Volunteer opportunities

The Hilo community frequently asks "When can I help in the Gardens?"

There are two opportunities to work with sixth graders from Kamehameha Schools coming up in early November. Tuesday 11/5 and Friday 11/8 from 8 a.m. to noon, the students will be split into three or four groups, depending on the number of volunteers, and tackle various chores in the gardens. Edging, weeding, and raking top the list of standard chores. Cleaning graffiti from benches and light poles is on the list. Some work around the old sumo ring pavilion or tea house also may be scheduled.

In December, Takuhiro Yamada of Hanatoyo Landscape in Kyoto will pay us a visit as has been his habit once a year since 2014. Mr. Yamada is a fifth generation garden designer and, like his father before him, a certified tree doctor. He designed the stone setting at the Lion's Legacy Project in the southern shaded corner of the gardens. On Tuesday 12/10 we invite volunteers to join us for a new year's cleaning of the gardens. Bring your rake and gloves, or other favorite tools, for a full garden experience.

Saturday, 1/18/2020 from 8 a.m. to noon is the next volunteer day in the bamboo patch. Members of the public who may need bamboo branches or poles for home projects are invited to take home what they need. If you are one of those people who want bamboo poles, please bring your own saw. Poles will be available next to the sidewalk on Banyan Drive starting at 9 a.m.
Annual Na Makua Christmas Gift Fair

In addition to the tee-shirts and tote bags, Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens will sell a limited edition Christmas ornament at the Na Makua Christmas Gift Fair set for the Afook-Chinen Civic Center Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7.

The wooden ornament was designed and produced locally by Tiffany Pruse of The Makery. This first edition features the arched stone bridge, built in the 1930s by Mr. Kushi. Most ornaments also have a braided ti lei called the Hilo style. A few ornaments do not have the lei. All ornaments contain the words Hilo Hawai`i and an `ohia blossom.

The second new item is a two-inch logo pin in silver and black. It was designed by Hawai`i Printing Corporation. The pin provides entry to the pupu areas of the fourth annual Banyan Drive Art Stroll set for Saturday, January 11, from noon to 6 p.m. Early bird price is $5.00

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 & 7: Na Makua invitational Christmas Gift Fair at Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium. Friends of Lili`uokalani Gardens will have their first limited edition Christmas tree ornament plus 2020 photography contest calendars, and pins.

Tuesday, Dec. 10: end of the year garden cleaning with Takuhiro Yamada and the Lions Clubs. Bring your rake or other favorite tool and join in the fun of learning while doing.

Come see Friends in booth #3. New photo contest calendars also will be on sale. In addition to the Fair, these items may be found at Banyan Gallery near the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel, KTA SuperStores at Puainako, and Basically Books in Hilo. Paradise Helicopters sponsors the grand prize for the photographer whose work is on the cover.
October memories – Mahalo Lions Clubs

Twenty Lions and Friends worked for two and a half hours with power washer, blower, wheelbarrows and shovels, and various hand tools to clean the Lions Legacy Project area. From the smallest chore (scrubbing the basin of the water fountain) to power washing the sidewalk, Lions get the job done with great teamwork, good music, and a lot of laughs. See you again in December!
Cleaning around Shoroan with the Sierra Club in September was augmented by two days of cleaning, weeding, raking, and pruning in October in order to provide the best view for filmmakers preparing a pilot for a series to be broadcast on KIKU in Hawaii and NHK in Japan.

Thanks to Misaki Sato Saito, footage is on file including interviews, tea ceremony, and overviews of Lili`uokalani Gardens. Thank you Victor and James for your professionalism and attention to detail.