

# FRIENDS *of* HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK

Fall 2008  
P.O. Box 322  
Makawao, HI 96790  
[www.fhnp.org](http://www.fhnp.org)



## The Gift of Time: Volunteering at Haleakalā National Park

*By Melissa Chimera : Haleakalā National Park Volunteer Coordinator*

Dr. Art Medeiros, a respected biologist and coordinator of the Leeward Haleakala Watershed Partnership said about volunteering that **“we come to the mountain to give back, but in the end, it gives us more.”** As conservation workers, environmentalists and nature lovers, we must always be prepared to “give it away” to the next generation in better condition than we found it. This is what volunteers do — not for glory and certainly not for money — but to participate in something greater than ourselves.

In the early 1900s, the volunteer groups Hui O Pele and Hui O Hina laid the infrastructure for what would become Hawaiʻi National Park when Hawaiʻi Volcanoes and Haleakalā Parks were combined. Spouses, children and rangers accompanied park staff to assist in their duties. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built the first cabins – the same ones we enjoy today. Volunteer traditions in the Park continued through the work of countless others: Boy Scouts released some of the first Nēnē into the Crater. In the 1970s and 80s, Ron Nagata and Peter Kafka (now Resources Management Chief and Maintenance Foreman, respectively) came to the Crater as Sierra Club volunteers and later joined the staff. Today, The Friends of Haleakalā are key to efforts to control invasive species such as the Telegraph Plant, and maintain cabins for the enjoyment of the public.

For those willing to give some time, opportunities abound. If you’re looking for fresh air, exercise and good company, you may help to remove invasive weeds, fix a trail, build a fence to keep pigs and goats out of sensitive areas, or paint a cabin.

## Guarding the Islands of Maui Nui-

### The New War on Invasive Species is Being Waged in Your Backyard

*By Elizabeth Speith : Maui Invasive Species Committee*

Anyone that has ventured across Haleakalā Crater to Paliku cabin or walked the trails at Hosmer Grove or Waikamoi Forest has probably sensed the special and unique nature of the plants and animals surrounding them. Many of the biological treasures found in these protected places are not only located nowhere else in the world, but are restricted to small areas on the slopes of Haleakalā and the West Maui mountains.

Approximately 30% of the island of Maui is still covered in native vegetation. The endemism of the plants and animals of Maui and Hawaiʻi- those native plants and animals that can only be found here and nowhere else in the world - occurs at a higher rate than any other geographic location. Around 90% of Hawaiʻi’s native flowering plants and greater than 99.9% of the terrestrial invertebrates (insects, spiders, worms, snails, millipedes, etc...) are endemic.

Invasive plants and animals are one of the top three threats to these biological treasures, along with development and global climate change. In Hawaiʻi, we are combating the overgrowth of our native forest by invaders like *Miconia calvescens* to the tune of 4 million dollars annually. Managing established pests is an expensive and long-term solution to a problem that has no end in sight. In recent years, many conservation groups are shifting their focus from managing the pests that are already here to trying to prevent new pests from gaining a foothold on our island.

This latest part of the war on invasive species is happening in your backyard. The United States Geological Survey Pacific

Less physically demanding jobs include sorting reference materials, booking visitors into cabins, reciting an `oli (chant) to a group of visitors at sunrise, or giving first time viewers a thrilling glimpse of a Nēnē or our native honeycreeper, the I`iwi.

Imagine how the Hawaiians who first walked up to the sacred house of the sun felt when they saw the magnificence of the `ahinahina (Sword) and nohoanu, known as the Hawai`ian geranium--mist-dweller. The feeling of the early Hawaiians might have been the same as for those of us who visit these special places today — humility and awe as we stand before the creatures, plants and landscapes found no where else on the planet. What a privilege to it is to serve in such a magical place!

Please call (808)572-4487 to learn more about volunteering for Haleakala National Park.



Tent Camping at Waikau - Base camp for a heterotheca eradication service trip.

Basin Information Node (PBIN) and the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) have launched a program that encourages the citizens of Maui to look for pests known to have an impact on neighbor island native forests but which are not yet established on Maui. The idea is to detect the pests before they become established. Many of these invaders are escaped landscaping plants and pets, which means they will be seen in our neighborhoods before they jump the fence and invade natural areas.

Twenty plants, animals, insects, and seaweeds have been targeted for early detection. The citizens of Maui can be on the watch for these potentially harmful species in their backyards and neighborhoods.

**If you would like to help** protect the thousands of other creatures, with whom you share the island, there is a website ([www.reportapest.org](http://www.reportapest.org)) and a 60-page field guide providing pictures and descriptions of invasive pests. Full-time staff are also available by phone. You may call the USGS-PBIN at 808-984-3716 to get answers to identification questions or to request a copy of the field guide.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

**Pampas Grass** (*Cortaderia* species)

This giant bunching grass from South America has long, narrow, deep-green leaves and flowering stalks that grow up to 13 feet tall. It is most easily identified by its 31-inch-long, puffy, cream-colored flower plume and razor sharp leaves. Each pampas flower can contain 100,000 seeds which can travel up to 20 miles away on a trade wind day. This allows the plant jump directly from your backyard into native Maui forests. To learn more about the how to identify this plant, or how to get it removed from your yard at no cost, visit [www.reportapest.org](http://www.reportapest.org) or call 573-MISC. ■

**Kaupo Gap Service/Learning Trips Return!**

The County has repaired the road, the National Park Service (NPS) has cleared the trail, and Kaupo Gap service trips have returned to the Friends of Haleakalā National Park schedule! After a hiatus of more than a year, Friends of Haleakala National Park is partnering with the NPS to resume these popular trips. The Kaupo Gap trip allows participants to journey from the Keoneheehee (Sliding Sands) trailhead near the summit, travel deep into the crater, exit through the Kaupo Gap on the East side and down the mountain to the tiny (read “blink”) town of Kaupo. This is a three day “summit to sea” adventure.

Hikers are accompanied by one or more Rangers from Haleakalā National Park who share their knowledge of the flora, fauna, geology, history and mythology of the Park and surrounding regions. The first day (Saturday) will be spent hiking approximately nine miles from the Summit Visitor’s Center to Paliku cabin.

Sunday will be a free morning for recuperation or, for the energetic, to explore the area by hiking up the Lauulu trail to the Kalapawili Ridge on the northeast edge of the Park. This spot delivers

magnificent views of the entire crater, down Kaupo gap to the shore, and all the way to the Big Island.

Sunday afternoon is the time to ‘give back’. During this time we will perform a service project chosen by the NPS. Past projects have included alien specie eradication and control, habitat protection and improvement, seed collection, planting natives, or cabin maintenance.

Monday is spent making the 6,000 foot descent from Paliku to Kaupo through pristine koa and ohia forests. Even though it is all down hill, it is a challenging hike. The section of the Kaupo trail that is below the Park is steep and long.

More information on trips can be found on the Friends of Haleakala National Park website at <http://fhnp.org>. In addition to sharing of food costs, you will be asked to pay a \$15 fee to help defray cabin, Ranger(s) and transportation costs. Preference will be given to first-time participants in order to give the opportunity to experience this challenging and spectacular trip to as many people as possible. Advance registration is required for all service trips. If you are interested, please call Matt (808-876-1673) or Elizabeth (808-264-4757). There is a catch, though. One of the challenges with starting a trip at the top of the mountain and ending up near the sea is arranging transportation back from Kaupo trail end. We expect to be able to use NPS vehicles, but we need volunteers to help shuttle the vehicles to the trailhead on Saturday or Sunday or to pick up hikers in Kaupo on Monday. If you can drive, but cannot hike, you could still experience the Kaupo Gap trail vicariously by listening to the stories of the hikers while they are fresh from the trail! If you can help drive, please call Matt at 876-1673 or send e-mail to [matt@fhnp.org](mailto:matt@fhnp.org).

Please see the schedule printed elsewhere in this newsletter for trip dates and visit the FHNP website where you will be asked to register for an FHNP account. Registering will put you on our electronic newlist which provides email updates on service trip schedule changes. ■



*A mighty struggle against the invasive heterotheca*

## Mahalo Nui Loa to Farley Jacob!

Over the past eight years, Farley Jacob has been responsible for introducing hundreds of volunteers to the wonders of Haleakalā National Park as the Friends of Haleakalā National Park (FHNP) board member responsible for the Friends’ Service Trip program. Farley’s leadership, knowledge and contagious enthusiasm have initiated or rejuvenated many love affairs with Haleakalā National Park (including mine). His tireless devotion to improving the natural environment in both the summit backcountry and the Kipahulu region of the Park has made notable and lasting improvements. Those of you who have been with him in the backcountry know that the heterotheca and thistle plants shudder when they hear his approaching footsteps. Recently, Farley has decided to take a break from leading service trips into the crater. He will still be active on the FHNP Board and will still organize Park improvement projects in the Kipahulu region.

Mahalo Farley, for all that you have done and continue to do!!!



## FHNP 2009 Service Trip Schedule

Friends of Haleakalā National Park will host ten service trips in 2009. Trips typically start at the summit, and exit via Halemau’u trail. The Park asks participants to contribute at least 10 hours of service and provides two free nights in the cabins. The cabins are equipped with padded bunks, a wood burning stove, propane burners, and a kitchen with water and all cooking utensils.

Service projects are chosen in collaboration with Park staff and selected according to where help is most urgently needed. This year we will do a variety of planting, painting and weeding projects. (*Tip: Weeding trips have the advantage of getting you to corners of the Park that are off-limits to hikers.*)

Participants must carry in sleeping bag, clothing, rain gear, sun protection and food for the weekend. Anyone who is fit enough to backpack into the wilderness and equipped with a positive and helping attitude is welcome.

### Following is the Service Trip schedule for 2009 listing the dates, location and tentative project.

Jan 17-18	Kapalaoa cabin (central crater planting)
Feb 15-16	Holua cabin (Waikau North weeding)
Mar 14-15	Kapalaoa cabin (Waikau South weeding)
Apr 12-13	Holua cabin (Waikau and Holua South weeding)
May 23-24	Paliku cabin Kaupo Gap Service/Learning
Jun 13-14	Kapalaoa cabin (Crystal Cave weeding)
Jul 3-4	Paliku cabin Kaupo Gap Service/Learning
Aug 8-9	Waikau tent camping (Waikau North weeding)
Sep 5-6	Paliku cabin Kaupo Gap Service/Learning
Oct 10-12	Kapalaoa cabin 3 night (Crystal Cave weeding)
Not 14-15	Holua cabin (Waikau, Holua South weeding)
Dec 5-6	Kapalaoa cabin (central crater planting)



# Gallery of Heros!



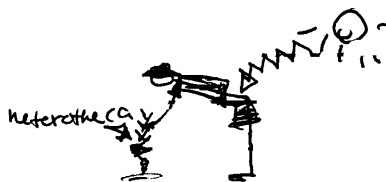
Many Thanks to our tireless and devoted Board of Directors: President Matt Wordeman, Vice President Don Reeser, Secretary Mele Stokesberry, Treasurer Martha Martin, members Fern Duvall II, Farley Jacob and Kiope Raymond as well as Advisory member and founder Mary Evanson and NPS liaison Dominic Cardea.

## Tales from the Trails

The following entries were contributed to the log in the Holua Hilton (the Rangers' cabin near the Holua campsite).

11/8/08 – 11/10/08 – Friends of Haleakalā – Invasive weed control

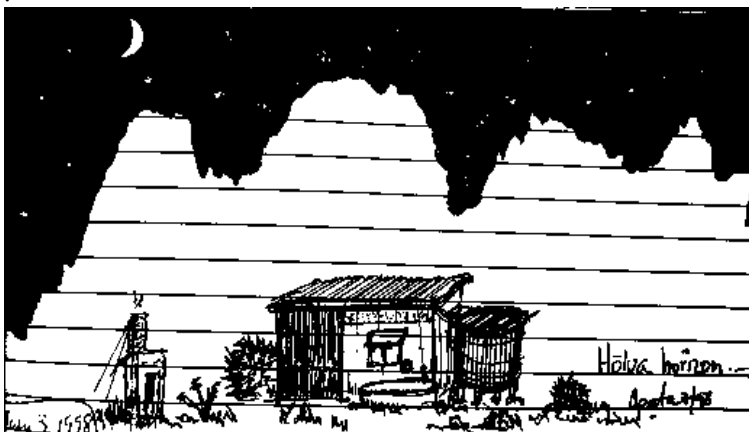
I am a wilderness ranger in Misty Fiords in Southeast Alaska. I think I had actually forgotten what the Sun looked like until coming to Maui. I is much appreciated. I am here with Matt (volunteer wrangler and crater caretaker) and Carla (the toughest hiker out of Wailuku). Our kill ratio is nothing less than impressive: over 3,000 invasives taken out without a single casualty on our side! Judging by the Northeast field we are winning battles but losing the war. I hope that future volunteers and employees will continue to fight the fight. A quick word of advice for those pulling weeds; cover your lower back or wear sunscreen! I wear my burn like a badge of honor on my pale northern skin at the beach!! This is truly a place of unique beauty. The reds, oranges and purples of the volcanic rock seem to be rivaled only by the colors of the Maui sunsets. It is also the most silent place I have been – a rare thing today. It has been a privilege to spend time here. I hope to come back. I know the Friends of group certainly will be.



*How to create a weeder's sunburn*

Thank you! Until next time, aloha.

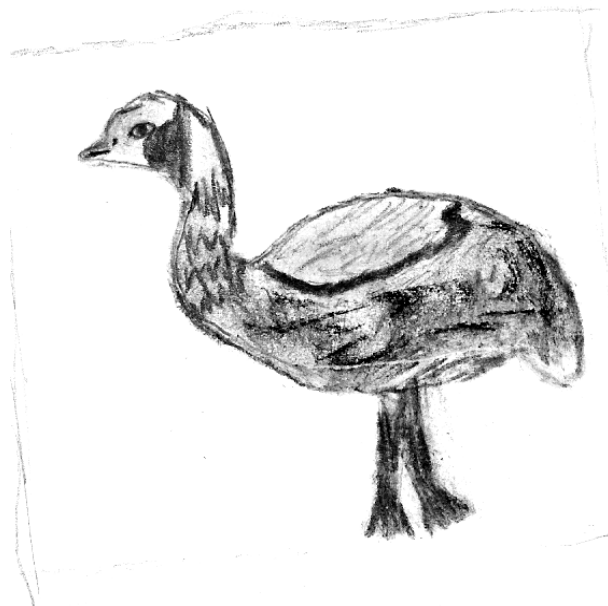
*Leah Taylor, USFS Misty Fiords NM & Wilderness*



--- and a *Halloween tale* .....

It is our tenth day in the crater and we are critically low on supplies. The nēnē have ravaged us severely. Tom has a broken leg from their last attack – we had to drag him the last two miles over broken a`a. Curses to whoever rehabilitated their population... they come in waves and it is all we can do to hold them off. We have taken shelter here for the night... The inch-thick plywood walls keep us safe from their beaks, but no one is immune to their bone-chilling nasal bleating. I think nobody will sleep tonight. Tom is in a lot of pain ... we fed him some half-stale Altoids that we found in the cupboard and I think that'll hold

him for a while. But we must get out of here. We must escape from this desolate place. There is much danger here. Tom's accident came when a pack of nēnē chased him over the brink of the Bottomless Pit. Fortunately we were able to fish him out as it is only 65 ft. deep. Tomorrow we will try once more to escape the crater. If anyone finds this please tell our families that we ..... ■



*"I decided to draw this nene because I saw a lot of them near Paliku Cabin"* Says the artist, WenLu Duffy. At age 12 Wen Lu is the youngest of the FHNP overnight service trip participants. She has been with us on several trips and has even hiked down the Kaupo Gap Trail on a Service/Learning trip when she was 9. Not only is she a great weed picker, she is an enthusiastic and energetic hiker. She carries her own pack and most often can be found leading the group along the trail. ■

## Invasive Christmas Tree Cutting

The FHNP, Haleakalā Ranch and the Pacific Whale Foundation will co-sponsor an invasive Christmas tree cutting event on December 13, 2008 from 9:00A.M. to noon at Pu'u Niauniau (about 1/8 mi before the Park entrance on Crater Rd.) We will remove invasive pine trees from the Ranch property that abuts Park land. This event was rained out last year, so there are plenty of trees to cut. Please wear closed toes shoes and bring gloves and a hand saw. If you don't have them, there will likely be some that you can borrow. You are welcome to take home any of the trees or cuttings to decorate your home for the holidays. The trees may not be as 'sculptured' as those you can buy, but they smell great, the price is right and by removing them you are doing a helpful service towards protecting the Park – a truly "green" Christmas Tree of which you can be proud! ■

**Support the Friends of Haleakalā National Park Please re-new your pledge!**

**Who we are ...**

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

**What we do ...**

Facilitate volunteerism to accomplish projects recommended by park staff.

Monitor actions and activities that could impact the Haleakalā.

Urge responsible use of the Park by the public.

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



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

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

**What you can do ...**

**Join** the Friends of Haleakalā National Park

**Adopt-a-Nēnē** – an unusual gift idea.

Become a **Volunteer** in the Park

Sign up to **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, with an estimated population in the Park of 250. 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 5”x7” matted nēnē photo and all gifts given to Regular supporters. They will have their names displayed at the Park.

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

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

- \$15      \$25      \$50      \$100      \$500      \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Yes!* I want to **Adopt A Nēnē.** Enclosed is my annual 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*You can also donate on-line using your credit card at [www.fhnp.org](http://www.fhnp.org)*

*Make checks payable (in U.S. Dollars) to: Friends of Haleakalā National Park, Inc.  
Send to: P.O. Box 322, Makawao, HI 96768*

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