key to having a successful organization.



‘Ōhi‘a Seed Collecting Program to Mitigate Disease Threats

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are disease threats to ‘Ōhi‘a (*Metrosideros* sp.) that may push ‘Ōhi‘a towards extinction. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is part of a statewide ‘Ōhi‘a Disease Resistance Program, that collects ‘Ōhi‘a seed to mitigate extinction.

Some seed is sent to Hilo to be grown and tested for disease resistance. Duplicate seeds are kept on Maui, stored at the MNBG Seed Bank. If a wild tree's seeds are found to be disease resistant, its duplicate seed stored on Maui can be planted on Maui. Those trees can then supply seeds to grow more disease resistant ‘ōhi‘a trees. We welcome hālau, clubs, student groups and individual Maui residents who would like to learn.

Training community members is in two parts.

Community Training: Part 1

The first part of the training is a 3-hour class taught by Dr. Marian Chau of Kalehua Seed Conservation Consulting. Marian gives an amazingly thorough and fun overview on how to recognize different ‘ōhi‘a species, how to collect seeds and record collections. Participants can view virtually or opt to come to MNBG and view the screen with others, with the addition of hands-on materials.

Community Training: Part 2

The second part of the training is the day of the field trip where we collect seed and identify the varieties of ‘ōhi‘a. Our first training session field trip resulted in a wonderful day at Haleakalā National Park. Mahalo to Woody Mallinson, HNP Natural Resources Program Manager.

SIGN-UP FOR TRAINING

To sign up for a training session, please contact the MNBG Seed Storage Technician, Cathy Davenport, by email at cathy@mnbg.org.

Groups can be scheduled privately and Cathy is willing to come to you.

Pictured: ‘Ōhi‘a Seed Collection Kit



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This effort is supported by USDA Forest Service Region 5 Urban and Community Forestry Program. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In Memory of Dr. Fern Duvall

“Mahalo a me ke aloha mai Maui Nui.”

That is how Fern Duvall always ended his email correspondence. With his love for Maui Nui. And his appreciation for you. And then he added his full title, because he was also a professional:

Dr. Fern P. Duvall II
Native Ecosystems Protection and Management
– Maui Nui Program Manager
Department of Land & Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Wildlife

Somehow Fern always made you feel like your questions were the most important thing at that moment. He then gave his time and utmost attention for you. His answers were knowledgeable, supportive and even better than that, he personally would help open a path for you, and your project, to succeed.

There are hundreds of people who feel that same way about Fern. It was a joy to meet them and listen to them tell their stories during a Celebration of Life for Fern, kindly hosted by HILT (Hawai'i Land Trust) at their Waihe'e Preserve.

I had the pleasure to know Fern for 34 years. It is hard to believe I can't just email him with more questions. But in place of that I have a smile that spreads warm and deep while remembering him. And I'll have that smile for at least another 34 years. Mahalo piha e Fern.

- Cathy Davenport



Top: Fern Duvall with Joe McDonald at MNBG in 2019. **Right:** A Ho'awa tree was one of the trees planted by Fern's family near the pavilion, to honor his beginnings in Hawai'i studying 'alalā (*Corvus hawaiiensis*).

The sudden passing of Dr. Fern Duvall was a terrible blow. Fern had a rare combination of traits: a deep knowledge of Hawaiian plants and animals, and a fond regard for and kindness towards people. During the 20 years I knew him, I was never once ill at ease in his presence. Fern was the reason I heard the native birdsong on Mauna Kea, saw a happy faced spider, and stuck with conservation as a career when I felt the most disillusioned. None of us will ever be as great as Fern but we will all keep trying.

- Tamara Sherrill



Annual Events at the Garden

2022 marked the return of large events with the first Ho'omau since 2019. An estimated 5,000 residents attended the Hawaiian language immersion schools fundraiser in March. A huge mahalo to Na Leo Pūlama o Maui, the parent group that represents Pūnana Leo preschool who coordinated the best decorated and best organized Ho'omau ever. It was a hopeful return to public gathering after a difficult two years, and we are extremely optimistic about the ability to bring back these kind of community events the way Maui Nui Botanical Gardens does best.

Save the date: Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 9 am to 2 pm at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. **Arbor Day Garden Expo 2022** will return as our traditional one-day event to celebrate native trees and urban forestry, in partnership with the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals. Returning will be free hands-on cultural activities, conservation booths, presentations, and a multi-grower plant sale. This

year we will have a special appearance by Nicklos Dudley, M.S. Forester and Forestry Team Leader, Hawai'i Agricultural Research Center (HARC) in Maunawili on Hawai'i island, and Dr. Marian Chau, Ph.D. of Kalehua Seed Conservation Consulting in Aiea, Oahu. Dr. Chau created the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) Seed Banking Initiative and has extensive experience working to collect and store seeds of native Hawaiian trees. Mr. Dudley specializes in silviculture, tree selection and breeding, and seed production. They will speak about their projects to discover and grow naturally disease resistant koa and 'ōhi'a trees. For the most up-to-date event details, go to arbordayexpo.com, which includes a link to select and reserve your free tree up to a week ahead of the event.

Lā 'Ulu Breadfruit Day, last held at MNBG in 2019, will not return to the Garden in 2022, but we are forming a committee to bring the popular event back in fall of 2023. If you are interested in helping



Photo by Linda Tesar Amimoto

bring back this fantastic food festival celebrating all things 'ulu, please reach out. We are seeking volunteers to meet with the committee regularly and help coordinate craft vendors, logistics, entertainment and hula performances, travel coordination, nonprofit booths, and other event elements. Call or email us if you can help.

With Gratitude from Our Garden

- Gloria Adlawan for paper plates and forks
- Vilma Seiler for 10, 5-gal buckets
- Peter Ahana for electrical repairs at Ho'omau 2022
- Nā Leo Pūlama o Maui and of Pūnana Leo o Maui Hawaiian Language Immersion Preschool for event stanchions for future events
- Diane Carr for lemons for workshop
- Jennifer Rose for lemons for workshop
- David Schubert for his generous donation of an art collection from the estate of Gage Schubert by Maui artists and Janet Allan for her fundraising from this collection to support the Garden.
- County of Maui Dept. of Parks and Recreation and private arborist Jeff Gray for their help, equipment, and labor removing a fallen tree
- Olinda Orchids for nursery supplies
- Cynthia and Terry Quisenberry for Native Hawaiian Sugarcanes framed print
- Shannon Paapanen for *Hibiscus waimeae*, *Kokia drynarioides*, *Hibiscus brackenridgei*, and *Santalum haleakalae* for Arbor Day Giveaway
- Maggie Sniffen for paper napkins, forks, gardening gloves

MNBG's Contributions to the Community

- Weekly Community Giveaways: ma'ō, 'ihi (*P. molokiniensis*), 'ānapanapa, kamani, 'uala, kō honua'ula, nehe (*int. & lav.*), pōhinahina, ki/lā'i, kō hāpai, naupaka papa (dwarf naupaka), 'ihi'ihī lā'au, 'ōhai, 'ae'ae, pā'ūohi'iaka, 'ilie'e, naupaka, kauna'oa + pōhuehue, pia, wauke
- Common Ground Collective: 'uala
- Hawai'i Nature Center: ālula (*ins.*), 'ahu'awa, keahi, 'iliahialo'e
- Huli distribution to the community
- 'lao Valley State Park: kalo huli
- Kamehameha Preschool: kalo huli
- Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahainaluna: 'ihi (*P. molokiniensis*)
- UH Maui College: haha, ālula (*ins.*), kalo
- Common Ground Collective: 'uala
- Miss Maui Teen Program: kukui, kamani
- Baldwin High School: *Scaevola gaudichaudii*, nehe (*int. & lav.*)
- Makawao Elementary: 'ae'ae, kukui, kamani
- Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project: *Fimbristylis cymosa*, wiliwili, 'ulei
- Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge: hala, naio, 'ahu'awa
- Plant Extinction Prevention Program: dwarf naupaka

Mahalo to Our Interns & Volunteers

- Arc of Maui
- Current KUPU Conservation Leadership Program Members
- Uma Chaluvadi
- Andrew & Rebecca Dellavilla
- Nodoka Dorin
- Madison Eiting
- Melialani Hamilton
- Easterseals Hawaii
- Kelina Kaaihue
- Frank Kane
- Mark Lausterer
- Martha Martin
- Ann Masemore
- Naone Morinaga-Kama
- Jill Painter
- Jennifer Twelvvetrees
- Lia Sablan
- Maui Family Support Services
- Martha Vanderlin & Healii Kauhane

Wish List

MNBG is currently in search of the following items to help support our conservation goals. Please call us at (808) 249-2798 or email us at info@mnbg.org if you are willing to donate any of the following items.

- Dehydrator
- Garden gloves (all sizes)
- Hand pruners (clippers)
- HawaiianMiles (for interisland travel for staff training)
- Medium sized picks
- Outdoor tables & chairs
- PowerPoint projector
- Rakes (leaf or landscaping)
- Shovels
- Sickles
- Umbrellas

Note: We are no longer accepting drop offs of used plastic pots. If you have new or used cement or ceramic pots to donate, please give us a call and we will be happy to arrange a pick up.



Mahalo Weed & Pot Club for all you do!

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
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| • Janet Allan | • Letti Maika | • Anna Mae Shishido |
| • Laurie Barker-Perez | • Irene Newhouse | • Maggie Sniffen |
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Chellsie Akau-Elaban
Lance Albiar
Chinami Arai
Thea Blair
Rena Blumberg
Yvette Broyles
Holly Buland

Andrew & Arine Bulkley
Robert & Geraldine Carroll
Barbara Cash
Justin Casula
Melanie Chan-Vinoray
Jade Chihara
Hoku Chong
Mikki Clark
Ananda Cobb
Amber Coppings
Brian Cristofaro
Paige Curimao
Sally Daniels
Justin De Leon
Michael Ducheneau
Nianna Lei Dudoit
Mary Jo Durand
Patricia Engholm
Eric Enos
Dennys Eymard
Lori Feiteira
Theresa Fernandez
Mari Finn
Cara Flores
Dyvette Fong
Caroline Fujii
Kay Fukuda
Jenean Garcia
Jules Gard
Milos Gersi
Lesley Gevins
Russel Gushi
Aniko Hager
Danielle Haia
Melialani Hamilton
Marion Hart
Eleanor Himes
Mel Hipolitio, Jr.
Carissa Holley
James Husack
Jolie Mae Ibrao
Maki Inoue
Jaydon Isobe
Marie Elena Juario
Kilo Ka'awa-Gonzales
Michael Kahalehau
Lipoa Kahaleuahi
Michael Kahula
Gary Keha Kamalii
Ivalee Kamalu
Kiana Kanada
Mike Kanada
Jessica Kapoor
Darlin Kaya
Janai Kealoha
Justin Kekiwi
Robin Kiyonaga
Leanne Kunishi
F. Barbara Lanning
Paieka Cheng Liu
Beth Marcil
Kumiko Mattison

Amy J. McCray
Edward Medeiros
Kaiea Medeiros
Ariel Miller
Shanoa Miller
Stephanie Moor
Claire Moore
Shane-Earl Kaniela Naeole
Kahikilani Niles
Mike Nishimoto
Wileen Ortega
Alexa Panabaker
Joanne Park
Jenna Pascual
Pueo Pata
Smita Paul
Shannon Peck
Chad Perez
Susan Pirsch
Kekoa Plauche
Polipoli Farms
Kawehilani Pullman
Michael Quisenberry
Kamoa Quitevis
Susan Rayberg
Pikake Renaud-Cashman
Lundie Robb
Karen Robbins
Paul Robinson
Malia Rogers
Barb Rolph
Alicia Rose
Charlene Rowley
Lia Sablan
Donelle Sakuma
Jessica Scott
Hulali Silva
Andie Simon
Lehua Simon
Rene Simpson
Sara Sparling
Elizabeth Speith
Randy Spicocchi
Khadija Meghan Striegel
Michelle Tarajcak
Peggy Taves
Devyn Thompson
Armani Treu
Jenny Twelvetreets
Lauren Tyler
Mary Urbanski
Corey Westbury
Kelsey Willison
Allison Wright
Jenny Wu
In Memoriam
Dr. Fern Duvall
Stanley Kawamata
Charlie Lamoureux
Gage Schubert



MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

Hours of Operation

Tuesday–Saturday, 8am–4pm*

Closed Sunday, Monday, and Major Holidays

*Weather permitting

Group Reservations

Reservations are required for group activities.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens 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.

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 online at mnbg.org.

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.

Follow @mauinuibg





Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

P.O. Box 6040

Kahului, HI 96733



Become a part of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

Join us in our mission 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.

Volunteer

Join the Weed & Pot Club every Wednesday from 8:30am to 10:30am. The group spends an hour weeding and an hour potting plants in our nursery. Wear covered shoes and clothes you can get dirty.

Membership

Yearly memberships help to fund important botanical and educational programs, research and conservation efforts. Fill out the enclosed donation envelope or call 808-249-2798 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. We are now able to accept donations of stocks.

Learn More

Our work conserving Native Hawaiian plants through seed storage and crop cultivar collections is highlighted in a short video created during our closure. Visit mnbg.org to see the people and projects that need your support.

Dr. Lei Ishikawa with her mo'opuna Lauka'ie'ie at the Kapa Dyes Workshop.

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