

KA'AHAHUI 'O KA NĀHELEHELE

*a non-profit affiliate
of the Dryland Forest Working Group*



*Dedicated to
Revitalizing Dryland
Native Plant Communities*

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501c3 non-profit status

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Registration & Information: The Kohala Center at (808) 887-6411
Web Site: <http://www.kohalacenter.org/nahele09.html>

Dry Forest Symposium Workshops Filling Up

KAILUA-KONA, Hawai`i—February 6, 2009—Registration closes Friday, February 13, for Nāhelehele Dry Forest Symposium workshops to be held February 26 in Kailua-Kona on Hawai`i Island. The three hands-on workshops will feature outplanting techniques, preservation and handling of native seeds and native plant pests and diseases.

Molokai conservationist Bill Garnett, Pu`u Wa`awa`a Coordinator Mike Donoho, and Kaho`olawe Restoration Manager Paul Higashino will conduct the planting techniques workshop. Participants will learn about deep watering, double dibbles, mulching with vegetation and rocks, shading, catchment/watering strategies and more. This workshop will be held at the Uhiuhi enclosure/makai Pu`u Wa`awa`a.

Scot Nelson and J. B. Friday of CTAHR and others will discuss native plant pests and diseases. This hands-on workshop will cover plant diseases caused by plant pathogens such as fungi, bacteria, nemtodes, etc. It will also cover insect pests. There will be diseased and pest-infested plants for participants to examine, and information about how to care for sick plants and how they respond to pesticides.

Jill Wagner, coordinator of the Hawai`i Island Native Seed Bank Cooperative, will discuss and show participants how to handle and preserve native seeds and discuss their use in large-scale broadcast restoration projects. The seed workshop will be an opportunity for participants to work on seed preparation for storage in the Hawai`i Island Native Seed Bank Cooperative seed bank. Native seeds will be cleaned and prepared for storage.

Following the workshops on Friday, February 27, the Nāhelehele Dry Forest Symposium will bring together researchers, conservationists and the public to share ideas on how to keep dry forest habitats healthy and how to restore them where possible. This year, the conference will emphasize the human impact on Hawaiian dry forests.

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Bill Garnett will explore the role of gardening and landscaping techniques in native forest restoration. Garnett is an Endangered Plant Horticulturalist on Molokaʻi who assists Kalaupapa National Historic Park, Molokaʻi Land Trust and the watershed partnership with their rare plant stabilization and restoration efforts. Garnett, for the last 24 years, has worked to prevent the extinction of some of Hawaiʻi's most endangered plants and reintroduce them into protected habitat.

Dr. David Burney, Director of Conservation at the National Tropical Botanical Garden, will talk about Hawaiʻi before humans. Burney's research at over a dozen sites in the Hawaiian Islands has helped scientists and conservationists to visualize prehuman Hawaiian environments and their subsequent changes after human arrival. Sabra Kauka, a Hawaiian-studies teacher and ethnobotanist on Kauaʻi, will talk about Hawaiʻi with humans. She will highlight a nature conservation and cultural preservation project at Nuʻalolo Kai on the Na Pali coast of Kauaʻi.

National Tropical Botanical Garden Director and CEO Chipper Wichman will discuss NTBG's role in restoring native Hawaiian forests. Kahoʻolawe Island restoration manager Paul Higashino will share planting techniques and lessons learned on this arid and severely eroded island. The native plants on Kahoʻolawe were decimated by overgrazing and bombing during and after WWII. The island is now being revegetated with native plant species. A panel of restoration experts from the U.S. Army's Pohakuloa Training Area will present details of PTA's endangered species restoration program and work ongoing at their nursery. Many native Hawaiian plants are found within PTA, including eight endangered species. U.S. Department of Agriculture soils expert David Clausnitzer will talk about the characteristics of soils associated with Hawaiian dry forests. Insect specialists Steve Montgomery, Pat Conant and others will discuss the role of native and introduced insects in Hawaiian dry forests.

For registration and information, call Jan Stenberg at The Kohala Center at (808) 887-6411 or go to <http://www.kohalacenter.org/nahele09.html>. Registration for the workshops is \$25 each (\$15 for the seed workshop). Workshop participation is limited to 40 for planting techniques and plant diseases and 15 for the seed workshop. As of February 5, all workshops were more than 50% full. No workshop registrations will be accepted after February 13.

The Dry Forest Symposium will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Outrigger Keauhou Beach Hotel. Symposium registration, including lunch, is \$50. After February 13, symposium registration increases to \$65.

The symposium is a project of KaʻAhahui ʻO ka Nāhelehele, a non-profit organization dedicated to dry forest conservation. Partners in sponsoring this conference are the Outrigger Keauhou Beach Hotel, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization, The Kohala Center, Kamehameha Schools-LAD, Leonard Bisel Associates, LLC and Bishop Museum's Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden.

PHOTO CAPTION: A'ali'i is a common native plant that can be used effectively in reforestation projects, for firebreaks, and in home landscaping projects. It is easy to grow and is beautiful in the wild as well as in leis and wreaths.