

HFIA Association News

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 2007



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Nahele Dry Forest Symposium An Educational and Cultural Experience!

The Nahele Dry Forest Symposium, which was held at the Outrigger Keauhou Beach Hotel on February 23rd, was a huge success. The symposium brought land stewards, researchers and conservationists together to share their ideas on how to sustain a legacy of dryland forest ecosystems. Kanu o ka Aina New Century Charter School students opened the event with cultural protocols and a spectacular hula performance about native plants.

The foundation for the day was set by the Kama`āina panel linking the past with the future. It began with Kupuna Bill Pānui, his wife Namahana Kalama-Pānui and their hula `ohana shared both traditional and newly composed Hawaiian mele and chants to communicate their understanding of caring for the land and ecosystems. Their primary message was two-fold, "The living things of the forest and land are truly our family." And, "Take care of the land, and it will take care of you." The Symposium was hosted by Ka Ahahui o ka Nāhelehele, a non-profit affiliate of the Dryland Forest Working Group.

"Dryland forests are among the most endangered of Hawaiian plant communities and are being lost at a substantially higher rate", said keynote speaker Dr. David Burney, a director with the National Tropical Botanical Garden. In Hawaii, over 95% of the state's dry forests have been destroyed and over 25 % of the federally listed endangered plants in the Hawaiian flora are from dry forest ecosystems. Hawaii's remaining dryland forests have been severely impacted by deforestation, fire, and invasions by alien species. According to Yvonne Yarber Carter, education and outreach coordinator for the Ka`ūpūlehu Dryland Forest,



Ka`ūpūlehu Dryland Forest Trail Head. Photo by Yvonne Yarber Carter.

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Mahalo

Mahalo New and Renewing Business Members

Guy Cellier, President Forest Solutions, Inc.; Frank Pullano, Owner Frank Pullano Woodworking; Elin Walburn, CFO Teichner Walburn & Associates, LLC.

Mahalo New and Renewing Individual Members

Adiyan Hara, Kauai's Hindu Monestary; Carol L. Kwan, President Carol Kwan Consulting, LLC; Thomas McCloskey, Owner Kauai Ranch; Masako Schwalbenitz, Owner M. Nitz Design, LLC; Roy Tsumoto, Owner Woodcraft by Roy Tsumoto; Terry Tusher, Tusher Architectural Group; Rich Von Wellsheim, Ola Honua.

International Tropical Timber Association (ITTO) Tropical Forest Update

Look at Tropical Timber Markets: Bullish Market in 2006

by Jairo Castaño

Ask anybody in the trade and they would agree on the recovery of primary tropical timber products prices in 2006. Prices for many of these products matched or exceeded levels seen before the Asian financial crisis of 1997–1998. Higher prices are a reflection of tighter availability of raw materials in tropical producer countries, added costs of implementing sustainable forest management plans and greater control of illegal logging that, if unchecked, exerts downward pressure on prices. Other factors behind the recovery in prices include the emergence of China, India and the Middle East as alternatives to traditional markets in Japan, the EU and the US; a weaker US currency; and rising energy and oil-based raw material costs.

Southeast Asian producers benefited the most

Southeast Asian producers were the worst hit by the 1997–1998 financial crisis when prices for many primary timber products more than halved and remained depressed for several years. Prices recovered gradually from 2001 due to shrinking supply and growing demand from China, India and the Middle East, and picked up sharply in 2005. Acute log shortages were exacerbated by actions in Malaysia to stop the issuance or renewal of licenses for timber concessions and the announcement in Indonesia of a ban on the use of natural forest species for pulp and paper production by 2009 and for wood processing by 2014. Prices for Southeast Asian products continued to advance throughout 2006 even during holiday seasons in traditional export markets as supply remained restricted. Japan, which imports most of its tropical logs from Southeast Asia, has in recent years lost its position as log and lumber price leader in the region to China and India. Japanese buyers are now regularly outbid by Chinese and Indian buyers. Meranti and keruing logs reached 13 and ten-year highs, respectively, exceeding 1997 Asian pre-crisis levels, while dark red meranti sawnwood prices were at an all-time high in US dollars (six-year high in euros or UK pounds) since ITTO started to track this product in 1998. Meanwhile, prices for dark red meranti plywood were at ten-year highs.

Nahele Dry Forest Symposium continued from page 1

“Dryland forests are fragile habitats that are home to many of the rarest plants in the world. Now only remnant patches remain, reminding us of fabulously diverse communities of plants and animals that once dominated landscapes of varying elevations.”

Since 1993, HFIA has coordinated the North Kona Dryland Forest Working Group, a coalition of landowners, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and committed individuals who have been managing the restoration of this remnant dryland forest in Ka`ūpūlehu. Preserving and enhancing this 70-acre project is critical to the survival of the endemic and indigenous species found there. Together, this coalition has:

- ✚ Outplanted almost 5,000 seedlings, many of which are endangered species;
- ✚ Conducted scientific research on water competition and other topics of vital concern to restoration efforts;
- ✚ Constructed trails and other improvements to facilitate on-site restoration and education;
- ✚ Involved hundreds of students and other volunteers; and
- ✚ Protected the site from fire and grazing.

This project is a major effort in HFIA’s Forest Science Program.

Ka`ūpūlehu provides unique educational and stewardship opportunities for visitors. Awareness about the understanding of the revitalization activities and of the historical, cultural, and scientific roles of this ecology enhances the visitor experience and helps to sustain this ecosystem. The HFIA helps fund these collaborative efforts through grants from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Hawaii Visitor Authority, and Kamehameha Schools.



Yvonne Yarber Carter and Hannah Kihalani Springer in the dryland forest. Photo by Keoki Carter.

Hawaii Sustainability Plan 2050

In 2005, the Hawaii State Legislature created the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force to review the Hawaii State Plan and asked the Office of the Auditor to prepare a Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan. The Task Force consists of 25 members appointed by the Governor; Speaker of the House; Senate President; and Mayors of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, and Honolulu; and the President of the University of Hawaii. The Task Force was established to address and guide Hawaii's long-term sustainable future. The four areas of focus are: Sustainable Community, Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Economy, and Sustainable Quality of Life. The process seeks input from businesses, government, and private citizens.

A kickoff event to launch Hawaii 2050 was held in August 26, 2006 in Honolulu and since the Fall of 2006, community gatherings are being held throughout the state to design a shared vision for the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan. The Hawaii 2050 website provides an opportunity for input and staying informed about the project. The HFIA is interested in participating in this effort to help ensure sustainable forestry. The task force, led by Senator Russell Kokubun is encouraging residents to help shape the future of Hawaii by voicing their opinions and completing a survey available online at <http://www.hawaii2050.org/survey.php>.

Meet Our Directors

Featuring HFIA Secretary Mats Fogelvik

Mats Fogelvik was born in Sweden in 1959. He is a designer/artist and woodworker. In 1987, he attended an art and furniture making school in Stockholm and worked as a teacher for woodshop classes in 1988. He had his own building contractor business in Stockholm for a few years. Mats came to Maui in 1991 as a tourist and ended up staying. Since then he has been a full time, self-employed woodworker and furniture maker.



Mats is the current President and co-founder of the Maui Woodworker's Guild. He has two daughters, 19 and 22 years old. Mats has been married to his wife Maira for 15 years.

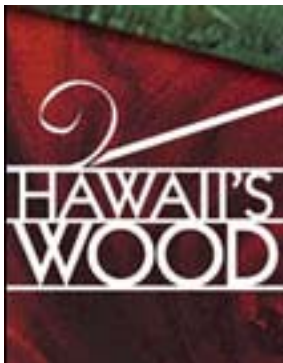
"I like to serve on the HFIA Board because I make my living from forestry products and I believe that any civilization is in deep trouble without a healthy forest. I like forestry people, they plan for the long term. We have a very unique forest in Hawaii, and I hope I can help by providing the woodworker's point of view."

You can see a showcase of stunning pieces of Mats' work on his website at www.fogelvik.com.



Beautiful five drawer desk and chair, curly koa and rosewood by Mats.

Hawaii's Wood brand tags represent fine items crafted here in Hawai'i. It guarantees your customer that your product is unique, made from wood grown here in Hawai'i. Order your tags today!



Tradewinds Forest Products Celebrates the Year of the Pig

Tradewinds Forest Products hosted a pau hana party to celebrate the Year of the Pig in February. The celebration was held at the Ookala Mill Site. Guests enjoyed entertainment, refreshments and pupus. Fun was had by all.



Hawaii's Wood Posters

Attention members! Remember to pick up your complimentary Hawaii's Wood Poster at Fogelvik Furniture on Maui (575-7678); Martin & MacArthur in Honolulu (845-6688); or contact the HFIA office in Hilo (933-9411) or email us at hawaii.forest@hawaiiantel.net.

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Spring Into Action!

HFIA Spring Membership Drive

Calling all members! Encourage a new person to join HFIA and you and your new recruit will have a chance to win a drawing for the entry of one piece at the Hawaii's Woodshow 2007, Na La`au o Hawai`i in September. Sponsor member will get one additional chance to win with **each** new member referred.

HFIA is the voice of the forestry industry and with increased membership we gain a stronger voice. We know that our membership blossoms when we personally reach out to our colleagues.

Benefits of Membership

- ✚ A monthly newsletter updating current happenings among HFIA's members and throughout the forest industry;
- ✚ Access to HMAA medical insurance;
- ✚ An opportunity to exhibit at HFIA's annual Woodshow, which attracts thousands of woodworking enthusiasts as well as extensive media attention, and a special invitation to the opening night reception;
- ✚ An opportunity to participate in the "Hawaii's Wood" Branding Program and benefit from its public relations program;
- ✚ A reduced rate for workshops including those for woodworking featuring nationally-known guest woodworkers;
- ✚ Agriculture Hawaii, a quarterly magazine distributed to members of the state's agricultural & business communities;
- ✚ A vote in the election for the board of directors and invitation to mingle with your fellow members at an annual general membership meeting.

\$35 individual member \$125 business member \$300 corporate member

Get your membership application online at www.hawaii-forest.org



President's Message April 2007
KOA-IS THERE A NEW OFFSHORE THREAT?
By Mike Robinson

Our dearly beloved koa, formally known in the scientific world as Acacia koa, may be threatened from its own success. Most know koa as a “mother” of Hawaii’s native forest. Its environmental contributions, which fix nitrogen, create overstory, and improve the site for other native species must be recognized. We also know koa’s social value as a culturally revered wood for canoes and more recently fine woodworking. But many do not realize that only until the mid 50’s and early 60’s did koa begin to acquire the economic value it has today.

Visit the mauka areas of old ranches and you can see remnant cabins made entirely of solid koa wood planks. At today’s prices, it is difficult to imagine koa so plentiful and cheap that an entire house could be constructed from it. Fast forward four decades and we now know koa as a world class wood, grown only in Hawaii, desired by many, and usually relegated to a very high end use – e.g. furniture, bowls, musical instruments, and paneling.

Because the koa supply has remained constant or been reduced as demand has expanded, the price of koa has steadily increased. That price increase reflects people’s continued desire to own koa products even as the available wood supply diminished. This makes koa one of Hawaii’s premier native forest trees with the unique ability to pay its own way as part of Hawaii’s landscape. Its contributions to the environment, social interest, and economy have expanded its appeal to conservationists, cultural practitioners, and businessmen alike, and this interest is manifested by tens of thousands of acres of koa forest now undergoing restoration throughout the state. This was not happening 15 years ago. The restoration is driven by all the benefits of koa, however, and the loss of even one – environmental, social, or economic – would see a significant reduction in lands set aside for koa with a corresponding loss to other benefits.

With success comes competition and koa’s economic benefit is now being challenged. Competition is not bad, as long as it is fair. HFIA believes strongly that the inherent values of koa will allow it to compete with any wood in the world, but only in a fair and honest marketplace. For example, we are beginning to see more and more alternative woods being marketed both nationally and in Hawaii as “koa”, at a cheaper price, when in fact they are not “koa”. They are riding the values of koa, ALL the values of koa, to make a quick buck. This is wrong.

False advertising of products as “koa” is dangerous for both our native forests and our local economy. Some landowners may elect to forgo koa management in favor of growing the non-native competition. Australian blackwood, for example, is sometimes advertised as koa, but in Hawaii it is classified as an invasive weed. At worst, if the price of koa is too low, thanks to false advertising and a diminished demand from an untrusting public, landowners may choose a more economically lucrative land use – an event which leads to the demise of Hawaii’s koa forests in the first place. By keeping koa “koa”, however, consumers can be assured that the wood products they purchase are made from the real thing with all of koa’s inherent values, not some reasonable facsimile of unknown origin.

HFIA lobbied the State legislature successfully to amend state law prohibiting the marketing of wood products as “koa” if in fact they were not Acacia koa. On several occasions, HFIA has taken violators of this law to task and had their false labeling of non-koa products removed. HFIA will continue this vigilance in the interest of Hawaii’s native forests and the benefits they bring to all of us. But the battleground has been heating up recently, and we may be calling upon all friends of our koa forests to join us in this difficult but necessary task.



Hawaii Forest Industry Association Legislative Update *By Heidi Wild*

This year's legislative session is half over - cross over took place on March 8th, which means all bills that hadn't been scheduled or were deferred/held are no longer "alive". Of the 55 bills we were watching, only 17 survived - with only five having testimony presented.

HB 1831 HD1: Requires public and private game management areas to be fenced. HFIA opposes and amended. Working with DOFAW.

SB 1066 SD2 HD1: Establishes a fee for the inspection of invasive species at state ports of entry and establishes the invasive species inspection and quarantine fund. HFIA Supports.

SB 639 SD2: Prohibits the importation and sale of noxious weeds and any new plant species without DOA inspection and approval. Required the department to update the noxious weed list every year and appropriates funds to review and update the list and rules and the enforcement of. HFIA supports.

HB 1941 HD1: Appropriates funds to the DOA for the inspection, quarantine and eradication of invasive species. HFIA supports.

HB 772 HD2: Establishes a fee for the inspection of invasive species at state ports of entry. Establishes the invasive species inspection and quarantine fund. HFIA Supports.

Other bills we are following include pesticide warnings and sale; land use controlled by the state; irrigation and drought mitigation efforts; and biofuels.

This session, we have also been watching and testifying on a few resolutions:

HCR 266: Tree Crop Insurance: Requests the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with the USDA to develop a tree crop insurance program for tree farms in Hawaii. HFIA testified in Support.

SCR 70: Senate version of Tree Crop Insurance Resolution - not scheduled for hearing - HFIA will support if scheduled.

HCR 231: Requests Hawaii's congressional delegation to introduce and support federal legislation to address concerns regarding the inspection of plants and products from foreign countries to prevent invasive species from entering the state. HFIA testified in Support.

SCR 194: Requests the University of Hawaii to conduct a study on the Molucca Albizia Tree in Manoa Valley. HFIA testified in Support.

Along with the above-mentioned bills and resolutions, we have testified in support of the confirmation for Micah Kane as Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and Sandra Kunimoto as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Peter Young's confirmation for Chairperson for the Board of Land and Natural Resources will be on April 11th and HFIA will submit testimony. Information on Peter's confirmation has been sent out to all members via email for those wishing to send in their support.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the process or HFIA testimonies, please contact Heidi Wild at hwild728@aol.com or the HFIA office at hawaii.forest@hawaiiantel.net. Being involved in the legislative process in just one way in which HFIA can help protect our forests and environment.

Announcements



Members of the North Kona Dryland Forest Working Group are seeking donations of benches for the Ka`ūpūlehu Dryland Forest. The group requests the benches be durable, weatherproof, preferably wood, and that they blend with the natural environment. A plaque will be placed on each bench with the name of the donor engraved. Donors will also be acknowledged in the newsletter and on the website. If you are able to donate funds, materials, or a bench, please let us know.



The HFIA moved the Hilo office from Kinoole Avenue to Heather Gallo's home office. Our P.O. Box mailing address, phone number, fax number, and email address remain the same.



HFIA's Fifteenth Annual Statewide Juried Furniture & Woodworking Show will be held Saturday, September 8 through Sunday, September 16, 2007 at the Academy Art Center at Linekona – Honolulu Academy of Arts. For more information on the Woodshow, please contact Marian Yasuda 221-5171 , mnyasuda@hawaii.rr.com; or Heidi Wild 587-7048, hwild728@aol.com or visit our website at <http://hawaii-forest.org>.



National Woodland Owners Association has offered HFIA members a complementary copy of their magazine. Check out their website at www.woodlandowners.org. If you would like to be added to their mailing list, please let us know.



Carol Yurth with Paaulo School on the Big Island has applied for a grant to hire a contractor to cut down Norfolk Island Pine trees. She is looking for volunteers to take the logs away. The trees are approximately 50' tall, 10"-15" across, and will be cut 5' up. It is possible to take logs as long as 16' long, if you let her know in advance. She anticipates logs will be available to take in mid June. If you are interested, please call Carol at 936-0067 or email her at carol_yurth@notes.k12.hi.us.



The HFIA is updating its website. If you have any updates or suggestions, please let us know.

*For more information, please call us at 808-933-9411
or email us at hawaii.forest@hawaiiantel.net*

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Mahalo for your support!

