



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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APRIL TO JUNE, 2006 NEWSLETTER

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Give us a call and let us know your thoughts.

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MAUI GROUP NEWS

CHAIR'S REPORT BY LANCE HOLTER

The Sierra Club's annual meeting was met with a standing room only crowd who listened to panelists discuss our new energy future. As a speaker filling in for Kelly King of Pacific bio-diesel who was attending a Bio-diesel conference in San Diego, I spoke to the future of fuel crops in Hawaii.

An integral part of Hawaii's energy security will be solutions to weaning Hawaii from its dependency on fuel imports. One way is oil seed agriculture. Flax seed, sunflowers, palm seed, soybeans and camelina are some examples of oil producing crops which are currently used to produce oil.

One farmer in Montana grows camelina seed. He has a small bio-diesel production facility on his farm. He can produce 100 gallons of bio-diesel per acre of camelina. It takes 300 gallons of bio-diesel to fuel the equipment to farm 100 acres, or in other words, he can produce 10,000 gallons of bio-diesel per 100 acres. The by-products of the process he feeds to his cattle. Can you imagine what we could grow on our agricultural lands in Hawaii?

A&B alone has 69,000 acres here on Maui, 39,000 is in sugar cane production which uses 92 billion gallons of precious East Maui water per year. I'd like to see bio-fuel crops replace sugar cane and the water returned to our streams to benefit coastal systems and estuaries. The positive and exponential effects of a healthy marine/fresh water stream ecosystem would be enormous.

For more information please go to www.biodiesel.org and for further reading I recommend the book "The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight" by Thom Hartman on the fate of the world and what we can do before it's too late.

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

To contact your Federal officials, go to www.firstgov.gov

To contact your State officials, go to www.hawaii.gov

To contact your County officials, go to www.co.maui.hi.us

All three sites are very educational and contain lots of email addresses.

**Let them know your thoughts on the issues!
They really do read their email and you can make a difference!!**

GROUP ACTIVITIES

On Saturday, February 11th, the Sierra Club held its annual meeting at the Kaunoa Senior Center. The event was a pot luck picnic with beverages. The main course and coffee was very generously provided by Mana Foods and Anthony's. A big mahalo to both! A panel discussion on "Building a New Energy Future on Maui" was very informative. Panelists included Nathan Glasgow from the Rocky Mountain Institute in Snowmass, Colorado, coauthor of RMI's "Winning the Oil Endgame," which details how the United States - led by business for profit - can revitalize its economy and transition away from oil dependence within a few decades. RMI also has an office in Kona. Lance Holter speaking on behalf of Pacific Bio-Diesel spoke on bio-diesel as an alternative future energy source, Joanne Edo from Maui Electric spoke on the latest developments at Maui Electric, and Marko Cunningham, a science teacher from Iao Intermediate School in Wailuku spoke on the advantages of installing solar hot water heaters, photovoltaic net metering, and other renewable energy sources and the federal and state tax credits now available to those who do these installations. The Sierra Club Maui Group also honored Astronomer Harriet Witt as their Volunteer of the Year, Ed and Puanani Lindsey as recipients of the *Malama ka 'aina* Award, and marine biologist and reef preservation activist, Robin Newbold as the recipient of the *Malama Kahakai* award. Mahalo to all who participated and made this such a successful annual meeting. A good time was had by all.

The Haiku Ho'olaulea Flower Festival on March 11th at the Haiku Community Center was a huge success with beautiful weather and large attendance. The Sierra Club booth would like to thank the following donors for plants: Tropical Orchid Farm, Neola Caveny, Rich Lucas, Bonsais of Olinda, Ho'ola Farm (Lucienne de Naie), Kelly Watson, Melody Farm (Diana Dahl), Ann Babson and Fragrant Orchids of Maui (Lloyd & Karen). In addition we would like to thank all the volunteers: Lance Holter & Cousin John, Sara Stein, Pauline Sugarman, Lucienne de Naie, John Naylor, Marta Sweeney, Jill & Pete Sullivan, Rich Lucas, Bob Babson and Stacia Bobikevich.

CONSERVATION UPDATES

Pa'ia Bypass: Mayor's Pa'ia Bypass Task Force expected to be convened in March. Let the Mayor know that most citizens want a permanent bypass with protected greenway corridors that allow for non-vehicle use and tie in with proposed North Shore Regional Park. County should also clarify status of publicly owned but privately used Kala Rd (currently used as a sugar cane road).

Marine Protected Areas: These "no take" zones marked by buoys have proven successful in boosting fish counts in surrounding waters on the Big Island. Write Peter Young PeterYoung@hawaii.gov and ask that this program be expanded to Maui.

North Shore Park: Ready for an Environmental Education center in the beach house at Kapuka'ulua Cove (old Lime Kiln)? Could be the first step in establishing the park north shore residents and visitors want. Contact Maui county Environmental Coordinator Rob Parsons to offer support: rob.parsons@co.maui.hi.us

Keone'o'io/Ahihi-Kinau: A management plan for 'Ahihi-Kinau will be available for public comment soon. Onsite rangers are doing a great job, but it's a big area and impacts to resources continue as efforts to control use in the area are controversial.

Pali to Puamana Park-Way: The public wants a better road above an eight mile long linear park along this scenic coast. Developers want a new road with houses between it and the old Honoapi'ilani Hwy. It's an election year. Ask for the park.

Makena Resort Rezoning: Seibu sold developer Everett Dowling 11 acres of land adjacent to the popular beach park at Maluaka to build "Keaka Beach Club" - 72 luxury condos towering up to 5 stories high. Development on the sensitive site, once part of a 15th century Hawaiian fishing village, was challenged for inadequate archaeological review. Four months of dedicated work by archaeologist Theresa Donham has revealed several dozen additional cultural sites, including a multiple burial area. Want to see these sites preserved? Contact laluz@maui.net for hearing dates.

Kaheawa Wind Farm: the Kaheawa Wind Power Project under construction should produce about 9% of the kilowatt-hours consumed on Maui. Efforts must be made to restore the unique native plant habitat disturbed by wind turbine installation. Volunteer efforts to replant have encountered red tape from state bureaucrats.

Streamlife Studies: Stream life studies have begun on four central Maui streams. Funds are being requested in the 2006-07 budget to study flow levels required in historic Kaua'ula Stream which once watered the gardens of Lahaina.

Hamakuapoko Wells: It is still unclear if the County Water Department intends to activate two seldom-used wells in the Pa'ia aquifer that require various filtration to clean out ag pollutants. Pa'ia residents want to continue receiving 'Iao aquifer water. Well opponents call the 10 year old sources a bad investment due to limited capacity of the aquifer and ongoing costs of clean up.

Wailea 670: Over 18 years this development has gone from 300 acres of homes for Maui residents to 670 acres of country club estates. Along the way 4 changes of owners have abandoned promises of a school site, public low-fee golf course, majority of affordable homes and a large park. Public outcry forced current Wailea 670 plans to get rid of most gated sections and include 20% affordable housing on site, but at this stage, acres of rare native plant habitat will be replaced with golf course, sewage treatment plant and condos. Let the Council Planning Committee Chair know what you think: email: Robert.Carroll@co.maui.hi.us.

East Maui Streams: USGS report on 3-year study of East Maui stream flows concludes that around two-thirds of base flow is diverted the majority of the time. Sierra Club members and allies want flows restored to dozens of E. Maui streams.

Iao & Waihe'e Stream Restoration: The County Water Dept and several citizen groups agreed to a joint effort to restore waters to 'Iao, Waihe'e, Waikapu and Waiehu streams- all currently diverted and then dumped. As anticipated, Wailuku Agribiz has formed a private water company (Wailuku Water Co.) but the County is hoping to purchase rights to distribute the majority of the 60 million gal/day of stream water the former plantation still diverts.

Superferry Legal Action: State Senator Shan Tsutsui wants more information on the Superferry's plans, so does Maui County and the Maui News. Fortunately, the Kahului Harbor Coalition, Sierra Club, Maui Tomorrow and Friends of Haleakala are pushing to legally compel Superferry operators to reveal just what all that public money is buying. Pacific Whale Foundation is asking for reduced ferry speeds (below 20 knots) in Whale Sanctuary limits. See MG website for a link to their petition and survey. MG continues to push for a complete EIS process to prevent the Hawaii Superferry from having the same problems that plagued similar high speed ferries in Rochester, NY and Vancouver Island, WA.

West Maui Developments: It's a feeding frenzy! 690 multimillion dollar units recently approved at Kapalua Mauka and 825 proposed units at Pulelehua - 5,000 new residents but only about a third of the units would be affordable to local families. Thousands of new units mauka of Ka'anapali, hundreds of new and converted timeshare units and a series of villages are proposed for the ag valleys of Olowalu, Launiupoko and Kauaula. Where are the water supplies, roads, sewer hookups and schools promised by former developments? The solution: Hold off on all approvals until there's a West Maui Master Plan completed during the General Plan update process.

Affordable Housing Ordinance: County considering several versions to codify affordable housing requirements. One proposal would make up to 80% of new housing built affordable to low to medium income families. What do you think? Let the Council know.

Cruise Ships: Kahului Harbor is jammed, but more cruise ship visits are planned. County & State need a realistic harbor master plan that balances freight, cruise ship and recreational users' needs. Mayor's Cruise Ship Task Force report can be downloaded at www.co.maui.hi.us/mayor/cstf.htm

Keep Depleted Uranium (DU) Out of Hawai'i: Evidence has been found indicating that the military used DU weapons in live fire exercises on 'Oahu (Schofield). The military has denied this in several documents, but when confronted with their own memo, had to admit they did use DU weapons in 2004. Live fire DU pollutes the land with radioactive, heavy metal dust which has been implicated in Gulf War Syndrome. You can prevent this by contacting your State Legislators and asking them to pass the bill (HB2741) providing free DU testing to our returning soldiers and banning the use of DU anywhere in Hawaii. More information is available at www.noDUhawaii.com

MAUI GROUP OUTINGS, SERVICE TRIPS, AND PROGRAMS

Please be prepared for outings. Bring food, water (a full liter), and sturdy footwear. A donation of \$5 (\$2 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14. Please register early. Pre-registration is absolutely required for some hikes. Call Sierra Club hike line at 573-4147 or the hike leader number shown below. The East Maui Irrigation Company allows us to hike across their land so long as each hiker has a waiver. An EMI WAIVER is absolutely required for EMI hikes (listed below). One waiver covers all hikes each quarter. Call in your waiver request well in advance of going to EMI'S Pa'ia office which is at 497 Baldwin Avenue. Ask for Jackie at 579-9516. Please be considerate of Jackie's time and pick up waivers 5 days in advance. On the day you pick up your waiver, please call Jackie first to make sure she will be in the office when you come by because you must sign it in front of her. Also, please check our web site, www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui/outings.html, for additional hikes, outings and events which we may have added after this newsletter was published. Mahalo!

Continuous Special Service Events

Project Malama Honokowai: Every Saturday at 9 am, 52 weeks of the year. This is a service trip and you will be helping in an archaeological stabilization, reforestation and educational project known as Project Malama Honokowai. This is a very special ex-

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perience! Simply meet at the intersection of Honoapiilani Highway (between mile marker 25 and 26) and Pu'ukoli'i Road at the "Sugar Cane Train" Station parking lot in Ka'anapali. You don't have to register - just show up. In the mountain valley above is a three mile long valley with significant archaeological ruins where an estimated 600 ancient Hawaiian families once lived. For more information, please call Ed Lindsey at 808 572-8085 or just show up. Also, for more information please go to: www.kaanapali2020.org/plan/hono_gulch.shtml

Maui Coastal Land Trust Waihe'e site Restoration: Be a part of restoring an ancient fish pond and other sites which have a major cultural significance and participating in a remarkable learning experience. Please call Scott Fisher at the Maui Coastal Land Trust at 244-5263 for more information if you would like to volunteer for habitat and archaeological restoration at their Waihe'e site. For more information, please go to: www.mauicoastallandtrust.org and click on Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands.

APRIL HIKES AND EVENTS

Thursday, March 30: Community Forum on Superferry benefits and drawbacks. Panel of experts to discuss this important issue. Got Questions? Come and find out answers. 6-8 pm at the Ocean Science Discovery Center, Ma'alaea Shopping Center (downstairs facing harbor). Free admission. Refreshments provided.

Friday, March 31 to Sunday, April 2, 2006: 14th Annual East Maui Taro Festival in Hana. Concerts, Musicals, Plays, Performing Arts, Cultural and Hawaiian Food & Beverage. A wonderful festival. Please come and enjoy.

April Event: Date TBA. Informational event: proposed Haleakala Solar Telescopes: How big will they be? What will they contribute to our community? Informational Panel will discuss the plan. Co-sponsored by Friends of Haleakala National Park and Kula Community Association. Look for more info on Maui Group Website.

Sunday, April 9: Haleakala National Park, hike in Sliding Sands trail and hike out Halemanuu Trail. Experience the unbelievable beauty of Haleakala. Bring camera for stunning pictures. Strenuous, high elevation 11 mile all day hike. Must be in good condition. Dress warm and bring rain gear, hiking boots, lunch and at least one FULL LITER of water (there is no potable water in the crater). Have a second liter of water in the car to drink at end of hike. Meet 7:30 am Bank of Hawaii, Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center to car pool. Limit 12. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, April 15: Makapipi trail hike. Moderate 4 mile hike. Explore historic Ko'olau Ditch from Makapipi to Kopili'ula Stream. Scenic vistas, pools, waterfalls and native plant life. Water shoes are suggested. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (See above). Meet at 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center to car pool. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Tuesday, April 18: Earthday Celebration: Please come to the Maui Community College campus at 1:00 pm and attend an environmental speakers forum, at 6:00 pm there will be the movie: "Monumental-The life and times of David Brower." David Brower was the executive director of the National Sierra Club and is credited with turning the Sierra Club into the national organization that it is today. When he first joined the Sierra Club, it was basically just a hiking club. He is living proof that one person can make a big difference. At 7:30 pm there will be cake and ice cream to celebrate John Muir's Birthday. Look for more information as to possible time changes and locations of the events on the Sierra Club web site under Hikes and Events.

Saturday, April 22, 10 am to 3 pm: Earthday celebration and plant sale at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, 150 Kanaloa Avenue, Kahului. Visit the Sierra Club booth and others. There will be educational booths focusing on conservation of Hawaii's environment, native species and ancient Hawaiian culture. Experience old Hawaii by participating in Hawaiian cultural activities like kapa, cordage & lei making, poi pounding, Hawaiian games & a silent auction. Enjoy the 'ono food, great music by living treasure Uncle Richard Hoopii, Grammy Award winning Slack Key artist George Kahumoku, Jr. and Ola Hou featuring Pekelo Cosma and 'Ohana Brown, plus chant & hula. See Na Koa Kau I Ka Meheu O Na Kupuna demonstrate their warrior skills. This will be another waste-free event with biodegradable food products (cups, forks, plates & bowls). Free admission & free parking. Bring the family for a fun, hands-on learning experience!

Saturday, April 29: Community Work Day cleanup. Meet at Big Beach first paved parking lot at 8:30 am. If someone has a pickup truck - that would be great. We located some abandoned appliances which need to be hauled to the dump. Will include clean up of Mo'omuku Heiau just South of the park. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Call Bob Babson for info at 874-1166 or just show up. No need to register.

MAY HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday May 6: Snorkel Trip to Honolua Bay. Spring is a great time to view Honolua Bay's beautiful coral reefs and turtles. This is a protected marine reserve and is loaded with fish. Bring snorkel gear, towel, sunscreen, lunch, and water. Meet 8:30 am at D. T.

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Fleming Beach Park. Limit 15. Leader: Ann Fielding. Call 573-4147 to register.

Monday, May 8: Makena Historical Tour. A short walk from Pu'u Ola'i to Keawala'i church will cover eight centuries of history in this legendary area. Meet 9 am at first paved parking lot Makena-Pu'u Ola'i State Park (Big Beach). Bring footwear, hat, sunscreen and swimwear for optional swim at Maluaka Beach. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. No Limit. Call 572-8331 for info.

Sunday, May 21: Hike beautiful Poli Poli State Park. Hike up the Mamane Trail to Skyline Trail and then up Skyline trail about a mile to have lunch above the timber line with spectacular views. After lunch hike back down Skyline but stay on 4-wheel drive jeep road back to beginning where cars are parked. Six miles altogether. Walk through lovely meadows with flowers and birds. If we are lucky, we will see Nene in the area. Meet at 8:30 am at Pukulani Terrace Shopping Center (Bank of Hawaii) to car pool. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, May 27: Help restore an ancient Hawaiian village in the Honokowai Valley. Meet at 9 am at the intersection of Honoapiilani Highway (between mile marker 25 and 26) and Pu'ukoli'i Road at the "Sugar Cane Train" Station parking lot in Ka'anapali. You don't have to register - just show up. In the mountain valley above is a three mile long valley with significant archaeological ruins where an estimated 600 ancient Hawaiian families once lived. This is a service trip and you will be helping in an archaeological stabilization, reforestation and education project known as Project Malama Honokowai. Bring lunch and water. For more information, please call Ed Lindsey at 808 572-8085 or just show up.

JUNE HIKES AND EVENTS

Sunday, June 4: Hike spectacular Skyline Trail above the timberline with vistas of the Big Island 100 miles away on a clear day. Witness numerous cinder cones from Haleakala's most recent eruptions. Strenuous four mile hike round trip at high elevation (10,000') begins and ends at Skyline trailhead parking lot near Science City at the top of Haleakala. Meet 8:30 am at Pukulani Terrace Shopping Center (Bank of Hawaii). Carpool to top. \$10/car entrance fee to Haleakala National Park. Bring camera, water, lunch, hiking boots and warm layers of clothing. Limit 20. Leader: Bob Babson. Call 874-1166 to register.

Monday, June 12: South Maui Historical Tour Part I. Learn about the fascinating past of the area between Ma'alaea and Palau'ea. Car tour with 7 stops includes short walks suitable for all ages. Meet 8 am at Ma'alaea harbor in front of Buzz's Wharf restaurant. Tour goes to noon. Limit 20. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Register at 573-4147.

Saturday, June 17: Wailua Iki Water Hike: 6.5 mile hike with beautiful views of Ke'anae Valley. Pools, waterfalls and lush plant life. Bring sturdy shoes, sunscreen, rain gear, lunch, water (full liter) and bathing suit. Meet 8:30 am at Haiku Community Center. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (see above). Limit: 18. Leader: Tina Dart. Assistant Leader: Bob Babson. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Sunday, June 25: Papa'aea Reservoir Trail. Moderate uphill 4 mile hike in lush East Maui watershed. Eat lunch at a beautiful pool with waterfall. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (see above). Bring lunch, water and bathing suit. Meet at the Haiku Community Center at 8:30 am. Limit 18. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Monday, June 26: South Maui Historical Tour Part II. Learn about the fascinating past of the area between Palau'ea and Ahihi-Kinau preserve. Car tour with 7 stops includes short walks - some over rocky ground. Meet 8 am at Ahihi Bay parking Lot ("Dumps") Tour goes to noon. Limit 20. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Register at 573-4147.

SIERRA CLUB DAILY RAYS OF HOPE

To subscribe to the Daily Ray of Hope, go to
<http://www.sierraclub.org/dailyrayofhope/subscribe.asp>

October 6, 2005: Greenness is next to godliness in the Church of England. At a meeting of its General Synod in February, the leadership voted to "make care for creation, and repentance for its exploitation, fundamental" to the church's "faith, practice, and mission." The motion also praised the British government for its stance on global warming and committed the synod to "lead by example" in making the lifestyle changes necessary to achieve sustainability. Practical suggestions for congregations include offering bike-friendly facilities, selling fair-trade products at church fundraisers, and using organic bread and wine for Holy Communion.

October 4, 2005: Public employees in Washington State now have one less excuse for calling in sick since Gov. Christine Gregoire (D) signed the nation's first "green building" law in April. Well-designed structures with natural lighting and good ventilation reduce worker absenteeism, increase productivity, and save an estimated 30 percent on energy costs. The law requires most new or renovated state buildings to meet green guidelines that conserve energy and water and promote recycling. Washington Middle School in Olympia will be among the first to incorporate the new standards, which officials expect will also boost student performance. As one

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eighth-grader told the local newspaper: "If somehow a building could raise test scores, that would be cool."

September 27, 2005: "Where there is vision, the people prosper and flourish, and the natural world recovers, and our communities recover. The good news is we know what to do. The good news is, we have everything we need now to respond to the challenge of global warming. We have all the technologies we need, more are being developed, and as they become available and become more affordable when produced in scale, they will make it easier to respond. But we should not wait, we cannot wait, we must not wait, we have every thing we need - save perhaps political will. And in our democracy, political will is a renewable resource."

September 23, 2005: "Help your brother's boat across, and your own will reach the shore."

September 16, 2005: "I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order."

September 15, 2005: The New York City Council has unanimously approved the "The Clean Air Taxis Act," which will put hybrid taxis on the street by this fall, dramatically reducing the harmful emissions from New York's fleet of 13,000 cabs and helping New Yorkers breathe easier. The American Lung Association ranked NYC as one of America's most polluted cities in 2004. According to the Sierra Club, which was part of a coalition pushing for the adoption of a green taxi fleet, hybrids are particularly well-suited for New York City, because the greatest difference in emissions from hybrids comes under conditions of slow traffic and idling.

August 18, 2005: According to the Organic Trade Association, sales of organic food reached \$10.4 billion in 2003, a hearty 20 percent increase over the previous year. The boom in organics is good news: Consumers are finally paying attention to where their food comes from and using their purchasing power to get synthetic pesticides and growth hormones out of what they eat.

August 11, 2005: Engineer Jay Harmon has invented a new propeller design based on the spiral found in nature. This biomimicry has resulted in the "impeller," which can move one million gallons of water in just 24 hours -- using the same energy as a single household light bulb. The impeller design improves a ship's efficiency by 10 percent, cuts fuel costs, demand and exhaust emissions.

August 9, 2005: For the first time in more than 180 years, the Neversink River in the Catskill Mountains is flowing freely. Last October, conservationists and scientists braved floodwaters to dismantle the Cuddlebackville Dam. In fact, sixty dams were removed in the United States in 2004. That's twice the number demolished in 2003.

SOMETHING REALLY FUN TO DO

If you would like to do something really fun, go to the National Sierra Club home page: www.sierraclub.org, and surf around for a while. It is absolutely loaded with a wealth of knowledge. It is incredibly educational! Also, you can sign up for free email on various different subjects which will keep you right up to date with what's happening and how you can help.

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