

MacFacts Presidents Message Winter 2015

Hawaii's Macadamia Nut industry is alive and well! Macadamia nut prices are good, as they are for most of the tree nuts in the United States. The American consumer has finally gotten the message that nuts are good for one's health and as a result, nut sales have increased

One of the positive effects of a healthy macadamia nut industry in Hawaii is the renewed interest in the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association (HMNA). In August 2013, a small group got together and decided it was time to reorganize the association. Meetings of the officers and Directors, along with others who have an interest in the industry started meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Recently we changed the meeting date to the third Tuesday of each month and the start time of 10:30am. Ed Olson has been kind enough to let us meet at his Wainaku Center just outside of Hilo. (This is the former C. Brewer building on the northside of Hilo bay) We welcome any member or those interested in becoming a member to our monthly meetings.

The newly reorganized association was led by David Rietow, President and Richard Schnitzler, Vice President, with John Kai as Secretary and John Cross as Treasurer. In June of 2014 the HMNA held its Annual Conference, the first general meeting of the HMNA in just over eight years. Several topics and guest presentations were had over the course of six hours on that Saturday. A special thanks to Phyllis Stine, Charles Ensey, and John Cross for organizing this event. And Yes, we are planning on another informational presentation to the membership this coming June 20th.

The Current Officers of the HMNA are:

John Cross, President

Charles Ensey, Vice President

David Schell, Treasurer

Phyllis Stine, Secretary

We have formed three committees in order to address important issues that currently face Hawaii's Macadamia Nut Industry. They are:

Research, Chair: Bonnie Schoneberg

Food Safety, Chair: Randy Cabral

Membership and Annual Meeting, Chair: Phyllis Stine

What is the Purpose of the Association?

The object and specific purpose of the HMNA is to educate the public, government officials and their staff, and those directly involved in the growing, processing, and marketing of macadamia nuts by the organized collection and dissemination and exchange of information, knowledge, techniques and ideas relating to all aspects of the macadamia nut industry in Hawaii.

Phyllis Stine, HMNA Secretary and Sharon Motomura of CTAHR has been actively working on updating the HMNA website in order to provide the membership and interested parties with the most updated information regarding macadamia nuts and the Association. Please visit www.hawaiimacnut.org

Our organization is Member driven...

Regular members of the HMNA are individuals. Cooperatives, corporations and organizations that reside or have a place of business in the State of Hawaii and are actively engaged in the growing and processing of Hawaii grown macadamia nuts, and the manufacture of macadamia nut based products.

Associate Members are those who may not be a grower or processor, but have an interest in being associated with the industry and its members.

Annual Dues are:

Regular Members - \$50.00

Associate Members- \$150.00

Please contact me or Phyllis Stine to get a membership application