

# Friends of the Pana`ewa Zoo

Newsletter  
January 2009

## President's Message

Happy New Year!! Our year is off to a good start. Many thanks to our very special friends and supporters who give us such generous donations around Christmastime and the end of the year. We hope to accomplish a lot at the zoo this year. With Pam Mizuno back as Director of the Zoo and Terry Moniz as Education Specialist we have lots of new energy, ideas, and plans.

Speaking of the new year, 2009 is the Chinese Year of the Ox and the Vietnamese Year of the Cow. Our miniature zebu steer, Jellybean, is a good representative for this year. He is a popular member of our Petting Zoo. Zebras are native to Southern India and Sri Lanka and are adapted to hot, humid climates.



Our petting zoo barn, *Hale Holoholona*, was built and dedicated 8 years ago. Since then it has been stocked, maintained and upgraded by hardworking FOZ volunteers. We have been asked why it is only open on Saturdays for one hour. It takes many volunteers ----some teenagers and several whole families ---- who are trained to handle and talk about the various animals to the public. Each animal requires a handler. A lot of the animals participating in petting zoo live elsewhere in the zoo and are brought over to the barn for that hour. We have been fortunate to have supervisors Karla and Ivan Cook and a faithful group of volunteers for many years now.

We have a new webmaster, Dawn Hawkins. She and her husband, James, are experts at web design and will be making some changes and updates. *Mahalo nui loa* to Lanaya Deily who designed our website in 2002 and has done an outstanding job of maintaining it ever since.

Have you ever thought about volunteering at the zoo? If you can give us a couple of hours a week we would love to have you. Our volunteer course begins next month and will teach you all about the zoo inside and out! See details inside.

And please note our Calendar for this year. Mark the dates of our main events. The Plant Expo will be here before you know it!

Come out and enjoy the zoo and gardens. It is a beautiful and peaceful place to bring the family for a picnic and a little exercise.

— Jean A. Curtis

## NEWSLETTER MAILING CHANGES

DEAR FOZ MEMBERS,

BEGINNING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, 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 \$\$\$\$. We plan to implement this new method of receiving your newsletter with the next newsletter if possible.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ASAP. We need these email addresses by February 20, 2009.

Send email address to Patty Anger [pattyscats@aol.com](mailto:pattyscats@aol.com)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

— Judy Bevington, Membership Chair



Dirk Arthur (who donated Namaste in 1999) flew in from Las Vegas to greet Namaste during the tiger's 10th Birthday Party in October 2008. Even though they had not seen each other for 8+ years, Namaste recognized him immediately. Photo by L. Deily



Faith Elarionoff and the Enrichment Team inside the Primadome preparing for Spider Monkey Christmas Party. Photos by L. Deily



## DOCENT TRAINING COURSE

Do you love animals? Do you like people?  
Do you enjoy strolling through beautiful gardens?

If your answer is yes to any, or all, of these questions then consider volunteering at the Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens. Beginning on Wednesday, February 11 you are invited to participate in the Docent Training Course. Classes will meet at the Zoo for six consecutive Wednesdays through March 18 from 9 to 12 noon.

This exciting course will offer a rich learning experience, providing information on the animals and plants at the Zoo as well as the rainforest they live in. Classes will be taught by zoo staff and other experts in the field, and an illustrated manual with extensive background material and fascinating facts about our Zoo animals will be provided to each student. Topics will include: 2/11 - History and Functions of the Zoo, orientation tour; 2/18 - Animal Groups and Characteristics, 2/25 - Bird Features and Types, 3/4 - Behind the scenes, Butterflies ; 3/11 -Rainforest plants 3/18, Graduation and Pot Luck Lunch.

*\*The cost of the course is \$40 and includes materials, light refreshments at all sessions, and a one-year membership in the Friends of the Zoo.*

At the end of the course graduates will have the skills and knowledge to represent the Zoo as Docents, volunteering to guide Zoo visitors and school groups as requested. Docents may also choose to do walkabouts and/ or operate the information booth to answer visitors' questions. A one-year commitment is asked of the Docents and each will have the opportunity to choose to volunteer as his or her time allows.

So nature lovers, sign up today for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Space is limited, so don't wait until it's too late. For more information on the docent training course and to register contact Terry Moniz at 959-7224 or e-mail [tmoniz@co.hawaii.hi.us](mailto:tmoniz@co.hawaii.hi.us)

— Nina Bremer

## Something New at the Zoo -Kona Nightingales

On January 8, 2009, the Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens received a welcome addition to its zoo family, a pair of authentic Kona Nightingales rescued from the arid Kona coastline near Kaupulehu. Thanks to the efforts of Michael "Corky" Bryan, Vice President of Livestock Operations and George "Keoki" Wood, Livestock Operations Manager of Parker Ranch and former 3 term County Councilman Leningrad Elarionoff who represented Hawaii County Council District 9 North/South Kohala, two Kona Nightingales, Kekake A' a (Lava Donkey) and his female companion, Keiki A' a (Lava Child) are now permanent residents of our zoo.

Mr. Elarionoff obtained Kekake A' a five years ago as a foal and bottle fed him after he was found wandering alone during a relocation effort aimed to contain and protect free ranging Kona Nightingales which had wandered onto the Queen Kaahumanu Highway near dawn and dusk. The effort was coordinated by the West Hawaii Donkey Committee, whose goal was to prevent further animal-vehicle interactions. Our nightingales are the progeny of relics from the by-gone days when donkeys were used to transport coffee on farms in the district.

Keiki A' a was found alone a year later wandering onto the highway and was picked up by a patrol officer who had heard of Mr. Elarionoff's previous success in nurturing Kekake A' a. The two remained in the care of Mr. Elarionoff for several years until he heard rumor that the zoo had a vacant pastured enclosure and was interested in obtaining a pair of Nightingales to share with the public. The County of Hawaii, Department of Parks & Recreation and the Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Elarionoff for his most generous donation.

We would like to take this opportunity to also thank Corky Bryan of Parker Ranch who arranged for Kekake and Keiki to be transported from Waimea to their new zoo home. (Cont.)

## Education & Information Report

Welcome to the New Year! We were blessed over the Holidays with Hilo's finest....rain, which helped green up our wonderful botanical garden and rainforest zoo. The beautiful red jade that George Saito has nurtured has had not one, but two huge blooms this past season, not to mention a few smaller flushes.

The Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens is now a full fledged member of the Huiana Internship Program which seeks to provide career development opportunities for high school junior and seniors while partnering with public and private entities to provide worksite job readiness skills. The program is sponsored by Hawaii Island Workforce Investment Board. To date, we have sponsored 4 high school students, each having invested up to 60 hours of service learning activities to Pana`ewa Zoo & Gardens.

Our 'Zoocaching' program is nearly complete and with the help of our interns, we should be reading to give educational GPS guided tours to children and their families sometime next month. Our first educational adventure will involve the legend of Pana`ewa and the endemic plants and animals of our beloved Zoo & Gardens. Interns contemplating a career in the Natural Resources pathway will benefit greatly from the GPS training and field tours as nearly all career listings today require applicants to have some working knowledge of GPS technology.

The contract between the Friends of the Zoo and Jet Printers have been finalized and I am working with our Director and Renee Kama, Signage Chairperson for Friends of the Zoo to develop our new generation of signs using Sintra board with UV coating. Jet Printers guarantees the signs will last three years in our type of weather.

Earlier this Fall, the new radio station in Hilo town, Native FM 95.9, along with Hot Dog On A Stick, held a lemonade squeeze contest at the Prince Kuhio Plaza to benefit our primates. They presented a \$200.00 check to the County and then zoo manager, George Saito to purchase enrichment "toys" for Kiba, Lucy, Tomo and the rest of the primates at our zoo.

Our much anticipated greenhouse, generously purchased by the Friends of the Zoo is on its way! We have received word from the dealer that the parts should be shipped out sometime this month. This will add a whole new educational component to the "Garden" section of Pana`ewa Zoo & Gardens as well as complement the propagation activities that lead keeper George Saito, FOZ Landscape Supervisor Thomas Siebald and the rest of the senior workers do on the complex grounds!

We are off to a GREAT start! Thank you for all the patience and support you have shown me as I transition into this new and exciting position.

— Terry Moniz

(Cont.)

Kudos also goes out to Keoki Wood who took time out of his busy work schedule to deliver our donkeys in a spacious gooseneck trailer also provided by Parker Ranch.

Kekake and Keiki are very friendly and are adjusting well to their new digs. Look forward to seeing (and petting) them sometime soon at our weekly petting zoo which runs from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm every Saturday, rain or shine!

—Terry Moniz



Photo of Donkeys by Terry Moniz

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## ***Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens 2009 Events***

***Feb. 11-March 18 ---Docent Training Course, Weds. 9am - 12 noon***

***May 3 --- 9<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> birthday party, County Band Concert***

***December 12 --- Christmas party for animals,  
volunteers & staff***



**[www.hilozoo.com](http://www.hilozoo.com)**