

Scouts "Adopt a Forest"

Ulupalakua- Boy Scout Troop 14 works together to plant 50 native seedlings into the Fleming Arboretum at Pu'u Mahoe on a Camping for Volunteers weekend August 2- 4. The Fleming Arboretum offers the community an opportunity to "Adopt a Forest". Youth and community groups plant their forest then return seasonally to weed, work on trails, add new plants and apply mulch, replacing non-native plants with a complete cover of upper, middle, lower story native forest.



Boy Scout Troop 14 of Kula plant their native forest at Pu'u Mahoe using planting techniques taught during a morning volunteer training workshop. The Scouts adopted a 1200 square foot area for their native forest, joining the Fleming Arboretum's Community "Adopt a Forest" program. (Left to right- Matt Mori, Fletcher Prouty, Marty Prouty- Scout counselor, Ian Camit, and Nik Lisowski- Scout Master for Troop 14)



Fletcher Prouty (center in orange), organized the camping weekend for Troop 14. Fletcher planned the weekend agenda as “an opportunity to work, learn, and have fun “before school begins. Troop 14 planted their forest including plant species that host native land snails, creating a future dry land forest snail preserve. The Saturday evening event was Jackson Hunting in the Arboretum. The Scouts found 2 Jacksons while viewing the active night life in the Arboretum.



Hank Oppenheimer of Maui Nui's Plant Extinction Prevention gives a native land snail presentation Sunday morning. The Scouts learned the history of native snails in Hawai'i and learned how to identify different snail species according to shell characteristics. The Scouts volunteered their morning helping separate snail species in the DT Fleming collection for their identification and labeling.

The activities of the weekend paralleled the Fleming Arboretum's goal of increased appreciation, value and care of Hawaii's cultural and natural resources. The "Adopt a Forest" program actively involves youth, school and community groups in conservation, promoting volunteerism and "care of the 'aina".