

HFIA Association News

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Summer Volunteers at Ka`upulehu Dryland Forest

By Yvonne Yarber Carter

Halapepe, Lama, `Ilie`e, `Aiea, Hau hele ula, Koki`o, Kauila, Uhiuhi, Hau kua-hiwi, Ko`oloa`ula... How many of these words sound familiar to you? If you recognize even two, you know two more than most people living in Hawai`i. These are the Hawaiian names of native plants that once naturally occurred in abundance in dryland forest communities. Most are now on the Federal Endangered Species List or Species of Concern. More threatened than rainforests, tropical dry forests have disappeared at an astounding rate, with no more than 5% remaining in Hawai`i.

Less than 100 years ago, large expanses of full canopy dry forests were broken only by lava flows. Their diversity and number of tree species astounded botanist Joseph Rock. He wrote in his 1913 book, *Indigenous Trees of the Hawaiian Islands*, it would take one to two weeks in a wet forest to see as many species in one to two days in dry forests such as Pu`u wa`awa`a and Ka`upulehu on the island of Hawai`i. Now there are only small, degraded, and mostly ignored remnants of those rich forests.

Many of the native trees, shrubs, and groundcover belonging to the dryland forest are of humble stature. The often delicate and fragrant flowers can be extremely small, requiring sharp eyes and attention to witness how extraordinary



Hau kua-hiwi - *Hibiscadelphus hualalaiensis*

© Yvonne Yarber Carter
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Ka`upulehu *continued on page 2*

Mahalo

Mahalo New and Renewing Corporate Members

Peter D. Simmons-Regional Operations Director, Kamehameha Schools.

Mahalo New and Renewing Business Members

Aileen Yeh-Aileen's Nursery/HARC; Richard Cunningham-President, Cunningham Gallery; Gregg Smith-Gregg Smith Woodturner; Roy Lambrecht-President, Roy Lambrecht Woodworking, Inc.; Tai Lake-Owner, Tai Lake Fine Woodworking; Shaun Fleming-Owner, Wooden Touches, Inc.

Mahalo New and Renewing Individual Members

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Ka`üpülehu *continued from page 1*

they can be in form and color. You have to look closely to notice the few kipuka remnants of native plants that remain in a sea of invasive and flammable fountain grass and other aliens.

HFIA has been a leading partner of the Dryland Forest Working Group (DFWG) advocating for dryland forest restoration, science, and education since 1993. A vital part of these efforts, comes from volunteers. Volunteer groups who come to Ka`üpülehu and similar safe havens are doing their part to change the dismal treatment of dry forests. Laughter, singing, quiet work, respect, lots of sweat, and the intent to perpetuate a disappearing treasure is taking place here and in similar dry forest sites. The months of June, July, and August bring the most activity to



HYCC improve trails & weed at Ka`üpülehu.
Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps 2007 work wonders.
L-R: Noah, Desmond, Kalena, Tala, Uka (Kelsey), Rebecca,
Matthew, Clayton & Vera. 6/14/2007
©Yvonne Yarber Carter #3845

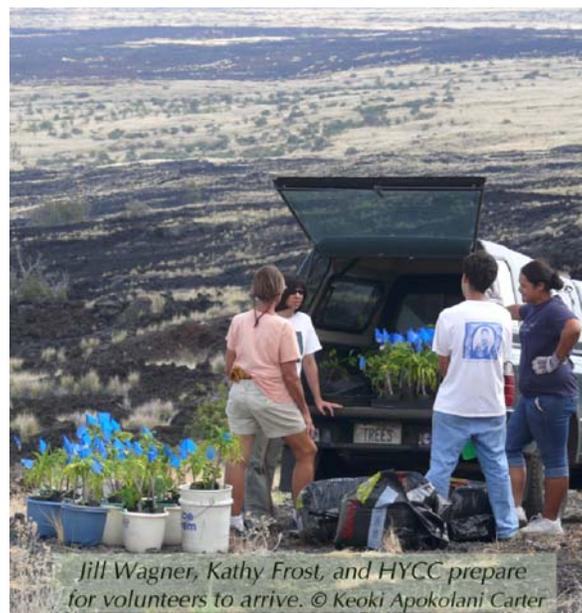
Ka`üpülehu with educational, cultural, and science research programs that give their time to revitalization. More and more people are being smitten by the pleasure and knowledge they receive working in this unique environment. Many say they had no idea such special places existed. Some of the kama`aina and others with ties to the old ways think of these plants as their elder relatives.

However, these dry forests are not for the faint of heart. Most are hot, rough, unforgiving lands that have been neglected. They are by definition, ecosystems with little water—places where soft rustling breezes or rare bursts of rain are considered the greatest of blessings. Most of the volunteer work involves never-ending weeding of invasive species, cleaning and then dealing with the relentless hitchhiking seeds that stick to shoes, socks, and clothes. The keiki who

come to work here, surprise themselves at what is accomplished by many hands together. A common comment by young teens of the Ho`olauna Kona program is, "Wow, this is fun working together. My parents wouldn't believe I could work like this."

Besides the cleaning, weeding, and trail making, volunteers help with restoration outplantings. A highlight this summer was when the Hawai`i Youth Conservation Corps (HYCC) made up of high school and college students, overlapped their stewardship time at Ka`üpülehu to mentor one of the Ho`olauna Kona summer groups of kanaka maoli 7th and 8th graders. A couple of the HYCC youth shared how exciting it was to discover they had a gift for teaching. A few adults also joined the group including Konchok Rabgyal, a monk from Tibet, and Kathy Frost, a marine mammal biologist from Alaska. While physically tiring, these are the kind of days that rejuvenate and infuse our efforts with hope.

The Ka`üpülehu outreach education program is called Ho`ola Ka Makana`ä, "Healing the place budding up out of the lava," a collaborative effort managed by HFIA in partnership with the DFWG and its non-profit affiliate Nähelehe; and supported by the Aina Ulu program of Kamehameha Schools. Yvonne Yarber Carter coordinates on-site educational stewardship opportunities, with additional guidance and kokua given by Keoki Carter. Representing the leasehold company of these Kamehameha Schools lands, Roger Harris has been an avid advocate and partner of its restoration. Jill Wagner, owner of Future Forests Nursery, is contracted to plan and provide native plants for restoration out-



Jill Wagner, Kathy Frost, and HYCC prepare for volunteers to arrive. © Keoki Apokolani Carter

plantings in areas where contractor Midge Casuga has eradicated fountain grass.

The DFWG and HFIA advocate for increased dry forest restoration; accomplished with ethical, ecological, and cultural respect and thoughtfulness. Tromping through these degraded habitats can negatively impact them by spreading more invasive hitchhikers or hurting vulnerable wild seedlings that may have taken a full year to sprout and then against many odds, grew to survive only a few inches in height. Well-meaning enthusiasts have also been known to take immature rare seeds intended for other restoration sites. We encourage those new to the “grow native” efforts to please learn about the laws and use reputable nurseries as sources for native plants.

Special programs and efforts are growing at a variety of significant sites on our islands. Other noteworthy programs on Hawai'i Island include: Amy Greenwell Botanical Gardens, Pu'u wa'awa'a, and T.R.E.E. On O'ahu, Ka'ala Farms has been a trailblazer in dryland restoration and cultural education partnerships. Many schools and educational groups are collaborating with these sites to provide responsible stewardship opportunities, including HYCC, Pono Pacific, Imi Pono, Kohala Center, Forest Team, and Ho'olauna Kona.

A special mahalo to HFIA Directors and staff, especially volunteer extraordinaire, Director Sally Rice, who gives countless hours to administrative support, management, and visioning. Mahalo to the many others not mentioned here, who work hard and broke trail for dry forests when no one else rallied. That is a story for another time. To learn more about dryland ecosystems and community efforts, visit the HFIA website at: <http://hawaii-forest.org/reports/dryland.html>.

Resource Links:

Jill Wagner's Future Forests. <http://www.forestnursery.com/>

Native plant sources. <http://www.state.hi.us/health/oeqc/garden/eioegsrc.htm>

Big Island Invasive Species Committee: <http://www.hear.org/biisc/>

Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk: <http://www.hear.org/>

Xeriscape: http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/rnre/Native_Plants_Water_Conservation.asp



Announcements



HFIA's 15th Annual Statewide Juried Furniture and Woodworking Show will be held September 8-16 at the Honolulu Academy Art Center. For more information, contact Marian Yasuda 221-5171, mnysuda@hawaii.rr.com or Heidi Wild 587-7048, hwild728@aol.com



Awesome Marketing Opportunity! HFIA display cases at the Honolulu Interisland Terminal provide a great opportunity to display your woodwork. With over 10,000 people walking through the terminal every day, visibility is high. Members who have items on display have reported increased sales and marketing exposure. Contact Heidi Wild at hwild728@aol.com or 587-7048 for more information.



Division of Forestry & Wildlife is seeking support for its new Native Species Specialty License Plate. (view color version at www.dofaw.net). The decals will be available through county motor vehicle registration programs for \$25. For each new license plate issued and each renewal, \$20 will be paid to DOFAW and will go to support the protection of native species.

Place Your Ad Today!

Special Offer! Only \$5 for 25 words. This newsletter goes out to 200+ members. Promote your business and help support your Forest Industry Association at the same time! Email wording to: hawaii.forest@hawaiiantel.net

Mahalo for your support!



Community Forest Enterprises in Poor Nations call for Level Field in use of Forest Lands and Access to World Markets

Rio Branco, Brazil, July 21, 2007

Leaders of community forest enterprises in Africa, Asia, and the Americas called for their governments to extend to traditional communities the same rights and financial support provided to the world's largest timber companies. "Only with support and access to land and markets can forest communities continue to conserve the world's remaining tropical forests while helping to fulfill the world's commitment to bring an end to poverty," said Alberto Chinchilla, representative of the Global Alliance of Forest Communities.

The announcement was made in Rio Branco on the last day of an international conference on community forest management and enterprises organized by the International ITTO, the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), IUCN – The World Conservation Union and the Global Alliance of Forest Communities. Also supported by the governments of Brazil and the State of Acre, the meeting brought together 250 participants from more than 40 countries.

For five days, participants at the conference debated the problems confronted by inhabitants of tropical forests on three continents. These included a lack of legal access to land and financial support, excessive red tape, high taxes, and markets that are out of reach because of distance and bureaucratic barriers.

Their experiences were confirmed by the results of a study issued during the conference. According to "Community-based Forest Enterprises in Tropical Forest Countries: Status and Potential", community forestry enterprises employ more than 110 million people worldwide, among them indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. Such enterprises harvest wood and collect bamboo, rattan, fibers, nuts, resins, medicinal herbs, honey, wood for charcoal and other natural products to increase local wealth.

The new study suggests that forest communities are responsible for the management of around 370 million hectares of natural forest. In so doing, they provide environmental services important in combating climate change and protecting water sources, biodiversity, and the natural landscapes prized by the international community.

Though fragile and with few financial, technical, or technological resources, community forest enterprises worldwide make an annual investment in forests of US\$2.5 billion. Despite having an important impact on the conservation of natural resources, according to the new study, these enterprises must carry on a daily battle against bureaucratic and other barriers. "Inflexible regulations, high taxes and exceedingly slow approval rates are preventing our survival," said Ghan Shyan Pandey, leader of the Federation of Forest Communities of Nepal (FECOFUN).

"Our communities are isolated and the governments need to have policies that are effective and designed for us,"



Community sawmills generate local jobs and build professional skills in timber processing and business organization and management. Photo: Salvador Anta Fonseca

he said. "If they don't support our work, the forests will fall into the hands of others, who lack the commitment we offer as traditional inhabitants of the forest."

The conference in Rio Branco has become part of the history of this new movement in forestry, according to participants. "This meeting has demonstrated the great power and potential of local communities to save the forests and avoid terrible human tragedy," said Augusta Molnar, of RRI.

Participants at this first global meeting of community forest enterprise representatives made a series of recommendations. They included a commitment to:

- Work together to ensure that legal access to land and natural resources be included in the laws and/or constitutions of individual nations.
- Lobby governments to provide lines of credit dedicated exclusively to community enterprises.
- Adopt measures to combat poverty and encourage social justice and policies of inclusion in communities.
- Call for the immediate suspension of high taxes imposed by governments on forest community enterprises.
- Seek economic and administrative help to reach the consumer markets for sustainable products.
- Create, through ITTO, a special fund for financing community organizations.

<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelD=213>

Note: The photo that accompanied the "Eucalyptus forests will provide power as well as veneer from factory" article in the July newsletter was a *Toona ciliata* taken by J.B. Friday.

Meet our Staff

Featuring Executive Director Heather Gallo

I was born and raised in Stratford, Ontario in Canada. I lived in South Florida for seven years, Las Vegas for 14 years, and have been in Hilo for five years. I feel very fortunate to be living in a paradise filled with magnificent forest and beach communities.

I received my Associates Degree in Graphic Technology from the Community College of Southern Nevada and my Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies from University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), with an area of specialization in natural resource management.

Prior to coming onboard as HFIA's Executive Director in February of this year, I served as Executive Director of the Hilo Medical Center Foundation for almost five years and District Manager of the Conservation District of Southern Nevada for eight years.

Besides fixing up my fixer uppers, I enjoy walking my dog Paki, playing tennis, hiking, riding my mountain bike, working out at the gym, and reading a good book at the beach. My most memorable adventures include jumping out of an airplane along the north shore of O`ahu, hiking the Grand Canyon, skiing the slopes of Solitude, soaking up the sun on the beaches in Jamaica, enjoying the glaciers and wildlife in Alaska, and last but not least, moving to and living in one of the most beautiful places on earth, Hawai`i of course.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve the Hawai`i community through the Hawai`i Forest Industry Association. I am very impressed with the many accomplishments the Association has achieved over the past 17 years and feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such as passionate and committed group of volunteers. I'm excited and optimistic about the many opportunities available to HFIA and look forward to working with our members and partners in supporting the growth of the Hawai`i forest industry and preserving and enhancing forest lands in our state.



Don't Plant a Pest

Exert from article written by Priscilla Billig, 8/15/2007

In a bold move to further minimize the introduction and spread of invasive plants by growers, nurseries, landscapers, botanical gardens, and arboreta, Hawai`i's green industry is expanding its self-regulating process. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Hawai`i Chapter is developing a recommended list of potentially invasive plants to avoid using in the industry.



Invasive plant Lantana camara (©Larry Allain. [USGS NWRC](http://www.usgs.gov/nwrc/)).

The ASLA Executive Committee has determined three basic approaches to best address the invasive plant issue:

1. Develop a more proactive approach
2. Use more caution in choosing plants
3. Continue to use plants with more benefit than risk

According to Christopher Dacus, Landscape Architect with the state Department of Transportation, the committee reviewed only the plants on the Weed Risk Assessments (WRA) list that were predicted to be invasive, focusing on the benefits since the WRA has already determined the risk.

WRA, developed to predict which plants would become invasive if they were introduced to Hawai`i, is an

ongoing process by the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife Kau-lunani Urban and Community Forestry Program with a grant from the U.S. Forest Service. The WRA may be viewed online at <http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/daehler/wra/>. An initial review of each plant was conducted by ASLA with six possible determinations:

1. Do Not plant
2. Continue to plant
3. Plant but refrain from using near sensitive environs
4. Obtain industry input and consensus
5. Do not plant if equal alternative is propagated
6. Request additional information

The ASLA-Hawai`i Chapter's recommended list of potentially invasive plants to avoid using in the green industry can be found online at www.lichawaii.com/Downloads/Invasive/HASLA_survey.pdf.

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Website: www.hawaii-forest.org



HFIA Summer Membership Drive

Spread the Word!

HFIA has been the voice of the Hawai'i's forest industry since 1989 and is respected by many for its contributions to improving the health and productivity of Hawai'i's forests. Our strength, however, lies with our members. 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;
- ✦ A special invitation to the opening night reception and an opportunity to exhibit at HFIA's annual Woodshow, which attracts thousands of woodworking enthusiasts as well as extensive media attention;
- ✦ An opportunity to participate in the "Hawaii's Wood" Branding Program and benefit from its PR program;
- ✦ A reduced rate for workshops including those for woodworking featuring nationally-known guest woodworkers;
- ✦ Subscription to the quarterly publication Agriculture Hawai'i; and
- ✦ A vote in the election for the Board of Directors and an invitation to mingle with your fellow members at an annual general membership meeting.

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

Share our membership application with your friends and colleagues. Also available online at www.hawaii-forest.org.



**Hawaii Forest Industry Association
Summer Membership Drive**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

INVOICE

Mahalo nui loa for your interest in HFIA! We thank you for your support of our many programs and activities in advocacy, forest science, information exchange, marketing, education, and training. Members also receive additional benefits including a monthly members-only newsletter, the quarterly Agriculture Hawaii magazine, reduced event fees, and much more.

Date: _____

New Member

Renewing Member

Annual Dues (please mark one)

\$35 individual member

\$125 business member

\$300 corporate member

Individuals with an interest in HFIA's goals; professionals in related fields; students

People who make their living from the forest & forest products; one- and two- person businesses

Multi-employee companies and organizations

Name: Title: _____

Organization/Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip code: _____

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Affiliation with forest industry (please check all that apply):

- | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Arborist | <input type="checkbox"/> Architect | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecotourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvester/Logger |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Forester | <input type="checkbox"/> Researcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer/Gallery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree planter/Field labor | <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesaler | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodworker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | | | |

Please make check payable to HFIA and return this form with your membership dues to:

HFIA P. O. Box 10216 Hilo, HI 96721