

President's Message

Everything is humming around the zoo! We have 21 enthusiastic new docents helping with the information booth, school tours, petting zoo and animal enrichment. We provided two truckloads of cinder for the donkey enclosure which our recent rains had turned into a muddy swamp, and we purchased materials to build a large paddock in the service area for grazing the donkeys and other hoof stock. Also we recently bought a personal PA system to use for large tour groups as well as lectures.



Our beloved water buffalo, Arnie, died last month. We knew this day would come, but it was still very sad. We estimate Arnie was at least 45 years old -- -- ancient in buffalo years! His longevity is a credit to

all the love and care he received in the zoo! He was buried in his enclosure, and we plan to plant a special tree in his memory. Someday we want to get another water buffalo but when we do it will live in the hoof stock area. Other plans are brewing for Arnie's pasture.....

Namaste's enclosure needs a full replacement of the surrounding fencing. What to do with Namaste during this project? We plan to help the county build a new tiger enclosure within Arnie's pasture with a connection to the tiger nighthouse --- a temporary home for Namaste --- and later an exhibit for new tigers! Stay tuned as plans progress and we begin fundraising!

In February we presented 4 \$50 awards to exemplary zoology projects at the Hawaii District Science Fair. Look for these projects to be on display at the zoo this summer. And our scholarship winner this year is an outstanding and very deserving volunteer, Alia Zelko.

Thank you all for your support for the zoo --- it is being put to use in many ways!!

— **Jean A. Curtis**

Director's Message

It's soooooo good to be back!

Those are the exact words I repeated to myself every morning as I drove to work in December. It's wonderful to be back here at Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens. The maturing landscape is turning out to be even more beautiful than I could have imagined when it was planted a few years ago. I can already tell the water garden will be magnificent in a few months, and the new Cycad garden is starting to take shape. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff, senior enrollees, and countless volunteers who worked tirelessly to transform Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens into a community asset and attraction for Hawaii Island residents and visitors.

The New Year has brought exciting news with the birth of our baby Binturongs in February. Lucy (Mom) Binturong rejected and abandoned one of the babies at birth and our Super Hero Information/Education Specialist Terry Moniz came to the rescue to care for and be foster dad to baby "Keoki". His tremendous patience and many sleepless nights have paid off, and we're happy to report that Keoki is very active, playing and happily growing into an official burnt buttered popcorn smelling Binturong!

Please take the time to see the video of Terry and Keoki (4 weeks old) on the net at:

<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/hilo/2009/20090313keoki.htm>

Unfortunately, we have lost both baby Binturongs that were being so diligently cared for by Lucy. The necropsy results are still pending, but the initial findings indicate trauma and bacterial infection.

On another sad note, our Water Buffalo Arnie passed away in March.

Rain, Rain, and more Rain.....We have not had very many sunny days lately, but we are after all the only natural Rainforest Zoo in the 50 United States! Please bring your umbrellas and visit us soon!!!

— **Pam Mizuno**

Complex Manager - Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens

Alia Zelko --- 2009 Scholarship Recipient



Our Gordon Granger/Sally Rogers Memorial Scholarship of \$2,000 is awarded to Alia Zelko this year. Alia has been involved with the zoo for many years. She helped hand raise one of the Axis deer, Dotty-Boy. She has volunteered in Petting Zoo and Animal Enrichment for the past 5 years and has been a docent for 3 years now. She is a faithful helper at our zoo events and at our Earth Day booth at UHH each spring.

Alia will graduate from UH Hilo May 16 with a BS in Agriculture with emphasis in animal science and pre-veterinary science. She has already been accepted at the Royal Veterinary Academy in London and at the University of Glasgow. She is a remarkable person with an incredible drive to learn about and work with animals, and most incredible of all ---- Alia is just 17 years old!

Alia is also an accomplished horsewoman and hula dancer. She is interested in polo, and her spare time is taken up in fostering abandoned baby animals --- kittens, puppies, chickens. Alia is definitely going to make a positive mark on the animal world --- she already is!

Photo of Chris Kornet & Alia by Jean Curtis

— Jean Curtis

Newsletter Mailing Changes

DEAR FOZ MEMBERS,

BEGINNING with this newsletter, WE PLAN TO EMAIL THE NEWSLETTERS TO MEMBERS.*

We need you to give us your current email address so you can receive your newsletter in a timely manner. THIS WILL SAVE THE FRIENDS OF THE ZOO many \$\$\$\$. PLEASE SEND US YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ASAP.

Send email address to Patty Anger pattyscats@aol.com

THANK YOU to all who have already sent your info in!

— **Judy Bevington**, Membership Chair

*Plus the newsletter via EMAIL will be in color!



The Zoo lost a very dear resident with the death March 10 of its oldest mammal Arnie, the friendly water buffalo. He was about 20 when he arrived at the zoo in 1985. He was beloved by all, especially the children. He will be missed by all who knew him, loved him and cared for him. Arnie would more often than not come over to the fence to greet his visitors. His beautiful, toothless-on-top smile would reward callers from the smallest child to the oldest tutu when they spoke to him. He loved to be patted on the head and gave the sweetest squeaking "thank you" for the attention. It is difficult to pass by his now-empty pasture without remembering and missing him.

Arnie's last photo by Lanaya Deily

— **Nina Bremer**

Education & Information Report

Spring has arrived and the zoo is alive with the sounds and smell of Spring! Our coconut orchids are in full bloom as well as other fragrant zoo botanicals. The squeaks and yelps of our newborn binturongs as well as the chirping of the spring clutches of jungle fowl chicks fill the air. Lucky zoo visitors are able to view the peacocks' trains in full display now throughout the zoo, attempting to attract their harem for the upcoming spring breeding season.

The months of February and March saw the Friends of the Zoo complete another very successful Docent Training Program for 2009. The six week workshop series held on Wednesdays from 9am to 12 noon, featured guest speakers that conducted specialized workshops in mammalian biology, bird anatomy & physiology, the zoo's botanical collection, rainforests, endangered species, the history of the zoo, managing docent led tours as well as features throughout the series that highlighted the many roles that the Friends of the Zoo play here at Pana`ewa. This year's program had 22 successful graduates, some of whom are already leading tours and manning the information booth. Welcome aboard!

We have secured at least four interns for this summer through the Huiana Internship Program. The program, sponsored by the Hawaii Island Workforce Investment Board, seeks to provide career development opportunities for high school junior and seniors while partnering with private and public entities to provide worksite job readiness skills. On a similar note, we have recently graduated four Waiakea High School students who participated in a 50 hour Service Learning Program that is now mandatory for graduation at two of our local high schools.

We have had three school groups provide community service to the Pana`ewa Zoo & Gardens since our last report. I am happy to report that through the combined efforts of Waiakea High Schools Natural Resources Academy and the Kamehameha High School class of 2010, we were able to clear all of the brush located near the water garden. The area is now available for Thomas Siebald and his crew to work their landscaping magic! Keana La Hana Public Charter School spent two days at our zoo recently. Day one saw the school work in the Petting Zoo, grooming and caring for the Petting Zoo animals while helping maintain the nearby landscape. Day two saw six of the students mentoring with some of our zookeeping staff. The students were involved in all facets of the zookeepers' day, from preparing diets to cleaning water bowls. We are currently planning a third trip in which the six students will be field testing our GPS 'Zooaching' activity.

Stop in soon and stop in often to see all the Spring activities that are taking place at your Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens!

— Terry Moniz

Binturong Pair Bears Bintlets at Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo

On February 10, 2009, the Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens awoke to the sound of "yelps" and "squeaks" from the habitat enclosure of Lucille and Ricky Ricardo, Hilo's resident pair of Binturongs. Lucille and Ricky became permanent residents here at the zoo in 2006 and 2003, respectively. Binturongs, also known as Bearcats, are native to Southeast Asia, Malaysia and Indonesia. They are related to mongoose, but are nocturnal and arboreal, spending much of their days curled up on tree branches and basking in the sun while being active and feeding at night. Their natural diet consists of fruits, vegetables, eggs and moving prey such as rodents.

Zoo staff discovered 3 bintlets in Lucille's nest box that morning. She could only care for two of them and had rejected the third. I was selected to become the foster Dad of the third one named "Keoki". Keoki is now 2 months old and weighs about 4 pounds. He is very active and is rapidly outgrowing his cage. He will be quite an asset to our Education program.

Terry Moniz
Education / Information Specialist
Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens

Photo left - Keoki in "Dad" Terry's hands at 3 days old and eyes just opening.
Photo by Lanaya Deily.

Photo on right is Keoki at 2 months.
Photo by Jean Curtis



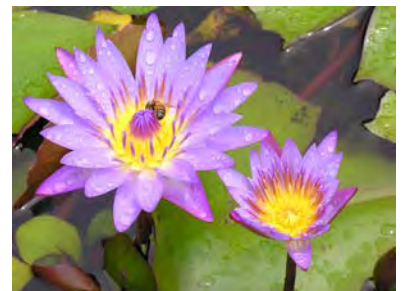
Friends of the Pana`ewa Zoo
P.O. Box 738
Kea`au, Hawai`i 96749



Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens 2009 Events

- May 3*** ***--- 9th Annual Plant Exposition***
- June 19*** ***--- Evening Event with FHVNP: Endemics to Exotics***
- July 25*** ***--- Family Fun Day***
- September 12*** ***--- Annual Membership meeting and elections***
- September 26*** ***--- Namaste's 11th Birthday party, County Band Concert***
- December 12*** ***--- Christmas party for animals, volunteers & staff***

www.hilozoo.com



Water lily photo by Roger Simons

9th Annual Plant Exposition at the Zoo

The 9th annual plant exposition and sale will be held at the Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens on Sunday, May 3 from 9:00 am to 2:00pm. Plant information and advice, demonstrations, palm tours, and palm seed giveaways will be featured as well as a wide variety of plants for sale. Come out and get a head start on your spring gardens and landscaping or find a perfect gift just in time for Mother's Day. Wander around the gardens at the zoo and get inspired and motivated.

The plant societies and gardeners have been preparing all year for this event. Bamboos, palms, fruit trees, vireyas, orchids, daylilies, herbs, and water garden plants will be available along with unique and decorative planters. Tours of the palm gardens will be at 11:00 am and 1:00pm. The Friends of the Zoo concession booth will be serving hotdogs, shave ice, chips and drinks. All proceeds from the event benefit the zoo and gardens.



This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Zoo and the plant societies that have planted and maintain the beautiful gardens in the zoo: the Hawaii Island Palm Society, the Hawaii Chapter of the American Bamboo Society, the Hawaii Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, the Big Island Water Garden Society, the Big Island Native Plant Society and the Hilo Orchid Society. Many thanks to Donna Thomas and Ron Phillips for continuing to plan and coordinate this event!

Photos of last year's Plant Sale by Ron Phillips

Congratulations Docent Class 2009 !

Graduates are...

Patty Anger
Jane Arthur
Carol Babineaux
Linda Bruce
Barbee Goles
Annette Green
Shari Hartman
Alex Hartman
Shirley Howard
Matthew Jamison
Donna Keefer
Bernhard Laurich
Devin Magallanes
Lisa Matlage
Heather McNeill
NJ Moses
Lynne Penek-Holden
Amber Schneider
Kyle Van Guilder
Barbara Walsh
Rachel Walton



Docent class photo by Barbra Green

FROM ENDEMIC TO EXOTIC

Midsummer's Eve at the Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens

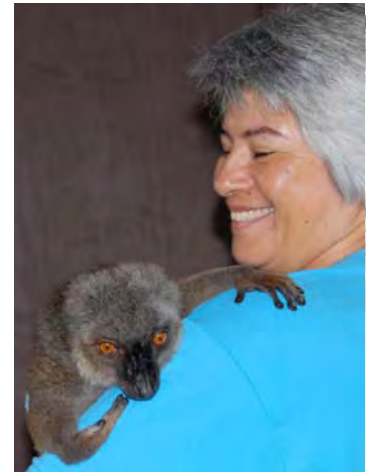
On June 19th, the longest evening of the year, the Friends of the Zoo and Friends of Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park will co- host a special event at the Zoo, *From Endemic to Exotic*, a program that invites guests to become better acquainted with the biological wonders contained in this small jewel of a Zoo.

Beginning at 4 PM, docents will lead small groups through the Zoo, where experts stationed throughout the grounds will reveal their passion for their own favorite plant or animal species. This is an opportunity not only to enjoy this spectacular rainforest setting in the early evening but to learn what makes this Zoo and its collections so special. Pana`ewa houses some of the rarest and most fascinating plant and animal species on earth. Find out what these are and discover what makes them so remarkable.



Enjoy the wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm in people like former Zoo Director, Dick Mortemore, who has a decade-long association with Namaste, the zoo's white Bengal tiger. A consummate teacher, Dick has more than a few stories to tell about the zoo's most celebrated resident. Noted biologist Don Hemmes will introduce us to plants that dominated the earth during the Jurassic period ---- the cycads. Under Don's direction the zoo's cycad garden is taking shape. Guests will explore this work-in-progress and learn about the species that will populate a unique prehistoric gardenscape. Terry Moniz, the zoo's new Education Specialist, will tell us what he has learned about the little-known Asian bear-cat, the binturong. Since one of the triplets born in February was rejected by its mother, Terry has hand-raised this bintlet. Hear what he has to say about his unique experience and acquaintance with the biology and character of this special animal.

Our endemic birds, the nene and the `io, will be spotlighted by State Wildlife Biologists, Ron Bachman and Joey Mello, who will describe their biology as well as their recovery and rehabilitation programs. George Saito, the zoo's head zookeeper, will share his knowledge and interest in some of the zoo's special plants. Faith Elarionoff has led the animal enrichment team for 10 years. You will hear her experiences with the lemurs and especially Andy, the brown lemur, who was paralyzed by rat lungworm.



These special speakers and stations within the zoo will offer a renewed appreciation for the amazing and varied lives found here in our own zoo. What better way to celebrate the diversity and wonder of our planet and relish the summer solstice!

The walking tours will be followed by a light dinner buffet at the Zoo's pavilion featuring curry puffs, summer rolls, curries and other specialties catered by Hilo's own Soontaree's Deli and an informal question and answer session with our guest speakers. The cost of the evening is \$30 and reservations are made by calling the Friends of the Park at 985-7373 or e-mailing ainahou2@aol.com. The deadline for reservations is June 15, but don't wait as space is limited!

— Caroline Garrett



Top: Dick Mortemore with `io - Kapono
Left: Terry Moniz with bintlet Keeki
Right: Lemur Andy with Faith Elarionoff
Bottom: Variety of cycads

All photos by Lanaya Deily