Maui Master Gardener Training 2014

We are almost finished interviewing prospective Master Gardener trainees for the class beginning in January, 2014. We’ve had 67 applicants and we have 45 slots to fill. We like to have 2 people interview each person, so we get a balanced perspective of each candidate. It’s important for us to be sure that everyone understands the volunteer commitment and that we provide to the public unbiased, research based information. Many thanks to the Maui Master Gardeners that have helped with these interviews. They include Susan Beall, Eric DeMaria, Michelle Drewyer, Eleanor Dudley, Terri Fortuna, BK Griesemer, Tom Hunter, Marlowe Hyer, Charlotte Kennedy, Donna Mann, Lance Mohler, Ray Racette, Susie Saunders, Maryetta Sciuto, Scott Shapiro, Lori Unfus, Chris Wooding, and Dixie Youts.

Now the difficult task of deciding from an excellent group of candidates! In many cases, it is very close. It is a testament to the UHMG Program that we’ve had such a great response!

Maui Fair

Once again, our biggest event of the year, the annual Maui Fair, was a huge success! We had veterans and interns alike work very hard to make it a success. Not only is a great opportunity to promote our program, but it give veterans and interns the opportunity to get to know each other. While the event is four days long, Master Gardeners are there for five days. The day before opening is spent setting up the booth, checking in the Master Gardener grown plants to sell, and registering produce entries for the fair. Lori Unfus, a member of the Maui Master Gardener Advisory Board, does a great job organizing the event and even seems to thrive in the excitement of it all. Her husband, Ron, is one of our “honorary” Master Gardeners. He lends a hand throughout the event. Another honorary Master Gardener, Lance Mohler’s wife Ju-al, made sure we had plenty of publications to hand out and kept our seeds organized to sell. She spent a great deal of time at the Fair providing whatever support we needed including tear-down at the end.

We ask Master Gardeners to grow at least 10 plants for the Fair. Some volunteers were unable to be at the Fair, but they still managed to provide us with plants. We ask that volunteers do their best to provide healthy plants that are not invasive. We request that they check http://www.plantpono.org/ in case there is any doubt. They did such a great job and we had a very successful plant sale. Thank you to all that participated! You did CTAHR and UHMG proud!