HALEAKALĀ NP WINS REGIONAL AWARDS FOR TWO PROJECTS

Haleakalā National Park topped two of three categories at the regional level for the National Park Service “Achieving Relevance Awards” and will now compete nationally with the other NPS regions.

The two categories are “Achieving Relevance in Education” and the “Achieving Relevance Interpretive Team” award.

In the education award, Natural Resource Program Manager Woody Mallinson and rare-plant Nursery Manager Michele Osgood coordinated a service-learning program where Maui students planted the threatened silversword and learned about research done to mitigate threats and save a species from extinction.

For the interpretive team award, park archaeologist Rachel Hodara and Chief of Interpretation Polly Angelakis worked with park staff and local Native Hawaiian community members to develop, design and install wayside plaques in the Kīpahulu District interpreting traditional Hawaiian lifeways, endemic species of the biological reserve and the difficult history of the Māhele.

The two worked with local Native Hawaiian community members late last year to develop, design and install 10 wayside plaques regarding the impacts to Native Hawaiians caused by the Māhele or “division,” a controversial law of the mid-1800s that was supposed to secure land titles for Native Hawaiians.

Due to a confusing application process and narrow criteria, however, the law instead led to most land being bought by non-Native Hawaiian individuals and businesses. These businesses cleared away huge tracts of na-

FRIENDS OF HNP WILL BECOME MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION

The Friends of Haleakalā National Park will become a membership organization, beginning in December, with the primary goal of engaging more participants.

This means that individuals who join the group as members will have a greater say in protection of the park and influencing the issues the Friends focus on, as well as voting rights at annual meetings, subscription to the biannual newsletter, invitations to events and volunteer days, and the opportunity to become part of a legacy.

We hope establishing a membership will grow our organization. Our small board has been tackling big projects. We think we’ve done a commendable job, but we need more hands to volunteer for events, help with administrative tasks and eventually take on leadership positions. The Friends also stands to benefit from representing more peoples’ voices when we lobby for things we feel will improve the park. If we have hundreds of members (or even dozens), we will be a more influential voice. We believe community members are likely to feel an increased sense of stewardship of the park as official members of the Friends.

Details are still being determined, but here are some basics. Memberships will run from January to December, at a cost of $25 a year. Payments will be processed via PayPal or a similar service. Membership will be tax deductible. The annual voting meeting will take place each December. Nēnē adoption and other donations are separate from membership. Stay tuned as we continue our venture into a new kind of organization!
“UNCLE REX” ORNELLAS HAD LIFELONG LOVE FOR HALEAKALĀ

Born on the Fourth of July in 1916, the same year both Haleakalā National Park and the National Park Service were founded, Alvin “Rex” Ornellas’s long life ended Dec. 19, 2017. He was the last survivor of the Haleaka “CCC boys,” young men who worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps in the days of the Great Depression. Haleakalā had provided him a job and an entry into the adult world, and it afforded him great pleasure in the final years of his life as he became the beloved “Uncle Rex” who inspired younger generations to protect and maintain the mountain.

At 101 years old, Rex was ready to go. “Tell everybody don’t cry for me,” he told his son Rod, who offered a eulogy at his father’s funeral at St. Anthony Catholic Church Jan. 5, 2018. “I’m going home to see my wife and my two kids [who predeceased him], and I have an appointment with God.”

But Rex was still going strong until that 101st birthday, having lived through the transitions to electricity and indoor plumbing, and from horses to cars and trucks. He never had a regular doctor until he was 80. On his 85th birthday, he led a hike into the crater. On the way out, Halemaʻuʻu Trail was dark, so near the top Rex sprinted to the parking lot and turned the car to light the trail for his adult kids following behind. At 101, his driver’s license was renewed with no problem, but he voluntarily gave it up a few weeks later, apparently deciding that it was time for him to stop driving.

Rex Ornellas was born in Pāʻia, the oldest of 10 children. He earned his diploma from St. Anthony High School. At age 18, he went to live with 23 other young men, a cook and a foreman at the stone rest house on the summit that had been turned over to the program established by the Roosevelt administration to put young men to work on community projects. His favorite job during those years was as a mule packer, leading a string of eight mules as they hauled material down into the crater for cabin building. Often he stayed at the CCC camp in the crater for the weekend, hiking around and learning about the crater and its natural inhabitants.

As the Depression ended, World War II began, and Rex served in the military from 1939 to 1945. He had a number of jobs, retired from Maui Electric Company at age 63, then worked as a tour driver. As he neared his own centennial, the park that shared his birth year became an ever greater part of his life. His wife, Georgina, had died after a 67-year marriage, leaving him alone in his longtime Waialuku home. Younger generations were happy to keep him company and to hear the stories of his days in the CCC. “He would go to the park at the drop of a hat,” Rod Ornellas said, often stopping by the visitor center to talk to tourists and park staff. As the centennial year approached for both Rex and the park, “they bonded” as symbols of each other’s hundredth birthday, and Uncle Rex was an honored guest at centennial celebrations.
Haleakalā crater is a rainbow of cinder, unlike anyplace else on earth, the result of millions of years of eruption of a stop-and-start volcano. At its greatest height, Haleakalā reached between 13,500 and 14,500 feet into the sky. When eruptions paused, the wind and rain went to work sculpting the crater; then it erupted again. Today, this history is laid bare for all to see. The plants and animals that live in this environment equal the geology, both in rarity and beauty. Haleakalā National Park is home to more threatened and endangered species than any other national park in the United States.

It’s not only the natural history that makes Haleakalā crater unique. It ranks as the quietest place on earth, a notable distinction in our busy, bustling world. For the most part, Haleakalā crater today would be recognizable as the same landscape, with most of the same vegetation, as it appeared to the early Polynesians that honored the crater as Wao Akua, realm of the gods; the same erosional depression that inspired Jack London to write “the tie-ribs of earth lay bare before us. It was a workshop of nature still cluttered with the raw beginnings of world-making.”

Few places remain so untouched today. Keeping the crater in a comparatively pristine state takes many hands. Miles of fence keep out the feral pigs and goats that once trampled the crater, but invaders still come, as seeds from invasive plants blown on the wind or hitchhiking on vehicles and clothing.

Today, the sanctuary of Haleakalā, the workshop of nature, is at risk of being lost underneath a blanket of pine trees. “Removing pines from the crater is our highest priority in terms of invasive-plant control work in Haleakalā National Park,” explains Woody Mallinson, the Natural Resource Program Manager at Haleakalā National Park.

Between 1910 and the 1940s, well-intentioned territorial foresters planted pines on windward and leeward sides of Haleakalā, just west of the Koʻolau Gap, in Hosmer Grove and in Polipoli to stop erosion and provide timber. A handful of those pine species turned out to be invasive. Over the next century they became increasingly widespread. Occasionally seeds found a way into Haleakalā, growing in the cinder soil. Park crews routinely removed them. They pulled 22 pines between 1982 and 2006.

But in 2007, a disaster spurred an explosion in pine-seed germination. The Polipoli pine plantation caught fire, and the resulting flames burned over 600 acres on the southwestern slope of Haleakalā. The fire fighters who fought the blaze hadn’t seen anything like it in Hawaiʻi. Wildfires here typically spark in grasslands, but a summer drought left the forest of Polipoli primed for a forest fire. Pines, rich in natural oils and pitch, burn hot, and flames blazed high above Kula.

The heat of the fire triggered the release of millions of pine seeds from inside their waxy cones. This natural response helps pines recolonize after a forest fire. It’s highly effective, and it has helped the pines colonize Haleakalā as well. Pines can be relatively slow growing, but they’ve managed to take over 2,200 acres of cliff walls and have the potential to invade about 18,000 acres of the park. Since 2007, crews have removed more than 81,000 pines from the crater floor and walls, and they estimate another 3,500 pines are creeping up the steep cliffs of the crater.

“If left unaddressed, the entire crater could be converted into a pine forest.
HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE TRIPS FOR 2018

If you love Haleakalā, consider joining one of our 2018 service trips, whose upcoming dates are shown in the following schedule.

Service trip participants backpack into the crater to a cabin or campsite and back. Depending upon the trip, the group performs 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, 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.

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 and certify your readiness for a service trip. Check the website for updates or email matt@fhnp.org for information or to sign up.

The schedule below is subject to change. The last date listed for each trip is the return date.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 26-28</td>
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<td>Dec. 1-3</td>
<td>Kapalaoa</td>
<td>Joani, Denton</td>
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Alison: alison@fhnp.org
Andy: andy@fhnp.org
Arlene: arlene@fhnp.org
Bobbie: bobbie@fhnp.org
Cassie: cassie@fhnp.org
Christy: christy@fhnp.org
Delphine: delphine@fhnp.org
Joani: joani@fhnp.org (808)669-8385
Keith: keith@fhnp.org (808)264-5429
Matt: matt@fhnp.org (808)876-1673
Mike: mike@fhnp.org
Sorin: sorin@fhnp.org

Due to trail conditions outside of the park in Kaupō, the NPS no longer allows service trips to hike out Kaupō Gap; we are working to change that.

PARK WORK WINS TOP AWARDS

Continued from page 1

tive ecosystems for ranching and sugar cane or pineapple plantations. Wanting more favorable trade agreements with the U.S., business leaders led the controversial 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, which resulted in the over-100-year suppression of Native Hawaiian culture. The effects of the Māhele, overthrow and suppression are still apparent and strongly felt today. This history is now broadly told via 10 waysides developed and installed in the Kīpahulu District of the park.

Four waysides near the heavily used visitor center and restrooms broadly focus on traditional Hawaiian lifeways; the Māhele; endemic watershed species in one of the few Maui streams not diverted for plantation or ranch use; and the Kīpahulu Valley Biological Reserve, one of the few intact Native Hawaiian rainforests left in Hawai‘i, which was too remote for agriculture.

Six waysides at archaeological sites, along a short trail near the hugely popular “Pools of ‘Ohe‘o,” go more in-depth regarding traditional practices and highlight families who once lived on the land, from pre–Western Contact through the land’s protection as a part of Haleakalā National Park.

The waysides are the first ones in Kīpahulu to tell this difficult history, and the panels help visitors realize that the Kīpahulu District is much more than “a place to swim in the Pools of ‘Ohe‘o.” The waysides spark dialogue between staff and visitors who want to learn more about these historical decisions, which continue to reverberate and are still debated today.

One wayside near the visitor center directs visitors to more in-depth visitor center exhibits, with numerous traditional objects (including a canoe) made by staff and community members. The waysides also provide additional context for the numerous cultural demonstrations offered by staff and community members.

Planning ahead for next year? If you want to include service trips with the Friends of Haleakalā National Park, here’s your chance to pencil them in. Dates and locations for 2019 are:

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<td>Jan. 19</td>
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<td>June 15</td>
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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`I Supporters receive an exclusive 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 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
ALI‘I DONORS 2017
Mahalo to these friends who donated at least $100 in 2017. Your support of both the Adopt-a-Nēnē program and the Friends of Haleakalā National Park general fund is greatly appreciated.

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<tr>
<th>Daniel Anderson</th>
<th>Jeremy Hosniak</th>
<th>Orchids of Olinda</th>
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<td>Jay &amp; Marsha Nunes</td>
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<td>Norwood MA</td>
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<td>Jennifer &amp; Marilyn Clark Oakes</td>
<td>Alfred Vollenweider</td>
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<td>Pam &amp; Mike Corson Ogasawara</td>
<td>Margaret Wahlman</td>
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<td>Frederick MD</td>
<td>Mililani HI</td>
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PIANIST HIKES, PERFORMS ON HALEAKALĀ

In December of 2017, Haleakalā National Park hosted an artist in residence, Hunter Noack. The classic pianist spent time hiking around Haleakalā wilderness areas and absorbing its unique sonic features. In exchange, he provided Maui with a free concert held at Seabury Hall’s ‘A‘ali‘ikūhōnua Performing Arts Center.

Noack impressed the audience with his inventive take on classical piano. He paired a Ravel composition with film footage of Olympic divers and performed three pieces in response to a poem by Maui’s own Pulitzer Prize–winning poet, W. S. Merwin.

Noack’s current project is called “In a Landscape.” He travels around performing classical and original piano pieces outdoors.

Mahalo to the National Park Service and the National Endowment for the Arts for supporting this artist’s work and sharing it with us.
The result would be a landscape unrecognizable as compared to what we know today, with little to no habitat for endemic and endangered species. It would be a catastrophic ecosystem displacement,“ explains Mallinson.

If the crater were to become a pine forest, the likelihood of future fires would increase. The combination of the dry arid climate, frequent winds, and fuel-rich pines could combine with disastrous results, especially for native Hawaiian species not adapted to fire.

Haleakalā National Park, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, East Maui Watershed Partnership, Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources and other conservation agencies are working to remove the pines, both inside and out of the park boundaries. Their efforts are helping to reduce the density of pines and protect Haleakalā.

You can participate. Join volunteer groups working with the Friends of Haleakalā on trips to remove pine trees from around Haleakalā Crater. Check their website for more information: www.fhnp.org

Lissa Fox Strohecker is the public relations and education specialist for the Maui Invasive Species Committee. She holds a biological sciences degree from Montana State University. This story is part of Kia‘i Moku, “Guarding the Island,” a series prepared by the Maui Invasive Species Committee to provide information on protecting the island from invasive plants and animals that can threaten the island’s environment, economy and quality of life.

HELP KEEP HALEAKALĀ WEED FREE AND EARN A PARK PASS

If you’d like to help maintain Haleakalā National Park but can’t make it to one of our three-day service trips, consider joining local volunteers on periodic day trips organized by the park and the Pacific Whale Foundation. Pull weeds at three of these Waele ma Haleakalā project, totaling 12 volunteer hours, and you’ll receive a Hawai‘i Tri-Park Pass, through a donation provided by the Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association. This one-year pass covers admission to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Pu‘u‘ohonua o Hōnaunau National Historic Site and Haleakalā National Park. Participants will also receive a volunteer t-shirt.

The three non-native pine species that are the target of these work days (Monterey pine, Mexican weeping pine, and maritime pine) are highly invasive. They displace endemic and endangered species, change soil chemistry, and increase the potential for wildfire in habitats not adapted to fire. Park staff, partners and volunteers periodically pull young pines to keep them from spreading throughout the park. Since April of 2017, Waele ma Haleakalā volunteers have pulled 6,342 invasive pines and almost 2,500 other invasive plants.

The invasive-plant-removal work days are scheduled on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Volunteers physically remove young pine trees and other small invasive plants from the Summit District, pulling out very young pines, sawing down small older pines, or pulling other small invasive plants, such as evening primrose. Transportation, training, hand tools, gloves and other equipment is provided.

Volunteers are picked up at Mā‘alaea Harbor at 7:30 a.m. or at the main parking lot of the Pukalani Community Center at 8:15 a.m. Participants work for three hours, visit the summit and are dropped off by 3 p.m. Volunteers should bring water, snacks and sun protection; wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers; and be prepared to hike on uneven surfaces. Volunteers will work with park staff and a Pacific Whale Foundation certified naturalist. To learn more and to sign up, contact the Pacific Whale Foundation at (808) 249-8811.
Take advantage of Maui’s warm summer nights by gazing up into the star-speckled sky. Three major constellations can be seen now, used by Polynesian wayfinders and known in the West as the Southern Cross, Cassiopeia, and Scorpius. The Hawaiians named the latter Manai-a-kalani, after the magical fishing line that Maui used to haul the islands out of the sea. The constellation’s bright red heart is called Lehua Kona, after the red blossom of the ‘ōhi’a tree.

Cassiopeia, a collection of five stars in the shape of a “W,” might not resemble a reclining Greek queen, but it does look like a soaring frigate bird, for which the Hawaiians named it ‘Iwa Keli’i.

Known to early Greek astronomers, the Southern Cross was forgotten in the Northern Hemisphere as it slipped below the horizon over several centuries. Hawaiian navigators relied on the Southern Cross, called Hānaia-kamalama; its central stars led them due South. Don’t miss the kite-shaped constellation hanging low against the horizon. Hawai’i is the only place it can be seen in the United States.

If the stars seem brighter here in the tropics, it’s because we peer through the thinnest belt of the earth’s atmosphere—though our relative lack of light pollution helps too! —Shannon Wianecki

**ANGELAKIS MOVES TO SUPERINTENDENT JOB IN NORTH CAROLINA**

Polly Angelakis, Haleakalā Chief of Interpretation for almost six years, has accepted a new job as superintendent of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in western North Carolina.

“Haleakalā was the first national park I ever hiked in, when I went to UH Manoa as a junior-year college exchange student in 1985-86,” Angelakis said. “The experience inspired me to become a park ranger.”

Angelakis said she and husband Alan Willis have “absolutely loved” their time on Maui, but “we have greatly missed our families, especially our 21 nieces and nephews,” whose homes are more easily accessible form North Carolina.

The Friends would like to thank Polly for her work as the park’s public information officer and for her cooperation and attendance at our meetings and events. Aloha pumehana to Polly and Alan.
Entrance fees at Haleakalā National Park are increasing to provide additional funding for infrastructure and maintenance needs, beginning June 1. The Tri Park Annual Pass rise from $30 to $50, to align with other national parks that have similar visitation.

The Tri Park Annual Pass allows visitors unlimited entry for one year to the three fee-charging national parks in Hawai‘i: Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Haleakalā National Park and Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park.

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, Haleakalā National Park entrance fees will be raised by $5 to the following: $30 per vehicle, $25 per motorcycle, and $15 per pedestrian or bicyclist. These fees allow entry for three days, with receipt. The Tri Park Annual Pass will cost $55.

The nationwide America the Beautiful Annual Pass and the Lifetime Senior Pass will each remain at $80. There is no change to the National Park Service’s current policy regarding Kanaka Maoli who wish to conduct traditional practices in the park.

The current National Park Service fee program began in 1997 and allows parks to retain 80 percent of monies collected. The remaining 20 percent supports park units where fees are not charged. Prior to 1997, all national park fee monies went back into the General Treasury. Since 1997, fee revenues have funded over $42 million in Haleakalā National Park projects.

In response to public comments on a fee proposal released by NPS in October 2017, the changes reflect a modest increase for all fee-charging parks, rather than the higher peak-season fees initially proposed for 17 highly visited national parks on the mainland.

National parks have experienced record-breaking visitation, with more than 1.5 billion visitors in the last five years. Throughout the country, the combination of an aging infrastructure and increased visitation has put a strain on park roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, bathrooms and other visitor services and led to an $11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog nationwide. The maintenance backlog at Haleakalā is $21,107,902.

Some current Haleakalā National Park projects paid for with entrance fees include:

- Transportation costs for public school field trips ($50,000 annually).
- Repairs and improvements to the Headquarters Visitor Center’s HVAC, hot water system, and outdoor lighting system ($213,983).
- Scaling work on the Pools of ‘Ohe‘o to remove vegetation, loose debris, and rocks likely to fall ($98,634).

Some past examples of work fully funded with entrance fees include:

- Restoring park trails ($500,000 annually).
- Headquarters Visitor Center entrance improvements ($56,038, in 2016).
- Control of invasive species ($299,000, in 2013).
- Restoration of native landscapes ($113,000 in 2013).
- Building new restrooms, providing potable water to visitors, and building a parking lot in the park’s Kīpahulu District ($2.75 million, in 2000).

Haleakalā National Park
Hawai‘i Island’s snow-topped Mauna Kea, left, and Mauna Loa. Photo by Matt Wordeman