



NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President...

Lorri Ellison

As you read this, I want to acknowledge your support of the Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR (FOHF & also referred to as the Friends), which is supporting the goals and mission of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. Three years ago there wasn't even a Friends of Hakalau Forest organization... just an idea that had come years before and now is beginning to blossom.

But first, what is a Friends organization and why have a Friends group? Friends of Refuges support their Refuge by doing things that the Fish and Wildlife Service might not be able to do because of government restrictions or lack of staff and funding. Friends can create special projects - such as the Hakalau Gulch Interpretive Trail. Friends can help with fundraising in many different and amazing ways. Friends are able to quickly organize a workforce of volunteers to do various needed things on/for their Refuge, and Friends can inform political persons, and be advocates of issues on their Refuge. Friends' activities support Refuges across the entire Refuge System, but Friends groups vary in what they do. You can see what other Friends & their Refuges are doing by going to www.refugenet.org Great examples abound over the entire Refuge system...do check it out. (We're in there—see if you can spot us: Friends of Hakalau Forest, NWR)

Question two: Why does Hakalau Forest NWR support & have a Friends group...don't they have enough volunteers? Again, they can use the help a Friends group can bring, especially in a climate of budget uncertainty and where funding is not able to meet increased costs. There are many ways to raise dollars, and Friends across the nation fundraise to support their Refuge's needs. An often asked question: Now that there's a Friends group, will the FWS volunteer program for Hakalau Forest be phased out? No, not at all...in fact many FWS volunteers are Friends members, and Friends members continue to volunteer for FWS. Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR's purpose is to foster understanding, enjoyment & conservation of the natural and cultural resources of Hakalau Forest NWR and its surrounding ecosystems and to raise funds to help support the purposes, goals and mission of Hakalau Forest NWR. We have our work cut out just working towards our purpose.

It has been a long walk in a short period of time; nine Board members, all volunteers doing what it takes to start an organization and, while not glamorous, these chores had to be done such as: forming the Articles of Incorporation and By Laws, applying for non-profit status with the Federal and State government, getting a post office box, a bank account (for those wonderful donations and welcomed memberships) and establishing an identity with a logo. With all that completed, we're ready to turn the corner and we hope you'll join us.

In the next year and a half we will be working to increase our membership and working to fundraise for a 24,000 gallon water tank on the Refuge. There will be Friends projects both on and off the Refuge; all supporting the Friends purpose and mission which also supports the goals and mission of Hakalau Forest NWR. One Friends' project will be an interpretive trail in the Maulua Tract of the Refuge. (Note Dick Wass's request for volunteers in this newsletter). To those of you who had signed up to volunteer at a previous Open House and were not called, it is not because we did not value your offer. We just were unable to take on any other projects at the time and we apologize for our inaction to contact you. Now that we're ready to turn the corner we hope you will join in and participate in any way you can. Don't be shy; we'd really love to have you and we definitely need your help. Again, thank you for your support—you've made the beginnings a real success and we hope to see you at one of the projects in 2009.

SOME EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERS...

By Lorri Ellison

There are some extraordinary volunteers who have been quietly working behind the scene - such as **Shannon Graham**, who designed and maintains the Friends website. It's a truly beautiful web site with lots of pictures (including photos from the Open House at the Refuge in October). There's a link to FWS's new Hakalau Forest NWR site, and great photos of native Hawaiian forest birds by **Jack Jeffrey**, Senior Wildlife Biologist. You now can view the volunteer dates for daytrips for greenhouse work, and later will see dates to volunteer for new projects. If you haven't already, do check out the web page www.friendsofhakalauforest.org to see what Shannon's been creating. She has been diligently working & updating the web page for just over a year and it's looking great.

Also in the lineup of volunteers extraordinaire is **Ron Callison**, who signed up October 2007 to work on the proposed Hakalau gulch trail project. Ron was there volunteering on the project, from beginning to end, doing everything from painting primer on posts, using the heavy duty weed eater, and helping sign maker **Glen Fujinaga** put the logos & numbering on the trail posts. Glen also worked on the early stages of the trail, as well as creating and installing the signage - a wonderful contribution. Thanks guys!

Not to be forgotten are those who wrote the trail brochure. **Julie Williams** worked countless hours writing the brochure contents, with assistance from friend **Tim Tunnison**. Julie came up to the Refuge several times to proof her written notes as well as working on painting posts. Yes that's her with paintbrush in hand! And **Bobby Camara** also was very helpful in giving of his time with correct spelling and diacritical marks for Hawaiian plants and birds. In addition, he volunteered to share his knowledge of Hawaiian cultural uses of native plants and contributed greatly in writing this part of the brochure.



Other behind-the-scenes volunteers are the Board members, both past and present, who work continuously to further the organization's mission. Much of the work done here is not exciting and flashy, but day-to-day and month-to-month business of paying a bill, doing a financial statement, sending membership renewal reminders, picking up mail, doing presentations, writing minutes of a Board meeting, writing a grant report, organizing a project, and yes, determining the best way to ask members to help in needed areas to further the organization's goals. Board members' names are all listed on the web page and they too are volunteers.

Finally, and the person behind your having this newsletter is Emily Needham. She has not only been responsible for getting this newsletter to you, but also put together the first newsletter...a very special volunteer indeed. To all our volunteers: MAHALO NUI LOA.

Greenhouse Water Tank Fundraiser

As we move into the end of 2008 we're undertaking a fundraising project for a 24,000 gallon water tank for Hakalau Forest Refuge's greenhouse. This will enable uninterrupted watering for the greenhouse operations when a prolonged dry spell or drought occurs. Presently when this happens water has to be hauled from a tank at Pua Akala which is costly and time consuming and that source also can run out. This has been on horticulturist Baron Horiuchi's wish list for many years and now Friends of Hakalau Forest and a mainland visitor to the Refuge, Valentine Judge, are jointly beginning a fundraising campaign. The Friends thank you, Valentine Judge, for spontaneously taking on this wonderful project! We hope this greenhouse water tank fundraiser will be a success. It couldn't be a better way to help the Refuge greenhouse operation and, at the same time, receive a tax deduction.

Our goal is \$9,000 which is sizable for an organization with just over 114 members and we know we'll have to work hard to achieve this. But, knowing the generosity of our membership, the deep felt commitment we all share for Hakalau Forest NWR and the wonderful work being done on the Refuge so many have come to appreciate, we believe this is achievable. Please consider giving \$10, \$20 or whatever your budget is comfortable with; your donation will go specifically to the greenhouse water tank fund. Write your check to Friends of Hakalau Forest & mark in the memo line "water tank" and we'll earmark your donation and send you a receipt.

Send to Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR, P.O. Box 6065, Hilo HI 96720. And to see how the fundraiser is progressing, check our web site: www.friendsofhakalauforest.org

An idea for gift giving: send your donation as a Tribute to a special friend or family member in honor of them. We will send you your receipt and a letter you can give them regarding the tribute you've made in their name. Just mention you're making the donation as a tribute and give us their name.

So right from the start Thank You, Mahalo nui loa; and let's all move that water tank from the wish list to the refuge; your donation will help make it happen.

Best regards and Happy Holidays from all of us on the Friends of Hakalau Forest Board,

*Lorri, Dick, Pat, Ken, Sheila, Maile,
Eric, Sara, & Jean*



Hakalau Gulch Interpretive Trail

By Lorri Ellison

The Hakalau Gulch Interpretive Trail started way back in April of 2007, and was one of several suggestions for projects from the Refuge Manager and staff. In July of 2007, after pushing through tall and very thick kikuyu grass and barely keeping up with FWS's horticulturalist, Baron Horiuchi, we stopped to flag a tree and right there above us, so close you couldn't use binoculars was a beautiful orange-red `i`iwi who was singing to another `i`iwi not far away. Thus the trail began and thereafter `amakihi, `apapane and `i`iwi often greeted us with their presence and song as the trail progressed. This was a project the staff of the Refuge wanted in memory of a fellow employee, Wayne Ortiz, who loved the outdoors and loved working on the Refuge. The trail was dedicated on October 18th during Hakalau Forest NWR's Open House, and was honored by the presence of his family and friends.

This is a trail with several purposes: to observe that which is around you as the native birds flit through the trees; to acknowledge the wealth of Hawaiian cultural uses of the plants along the path; to ponder the efforts of thousands of volunteers, who since

1989, have come to plant trees; and to recognize the dedication of the NWR staff working daily in the management of the Refuge - where wildlife comes first. It also gives a chance to reflect and listen to the quiet of the land, especially as the mist, Lilinoe, comes to nourish

the forest, half way up the slope of Mauna Kea where, along Hakalau Gulch, the `i`iwi sing.

With special thanks to the many people who made this trail possible; several are mentioned in "Some Extraordinary Volunteers..." and all are noted on the trail guide.



TEAM `IWI

By Lorri Ellison

Here's something for those of you working in K-12 education: a (CD & DVD) science based video & curriculum that encourages inquiry, and brings actual field science to the classroom. The video shows various types of measurements done on one of the native forest birds (`Iwi). The curriculum has appropriate grade level suggested classroom activities enabling students to experience & answer questions similar to what a researcher asks in their field research. This was a project done by graduate student Wendy Kuntz, and was filmed at Hakalau Forest NWR with several Big Island teachers. Included are both the curriculum for grades K-12 & the video. Cost is only \$6.00/set & includes mailing. If interested in purchasing this package, email us at www.friendsofhakalauforest@gmail.com Attn: Sunny LaPlante. Please include your mailing address & phone number so Sunny can contact you regarding details.

MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

Lorri Ellison

My but we have grown and we're only two and a half years old! 115 members! This is right within the average range of members for Friends of Refuges across the country. Sure there are a few with 4,000 members and paid staff, but most Friends groups are between 65-150 members so we're doing GREAT thanks to YOU! Imagine where we might be 10 years from now!

Care to guess where most of the members live? Well, it's the Big Island with nearly three-fourths of the membership, and next is Oahu coming in at just under one-fourth. OK, now the question "where do the rest live?" The answer: welcome to our members from Houston, Texas; from Cupertino, Santa Rosa, and Fremont, California; from Fort Collins, Colorado; from Moscow, Idaho and all the way from Woodstock, Illinois...but that's still not the farthest. We have one member from England!

And despite economic hard times, you're still consistently sending in your renewals and new memberships. THANK YOU ever so much! In addition, donations are also coming in with some memberships (both renewal and new). We've received contributions in honor of an event or relationship - such as a family member - a birthday, or in memory of someone special. Thank you again for your generosity.

One last note: the end of the year is coming up and your membership and/or donation are tax deductible...don't forget to apply for that deduction!



Volunteer Opportunities

Your help is needed to construct a second interpretive hiking trail beginning next spring. The trail will be located within the Maulua Unit, which is open to the public, and will feature endangered outplantings . Contact Dick Wass (rwass@hawaiiintel.net) if you can help.

WHAT HAS THE HAKALAU FOREST DONE FOR US?

By Sara Burgess

The poet, Joyce Kilmer, wrote “I think that I shall never see poem lovely as a tree.” When walking down a path lined by venerable `ohi`a trees at the Hakalau Forest’s open house last year, I remembered this line. Another pleasant experience that day was the mood of my fellow visitors. Everyone I saw was smiling. The staff and volunteers were all friendly and happy. The newly planted koa trees were thriving. People working in the greenhouse were enthusiastic and eager to share their knowledge. Being there caused me to remember and think about why there was such a happy environment at Hakalau Forest.

That day I remembered visiting other forests. One was on the Colville Indian Reservation in Washington State. It was carefully managed by following tribal traditions. Each tree was respected and valued, not for the board foot price, but as a part of the cycle of life where the people ate “their brother the deer,” and when the time came were buried in the earth to fertilize their brother the tree. Trees in turn provided food and shelter for the deer.

My thoughts skipped to Sumatra and sharing the road with trucks carrying loads of logs ten to twenty feet in circumference. They had been cut down to make way for palm oil plantations. A friend working on one of the plantations wrote to me, “The plantation is the most boring place in the world.” Somehow the uniform lines of trees are depressing her. She is sad to see that the fallen trees are dead and gone.

I remembered traveling to Costa Rica visiting nature reserves and remote native villages. Wisely the government there promotes ecotourism and takes for its motto “Pura Vida.” In Costa Rica, economy and nature work well together.

In 1972, King Lyponpo Jigme Thinley of Bhutan declared that his country’s development should be measured not by purely economic values such as gross national product (GNP) but by gross national happiness (GNH). In Bhutan, gross national happiness is achieved through economic development, environmental preservation, cultural promotion and good governance. measured not by purely economic values such as gross national product (GNP) but by gross national happiness (GNH). In Bhutan, gross national happiness is achieved through economic development, environmental preservation, cultural promotion and good governance.

answer to the question” What has Hakalau Forest done for us?” is that it gives us an opportunity to consider the consequences of putting immediate economic gain first and it provides a place where we can experience happiness in nurturing lovely trees with other happy people. For me, that is a great deal. How about for you?



“Akiapola`au” by Michael Furuya

You may contact FOHF at:

PO Box 6065
Hilo, HI 96720

friendsofhakalau@gmail.com

Open House – 2008

by Dick Wass

Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge's 16th annual Open House, held Saturday October 18, was a great success again this year, thanks to the hard-working staff and over 40 volunteers who led birding and natural history hikes, gave greenhouse tours, interpreted exhibits and assisted with parking. The number of guests was down this year but the number of "oo's" and "ahh's" during the bird hikes and comments like "I've lived in Hawaii all my life and that's the first time I've ever seen an i'iwi" were more numerous than ever. A total of 151 visitors passed through the Pua Akala Gate to view the interpretive displays in the barn to enjoy the rainforest hike. Three endangered forest bird species (akiapola`au, Hawai`i akepa and Hawai`i creeper) were spotted by some of the lucky guests and common native bird species like the `apapane and i'iwi were seen by all. Ninety-nine folks visited the greenhouse to see endangered plants, learn native plant propagation techniques and hear about tree-planting efforts at Hakalau Forest.

The "big event" for Friends of Hakalau Forest (FOHF) was the official opening of the Hakalau Gulch Interpretive Trail dedicated in memory of Wayne Ortiz, former refuge employee. Sixty-four people, including Wayne's widow and several members of his family, attended the trailhead ceremony. Refuge Manager Jim Kraus, FOHF President Lorri Ellison, Karen Ortiz, Maintenance Supervisor Andy Kikuta and others thanked the Friends for constructing the trail, highlighted construction details, and remembered Wayne's contribution to the refuge. Most of the greenhouse visitors took advantage of the opportunity to pick up a printed copy of the trail guide and hike the new trail which begins near the Administrative Gate, bends south of the University of Hawaii Field Station, meanders along Hakalau Gulch and ends behind the greenhouse.

FOHF took advantage of the Open House by setting up a table to recruit new members and volunteers and to raise funds through sale of birding guide books, bandanas and snacks. If you were unable to attend Open House, plan now to be there next year. The date always "bookends" National Wildlife Refuge Week which is the second week in October. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Big Island's most intact rainforest and volunteer to help the refuge and FOHF stimulate greater appreciation and support for Hawaii's native plants and animals.



Board member Ken Goodenow, former board member Casey Jarman and volunteers Gloria Amaral and Alina Alvarez (right to left) staffed the FOHF recruitment and sales table during Open House



Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR Logo

by Maile Sakamoto

Our friends group was extremely fortunate to have award-winning local artist, **Michael Furuya**, as the designer of our logo. Mike is famous for his paintings of native forest birds, and has been a supporter of conservation and protection of native species for many years. Mike was born and raised in Kaneohe, and attended art school in California. While there, he saw a magazine article with photos by Jack Jeffrey, Hakalau Forest NWR biologist, and was struck by the beauty and story of the Hawaiian forest birds. He then decided to commit to using his artistic talents to help raise awareness of native birds through his paintings of both extinct and existing species. In addition to his fine art paintings, Mike was also the co-founder and Artistic Director, along with his cousin, the late Lisa Matsumoto, of `Ohi`a Productions – a theatre company specializing in musical entertainment for children and families. `Ohi`a Productions developed traveling shows that would play to schools across the state, which included themes about Hawaiian rainforests, coral reefs, native birds, and invasive species. Mike and Lisa also created a series of books for children which Mike illustrated, including “Beyond `Ohi`a Valley – Adventures in a Hawaiian Rainforest.” Mike continues to focus on native birds in his paintings, and recently had a one-man show at Cedar Street Galleries in Honolulu. Thank you Mike for everything you’ve done!

To see other examples of Mike’s work: www.cedarstreetgalleries.com/bin/works.cgi?Artist=FuruyaMichael
www.ohia.org

Weekend Planning Session Held on Refuge

by Dick Wass

The Friends Board spent a weekend in early October at Hakalau Forest NWR for an extended planning session. Refuge Manager Jim Kraus participated along with five members of the board and facilitator, Susan Labrenz. Major objectives were to enhance communication and working relationships between board members and to establish goals and a plan of action for the next few years.

After traveling to the Refuge and moving into the Volunteer Cabin, the morning session began with discussion on the essentials and responsibilities of successful boards and identification of assets. An early afternoon brainstorming session centered on visioning, values, stakeholders, partners and the mission of FOHF. The real work occurred during the last couple of hours when strategic issues like membership, fundraising, education, volunteerism and public access were discussed, goals were formulated and proposed actions were prioritized. The board agreed on two major near term goals. The first is to increase membership from the current 112 members to 200 by December 2009. Specific actions to accomplish this goal include staffing membership recruitment/display tables at the Refuge Open House, the Forest Bird Workshop and the 2009 Hawaii Conservation Conference; personal recruitment efforts by all board members; placing a corkboard/poster with membership invitations on the Volunteer Cabin wall; compiling an electronic mailing list of potential new members; and working with the refuge staff to promote Friends membership. The second major goal involves fundraising. A fundraising committee will be established to research and apply for grants; to research eligibility and possible inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign; to create a link on the FOHF website for making donations; to identify and create other donation mechanisms; to explore and identify fundraising opportunities; and to identify specific refuge funding needs.

Most of the board members spent Saturday night on the refuge followed by informal discussions, socializing and touring on Sunday. A drive to the Maulua Unit to view potential sites for the next FOHF trail construction project was enlivened by a flat tire and the inability to access the spare. The refuge Horticulturist graciously drove the group back to Hilo in time to catch return flights and meet other obligations. The opportunity to spend almost two days together at Hakalau getting to know each other and sharing ideas, goals and actions for the Friends was valuable and productive.

MoneyMatters\$

Lorri Ellison, President.

The treasurers' report unfortunately was not available in time to be included in the newsletter. We will have a report for you by the end of January; should you have a question do email or write us and one of the Board will get back to you. Mailing address: P.O. Box 6065, Hilo, HI 96720 or email: friendsofhakalauforest@gmail.com Please give us a phone number if you'd like to be contacted by phone. Thank you for your understanding; we're all volunteers and things do come up precluding the best of intentions.