



MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

Spring 2012 . Newsletter . Volume 35

Earth Day at MNBG is Back!

By Joylynn Paman, Executive Director

Last December, I was honored to be asked by the County of Maui's Department of Water Supply, to give a brief presentation about how Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (MNBG) helps advance the department's planning and management of our watershed and water resources. I was accompanied in the room by many other conservation organizations who shared important roles in conserving water on Maui. This was a great opportunity for me to highlight our accomplishments and emphasize how important and beneficial our partnership is.

There were so many different achievements that I could speak about. Would I discuss how we interact with the public each day and encourage them to use natives in their landscaping? Or how we are a public demonstration site for xeriscaping and provide visitors with educational water conservation materials? Other ideas crossed my mind. How about spotlighting our annual events that educate thousands of people about Native Hawaiian plants, promote the Hawaiian culture, and raise awareness for the need to support conservation efforts on Maui? The possibilities seemed almost endless!

In the end, I realized how proud I am of how much we accomplish each year and summed it all up into a concise fifteen

minute presentation. Whew! I could now sit back and enjoy the other presentations.

As I listened to the many accomplishments that watershed partnerships and other conservation organizations are doing on Maui, I wondered to myself, how can the Gardens form better partnerships with these organizations? I noticed that many of these groups were fighting the daily battles in the forests by either building and maintaining fence lines or controlling species from invading our last remaining native forests. The presentations showed beautiful photos of work being done in the wild and I thought of how lucky they were to be in places where many of us will never be able to explore. But then it occurred to me, that these organizations conduct important work in nature and have few opportunities to get their messages out into the community.

When I compared all of our presentations, I noticed that MNBG's presentation was filled with faces of people from many different backgrounds and ethnicities. It emphasized how we speak to people daily and educate multitudes throughout the year. That's when it dawned on me that we are one of the main public faces for conservation on Maui. Furthermore, a beneficial way for

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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.

Layout Editor, U'i Naho'olewa

Earth Day at MNBG is Back! continued

us to partner with conservation organizations is to help them spread the word about their work and its importance. We can help the public appreciate what it is these agencies are protecting.

I was also surprised to hear, on several occasions, conservation leaders--including the Mayor's Environmental Coordinator Rob Parsons--refer to the Gardens and Earth Day. They mentioned how it has been a great, centrally located venue and the event helped them interact with the public and promote their projects. By the end of the day, it was apparent

to me...Earth Day was a valuable event to these organizations, the County, and most importantly, to all of you, the public who benefit most from a day of honoring our honua (Earth).

Thus, I am happy to announce that Maui Nui Botanical Gardens will be celebrating the Earth again during Ola Ka Honua - Earth Day 2012 on Saturday, April 14th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Conservation organizations will be highlighting their important conservation programs, food vendors will have 'ono grinds, demonstrators will showcase dif-

ferent crafts and cultural practices, and local entertainers will serenade the day away. Please join us in celebrating how good our Earth has been to us and learning how we can return the favor and be good to the Earth.

He alii ka 'āina; he kauwā ke kanaka.
The land is a chief; man is its servant.

Aloha nō,

Joylynn Paman
Executive Director

Call to Action: MNBG needs your support!

The Maui County Council members will begin their annual budget deliberations in April 2012. The County is one of the Gardens' most important financial partners, and the annual grant they provide supports critical operating funding at MNBG. Without this funding we would not be able to carry out our important work.

We strongly urge members, volunteers, partners, grantors, and all organizations who have benefited from services provided by Maui Nui Botanical Gardens to show your support for us now. Please send a brief letter, fax or e-mail 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
Fax: 808-249-2798

Calendar of Events

Ho'omau 2012: Saturday, March 24th, from 9 AM to Sunset

Celebrate the 25th year of Ho'omau; the annual fundraiser which supports programming for Pūnana Leo O Maui's Hawaiian Language Immersion Preschool. This is the premier Hawaiian language and entertainment event for the entire family and will feature great food, crafts, silent auction and fun for the keiki. MNBG will be selling Hawaiian plants at this exciting event. www.hoomau.com

AG FEST at Maui Tropical Plantation: Saturday, April 7th, from 9 AM to 4 PM

The Maui County Farm Bureau along with the farmers, ranchers and agricultural allies present the annual Maui County Agricultural Festival to share agriculture's vital role in the economy, environment, and lifestyle of Maui. Held on the lū'au grounds of Maui Tropical Plantation in Waikapū, this is Maui's prime event to raise awareness about local agriculture on Maui. MNBG will be selling freshly pressed sugarcane juice!

Ola Ka Honua, Earth Day 2012: Saturday, April 14th, from 10 AM to 3 PM

MNBG's Earth Day Celebration is a free family event focusing on the conservation of native Hawaiian resources and culture. There will be earth friendly informational booths, games, cultural demonstrations, great food and entertainment! Native Hawaiian plants will be made available for purchase.

East Maui Taro Festival at Hāna Ballpark: Saturday, April 21st, from 9 AM to 5 PM

Head to Hāna for a day of learning and celebration! The 20th Annual East Maui Taro Festival will feature an exceptional Farmers' Market, poi pounding demonstrations, arts & crafts, food booths, nonprofit organizations sharing information, as well as beautiful Hawaiian music & hula! MNBG will have an information booth highlighting our resources and programs.

With Gratitude from Our Garden

Leonard Paleka, Chris Davidson & Kamaile Kahuhu for newsletter folding, Alaka'i Paleka for office supplies, Kapā Oliveira for reusable water bottles, Jennifer Rose for 6 gardening sheers, Darryl Amaral for utensils, Winnie Wagstaff for native note cards, posters & table cloths, Lopaka Silva for volunteer snacks, Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond for fertilizer, fine art and garden renderings, Greg Czar for gardening gloves, Cindy Singer for volunteer snacks, Calstar Zeolite for propagation materials, and the Kaunoa Senior Center for beautifully decorated terra cotta pots.

Mahalo to our Interns & Volunteers:

Seabury Hall Winterim volunteers, Jeffery Taasan, Gordon Almeida, Kalani Fontes. MNBG Kalo Sale 2011 volunteers: Lopaka Silva, Penny Levin, Kalani Kamai and Gloria Adlawan. Arbor Day 2011 event volunteers: Kaydee & Kathy Park, Alana Cayan, Corey Brown, Mark Rooney, Chris Davidson, China Kapuras, Pam & Mach Fukada, Ann & Makanahele Emmsley, Missy Dunham, Kathy Wong, Michael Voss, Lahainaluna Agricultural Department, Maui High School's Workplace Readiness Program, Kamehameha Schools Maui National Honor Society, Cub Scouts Pack 68 and MNBG's Weed & Pot Club.

MNBG Community Contributions

Maui Association of Landscape Professionals ('a'ali'i, manono, alahē'e, 'ōhi'a lehua, 'ala'ala wai nui, 'ōhi'a'ai, 'ihi), Eagle Scouts ('a'ali'i, nehe, hinahina, kōki'o 'ula 'ula, 'ōhi'a lehua, ki), Pūnana Leo O Maui Lā Kūpuna (kalo), Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (kāwelu, 'ilima papa, pōpolo), Lahaina Restoration Foundation (māmaki, noni, kukui, ahu'awa, 'ōhi'a'ai, kalo, 'ākia, pōhinahina, 'uala, 'ilima papa), Olivia Irons (kalo), Malia Haunani ('ulu leaves), UH-MC Dept. of Agriculture (*Carex wahuensis*, pili, *Cyperus trachysanthos*), Hālau Ke'alaokamaile (hāhā, 'ōhi'a lehua, hala pepe, manono, kupukupu, kōki'o ke'oke'o), Hui Mālama o Waikapū ('ōhi'a lehua, pia, niu, noni, 'uala cuttings).

Wish List

- Hawaiian Miles (for interisland travel to conferences)
- Rakes
- Washing Machine
- Tablecloths
- Mulch
- Chainsaw with 24 inch blade or longer
- Small tractor
- Wood chipping services
- Dump truck services
- Garden gloves (all sizes)
- Sickles
- Volunteer snacks
- Reusable water bottles
- Large ceramic planter pots from Indolotus in Kihei
- High resolution digital camera
- Outdoor tables & chairs
- Long sleeve shirts
- Grant Writer

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of one or more of the items listed, please call 249-2798.

LOCATION & HOURS

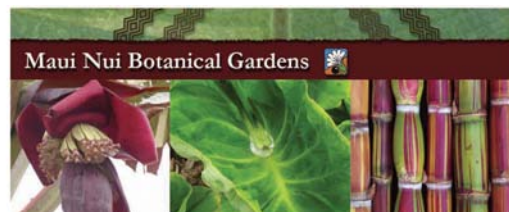
150 Kanaloa Avenue
Keōpūolani Park, Kahului
Across from the War Memorial Sports Complex
Monday-Saturday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm*
Free Admission
Closed Sundays & Major Holidays
*Weather permitting

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



NEW! Give Online

MNBG is now able to accept donations online!
Make a donation, pledge or renew your membership by visiting www.mnbg.org and clicking on "make a donation".

The Mission of 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.

Garden News

MNBG's volunteer docents lead free guided tours for many visitors, schools and organizations this season. These include the Maui Adult Daycare Center, Women Helping Women, Hui Lomi, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, UH-MC Biology 101, UH-MC Environmental Ecology, UH-MC Hawaiian Ethnobotany, Tūtū & Me, Kula Kaiapuni O Kekaulike Botany Class, Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kaunoa Senior Center, Baldwin High School's Environmental Science Class, Seabury Hall Winterim volunteers, Mālama Family Recovery, and the Maui Youth & Family Services.

Free guided tours are offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am, by appointment only. Call 808-249-2798 or email info@mnbg.org for reservations. Donations of \$5 per person to support the Gardens' nonprofit mission are greatly appreciated. Special group and student tours available.



Arbor Day 2011: A Beautiful Day for Trees



MNBG Board Members, Kūhea Paracuelles & Janet Allan, tending to the MNBG merchandise table.



Wiliwili returns to MNBG with the help of Joylynn Paman (MNBG Executive Director), Ernie Rezens (Certified Arborist), Mayor Alan Arakawa, and Rob Parsons (County of Maui Environmental Coordinator).

On November 5th, 2011, more than 1,000 people visited Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and took home a free native tree in celebration of Arbor Day, just in time for the first winter rains. The event featured Hawaiian makahiki games led by Ke Kula Kaiaouini O Kekaulike, landscape demonstrations led by some of the top conservation and landscape professionals in Maui Nui, free guided tours of the Gardens, as well as many environmentally friendly nonprofit organizations sharing information on related topics.

One of the most significant moments of the day was the planting of a native wiliwili tree (*Erythrina sandwicensis*) at MNBG by Honorable Mayor, Alan Arakawa. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens lost its wiliwili tree to the *Erythrina* gall wasp in 2006. With the recent introduction of bio control solutions; the staff at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is optimistic that wiliwili can, once again, flourish at the Gardens.

The Board and Staff at MNBG would like to thank Mayor Arakawa and the County of Maui for their continued support of the Gardens. Mahalo to our sponsors, Maui Electric Company,

Kaulunani Urban Forestry and Community Program, and the Maui County Department of Water Supply. We would also like to thank our fantastic volunteers and participating organizations, as they make everything happen, from helping us get the word out (KPOA 93.5 FM radio) to camping out the night before as security guards for 1,000 trees (Cub Scout Pack 68), to helping residents pick the right tree (Kamehameha Schools Maui National Honor Society; Lahainaluna High School Agriculture students).

We appreciate all of the extraordinary people that made this event possible and look forward to Arbor Day 2012 set for Saturday, November 3rd, from 9am to 12pm.



Experts on Bananas Visit Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

By Tamara Sherrill

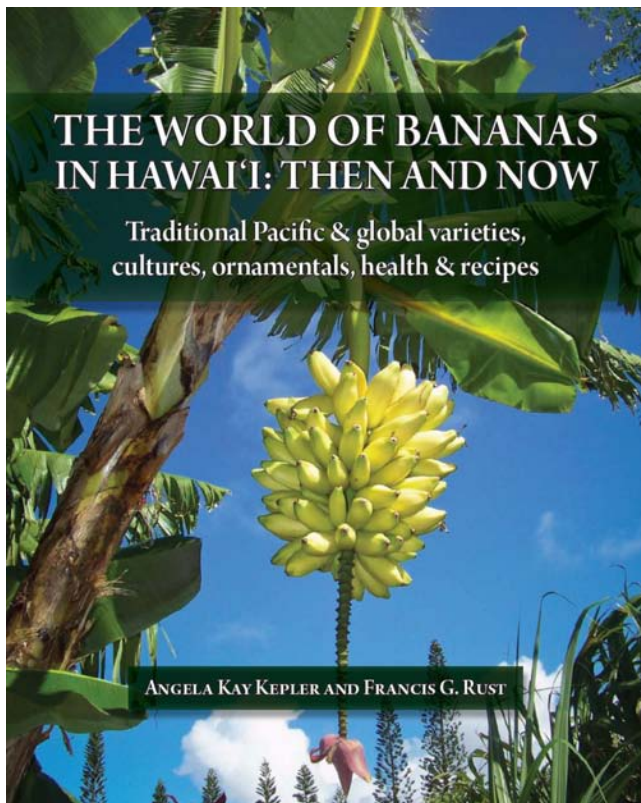
Jaroslav Doležel, Ph.D., Head of the Laboratory of Molecular Cytogenetics and Cytometry, Institute of Experimental Botany of the AS CR, Czech Republic and Nicolas Roux, Ph.D., Senior Scientist and Project Coordinator, Genetic Resources and Genomics, Bioersivity International, Montpellier, France visited the Gardens in January to collect leaf samples from our Hawaiian mai'a collection, accompanied by the authors of the new book, *The World of Bananas in Hawai'i: Then and Now*, Angela Kepler and Frank Rust. Angela and Frank have been working with MNBG to build our mai'a collection for many years.

Dr. Doležel has been researching banana evolution since the 1980's and seeks to map the genetic diversity of all known banana cultivars. Dr. Roux is part of an international organization that works to conserve banana genetic diversity and characterize and verify all known cultivars. He is creating a new worldwide network of banana collections such as the one at MNBG to keep traditional varieties from being lost.



Dr. Doležel took samples of the "cigar leaf" on select banana plants for DNA analysis in seeking to map the genetic diversity of all known banana cultivars.

MNMG was extremely honored that these scholars came to see our collection. The Hawaiian food plant collections at MNMG are important to residents of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians as a living connection to Hawaiian history. It is interesting to think that the collections also play a part in maintaining agricultural biodiversity, which could have implications for food security worldwide.



The World of Bananas In Hawai'i: Then & Now, By Angela Kepler & Frank Rust, is now available for purchase at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens! \$80.

Familiar to many of MNMG's plant-watchers, Dr. Angela Kay Kepler is an energetic old-fashioned naturalist, meticulous researcher, author of 18 books, and experimental cook. Her passion for bananas and plantains propelled her to become the principal authority on Hawaiian/Eastern Pacific bananas and a key player in banana identification. Her co-author and husband, Frank Rust – also a familiar face around MNMG - assists with banana field research and GPS mapping. Frank holds degrees from Georgia Tech and the University of California, Berkeley.

Long awaited, *The World of Bananas In Hawai'i: Then & Now* is a major contribution to Pacific and worldwide knowledge of bananas, including taxonomy, identification and photography, culminating nine years of exhaustive research coupled with painstaking field and agricultural investigations in Hawai'i and other Pacific islands. Culturally, *The World of Bananas* reflects a deep respect for Hawaiian oral history and esteemed post-contact literature, reviving long-forgotten traditional foods, chants, crafts, and everyday clothing woven from bananas. Delight in its multi-hued tapestry of true-to-life stories from the nebulous dawn of Hawaiian history to the present.

Angela Kepler & Frank Rust will be at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens' Earth Day Celebration for a book signing and discussion on Saturday, April 14th, from 10am to 2pm.

Garden View

MNBG Partners with CalStar Zeolite for Plant Experiments

by Remi Sabado



'Ihi (*Portulaca molokiniensis*)



Māmaki (*Pipturus albidus*)



'Ōhai (*Sesbania tomentosa*)

What mineral is being used to build a castle, soak up radiation, retain water, absorb pollutants, detoxify our bodies, and remove unpleasant odors? IT'S ZEOLITE!!!

Zeolite is a mineral that has many unique chemical and physical properties, which makes it useful in numerous ways in various industries. The name, zeolite, is Greek for “boiling rock” (“zeo” = boil and “lithos” = rock). All over Asia, Europe, and the Middle East it is used in agriculture, horticulture, and aquaculture as a feed and/or soil additive. Gas companies use it to make fuels, diesel and biodiesel. NASA and the US Navy use it in a multitude of operations and applications and we, CalStar Zeolite USA, are testing this soil amendment to see if it improves plant growth in the sandy soil of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

MNBG has graciously allowed CalStar to mix zeolite into two areas of the Gardens, using four plant types to determine zeolite's ability to assist in plant health. The first two plants being grown with zeolite are 'ihi (*Portulaca molokiniensis*), a candidate for the endangered species list, and 'ōhai (*Sesbania tomentosa*), an endangered species. There have been issues growing these species in captivity, especially in the presence of root knot nematodes and within a soil that differs from the wild soil type. Because these are coastal plants, they were planted in the sand dune area of the Gardens. We started this test in late November 2011.

Another area where zeolite is being tested is in two raised beds near MNBG's taro collection. These beds are heavily shaded by milo trees, and have been invaded by tree roots, making them unsuitable for growing taro. CalStar mixed zeolite into a portion of the soil and planted 'awa (*Piper methysticum*) and māmaki (*Pipturus albidus*). Each area has a “treated group” and a “control group” (or “non-treated group”). To determine any changes, we are taking weekly measurements of the lengths and heights of each plant. Current data shows some differences between the control and treated groups. The largest difference is shown in 'ihi growth - control group has grown 41.75% since its planting, and the two treated groups 58.25% (top dressed) and 68.93% (tilled in). However, because our sample sizes are so small we will need to do more observations and studies to fully determine findings.

CalStar Zeolite USA would like to thank MNBG for allowing us to take part in their vision. We appreciate the information and education that MNBG staff and volunteers have shared, and wish for the continued success of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. For more information regarding CalStar Zeolite USA, contact Remi Sabado at remisabado@gmail.com or call 344-1569.

Volunteer Central



Volunteer, Maggie Sniffen, takes time to admire 'ōhai on a recent hiking trip through the 'Ōhai Loop Trail.



MNBG's Weed & Pot Club pose for a photo before getting down and dirty in the Gardens.



Mālie & Diana shared information about MNBG at the County of Maui's Volunteer Expo held at the Queen Kāāhuanu Shopping Center.



If you love working with plants, you'll love the Weed & Pot Club! Meeting every Wednesday morning, at 8:30am till 10:30am. Spend time helping the Gardens thrive through weeding and propagation. Offsite field trips, workshops and lectures scheduled several times a year for our volunteers only! Come prepared to work with covered shoes, water bottle and garden attire. All tools, gloves, sunscreen and expertise provided. Join us every Wednesday!

For more information, call 249-2798 or visit www.mnbg.org

Mahalo Weed & Pot Club

Gloria Adlawan	Raymond Higashi	Janice Riley	Maggie Sniffen
Janet Allan	Pamela Jayne	Jennifer Rose	Kella Tejada-Figueroa
Darryl Amaral	Paul Kastner	Phyllis Sato	Terry Thomas
Linda Brady	Becky Lau	Remi Sabado	Mālie Unabia-Verkerke
Mikki Clark	Renee Leiter	Diana Schulte	Kalani Kamai
Cheron Freeman	Martha Martin	Cindy Singer	Lopaka Silva



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!

Hāhā

Cyanea magnicalyx, Endangered

In old Hawai'i, leaves of this species were wrapped in ti leaves, cooked in an imu (underground oven) and eaten in times of food scarcity. Hāhā is in bloom for the first time at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens! Come take a look!



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Mahalo to our new & returning donors!

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Mary Evanson
Jim Moriyasu
Kī'ope Raymond & Lisa
Schattenburg - Raymond
Mary Cameron Sanford

Current Grantors:

AHS Foundation, County of Maui Office of Economic Development, County of Maui Department of Water Supply, Department of Land & Natural Resources/Kaulunani, Leiter Family Foundation, Zadoc W. & Lawrence N. Brown Foundation, Mary Cameron Sanford, Ceres Trust.

Sponsors:

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In Memoriam

Dr. Isabella Abbott
 Cliff Palikū Ahue
 Jacob Barros Jr.
 Ulani Combo
 Pekelo Cosma
 Charles Lamoureux
 Sally Leenhouts
 Stanley Raymond
 George Schattenburg

We are so grateful to everyone who has made donations to the Gardens over the years. Beginning January 2012, MNBG will highlight only our annual donors and those who have contributed in the current year.

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.

Ola Ka Honua Earth Day 2012



**Join Maui's conservation organizations
 in celebrating the Earth.**

Native Hawaiian Plant Sale

Live Local Entertainment

'Ono Food and Free Demonstrations

**Special Autograph Session with Angela Kepler, Author of
 "The World of Bananas in Hawai`i: Then and Now"**



**Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
 Saturday, April 14, 2012
 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



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

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



'Ilima
Sida fallax
Malvaceae (Mallow Family)

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.