



MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

April 2009 . Newsletter . Volume 26

Inspirational Force & Creator of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

by Lisa Raymond

Rene Sylva, a visionary conservationist and the Maui Nui Botanical Garden's Founder, passed away at his home on Pā'ia Bay on December 28, 2008. He was a one month shy of his 80th birthday.

Rene leaves an incredible conservation legacy. His passion for the preservation of native Hawaiian plants and sea life inspired generations of us; now tasked with carrying on his vision. The life path guiding him to become a leading conservationist began many years ago. After time spent in the military, and a brief construction career, Rene became a fisherman. After noticing the declining turtle population, Rene abandoned his occupation and destroyed all his nets. He went on to become the only fisherman to publicly testify to have Hawaiian sea turtles put on the Endangered Species List. In 1994, he was honored for his actions by the Chevron-Times Mirror magazine with it's Conservation Award recognizing natural resources conservation efforts. Rene, for all his passions, was a very humble and rather shy person and though honored for his conservation work several times, would usually dodge the spotlight, and became famous for not showing up at the ceremonies.



January 27, 1929-December 27, 2008

Photo provided by Sylva'Ohana

Rene was appointed caretaker of the newly opened Maui Zoological and Botanical Gardens in 1976. He single-handedly, and with his own resources, created an outstanding native Hawaiian plant collection that was recognized throughout the state. Famous botanists such as Dr. Harold St. John and Dr. Otto Degener sought him out for his remarkable skill at recognizing and remembering the location of native plants. Once he had found a plant, he always remembered exactly how to find it again sometimes many years after it was first discovered. He used traditional skills not the modern GPS equipment we have today.

He had a brilliant mind. Even though

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NEW MNBG EMAIL !!!!
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U'i Naho'olewa

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Inspirational Force and Creator of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

by Lisa Raymond

Continued

he only had an eighth-grade formal education, he was extremely wellread and possessed broad knowledge on many subjects. His nephew, Lopaka Aiwohi (one of more than 50 nieces and nephews) reported that he was impossible to stump, although Lopaka tried many times. Other family members shared that he was their favorite uncle and had a sixth sense. He always knew exactly when anyone was up to trouble.

Because of his close relationship with the 'āina, and his understanding of the natural world, Rene was the first person to put forward the restoration concept that instead of using trees, especially alien species, to reforest Hawai'i, we needed to establish a foundation, with grasses and ground covers to hold and build the soil. He was able to prove his theory on Kaho'olawe. Thus began the restoration efforts that now influence many of our current restoration efforts throughout the state. Most of those original plantings are still thriving.

At his memorial service held at MNBG on January 4th, many friends and family members shared their stories and experiences. We would like to collect more stories.

If anyone reading this has a memory or experience they would like to share, please send them to us. We would like to post them on our website and archive them in our library so that future generations will be able to appreciate his efforts and be inspired to continue his legacy.

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens has established the Rene



Sylva Memorial Fund to support environmental education and conservation efforts in Maui Nui. If you would like to make a donation to this fund please contact us or mail your donation to the Gardens at P.O. Box 6040, Kahului, HI, 96733

N. Robert Wagstaff

February 15, 1930 - December 23, 2008

Written by Lisa Raymond



We are so sorry to lose another great soul and artistic talent, our friend Bob Wagstaff, a naturalist painter of flora and fauna. Bob blessed us with his remarkable talent; and many of our homes and offices display his work of beautiful native plants and birds.

They portray Hawaii's remarkable natural heritage in exquisite detail, and serve as reminders to take time in our daily lives to appreciate God's handywork.

My first contact with Bob and his lovely wife Winnie was in 1994 when the book, Peter Panini's Children's Guide, The Living Treasures of the Hawaiian Islands, was first published. I bought it for my children and was captivated by the lovely illustrations. I looked up the artist's name in the phone book and called him to tell him that I really liked his paintings. I don't know what possessed me to do this. I'm not the kind of person who just calls people I don't even know. Bob was so nice and

said that he appreciated that I called and that if I ever needed anything to call him. Well, about a year or

so later we needed to design a logo for our Garden. I called him to ask if he would do it, and he graciously agreed. We talked about what the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens would be doing, and that we wanted a plant that would reflect our location and conservation focus. We selected the endangered creeping naupaka or *Scaevola coriacea*. Our logo depicts the half flower typical of all naupaka, its black shiny seed, and a backdrop of a sand dune and blue sky.

Bob & Winnie often visited the Gardens to photograph plants in our collection that Bob would later paint. We will miss him very much..

You can see more of Bob's works on his website

<http://www.wagstaffdesign.com/>



Arbor Day Lawn & Garden Fair



Photo Features: Jonathan Keyser and Ethan Romanchak, Teya Penniman, MISC Manager and Gary Tavares of the

Mālama i ka ‘āina award

Jonathan Keyser and Ethan Romanchak of Native Nursery are honored with the Mālama I Ka ‘Aina award by the Maui Invasive Species Committee. Pictured with them are Teya Penniman, MISC Manager and Gary Tavares of the County of Maui.



Arbor Day Lawn & Garden Fair

The Arbor Day Lawn & Garden Fair was a tremendous success! Over 1,000 native trees were given away and 1,500 people attended the event. We would like to extend a heart-felt mahalo nui to our sponsors and volunteers for all their support to make this event a success.

Workshop Announcement

Bud Grafting

with Richard Nakagawa

Saturday, May 16, 2009
9am-12pm

The class is \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members

Additional fee:

\$20 materials fee per rootstock (limit 2 per person).

Tools & grafting material will be provided

Space is Limited so call 249-2798

Register ASAP



Please join us for a 3-hour workshop on the techniques of bud grafting. Participants will have the opportunity to graft a selection of citrus varieties. Richard Nakagawa has over 20 years of experience in grafting and propagating trees of all kinds including many species never before grafted.

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.

Executive Directors Message

We all know these are trying times, and it has been a rough few months for the Gardens, our families, our community and our country. We have lost loved ones and felt the pinch of our increasingly difficult economy. However, there is so much to be grateful for, and we continue to count the many blessings we have received, and keep "facing future" with a full heart.

We are so grateful to Maizie Sanford for her donation, and look forward to constructing an educational hale in memory of her husband, Wallace G. Sanford. Architect Hans Riecke and Landscape Designer Susan Wyche have donated many hours to its design. We hope to have it constructed by the end of the year.

We are also so grateful for our excellent Board members and outstanding volunteers. These hard-working volunteers keep us going and we could not survive with-

out their unvarying support.

I am also so indebted to have such an excellent staff. It is remarkable that with just four staff members we are able to maintain 5 acres and hundreds of rare plants, coordinate major events, manage volunteers and interns, give tours and provide educational materials, write grants, and much more... This could not be done without the most excellent and dedicated people.

So, we hope we can count on your continuing support. We invite you to visit the Gardens and join us at our Earth Day Celebration on April 18th; for there is much to celebrate and much more work to do. And when you do join us, let our staff, volunteers and partners know that you value their contributions, and the great work they do.

Mahalo! Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond

2009 Calendar of Events

April 10-12, 2009	Friday - Sunday	
April 18, 2009	Saturday	10:00am -3:00 pm
April 16 - 18, 2009	Thursday - Saturday	
April 25, 2009	Saturday	
August 29, 2009	Saturday	9:00am -12:00 pm
November 7, 2009	Saturday	9:00 am -2:00 pm

Ritz Carlton Kapalua's Celebration of the Arts

7th Annual Earth Day Celebration

Merrie Monarch Festival

East Maui Taro Festival

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Plant Sale

Arbor Day Celebration - Lawn & Garden Fair

With Gratitude from Our Garden

Mahalo to our service learning students:

Larissa Sulliban, John Aquino, Curt Hiraga, Palika Bell-Cockett, Sara Weese, Michael Marciel

Mahalo: Special Volunteer: Honeygirl Duman & to our Intern: Makala Kaupalolo

Mahalo for the following donations:

Eko Compost, Ho'okahua Program, Andrew Wright & Lisa Fitkin for the DVDs, Stanley Raymond for the Lawnmower, Weed & Pot club, Jackson Bauer for providing video coverage of Rene's funeral, David Malafu of Malafu Contractors, Jeff Gray, of Maui Eko Compost for the mulch, Sacred Heart's School, Hiki Hanai I Ka Ipu

MNBG Community Contributions

We have been fortunate to work with and share the special gifts of the Gardens with some wonderful groups in our community. MNBG has made donations to the Maui Coastal Land Trust, Sacred Hearts School, Amy Greenwell Botanical Garden, DLNR Forestry & Wildlife Kanahā Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, Waimea Arboretum and

Lyon Arboretum



SAVE A TREE!

If you would like to receive your newsletters via email, please email us at info@mnbg. You may also view them online on our website at www.mnbg.org.

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

Presents the 7th Annual

SATURDAY . April 18, 2008

10:00am to 3:00pm

- Hawaiian Plant Sale
- Free Parking
- 'Ono Food
- Free Admission
- Silent Auction

Entertainment

Performers:

Three Time Grammy Award Winner
· **George Kahumoku Jr.**

Haku Mele Award Winner 2007

· **Pekelo Cosma**

· **Ahumanu**

· **Maui Kāne**

Hula Hālau:

Nā Hanona Kūlike 'o Pi'ilani

Education

Over 30 conservation organizations will share information about Hawaiian species, resource conservation and recycling.

Hawaiian Cultural Activities

Hands-on kapa, cordage and lei making. Poi pounding. Spear throwing, ulu maika and kōnane. Lua demonstrations by Nā Koa Kau I Ka Meheu O Nā Kūpuna
All activities are free and fun for the whole family!



Join Us at:

150 Kanaloa Ave. in Kahului

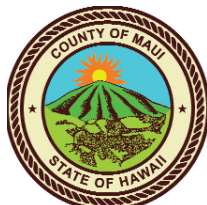
Across from the War Memorial Stadium

(808) 249-2798 email: info@mnbg.org

www.mnbg.org

Sponsors

County of Maui, Dept. of Water Supply, Tri-Isle Resource Conservation & Development, DLNR-Natural Area Reserve, Native Hawaiian Plant Society, Maui Sierra Club, Friends of Haleakalā, Hawai'i Tourism Authority



Garden News



The Onipa'a Award

Ki'ope & Lisa Raymond were honored to receive the Maui Sierra Club's highest honor at their annual meeting on February 7, 2009. The Onipa'a Award is given for outstanding contributions to Maui and its environment. Ki'ope is a Professor of Hawaiian Studies and Language at Maui Community College and Lisa is the Director of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Mālama Chun donated the beautiful tribute, a hoe (canoe paddle). Mālama is a woodwork artist who specializes in beautiful koa paddles.



Volunteer of the Year
Stephanie Seidman, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Nursery Manager, was recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Friends of Fleming Arboretum. Stephanie has worked tirelessly to organize activities and hands-on work opportunities for the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Weed &

Pot Club. She also serves as a Board Member for the Native Hawaiian Plant Society. Both of these organizations have volunteered their time and energy at the Fleming



Aloha & Mahalo

A great big MAHALO to Nick Turner for three and a half years of great service. Nick has been our landscape maintenance go-to guy both part-time and full-time over the years while he was a student at M.C.C. He plans to transition to U.H. Hilo soon., Thanks for all the great work you have done! You will be missed.



Aloha to New Staff

Maui Nui Botanical Garden is delighted to announce two new staff members. Tamara Sherrill, some of you may remember was one of our first Nursery Managers. She has recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from University

of Hawai'i and has returned to Maui to become our new Garden Manager.

Also, welcome Nohea Daliva, our new Programs Manager, another recent graduate of Mānoa with a Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Studies. Nohea desires to learn more about our native Hawaiian plants, and has taken classes in Ethnobotany, lā 'au lapa 'au and fiber arts from U.H. Mānoa. She also has six years of experience in the non-profit sector.

Volunteers

Waikamoi



Endangered mint outplanting at Waikamoi Preserve with the Nature Conservancy
Photo by Lindsay Moore

Kaheawa Wind Farm



Weed & Pot Club outplanting at Kaheawa Wind Farm

Weed & Pot Club

Weed, pot plants, eat, drink and be merry!

Come join us every Wednesday from 8:30am till 10:30am to participate in weeding and plant propagation at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens! Occasional field trips are made to participate in outplanting, invasive-species removal and cultural education. Please come ready to work with closed-toe shoes. Sunscreen, tools, gloves, refreshments and fun provided! For more information, 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*
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: info@mnbg.org
Website: www.mnbg.org



Mahalo to Our Weed & Pot Volunteers

Anudeva Stevens	Laura Rogers
Deborah Kremmins	Lauren Armstrong
Diana Schulte	Linda Oqvist
Duncan Stenzel	Lorna Hazen
Eva Mix	Makala Kaupalolo
Gallya Gordon	Martha Martin
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Nohea Daliva

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Mahalo to our new & returning donors! (Since February 2009)

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LIFETIME

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Mary Evanson

Mary Cameron Sanford

We apologize if
your name was omitted.
Contact us at info@mngb.org

Ma'ō Hau Hele (\$5,000+)

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Antoinette Lucienne deNaie

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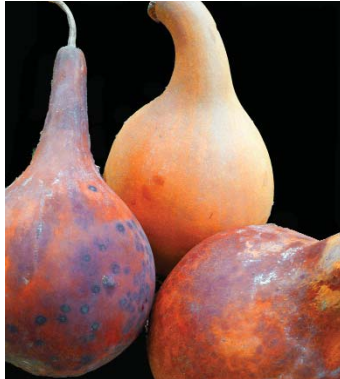
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(Donor period is for one year from when donation is processed.)

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- \$1,000-\$4,999 Ka Palupalu O Kanalea \$5,000+ Ma'u Han Hele
- \$ I would like to donate to the Rene Sylva Memorial Fund in the amount of: \$ _____

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

DATE: _____			ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK # _____			IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____		
PLEASE CHARGE MY VISA _____ or MASTERCARD _____ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____.								
ACCOUNT #:				EXPIRATION:				
NAME(S):								
ADDRESS:								
CITY:			STATE:			ZIP:		
PHONE:			FAX:			CELL:		
EMAIL:								

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

ID#	BATCH#	DATE	EXPIRATION DATE	GUTLOOK GROUP	MAHALO