

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Maui 's Volunteer Newsletter



Maui Ocean Center by Marv and Michelle Paularina and Nancy Daschbach

NOAA HIHWNMS Kihei is hosting an outreach table at the Maui Ocean Center this summer. The focus this season is turtles although volunteers also discuss whales with the MOC guests. Activities at the table include fish rubbings using plastic fish, monk seal and whale puzzles as well as a game called "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grade Turtle?". The game has various questions about Green Sea Turtles to educate both children and adults. Volunteers who have participated in this summer's outreach are Flo Bahr, Michele & Marv Paularena, Al Bayless, Laura Gahr, Barbara Lilly, Bob Aldrich, Kawika, Susan & Curt Fladager and Ken Blume. Jeep Dunning manages the outreach which reaches about 350 people per month, most of them children. Ka'au Abraham, NOAA Maui Island Coordinator, has provided his valuable hands-on assistance. We have built a strong rapport with the MOC staff which makes our task doubly rewarding. Erin Iberg, MOC's Community Education Manager, has worked with NOAA to ensure that we are all on the same page. Anyone who enjoys people and would like to join us in our MOC outreach should contact Jeep Dunning via email at mauijeep@gmail.com.



Marv and Michelle Paularina and Bob Aldrich at outreach table.



Barbara Lilly and Laura Gahr assist visitors at the table.

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SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Yard Sale and Bake Sale

We will be holding a Bake Sale and Garage Sale on October 6, 2012 at the Sanctuary. Please start saving goods to donate for the sale. We will be able to store them in the old visitor's center building after Labor Day. This early notice is to allow time for you to collect items. Please help. Mahalo

Getting to Know You



Flo Bahr - Flo is a member of the Volunteer Council. She works on this Newsletter, and volunteers at outreach events including the Maui Ocean Center. She loves to snorkel and dive and does reef fish surveys. Flo needs help with the newsletter. If you would like to work on it, contact her at FloB2@aol.com.



Al Bayless and Lopaka (Bob) Aldrich set up the new desk in the Visitor Center. The new area is shaping up but still has many more displays to come.



Pat Hoskin - Pat has been doing water quality studies at La'ie Wetlands for the past couple of years. She also volunteers at outreach events. Pat enjoys working as a volunteer usher at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center and does snorkeling with the Reef group. She has volunteered at the Maui Friends of the Library Bookstore for the past two years.

Important Note:

All volunteers, please, schedule volunteer time with your points of contact only, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Please, show up when scheduled and, please, don't show up expecting to work an event when not scheduled. Thank You!

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Hawksbill Turtles on Maui



Honu`ea (Hawksbill Turtle) at Maluaka

The following information on Hawksbill Turtles on Maui will be helpful when talking to visitors at outreach. Many visitors know little about turtles and seem so interested when we talk about our cool turtle programs here. Keep this and try it!

Hawksbill nesting season is from about June until September. During this period on Maui, we have a Dawn Patrol made up of volunteers from Hawaii Fish and Wildlife that walk those beaches that have had nests in the past, looking for turtle tracks. These tracks may indicate that a nest was set the night before. The nest may contain from 150 to 200 eggs. The same gravid (with eggs) turtle may nest up to six times in the same season at intervals of two to three weeks. **We currently have two nests incubating at Makena State Park (Big Beach) and one on Little Beach (8/24/12).**

When the hatchlings are ready to emerge (about two months later) a group led by Cheryl King, of Hawaii Wildlife Fund, monitors the nest night and day until the hatchlings crawl out. They try to make sure the babies make it to the sea and not get snatched up by crabs, birds or other animals.

Some of the hatchlings may not be ready, or just don't emerge. These would perish if not for a nest excavation three days later to get these little ones out and to the ocean.

During this excavation, done by Glynnis Nakai, HFW; Skippy Hou, DAR; and Cheryl King, HFW; data is taken on nest temperature, number of shells, hatchling size, sand type, etc. The nests currently on Big Beach are Hawksbill nests by "Orion" a turtle known to us from nesting here in the past. We also have the occasional Green Sea Turtle nest on Maui. The best known is "Maui Girl" who nests in Lahaina. She has not nested here this year.

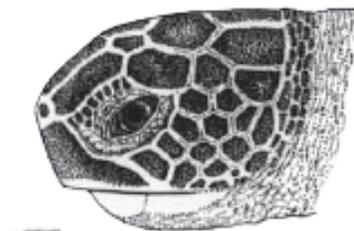
Recent Turtle Activity at Makena: Orion's first nest emerged 8/19 with about 70 hatchlings and was excavated 8/23 with 80 hatchlings found still in the nest. They were released to the ocean! Orion's 4th nest was set on 8/24 on Little Beach, which was a big surprise. The turtle team was watching Big Beach!

Most of the turtles that you see while snorkeling are Green Sea Turtles. To identify a Hawksbill Turtle, here are some characteristics to look for:

- A long pointed beak (like a hawk)
- Its shell has scutes (box pattern) that overlap
- Less than 3' long, smaller than Greens
- The back edge of the shell is usually jagged not smooth like a Green
- The shell often has brown and yellow streaks, especially when young



Hawksbill
Eretmochelys imbricata



Green
Chelonia mydas

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Super Science Sunday by Pat Hoskin



Pat Hoskin, Ka'au Abraham, Connie Kent, Robyn Walters

I was invited to participate with the Blue `Aina on August 5th. The weather was absolutely perfect. Four Sanctuary volunteers were aboard to provide the rest of the passengers with information about water quality and show how to do testing. I had not been on a Blue `Aina voyage and it was terrific. We had smooth sailing to Honolua Bay and moored. This trip supported the Surfrider Foundation so we had several of their volunteers aboard who explained their program. We moored in the bay and the four of us took our collection bottles and took off. I swam to the other side of the bay and got real shallow searching out cooler water assuming we have fresh water coming into the bay. The greatest surprise to me was the clarity of the water, an incredible .19! To compare, the ocean outside of the La'ie wetlands, where I do collections once a week, has as a low number 4 point something. So, this water was like Molokini, just crystal clear. Wonderful viewing.

We got back aboard and proceeded to do our testing and be videotaped. Ka'au gave a description to the passengers of what we were doing and showed them the data sheets we would be filling out and provided a flip book of what the procedure looks like in the lab. We sailed part of the way back to Lahina. A wonderful day.

Later in the evening I went to the Institute for Astronomy in Pukalani and sat in a room with other space enthusiasts and watched the direct feed from NASA as our lander made a successful landing on Mars. So, in conclusion, I had a super science Sunday.

Cultural Corner

What does `Aumakua mean?

According to the Hawaiian Dictionary by Mary Kawena Pukui, `aumakua are family or personal gods, deified ancestors who might assume the shape of sharks, owls, hawks, mudhens, octopuses, eels, mice, rats...and other animals.

The `aumakua is the spirit of a deceased ancestor that may appear in the physical form of something else, such as an animal, a place or even a rock that might be a place to go and have a spiritual relationship with ones `aumakua. Sensing the presence of your `aumakua could be a warning of danger or an omen of something good. There are stories of `aumakua leading their descendants from harm or bringing warnings of impending danger or even saving them when they are in a dangerous situation. They might make an appearance to comfort in times of stress or sorrow.

The particular `aumakua is treated with great respect and reverence by the person or family. If an animal, they are not eaten or harmed.

This belief system began in older times but even now, after Christianity and the belief in one God has been introduced to the Hawaiians, the na `aumakua (plural) continue to be respected and consulted by many Hawaiian families.

For more information on this topic, you may want to consult the articles below.

This first link has a story by "Uncle" Charlie Maxwell about a shark `aumakua:

<http://www.moolelo.com/sharks.html>

<http://www.kaleoaloha.com/aumakua.html>

<http://www.hawaiiisharks.com/pdf/APaperbyHerbKane.pdf>

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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

*Whaler Village Shopping Center
Whalers Museum
2435 Ka'anapali Parkway
Lahaina, HI 96761 (808) 661-4567*

September 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*Blue`aina Campaign on Trilogy (http://www.sailtrilogy.com/blue)						1
2	3 Labor Day	4 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	5	6 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	7 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	8
9	10	11 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	12	13 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	14 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	15 *Blue`aina on Trilogy 8:30 AM
16	17	18 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	19	20 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	21 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	22
23	24	25 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	26	27 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	28 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	29
30						