



Gooney Gazette II

FOMA- Friends of Midway Atoll

Summer 2004

Dedicated to the preservation, education and history of our incredible national treasure - Midway Island



New shirt design

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Inside at a Glance:

Hokule'a Expedition	1
Pacific Princess	1
Director Interview	2
Tim's Corner	2
History Factoid	2
Monk Seals update	4

Hokule'a Arrives in Midway

By Ann Bell, Outdoor Recreation Planner for USFW Pacific Island Office



Photo courtesy of Polynesian Voyaging Society

It had been 12 hours of gale force winds while my body jolted with

each crashing wave as I felt the sting of pounding rain. It wasn't the homecoming we had imagined. It took at least an hour to secure **Hokule'a** to the dock. We slowly donned our foul weather gear, then we caught our breath but I never quite grasped that it was **pau** (finished). *(story continued on page 3)*

Pacific Princess Visits Midway

 by Barbara Maxfield

As the first of its stops on a tour of World War II battlefields in the Pacific, the **Pacific Princess** moored off Midway Atoll on May 20 for a 6-hour visit. Almost 600 passengers and crew members braved the rain and wind to come ashore for a walking tour highlighting Midway's historic resources. Many of the passengers were World War II veterans and a few had lived on or stopped at Midway during the Cold War years. The **Pacific Princess** was the second of four cruise ships scheduled to visit Midway this year. The cruise line companies cover the costs involved in the visits, including bringing approximately eight staff from various Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service offices (as well as other entities) to the atoll. These staff

supplement the monumental efforts of Chugach McKinley employees, on-island service staff, and volunteers to make our visitors welcome. Visitors are brought to shore by cruise ship tenders for approximately 2-hour tours. Even though many of our **Pacific Princess** visitors were very cold and wet, almost all of them expressed their appreciation for their short visit to Midway. As often happens, the albatross, white terns, and red-tailed tropicbirds only added to their delight. Having the opportunity to share Midway with the veterans of World War II is always an honor for all of us. The **Pacific Princess** will return for another visit in August, followed by the last scheduled visit by the **Seven Seas Mariner** in October.

Get to Know, Molly Krival your FOMA Director!

by Ellen Cashman

Q: How did you become involved in the refuge system?

A: After retiring in 1988, my husband Art and I, moved to Sanibel Island, Florida. Sanibel is the home of the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge and after unpacking, we decided to volunteer.

Q: What were your tasks at Ding Darling?

A: Providing information to visitors at the visitor Center and within the refuge. I was then asked to join the board of the Ding Darling Wildlife Society, a nonprofit support group for the refuge as Secretary. The following year I was elected President and served an additional two more terms. I also was a volunteer member of the City of Sanibel Wildlife Committee and served two terms as Chairman of that group. While a volunteer trail guide for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Association, I learned more about the vegetative habitat of the island. The mayor appointed me to a newly formed Citizens Advisory Committee for the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. This is an eight county watershed funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. I was elected chairperson and served a five-year term, after stepping down, was re-elected to another term.

Q: How did you get involved in mentoring?

A: Early in my DDWS board membership, I became interested in the needs of other refuges nationwide. With assistance from other members of Friends groups and refuge managers and FOMA directors, Dorothy and George Hoffman, we developed a model for mentoring new groups on site. Dorothy produced a workbook that is still used by the mentors today. I was often selected for facilitated meetings in D.C. where people from Non-Governmental Organizations joined to discuss how to best help refuges get funding and lobbying was an important element. I was then selected for the board of the National Wildlife Refuge Association six years ago and am serving my last term.

Q: What is your background?



Molly Krival April 2004

A: I was a Professor of Communicative Disorders who specialized in the neurological disorders of adults that affect speech and language. My doctorate was a study of Parkinson's disease. I taught anatomy, disorders of voice and cleft palate, aphasia and dysarthria. I also taught a course in Indian sign language. I served as President of the Wisconsin Speech, Language and Hearing Association and served on its board for a number of years in addition to a national professional committee.

We spent four years in Kenya as Art was developing a program for UW. We visited game parks and the coast and feel it changed our lives. The natural world astonished us and we've never lost our feeling of wonder and excitement. So, I started mentoring just for fun at Ding Darling, Aransas, Laguna Atascosa and Lower Rio Grande.

Q: How has being a volunteer enhanced your life?

A: I like this question because it implies that a volunteer receives as well as gives. My close connection to refuges nationwide and to the people who work there and those who volunteer there have enriched me beyond measure. Whenever I wonder why the world turns with so many disasters and so many terrible actions, I remind myself that there are natural pockets of sanity that some of us value highly without hearts, mind and muscle. People who care show their best and I've been privileged to see that over and over again. Although I have received numerous awards and plaques and see the trophies that decorate my home, my greatest gift is the people and places of the refuge system.

Q: How did you come to be interested in Midway?

A: After exchanging emails with Rob Shallenberger the manager in 1988, I was invited to visit and we discussed the feasibility of starting a Friends group. I fell hook, line and sinker for Midway. It was my idea of heaven on earth. Indescribably beautiful and that, as they say, is the rest of the story.

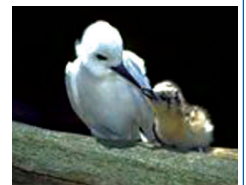
Tim's Corner . . . Manager's Report

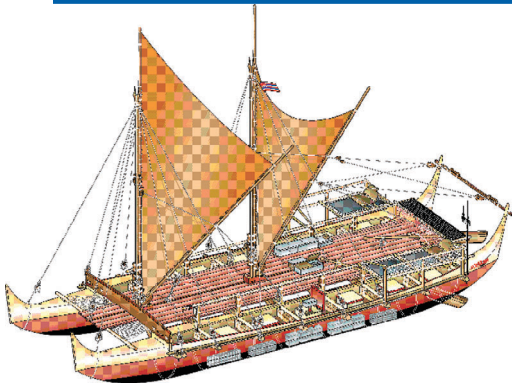
The Refuge has added some new faces to our staff. Pat Moriyasu has come on board as our new Budget Analyst. Pat will be working out of our Refuge Complex office in Honolulu on Midway's administrative and budgetary operations. We have also hired Joe Wiggins, as our biological technician. Joe will act function as a our parts runner/purchasing agent to logistically support the Refuge from Honolulu. We will also be hiring a maintenance worker in the very near future. Dan Forney, Regional Environmental Compliance Coordinator has also been stationed on Midway. Dan is overseeing the operation of the fuel remediation and incineration systems as well as coordinating safety and environmental compliance activities. Dan will rotate between the Regional Office and Midway on a quarterly basis.

Two large infrastructure projects were funded this year through our Maintenance Management System. Our telecommunications and water treatment systems will be upgraded and rehabilitated. Nothing better than clean water and clear phone lines.

Operational, we continue to move forward with our contractor Chugach-McKinley Inc. We have a very productive working relationship and they have been very easy to work with.

Best Regards
Tim Bodeen
Refuge Manager





(continued from page 1)

Hokule'a, a modern-day reincarnation of the Polynesian ancient double-hulled sailing canoes, ended the midway point on its eighth visionary voyage on Wednesday, June 9 around 4:00 p.m. as soon as the first line was secured to the Midway dock.

Through the misty rain I could see Midway volunteers anxiously waiting in rain gear for crewmembers to crawl up on the dock to be greeted. After a while I sensed we were not going dockside, as of yet. Despite our exhaustion there was too much work to be done on **Hokule'a** before we could relax. Also, perhaps it was best to enjoy the aloha of the warm hugs and freshly made plumeria leis by volunteers after experiencing a real conventional shower complete with hot water. After a few hours of taking care of home (the canoe) we readied ourselves for what would become the more official welcome at the Clipper House.

Walking to our, comparatively speaking, luxury accommodations the crew felt different. We were not certain as how we had changed, but we all felt it. Some parts of going home would be sheer joy as we reconnected with our families. Other parts began to feel very unsettling to me.

The vision behind the voyage was about change titled, Navigating Change. Although the act of navigating by natural elements has always been a key aspect to any voyage, Captain and Master Navigator, Nainoa Thompson of the Polynesian Voyaging Society brought many educators together two years prior to craft a vision statement. What came to fruition was the idea of comparing and contrasting the main Hawaiian Islands

with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Since the NWHI are geologically much older than the main Hawaiian islands they are considered the kupuna or elders of the main Hawaiian islands. **Hokule'a** was to be the conduit by which we could learn about the kupuna islands, reconnect and give respect to those who traveled to these islands before us by way of canoe, and highlight its incredible ecosystem to instill hope and responsibility in our younger generation who are ultimately responsible for the planet's care and well being.

For me it was the ultimate voyage of a lifetime both professionally and



personally. It was a perfect marriage of science and culture coming together for one educational purpose. It was a pathway for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reach thousands of people completely unaware of the NWHI. Teleconferences via a satellite phone aboard the canoe connected the Day-to-day crewmember experiences with over 1800 students in 60 different classrooms. What a better way to learn and understand each of these beautiful islands by way of a virtual visit through the eyes of a crew member, said the doctor on board, Cherie Shehata. Questions were answered by crewmembers, many related to the Navigating Change curriculum, disseminated to over 80 teachers just before we departed.

How do we measure the success of this voyage? I have been collecting the data this week. One particular parent called me up and admitted that they

had switched to using biodegradable cleaners in addition they were wanting to sign up for a clean-up weekend at Kaho'olawe. Another teacher engaged an entire middle school in Thibodaux, Louisiana. The scheduled teleconferences attracted the attention of newspapers and TV media as well as the superintendent of the local school system, other administrators, and the principal at Labadieville Middle School. All huddled around the only existing speaker phone in the air conditioned principal's office. The teacher reported,

That you could have heard a pin drop, as students anxiously waited for the crackling responses transmitted from a voyaging canoe in the middle of the Pacific almost 4,000 miles away. Wide eyed and excited those particular children, 90% who qualified for the free lunch program, garnered a bit of hope. One student expressed a desire to become a marine scientist. Others conveyed their surprise when they learned from Navigator, Bruce Blankenfeld that all nationalities were welcome aboard Hokule'a. As Bruce began to list the nationalities that had been crew members, the teacher noted that their eyes lit up. Their next classroom lesson was about living together well whether you were black or white, the first step to Navigating Change.



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**Hawaiian
Monk Seals
Making a
Comeback**

By John Klavitter, Midway Atoll
Refuge Biologist,
US Fish and Wildlife Service



NMFS Honolulu Lab

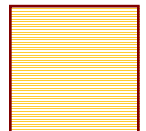
Hawaiian Monk Seals are in the midst of a very productive breeding season this year at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge based on the monitoring efforts of the National Marine Fisheries Service staff. The National Marine Fisheries Service is the federal agency tasked with monitoring seals at Midway as well as at all other Northwestern and main Hawaiian Islands. They have been monitoring seals at Midway since the Navy first allowed access to the atoll years ago (at least as early as 1990). To date, sixteen Monk Seal pups have been born on Refuge beaches, which is a record number for Midway. The previous record was fifteen pups born in 2003. Although most of the pupping is coming to a close for the season, there is still a possibility for one more birth this year.

Most of the Monk Seal pups this year were born on Spit and Eastern Islands, but one pup was born on Sand Island near Rusty Bucket. Pupping on Sand Island has been a rare event, potentially because of higher levels of human presence. It may also be due to the type of beaches that are found on Sand compared to Spit and Eastern Islands. Monk Seals usually like to give birth on beaches that have shallow, non-wavy, protective ocean waters in close proximity. Spit and Eastern may have more beach areas that fit this description.

This pupping increase is a positive sign for the Refuge and for Monk Seal Recovery. We are hopeful that this trend will continue in the future. Factors which may limit the Monk Seal population at Midway include: reef alteration and damage which occurred in the past, shark predation, marine debris entanglement, food abundance, and availability of quality pupping beaches.

Do you have news about Midway? Comments about what you'd like to see in your Newsletter? Send comments to: avery.loy@malloryco.com

Loy
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