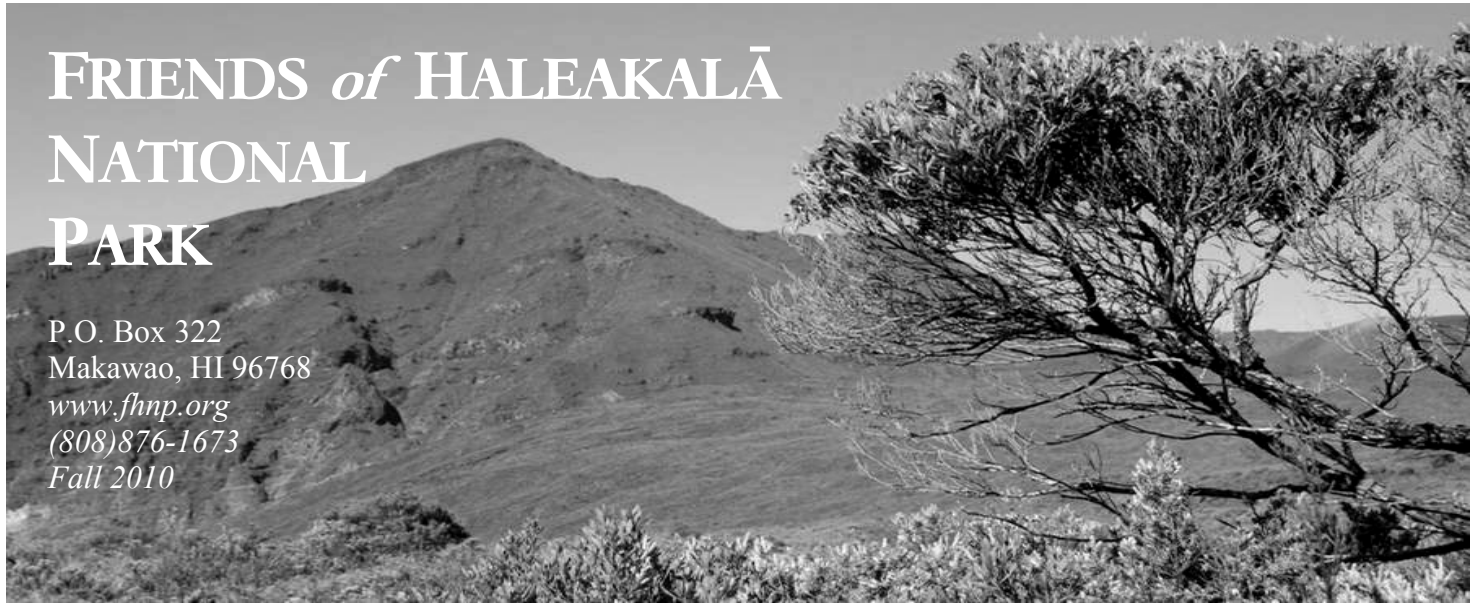


FRIENDS *of* HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK

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Fall 2010



Broadcasting from Atop Haleakalā

By *Jill Engledow*

High atop Haleakalā, television pioneers began transmitting broadcasts to the Islands in the mid-1950s.

Spencer Shiraishi was one of those pioneers, the chief engineer for Maui Publishing Company's KMVI radio station and, beginning in December 1955, for its KMVI-TV. Born in Pā'ia, Shiraishi had gained his engineering skills by going to school on the G.I. Bill after serving in Europe in the post-World War II years. Back home on Maui, he not only worked for the island's first radio station but also was on call for the telescopes operated by the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Hawai'i. "Whenever something electronic broke, they'd call me," Shiraishi recalls.

The KMVI-TV transmitter, a relay station for the NBC affiliate KONA in Honolulu, was housed in a concrete-block building at the summit. KMVI-TV produced only limited programming, simply rebroadcasting the Honolulu station's shows most of the time. When the station opened, commercial phone facilities were not available at the summit, and special radio communication had to be established. Maui Electric Company installed new power lines to the summit, using National Park Service mules to pack insulators to isolated sections of the high-voltage portions of the line.

While the station's mountaintop building had to be constructed to deal with the summit's extreme, often freezing weather conditions, equipment from its hundreds of tubes generated such heat that special fans and blowers were installed to cool the interior. And, though the top of the mountain is famously quiet, Shiraishi says, "the transmitter was so noisy that we built a separate room with a television set so we could monitor the signal and a big

Continued on page 2

News from Haleakalā National Park

By *Sarah Creachbaum*

It has been a productive year at Haleakalā National Park, one that brought changes and challenges as well as many opportunities for celebration. Despite the difficult economic times, visitation has remained steady and sunrise visitors, in particular, continue to increase. Park visitation for 2010 has risen by approximately 3.9% over 2009.

Over the last year the park has said good bye to several exceptional employees and dear friends. Ron Nagata, Haleakalā's highly respected Chief of Resource Management, retired in September 2009 after over 30 years in the National Park Service (NPS). Dominic Cardea, Chief of Interpretation since 2003, left Haleakalā in December 2009, to take a position as an interpretive trainer with the NPS Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia. In February, Chief Ranger Bruce Applin, took a position with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is now stationed in Flagstaff, Arizona. Administrative Officer Vivian Ridley accepted a position at Dinosaur National Monument in July and lastly, Management Assistant Naaman Horn departed for Alaska in September. Naaman will be an interpretive supervisor at Denali National Park.

Also departing this year was Feral Animal Removal Program Manager Ted Rodrigues. Ted retired this September after 34 years with the NPS. True to form, Ted delayed his retirement until his program had completed a 1.2 million dollar fencing contract which was funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Ted dedicated his entire career to the removal of feral ungulates from Haleakalā National Park and all who visit Haleakalā now and in the future owe him their gratitude.

Continued on page 4

picture window so we could keep an eye on the equipment in the transmitter room.”

Shiraishi and two other operators rotated shifts at the summit, each staying for two nights at a time. They reached the station on a road that in those days was still one way, and if they met a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction, pulled off to let the other pass. Goats would walk in a leisurely fashion across the road, and pheasants were plentiful. Shiraishi found a small silversword and planted it in front of the transmitter, where it grew to be as tall as him.

In 1962, a severe ice storm shut down the transmitter for more than a week. Icicles coated electrical lines, and electric poles broke like toothpicks. Ice covered the thermometer; when Shiraishi chipped it off, the temperature was 7°.

In another storm, the station's wind monitor measured gusts of 93 mph. Ranger McCorkle came up for a visit, and the wind was so strong that Shiraishi could not open the front door, so the ranger went around back. He told Shiraishi that the weather had been calm on the way up, but when he came over the hill into the area between White Hill and Science City, the wind was so strong it



Results of an ice storm that shut down the transmitter atop Haleakalā for nearly two weeks in 1962

almost turned over his car. The wind took roofs off KMVI's garage and entryway, and tumbled the tower of a neighboring television station transmitter.

A half-century later, the summit's television transmitters also were pioneers in the major change from analog to digital transmission. Hawai'i became the guinea pig for the entire country in this change, which had been mandated by the U.S. Congress to free airwaves for other uses. Because the dark-rumped petrel, or 'ua'u, begins its nesting season in mid-February, just as the changeover was slated to occur, the transmitters at Haleakalā were shut down early to avoid disturbing the endangered birds. As a result, Hawai'i TV viewers with old-fashioned analog sets prepared to switch to digital on January 15, 2009.

It was the final step in a change that began nearly a decade earlier, when the U.S. Department of Defense and the University of Hawai'i Institute for Astronomy asked Hawai'i broadcasters to move their full-power television transmitters off Haleakalā to eliminate interference with the summit's astronomical facilities. By then, the area around Science City was littered with a haphazard collection of shacks, Quonset huts, old water tanks and antennae at ground level. The buildings sheltered equipment so antique as to be almost museum pieces; inside one of the oldest buildings, the KGMB-TV site, was a 1953 RCA transmitter.



KMVI-TV transmitter building located near the summit of Haleakalā in the 1950s and 1960s.



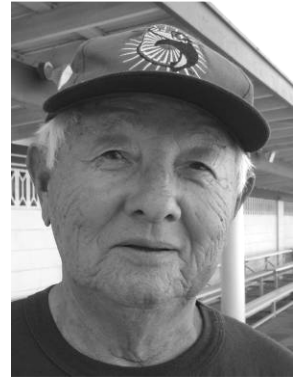
Spencer Shiraishi, the chief engineer for Maui Publishing Company's KMVI radio station and, beginning in December 1955, for its KMVI-TV. Posing with a silversword that he planted near the Mountaintop transmitter.

Annual Free Christmas Tree Cutting - December 11, 2010

The Friends of Haleakala, the Pacific Whale Foundation, the NPS and Haleakala Ranch will co-sponsor a **FREE** Christmas tree cutting event at Pu'u Niauniau on Saturday December 11, 2010 from 9:00A.M. to noon. Pu'u Niauniau is located approximately ¼ mile makai of the Park entry station on Crater road. A variety of pine trees have become established in this location, which is adjacent to the Park. Their seeds find their way into the Park where they grow and displace native plants. Please help protect the park by cutting down and removing these invasive pines. Wear close toed shoes, and bring gloves and a hand saw, (no power tools or chain saws please). Some tools will be available to borrow if you don't have your own. Take home a tree and some greens for yourself and cut some extra for your neighbors! For more information call Matt 876-1673, or the PWF at 249-8811 or e-mail matt@fhnp.org. ■

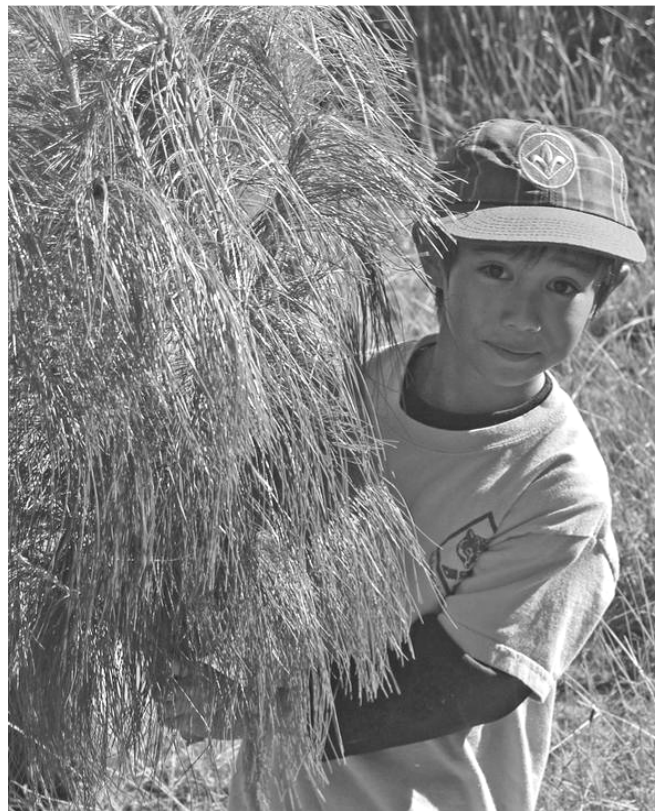
Though there were other places near the top of Haleakalā where radio equipment would not interfere with astronomy,

public opposition put a stop to the idea of erecting transmitters anywhere near the summit the mountain. So the transmitters moved several thousand feet down to 'Ulupalakua Ranch. Though their signals were unable to reach as many customers, the move left the now uncluttered mountain top to the 'ua'u, astronomers and lovers of scenic vistas.



Spenser Shiraishi, pictured above, contributed all of the photos, and much of the history contained in this article.

Jill Engledow is a frequent contributor to the FHNP Newsletter. Jill has written extensively about Maui's past and present and is currently working on a book about Haleakalā. She can be reached at jill@mauiislandpress.com



Free Christmas Trees!!!



A parade of volunteers hauls invasive pine trees cut from the Pu‘u Niauniau area adjacent to the Park during the annual Christmas Tree Cutting event sponsored by the Friends of Haleakalā and the Pacific Whale Foundation in 2009. See the article in this newsletter for information about this year’s event.

News from the Park – continued from page 1

Although we have said good bye to many friends, we have also welcomed many new employees to the park. Matt Brown joined our staff in July this year. He will serve as our new chief of resources. Matt comes to Haleakalā from Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge where he served as the refuge manager. Navnit Singh arrived at Haleakalā in September from South Dakota where he was the chief of interpretation at Mount Rushmore National Park. Nav is the new Chief of Interpretation at Haleakalā. We are very fortunate to welcome these two accomplished professionals to our management team.

Natural resource staff and park partners have worked hard in 2010 protecting the natural and cultural resources of the park. This year over 132 acres of weeds were controlled with 272,817 individual ecosystem modifying weeds removed. Native plant restoration teams planted over 5,200 native plants including some of the rarest plants in the world. Over 4,600 native plants are under propagation awaiting planting in 2011. In all 129 species have been grown and planted in 2010.

Working with partners, the park contributed to 12,000 hours of invasive plant control that covered nearly 83,000 acres both inside and outside of the park. As a result of these efforts, over 66,000 invasive plants were treated.

Hikers will notice major improvements to the Pīpīwai Trail, Sliding Sands and Halemau‘u trails. As most visitors note, there is much work to be done to preserve our trail system. These trails projects are funded by park entrance fees and we hope to continue this work into 2012.

The Maintenance Division has completed the construction of the parking lot, restroom, and campground construction projects in Kīpahulu. Ongoing work will include planting culturally significant species throughout the visitor center

area, a project that is planned with input from community partners and friends.

All community members are encouraged to take advantage of the park’s new “Backpack Haleakalā” program. A current library card can check out a special backpack at the Makawao Library that is loaded with park activities, binoculars and guide books. Not only is the backpack filled with goodies, but it will also provide free access into Haleakalā for the day. The park greatly appreciates the participation of the public library system on this fun new program.

Haleakalā National Park continues to be thankful for the many volunteer hours contributed by the local community. The Friends of Haleakalā has been a primary contributor through partner-led service trips aimed at natural resource protection. Haleakalā contains more endangered species than any other unit in the National Park System and removing invasive weeds to protect endangered ecosystems remains a top priority of monthly service trips. In FY2010, Friends of Haleakalā removed 26,397 weeds with a mostly local demographic (88%) of 91 volunteers. Friends of Haleakalā did a remarkable job of helping young and old alike identify native species, appreciate their protection and recognize threats to their long term survival. In 2010, the Friends donated a total 2,281 hours to the preservation of the park’s resources. Friends of Haleakalā National Park indeed!

A hui hou!

M. Sarah Creachbaum
Superintendent
Haleakalā National Park

■

Contributing Artist – Melissa Chimera

The cover art of this newsletter, an image of the native Po‘ouli is oil on canvas (2008) by Melissa Chimera. Chimera is a Honolulu native of Lebanese and Filipino ancestry. She studied Natural Resources Management and painting at the University of Hawai‘i, the world's epicenter for plant and animal extinction. Chimera is also a Ranger at Haleakala National Park responsible for coordinating the volunteer program.

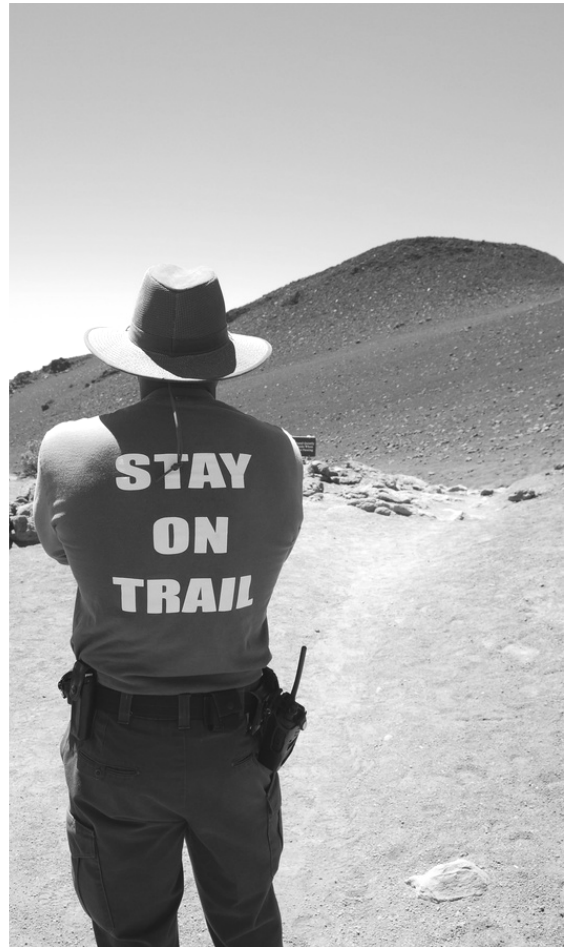
Chimera's works are subtle contemplations on the beauty and tragedy of endangerment, where heaven and hell sometimes co-exist. She is inspired by unknown species which she encounters in the remote wilderness. Chimera's years in the field confirm the relative obscurity in which these life forms live, subjects she continually catalogs now as a painter.

Chimera keeps a studio in Maui. Her work is in international and national private and public collections. She exhibits in Hawai‘i, the U.S. mainland and internationally. To learn more, visit www.melissachimera.com and www.delisseagallery.com.

The Po‘ouli (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) is possibly the rarest bird in the world. It is one of five endangered Hawaiian honeycreepers that inhabit the rainforests of east Maui. The birds Hawaiian name means "black head," referring to its dark facial feathers. The cheeks and breast feathers are white, turning a light red-brown toward the posterior. The top of the head is grayish, turning to dark brown on the back. The Po‘ouli was discovered in 1973 by three University of Hawai‘i students while they conducted field work in the Hāna rainforest. Although the Po‘ouli was historically more widespread, all of the recently identified birds live within the Hanawi Natural Area Reserve and adjacent portions of Haleakala National Park and the Ko‘olau Forest Reserve. These areas receive an average of 350 inches of rain annually. The terrain is steep and thickly vegetated, dominated by native Hawaiian plants such as the ‘ohi‘a tree and ‘olapa.

Though numbers of Po‘ouli on Maui have not been high in recent years, the population has been in steady decline since its discovery. Surveys in 1994-1995 discovered 6 Po‘ouli in 4 locations. Surveys in 1997-1998 have shown only 3 birds. In 2004, one of the Po‘ouli was captured and brought to the Maui Bird Conservation Center for captive breeding. Sadly, this individual died from Malaria. The two remaining Po‘ouli, believed to be a male and a female, but living in separated ranges, have not been observed in several years.

References: Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, East Maui Watershed Partnership. ■



A t- shirt is worth a thousand words

Meet VIP (Volunteer In Park) Al Woodson. Al spends his days meeting hundreds of visitors, helping them, as we say in the park, "prepare for more than one moment." He starts his day at sunrise helping frantic visitors find parking, but after that "one moment," the rest of his day is spent advising potential hikers. He's out there at the trail head for Keone he`e he`e trail, because many visitors never come in the visitors centers. They see a trail, and start walking, often unprepared. Being unprepared is the number one reason visitors leave the established, marked trails, and others may never have considered that a "barren" landscape is not barren, or that such a landscape is considered sacred by many here with ancestral ties to the mountain. In the days before the road, or even horseback travel, visitors to the summit were rare. Now, there are thousands daily. One set of footprints off trail inspires others to follow them, and in the course of a day, damage is done that can take decades to erase. Al uses a friendly manner to advise on water and sunscreen, but for all visitors, he has a clear message to help prevent the park's number one visitor-caused damage. And that message is loud and clear on the shirt he wears proudly for all passersby. In the right hands, a t-shirt is worth a thousand footsteps. ■

2011 FHNP Service Trip Schedule

The past year has been very successful for the Friends of Haleakalā Service Trip program. Overnight trips into the wilderness were held each month with over 70 volunteers participating. Most trips involve a three day commitment; with two nights spent in a cabin. This past year we focused on removing invasive *Heterotheca grandiflora* in the Waikau area. This area, on the northern border of the Park, is a 2 hour hike from either Hōlua or Kapalaoa cabin and had a large infestation of this weed. To make extra progress in this area, Jessica hosted a tent camping trip where the group camped in the Waikau area to enable easier access. This year her group had good weather, and made great progress. However, this area still needs more work, and will be the focus of many of our service trips this year. In addition to invasive specie removal, we will also perform cabin maintenance, trail work, seed collection and re-forestation as needed, resources and weather permit. As in 2010, the 2011 schedule will include three service/learning trips. These trips, all to Palikū cabin, will be accompanied by a NPS ranger. This past year Jeff Bagshaw attended these trips and did a great job at teaching the group about the geology, mythology, flora and fauna of Haleakalā. Ranger Jeff's star programs in the dark skies over Palikū received stellar reviews. The service/learning trips cover a grand tour of Haleakalā wilderness. We start the hike at the summit, following Keone he`e he`e (Sliding Sands) trail to Palikū cabin. We hike out of the park along the Kaupō Gap trail and will shuttle pack to the summit on the last day.

On all trips, participants must carry in sleeping bag, clothing, rain gear, sun protection and food for the weekend. Anyone



NPS Interpretive Ranger Jeff Bagshaw talks to a group of Service/Learning trip volunteers about the biology and geology of the valley popularly known as "The Crater." To learn the difference between a crater and a valley, participate in an FHNP service trip, or visit the Park and ask a Ranger.

who is fit enough to backpack into the wilderness and equipped with a positive and helping attitude is welcome. There is a \$15 fee for the Service/Learning trips to cover the extra cost of the Ranger's service and transportation back from Kaupō. These trips are popular, so make your reservation early. There is more information about these trips, including a sample itinerary and suggested gear list on our website at fhnp.org. If you are interested in participating, please visit fhnp.org, and click on the FHNP Account link. If you don't already have one, create an account for yourself, then log into your account and follow the links to certify your readiness for a service trip. Next, pick a trip from the schedule below and contact the trip's organizer to reserve a spot for yourself. Repeat volunteers, novice backpacker and all in between are welcome! ■

2011 SERVICE TRIP SCHEDULE

DATES	LOCATION	LEADER
Feb. 19-21	Hōlua Cabin	Matt
Mar. 11-13 ¹	Kapalaoa Cabin	Elizabeth
Apr. 23-25	Hōlua Cabin	Jessica
May 28-30 ²	Palikū Service/Learning	Elizabeth
June 10-12 ¹	Kapalaoa Cabin	Joani
July 2-4 ²	Palikū Service/Learning	Matt
Aug. 6-9 ³	Waikau – tent camp	Jessica
Sept. 3-5 ²	Palikū Service/Learning	Elizabeth
Oct. 7-10 ³	Kapalaoa Cabin	Joani
Nov. 12-14	Hōlua Cabin	Matt
Dec. 3-5	Kapalaoa Cabin	Elizabeth

- 1) Friday through Sunday.
- 2) Palikū Service/Learning trips will exit via Kaupo Gap. These trips have a \$15 fee.
- 3) Three night trip.

For more information, and to sign-up for a trip, contact the trip leader; Matt: (808)876-1673, matt@fhnp.org, Elizabeth: (808)264-4757, bethspeith@yahoo.com, Jessica: sageblank@aol.com or Joani: (808)669-8385, napijioani@aol.com

Upcoming Evening Program

December 1, 2010 Sarah Creachbaum, superintendent of Haleakalā National Park and members of her staff will hold a panel discussion on "The State of the Park." This free event will be held in Room 103 of the Ka Lama Building at UH Maui Campus starting at 7:00PM. The public is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. ■

Support the Friends of Haleakalā National Park

Who we are ...

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Haleakalā National Park achieve the purposes and goals for which it was established: To preserve Haleakalā's unique eco-systems, scenic character and associated native Hawaiian cultural and spiritual resources so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

What we do ...

Facilitate volunteerism to accomplish projects recommended by park staff.

Monitor actions and activities that could impact the Haleakalā.

Urge responsible use of the Park by the public.

Provide financial assistance for the benefit of the Park by soliciting funds from the general public.

Promote programs such as Adopt-a-Nēnē to generate funds that will enhance the protection and preservation of the endangered natural resources of the Park.

Implement programs and activities that increase public awareness and appreciation of the Park and its highly diverse geological and biological resources.

What you can do ...

Join the Friends of Haleakalā National Park

Become a **Volunteer** in the Park

Sign up to **Service Projects**.

Give the Gift of a nēnē adoption for the holidays!

The Adopt-a- Nēnē Program ...

was developed as a fun and educational way for you to become a part of the projects that are being conducted in Haleakalā National Park. The nēnē is an endemic bird on the Federal List of Endangered Species, with an estimated population in the Park of 250. By adopting a nēnē, you will be helping protect not only the nēnē, but all endangered species and their important habitat in the Park.

REGULAR Supporters receive "adoption papers" that include information about your nēnē, an adoption certificate and a nēnē postcard.

MĀLAMA Supporters receive a postcard pack and all gifts given to Regular supporters.

ALI'I Supporters receive an exclusive 5"x7" matted nēnē photo and all gifts given to Regular supporters. They will have their names displayed at the Park.

ALI'I NUI Supporter receive an exclusive 8"x10" matted nēnē photo, a special certificate for display and all gifts given to Regular supporters. They will also have their names displayed in the Park. ■



Yes! I want to **become a Friend of Haleakalā N.P.** Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$ Other _____

Yes! I want to **Adopt A Nēnē.** Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution:

\$20 Student/Senior \$30 Regular \$50 Mālama \$100 Ali'i \$200+ Ali'I Nui

Send me no gifts please, I want my entire contribution to protect endangered species

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Make checks payable (in U.S. Dollars) to: Friends of Haleakalā National Park, Inc. & mail to: Friends of Haleakalā PO Box 322, Makawao HI 96768

You can also donate on-line using your credit card at www.fhnp.org



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Friends of Haleakalā
National Park
Fall 2010

Po'ouli
by Melissa Chimera

