



Maui Updates

By Cynthia Nazario-Leary, Maui MG Coordinator

Spring 2016 is off to a great start for the Maui Master Gardener Program (MMG) with the beginning of our Master Gardener Training Course which runs from January to May. There are currently 28 trainees in the 2016 Maui MG Training Course all eager to learn as much as they can about the challenges and opportunities of gardening in Hawai'i.



2016 Maui Master Gardener Training Class

The class had its first meeting on Wednesday, January 13th. As the new coordinator for the Maui MG program, I've been looking forward to getting the class started and it's been a delight to have taught the introduction and plant classes. Classes that have followed include: Soil and Nutrition Management, Intro to Entomology & Plant Pathology, and Organics 101. A big thank you to our presenters Dr. Jonathan Deenik, Brian Bushe, and Dr. Ted Radovich for sharing their knowledge and expertise. The MMG trainees are looking forward to upcoming classes in Weed Management with Dr. Joe DeFrank, Pollinators and Pesticides with Steve Russo from HDOA, and many others. A big mahalo to all the certified MG's (aka green shirts) who have volunteered to assist with set-up and tear down in the classroom building.

The MMG program is also happy to announce that Dr. Ted Radovich's presentation on Organics 101 was the first successful virtual presentation for the training course. Utilizing the Zoom web/video con-

ference application Dr. Radovich was able to present his talk and address questions for the Maui MG Trainees as well as other MG participants on other islands. The MMG is very excited about this opportunity to present virtually and offer alternatives to presenters who may not be able to travel in person to Maui. Presenting virtually also opens up the opportunity for other MG programs across the State and on the mainland to “attend” presentations and trainings.

In addition to attending classes, the MMG trainees have also undertaken planting and maintaining their own “Learning Gardens” as well as begun work on their group projects. The Learning Gardens are prepared vegetable beds set up as “square foot” gardens. Square foot gardening is the practice of dividing the growing area into small square sections (typically 12" on a side, hence the name). The aim is to assist the planning and creating of small but intensively planted vegetable gardens. The goal of the Learning Gardens is to provide trainees with a hands-on learning experience while allowing them the time and space to experiment with growing different kinds of vegetables.

The vision for the Maui Kahului Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Garden is for it to become a place where the community and MGs can come to learn and explore sustainable and renewable techniques and practices for home gardens and yards. To achieve this vision, each of the MMG training courses, beginning with the 2016 trainees, will design, develop, and install demonstration/learning centers as part of their group projects. This year the projects chosen are: Composting Demonstration, Ba-

nana Variety Grove, Lei Garden, Gathering Place Garden, and Cover Crop Demonstration. Trainees will have the next 13 weeks to work on their project. On the last day of class each group will then provide a 10-15 minute presentation on their project providing information on what they did and how they accomplished it, plus advice on how they would do it differently and future recommendations for the project.

Master Gardeners have also been hard at work. A big thank you goes out to



2016 Maui Master Gardener Trainees preparing their Learning Garden vegetable beds.



MGs Donna Mann and Debra Thiel working hard to install the front entrance succulent garden.

MG's Donna Mann, Karen Heifetz, and Debra Thiel for all their hard work in renovating the front entrance with a diversity of beautiful succulents. It looks amazing! The MG bee group is has also been busy and in January harvested another 60 gal of honey. In January, I also had the opportunity to learn more about bee keeping at the Maui Bee Conference held at the Hale Akua Garden Farm in Ha'iku and look forward to sharing the knowledge I learned with the rest of the MG Bee group.

The start of a new year and the addition of new trainees have brought a renewed sense of purpose and energy to the Maui MG program. I am excited and motivated for our upcoming outreach events beginning with Ag in the Classroom in March, and Maui Ag Fest and Ha'iku Ho'olaulei'a Flower Festival in April.