



SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Mauī's Volunteer Newsletter

November Volunteer Meeting

Story and photos by Flo Bahr

Our November volunteer meeting was a great success! Some of our recent monthly volunteer meetings have not been well attended so Bo Pettty, our Volunteer Coordinator, and the volunteer Council decided to try a Social/Pot Luck/Speed Learning event. It worked, as many volunteers turned out for the food and fun. We learned about Sanctuary activities and heard a wonderfully informative talk by Dr. Mark Deakos speaking about sonar and how it affects marine life. There was a demonstration by volunteer, Robyn Williams on water quality testing. However, she used beverages brought by the guests instead of water. We learned the techniques by testing red and white wine and champagne! What fun! Jeep Dunning did a demonstration of the outreach table and Liz Stahl and Ka`au Abraham did a demo of the activities done with school groups. Our Foundation paid for some of the food and volunteers brought wonderful dishes for us to enjoy. It was a great way to learn and to get to know fellow volunteers.



Dr. Mark Deakos addressing the group.

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and a special thank you
to this month's contributors



Jeep, Alice Nakagawa, Ruth, and Pat at the Outreach demo table wearing coral hats the kids stamp fish on at outreach events.



Mingling and meeting other volunteers.



Robyn Walters doing a demonstration of water testing equipment.

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Volunteers at the Limu Festival

Story and photos by Pat Psaila

Who would have thought that volunteering at the Sanctuary could result in developing amazing friendships and having awesome experiences that take your breath away? Let me tell you a little story about this past weekend.

Seven volunteers, Flo, Chris, Liz, Jeep, Larry, Steve and Pat (and Peter, too) in 3 cars, loaded to the gunnels, left for Hana. The occasion was the Limu (Seaweed) Festival at Hana Bay on Saturday, November 22. Staff member, Ka`au Abraham also attended.



Pat, Peter, Chris, Flo, and Liz.

We enjoyed two overnights at the cabins at Wai`anapanapa State Park, near Hana. The cabins were great. Well, maybe “adequate” or “rustic” would be a better description. The best part was the magnificent setting, tucked into the forest, and the large lanai with a picnic table where we shared our meals.

Our car left at 8:45 a.m. Friday and we dawdled along and arrived in Hana just in time for an evening of talk stories at the community center.

Early Saturday morning, four of us walked from our cabins through a short trail to the lava strewn ocean shore. The wind was howling and whipping the waves into a frenzy. They crashed onto the shore with a resounding boom. There were blow holes everywhere and the spray formed a lovely mist in the air. It was so amazing that we found ourselves shouting and laughing out loud at the sheer wonder of it. The brilliant greens of the lush rain forest formed a fitting backdrop. We were hoping that this area would stay this way forever.



Later, we headed dutifully over to the festival grounds where we manned our outreach table. Over 200 keiki and adults came to make the puzzles, answer the whale questions, make limu bookmarks, get tattooed and just to chat. The festival was very well attended, well organized, and VERY LIVELY. One of the most popular tables had a real octopus (dead) and a fish head on it, which got more smelly as the day progressed. The children painted the octopus or fish and then pressed a piece of paper onto it, producing an amazing picture of the creature. At the same time, there was entertainment going on – singing, ukulele playing, and hula dancing to the beat of a huge double gourd drum. This was so authentically Hawai`ian.

After the festival, we drove over to the Black Sand Beach to see a Monk seal which had come ashore to rest. This was my first sighting of one of these rare, endangered creatures, so was quite a thrill. After taking many photos on full zoom, I wandered down to the other end of the beach. There I discovered a lava tube cave, and ducked into it. Another first for me.



After dinner that night, 4 of us got out our ukuleles and had a jam session, perhaps not enjoyed by our neighbors in the next cabin as much as by us.



I must mention that we enjoyed the most delicious meals, as it was a weekend long pot-luck with our volunteer friends.

Sunday morning at 6 a.m. some of us drove down to the black sand beach to see the gorgeous sunrise. Then it was back to the cabins for another gourmet breakfast, pack up, clean up and we're off, sad to see this wonderful weekend come to an end. I know that the friendships from this weekend camping trip will last a lifetime.

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Kihei Visitor Center

Story and photo by Renee Lackey

Zen, a two year old Sanctuary visitor, inspects the fishpond diorama. He spent the first part of the morning playing with a Honu plush toy and coloring at our keiki table while his mom and auntie watched a film on Humpback Whales. It is especially gratifying as a docent to see the wonder of discovery when children, like Zen, learn something new.

The HIHWNMS site is so welcoming that many families come again and again. Along with the educational activities and displays inside, these families are also taking advantage of the recreational opportunities outside. Many swim and play in the fishpond or picnic at the tables just outside the Visitors' Center.



Update on Building Renovation

By Nancy Daschbach



The final part of the renovation of the old Education Center continues to move slowly forward. The electrical work has been completed and power is restored to the building. However, there remain issues with the floor (it is uneven, and the stain did not "take" well) and as soon as that is resolved with the contractor, the work can proceed. Sorry, no completion date yet, but the work should proceed quickly once an agreement is reached between our contracting office and the contractor.

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Outlook for the Wet Season (October 2014 through April 2015)

By Nancy Daschbach

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has released their annual predictions for the current "wet season" here on Maui. Here are the details:

- El Nino is still expected to develop by the end of 2014.
 - There is a 55 to 60 percent probability;
 - This is a lower probability than initially forecasted several months ago.
- El Nino is projected to be weak.
- Probabilities are favoring below average rainfall through spring 2015.
 - Below average, but not expected to be as dry as 2009— 2010 and 1997— 1998. See "Recent El Nino Wet Season Rainfall in Hawaii" link below;
 - A weak El Nino usually allows some heavy rain events to impact the state.
- Some drought development expected in early 2015.
 - This will mainly affect the agriculture sector and those sensitive to short term rainfall shortages (e.g. catchment systems);
 - Not expecting extreme drought conditions at this time.

On the Web:

Recent El Nino Wet Season Rainfall in Hawaii: <http://noaa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=1cdbae60411a43cbb4d7686f9f8e1efe&webmap=3cd8bf53c1f24cddb74bfe99bc430210>

NOAA National Weather Service Honolulu HI: <http://www.weather.gov/hawaii/>

NOAA Weather Ready Nation: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/>

NOAA Climate Prediction Center: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

U.S. Drought Monitor: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Bake Sale and Holiday Craft Sale!!!

Saturday, December 13, 2014
9am – 1pm

Hawaii National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
726 S Kihei Road
Kihei, Hawaii 96753



This event, along with a couple of others is what enables us to have a catered Christmas party this year. If you can come and work that day, that would be great. Contact lynetteponcin@mac.com.

Outrigger canoe rides, films and more.

Raffle ticket given to each person who attends. Drawings will be held hourly. Must be present to win.

Craft Sale: *Clever holiday gift items. Anyone wanting to donate items or arrange to sell their items, call 875-9325 or 879-2818.*

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Blue`aina Campaign

Story and photos by Flo Bahr



The Blue`aina boat ride on Trilogy on November 19 was a wonderful experience. It was attended by several Sanctuary volunteers and many guests. The Blue`aina Campaign is a boat ride, snorkel, lunch and ocean clean-up. Each month, a sponsor donates \$500 to a non-profit organization and a sponsor provides food for the guests. This month, we were the recipients of the \$500. In the photo to the right, Ed Lyman accepts the check which will go into the Marine Sanctuary Foundation account.

Ed Lyman, our Large Whale Entanglement Response Coordinator, gave an informative talk on his disentanglement efforts. It is always exciting to hear his reports and how his group works to save entangled whales.

A water quality demonstration was also given and guests had the opportunity to collect water samples and see the water tested. We were happy to see that the results of the turbidity, PH and salinity tests were good.

The sun was shining, the water was calm and clear. We had a great snorkel and collected some debris out of the water and on the shore.

If you haven't had an opportunity to go out on one of these trips, you must plan it soon. Trilogy's Blue`aina goes out once or twice a month and you can make a reservation, for a donation of \$30, by calling Zsuzi Conforti at 1-650-868-5430. She will take the booking and credit card info. You can also call the Sanctuary at 808 879-2818 ext 39 weekdays, 10 a.m.— 3 p.m.



Ed Lyman, the Large Whale Entanglement Response Coordinator.



Volunteers Liz Stahl, Robyn Walters, and Flo Bahr enjoy the boatride.



Two hawksbill hatchlings that were saved on Friday, November 7, 2014. Photo by Cheryl King

Turtle Nesting News

According to the newsletter sent out by Hawaii Wildlife Fund (HWF), there have been six hawksbill turtle nests and ten green sea turtle nests on Maui so far this season. It is the busiest nesting season since HWF has been monitoring nests (1996). There were three hawksbill nests at Kealia and three at Kawililipoa. The greens were five at Ho`okipa, four in Lahaina, and one in Spreckelsville. More nests may need to be excavated. If you are interested in helping with turtles, Cheryl King, Maui's "Turtle Lady" and vice-president of HWF, looks for help. You can contact her at MauiHawksbills@gmail.com.

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Swains Film Wins Award

By Nancy Daschbach

The Jean Michel Cousteau film “Swains Island, One of the Last Jewels of the Planet”, won the Blue Ocean Film Festival award in the Cultural Connections category. 15 other films competed in this category at the prestigious international festival held in St. Petersburg, FL. The sanctuary showed this film in September, and many of you were able to experience this exceptional place. For more information about the Blue Ocean Film Festival visit:

www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org

New Outreach Tattoos!

Story and photos by Chris Lamb



Everyone is excited about the new colorful tattoos. They were designed and created by our own volunteer, Suzanne Langman. The Hawaiian Monk Seal and the state fish are now part of our outreach tattoo choices. Kids 2 to 92 are requesting these.

Suzanne Langman says, “These are one inch square paintings transformed into temporary tattoos. They are one of the ways that our outreach volunteers send our message to the keiki to save our oceans. Learning can be fun. I

see these tattoos as a reminder, for the visitors, of their encounter with the Sanctuary and the message we volunteers pass on to them.

I began by making a drawing on the computer, then painting them digitally. I sent them to the company that Ka`au said Oahu uses. Liz Russell paid for some of the tattoos for their monk seal outreach. I also sent some to the Big Island monk seal outreach. A friend of mine works there and wanted some. This was my first try and I learned a lot.”

Thank you, Suzanne. Your gift makes it possible to share with the public, in a fun way, the need to preserve our environment. With these tattoos, our message travels far as tourists wear them and show them off on the plane and on the mainland.



Jeep’s photo of keiki at the Limu Festival with tattoos.



Monk Seal Tattoo



Suzanne Langman shows a tattoo.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers Holiday Bake Sale and Holiday Craft Sale, December 13: Support your bake sale. Please let Lynette Poncin know what you can donate to the Bake Sale... cookies, brownies pies, cakes whatever. (lynetteponcin@mac.com)

Maui Marathon – If you are an early bird and would like to hand out water and energy drinks to some marathon runners, come at 5:00 a.m. on Jan 4 to the Sanctuary. We will be set up on the street as an aid station. Contact lynetteponcin@mac.com

2015 Volunteer Council Nominations and Election

2015 Volunteer Council Election – Three Volunteer Coordinator positions will be on the ballot. Voting will begin in late December. Results will be announced at the January 21, 2015 Annual Meeting. Look for a ballot in your email soon. Think about running or nominating someone (with their permission) to run.

Candidates must be active volunteers of one or more years (need not be full-time residents) for the following 2015 - 2016 positions:

Administrative Coordinator (Office Support, Newsletter, Volunteer Hours, Promotion/Advertising, Volunteer Data Base, Landscaping)

Citizen Science (Water Quality, Marine Debris Monitoring, Turtle Stranding)

West Maui Coordinator (Docents, Lecturers, West Maui Program Development)

Visitor Center –

Shifts are: Monday - Friday, 10 - 1 and 1 - 4. We have spots open for **all** shifts and “Whale Spotter” on the lanai. Contact Tommy Cutt at tcutt@marinelife.org

More Kihei Options for Trained Docents.

As we approach high season in the Kihei Visitors Center, we are scheduling two docents per shift. Following a Michelle Paularena recommendation, the Volunteer Council decided to add an optional “Whale Spotter” on the Visitors Center lanai to work with visitors hoping to spot whales from there. We won't add to the scheduling workload for this optional position. If you are a trained Visitors Center docent and want to volunteer on a nonscheduled day between 1 December and 30 April, feel free to come in (in uniform) and tell the duty docents that you are there to help out, especially with visitors on the lanai. If you are not yet a trained docent but are interested, please contact Bo Petty bo.petty@noaa.gov to get on the training track. The whales are coming.

Stranding Network – Openings, flexible schedule. Contact tcutt@marinelife.org

Outreach – Contact Jeep Dunning at mauijeep@gmail.com for most outreach opportunities.

Maui Ocean Center outreach table will have some openings for the first 3 weeks in December. Volunteering at the Maui Ocean Center offers a special opportunity to explore our fascinating local aquarium. If anyone is interested, there should be further opportunities to participate in the MOC outreach in January, February, and March. Interested volunteers can contact Konnie Fox at konnieffox@gmail.com

Whalers Village Museum – Talks are Mon, Wed, Fri at 11 am. If volunteers wish to become a sanctuary whale talker, please contact Jeep or Raul.

Whale Talks in Lahaina – Contact Raul Paiz at rep4908@yahoo.com

Whale Talks in Kihei – Contact Jeep Dunning at mauijeep@gmail.com

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South Maui

*Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary
726 South Kihei Road,
Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 879-2818*

West Maui

*Whalers Village Shopping Center
Whalers Museum
2435 Ka'anapali Pkwy
Lahaina, HI 96761 (661-4567)* *Old Lahaina Courthouse
Banyan Tree Park
Wharf Street
Lahaina, 96761 (661-3262)*

December 2014

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1 MOC Outreach	2 Council Mtg 3:00 PM Kihei 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei and Old Lahaina Cths	3	4 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	5 Mana Kai Outreach	6
7 Blue`Aina	8 MOC Outreach	9 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei and Old Lahaina Cths	10	11 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	12 Mana Kai Outreach	13 Bake and Craft Sale 9AM-1PM Kihei
14	15 MOC Outreach	16 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei and Old Lahaina Cths	17 Volunteer Holiday Party 6 PM Kihei First Day of Chanukkah	18 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	19 Mana Kai Outreach	20
21	22 MOC Outreach	23 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei and Old Lahaina Cths	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Mana Kai Outreach	27
28	29 MOC Outreach	30 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei and Old Lahaina Cths	31	Upcoming: January 4 - Maui Marathon 5 AM Volunteer Council Election - January 21, 2015 at the Annual Volunteer Meeting		