

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park FY'18 (Oct. 01, 2017 - Sept. 30, 2018)

**Annual Report from Friends of HVNP Forest Restoration Group
as of Sept. 30, 2018**

Projects: 11 (4 at Kilauea section, 2 at Kahuku unit, 2 cancelled due to volcanic eruption and park closure, 1 mahalo event, 2 co-sponsored with other organizations)

All projects were held on Fridays. This continues to be a good day for NPS staff and the volunteers. A fungus causing rapid ohia tree death continues at both sections of the park. Sanitation protocols were practiced for tools, vehicles, & clothing/shoes. A volcanic eruption occurred at Halemaumau crater starting in May. The park was closed from May 11th and re-opening on September 22nd. This provided an opportunity to work with organizations outside the park.

Invasive removal: 1 Over **3,718** invasive plants were removed this year.

73 uprooted & 267 herbicide treated **blackberry** (*Rubus argutus*)

0 uprooted & 0 herbicide treated **faya** (*Morella faya*)

75 uprooted & 2,790 herbicide treated **kahili ginger** (*Hedychium garnerianum*)

409 uprooted & 101 herbicide treated **strawberry guava** (*Psidium cattleianum*)

Other uprooted or herbicide treated cut stumps: 1 avocado, 1 poha, 1 jerusalem cherry

Planting native seedlings: 5 (including 2 at Kahuku unit) **1,891 plants** including 350 with TMA. Ohia, pilo, aalii, pawale, hoawa, mamaki, oha wai, kolea, olapa and a'e were planted.

Seed collection: 0 projects.

Mahalo event: Held in March volunteers were treated to lunch provided by Friends HVNP. Participants also toured the historical collections of insects, birds and plants held at the park. Small groups rotated through each area and were very impressed with the speakers: Thane, Linda, and Bob. Lots of good questions and interesting exhibits made for a very educational and special day. It was a nice opportunity to thank the volunteers for their continued support and attendance, many have participated for several years.

Co-sponsored projects: 2

Hawaii Wildlife Fund monitors and collects plastic waste at Kamilo Point on Hawaii Island. After a long drive on a dirt road volunteers collected hundreds of pounds of plastic which was mostly fishing or marine related but did include personal items such as toothbrushes and food/beverage containers. Much of the debris is international in nature. Also of interest was the charred remains of trees burned in the eruption on the lower rift zone in the Puna District.

Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) offered a chance for us to plant at Keauhou (formerly called Keauhou Ranch). Four-wheel drive trucks provided by the park allowed us to drive to a much higher elevation for a planting project. They have been planting in this area for over 10 years and it was exciting to see the variety of native plants and hear native birds.

Volunteers:

Participants were from Oregon, Virginia, all around Hawaii Island & Oahu.

Number of volunteers: 46

Number who came to more than four projects: 15: Patty, Ken, Louise, Bob, Lori, Stewart, Carol, Herbert, Gloria, Paul, Babette, Rich, Marilyn, Carol, Mark.

Number of volunteer hours: 830 hours

Number of committee hours (estimate, excluding projects): 150 hours

Mark Johnson continues to be the liaison with Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Natural Resource Management, writing project announcements and scheduling projects since 2007. Patty Kupchak continues to maintain registration and participant lists since 2009. Linda Schubert left her position as the Friends board member, FFR liaison and presenter of project reports to the board. Carol Johnson continues to maintain project records, write annual report, turn in volunteer hours and forms to NRM, take photos and write “mahalo” emails sent to participants and staff following each project since 2007.

Assisting the Native Plant Nursery and Fundraising:

Expenditures this year focused on controlling invasive species. Items were purchased with funds raised through the web or at projects: chaps leg protection, tools and herbicide.

Written and distributed by Carol Johnson 2018Sept.30 to: FFR committee, HVNP Veg. Friends Forest Restoration VIP (volunteers in parks), Sierra McDaniel, Heather Coad Quintana, Makani Gregg, David Benitez at HVNP NRM, and Keola Awong at the Kahuku Unit. Friends Exec. Director, Office Admin., FFR liaison to board.

