



# Friends of Haleakalā National Park

FALL 2015

P.O. Box 322 ☀ Makawao, HI ☀ 96768 ☀ [www.fhnp.org](http://www.fhnp.org)



Our annual Christmas tree cutting project helps control invasive pines and offers families an outdoor adventure—plus some Christmas greenery! *Matt Wordeman photo*

## IT'S ONLY NATURAL—KIDS OUTSIDE

**K**ids belong in nature. Think about your own childhood. Probably some of your best memories are of times spent exploring the woods, splashing at the beach, hiking in the desert, playing in the snow. According to the Children and Nature Network, researchers are finding more and more evidence that exposure to nature is critical to children's development—intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual and physical.

Research shows that positive direct exposure to nature is a significant factor in helping a child grow into an adult who will take action to protect the environment. Youngsters who spend time enjoying the great outdoors have less stress and more peace, better grades and greater self-esteem.

Chances are we're preaching to the choir here. If you're a Friend of Haleakalā National Park, you probably already make sure that the kids in your life are exposed to the natural world. But it's good to know that the park, the park service and even the White House are reaching out to ensure that all children have an opportunity to enjoy nature. And in a world where more than half of the population lives in urban settings, it will take an intentional effort to see that all kids get to do what, in simpler times, used to come naturally.

## "EVERY KID IN A PARK" PROGRAM LAUNCHED ACROSS NATION

**I**f you have a fourth grader in your family, you're in luck. By playing a game online, your fourth grader can earn a pass that will allow your family free entry to any national park, including our own Haleakalā National Park. And if your children haven't yet reached fourth grade, just wait—the National Park Service and its partners will extend the invitation to fourth graders in future, so all kids can have a free visit to as many parks as they can reach.

The White House's new Every Kid in a Park program began September 1, 2015. It allows fourth grade students who go to

## NEW JUNIOR RANGER BOOKLET IS A TREAT FOR ADULTS AS WELL AS KIDS

**T**he new Haleakalā National Park Junior Ranger Activity Booklet is so cool it will make you want to be a kid again. But then, it turns out adults can be Junior Rangers as well—play the "Flight of the Nēnē" board game, write a poem about the view from the crater rim, ponder a "dream job" in the National Park Service or learn something new about native



snails in Kīpahulu. Anyone can earn a badge, or just enjoy browsing through this charming booklet. The 28-page booklet is available at the park or online at <http://www.nps.gov/hale/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm>. It's a color-

*See Every, page 3*

*See New, page 6*

## HEADQUARTERS VISITOR CENTER CLOSED FOR TWO MONTHS DURING MUCH-NEEDED “EXTREME MAKEOVER”



Workers remove roofing during renovations of the Headquarters Visitor Center a mile above the park entrance. Roof replacement and other repairs will close the headquarters building until late November.  
*Haleakalā National Park photo*

If you’ve ever walked into the Haleakalā National Park Headquarters Visitor Center on a rainy day, you probably noticed that the entry door was placed just right for catching the rain, so that rugs were required to prevent visitors from slipping. Inside, looking up, you might have observed a long crack in a ceiling beam, the kind of thing that could cause trouble in the event of an earthquake.

The park is addressing those problems, as well as replacing the roof, in what its Facebook page joked is an “Extreme Makeover,” a two-month project that began September 20, 2015. The roof replacement, seismic and structural repairs and entrance renovations mean the building will be closed until late November. The closure includes the visitor center, restrooms, car parking lot and bus parking. In preparation for the makeover, the building’s contents were covered in plastic or placed in storage by staff from the park and the Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association (HPPA), the nonprofit park partner that runs its gift shops and assists in other ways.

While Headquarters, a mile above the park entrance, is closed, Haleakalā Visitor Center, at 9,741 feet of elevation, is the only place where overnight backcountry camping and cabin permits will be issued. Backcountry users are strongly encouraged to obtain their permits a day in advance. Haleakalā Visitor Center is 11 miles past the Summit entrance station and is open from sunrise to 3 p.m. each day.

A temporary visitor center, funded by HPPA, is located near the Haleakalā Visitor Center to provide general information and a sales outlet for HPPA. Restrooms located at the Hosmer Grove campground and near the Haleakalā Visitor Center remain available to the public.

The Headquarters Visitor Center roof, seismic and structural work are estimated to cost \$238,741. The renovation of the building’s entrance is estimated to cost \$54,170. Both projects are funded by park entrance fees.



Inclement weather led to slippery floors in an entrance way oriented to catch the rain.  
*Haleakalā National Park photo*

## “EVERY KID IN A PARK” OPENS PARKS NATIONWIDE *Continued from page 1*

[www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) to complete an activity and obtain a free annual entry pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks. The pass admits the fourth grader and any accompanying passengers in a private, noncommercial vehicle. For travelers who enter sites with per-person fees, the pass admits the fourth grader and up to three accompanying adults.

The site also allows educators to obtain passes for all the fourth graders in their class.

“We hope the free passes will introduce fourth graders, their classes and families to the national treasures found at Haleakalā, especially as we celebrate the Centennials of both this national park and the National Park Service.” said park superintendent Natalie Gates.

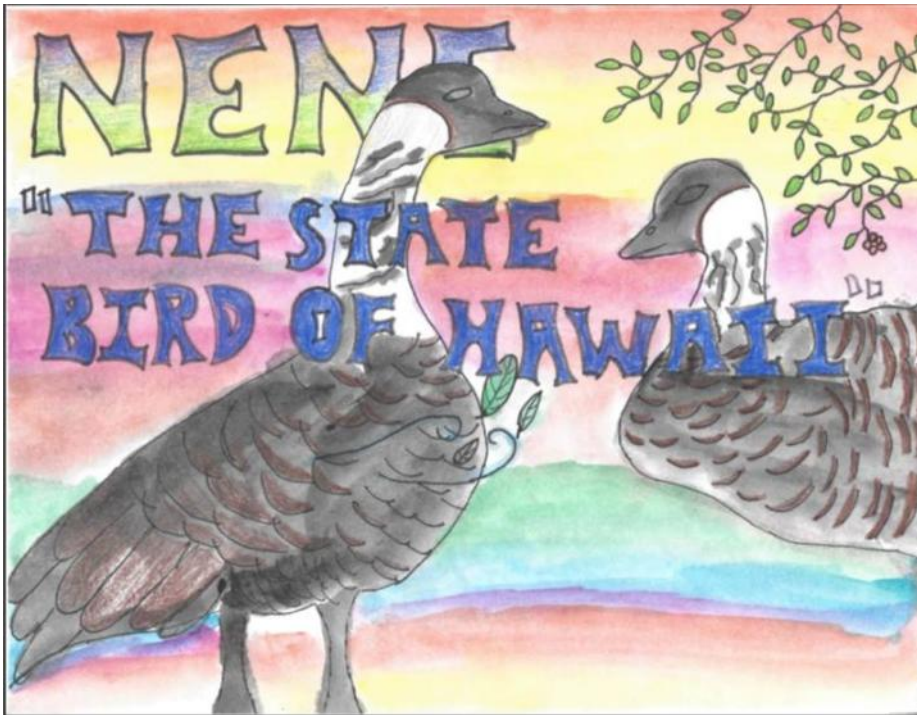
Haleakalā National Park offers a variety of activities that fourth graders and their families can enjoy, including a new Junior Ranger Activity Guide, guided hikes, cultural demonstrations and talks.

To receive their free pass, fourth graders complete an activity on the Every Kid in a Park website. Fourth graders and their families can then use this pass for free entry to national parks and other federal public lands and waters through August 31, 2016. The website also includes fun learning activities, trip planning tools, safety and packing tips, and other important and helpful information for educators and parents.

The goal of Every Kid in a Park is to connect fourth graders with the great outdoors and inspire them to become future environmental stewards, ready to preserve and protect national parks and other public lands for years to come. Fourth grade is the focus of this initiative as it is the year most school districts study local and state history. The program is an important part of the National Park Service’s Centennial celebration in 2016, which encourages everyone to Find Your Park.

In addition to this new fourth-grade pass, Haleakalā National Park offers a variety of recently revised curriculum-based activities, lesson plans and educational fee waivers for other grades and educational groups. For more information, please visit the park’s Education webpage at <http://www.nps.gov/hale/learn/index.htm>.

Every Kid in a Park, launched by President Obama, is supported by eight federal agencies, including the National Park Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Education, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



### NĒNĒ AWARENESS LOGO WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The park’s Nēnē Awareness Day Logo contest encourages Youngsters to focus on nature through their art. Student artists from Maui Waena Intermediate School participated in the recent Nēnē Awareness Day Logo contest. Rysher Belen placed first with his “Nene The State Bird of Hawaii” (left) while Kirk Seitz won second place with his artwork, “Malama Aina Kokua Nene,” and Maya Hickman won third place for “Pick Up Your Litter.”

## HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TRIPS FOR 2016

If you love Haleakalā, consider joining one of our service trips in 2016, as shown in the schedule below. Volunteers enjoy the beauty of the crater and the comfort of the cabins while doing important work to maintain the park.

Service trip participants will backpack into the crater to a cabin or campsite and back. Depending upon the trip, the group will perform tasks ranging from cabin maintenance to native planting to invasive species removal. Staff permitting, an interpretive park ranger will be along on the first day of Service/Learning trips.

For all overnight trips in the crater, participants need to bring first day's water, sun and rain protection, work gloves, comfortable boots or walking shoes, sleeping bag, extra socks, breakfasts, lunches, dinner food contributions as coordinated by the leader, personal supplies, a flashlight and warm clothing. There is no charge for volunteers for these trips, which include a two-night stay in a backcountry cabin equipped with bunks, firewood, dishes and cooking utensils.

We hike out Kaupō Gap on some Palikū trips, but will restrict these to more experienced backpackers. Before signing up for a service trip, please go to the FHNP website at [www.fhnp.org](http://www.fhnp.org), create an account, then log into the account to learn more and certify your readiness for a service trip. As of press time, trip leaders have not been assigned, but you can learn more by checking the website for updates or email [matt@fhnp.org](mailto:matt@fhnp.org) for information or to sign up.



Service trip volunteers admire the view while hiking the Halemau'u Trail. *Matt Wordeman photo*

We continue our annual tradition of cutting invasive pines from the slopes of Pu'unianiau, Dec. 12, 2015, 9 a.m. to noon. See page 6 for details.

Here's the service trip schedule for 2016. It is subject to change. The last date of each trip is the return date.

Date	Location	Leader
Jan. 16-18	Palikū	TBD
Feb. 13-15	Hōlua	TBD
March 19-21	Kapalaoa (1)	TBD
April 16-18	Hōlua	TBD
May 21-23	Palikū	TBD
June 11-13	Kapalaoa	TBD
July 2-4	Palikū (2)	TBD
Aug. 6-8	Hōlua (1)	TBD
Sept. 3-5	Palikū (2)	TBD
Oct. 8-10	Kapalaoa	TBD
Nov. 11-13	Hōlua	TBD
Dec. 3-5	Kapalaoa	TBD

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

## KEEP IN TOUCH: ORANGE STRIPE MEANS NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR HELP

A vertical orange strip on the address label attached to this issue means your subscription to this newsletter may be ending. 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 email [matt@fhnp.org](mailto:matt@fhnp.org) and let us know.** (Donations still gratefully accepted—we 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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/113998833864/)

And don't forget to check out our website, [www.fhnp.org](http://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.

# 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](http://www.fhnp.org)*

## CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING IS WIN-WIN HOLIDAY OUTING



A determined young man hauls his Christmas tree down the hill after a day of removing invasive pines. *Matt Wordeman photo*

Time to fill your home with fresh Christmas greens and the scent of pine, while helping preserve native species on Haleakalā. It's a great family activity, one that could become your Christmas tradition!

Our annual Pu'unianiau alien-pine pull is set for December 12 from 9 a.m. to noon. The annual event helps control the spread of these alien pines by cutting or pulling trees on Pu'unianiau. Just outside the park entrance, this is actually Haleakalā Ranch property, but these invasive pines spread easily and could cross the park boundary.

These introduced pines are destructive to native forests and species, blocking light and water needed to create the many layers of native plants that make up a native forest. This kills native species and interferes with the collection of rainwater that soaks through the layers and into the aquifer, thus providing water to plants, animals and people downhill.

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

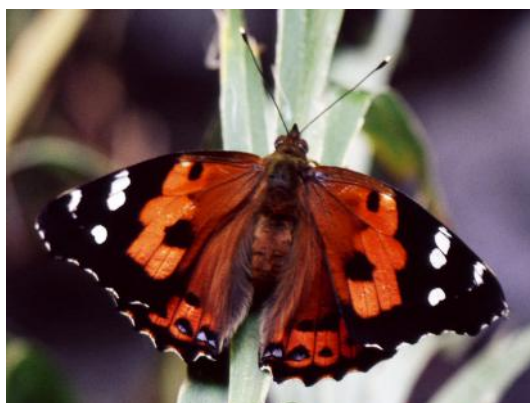
pullout about a quarter mile before the park entry gate. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring rain gear and sun protection, water, gloves and a handsaw. (If you don't have your own saw, there will be some that you can borrow, along with gloves.) No power tools are allowed. If you plan to bring a group, such as a scout troop or class, please contact [matt@fhnp.org](mailto:matt@fhnp.org) ahead of time.

## NEW JUNIOR RANGER BOOKLET A TREAT FOR ALL *Continued from page 1*

ful way to introduce children to wilderness, caring for the land and appreciating nature, as well as the science behind the beauty of the park and the native culture so important to Hawai'i. People who complete the required number of activities receive a certificate and a badge proclaiming them Junior Rangers.

The activity booklet was put together by a veteran Junior Ranger, Eliot Carter, his mom, Lisa, and park education specialist Katelyn Thomson. Thomson applied for the 2014 superintendent's grant and received \$5,000 to produce the booklet. Eliot, who has completed the requirements to become a Haleakalā Junior Ranger 13 times and earned Junior Ranger badges in seven national parks, helped revise the old Haleakalā booklet as part of a home-school project.

Now anyone, child or adult, can work on Haleakalā Junior Ranger status with the activities in the new booklet, each with one to three badges that indicate the activity's difficulty. Children aged 5 and



under can become Junior Rangers with two or more badge points; those 13 and older need 10 or more badge points. Many of activities include family participation, whether on a hike through the wilderness or in checking off points on a "Climate Friendly Family" checklist. And anyone, of any age, can benefit from reminders of wilderness protocol (always brush the weed seeds and dirt off your shoes before hiking) or enjoy whimsical suggestions such as: "Dance like a Kamehameha butterfly fluttering in the wind!"

*Junior Ranger drawing by Pacific Ricke  
Kamehameha butterfly photo by Hank L. Oppenheimer*

## NEW LOGO KICKS OFF PARK'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Haleakalā National Park has introduced its Centennial logo, designed to help the park celebrate its one-hundredth birthday in 2016 as part of the National Park Service. The logo celebrates this history and also honors the generations of people who have cared for Haleakalā. Here is what the logo means:

The *ti* leaf is a symbol of protection. The *ti* leaf *lei* here represents countless generations who have cared for Haleakalā. In 1916, the National Park Service joined in the stewardship of this land, which provides homes for species found nowhere else on earth and supports Native Hawaiian stories, sites and traditions that link the present to the past and future.

Watch future issues for more on the park's history and the Centennial celebration.



## TINY BAT IS RARE, ENDANGERED HAWAIIAN MAMMAL

By Shannon Wianecki

When the Polynesians first made landfall in Hawai‘i, their closest relative here was a bat. Tiny, acrobatic, and covered in resplendent fur, the Hawaiian hoary bat is the only land mammal native to these Islands. Its ancestor, the North American hoary bat, was likely blown here by a storm several thousand years ago. Over many generations, its descendants evolved into a novel species. The Hawaiian bat is smaller than its mainland relative—and far more rare. It’s listed as a federally endangered species. The Hawaiians called the night flier ‘*ōpe‘ape‘a*, a poetic name that compares the animal’s radial-spoke wing to the wind-filled sails of a canoe and the jagged bottom half of taro leaves shorn for cooking.

The solitary bat roosts in trees and uses echolocation to snatch moths, beetles, termites and other night-flying insects in mid-air. From May to July, females give birth to twins. A mother carries her thumb-sized pups on nightly forages until the youngsters are strong enough to hang onto the roosting site. Then she teaches them to hunt. An adult ‘*ōpe‘ape‘a* has a foot-wide wingspan, weighs about as much as a mouse, and can zigzag between shadowed tree trunks or zip over the twilight ocean at 60 miles an hour.

‘*Ōpe‘ape‘a* are found from the sea to the summit. They escape winter’s wet weather by migrating up the mountain slopes—possibly following the lead of the Hawaiian *koa* moth, a favorite snack. Scientists speculate that cool, high-elevation temperatures allow the bats to rest at a lower metabolism. During the warmer months, they tend to forage closer to shore, which makes summer the best time to spot ‘*ōpe‘ape‘a*. Just after sunset, when the trees are silhouettes against the still-blue horizon, look for a wee shape swirling and somersaulting in the sky.



An ‘*ōpe‘ape‘a*, or Hawaiian hoary bat, clings to a tree. The only land mammal native to Hawai‘i is rarely seen.

*Haleakala National Park photo*

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ʻŌliahi flower (Haleakalā sandalwood, *Santalum haleakalae*)

Matt Wordeman photo

