

THE KUKUI LEAF

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University of Hawai'i-Mānoa
Harold L. Lyon Arboretum

Rescuing native plants

Greetings from the Hawaiian Rare Plant Program, comprised of the micropropagation and seed storage facilities. A lot of great things have happened recently that we thought we'd share with you. Our staffing has never been better, with Cindy Nose and Libby Dingeldein in the micropropagation lab, and Tim Kroessig in the seed lab joining us this year. It has been made possible mostly through generous grants from the U.S. Army and the State of Hawai'i DOFAW-DLNR. It will definitely allow us to expand our research programs and germ-plasm storage capabilities.

Alvin Yoshinaga has been very busy processing over 100,000 Wiliwili seeds collected statewide in response to the devastating gall wasp infestation. The precious seeds had to be cleaned, sorted, tested for viability and packed be-



A view of the micropropagation lab facility at the Arboretum.

fore they could be put under proper storage conditions. Alvin is currently collaborating with various multi-island Plant Extinction Prevention Program conservation projects.

The micropropagation lab is in the process of duplicating our valuable native plant germplasm inventory and moving the completed sets to an auxiliary site located at the UH Magoon Research Facility in Mānoa. The auxiliary site serves as back-up in the event of a catastrophe. We also have gained collaborative assistance in our green-

house from the DLNR-DOFAW O'ahu Pahole Rare Plant Facility Horticulturist Doug Okamoto, with the hope of increasing the success rate of tissue cultured plants established in the greenhouse.

In response to increasing demand, the micropropagation laboratory has expanded its germplasm collection to include Hawaiian cultivated crops, such as taro and banana. It is sad to note that many of the cultivars brought to Hawai'i are being threatened due to disease, insects, weedy pests and lost cultural knowledge. Keeping these cultivars as living plant collections in tissue culture is one way of preserving these plants in a safe environment for future needs.

-Nellie Sugii

Nellie recently celebrated her 20th year of faithful service at UH Mānoa.



New staff at the Arboretum

The next time you visit, you may notice some new faces at the Arboretum. Please take a moment to say 'aloha' to our three new, full-time employees: Hajime Fujisaki (botanic gardener), Tim Kroessig (plant conservation assistant), and Steve Connolly (arborist).

WISH LIST:

Pitchfork, waterproof binoculars, wheelbarrow, washing machine (no computer module), gas-powered tiller, T242 Shindaiwa weed whacker, moss rocks, waterproof ponchos/jackets (no plastic)

We acknowledge, with gratitude, the following donors:

Natalie Oda, Virginia Brandt, Sue Higa, Malcolm Chun, Mitzji Kawaharada, Brian Choy, Sheila Conant, Alvin Yoshinaga, Jeff Hosier, Trudie Taylor, Daniel Tanaka, Evelyn Kobayashi, Robert Creamer, Lorenz & Ursula Magaard

From the Director's Desk



During my first year (plus a few months) at the Lyon Arboretum, the most common question I have been asked is, "Why are you not open on weekends? That is the only time I can bring my family."

I am pleased to say that we are now open every Saturday from 9a.m. to 3p.m.

During the next year, we will be working hard on other ways to attract visitors and to make the onsite experience fun and memorable. Soon, we will have a new, easy to read, visitor map (thanks to the outstanding work of one of our summer interns). New signs on the trails will soon follow. And, ultimately, we will complete a full-blown master plan to include new gardens, redesigned existing ones, and improved facilities for visitors and staff.

Traditionally, the focus of our work at botanic gardens and arboreta deals with horticulture, education, and (in those gardens that have the wherewithal), research. It is usually understood, but not explicitly demonstrated, that providing outreach and visitor services are also major elements of our mission. Visitors are key to our success. You support our mission with your volunteer efforts, with your donations, and with your support of us in your communities.

All of us at the Arboretum are delighted by the number of Saturday visitors. It confirms what we knew and what you told us. We look forward to providing you additional reasons to visit and to support this fantastic emerald jewel. And bring a friend!

-Dr. Christopher Dunn

The Arboretum recently received grants from the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program (\$4,900) and Mālama o Mānoa (\$1,500) for the purchase of an embossing machine to make labels for the plants in our collections. Many thanks to Alice Kitajima and Kathryn Turner for preparing outstanding grant applications. We also were awarded \$150,000 from the DLNR in support of plant and seed conservation work on O'ahu. This award would not have been possible without the fine work during the past many years of Nellie Sugii and Alvin Yoshinaga.

Volunteer of the Quarter

This quarter we give a much deserved mahalo to a familiar face at Lyon Arboretum! Whether you have passed through our gift shop on a Tuesday morning, spent time in the greenhouse, been around for the smells and sounds of Jams and Jellies Thursdays, or simply enjoyed walking the grounds, you have probably seen Sue Higa hard at work.

Sue began volunteering in 2001 and has been donating her time weekly ever since. She quickly went from assisting with office work to being the Jams and Jellies Group's right hand woman!

"One day they had so many mangoes and [the volunteers] needed help preparing them, and I've been stuck ever since!" Sue jokes. Never one to pick and choose, Sue says she does not have a favorite volunteer position. "I like to help in any way I can," she



Sue chose to volunteer at the Arboretum because, "[she] likes working outdoors and enjoy the quiet." She has volunteered over 2,000 hours during her time here.

says modestly.

Originally from Maui, Sue loves to travel and see new places, work in her own yard, and cheer on her favorite baseball team, "the Rainbows, of course!"

Next time you see Sue, let her know how much we value the energy and dedication she puts into Lyon Arboretum. Mahalo Nui, Sue!

-James Krolkowski

Construction updates



Quick progress made on Cottage A (left) and Cottage G (right), despite sporadic, heavy showers and muddy terrain. Carpooling to the Arboretum is recommended for visitors, due to limited parking space during the construction phase.



The Main Building is almost finished! A sign will be installed near the entrance of the new A.D.A.-approved path that leads to the downstairs classroom and some landscaping will be done around the building. The good news is that the director, Christopher Dunn, will finally be able to move into his newly renovated office downstairs. Construction continues on Cottages A (Education Department) and G (Grounds and Plant Collection Department). You will see some progress

to Cottage A, but most of the work will be centered on Cottage G. The construction workers need to do additional concrete work before the roof can be built and sheeted. Unfortunately, this means we will have intermittent (but brief) road closures during the next couple months as the large concrete trucks come through the Arboretum. Construction should be completed on all projects by the end

of October 2008. At that time, the Education and Grounds Departments can finally move out of their temporary offices and into their permanent headquarters. Then, we must continue to wait for additional funds to complete renovation work on the rest of the cottages. Thank you for all your patience and support through this busy construction phase.

-Ken Seamon

Aloha, Summer Interns!

We were thrilled to have four extraordinary women join us for the Summer 2008 Internship Program. It was an exciting summer filled with educational classes, field work, independent projects, and field trips.

UH Mānoa senior, Maile Post, worked in the Micropropagation Lab; Grace Asperin, also a UH Mānoa senior, worked in the Greenhouse; Tina Fuller, who completed her Masters Certificate in Scientific Illustration at UC Santa Cruz worked with the Education Department; and Salley Gould, from Washington and Lee University in Virginia, worked with the Horticulture Department.

Maile's summer project involved experimentation with a growth regulator to control the proliferation of a native plant, *Cyrtandra gracilis*, in vitro. Grace



(L to R) Tina Fuller, Salley Gould, Maile Post, and Grace Asperin during lunch break at the annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference.

developed a Native Hawaiian Garden brochure which she hopes will help people to "better appreciate and understand native plants and their uses." Tina used her savvy design and illustration

skills to assist Grace with the brochure, created a comprehensive trail map and a new arboretum logo. Salley compiled an educational folder of tropical trees found in the Arboretum. Along with the new brochure and map, the folder will greatly improve a visitor's experience by giving them a better understanding of the plant collections. We will miss our hard-working interns and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. Mahalo for brightening our summer! *-James Krolikowski*

Look for the new Arboretum logo, designed by Tina Fuller, on the last page. The logo displays a silhouette of a loulou (Pritchardia sp.) leaf.

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Harold L. Lyon Arboretum**



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Visitor Center Blessing and Reopening

Lyon Arboretum hosted a blessing and reopening celebration for the renovated Visitor Center/Gift Shop on June 14, 2008. A grateful thanks goes out to all who supported and participated in the event: State of Hawai`i Legislators, Lyon Arboretum Association, UH Foundation of- fice, and Hui Hana volunteers.



(Left to right) Francisco Hernandez (UH Mānoa Vice Chancellor for Students), Senator Brian Taniguchi, Representative Kirk Caldwell, and Dr. Christopher Dunn conducted welcome remarks on a pleasantly sunny and breezy day for the reopening event. Ha`aheo Guanson and Kahu Kaleo Patterson blessed the Main Building.



Mahalo to Sogetsu Ikebana and the Lyon summer interns for the beautiful flower arrangements displayed in and around the Main Building.