



Friends of Haleakalā National Park

FALL 2014

P.O. Box 322 ☼ Makawao, HI ☼ 96768 ☼ www.fhnp.org

“TRAIL GUARDIANS” PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PARK

The next time enthusiastic but unprepared hikers decide to set off for Kaupō Gap wearing rubber slippers, let’s hope they run into one of the volunteers of Kia‘i Ala Hele, translated as “Trail Guardian.” The park’s new program protects both visitors and Haleakalā wilderness resources by sending volunteers down the trail to answer questions and share vital information.

Fourteen local residents completed training in June to become Trail

Guardians and began hiking popular trails in the Summit District to help visitors discover Haleakalā. The training included safety, radio communications, park resources, visitor services, and Leave No Trace wilderness education topics. Kia‘i Ala Hele is funded by the Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association, the nonprofit partner of Haleakalā National Park that runs the park’s gift shops and uses the profits to help the park.

The program’s volunteers commit to six hours per month for a minimum of six months, using their own extensive experience in the park to choose where they will station themselves to meet visitors. One popular spot is about a quarter-mile down Keonehe‘ehe‘e Trail, often called Sliding Sands Trail, which draws day hikers because of its visibility and easy access from the Visitor Center. What many of those people don’t realize is that they are entering a true wilderness area where it is important to be prepared both physically and in terms of gear and understanding. That’s where the Trail Guardians can help.

For the guardians, “it’s loads of fun,” said Jim Harris of Pukalani, who first visited Haleakalā in 1982 and began his park volunteer experience in 2013. Every Monday (an extra-busy day at the park as busloads of cruise ship visitors arrive) Harris hauls in a folding chair, maps and reference books.



A hiker gets some expert advice from Trail Guardian Nick Herrera, one of the volunteers in the park’s new Kia‘i Ala Hele program. *Haleakalā National Park photo*

See Trail, page 2

TRAIL GUARDIANS PROTECT PEOPLE, PARK

Continued from page 1



Standing, rear, left to right: Scott Jensen, Alan Willis, Ryan Hunt, Terry Hunt, Jennifer Hunt, Mike Reneer, Nicholas Herrera
Front, left to right: Michael Devlin, Pamela Padrick, Brian Padrick, Cyndee Kavula, Kevin Kavula, Jim Harris, Sunny Gutierrez
Haleakalā National Park photo

For the next few hours, he said, “I just sit there and answer questions.” These are often questions about geology, and it helps that on a clear day “I can see Mauna Kea” and point out to visitors that the top of Haleakalā once looked like that, before two erosional valleys met at the summit to create what is commonly known as “the crater.”

Explaining that this is not really a volcanic crater in the usual sense is a great icebreaker, he said. Another common misconception: Some visitors think that the smaller islands in the chain are newer, and the bigger ones older. So Harris gives lessons in Hawai‘i volcanos, along with a little teaching about Hawaiian language, place names and culture.

One of the most common questions when misty clouds cover the summit is, “Will it burn off?” No, not as the fog does in San Francisco, Harris answers, but if they stick around for a while, the mountain’s ever-changing wind pattern often will blow away the cloud cover.

It’s a job that keeps Harris growing in his own long-term study of Hawai‘i and Haleakalā. “Not a single day goes by that I’m not asked a question to which I don’t have an answer,” he said. “So I have homework!”

Probably the most important thing Harris and other Trail Guardians do is to keep visitors safe. From the vantage point where Harris sets up shop, it looks like there is a trail around the top of a cinder cone, but no such trail appears on the park’s official hiking map. Over the years, hikers who have traveled off-trail have created an undesirable “social trail” that now threatens wildlife, native plants and the geologic feature itself as the cone erodes from people walking around its top. Hikers who disregard park regulations by leaving the trail also endanger themselves, Harris points out: “You can get lost, or at least so far off your trail that you run out of water and food and daylight.”

All three members of the Hunt family of Ha‘ikū are Trail Guardians, having backpacked through the crater every year since son Ryan was six. Now 13, Ryan and his dad Terry and mom Jennifer hike in as Guardians once a month. Equipped with radios, baseball caps and fluorescent T-shirts labeled “volunteer,” first-aid kits and rain gear supplied by the park, the Hunt family takes along a little something extra: bottles of water to give hikers who have begun the descent into the summit valley without that essential item.

That’s just one of the errors the family have seen visitors make. “We’ve seen them coming down in slippers, beachwear, with beach towels to cover up,” Terry said. They also find that visitors tend to misjudge distances, thinking that it will take only a few hours to hike down through Kaupō Gap or to some distant point and back up the trail. The Hunts suggest a test for folks fooled by the ease of hiking down Keonehe‘ehe‘e: Turn around and go back 10 steps up the trail.

See Trail, page 8

FRAGRANCE A FATAL ATTRACTION FOR ISLAND SANDALWOOD

By Shannon Wianecki

Maui biologist Art Medeiros calls sandalwood “the vegetable equivalent of gold.” It’s one of those rare natural substances that drove humans to extreme sacrifice.

Prior to human contact, Hawaiian dryland forests ran from mountain to sea, populated with six native sandalwood species, including one endemic to Maui: *Santalum haleakalae*. According to Medeiros, the trees’ fleshy seeds were likely spread by extinct flightless birds—the marvelous *moa nalu*. Its flowers are pollinated by the short-tongued *amakihī*. Early Hawaiians scented their *kapa* (barkcloth) with powder made from the sweet-smelling wood.

Today, sandalwood trees are rare. First came seed-eating rats, which hitched a ride on Polynesian canoes. Then came western traders, who saw dollar signs in the forest. Sandalwood fetches hefty sums in India and China, where spiritual aspirants dab fragrant sandalwood paste on their foreheads before meditating. Carvings, incense and oil made from the heartwood possess a hypnotic scent that persists, even builds, over years.

“To get it you have to kill the tree,” says Medeiros. “And the older the tree, the sweeter the wood.”

Hawai‘i’s sandalwood trade was brief but potent. King Kamehameha bought the brig *Columbia* for two shiploads of sandalwood in 1817. Nine years later, the Hawaiian kingdom enacted its first written law—a sandalwood tax. To pay off increasing foreign debts, Hawaiian royals required commoners to cut and carry trees to waiting boats. Harvesters were nicknamed “*kua leho*” (callous back); logs often arrived stained with blood. By 1840, the sandalwood supply was exhausted.

If you know what to look for, you can still find sandalwoods scattered throughout Hawai‘i. The trees have bluish, almost jadeite-green leaves and clusters of miniscule, star-shaped flowers. Each of the main Hawaiian Islands has its own species. High above the glittering waters of South Kona on the slope of Mauna Loa is a wide swath of land marked on a 1905 territorial map as Sandalwood Forest. It’s the home of *S. paniculatum*, the fragrant, green-flowered species endemic to the Big Island. The windswept ridges of Wai‘anae on O‘ahu shelter a few old *S. freycinetianum* trees while Kaua‘i, the oldest island, has two species: *Santalum pyrularium* and *S. involutum*.

On Maui, you can see the red-flowered *Santalum haleakalae* growing at Hosmer’s Grove in Haleakalā National Park. You might also spot ‘*iliahi alo‘e* (*S. ellipticum*) sprawling its thin limbs along the shore. Smaller and shrubbier than the other Hawaiian sandalwoods, this coastal species populates each of the main islands. Medeiros recommends planting the green-flowered ‘*iliahi alo‘e*. “It’s easiest to germinate,” he says. “A good one for your yard.”



Red flowers cover a Haleakalā sandalwood. Below, a closer look at the blossoms.

Photos by Forest and Kim Starr



HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TRIPS FOR 2015

We have found that the hike along the Kaupō Gap trail, while epic, is very challenging, especially for novice backpackers. For this reason, we plan to reassign the Service/Learning trips to outings to Hōlua or Kapalaoa cabins in 2015, as shown in the schedule here. We will still plan to hike out Kaupō Gap on some Palikū trips, but will restrict these to more experienced backpackers. Note that while the service trip dates and locations are firm, the choice of which trips to have as service/learning is tentative. Please visit our website or contact a trip leader if you have questions.

We continue our annual tradition of cutting invasive pines from the slopes of Pu‘unianiau, Dec. 13, 2014, from 9 a.m. to noon. See page 6 for details. Here’s the schedule for 2015 service trips:

| Date | Location | Leader |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Jan. 17-19 | Palikū | Matt |
| Feb. 14-16 | Hōlua | Elizabeth |
| March 14-16 | Kapalaoa (1) | Matt |
| April 18-20 | Hōlua | Christy |
| May 23-25 | Palikū | Joani |
| June 13-15 | Kapalaoa | TBD |
| July 3-5 | Palikū (2) | Matt |
| Aug. 15-17 | Hōlua (1) | Matt |
| Sept. 5-7 | Palikū (2) | Keith |
| Sept. 19-21 | Kīpahulu | Elizabeth |
| Oct. 10-12 | Kapalaoa | Joani |
| Nov. 7-9 | Hōlua | Christy |
| Dec. 5-7 | Kapalaoa | Keith |

- (1) Service/Learning
- (2) Kaupō Gap

HELPING ONE STEP AT A TIME

Awareness Walks, a small “walking team” that includes a Wailuku shop owner, recently raised enough funds to adopt three *nēnē* through the Friends’ Adopt-A-Nēnē program. The team works together to raise money for nonprofit groups. After a crater hike, they collected donations and held a garage sale, then added cash from Nina Ferrari’s Wailuku antique and furniture store, Maui Signs and Designs, which has a collection of items that Ferrari calls “The Nesting *Nēnē*.” Ferrari donates 5% of profit from the collection. That added another \$25 to the gift to the Friends. Ferrari is finding that others are intrigued by the Adopt-A-Nēnē idea and is going to recommend the program to people looking for a gift. “I look forward to getting more *nēnē* adopted,” she said.

This schedule is subject to change. Please contact the trip leader to confirm dates, cabins and mission. The last date of each trip is the return date.

Participants will backpack into the crater to a cabin or campsite and back (except for the Kīpahulu trip, for which participants will drive to the campsite). Depending upon the trip, the group will perform one of a number of tasks ranging from cabin maintenance to native planting to invasive species removal. An Interpretive Park Ranger will be along on the Service/Learning trips.

Before signing up for a service trip, please go to the FHNP website at www.fhnp.org, create an account, then log into the account to learn more about the trips and certify your readiness for a service trip. For more information and to make reservations to join a trip, call the appropriate trip leader:

Matt (808) 876-1673, matt@fhnp.org
 Elizabeth (808) 264-4757, beth@fhnp.org
 Joani (808) 669-8385
 Keith (808) 264-5429, keith@fhnp.org
 Christy, christy@fhnp.org

Ah, the joys of weeding—and of taking a nap—on a Friends’ service trip. If you’re looking for an outdoor adventure, check our schedule at left.



SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK

Who we are ...

We are a nonprofit 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 Haleakalā National Park.
- ◆ 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 ...

- ◆ **Become** a Friend of Haleakalā National Park



- ◆ **Adopt-a-Nēnē** – an unusual gift idea.
- ◆ **Volunteer** in the park
- ◆ **Sign up** for Service Projects.
- ◆ **Serve** on the Board of Directors or Advisory Board of the Friends

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. By adopting a *nēnē*, you will be helping us 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** Supporters receive an exclusive matted *nēnē* photo and all gifts given to Regular supporters. They will have their names displayed at the park.
- ◆ **ALI NUI** Supporter receive an exclusive 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:

\$15 \$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. Send to P.O. Box 322, Makawao, HI 96768

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

CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING IS WIN-WIN HOLIDAY OUTING

Fill your home with fresh Christmas greenery and do a good deed at the same time! Our annual Pu'unianiau alien-pine pull is set for December 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Each year, we help control the spread of these aliens by cutting trees and branches on the slopes of Pu'unianiau, just outside the park entrance. This is actually on Haleakalā Ranch property, but these invasive pines could easily spread across the park boundary.

Pine species planted early in the 20th century originally were thought to be a good way to restore the forests on the slopes of Haleakalā. Now we know that these species are not suitable for that purpose--they make it impossible for the many layers of

vegetation found in a native forest to exist. The native forest is a miracle of water collection, attracting and soaking up rain that filters down to fill aquifers or runs downhill in streams.

You can help control the spread of these invasive pine trees and take home greens with that Christmasy pine smell by participating in this annual event. Arrive anytime between 9 and noon at the pullout about 1/10 a mile before the park entry gate. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring rain gear and sun protection, water, gloves and a handsaw. (If you don't have your own saw, there will be some that you can borrow, along with gloves.) No power tools are allowed.



WE GET BY WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

The success of the Friends of Haleakalā National Park is due to the contributions of our many volunteers and donors. We are grateful for all of your help.

Several members of our community stand out for their consistent service to the organization, and I would like to honor them here. The direction of the organization is set by our board of directors that includes Mary Santa Maria (who serves as our treasurer), Martha Martin, Kiope Raymond (our vice president), Don Reeser, Elizabeth Speith, Mele Stokesberry (our secretary) and Shannon Wianecki.

Serving behind the scene is Eleanor Schultz, who processes donations and sends thanks and gifts. Terry Reim helps out with our website, and Gill Brooks helps host our website. Jill Engledow writes and edits our newsletter, and Maui Pack and Ship gives us great service in printing. Scott Jensen is a frequent service-trip participant and also represents the Friends behind the table at many public events.

We are also grateful for the help of rangers Polly Angelakis, who acts as liaison to the Friends, and Melissa Chimera, who has been the park's volunteer coordinator. Many thanks to service trip leaders Elizabeth Speith, Joani Morris, Keith Nakata and Christy



Staff and Friends volunteers work together to help the park.

Kozama. who lend their special skills to lead a back-country trip every month of the year. Finally, many thanks to you for taking time to read our message. I hope that you will continue to support the Friends of Haleakalā National Park in our mission to protect, promote and improve the park.

Matt Wordeman, President, FHNP

‘ĀHINAHINA GLEAMS IN ALL ITS GLORY FOR SUMMER 2014

It was a great summer for silverswords, with a total flowering count of 3,263. This is the third-highest count on record, after 6,632 in 1991 and 4,349 in 2004, according to University of Hawai‘i researcher Paul Krushelnycky. Here are a few photos from recent service trips. Top left, Elizabeth Speith inspects blooms along the trail; bottom left, Clare Sutton and other hikers stop to admire a group of silversword plants; at right, ‘āhinahina in full bloom.



CONTENTIOUS DEBATES CONTINUE THROUGH COURT SYSTEM

Two disputes continued as this edition went to press. One concerns the Haleakalā Trail and the other the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope, formerly known as the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope. Both have been subjects of ongoing lawsuits.

The Haleakalā Bridle Trail was used by early visitors to reach the summit. It runs through Haleakalā Ranch and went out of use after the Haleakalā Highway opened in 1935. Public Access Trails Hawaii filed a lawsuit in 2011 to force the ranch to open the historic trail to hikers. PATH presented evidence of the trail’s ownership by the State of Hawai‘i, which joined the lawsuit. In April 2014, a jury decided in favor of the plaintiffs in a class-action suit on behalf of all pedestrians in Hawai‘i. The ranch had already opened the trail to ranch-guided hikes. The next phase of the court challenge will determine how the trail will be managed in future. One more ranch-guided hike is planned for 2014. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Maui office of Nā Ala Hele at (808) 873-3508. To follow the progress of the court case, see <http://pathmaui.org>.

The Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope project is managed by the National Solar Observatory and involves a collaboration of scientists and engineers at more than 20 U.S. and international organizations, including the University of Hawai‘i. It would allow astrophysicists to study solar wind and flares and their impact on earth’s climate. But Kilakila O Haleakalā says that it mars an important cultural site, and other groups, including the Friends of Haleakalā National Park, have opposed the telescope’s construction on cultural and environmental grounds. Kilakila O Haleakalā challenged a 2010 Conservation District Use permit in court, but while that case continues, construction began in December 2012 under a CDU permit issued in 2012. Since then, three stories of the 14-story facility that will house the telescope have been built. To follow the case, see <http://www.kilakilahaleakala.org>. Photos chronicling the construction of the facility are at <http://dkist.nso.edu>.

“TRAIL GUARDIANS” PROTECT PEOPLE AND PARK

Continued from page 2

That advice is often enough to convince them that, with the altitude, the trail’s angle and those famous “sliding sands,” it’s actually four times harder going uphill in the crater than going down.

The volunteer program takes some stress off a park staff faced with large numbers of visitors. And, says Chief of Interpretation Polly Angelakis, “This pilot program will help build stronger relationships between the park and local residents, while also educating visitors on the unique resources and importance of Haleakalā. If successful, our goal is to offer one or two Kia’i Ala Hele training sessions each year, bringing in even more local residents to volunteer in the park and giving visitors more opportunities to learn about this amazing place.”

The next Kia’i Ala Hele training session is planned for early 2015 and will be advertised through the news media and the park’s website(www.nps.gov/hale/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm) and Facebook pages. Community members interested in being notified about these future trainings should email hale_interpretation@nps.gov.

HISTORY SHOWS WILDERNESS WISDOM NECESSARY FOR HIKERS’ SAFETY

Hikers unfamiliar with Haleakalā have been getting into trouble for a century or more. In the early 1900s, the mountain’s growing fame attracted more and more visitors. Some of them, choosing to venture onto the mountain without guides, learned the hard way that this was wilderness, often harsh and unforgiving. Without a road, rangers and marked trails, a hike up Haleakalā in unpredictable weather could be frightening, if not fatal.

“Lost in the crater of Haleakalā and in the dense jungle on the windward side of the mountain for four days, a party of Honolulu schoolteachers, three women and one man, finally made their way down into Keanae Valley at 8 o’clock last night,” *The Maui News* reported August 9, 1918. “They were so exhausted that they were unable to stand after falling in their tracks when human habitations were reached. . . . Fog in the crater caused them to lose their way on Monday, and they had finally followed a trail, which had led them into Keanae.”



These early adventurers came prepared to tackle the untracked wilderness of 19th-century Haleakalā, with a rifle for hunting goats. *Hawai’i State Archives photo*

The group had ignored warnings not to attempt such a trip without a guide or better equipment, the paper said. “They stated that they were familiar with mountain climbing, particularly from a tour they had made afoot through the Yosemite, and refused to be dissuaded or discouraged. . . They had no blankets, not expecting to have to sleep out.” From the trail that led them to Ke’anae Gap, they could see the ocean, and attempted to make the trip straight through the jungle, so dense that the trek “would have been considered absolutely impossible by anyone who knows that part of the island,” the paper reported.

The paper and its informants were disapproving of the frivolous attitude the young teachers took before and after their adventure, which ended when they collapsed in lower Ke’anae. After twelve hours of sleep, they rode horseback the 15 miles to Kailua, where they were met by an automobile for the return to Wailuku. The quartet made light of their ordeal, even as they left, “gaunt and lame,” for Honolulu.

The following year, another Honolulu group spent an uncomfortable night in the crater when a dense fog overtook them and they were unable to find their way out. Four of a group of ten young men, members of the Nu’uanu YMCA, managed to reach the rest house before night fell. They fired a

See History, page 9

ORANGE STRIPE IS A SIGNAL: THIS NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Is the trail at an end for your subscription to this newsletter? It might be, if you see a vertical orange strip on the address label attached to this issue. We must suspend subscriptions for those who haven't donated for a while, so if you enjoy keeping up with events on our favorite mountain, please consider making a donation. **If you prefer to help save the cost of printing and postage by receiving this newsletter electronically, please e-mail matt@fhnp.org and let us know.** (Donations still gratefully accepted—we'll use them to support native species in the park.)

Join us on Facebook for updates on service trips, talks and events, and to stay in touch with other "Friends." You'll find us at www.facebook.com/groups/113998833864/

And don't forget to check out our website, www.fhnp.org, for more in-depth information about our organization and the many ways we work to support Haleakalā National Park. Sign up for an FHNP account to receive timely e-mail messages from the Friends of Haleakalā National Park.

KUPUKUPU 'ĀINA PROGRAM WELCOMES SPRING-BREAK INTERNS

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 Kupukupu 'Āina Middle School Internship Program at Haleakalā National Park. This week-long internship is for Hawai'i's middle-school youth who are interested in the conservation of Hawai'i's environment. Interns will work alongside Haleakalā National Park staff in the fields of resources management, interpretation, visitor and resources protection and facilities management. The program also provides valuable job and college readiness training in order to help our local youth become better prepared for their future academic and career endeavors.

Kupukupu 'Āina will be held from March 16-20, 2015, the Hawai'i Department of Education's Spring Break. Applicants must be in grades 6-8 and currently enrolled in a Hawai'i middle school. Neighbor Island applicants are welcome to apply, but must provide their own accommodations on Maui and transportation to a pick-up site in Central Maui or Upcountry. For more information and an application packet with further instructions and eligibility requirements, please contact Serena Kaldi at 572-4425 or Serena_Kaldi@nps.gov. You may also visit the program's Facebook page at "Ku No Ka Pono O Haleakalā."



Interns search for birds in the Haleakalā wilderness.

Haleakalā National Park photo

HISTORY SHOWS WISDOM ABOUT WILDERNESS NECESSARY *Continued from page 8*

revolver and shouted in an attempt to guide the other wanderers, but the fog and echoes caused such confusion that the men still lost below the rim could not figure out which direction the sounds came from. The six lost men finally found their way to the rim and camped for the night. "Suffering severely from the cold, they attempted to light a fire, but fuel was lacking and what they could find was so damp that it would not burn, notwithstanding that they burned all their cameras, films and notebooks in an effort to ignite it," *The Maui News* reported.

Today, the mountain is a safer place, with a paved road that allows easy access to the summit, with maps, trails, and directional signs to guide hikers, and rangers and Trail Guardians offering advice. Nonetheless, many modern hikers can tell stories of losing their way in the fog or finding themselves hobbling with blistered feet. Nearly a century after a group of overly confident young teachers nearly lost their lives, hikers would do well to prepare carefully and stay on the trails as they hike through the wilderness of Haleakalā.

This story is excerpted from *Haleakalā: A History of the Maui Mountain* by Jill Engledow.

Friends of Haleakala National Park
P.O. Box 322
Makawao, HI 96768

SILVERSWORD PLANTS MARK A RECORD YEAR FOR BLOOMS
PHOTO BY MATT WORDEMAN

