



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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SIERRA CLUB, MAUI GROUP
APRIL TO JUNE, 2007 NEWSLETTER

MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Give us a call and let us know your thoughts.

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CHAIR'S REPORT BY LANCE HOLTER

By Lance Holter

News recently of a proposed \$61 million Bio Diesel refinery on Maui rippled thru the Islands. BlueEarth Biofuels is seeking \$59 million from the Hawaii state legislature by way of special purpose revenue bonds to build the project. BlueEarth plans to produce biodiesel from imported palm oil and will import at least 40 million gallons per year. Importing oil? How does this create a sustainable local renewable energy economy? I thought we were trying to get away from this paradigm? Gee whiz Mr. Wizard! Uhhh?

I did some research into palm oil and was awestruck by the devastation palm oil plantations are causing to the world's great tropical rain forests. Palm oil production is driving deforestation and cultural destruction in Africa, the Amazon, Central America, Indonesia, New Guinea, Malaysia, Borneo, SE Asia, and islands in other Asia Pacific regions. Sixty million acres is planned for palm oil plantations in Malaysia and Indonesia alone because palm oil is in such demand.

The main culprit of deforestation is China's burgeoning economy consuming huge tracts of tropical forest. In fact palm oil plantations using slash, burn, wetland draining methods are the third largest CO2 producer in the world contributing 8% of all global CO2 emissions. In April 2006, China purchased 28.2 million cubic feet of Indonesian old growth hardwoods to build sports facilities for the 2008 Olympic summer games at cost of one billion dollars. Huge swaths of tropical forest have been illegally logged by the Indonesian military and sold to China. After the land is logged it is converted to palm oil plantations. Palm oil is used for cooking and consumer products by companies like Proctor and Gamble. In fact Palm oil is now found in one out of three food products. With the price of petroleum rising, it's now become an alternative fuel: palm oil/bio-diesel.

The Borneo rain forest is considered the lungs of SE Asia and since 1996, half of the Borneo forest has disappeared for palm oil plantations. This ecosystem is home to 7,000 species with a bio-diversity unlike anything on earth. It is home to elephants, miniature rhinoceros, the sun bear, orangutans, tree dwelling gibbons, deer, incredible bird life, nearly extinct wild forest leopards, cats and botanical specimens both discovered and undiscovered with untold medicinal value.

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, April - June, Page 2

At one field station in Borneo's Kayan Mentarang National Park, dozens of new species of trees, mosses and herbs, butterflies, frogs, fresh water prawns, snakes, and entirely new species of mammals were found since 1991. "This field station alone has more frogs and snake species than in all of Europe" said research station director Stephan Wulffraat, a conservation biologist with World Wildlife Fund.

The unsustainable destruction of the world's tropical rain forests will prove disastrous to valuable ecosystems required by plant communities, animals and people who depend upon the viability and economic benefits of intact watersheds, fisheries and sustainable resource harvesting. To put it bluntly, this idea that somehow sustainable palm oil can be produced is an erroneous one. All of the world's palm oil can or could be consumed by China. If you somehow find and take away the small amount of "sustainable oil," the unsustainably produced oil will just fill the void and cancel out the benefits.

The solution: Why does Maui need an unknown mainland company (BlueEarth) and no track record, with undisclosed or secret financial backers, subsidized by the State to produce quantities of biodiesel which are unsustainable thru local production and which will always be dependent upon foreign oil imports? I believe it far better to invest in our local Hawaii Pacific Biodiesel company and with Hawaii farmers who have proven accountability. We should invest this \$59 million into putting our own Ag lands into bio fuel oil seed crops. Invest in research and in identifying the best sustainable oil seed crops for local harvest and production. Invest in the local community and keep the wealth for our Island and State by not sending monies off shore perpetuating environmentally destructive palm oil production. For example, 600 workers were lost and unemployed on Oahu when Del Monte closed down. This was a lost opportunity when 600 experienced and trained agriculture workers could have been put to work producing sustainable organically produced agricultural products. Our problem is that there is little or no current ongoing Hawaii based bio fuel research and crop studies underway in the field of bio fuel seed crop production.

The time has come for Hawaii to control its destiny and not be at the mercy of foreign oil imports and mainland corporations who come to Maui/Hawaii with their hands out looking for us to give them the money. Let us invest in ourselves.

For more info:

www.Biodiesel.org
www.rainforestweb.org
www.WWF.org
www.mongabay.com
www.discovery.com
www.earthfriends.com

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Our annual membership meeting at Kaunoa Senior Center on February 10th was very informative. This year's theme was "Sustainable Energy." The speakers spoke on the many ways we can reduce Maui's dependence on imported fossil fuels. We would like to thank our guest speakers, Kelly King of Pacific BioDiesel, Victor Reyes, Maui Director of Energy, Daniel Grantham, Maui Group Director, and Jeff Mikulina, Executive Director of the Hawaii Chapter of the Sierra Club. We would also like to thank our Volunteers of the Year, Karen and Malama Chun for their work in organizing our Red, White and Blue Picnic Outrigger Canoe Races and for Karen's outstanding work as our Web Master. Mahalo, Mahalo, Mahalo to all of you.

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

Pa'ia Bypass: MG is exploring who owns Kala and Sunnyside Roads. We believe these roads were territorial roads in earlier times and would make a perfect bypass to Baldwin Avenue just above the old Paia sugar mill. We believe other territorial roads are available on out to the Ho'okipa area to reconnect with the Hana Highway. Some years ago Haleiwa on Oahu had huge traffic jams and they put in a bypass. We believe Paia should do the same.

Gill Net Ban has now been signed by the Governor. This eliminates the use of gill nets in and around all of Maui. However, a bill in the state legislature threatens to over turn this ban. Please write to your state legislators to ask them not to pass HB1848. You can reach all senators with one email to sens@capitol.hawaii.gov and all representatives at reps@capitol.hawaii.gov. Just put HB1848 in the subject line and ask them to vote against it to save the fish in Hawaii.

Marine Protected Areas: The state is considering creation of additional "no take" zones marked by buoys, which have proven successful in boosting fish counts on the Big Island. Write Peter Young peteryoung@hawaii.gov and ask that this program be expanded to Maui.

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, April - June, Page 3

North Shore Heritage Park: A comprehensive inventory of lands recommended by past planning documents for park, open space, cultural preserves, trails, bikeways and native plant preserves has been compiled by Maui Coastal Land Trust and forwarded to County planners. MG is working with the General Plan Action Committee (GPAC) to have these lands added to the General Plan for future generations to enjoy.

Pali to Puamana Parkway: Currently the Honoapiilani Highway runs from the Pali to Lahaina very close to the ocean where it is threatened by large waves and rising sea levels. Future planning envisions relocating the highway inland at the foot of the West Maui Mountains and converting the area along the shoreline to beach parks to be used by future generations. Hopes are to include the concept in the General Plan update.

East Maui Streams: Almost all water in streams above the Hana Highway is diverted into irrigation ditches to bring the water to central Maui for irrigation. Thus, down stream fish and other aquatic life are seriously threatened. A state ruling is expected soon which could require some water to be allowed to flow down stream to the ocean thus helping keep stream life alive.

'Iao & Waihe'e Stream Restoration: County funds approved to begin purchase discussions with Wailuku Water Co. for 13,000-acre watershed. OHA and Feds will help with funding. Earthjustice represents community members.

Sustainable Energy: Maui must significantly lower its imports of fossil fuel and increase its use of renewable energy such as from the wind and biofuels. MG supports the addition of more wind turbines and the production of biocrops for conversion to biofuels.

Superferry Update: As we go to press, the State Senate is working to pass a state law requiring an EIS as regards the improvements at Kahului Harbor necessary to accommodate the superferry. At this point in time it is not clear if the House of Representatives will also pass it or if the Governor would sign it into law if it did pass. We are hoping the House will pass it and the Governor will sign it.

Superferry Lawsuit: Maui Judge Joel August allowed the County of Maui to join the lawsuit first filed by Maui Tomorrow and others. This lawsuit asks that an EIS be done to determine the environmental impact on Kahului Harbor to accommodate the superferry. We are hoping for a decision soon.

Kahului Harbor 2030 Plan Update: Kahului Harbor is already very busy accommodating all freight and fossil fuels brought into Maui plus three cruise ships and two active outrigger canoe clubs, and now soon to be added, one superferry this year and a second superferry beginning in 2009. Just recently high winds almost caused a cruise ship to be blown away from the docks. With such a small harbor and tight scheduling and possible bad weather at any time, an accident could happen which could close the harbor for a period of time. It is therefore imperative that the 2030 Plan Update for the Harbor be done wisely and timely to accommodate all users.

Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST): This is a proposed \$175 million telescope that will soar 143 feet above the summit of Haleakala. MG is part of a broad coalition of people and other groups which opposes its construction. The name of the coalition is "Kilakila o Haleakala." For more information please go to www.kilakilahaleakala.org. EIS comments were submitted in October. Bottom line: we believe telescopes in outer space, such as the Hubble telescope which orbits the earth, get much clearer data and that therefore this telescope should not be built on top of Haleakala.

Pumping Policy for Harbor tour boats: MG supports efforts by local group "Pump Don't Dump" to end dumping of human sewage in marine sanctuary waters. Please go to pumpdontdump.com to learn more and how you can help.

Kapalua Coast Trail: Maui Land and Pine plans to build a coastal trail on lands they own that will be open to the public stretching from Kapalua Resort to Honolua Bay. In the future they plan to build more trails across land they own for the public to use. MG supports their plan to build these trails for public use.

WHY AN EIS IS IMPORTANT

by Bob Babson

An Environmental Impact Statement is simply a non-political educational document which contains scientific facts written by experts in the area, e.g., scientists, biologists, engineers, city planners, archeologists, etc. The document is not pro-growth or anti-growth, democratic or republican, it simply states what impacts might be expected if a certain project is undertaken. By knowing what the impacts are, elected officials and the general public can make wise decisions as to approve it or not, and if it is approved, what mitigating conditions might be required to reduce negative impacts, if any.

An EIS is so logical that years ago our State Legislature passed HRS 343 which simply states that projects built on state land and/or paid for with tax payers' money must have an EIS. The federal government and most other states have passed similar laws. So the

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, April - June, Page 4

Kaheawa Wind Farm which is built on state conservation land above Ma'alaea had to get an EIS. It was then approved to be built subject to conditions which would reduce its impact. Likewise, the Solar Telescope proposed for the top of Haleakala was required to get an EIS because it too is on state land. It is currently in the review stage and soon our elected officials will approve or deny it, and if they approve it, they may make the approval subject to certain conditions to reduce the impact.

HRS 343 also specifies that an EIS is required when state tax payers' money is spent on projects. So each time the state or county builds a building, they must also get an EIS. The idea is simple: let's do it once and let's do it right the first time. For more information, please go to the Wikipedia for their listing of Environmental Impact Assessment:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_impact_assessment

MAUI GROUP HIKES, SERVICE TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Please be prepared for outings. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, sunscreen 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 required for some hikes. Call Sierra Club hike line at 573-4147 or the hike leader number shown below. The East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) 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 EMI hikes for this quarter. Call in your waiver request to Jackie at 579-9516 well in advance and make an appointment with her for when you can sign it. Then go to EMI's Pa'ia office at 497 Baldwin Avenue to sign the waiver. Please be considerate of Jackie's time and pick up waiver 5 days in advance whenever possible. Also, please check our web site, www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui, and click on Hikes and Activities for additional hikes and outings and/or changes which we have added after this newsletter was published. Mahalo!

Just a quick note to also say we do need new hike leaders. Being a hike leader is fun. You can pick the hikes you lead. Please call Lucienne de Naie at 572-8331 or Bob Babson at 874-1166 for more information if you are interested. Bob Babson will take care of getting permission from land owners and issuing certificates of insurance, if needed.

CONTINUOUS SPECIAL SERVICE EVENTS

Maui Coastal Land Trust Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Restoration: Be a part of restoring an ancient fish pond and other sites which have a major cultural significance and participate in a remarkable learning experience. Every Friday, 8 am to noon. No need to register, just show up. Go to Waihe'e and turn toward the ocean on Halewaiu Road. Turn left onto the dirt road marked "Maui Coastal Land Trust" and park at the parking lot overlooking the ocean. This area is called "Roundtable." For more information, please call Scott Fisher at the Maui Coastal Land Trust at 808 244-5263 and/or go to: www.mauicoastallandtrust.org and click on Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands. MCLT also offers a free guided walk of the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Call 244-5263 for more information and to make a reservation. Spots fill up quickly, so call early. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Project Malama Honokowai: This is a service trip and you will be helping in an archaeological stabilization, reforestation and education project known as Project Malama Honokowai. Every Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm, 52 weeks of the year, a very special experience! Simply 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. For more information, please call Ed Lindsey at 808 572-8085 and/or go to: www.kaanapali2020.org/plan/hono_gulch.shtml. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Project Malama Hanaula: Help reforest the area around and above the Kaheawa Wind Farm above Ma'alaea. Meet every Sunday from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm, 52 weeks of the year. Park in the public parking lot next to Carl's Jr. Restaurant at Ma'alaea. Carl's Jr. is located next to the gas station at the stop light. Then carpool 2,000' up to the wind farm where the view is incredible. Help remove alien species and replant endemic plants and learn about the area and the wind farm. The wind farm currently consists of 20 1.5 MW turbines and provides 9% of the electricity for Maui and 18 more turbines are planned. Bring your camera, lunch, water and suntan lotion. For more information, please call Ed Lindsey at 808 572-8085 and/or go to www.kaheawa.com. No registration is necessary - just show up. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Community Work Day Cleanups: If you know places that need to be cleaned up and would like to organize it with friends or an organization you belong to, you can call Community Work Day at 877-2524 and they will provide you with trash bags, advertise your location in the newspaper to get more volunteers to help you, and coordinate having a truck come out and pick up all the trash you bag and leave along the roadside. Community Work Day is a 501c3 charitable organization and organizes these clean ups state-wide five times a year. They are truly a wonderful organization!! For more information please go to www.cwdhawaii.org. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

APRIL HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Saturday, April 7: 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 18. Leader: Bob Babson. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, April 21, 10 am to 3 pm: Earthday celebration and plant sale at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, 150 Kanaloa Avenue, Kahului. This will be the fifth annual Earth Day Celebration! As always there will be educational booths focusing on conservation of Hawai'i's environment, native species and the beautiful culture. Experience old Hawai'i by participating in Hawaiian cultural activities. Enjoy the 'ono food and great Hawaiian music. Free admission and free parking. Bring the family for a fun, hands-on learning experience! This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Sunday, April 22: Come help the Sierra Club celebrate John Muir's birthday with free cake and ice cream at Baldwin Beach Park from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. John Muir was born on April 21, 1838 in Dunbar, Scotland and founded the Sierra Club. The theme will be educational about the North Shore Heritage Park which the Sierra Club has been working on for many months now. It is our dream to have a "greenbelt" from Spreckelsville to Hookipa someday to preserve the natural beauty of the area forever.

Saturday, April 28: Community Work Day cleanup. Meet at Big Beach first paved parking lot at 8:30 am. We pick up trash until 11:00 am. Bring your bathing suit for swimming after the cleanup. Leader: Ann Fielding. No need to register - just show up. Mahalo for helping keep Maui clean!

Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29: 15th Annual East Maui Taro Festival in Hana. Concerts, Musicals, Plays, Performing Arts, Cultural and Hawaiian Food & Beverage. A wonderful festival. Please come and enjoy. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

MAY HIKES AND EVENTS

Wednesday, May 2: Visit Kahanu National Botanical Garden in Hana and see the largest heiau in Hawaii. \$10/person entrance fee. Then, walk down the country road about a mile to beautiful Blue Pool for a swim. Blue Pool is located right on the ocean and is fed by a natural waterfall. Meet 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center and carpool to Hana. Bring bathing suits and lunch. Limit 18. Leader: Bob Babson. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, May 12: 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. Please call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, May 19: Haleakala National Park - Hike from Halemauu Trailhead down to rim of the crater for spectacular views of the crater and then backtrack to the "Supply Trail" and hike to Hosmer Grove where we will look for birds. Leave one car at Hosmer Grove to take drivers back to trailhead where we began. All downhill!! 5 miles. Bring lunch, water and binoculars. Meet 8:30 am at Pukulani Terrace Shopping center at Bank of Hawaii to carpool. Park entrance \$10/car. Limit 12. Leader: Bob Babson. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

JUNE HIKES AND EVENTS

Sunday, June 3: 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 18. Leader: Bob Babson. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, June 23: Snorkel Trip to Honolua Bay. 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. For those who get cold in the water, please bring a "shorty" wetsuit. Meet 8:30 am at D. T. Fleming Beach Park. Limit 10. Leader: Ann Fielding. Ann is a marine biologist and will give a marine life briefing before the snorkel. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Sunday, June 24: 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. Leader: Neola Caveny. Assistant Leader: Bill Schnitzer. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

INFORMATIVE WEB SITES

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

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

To contact all State Senators with one email, go to sens@capitol.hawaii.gov

To contact all State Representatives with one email, go to reps@capitol.hawaii.gov

To contact your County officials, go to www.mauicounty.gov

All 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!!

DONATIONS

If you like the work we are doing and you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Sierra Club Foundation, please make your check out to the "Sierra Club Foundation" and mail it to 85 Second Street, Suite 750, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441. On the memo line of your check, please write: "Maui Group." Your donation will be used here on Maui to protect the environment. Mahalo. The Sierra Club Foundation is a 501c3 organization and is active in environmental education and the enforcement of environmental laws to protect our environment. Its federal tax ID # is 94-6069890 for your tax records. For more information and/or to donate online, please go to the www.sierraclub.org/foundation.

If you would like to make a donation to the "Sierra Club, Maui Group" which is not tax deductible but which will help us with our direct lobbying of government officials here on Maui to protect the environment, please make your check out to "Sierra Club, Maui Group" and mail it to POB 791180, Paia, HI 96779-1180. Mahalo! For more information about what we are doing, please go to www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui.

If you would like to join the national Sierra Club or renew your membership, please go to www.sierraclub.org and click on "Join or Give." When you join the national Sierra Club, you automatically join both the Hawaii Chapter and the Maui Group and receive the national Sierra Club magazine, the Hawaii Chapter newsletter and the Maui Group newsletter. The national Sierra Club now has over 750,000 members nationwide and is a leading organization in the fight to preserve the environment for future generations to enjoy. Please tell your friends to join!! Anyone can join for as little as \$25.00 per year.

Also, whether you are a member or not, everyone is welcome to surf our national home page at www.sierraclub.org. It is highly informative of all the projects we are working on. Anyone can sign up for email alerts of environmental actions that national is taking and how you can help by emailing your elected Senators and Representative asking them to vote for or against vital legislation that is effecting the environment.

Here are some more great websites to explore:

www.onebillionbulbs.com

www.drivinggreen.com

www.terrapass.com

Who Will Defend Our Environment?



THE SIERRA CLUB WILL!

And you can too, become a member now!

c/o Membership
Sierra Club Maui Group
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e-mail: holter@maui.net
www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui/



SIERRA
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Mahalo to Geoff Moore, owner of Silver Moon Art & Design
in Paia for the above art work.
Silvermoonmaui.com. 579-6402

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