

Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge



Volume IV ~ February, 2010

Annual Membership Meeting Held January 30th, 2010

Saturday January 30th 2010 Friends of Hakalau Forest met for our annual meeting. With a good turnout we got down to the business of electing board members; your new board members are Lisa Lyons, Jon Price and returning board member Dick Wass. Going off the board are Patrick Hart and Lorri Ellison who withdrew her candidacy but promises to be working hard on membership activities and will continue to do the membership committee, including renewal reminders and data inputting. Board members continuing to serve their second of a two year term are Deighton Emmons, Creighton Litton, Cathy Lowder, Emily Needham, and Jim Wiley. Lisa Lyon, Jon Price, and Dick Wass are beginning their 2-year terms.

After elections Lorri's PowerPoint presentation was unable to be shown, but it is in the newsletter beginning on page 3. Next was the announcement of Colin Phifer as the first recipient of the Jack Jeffrey Conservation Education Grant. A Refuge update was given by Jim Kraus, Refuge Manager and we hope to have an article included of his refuge update. Jack Jeffrey's presentation was last and, as usual, he delighted all with his jokes, his depth of knowledge in Hawaiian avian species and slides of his forest friends including George the I'iwi. He also presented his wife Gretchen's slides of what it's like to be "on vacation" with a husband who's a wildlife photographer.

Jack Jeffrey Conservation Grant Awarded



Jack Jeffrey Grant award recipient, **Colin Phifer** pictured here with Lorri Ellison and Jack.

Colin Phifer, a graduate student at the University of Hawaii Tropical Conservation Biology program, was recently selected to receive a \$1,000 grant from the Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR for his research proposal "*Impact of fragmentation on pollinator assemblages and plant reproductive success*". Phifer will study relationships between plant pollinator communities (birds and insects) and seed production within small, medium and large kipukas of east Hawaii Island. The selection committee was particularly impressed with the strong educational components of the proposal. Phifer will train undergraduate students to assist with data collection and will develop Hawaii-specific pollination lessons to share with local K-8 teachers. The \$1,000 check was presented on January 30, 2010 at the Friends of Hakalau Forest Annual Meeting at the USDA-Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry Conference Room.

The Dream Came True!

The dream of spending a day watching birds and exploring the rain forest at Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) came true for 25 Friends of Hakalau Forest members on November 21, 2009. Renowned birding guide and retired Refuge Wildlife Biologist Jack Jeffrey led a leisurely all-day hike down Pua Akala Road on the beautiful dry and sunny day. Endangered and native birds were everywhere. All participants had numerous opportunities to view brilliant-orange male Akepa and the green-gray females. Endangered Hawai'i Creepers were also seen foraging for insects along the tops and undersides of koa and ohia branches. The repetitive chirp of a distant juvenile Akiapola'au begging for food was occasionally heard (mostly by Jack), but no members of this endangered species were actually sighted by our group. Common bird species (I'iwi, Apapane, Oma'o, Amakihi and Elepaio) were abundant and easily viewed, sometimes without the need for binoculars. As usual, Jack did a sterling job of interpreting forest bird and rain forest ecology in his own unique and humorous style. Thank you, Jack, for a willingness to share your knowledge and passion for Hawaiian forest plants and animals. A big "Mahalo" also goes to Hawaii Forest and Trail for the free use of their four-wheel-drive vans to transport everyone to the Refuge and to van drivers Derrick and Mark. For members who missed the 2009 trip, we're already planning another Hakalau visit next year. Keep your membership current and "stay tuned" for more information.



Jack pointing at a bird

Presidents' message-4 years in quick review; 2010 & beyond

Friends of Hakalau Forest became an official organization April 11th 2006 when the Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws were registered (and later accepted), as well as receiving tax exempt status from the Federal & State governments. There have been various accomplishments and many things to celebrate in four short years. The Friends of Hakalau Forest has come a long way and it's been by persons stepping up and volunteering and by members joining & continuing to renew their membership. For this I am very grateful and personally thank you. We have a rich base of talent in our membership and an equally wonderful sense of concern for the refuge; becoming members of the Friends of Hakalau Forest is all about the refuge.

In Review, 2006-2008:

- Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws registered/accepted by state of Hawaii.
- Obtained 501 (c) (3) status.
- Obtained a mailing address (P.O. Box 6065, Hilo, HI 96720).
- Obtained a checking/savings account.
- 9 member board of directors.
- First presence at Open House 10/2006 (Sheila Conant, Rene Siracusa & Lorri Ellison).
- Dec 2006 Beginning of membership (34 in 12/06)
- Web page (friendsofhakalauforest.org).
- Email address: (friendsofhakalauforest@gmail.com).
- Received Fish & Wildlife Service Foundation start-up grant (\$5,000).
- Chose Akiapōla'au as the Friends logo.
- Printing of Friends native forest bird bandanas (assisted by Foundation grant).
- August 2007 a membership appeal letter (membership increase from 37 to 120).
- First newsletter 2007.
- Slide show/speaker presentations on Hawaiian native birds (thank you Jack Jeffrey!).
- Began the Hakalau Interpretive trail in 2007.
- April 2008 first annual membership meeting and the first election of officers.
- October 2008 completion of Hakalau Gulch interpretive trail and dedication at Open House.
- Continuous Friends presence at Open House.

This last year, (April 2009-January 2010) there were two goals the board chose:

1. To increase membership:
 - April 2009 membership was 123
 - January 29 2010 membership 137
 - One activity specifically for members: November 21st Tour of the refuge organized by Dick Wass with assistance from Hawaii Forest & Trails and Jack Jeffrey.
 - Nov-Feb Greenhouse volunteer trips organized by Lorri Ellison
 - Membership chair person, Lorri Ellison.
2. To continue fundraising for the Greenhouse Water Tank Fund:
 - Last April 2009 the fund held \$2595 (plus interest).
 - On January 29th 2010 the fund has increased to \$5,025 (plus interest).
 - A fun & spontaneous matching challenge fundraiser for the Water Tank at the April 2009 Annual Membership meeting lead by member Debbie Ward. (Thank you Debbie and thank you all who donated in this challenge!)
 - Efforts supporting the fundraiser were Volunteer Cabin posters, a newsletter (6/09) article, web articles providing monthly \$ updates, E-news brief articles (a mini-newsletter) and Open House donation

Other completed activities:

- Tee shirt design (Orville Baldos' design & Creighton Litton as liaison). Tee shirt printing & sales (Lorri Ellison).
- FWS partnership grant with Imi Pono No Ka Aina, FOHF & FWS Hakalau Refuge, (Mililani Browning of Imi Pono No Ka Aina, Lorri Ellison of FOHF & Refuge Manager Jim Kraus).
- Presence at Earth Day (Lorri Ellison).
- 2009 FOHF became a member of National Wildlife Refuge Association (Board vote).
- The Jack Jeffrey Conservation Education Fund committee decided award would be chosen through grant proposals. First annual selection done December 2009 for year 2010. Congratulations Colin Phifer! (Committee members: Patrick Hart, Creighton Litton, Dick Wass, Deighton Emmons, Jack Jeffrey).
- Friends presence at 2009 Open House to answer questions regarding Friends of Hakalau Forest, to do tee shirt sales, the water tank fund "awareness & donations drive", DVD, bandanna & bird guide books sales organized/lead by Lorri Ellison, with assistance from Board members Emily Needham & Jim Wiley and Friends members Lisa Lyons, Kemele Lyons, Bonnie Burke, Christine Ahia, Sunny LaPlante, Debbie Wiley, Justin Wiley, Ron Needham, Mary Katherine and Paul Trevithick & Susanne Haight.

2010 & Beyond-Considerations & actions for the new Friends' Board:

1. Continue fundraising for Greenhouse Water Tank (goal of \$9,000).
2. Await determination of Challenge Cost Share Grant application submitted for Greenhouse Water Tank by Refuge Manager Jim Kraus. If the grant is received there will be matching funds which will enable early completion of the fundraising effort. Notice of the grant should be in 3 months; submitted January 15th, 2010.
3. Board had approved motion to take monies from FOHF non-encumbered accounts and apply up to \$10,000 to complete the fundraising effort for the Greenhouse water tank pending determination of the FWS Challenge Cost Share grant.
4. Do a possible second run of Friends tee shirts.
5. Consider fundraising for & funding of intern for Refuge.
6. Consider fundraising for & funding of projects the refuge would like to do but unable to acquire funding.
7. Consider Friends of Hakalau Forest volunteer service project(s) in areas other than tree planting/greenhouse work.
8. Consider Membership support through various means:
 - a. Annual or bi-annual refuge tour.
 - b. Speakers on Hakalau Forest Happenings/Refuge management.
 - c. Scheduled: two Friends tree planting service trips April & August 2010(Lorri Ellison).
 - d. Friends' greenhouse service trips winter months, ongoing (Lorri Ellison).
 - e. Newsletters to occur minimum every 6 months providing information of major decisions, expenditures (board).
 - f. Short & quick news briefs via eTapestry.
 - g. Web site to be kept current with frequent updates (board).
 - h. Gmail replies prompt and accurate (board).
 - i. Solicit members' feedback, opinions, have surveys especially on major expenditures; change of procedures/by laws (board).
9. Make available Treasures reports and minutes upon request. [IRS 501 (C) (3) status requirement].
10. Provide accountability to membership via newsletter, Gmail and or meetings.

Again, thank you for your continued support through your monetary donations, your purchases of tee shirts and/or bandanas, and your membership. Also, a special thank you goes out to those who gave through perspiration, effort & time. All these contributions add up to a successful first four years for Friends of Hakalau Forest. Truly, it couldn't be done without you and wouldn't exist without members like you.

Thank you,
Lorri Ellison

Water Tank Fundraiser & Friends of Hakalau Forest

For many years Horticulturist Baron Horiuchi has hoped for & requested a water tank dedicated specifically for greenhouse use so late November 2008 the Greenhouse Water Tank Fundraiser was started. The Friends of Hakalau Forest are raising funds for a 24,000 gallon water tank. What a wonderful way to help the Refuge's greenhouse & reforestation effort. The goal is approximately \$9,000; *where the fund is as of February 8th 2010, **\$5,025***. Little by little it's getting there-thanks to many people who care about Hakalau Forest.

Why should there be a water tank specifically for the greenhouse? A dedicated greenhouse water tank will enable uninterrupted watering of native and endangered seedlings and plants being propagated at the Refuge greenhouse. When prolonged dry spells occur which is happening now at the refuge, water tanks become very low, and it's a full day's task to haul enough water for one week of greenhouse irrigation. The water must be hauled by truck over rough roads several miles from a tank at Pua Akala barn to the Refuge Greenhouse, a very time-consuming as well as costly effort and there's the possibility water at Pua Akala will run out as the dry spell lingers. If water runs out, the seedlings will die. There is never too much stored water and it's essential to have a large water tank for the greenhouse to protect the native and endangered seedlings & plants. These native plants are being propagated for out planting on the Refuge and this reforestation supports the native birds. Recall when you first heard Hakalau's forest birds, the 'Tiwi, apapane, 'amakihi, 'akepa, 'elepaio & possibly the Hawai'i creeper & 'akia'pōlā'au; it certainly bring to mind just how special this Refuge is! Our efforts to fund a greenhouse water tank will help convert pastureland to native forest and thus will support forest birds whose song fill the forest as they flit from tree to tree and one Ohia blossom to another.

As of February 2010 the fund is half way there, and every donation helps make a difference. If you can, please help support our effort with whatever dollar amount you're able to give. If you haven't yet donated, please consider giving \$10, \$20, \$50 or whatever you can to this worthy cause. Please write your check to Friends of Hakalau Forest & write in the memo line "water tank"; you'll be sent a receipt for your tax records. Mail to: Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR, P.O. Box 6065, Hilo HI 96720. From the Friends Board, the dedicated Refuge staff & the forest birds, Thank You.

Lorri Ellison,

Friends of Hakalau Forest 2/8/10



Friends T-shirts Available

FOHF is pleased to announce that we recently designed and produced t-shirts that proudly display the Friends logo. We originally pursued this as a fundraiser, but quickly realized that it is also a great way for our members to show pride in our organization and advertise the great work that the Refuge is doing to conserve native birds and ecosystems on the Big Island. Orville C. Baldos (Graduate Student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources) was gracious enough to donate his time and talent to design the logo for the shirts. Thanks Orville! From an original printing of 116 shirts, there are ~15 shirts left (in Sand color: 4 medium & 7 large; in Spruce color: 4 medium & 3 large). Fifty shirts sold in a single day at the 2009 Refugee Open House! We sell the shirts for \$15 each, which gives us a modest profit (\$4.00/shirt). So to date we have raised ~\$400 for FOHF through this adventure! Additional printings in the near future will Type to enter text allow us to make a little more profit per shirt for the Friends since we will not have to pay for the silk screens again. We hope to have another batch of t-shirts printed soon since the first batch sold so quickly. The few remaining shirts are always available for purchase on our website. (<http://www.friendsofhakalauforest.org/info.htm>)



OPEN HOUSE - October 17, 2009

If you missed this event - you missed a great one! Because of the cool and misty weather, the birds were out in full force. The only thing that suffered was the "FREE (for a donation) Ice Water. The intent was to grow our Water-Tank fund by offering ice water to those that added to the fund - well, it was fun anyway. For sale at the Friends "station" (above) were the new tee shirts, bandanas, bird guide books, Trio Bars and the Educational CD's for classroom use.