

Spring 2006

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

Aloha MALP members,

It was great to start off the New Year with you at our new location, the J Walter Cameron Center. This venue offers a comfortable place where we can all meet and share information without the feeling of being in a lecture hall.

We started off the year with a BIG BANG! I was surprised to see so many new and returning MALP faces joining us for our first meeting; we really needed the big auditorium at the Cameron Center to accommodate all attendees. It was a great feeling to see you all.

Mach Fukada was our guest speaker for the evening. He shared some valuable information on the Erythrina gall wasp that has been attacking our Wili Wili trees, Coral trees and other members of the Erythrina genus. Mach also talked about other pests that have been affecting our landscape industry. The meeting was a huge success and hopefully you all left a little more enlightened.

### The Pres Sez...

The following month I was searching for another guest speaker. Low and behold I found an excellent article in our LICH (Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii) magazine about Kona Irrigation and Supply situated on the Big Island. I got in touch with Michael "Mac" MacMullen and they graciously accepted the offer to be the guest speaker for the evening and share their new product line, the Savio water garden system. Adam Mock their Golf Manager along with Valerie Steel the representative for the Savio water garden systems gave presentations. It turned out to be another huge success.

I am always looking for new guest speakers for our MALP meetings that are fun, informative, and interesting. If any of the members have any suggestions please feel free to let me know. I think that we are on a good roll. So don't forget to pay your MALP membership dues (tax deductible for you business owners) and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Mahalo's, Jeff

## Banana Moth Lethal to Veitchia Palms

Norman Nagata, Extension Agent  
University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service



Palms are used extensively in Hawaii's landscapes to provide that tropical look that people have come to expect from these islands. They are fairly low maintenance and are generally tolerant to wind, salt, and drought conditions, which make them very desirable to landscapers. These plants are highly valued because they are so slow growing and expensive to purchase.

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## On The Merits of Trees By Ernie Rezens

Home ownership is much desired by our culture even through it may come with a small piece of real estate. After a family moves in, landscaping becomes a high priority. A lawn, foundation planting and a tree or two are the usual. The first tree planted usually is one that provides edible fruit. The second one could be more of the same, or an ornamental one.

Too often a new homeowner is unaware of the environmental requirements for growing trees successfully. Planting, periodic watering and fertilizing and using mulches are rather common knowledge. Other considerations that may be overlooked because the new tree is small and unassuming are: need for adequate space for roots and branches to spread, tolerance or intolerance to wind, messy habits, etc. Planting the right tree for a specific site is the number one consideration to avoid future problems and the necessity for making harsh decisions in the future.

A homeowner brims with pride as his plantings flourish.



Eventually reality sets in and he realizes that his trees have grown large and now require more care. They drop leaves, shade out the lawn and may even kill it – less competition for water and minerals. They drop dead twigs and require periodic pruning by a certified arborist. Now the trees are costing money. This is when a homeowner needs reinforcement on the value of trees because harsh alternatives may be going through his mind.

The homeowner needs reassurance that his trees are providing more positive than negative benefits. He may not be aware that they actually increase the value of his property from 6-12 percent depending on species, tree health and placement, and contribution to the overall design should he decide to sell in the future. His trees, along with those of his neighbors, create an environment that decreases criminal activities and make the community more desirable to live in. This can be verified as you drive by various communities and mentally decide which ones you would like to live in. Those with well maintained yards and large well cared for shade trees are probably the most appealing.

Another important attribute to save threatened trees is their shade. They actually reduce summer air temperature by 4-8 degrees Fahrenheit. In doing so, they reduce air conditioning costs and the dependence on foreign oil. Check out the parking lots to see where people park even if it means walking further. Another tree attribute is that they reduce water run off; thus making for less to fill streams and cause flooding. They also decrease air pollution by removing carbon dioxide from the air and reducing hydrocarbon emissions resulting from automobiles that routinely park under them in the heat of the day. Research has also proven that trees and landscape plantings reduce recovery time of the sick. The power of nature!

These are some of the supporting material a tree owner needs to be given to convince him not to top his trees, but to reduce them by drop crotching and that thinning cuts, rather than stubbing, avoid tree decay and weakly attached new growth. The greatest benefit would have been derived from advice given at the time of tree selection and choosing the planting site. None of us want cracked sidewalks or rain gutters filled with fallen leaves and blossoms.

The Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, MALP, provides the opportunity for landscape professionals to interact and learn from each other. MALP has in its membership several currently certified arborists, two others who will be certified shortly, and several others who have studied arbo-

# Banana Moth Lethal to Veitchia Palms

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Palms are relatively free from any serious pest and disease problems, other than symptoms that produce cosmetic damage that most people tend to tolerate, rather than relying on pesticide controls. What's more critical are insects and diseases that could be lethal to these plants.

In Hawaii, the most common and widespread fungal disease is, "Phytophthora fruit and heart rot of coconut" that has killed many trees, especially in wet locations. This disease is only reported on coconut palms, and many people have erroneously attributed the death of other species of palms to this fungus.

For many years, Veitchia palms (Manila, Montgomery and Joannis palm) have been dying from a heart rot that closely resembled the Phytophthora heart rot of coconut. However, the cause for these deaths is now attributed to the banana moth (*Opogona sacchari*). The females of this ½" long, brownish-colored moth lay their eggs at the apex of the palm, which hatch into caterpillars (larvae) that crawl into the crown and feed on the inside of the leaf sheaths. Associated with their feeding damage will be a

secondary bacterial and fungal rot on these tissues. Parts of newly emerging leaves, especially along the margins and tips of the leaflets will appear brown and necrotic (dead). Eventually, the crown of the palm will die and fall off the trunk.



Currently, there is no information on an effective control for this problem. Theoretically, drenching the crown with an insecticide that controls caterpillars on ornamental plants may be effective, if the chemical gets to the feeding site of the larvae. Furthermore, it's not known if applications of a systemic insecticide to the plant roots will be effective in translocating the chemical to the tissues where the larvae are feeding.

A similar problem also exist on Pritchardia palm, which can be found on the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources' website: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/IP-24.pdf>.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

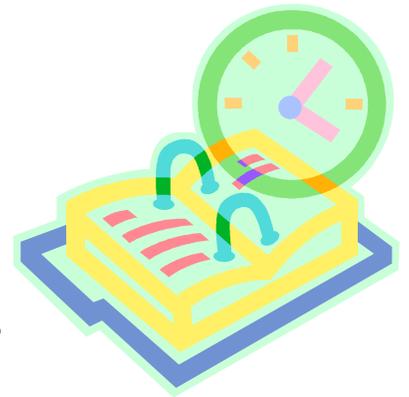
Take note of the following dates.

April 20th - 21st Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii - 2006  
Green Industry Conference and Trade Show

April 22nd Earth Day celebration - Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
10am - 3pm Native plant sales, entertainment and lots more!

April 25th MALP monthly meeting (4th Tuesday of each month) at the Cameron Center  
Guest speaker - Boyd Ready - LICH President

November 12th Maui Association of Landscape Professionals Lawn and Garden Fair  
Following the success of last years fair at the Tropical Plantation it will once again be held at that fabulous venue.



Please help us with this calendar. If you know of any event that is relevant to our industry, please contact [Susi@gardencreationsmaui@yahoo.com](mailto:Susi@gardencreationsmaui@yahoo.com)  
We will be happy to include it in our next newsletter coming out Summer '06

## On The Merits of Trees

riculture and have extensive tree experience. MALP is an avenue for learning both from each other and also from the excellent guest speakers at their monthly meetings. I invite you to upgrade your skills and cultivate a fellowship with professionals by joining MALP. It costs just \$45.00 a year. It is worth the money!

Ernie Rezents, a member of MALP, an ISA Certified Arborist and an ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist

Continued from Pg. 2



## Garden Spotlight

by

Susi Mastroianni

### Kula Botanical Gardens

Open 7 Days a week 9am – 4pm  
638 Kekaulike Avenue, Kula, Maui  
Tel: 808 878 1715

If we are lucky we get to plant a tree and watch it grow into adult hood, Helen and Warren McCord have had that experience since 1968, as owners of the Kula Botanical Garden. What started as a show garden for Warrens landscape architecture career has evolved into much more.

The gardens sit within 24 acres of rolling hills and valleys. Rock outcroppings bear testimony to natures power, creating some areas with deep rich topsoil and others with hardly any at all. Warren has certainly augmented this by building many rock walls and planting beds throughout the garden. I think he may still have a few more planned!



Tiki Entrance to KBG



The garden opened to the public in 1972. There is parking available, restrooms and a gift shop selling made in Maui items, snacks and beverages. As a landscaper the value is in the design concepts and ideas you can view and the selection of plants to see and learn about. Labeling of the plants with common and scientific names is a great educational tool. If you are designing, installing or maintaining a garden in Kula, a trip to the gardens is well worth it. What grows there will probably grow in the surrounding area and elevation. Taking clients through gardens is a great way to get their likes and dislikes, color preferences and overall tastes.

Continued on Pg. 6

# The Aloe Mite: a new pest on Maui?

mites, which were happily munching away at these

by Mach Fukada - Entomologist

In February William Jacintho, of the Maui Community College (MCC) Agriculture Department brought me some severely deformed inflorescences of an Aloe sp. He had collected them in Kula and was concerned that we had a new gall-forming wasp causing havoc in Hawaii. I determine fairly quickly that it was not a new gall wasp, but the feeding damage of an eriophyid mite. (On a lighter note, I really don't like writing about mites, just thinking about them makes my skin itch something



horrible).

Some of the more common eriophyid mites are the hibiscus erineum mite and the Erinose mite of lychee. Based on the host-specific nature

of these mites, I determined that this was the aloe mite, *Aceria aloinis* (Keifer). I had no records of this mite being found on Maui; however, it had been known on Oahu from the mid-1960s. A quick search of the Internet turned up a few articles and although this can be a devastating pest to susceptible species of aloe, not all are badly affected. In susceptible species, the foliage is affected in addition to the flowers.

The consensus from the Internet suggested the best means of control for the home gardener/landscaper is removal/destruction of the infested plants. However, on Maui we may have a third option. The infested flowers

offensive invaders. Given time these predatory mites will probably reduce the impacts of the aloe mites. It becomes a judgment call: just sit back and let nature take its course and let the plants look a bit ugly for a while.



This "new" pest is probably not new to Maui. Having about

40 years time to spread statewide, it has probably just been overlooked. After looking at the specimens I have recalled seeing it in Kula over the past four years, and dismissing its damage as the result of herbicide injury to the aloe. I am very happy that William brought it to me to look at or I would have probably by-passed this "new pest" for a few more years.

Hibiscus Erineum Mite:  
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/IP-7.pdf>

Erinose mite of lychee:  
<http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/5432.html>

Aloe Mite:  
<http://www.smgrowers.com/info/aloemite.asp>



## Sherry Sorensen of Rainbow Acres Nursery at the Haiku Flower Festival



Warren McCord and Susi Mastroianni at the Kula Botanical Gardens Page 5

# Kula Botanical Gardens

I was fortunate to see the sloping hills of the Christmas tree farm. This income supports the passion of the garden. What was originally a windbreak has turned into a working farm. Each year the McCord family has been supplying hotels, homes and families of Maui with a gorgeous Monterey Pine trees to decorate for Christmas. Generations of local school kids have helped earn pocket money by loading trees in cars and trucks.

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KBG's lush Orchid House

Warren's hospitality was gracious and we enjoyed our time in the garden sharing its history and story. We also met Jeffery McCord who has picked up his fathers clippers and shovel and is continuing with the ongoing creation of the garden. He showed us the orchid and anthurium house with many wonderful orchids in bloom and spotted throughout is their collection of pig-tailed anthurium. The fuchsia garden has just undergone its annual haircut but will be in full bloom later in the season. The garden also boasts bromeliads, Protea, Banksia and much more.

A walk down to the koi pond will show you the origin of the garden and what Warren had seen as the inspiration to buy the land in the first place. With "human size" water falls and natural rock outcroppings nature had inspired a garden. The koi are flourishing in the pond and a patch of bold red amaryllis catches your eye further up the steam bank.

I hope you take the opportunity to visit the gardens and if something catches your eye ask to speak with the gardeners – they are happy to share.

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Continued from Pg. 4

KBG has a beautiful lawn for functions



Christmas tree farm with Monterey Pines

New

## MALP Classifieds

Section. Send us your card and we'll post it here as space allows!

**cgaps**  
STOP THE SILENT INVASION

**Christy Martin**  
Public Information Officer

CGAPS—Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species & the ISCs—Invasive Species Committees on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i and the Big Island

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*Adam Moch*  
GOLF MNG.

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# Plants that make scents

By Terri Nutt

## Pak Lan- *Michelia x alba*

This flowering Tree is a real attention grabber. The Pak Lan Tree is a hybrid from the Magnolia family, known to many as White Champak. Originated in Java, this species is a cross between *Michelia champaca* and *Magnolia montana*. Trees have moderately large leaves, elliptical and evergreen in color. Flower ranges from white to cream, uniquely pointed in shape, and enticingly pungent. The fragrance is released in the early morning hours and lasts all day long, especially strong at night. On a warm humid evening the delightful fragrance can easily be enjoyed several hundred feet away. Flowers and leaves are both highly aromatic and can be used in fragrance production.

The white *Michelia* flower is also the city flower of Shanghai, China. The name Pak Lan comes from the Chinese, meaning "white flower". Hawaiians then transformed Pak Lan to Pakalana. However, the name Pakalana has since been given to the fragrant flowering vine, in the Hoya plant family, *Telosma cordata*. The true Hawaiian name for Pak Lan is *Miulana Ke'oke'o*.

Pak Lan is successfully grown from Lahaina to Kula, making it one of the few Magnolias tolerable to lower elevations. Mature trees can easily reach heights



of 30 feet or more, requiring significant space for growth. Pak Lan trees flourish in sunny conditions with plenty of organic material, water, and soil preferably on the acidic side. Personally, my best results for health and flowering have come with the application of mulch rings around the Trees consisting of chicken manure compost 3-4 feet wide, 3-6 inches thick (keeping it away from tree trunk) and alternative doses of fish emulsion with a bio-stimulant and or seaweed extract. I rotate with light applications of organic pelletized fertilizer worked in the top layer of the mulch. Pest concerns in lower elevations have been primarily mealy bugs,

whitefly and scale. Successful treatments are alternating applications of different systemic pesticide drenches. Propagating Pak Lan may be achieved through air layering. I have had no success with cuttings and have not tried to start from root pruning. Being a hybrid tree, seeds rarely form and if so are usually not viable.

My best advice is to always consider the right plant for the right space. Pak Lan certainly has my recommendation as a Tree that truly make scents.



### 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 2237

Wailuku, HI, 96793-2237

Sure, you're already a member of MALP so why don't you cut this out and give it to a friend? Or, better still, buy a gift membership for a friend. You'll see them more often because they'll come to some of MALP's great meetings and special events! Then next year, they can do the same thing and gift it to a friend of theirs...

Strike now while the iron is hot, go get a pair of scissors and cut this baby out and send it in today, your friend will thank you more than once!



# MALP

P.O. Box 2237  
Wailuku, HI 96793-2237  
<http://www.malp.org>



Christy Martin - Public Relations Officer for CGAPS and Carter Smith from Weed Risk Assesment updated us on their programs



Jericho Stringer, owner of Yellow Seed Bamboo and assistant William Evans in front of their creative booth at the Haiku Flower Festival



Norman Nagata - CTAHR and Mark O'Connor who gave a talk on budding and grafting at our March meeting

Maui's agricultural roots and rural lifestyle are the central themes of this delightfully low-key, family-oriented festival held upcountry at the Haiku Community Center every March. Included in the festivities are historical displays honoring Kupuna, lei making and flower arranging contests, entertainment by local musicians and hula dancers, and a silent auction. Shoppers will enjoy the farmers' market featuring locally grown produce and flowers, and the booths containing wares by local craftspeople.