

Spring 2007

MALP



The mission of the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals is to exemplify leadership by offering education to its membership, the industry, and the community.

NEWS

Garden Spotlight

By Susi Mastroianni

Maui Tropical Plantation

Every day 9am – 5pm

Ample parking and disabled pathways



Tropical market

Filled with Hawaiiana, fresh produce from the Farm and other gifts and mementos

I have been to The Maui Tropical Plantation (MTP) many times. Mainly through my association with MALP, but it was mostly behind the scenes workbenches to prepare plants for the MALP plant sale. This time, camera in hand, I walked around and saw the gardens through the eyes of the many tourists, also with cameras in hand, as I took pictures for this article.

With over 24% of the Gross State Product coming from tourism our island cannot ignore the value of these visitors to our shores. And when they come they want to share in the tropical experience, create memories and photos to share with friends and loved ones back home in the snow and rain. This is where

we come in – the landscaper – we help create the locations for these memories, the backdrops for the photos, the flowers for the leis. MTP has excelled in creating just that – a showcase of tropical horticulture set beneath the backdrop of the magnificent West Maui Mountains. Walking around I heard oohs! and Ahhs! as cameras were clicking and people were smiling. Our job in this industry is driven much by the tourist!

Reny Platz is the operations Manager and Agriculture Manager. He has been at the plantation since 1988 and has seen owners come and go. Together with Elaine Malina the Agriculture Supervisor of the property, they maintain over 44 acres of landscaped and farm cultivated land. Elaine has a crew of seven dedicated crew-members that *Cont. on pg. 5*

Board Members:

- * *Susi Masroianni (President)*
- * *Terry Nutt (Vice-president)*
- * *Jeff Bantilan (Past President)*
- * *Kevin Boteilho (Secretary)*
- * *Ken Findeisen (Treasurer)*
- * *Donna Mann (Vocal)*
- * *Lisa Raymond (Vocal)*

Newsletter Staff:

- * *Susi Masroianni*
- * *Gill Brooks*

Submissions/Comments

- * gardencreationsmaui@yahoo.com

What's Inside

Garden Spotlight	1, 5 & 6
Prez Sez	2
Codes of Conduct	3
How to plant a tree	4, 7 & 9
Calendar of Events	6
CLT Update	9

Dear MALP members

It's a dirty job most of us do.
Clothes get stained, shoes wear out.

Minor cuts, bruises and sunburn are taken in stride. Hopefully we are blessed with clients and bosses that appreciate our devotion. It is not an easy, comfortable job. We deal with a living kingdom that cannot talk to us and tell us exactly what they need, where they would like to be planted and what they would like for dinner!!

Some of us like irrigation, some hard scape, while others seem to have chlorophyll running through their veins. We are all interrelated, the grower and the gardener, the rock mason and the pool installer. At MALP our goal is to represent all aspects of our industry and in some way provide a service to our members and the Maui community. This year our focus is on publishing a new updated member's directory, creating a web site that will be full of useful

The Pres Sez...

information and serve as a resource for our members and potential clients, our educational meetings, MALP newsletters and the Lawn and Garden Fair.

This year we have teamed up with the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and will present a joint effort in celebration of Arbor Day. The Lawn and Garden Fair and Hawaiian Tree Giveaway will combine the efforts of both organizations to produce a must attend Green Industry Event.

On behalf of the your MALP board, I would like to thank you for putting your trust in us this year. We hope to serve our members and the Green Industry well. Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions, concerns and suggestions.

Mahalo nui loa

Susi Mastroianni

Karen Jennings's Bali Garden Arts

Picture yourself in this gazebo



Gazebos, fountains, water gardens,
containers, statuary, lanterns, exotic
building elements...and more!

Custom fabrication
and consultation.

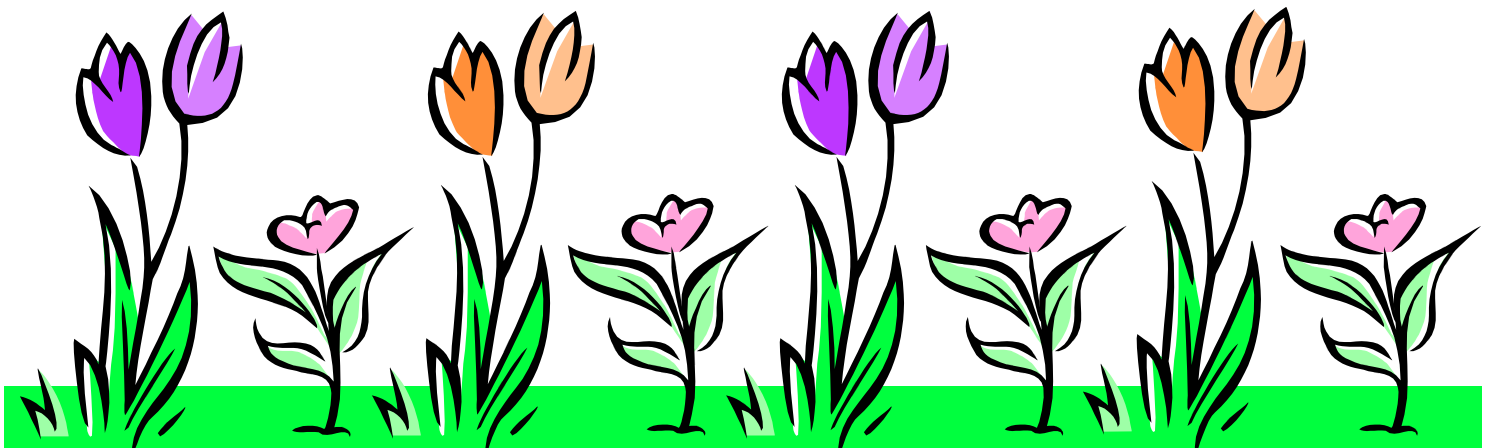
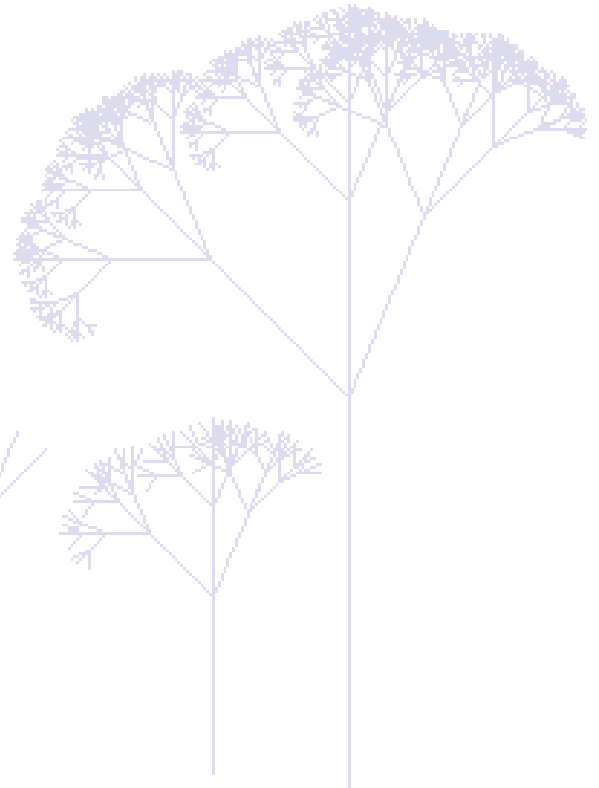


Call Karen @ 572-6151 or kjenning@maui.net

Voluntary Codes of Conduct for the Plant Industry

MALP has signed the Voluntary Codes of Conduct. Our last Newsletter included an article by the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) detailing the codes goals and intentions. We feel as an organization representing the Landscape industry we have an obligation to our islands, to ensure that the future will not be overrun by out of control invasive pests. To that end we have included a list of the top problem plants that threaten our islands. Some of them may not be a problem on our island YET, but in time, if we are not careful our valleys and open spaces could be threatened. Please, if you are in a position to avoid using, growing and suggesting the following plants please do so. MISC crews spend large resources and manpower digging up pests from our lands, give them a helping hand – don't plant a pest.

Mule's foot fern (*Angiopteris evecta*)
Giant reed (*Arundo donax*)
Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
Smoke bush (*Buddleia madagascariensis*)
Cat's claw (*Caesalpinia decapetala*)
Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*)
Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana* and *C. jubata***)
Rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora* and *C. madagascariensis*)
Australian tree fern (*Cyathea cooperi*)
Water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes* and *E. azurea***)
Kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*)
Hiptage (*Hiptage benghalensis*)
St. John's wort (*Hypericum canariensis*)
Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)
Bingabing/Macaranga (*Macaranga mappa* and *M. tanarius*)
Medinilla (*Medinilla cumingii* and *M. venosa***)
Indian rhododendron (*Melastoma candidum* and *M. sanguineum***)
Tree daisy (*Montanoa hibiscifolia***)
Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum***)
New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*)
Cape pittosporum (*Pittosporum viridiflorum*)
Downy rose myrtle (*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa***)
Glorybush (*Tibuchina urvilleana***)



How to Plant a Tree

By Susi Mastroianni
Certified Arborist

Tree Planting Diagram

Like children, trees (and other plants) benefit from having the very best start we can give them. There are many points to consider when planting a tree if you wish to enjoy it for many years to come.

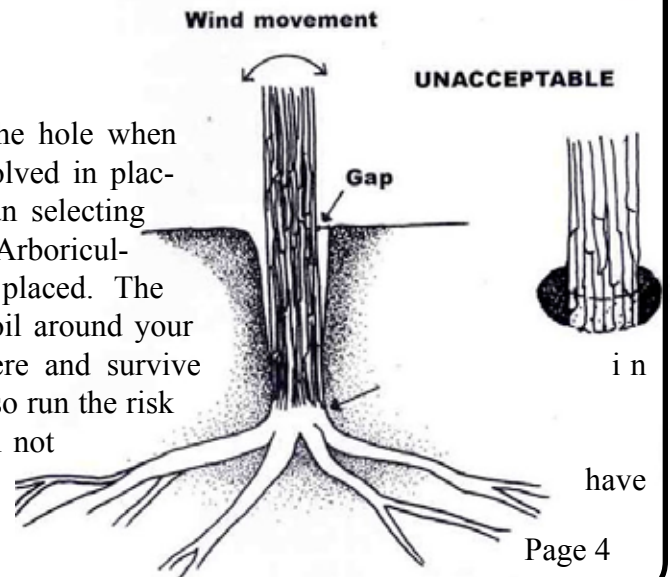
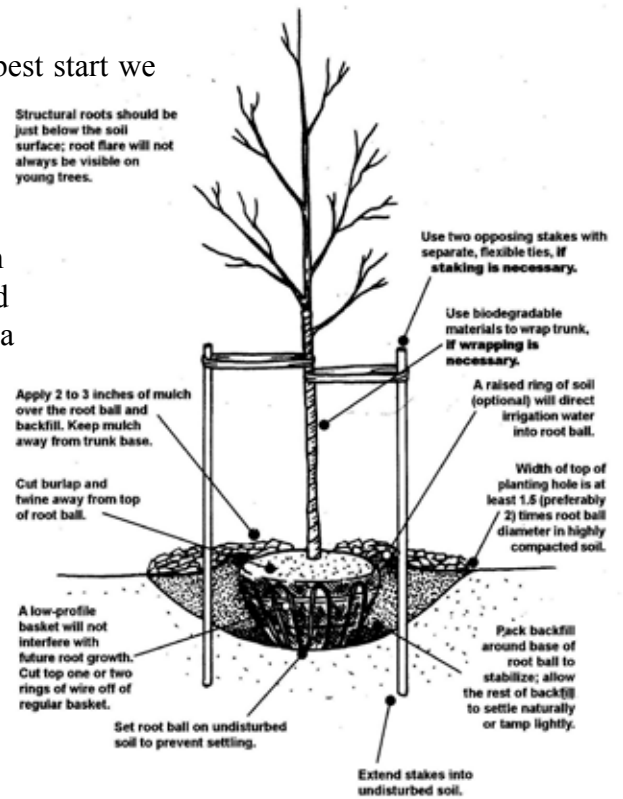
Whether a fruit tree, shade tree, small ornamental or wind break, trees have many things in common. They need to be selected for the site in which they are to live, they need to be planted correctly and nurtured to grow to their fullest potential. All of us have enjoyed the shade of a tree or benefited from the fruits of their labor – here's what they need when you plant them.

The tree – plant selection is of great importance. If you don't know what tree to plant, do your homework. Read books, contact the Ag extension or call a certified arborist for a recommendation. No matter how well you follow the directions below, if the tree is not suited to the site it will not thrive!!

Plant selection – once you have identified which type of tree you will plant, selection of a healthy specimen is paramount. I will be covering that in the next edition of our newsletter.

The hole – Remember, what you see above the ground is only half the picture. The root system is the nutrient foraging department and if this is compromised you will not have a healthy tree. When digging the hole never be shy to dig it as wide as you can, 2 or 3 times the diameter of the pot size is always a good idea. Ensure that the sides of the hole are rough and broken not glazed and smooth, especially in clay soils. NEVER dig a hole that would result in the tree being planted lower than its current planted level. One of the #1 errors I see is trees planted too deep. Trees have a trunk flare at their base. (This can be less evident in younger trees.) This is the site where differentiation of function takes place. Above the flare should be above ground and below the flare should be under the ground. It is at this level that trees push out buttress roots to stabilize themselves as they grow taller and are subjected to greater wind stress. If you have, in error, dug a hole too deep, replace some soil back in the hole and TAPM it down. You do not want the tree to settle over time and result in the sinking of the root ball. This will result in the flare being below ground and will impede the creation of strong buttress roots. It is also a site of disease and pest weakness. It is better to plant a tree slightly shallow, +/- 1-2 inches, above the natural grade than plant too deeply.

Amendments – Many people ask me what they should put in the hole when planting a tree. To be honest the size, depth and mechanics involved in placing your new tree in the ground is of far greater importance than selecting the latest trend in fertilizer tablets. The International Society of Arboriculture does not recommend amending the hole into which the tree is placed. The logic behind this is that no matter what you do to the 3 feet of soil around your new tree, it will, in time, need to spread its roots far from there and survive the native environment (once again Right tree Right place). You also run the risk of creating such a nice comfy home for the tree that the roots will not venture out in the big bad world of un-amended soil and you will stunt root growth and possible girdling of the root system. (Girdling roots are roots that have turned in on



Garden Spotlight

Cont. from pg. 1

work extremely hard to create the gardens that are enjoyed by all visitors.

The garden was originally based on a similar Agri-tourist concept in Australia, where visitors could see first hand the farming of common tropical crops. MTP was opened in the early eighties with land from Wailuku Sugar. Over the years owners have changed, but the concept is still intact. Around the entrance is beautifully landscaped gardens featuring many of the tropicals common in our gardens. The garden boasts an impressive bromeliad garden around the restaurant. In the farm part of the plantation crops like Vanda orchid, Avocados, Startfruit, Mango, mac nut, bananas, papaya, sugar, pineapple and coconut are on display. This lets the visitor see the trees and plants that create the tastes and foods that the islands have become synonymous with. A tram ride through the fields lets the visitor see up close the source of common tropical agricultural crops. Produce from the farm is sold on site at the Market place.



Meeting Rooms
Historic Farm Buildings are excellent venues for meetings and conferences.



In January 2006 the plantation was bought out by four investors, Mike Atherton, Larry Anderson, Bill Filios and Albert Boyce. Mike Atherton is no stranger to agriculture and has been involved with coffee farming since the seventies. Together with his longtime school friends, Bing Kirk and Dave Lintner they have a 200 acre coffee plantation

in Nicaragua called Jesus Mountain. This plantation alone has exported over 200 000 pounds of green bean coffee around the world. Coffees of Hawaii, a sister company, owns a 500 acre coffee plantation on Molokai and plans to plant about 200 acres of coffee on the mountain slopes just above the MTP. This plantation will be under drip irrigation and boast state of the art mechanical harvesting systems. Future plans are to place a working coffee mill on the MTP grounds, which will be available for visitors to see coffee production up close. Tours through the fields are also planned in the future. At present there is already a coffee roasting room where you can purchase coffee from the Jesus Mountain and Molokai plantations.



The Fountain
A recent addition from the new owners that adds majesty to the view

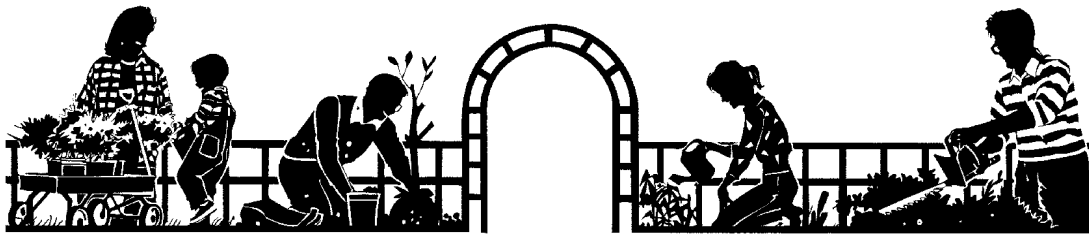


under funded landscape division. For the first time in a long time Elaine is able to buy plants and redo garden beds. Everywhere you look you can see evidence of this.

Over the months since their purchase of the plantation many improvements have taken place. The historic Farm Buildings received a face-lift and a fresh coat of paint. MALP has used these rooms in the past for our educational talks at our Lawn and Garden Fair. They have added a Luau every Friday and Sunday night and the restaurant is getting a much-needed facelift. But from Elaine Malina and her crew's perspective it has meant a boost to the historically



Cont. on pg. 6



Garden Spotlight Cont. from pg. 5

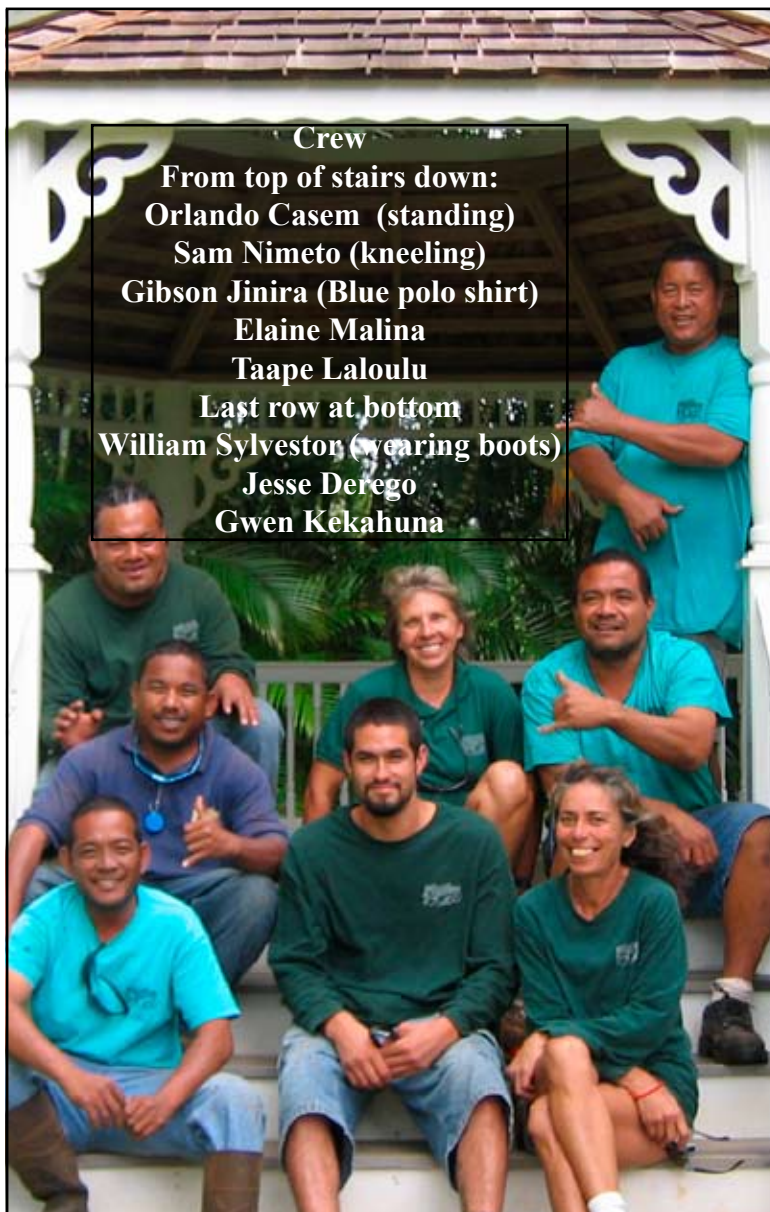
Never the less it is still amazing with only a crew of seven that the grounds look as well kept as they do. Elaine and her team are not only responsible for the landscaped gardens but also the Farm. Pruning trees, harvesting crops, weed control and pest management is a balancing act that requires dedication, passion and hard work (all of you who know Elaine knows that she is not short of any one of those attributes). When asked how they do it (memehunes aside) both Reny and Elaine (both graduates of the Agriculture Leadership course) complement there dedicated team of workers. Yes, we know, you cannot do it alone!!! Elaine told me of a stop card safety system that they had implemented where staff are



rewarded for educating fellow workers on correct safety and working procedures. Now the crew no longer help each other for the reward – they just want to get the job done right. Well done guys - it shows.

The future of the plantation is looking good with the owners turning the Plantation into a must see Ag-tourism destination by creating an unique sensory “hands on” experience for the tourist and local alike and future plans include a redesigned front entrance (being designed by Chris Hart), the coffee plantation, the coffee mill, “Aunty Pua’s” Lei making classes and expanded focus on functions and events. (Look no further for a wedding venue, retirement party or first birthday bash).

Landscapers, if you are looking for inspiration for projects, take a walk through the Maui Tropical Plantation gardens, I guarantee you will walk away -with a few ideas.



Crew
From top of stairs down:
Orlando Casem (standing)
Sam Nimeto (kneeling)
Gibson Jinira (Blue polo shirt)
Elaine Malina
Taape Laloulu
Last row at bottom
William Sylvester (wearing boots)
Jesse Derego
Gwen Kekahuna

How to Plant a Tree

Cont. from pg. 4

themselves and are growing in a circular pattern as opposed to spreading out into the surrounding soil.) I tend to add a cup or three of worm castings and hand full of a combination of organic and slow release fertilizer to the back fill. My logic being that the tree is often spoilt with fertilizers in the nursery and I don't want it to go cold turkey all at once- use only a small quantity and avoid salt based fertilizers as you run the risk of burning the delicate young root system. Tablets, if used, should be 1 to 2 inches away from the root ball.

Placing the tree in the planting hole - There are many ways you can buy trees, containerized, ball and burlap, bare root and field stock. For the sake of this article I am using containerized stock. When removing the tree from the pot be careful not to disturb the roots more than you have too. Try not to lift the tree up by pulling on its trunk. (You should never carry a tree like that either – hold the pot) Place the pot on its side on the ground and gently roll it while pushing on the pot to loosen the sides. Gently slide the tree out. At this point you can loosen the roots slightly by running your fingers over the sides of the root ball. It is best to have measured the depth of the hole you need prior to placing the tree in the hole. Sometimes the soil falls away from the root ball in plants that have not fully grown into their existing pot, you should re-measure and adjust the depth as needed. Place the tree in the hole so that the trunk flare is level or slightly above grade, or if you cannot identify the trunk flare, plant no deeper than the original depth of the pot.



Trunk flare at the base of a tree.

At this stage turn the tree carefully so that you select it's best viewing position. (If the tree is seen from one direction only put its best "face" forward.) Have your helper hold the tree in place and walk back to better view the tree from afar. Once you are satisfied that the tree is in the best position and depth, start filling the hole. Do not place all the soil in the hole at once but firm the soil in the hole as you go. I normally do that as my helper slowly adds more soil around the tree. By firming the soil you secure the tree in place and prevent large air pockets in the planting hole. I like to plant the tree slightly higher and build the soil up to allow for the water to run away from the trunk.



Mulch damage

Be careful not to pile mulch next to the trunk of trees and bases of plants. This tree is suffering pest damage at the base due to too much mulch covering its trunk.

Once all the soil is firmly in the hole lightly tamp with your feet, careful not to press too hard and break the root system. I ALWAYS mulch any new plantings. Mulch helps with water loss, weed control and temperature stabilization of the young root system. Watering in of new plantings is essential to settle the soil in the hole and further secure the tree.

After care – when a tree is labeled drought resistant/tolerant this refers to the eventual status of the tree to withstand periods of water restrictions. Even the hardiest tree will need additional water until established. I try to ensure that a drip system is set up prior to planting. The best intentions to water by hand often end up with dead trees standing!

A note on trees in grass – If you must plant a tree in the lawn try to ensure that at LEAST a three foot or more diameter is cleared of grass. Young trees need time to establish their roots in their new environment and do not need the added competition of grass eating up

the available nutrients. (Not to mention death by Weed eater). Once a tree is established, the shade from the canopy naturally prevents the grass growing close to the trunk. Give your new tree the space it needs. Also pay attention to the lawn watering heads. No tree likes its trunk sprayed on, especially up close. Cont. on pg 9

Certified Landscape Technician Update



Who is the Certified Landscape Technician?

The CLT program was established in 1983 by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA), which set out to recognize the proficiency in the landscape workforce, upgrade the status of the landscape professional and provide the public with a means of identifying qualified landscape professionals.

ALCA created the test with the intent of offering a uniform test in every state in the union. The testing began in California and is now being offered in 19 states including Hawaii. ALCA contracts the rights to use the CLT test with one administrator in each state, In our case that is the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH).

The CLT test consists of 2 parts. The first part involves a written exam, which tests the applicant's knowledge in all facets of the landscape industry. The written exam is a series of multiple choice questions. The second part to the certification process is a practical exam, which is held at one of the regional test sites. (See the LICH web page for information on upcoming tests.) During this second testing phase, an applicant must pass the core test and one of the following three landscape specialty tests: 1) Maintenance, 2) Irrigation, and 3) Installation. Once both phases of testing have been successfully completed, the applicant is awarded the Certified Landscape Technician designation.

Why become certified?

Persons who pass one of the tests have the right to use the letters CLT after their names, use the CLT logo on printed materials, and employers may advertise that they have certified technicians on staff. In the future high profile contracts and state contracts may require the use of certified professionals. We hope that employers will reward staff that have successfully completed this certification. The CLT designation WILL help differentiate you from your competition.

For more information on the program go to www.lichawaii.com

Calendar of Events

May 16th & 17th	LICH Green Industry Conference and Trade show	Blaisdell Exhibition Center www.lichawaii.com
May 19th	Garden Club Meeting Kathy Lindsay - 5731646	Water Features by Kurt Bennett
May 27th	MALP Educational Meeting Sherry Sorensen of Rainbow Acres	Walter Cameron Center Starts with Pupus at 6.30pm
June 16th	Garden Club Meeting Kathy Lindsay – 5731646	Yellow Seed Bamboo
July 31st	MALP Educational Meeting First Aid and Health Insurance	Walter Cameron Center Starts with Pupus at 6.30pm
Sep 25TH	MALP Educational Meeting Native Nursery – Jonathan Keyser	Walter Cameron Center Starts with Pupus at 6.30pm

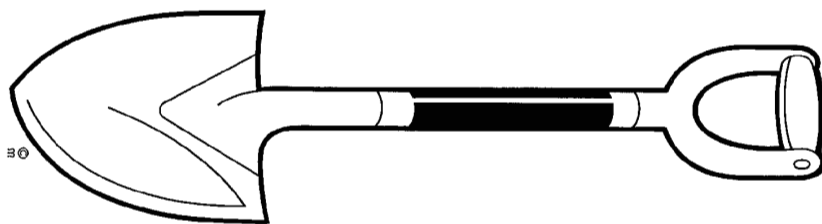
If you have a meeting that is open to the public, let us know and we will include the listing.

Contact us via our Web Page at www.malp.org

How to plant a tree Cont. from pg. 7

Select a site that will be out of the line of fire of sprinkler heads and, if possible, can have their own drip system for deep watering.

In our next newsletter we will deal with proper tree selection – what to look for when choosing a good tree.



MALP Members 2007

On behalf of MALP we wish to thank all of our members for their support not only to our organization, but also to the Green Industry here on Maui. Each one of you contributes in some way and we thank you!! If you have paid your dues and your name does not appear on this list please contact Ken Findeisen @ hgpken@maui.net

MALP would like to recognise our Lifetime Members and thank them for their contributions to the Green Industry.

Gill Brooks
Christopher D. Curtis
Monnie Gay
Darby Gill
Woody Goble
Jim Heid
Bob Hobdy
Billy Irvine
Harold Keyser, Ph.D.
Doug MacCleur
Bruce Martin
Godfrey Mau
Norman Nagata
Ed Perreira
Reny Platz
Ernest Rezens
Leatrice Taketa
James Tavares

2007 Members

Michael Aguinaldo
Ray Ah Chin
Shawn Ardoin
Jeff Bantilan
Steve Behn
Kevin Boteilho
Bobby Cairés
Oswaldo Cardenas
Sonny Castillo
Jason Dagenhardt
Russ Dooge, CGCS
Ken Findeisen
Glenn Gazmen
Pam Gould
William Jacintho
Leslie Jeremiah
James Jones
Claudia Kalaola
Shigeru Karakawa
Kenneth Kato
Jonathan Keyser
Kevin Ledesma
Kathy Lindsey
Dan Lynch

Christine MacDonald
Edwin Magaoay
Arline Maither
Donna Mann
Susi Mastroianni
Kim Mitchell
Gary Mohrlang
David & Martha Moran
Terry Nutt
Ryan Ouye
Anna Palomino
Ron Parkhurst
Steven R. Quigley
Beau Roye
Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond
Sherry Sorensen
Britton Stisher
Josh Stone
Andy Taira
Craig Trenholme
Stefan Uyehara
Pamela Van Horn-Beagle
Michael Vierra
Ryan Zucco



MALP

P.O. Box 2099

Wailuku, HI 96793-2237

<http://www.malp.org>



Useful Green Numbers/Contacts

MALP Membership Form

New Member

Renewing Member

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send \$45.00 along with this card to:

MALP

P O Box 2099

Wailuku, HI, 96793-2237

Garden Club

President - Kathy Lindsey-Phone-573-1646.

Meetings every third Saturday of the month.

Maui Orchid Society

www.mauiorchidsociety.org

Maui Bonsai Club

Contact Walter Ouye Phone 244-3687. They meet the 2nd Tuesday of the Month.

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Recourses

www.ctahr.hawaii.edu -a host of free publications relating to the landscape industry. From the home page select publications/free publications.

Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii

www.lichawaii.com

Aloha Arborist Association

www.alohaarborist.com Information of all things Trees!

If you are a member of a green industry club or association please send an email to gardencreations-maui@yahoo.com and I will be happy to include you in this listing and on our web page. We can also list your upcoming events. Help MALP get our Green industry connected!

