



Friends of Haleakalā National Park

SPRING 2020

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

PARK BEGINS REOPENING

Haleakalā National Park began a phased opening May 27, after having closed March 21 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Visitor centers will remain closed (the restrooms will be open), there will be no access to the Kīpahulu District, the crater or any backcountry area, and sunrise and sunset viewing is out for the time being.

Haleakalā lovers most likely to benefit from access to a limited area of the park are those who live on Maui, with few visitors now on Maui due to generally restricted travel and the state's required 14-day quarantine for anyone entering Hawai'i.

Beginning May 27, the following areas in Haleakalā National Park are accessible to the public (now daily), from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.:

- ◇ The Summit District of Haleakalā National Park from the park entrance to the summit at 10,023 ft. elevation. Park entrance fees continue to be temporarily waived.
 - ◇ Headquarters Visitor Center public restrooms at 7,000 feet (the visitor center building remains closed)
 - ◇ Haleakalā Visitor Center public restrooms at 9,740 feet (the visitor center building remains closed)
 - ◇ Hosmer Grove Trail
 - ◇ Supply Trail from Hosmer Grove to Halemau'u Trail junction (Halemau'u trail remains closed)
 - ◇ Leleiwi Overlook Trail
 - ◇ Pā Ka'oa (White Hill) Trail
- Commercial and special use permits continue to be suspended.

A news release from the park said that the National Park Service (NPS) is following guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local public health authorities as it begins to increase recreational access and services. The NPS is working service-wide with federal, state and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and is using a phased approach to increase access on a park-by-park basis.



Leleiwi Overlook

Haleakala NPS photo

Visitors should prepare for a self-guided experience in the park by visiting the park website at www.nps.gov/hale. The NPS recommends departing the open areas within the Summit District no later than 3:30 pm to allow adequate drive time to the park entrances before gates close promptly at 5 p.m. Visitors exploring the areas open in the Summit District should plan to be self-sufficient; it is recommended to bring a face mask, hand sanitizer, warm layers of clothing for changing weather conditions, and enough food and water for the duration of a visit to the park.

While areas are accessible for the public to enjoy, a return to full operations will continue to be phased and services may be limited. Park users should follow local health orders from the [Governor of Hawai'i](#) and [Maui County](#), practice [Leave No Trace principles](#), avoid crowding and avoid high-risk outdoor activities.

Haleakalā National Park's operational approach continues to be centered on examining each facility and service to ensure those operations comply with current public health guidance. The park continues to work closely with the NPS Office of Public Health using CDC guidance to ensure public areas and workspaces are safe and clean for visitors, employees, partners and volunteers.

For additional details about Haleakalā National Park operations, visit www.nps.gov/hale. Updates about NPS operations will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus.

Also see Planning, page 8

FHNP AWARDS FIRST SCHOLARSHIPS FROM MEMORIAL FUND

The Friends of Haleakalā National Park has awarded the inaugural Don Reeser and Mary Evanson Memorial Scholarship grants to Brissa Kamakaniokakai Christophersen and Lilia Wietecha-Davis. The scholarship honors the life work of both Don Reeser, Superintendent of Haleakalā National Park from 1988 to 2005, and Mary Evanson, co-founder of the nonprofit Friends of Haleakalā National Park which supports the park's mission to preserve and protect Haleakalā's unique ecosystems, scenic character and associated Native Hawaiian culture. The scholarship benefits two students who are, or will be, in college or university, studying in a field related to the biology, ecology and/or conservation of Haleakalā National Park's ecosystem. Here are excerpts from our awardees' essays. We think you'll agree that Don and Mary would be pleased with these winners.

Brissa Kamakaniokakai Christophersen

Brissa Kamakaniokakai Christophersen is a fifth-year Wildlife (Conservation and Management) and Fine Arts double major at Humboldt State University.

My passion for wildlife conservation started with Pōhai Maile, a high school internship founded by Haleakalā National Park to educate Maui youth about career pathways in natural resources. I have been in and out of conservation internships since 2016. I have participated in the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps and the 'Imi I ka Lama program at Haleakalā National Park through the nonprofit organization Kupu, and a summer with the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project through the Maui-based Nā Hua Ho'ohuli i Ka Pono program.

Most recently, I was able to intern with San Diego Zoo Global through the Kāpili 'Oihana internship and was lucky enough to work with endangered endemic Hawaiian passerines like the 'Alalā and the Kiwikiu on both Maui and Hawai'i Island.

Growing up, I was indirectly taught about conservation by throwing back adolescent fish when I went fishing with my family, by gathering only the 'opihī that you were going to eat, and by not stocking up your freezer with *limu* to allow the populations to replenish themselves.

It was through this holistic perspective that I see nature as a resource that humans should form a mutual relationship with and a type of *kuleana* with. A kind of mutual relationship that is not to take, take, take—but to give back to the 'āina, and to treat it with respect.



Before participating in Pōhai Maile, I would go up to Haleakalā to camp at Hosmer's Grove or to chant up the sun with my family and see the sunrise. As a high school junior participating in Pōhai Maile, my eyes were opened to more of what the park had to offer, as well as other conservation/natural resource type organizations.

I can definitely credit Haleakalā National Park for being my source of inspiration in wanting to pursue wildlife conservation, and for ultimately bringing my teachings with me when I return home.

This spring semester I am fulfilling my capstone Honors Thesis project analyzing spatial arrangements of Nēnē nests in the Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge and the Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge of the 2015 breeding season.

See Two, page 7

Lilia Wietecha-Davis

Lilia Wietecha-Davis of Haiku, Maui, graduated from Kamehameha Schools Maui in May. She writes in the first part of her essay about going into the crater with her grandpa, camping at Hosmer's with her family, then hiking with her school, and in 6th grade participating in the Kupukupu internship program at Haleakalā National Park. She was a Pōhai Maile intern in high school.

All my time spent in nature really pushed me to join the Science and Natural Resource Academy at Kamehameha Schools. For my senior project, I decided that I would work on native Hawaiian plants.

After reaching out to the Native Plant Society of Maui, I got involved with countless hours of community-service work at the native plant garden of the grade school I had attended, Ha'ikū Elementary. I created a native plant activity book for the students of Ha'ikū School and presented it to the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade classes. I also made QR-code plant signs so that students had an easy time identifying plants. Ha'ikū School is looking to use my content in the future. I also benefited from this project, as I still work closely in the garden with my mentors Becky Lau and Chris Nakahashi.

I got accepted into the Pōhai Maile internship and felt so happy having another opportunity to be behind the scenes at Haleakalā. This three-week internship opened my eyes to the future that I could possibly have at the park. I got to work with departments in the park, but also with different agencies around Maui and on Haleakalā mountain.

This internship solidified that this is the future that I want. I had fun working/camping in Kīpahulu and taking bird surveys in Haleakalā. I enjoyed the aspect that we got to work from mauka to makai—for example, taking 'opihi surveys or taking care of forest groves. My favorite part was learning about native Hawaiian plants, especially with the Nature Conservancy in the Waikamoi hike. We got to collect the maile vine, and it was really significant, as the program was called Pōhai Maile.

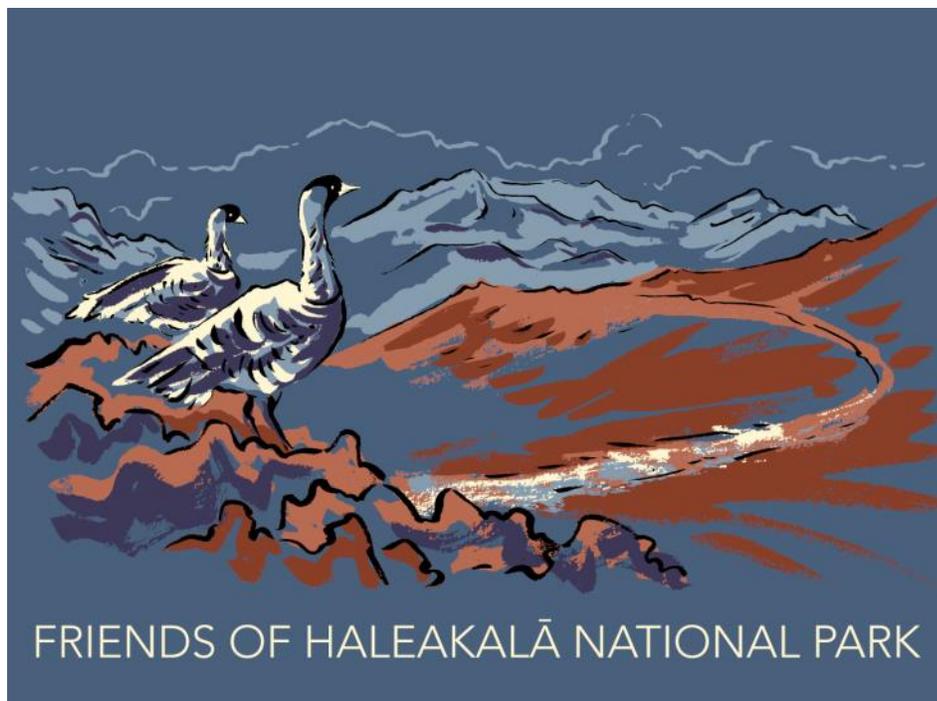


An important part about this internship was the opportunity to connect to my Hawaiian culture. I felt my native identity grow stronger as I hiked the trails that my ancestors did. It also felt so cool to view archeological sites that my ancestors had built. I felt lucky to be on the highest part of Maui, a place that used to be so remote for the ancient Hawaiians.

Many people, places and memories have inspired me to pursue my dream to get a degree in environmental science so that I can benefit the Hawaiian conservation community. I have tried my best to be prepared for college by taking six science classes in high school. I plan on completing more internships with Haleakalā National Park and other local conservation organizations so that I can bring the best experience to the table. I feel that the connections that I've made and hands-on experiences will also help to make a difference.

My end goal is to eventually work at Haleakalā National Park under the resource management department so that I can give back to the ecosystem and continue to create great memories for people. I am excited for my future and so thankful that my home, Haleakalā, has been such a big part of it.

COMING SOON TO A WEBSITE NEAR YOU: OUR NEW T-SHIRT



Friends board member Maggie Sutrov has created this beautiful design for our new T-shirts, which will be available soon on our website. You'll be able to choose from a selection of styles and colors. Proceeds, of course, go into the funds we use to benefit the park and its mission. The T-shirts are almost ready, so keep checking our website, and show your love for Haleakalā National Park.

FRIENDS' 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARK OUTLINED

Memorial donations to honor Don Reeser and Mary Evanson brought in around \$7,000 more than normal to the Friends of Haleakalā National Park coffers last year, outgoing Treasurer Andy Fox reported at the Friends' annual meeting Feb. 18 at the Hannibal Tavares Community Center in Pukalani. Of the total \$14,293, \$2,143 was specifically for the Adopt-a-Nēnē program, and \$2,000 will go for the Don Reeser and Mary Evanson Memorial Scholarship. FHNP donated \$5,000 to the park's endangered species program.

In addition to cash donations, the Friends contributed to the park with 10 backcountry backpacking cabin-based trips in the crater and two front-country car camping trips in Kīpahulu.

Activities were based on park needs and typically included invasive species removal, cabin and trail maintenance, greenhouse and native plant seed collection, cultural site restoration and endangered species reporting. The last service trip before the annual meeting was Feb. 9-11,

which went to Palikū for the first night and Kapalaoa the second during winter storm conditions and a power outage at the summit. The trip went well despite the weather. The service trip volunteers cleaned Palikū and Kapalaoa cabins and extracted bull thistle at Hōlua campground.

Volunteers also worked at the park plant nursery on the first Tuesday of each month, celebrating the first-year anniversary of this project Feb. 4 with a potluck at the end of the 9 a.m.-to-noon work session.

Board members up for reelection were Matt Wordeman, Mele Stokesberry, TanoTaitano and Andy Fox. Eric Andersen was nominated from the membership. The full slate was elected by unanimous approval. Officers for the coming year were elected at the March 2 board meeting. They are President Matt Wordeman, Vice-president Mary Santa Maria, Treasurer Laura Miller and Secretary Mele Stokesberry. Andy Fox will continue to head up the service trip program, with Eric Andersen assisting.

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.
- ◆ ALI NUI Supporters receive an exclusive matted *nēnē* photo, a special certificate for display and all gifts given to Regular supporters.



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

ALI'I DONORS 2019

Mahalo to these friends who donated at least \$100 in 2019. Your support of both the Adopt-a-Nēnē program and the Friends of Haleakalā National Park general fund is greatly appreciated.



Amanda Amundsen
Kensington, MD

Daniel Anderson
Kailua, HI

Sarah Anderson
Riverton, UT

John Toshio Araki
Wailuku, HI

Peter Baldwin Trust
Makawao, HI

James M. Beck
Philadelphia, PA

Bruno Belval
Issy les Moulineaux

Sheri Buller
Arbor Vitae, WI

Joachim Cox
Honolulu, HI

R. Dougal Crowe
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Robert Demsker
Pepper Pike, OH

Dennis & Priscilla Dickert
Kenmore, WA

Larry Feinberg
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Grace Fleshman
Palo Alto, CA

Beverley & Donald W. Griffiths/
Reeser
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J.P. & A.P. Harris
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Sophia Haskins
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Carly Heims
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Nina Kuna
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Kula, HI

Tod Luethans
St Louis, MO

Janice Miller
Colorado Springs, CO

James Moriyasu
Kula, HI

Jay & Marsha Nunes
Norwood, MA

Jennifer & Merelyn Clark Oakes
Arlington, VA

Pam & Mike Corson Ogasawara
Frederick, MD

Benton Pang
Honolulu, HI

James Peterson
Bessemer, MI

Diane Price
Albany, OR

Stanley Herbert Raymond
Kula, HI

Cheryl Reeser
Makawao, HI

Donald Reeser
Makawao, HI

Kim Sikoryak
Golden, CO

Mary Spadaro
Honolulu, HI

Jennifer Steinback
Oakland, CA

Christopher Trotta
Somerset, NJ

Tim Williams
Pukalani, HI

Alfred Wollenweider
Pukalani, HI

YourCause(Pfizer Foundation)

Schwab Charitable Grant

BOARD MEMBER STARTED EARLY AT HALEAKALĀ

Eric Andersen is newly elected to the Friends board, but he has a long history with Haleakalā National Park.

Aloha friends, my journey began when I was a youngster on my father's shoulders visiting Haleakalā National Park on a chilly morning. My family and I returned many times over a span of over 50 years, first as visitors, then as volunteers, and, for me, it is where my National Park Service rangering career began. In 1985 I began working on the feral animal control crew as a fence builder, then 10 years later moved into the interpretive/ education program where I could share my love and stewardship with a curious public.

Eventually I moved on to other national parks, always nurturing my ties to Haleakalā. In 2019 I formally retired from the NPS, and returned to my wahi pana; my storied place of Haleakalā.

I often looked upon the span of my career and reminisced of my early years at Haleakalā as a volunteer, so that is where I have returned to begin again. In search of my fountain of . . . dreams. It is a natural step on my journey to now be amongst friends in the Friends of Haleakalā National Park.

'O wau iho nō me ke Aloha, Eric



COURT REQUIRES RULES FOR AIR TOURS OVER PARKS

Considered one of the quietest places on earth, Haleakalā National Park has worked to control the problem of noisy overflights with a voluntary agreement between air-tour operators and the park, while legislation to control the tours languished without the official regulation the law required. Still, Haleakalā is ranked No. 4 as the park most impacted by air tours, a situation that should change with a court's order that the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service adopt limits on noisy air tours. The ruling resulted from a lawsuit filed by two non-profits, the Hawai'i Island Coalition Malama Pono and the Public Employees for Environmental

Responsibility, claiming that the FAA and the park service had failed to implement plans under the Air Tour Management Plan Act of 2000. In May, the U. S. Court of Appeals for Washington, D.C., ordered the two agencies to produce a schedule for bringing 23 national parks into compliance with the act, which requires vendors who wish to conduct commercial air tours over certain national parks and tribal lands to first obtain a permit from the FAA. Both agencies and the parks covered by the lawsuit have two years to implement and complete their plans to comply with the order.

TWO MAUI STUDENTS WIN FIRST REESER/EVANSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from page 2

Through my coursework at Humboldt State University and past experiences, I have grown to have a passion for conservation and plan to come back to Hawai'i to launch a career in endangered wildlife conservation. In the Fall of 2021, I plan to attend graduate school at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa pursuing the Natural Resource and Environment Management (NREM) Master's program.

After graduate school, I aspire to work for San Diego Zoo Global or Haleakalā National Park as a lead wildlife biologist or a related role. In my art career I aspire to be prolific in making works that reflect my passion for conservation while having a presence in the local art scene in Hawai'i. My dream is to be able to sustain myself in doing things that give me happiness: creating art, pursuing endangered species conservation work and making a difference in my community. All in all, I would like to thank the Friends of Haleakalā National Park for offering the Don Reeser and Mary Evanson Memorial scholarship in honor of their involvement with the park.

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR GRADUAL RETURN TO PARK

The mules that haul supplies into the crater and the plant nurseries where seeds and cuttings grow into otherwise-endangered plants have been taken care of, and rangers have been keeping an eye out for unauthorized activity, but Haleakalā National Park has been left to flourish on its own for the past few months. Now the park is finally coming out of the same sort of shutdown other parks and most of the country have experienced during the pandemic.

The park continues to follow the guidance of federal, state and county officials, volunteer coordinator Kawailehua Domingo told the Friends board at recent online meetings. While things have been shut down, park staff have been brainstorming ideas about how park operations should look after reopening. Openings now in place were carefully chosen to ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers, partners and visitors.

“We’re learning as we go,” Domingo said. For example, enclosed spaces, like park headquarters and the visitor center near the summit, are closed to visitors, and staff are trying to figure out how they themselves can safely use the buildings while maintaining recommended social distancing. Most employees continue to work from home. The backcountry remains closed at this time due to limited emergency response from both NPS and Maui County responders. These closures are in support of State and County emergency restrictions to decrease potential spread of Covid-19 on the island of Maui, protect visitors and prevent visitors from entering backcountry areas where emergency services are not currently available. If you’re looking for a longer hike than the trails at Hosmer’s, Pā Ka’oao or Lelewi Overlook, each less than a mile round-trip, try the Supply Trail, 4.6 miles round-trip. It runs from Hosmer’s Grove to the junction with the Halemau’u Trail (which is closed).



Kīpahulu greenhouse plants flourish in this photo from an August 2019 service trip. Park staff have been keeping up with weeds and the greenhouse during the shutdown.



Weeds like those in this 2018 photo will still need pulling when our service trips make it back into the crater.

Matt Wordeman photo

Friends board members and service-trip leaders also are trying to figure out how service trips might be undertaken while there is still danger of Covid-19 infection. One possibility: Individual tent camping with volunteers bringing their own meals rather than sharing food in the cabin. Volunteers would drive their own cars, rather than the customary carpooling.

Like just about everything else in the human world, however, service trips are on hold for the foreseeable future. In the hope that things open up next year, our board is presenting the park with possible schedules for service trips.

Matt Wordeman photo