



# MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

August 2008 . Newsletter . Volume 24

## Enduring Sense Of Place

by Tracy Johnson, Research Entomologist, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Pacific Southwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service

Gazing upward to the mountains from Hawaii's famous coasts, we see deep green forests, often wrapped in the clouds that bring our islands life. That green richness gives these islands a special and enduring sense of place. Indeed, for millions of years those mauka forests have been home to an extraordinary array of plants and animals that is unique in the world.

But all is not well in Hawaii's forests. Invasive species brought by humans are transforming the landscape and erasing millions of years of natural history. Certain plant species, brought here with good intentions, are now displacing many thousands of acres of native forest. Among the worst is strawberry guava (*Psidium cattleianum*), a native of Brazil brought to Hawaii in 1825 to be enjoyed for its tasty fruit, distinctive smooth bark and evergreen leaves. Now widespread, this tree penetrates native wet forests statewide, its seeds scattered by non-native birds and pigs. Strawberry guava grows rapidly, creating dense thickets and squeezing out native ohia, koa and numerous rare species.

Strawberry guava is among the greatest threats to native forests and the



*Bird's eye view of a typical 50 acre strawberry guava invasion in Waokele o Puna Reserve*

services that they provide (for example, filtering water for our island aquifers and streams). Nearly 300,000 acres of conservation lands are affected by this plant on the Big Island alone. Although control has been accomplished in small areas using hands, machines and herbicides, these methods are not possible over the vast landscape threatened by strawberry guava. For many years, biological control has been recognized as the only hope for limiting the destructive spread of this plant. Biocontrol is practiced worldwide and is based on the principle that specialized insects or diseases that keep a plant species in check in its native range can be

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**Layout Editor**  
U'i Naho'olewa

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# Enduring Sense Of Place *Continued*

by Tracy Johnson, Research Entomologist, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Pacific Southwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service

used to help restore balance in places the plant has become invasive.

“Oh no, not another mongoose!” is a typical first reaction to biocontrol in Hawai‘i, where mongooses were introduced in 1883 to control rats and ended up wreaking havoc on native birds. However, this reckless and unregulated introduction is not at all representative of modern biocontrol. Today protocols for biocontrol-testing are rigorous and carefully reviewed by State and Federal agencies. Biocontrols introduced to Hawai‘i against invasive plants have been particularly specific to their targets and have successfully controlled important weeds such as lantana, prickly pear cactus, and banana poka, without becoming invasive themselves.

The U.S. Forest Service’s Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry has proposed release of a new biocontrol agent targeting strawberry guava: the scale insect *Tectococcus ovatus*. This insect was found in Brazil 15 years ago, and detailed studies in its native country have shown it to be the most promising potential biocontrol for this plant in Hawai‘i. *Tectococcus* does not kill strawberry guava, but rather reduces plant vigor and fruit production, limiting the plant’s ability to spread and overwhelm new areas of native forest. The young insects settle on the growing leaves and cause galls to form, reducing the amount of energy available to grow and make seeds.

Years of testing have shown that *Tectococcus* can survive only on strawberry guava in Hawai‘i and does not pose a risk to related plants in Hawai‘i. More than 80 plant species, including many members of the Myrtle family (common guava, ‘ōhi‘a, eucalyptus, paperbark, mountain apple, jaboticaba, Surinam cherry, allspice and others), have been offered as hosts to *Tectococcus* and it cannot develop on any of them. While such specificity may seem hard to believe, it

actually is quite common among a wide range of plant-feeding insects, and it is the norm among gall-forming insects, which must live in intimate contact with their host plants.

The initial release of *Tectococcus* is proposed for the Big Island in 2008, but the insect is expected to be used for control of strawberry guava on Maui and other islands within a few years. (Biocontrol releases are regulated on a statewide basis, since eventual spread between islands is anticipated.) Since this scale insect cannot fly, it disperses from one strawberry guava plant to another by wind and crawling. Therefore, natural spread is expected to be gradual, moving outward from release sites across the landscape over a period of decades.



*Tectococcus* galls, Brazil  
Photo: Tracy Johnson

Although strawberry guava has little commercial value in Hawai‘i, it is grown as an ornamental tree in some gardens. Homeowners concerned about protecting a favorite yard tree may benefit from the insect’s limited dispersal ability. Plants in yards also can be protected using insecticides effective against scale insects, such as petroleum-based and organic oil sprays.

In addition to protecting Hawai‘i’s remaining native forests from invasion by strawberry guava, *Tectococcus* is expected to benefit agriculture by reducing numbers of pest fruit flies that emerge from wild strawberry guava to attack neighboring fruit crops. Biocontrol of strawberry guava also is expected to increase the effectiveness of other weed control methods such as cutting and herbicide, since resprouting stems and reseeding by strawberry guava can be controlled through the action of *Tectococcus*.

The U.S. Forest Service is writing an Environmental Assessment for release of *Tectococcus*, to be submitted for public comments later this year. For more information contact Dr. Tracy Johnson (808) 967-7122, [tracyjohnson@fs.fed.us](mailto:tracyjohnson@fs.fed.us).

## MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is to foster an appreciation and understanding of the Hawaiian Islands of today, emphasizing the plants of Maui Nui (Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i and Kaho‘olawe), and providing a center for environmental education, Hawaiian cultural expression, conservation, biological study, and recreation.

## FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT-Dorothy Pyle

At the beginning of July, I became the Board President of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I am following in the footsteps-very capably laid out-of Janet Allan, who served in this position for seven years. Mahalo, Janet, for guiding MNBG so successfully and carefully. Under your leadership we have grown and developed and become a recognized and necessary haven for endangered/native plants. Community support continues to grow through volunteer efforts and generous contributions. I hope to be able to continue these trends, and to support the staff and board members with efficient and responsible leadership.

I would also like to thank several others who have left the Board for their service and contributions. Stuart Funke d'Egnuff aided greatly in developing fiscal pro-

cedures and in opening doors to other agencies and funding possibilities. A special thanks to Marilyn Ratcliffe for TEN YEARS of service to MNBG. Marilyn's dedication to native plants and to our mission kept us focused and helped define the image of MNBG in the community and State

I am excited at the future prospects of MNBG and I also recognized the challenges ahead. As Maui's natural resources become more stressed, the role of the Gardens will grow. We will need the help (volunteers) and support (donations) of the whole community to thrive and to meet our mission of protecting, propagating and spreading native plants through cultural programs and education. Please join us!

### MNBG

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Department of Forestry &  
Wildlife, Baseyard

Department of Water Supply,  
Home Show

Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kekaulike

M.E.O. Youth Bank

Pūnana Leo O Maui

### Wish List

2 office desks and chairs

Kōkua to build our compost bins

Kōkua to fix rusty spots on our  
storage containers

Picnic tables for our playground

Sturdy outdoor furniture

New push mower

New Dymo Tapewriter for plant  
accession labels

Cotton work gloves

## With Gratitude from Our Garden

Mahalo to Cynthia & Terry Quisenberry for the purchase and donation of new filing and storage cabinets. The office has never been so organized! We were also thrilled to receive the timely gift from the Zadoc W. & Lawrence N. Brown Foundation to replace our old and slow computers.

A super big mahalo to Gage Schubert and AHS Foundation for the generous \$10,000 donation recently made to our Garden. Your generosity keeps our Garden growing!

Mahalo to Arborists Richard Langford, Asplundh Tree Experts, and Tai Domen for the generous mulch donations.

Richard also donated a much-appreciated load of compost to be used in our kalo (taro) patch.

And a big mahalo to Ann Patterson for the lovely donation of vintage pots. We look forward to using them for special projects.

We also wish to thank our Kamehameha High School Intern, Cheyenne Kaikea Blevins for his outstanding work. Cheyenne contributed 40 hours to the Garden and will be doing his senior project on mānaki and its uses.

# Earth Day Celebration 2008

... the best ever ...



*Two bula dancers discuss conservation methods. Photo by Lee Guthrie.*

This year's Earth Day Celebration was the best ever. It is amazing what happens when people come together. We'd like to thank everyone who participated.

MAHALO NUI LOA to our entertainers: Hālau Hula Ka Malama Mahilani, Hālau Hula Nā Hanona Kūlike 'o Pi'ilani, George Kahumoku Jr., Uncle Richard Ho'opi'i, 'Ohana Brown, Job Cabata and friends.

MAHALO to our special contributors: Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kekaulike, Kihei Charter School Hawaiian Club, Hale Mua, MCC Ethnobotany class, Gwen DeRego, Velma Nakamoto, Lei Kalehuawehe, Wainani Kealoha, Damon Parillo, Roberto Santos, Lee Guthrie, Shade Systems, JB Sound, Teens on Call, Volcano Signs, Cub Scouts Pack #68, MCCC, Weed & Pot Club, Native Hawaiian Plant Society, Terry Nutt, Paradise Flower Farms, Kahului Florist, Sierra Club Maui

MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS: The County of Maui, Dept. of Water Supply, Department of Land & Natural Resources-Natural Area Reserve System, Tri-Isle Resource Conservation & Development Council Inc., Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Community Work Day, Friends of

Haleakalā, Maui Tomorrow, Native Hawaiian Plant Society, and Sierra Club-Maui,

MAHALO TO OUR VOLUNTEERS: Mira Allen, Linda Anderson, Lahela Augustin, Keoni Baldwin, Lisa Chinn, Ka'ohi Clark, Greg Czar, Mike Dahlem, Gregory Davis, Gwen De Rego, Colton Deardorff, Chris Dela Cruz, Kuilani Eleban, Darren Espirito, Rie Ganir, Mike Gormley, Lee Guthrie, Marny Hall-Moriyasu, Shea Harper, George Kaimiola, Nā'ilima Kana, Kalani Kapu, Keary Katsu, Wainani Kealoha, Deborah Kremins, Renée Leiter, Kate Lundblad, Alike Ma'alea, Rory Macaya, Alijah Madkour, Bernadine Maio, Zakeri Mannoia, Naone Morinaga-Kama, Jim Moriyasu, Dwight Muraoka, Velma Nakamoto, Ben Noland, Damon Parillo, Kī'ope Raymond, Kale'a Raymond, Travis Roberts, Jennifer Rose, Trent Rulloda, Brandon Salacup, Roberto Santos, Ben Shaw, Dakota Shelton, Keilani Williams, Kathy Wong, Risa Yarborough, Trina Zander

And MAHALO to our 32 conservation and environmental exhibitors.



# Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

## Native Hawaiian Plant Sale

**August 9, 2008**

**9:00am to 12:00pm**

150 Kanaloa Ave. Kahului

Across from War Memorial Stadium

**Offering:**

**hinahina, 'ohai, multi-colored  
grafted Hawaiian hibiscus, taro, kukui,  
manini bananas, 'ulei, 'ilima papa,  
a'ali'i, 'ihi, 'ōhi'a lehua  
and much more...**

**Participating Growers:**

**Native Nursery, Ho'olawa Farms  
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens,  
Kulamanu Farms, and  
New Moon Enterprises.**

**For more information call 808/249-2798 or  
email [mnbgs@maui.net](mailto:mnbgs@maui.net)**

*Drawing by Kali Speere*

# Excellent On-line Resources

## Maui Nui Botanical Gardens



Maui Nui Botanical Gardens has a new website! We were able to recreate and update our website with the skills of our talented graphic artist U'i Naho'olewa . U'i is also working on our newsletters, walking tour guide, and event posters. A big mahalo to the Leiter Foundation for the generous grant that made it all possible.

There are a lot of great reference sites on the website but I wanted to list a few here that are especially helpful for finding important information on Hawaiian species, invasive species, Hawaiian cultural information, and water conservation.

### Water Conservation & Landscape Information

*County of Maui Department of Water Supply*

<http://mauiwater.org/>

*Maui Association of Landscape Professionals*

<http://malp.org>

### Hawaiian Cultural Resources

*Hawaiian Ethnobotany Online Database*

<http://www2.bishopmuseum.org/ethnobotanydb/index.asp>

*The Canoe Plants of Ancient Hawai'i*

<http://www.canoeplants.com>

### Native Plant Propagation

*Hawaiian Native Plant Propagation Database*

<http://pdcs.ctahr.hawaii.edu:591/hawnprop/>

### Plant Identification

*UH Botany Dept. Hawaiian Native Plants*

<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/carr/natives.htm>

*An excellent site for native & nonnative and invasive species information*

<http://www.hear.org/>

*An amazing collection of plant photos by Forest & Kim Starr*

<http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/images/index.html>

## Rare Opportunity

Exceptional Rare Offering

**Multi-colored grafted Hawaiian Hibiscus  
For Sale August 9th. Limited Amount.**



## 2008 Event Dates at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

**August 9, 2008** 9:00am -12:00 pm

Hawaiian Plant Sale featuring a wide variety of plants and over 30 varieties of taro.

**October 2-6**

Maui County Fair: Maui Nui Botanical Gardens will be closed Saturday, October 4th due to lack of parking.

**November 8, 2008** 9:00 am -2:00 pm

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens & Maui Association of Landscape Professionals Arbor Day Tree Give Away and Lawn & Garden Fair

# Cordage-Making

This month's activity for our Weed & Pot Club was cordage-making. Hawaiians made kaula (cordage) out of many different plants such as: hau, 'ahu'awa, 'olonā, 'uki'uki, hala, niu and koali. Our talented MCC service-learning student, Kahaku Ritte-Camara, taught the Weed & Potters how to make cordage from hau bark. This task was not easy. For some, it was difficult for their fingers to get the stripped pieces of bark to roll along their thigh. For others, it came naturally after a couple of tries.



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



MNBSG Director, Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond graduated in May from the Hawaii Community Foundation's, Promoting Outstanding Nonprofit Organizations Leadership Training. In the photo left to right are Program trainers LaPiana & Associate's David LaPiana, Bill Coy, Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond, and Liza Culick, Hawaii Community Foundation's Pi'ikea Miller and Carrie Soda-Sutherland

July 1 marks our 8th anniversary of restoration and expansion of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Our collections continue to grow with new mai'a (banana) varieties fruiting for the first time, nine 'uala (sweet potato) varieties now on display in our hale garden and strange and exciting new ipu (gourd) varieties maturing.

Aloha and Mahalo to Program Manager Kea Hokoana-Gormley and M.C.C. Intern Kahaku Ritte-Camara. We appreciate their contributions to the Garden over the last year and wish them well on their new adventures. I hope you will help me welcome a new staff member to our newly created position of Development Director, Kathy Kaohu.

We are also excited to welcome three new Board members, Kiera Stromm-Lyons, Keali'i Reichel, and Gwen DeRego.

- Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond

### LOCATION & HOURS

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

### 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: [mnbgs@maui.net](mailto:mnbgs@maui.net)  
Website: [www.mnbgs.org](http://www.mnbgs.org)



## Mahalo to Our Weed & Pot Volunteers

Anudeva Stevens	Jennifer Rose
Becky Lau	Linda Anderson
Carol Isaak	Maya Sepulveda
Cindy Singer	Mike Dahlem
Darren Espirito	Nicolas Sepulveda
Deb Guzman	Paul Kastner
Deborah Kremins	Renee Leiter
Duncan Stenzel	Terry Thomas
Florence Shotts	Velma Nakamoto
Gwen DeRego	
Janet Allan	

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Dorothy Pyle

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Kiera Stromm-Lyons

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Ki'ope Raymond

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## MNBG STAFF

### *Executive Director*

Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond

### *Landscape Maintenance Supervisor*

Nick Turner

### *Nursery Supervisor/Curator*

Stephanie Seidman

### *Development Director*

Kathy Kaohu

## CURRENT DONORS

Mahalo to our new & returning donors! (Since June of 2008)

## HONORARY LIFETIME

Dr. Isabella Abbott

Mary Evanson

Tamara Sherrill

## GRANTORS

AHS FOUNDATION

ATHERTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

COUNTY OF MAUI & DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL

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**Community Work Day**

**Plant Extinction Prevention Program**

**Maui Coastal Land Trust**

**Maui Association of Landscape Professionals**

**Maui Invasive Species Committee**

**Native Hawaiian Plant Society**

### **Ma'ō Hau Hele (\$5,000+)**

AHS Foundation

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Caron & Jeffrey Casey

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Native Hawaiian Plant Society

Raymond S. Higashi

Richard Langford

Robert & Cherry Anne Sutherland

### **Ilima (\$50 - \$499)**

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Maui Tomorrow  
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Pamela Elisheva & Irvin  
Pike  
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**Hala (\$35)**

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Lee Guthrie  
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Leonard Kimokeo  
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sich-Pretre  
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Michael Quisenberry  
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Na Kupuna o Maui  
Nathan Kekahuna  
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**Naupaka (\$25)**

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Darcy Davis, Pat Acia, &  
Isaiah Acia  
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Diane Shepherd, DVM  
Dolly Hināu  
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Vicki & J. Richard McCarty

**In Memoriam**

Glenn Shepherd

***We apologize if your name was omitted.***

***Contact us at [mnbg@maui.net](mailto:mnbg@maui.net).***

**MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS**

P.O. Box 6040  
Kahului, HI 96733

Visit us on the web at: [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org)



**‘Ōhi‘a ‘ai**

*Syzgium malaccense*  
Mountain Apple Flower  
Polynesian Introduced



**MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS ANNUAL DONOR PROGRAM**

(January 1-December 31, 2008)

\_\_\_ \$25 Naupaka (*Individual*)

\_\_\_ \$35 Hala (*Family*)

\_\_\_ \$50-\$499 ‘Ilima (*Benefactor*)

\_\_\_ \$500-\$999 ‘Iliahi (*Sustaining*)

\_\_\_ \$1,000-\$4,999 Ka Palupalu O Kanaloa (*Patron*)

\_\_\_ \$5,000+ Ma‘o Hau Hele (*Visionary*)

**Mail your tax deductible donations to: Maui Nui Botanical Gardens P.O. Box 6040 Kahului, HI 96733**

<b>DATE:</b> _____ <b>ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK #</b> _____ <b>IN THE AMOUNT OF \$</b> _____					
<b>PLEASE CHARGE MY</b> _____ <b>VISA or</b> _____ <b>MASTERCARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$</b> _____					
<b>ACCOUNT #:</b>			<b>EXPIRATION:</b>		
<b>NAME(S):</b>					
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<b>CITY:</b>		<b>STATE:</b>		<b>ZIP:</b>	
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FOR STAFF USE ONLY

ID#	BATCH #	DATE	EXPIRATION DATE	OUTLOOK GROUP	MAHALO