Aloha VIS volunteers!

A BIG MAHALO to our AstroDay and Fireweed removal volunteers!

The TRANSIT OF VENUS is approaching fast! We’re still looking for approximately 15 more volunteers; participants will be receiving an *exclusive* t-shirt for this event (supplies limited). For more information on volunteering for the transit, see the article below!

Also... Trail Maintenance is scheduled for May 26th!

Cheers,
Kim

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**Upcoming Events**

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5/19/12
Malalo I Ka Lani Po – Join us for Culture Night!
6:00pm

5/26/12
Trail Maintenance – Help clean the summit hiking trail!
Times TBD

5/26/12
Music Night – enjoy music under the stars.
Contact E’lisa for more information.

Saturday Stargazing

6/2/12
The Universe Tonight! Contact Janet for more information.
6:00pm

6/2/12
TRANSIT -OF- VENUS!
12:00pm- Sunset

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**Stargazing Volunteer Schedule for 5/6– 5/19**

(as of 5/5)

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<th>Sunday</th>
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* - driver is needed!

Interested in coming up? Give us a call – we’d love to have you! If possible, let us know a week in advance.

If you need to cancel, please let us know asap. Mahalo!
Mauna Kea Community Spotlight:

Do you know somebody who deserves a spotlight? Let us know who you think is an outstanding community member and why at mkvisnews@gmail.com.

Photo courtesy of Kim Brenton, 2011.
Screenshot taken from Stellarium, dated 5/15/12.

May Sky 2012

Hawaiian star and constellation names are identified according to information found at:

http://pvs.kcc.hawaii.edu/ike/hookele/hawaiian_star_lines.html

-and-

http://www.mauna-a-wakea.info/maunakea/J1_terms.html

-and-

courtesy of Lei and Manu from Hawaiian Culture Night lectures at the VIS.

Star names are in white (Western) and yellow (Hawaiian), while Hawaiian constellations and groupings are in pink. Hawaiian navigation star lines are in blue.
Stuff in Our Sky::: May 2012

Things Visible All May

Mars
Saturn
The Leo Trio (M65, M66, and NGC3628)
Binary System Gamma Leonis
Cigar Galaxy (M82)
Spiral Galaxy, M81 (NGC 3031)
Spiral Galaxy, M96
Elliptical Galaxy, M105
Owl Nebula (M97)
Pinwheel Galaxy (M101)
Spiral Galaxy NGC 3079
Visual Double Mizar & Alcor
Eta Carinae Nebula (NGC 3372)
Globular Cluster, Omega Centauri

*before midnight

Image credits: NASA, Gerald Cecil (U. of North Carolina, Sylvain Veilleux (U. of Maryland), Joss Bland-Hawthorn (Anglo-Australian Observatory), and Alex Filippenko (UC Berkeley)
The māmane can be found at elevations ranging from 7,000 to 9,500 feet on Mauna Kea. This area is an open woodland, where the māmane coexist with both naio (shrubs with small white flowers) and koa trees (all of which are endemic species). The māmane are an essential component this environment, as many native fauna found nowhere else in the world (the palila, the nēnē, and the ‘ua’u, for example) utilize the māmane forest for food and shelter. The māmane forest also interestingly serves as a trap to capture moisture from fog at these high elevations, as this moisture is hard to come by in such dry areas.

The māmane trees are currently listed as an endangered species, with its population negatively impacted by exposure to ranch cattle and its susceptibility to wildfires from living in arid conditions. Efforts were made to control feral populations of goats and sheep that had severely reduced the māmane forest, with numbers initially at approximately 40,000 in the 1930’s, significantly reduced to 200 by 1950.

Resources:

http://www.hawaii.edu/maunakea/
http://www.instanthawaii.com/cgi-bin/hawaii?Plants.mamane
http://www2.hawaii.edu/~eherring/hawnprop/sop-chry.htm
http://nativeplants.hawaii.edu/plant/view/Sophora_chrysophylla
http://wildlifeofhawaii.com/flowers/668/sophora-chrysophylla-mamane/
The Transit of Venus, 2012

Volunteer Countdown!

Currently have: 18 Still need: 15

At minimum, we’ll need to have 33 volunteers helping us run various aspects of this day. We need volunteers for:

- ranger assistance -
- manning satellite sites (locations outside the VIS) -

June 5

June 5

June 5

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

(It’s Back!)

When: May 26th

Hike down the summit trail, and pick up trash along the way. This is one of our highly-anticipated events!

Trail maintenance will be held once every 3 months.

Space is limited; email to sign up!

Next trail maintenance: August 25th

UPCOMING EVENTS with VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/26/12</td>
<td>Trail Maintenance</td>
<td>times TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/5/12</td>
<td>Transit of Venus</td>
<td>Transit will be viewable in Hawaii from 12:00pm-6:00pm (sunset)</td>
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</table>
Where would you like to view the Transit of Venus?

Viewing the transit will be possible anywhere you can see the Sun!

The VIS is planning on hosting 6 satellite sites outside the visitor center:

- Mauna Kea Summit (2 sites)
- Pu‘u Huluhulu
- ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center
- Keaau
- Kona

3 volunteers per site are ideal. Transportation will be provided to and from these various sites out of Hilo.

Email mkvisnews@gmail.com for more information, or to sign up!
Don’t forget that if you’d like to submit content for the newsletter, contact us via email at mkvisnews@gmail.com.

For more information on events (Culture Night, Universe Tonight!, and Music Night), Mauna Kea, Hawaiian culture, programs at the VIS, and Picture of the Week, visit our website at:

http://www.hawaii.edu/info/vis/

For current weather conditions on Mauna Kea, road closures, and to view webcams from the summit, visit the Mauna Kea Weather Center website at:

http://mkwc.ifl.hawaii.edu/

`ao`ao `ewalu