

NEWSLETTER

PANA'EWA ZOO

Summer 2021

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO

The much-anticipated reopening date has been announced and we are all looking forward to Monday, July 19, 2021, when we will be open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm daily. That opening and closing times will continue for the first few weeks. Entrance to the zoo will be through the new Friends of the Pana'ewa Zoo (FOZ) gift shop.



Artist Charlene Lofgreen has been working hard on making a visual impact at the reptile house. Her two new murals that she has been working on for the past two weeks features our Iguanas and Frogs and provides a colorful backdrop to the redesigned picnic area.



Many of our animals will enjoy having people back in the zoo. Especially some of the more gregarious parrots that love to interact and catch the attention of unsuspecting passersby! Some of you will recognize these three notorious talkers...or should I say screechers, as Max (Catalina Macaw), Romeo (Moluccan Cockatoo) and AJ (Citron Crested Cockatoo)



They're all here waiting for your next visit to the zoo so stop by their exhibits and give them a big shout and see what happens next!

Pam Mizuno
Zoo Director

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Zoo Director

Pam Mizuno



Message from the President

Pat Engelhard

Saturday, May 1, 2021, started out to be a beautiful sunny day at the Pana`ewa Equestrian Center, where members of friends of the Zoo and a small group of vendors welcomed back its Annual Plant Sale. Having celebrated our 20th Plant Sale in 2019, we had planned for the 21st on May 9, 2020. Then, in mid March, the COVID-19 Pandemic struck the world and all our lives imploded. The 21st Annual Plant Sale was postponed indefinitely. But this year, it came roaring back along with other delayed events throughout the country.



Because our year-delayed 21st Annual Plant Sale was held outdoors, Parks and Recreation allowed Friends of the Pana`ewa Zoo to host it with social distancing and mask wearing strictly enforced. We had several new vendors and several returnees from previous plant sales. We had a steady stream of people, especially in the morning. One vendor sold out within an hour of arriving and setting up her sales tent! Your Zoo will profit from the pent up, pandemic forced staying-at-home energy that brought plant enthusiasts out to see what exotic and commonplace flora was available that day. So, on that beautiful sunny Saturday, we had our most successful plant sale ever. We far exceeded the income of any other plant sale in the event's 20-year history. It was so successful that several of the vendors have encouraged us to host a second plant sale this year. Look for that to happen in October 2021. There will be publicity both in this newsletter, in the Tribune Herald and on Facebook, Instagram and the radio.





Many thanks to Mike Newman, who chaired the event for this year, assisted by his friends John and Alan. Zoo staff helped with some of the set up and break down activities. Of course, Friends of the Zoo Board members were there to assist with that added need for social distancing and mask wearing. And special thanks to our vendors who, with their plant offerings, assured such a successful fund raiser for your Zoo.



PLANT SALE FUN

Mike Newman

During the Plant Sale back at the beginning of May we decided to do something a little different. We held a Silent Auction.

A nice root of Shogun Heliconia and Giant Pink Shell Ginger were donated to Friends of the Zoo by a board member. Rather than sell these two plants at a marked price we sold them like an auction.

Customers would come up to the FOZ tent, view the plants, and then write down a price that they would like to bid. We started the bidding at \$5 each. Within a few minutes someone had added their name and phone number and written in a higher amount.

Throughout the morning customers would come by, look at the plants, look at the bidding and decide whether they would take a chance. By mid morning, the Shogun was at \$50 and the Pink Shell at \$15.

Bidding was to close at noon. By 11.45am the Shogun was at \$100 and the Shell Ginger at \$30. People who had bid earlier in the day would come by, see they had been outbid, smile and walk away.

FOZ staff had gathered around at 11.55am watching the action. With minutes to spare, one of the vendors came by and bid \$105 for the Shogun Heliconia and \$35 for the Shell Ginger. SOLD – Axel Kratel had won. The Friends of the Zoo collected \$140 for the two plants, a great success. Thanks Axel!

Definitely something we will repeat at the next sale, which could be held as early as this coming October. Watch out for more news.



The winner of the silent auction, Axel Kratel and the Mike Newman who organized the plant sale, standing by the heliconia and shell ginger.



Shogun Heliconia



Giant Pink Shell Ginger

ORCHIDS AT THE ZOO

In the wild, most tropical orchids grow as epiphytes, on trees. The Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens is one of the best places in Hawaii to see orchids growing on trees as they do in nature, thanks to the work of Eric Guttormsen and his volunteers from the Hilo Orchid Society. Over the years, they have mounted hundreds of orchids in trees at the zoo for visitors to enjoy.



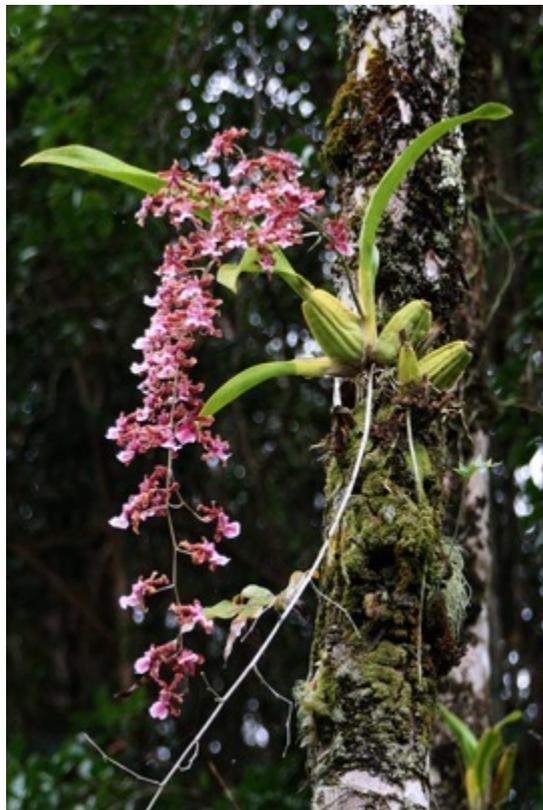
*Hilo Orchid Society volunteer
Shaku Huffman*

Some of the orchids were donated by generous Big Island orchid growers; others were purchased with funds from the Hilo Orchid Society. There's an orchid shade house in which the plants can be grown until they're ready to go onto a tree. Almost all the purchased and donated orchids are in pots. To prepare them to be mounted onto a tree, volunteers take them out of the pots, remove any potting medium still clinging to the roots, and divide large plants into manageable-size pieces.



Eric Guttormsen applying fertilizer to an orchid in a tree.

Once the plants are ready for mounting, other volunteers tie the orchids onto the trees by tightly wrapping twine around the orchid plant and the tree trunk or branch. The twine is biodegradable and naturally decomposes over time. By the time it does, the orchid will



Oncidium Sharry Baby growing on a tree at the zoo. It smells like chocolate.

have made new roots that firmly attach it to the tree. Some orchids are mounted high up in a tree, using a ladder. Different orchids like different amounts of sun, shade, and water. For example, very few like to grow in full sun all day. Over the years, Eric has found which orchids do best in various spots in the zoo. Eric and his volunteers have installed an amazing variety of different orchid types. Even though different orchids bloom at different times, visitors will always find some orchids in bloom at the zoo.

*Larry Kuekes
Past president, Hilo Orchid Society*



A Dendrobium nobile orchid growing on a tree at the zoo.

2021 Calendar

Pana'ewa Zoo Opening
Monday, July 19
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Board Meetings
Wednesday, 14 July
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Wednesday, 08 September
11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, 14 August
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Educational Pavilion



Ways to help?

As a nonprofit, we rely upon the generosity of supporters like you to help us maintain our status as the only zoo in the United States located in a rainforest.

Donations & Animal adoption

Donations and Symbolic Animal Adoptions support the Friends of the Pana'ewa Zoo mission to promote the Zoo, educate visitors, provide for special animal needs, enhance the lives of the resident animals, nurture the rainforest environment of the zoo, and encourage compassion towards animals.

For just \$35 per adoption package, you receive a description of the animals, a photo, and certificate of adoption.



[Animal Adoption](#)

[Donate](#)

Alala Fundraiser

'Alalā are the most endangered Hawaiian bird alive today. They were recently released back into the wild. The zoo will be receiving two 'alalā which are past their reproduction stage and won't be able to take care of themselves in the wild. We are asking for donations to help pay for the alala aviary which cost \$145,000.



['Alalā Fundraiser](#)

Amazon Smile

Friends of the Pana'ewa zoo is one of the charities participating in Amazon Smile. When a customer chooses us, we will receive 0.5% of their order. Use the following link and send it to your friends.



Recycling

Designate FOZ as the beneficiary when you recycle your HI-5 items at Mr. K's Recycle and Atlas Recycling Centers.

Sponsor a bench

If you are looking for a unique and lasting recognition opportunity, sponsoring a bench featuring our animals in the Zoo is a great way to go.

[Benches](#)

Membership

Become a member of the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo or renew your membership. Your membership includes the FOZ newsletter and a 10% discount on all items in the zoo gift shop. You can choose between becoming a Friend, Donor, Support or Lifetime Member. All lifetime members will have a plaque displayed at the entrance to the Zoo and membership paid for life. To join or renew your membership online [Click here](#) or if you wish to send a check, you may download the [membership form](#).

