



KISC

KAUAI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

"Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow."

William Pollard



QUARTERLY REPORT

DEVELOPING TOOLS FOR THE TOOLBOX

Sometimes tricky problems call for clever solutions. We are faced, almost daily, with seemingly impossible dilemmas that hinder our conservation objectives. But in the face of these obstacles, because we are driven by clear objectives, innovative solutions are usually the norm, rather than the exception.

This quarter, KISC was fortunate to be able to participate in two activities that brought innovation to Kaua'i for two of our top priority species; little fire ants and mongoose.

In early September, Zero (a smooth fox terrier) and his handler (Kirk McCarthy) came to help the KISC crew detect mongoose at Kaua'i Lagoons, Huleia National Wildlife Refuge, and on a cut-flower farm in Puhi. The dog is specially trained to detect, chase, and corner a mongoose so that it can be captured. It also is trained to ignore common distractions like rats, cats, chickens, and other birds. Although no mongoose scents were detected this time, it is obvious that this is a tool that should continue to be developed.

We also had the Hawaii Ant Lab, headed by Cas Vanderwoude, come to Kaua'i to commence a long-awaited treatment program for little fire ants.

To be able to treat the arboreal aspect of these ants has been a challenge that has finally been met with innovation by Cas and his team.

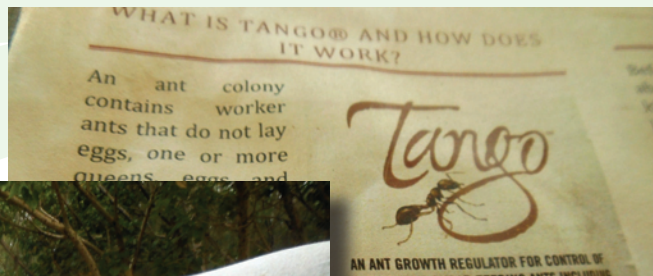
Read on about KISC's achievements during fiscal year 2013's 1st quarter.

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Jul 2012 - Sep 2012

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Left: Cleve Javier assisting Craig Kaneshige (HDOA) and Michelle Montgomery (Ant Lab). Tango gel bait was mixed and then poured into hand applicator bottles and larger backpack spraying equipment in preparation for foliar treatment of little fire ants in Kalihiwai.

Quarter Highlights

- **Jul 2** - KISC hires Matt Kirk as a temporary Mongoose Response Technician
- **Jul 30** - Keren attends HISC Resource Working Group meeting to finalize budgetary requests
- **Jul 31 - Aug 2** - KISC crew and staff attend Hawaii Conservation Conference
- **Aug 3** - Keren attends HISC Meeting in Honolulu
- **Aug 6** - Keren and Tiffani meet with Carolyn Lewis, National Coordinator for Weedbusters NZ
- **Aug 21** - Keren meets with Young Brothers to discuss partnership in preventing invasive species movement interisland
- **Aug 23-26** - KISC participates in Kaua'i County Farm Bureau Fair
- **Aug 30** - Keren and Craig Kaneshige (HDOA) meet with CK Planning regarding access path in LFA infestation
- **Sep 3-6** - KISC works with Kirk McCarthy and Zero, the mongoose detecting dog
- **Sep 10-11** - KISC crew works with Cas Vaderwoude on LFA eradication effort in Kalihiwai applying foliar bait
- **Sep 12** - Keren, Tiffani, and Allan Rietow meet with Reps Kawakami and Morikawa
- **Sep 19-20** - KISC crew works with Craig Kaneshige applying amdro at LFA site
- **Sep 18-19** - Tiffani and Ray give presentations to Kapaa JROTC regarding possible service projects
- **Sep 24** - Keren and Tiffani attend the GIRCD Annual Meeting and give an annual update of KISC's work
- **Sep 27** - KISC attends Maritime Security Training with DOT Harbors Division

In August, John Chapman said farewell to KISC as he headed on to become Assistant Director of Conservation at the National Tropical Botanical Garden. We wish him well and congratulate him on this big step in conservation for Kaua'i! It has been an honor having him as a part of KISC's family.

Outreach & Education

EVENTS

The **Kaua'i County Farm Bureau Fair** is KISC's most popular outreach event where we typically reach close to 2,000 people as they stop by our booth. This is also the time of year when we launch our new outreach theme. This year we focused on a B Horror Movie campaign with a by-line of "Admit None". 10 posters were created and displayed receiving positive feedback and response. This year's interactive display invited the public to sign Admit None tickets on a large movie marquee. To see all of the posters and marquee, check out our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.421713451198429.88276.103663463003431&type=3>.

This quarter Tiffani also gave Early Detection Workshops for volunteers at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge as well as to the Kapaa High School JROTC Platoon.

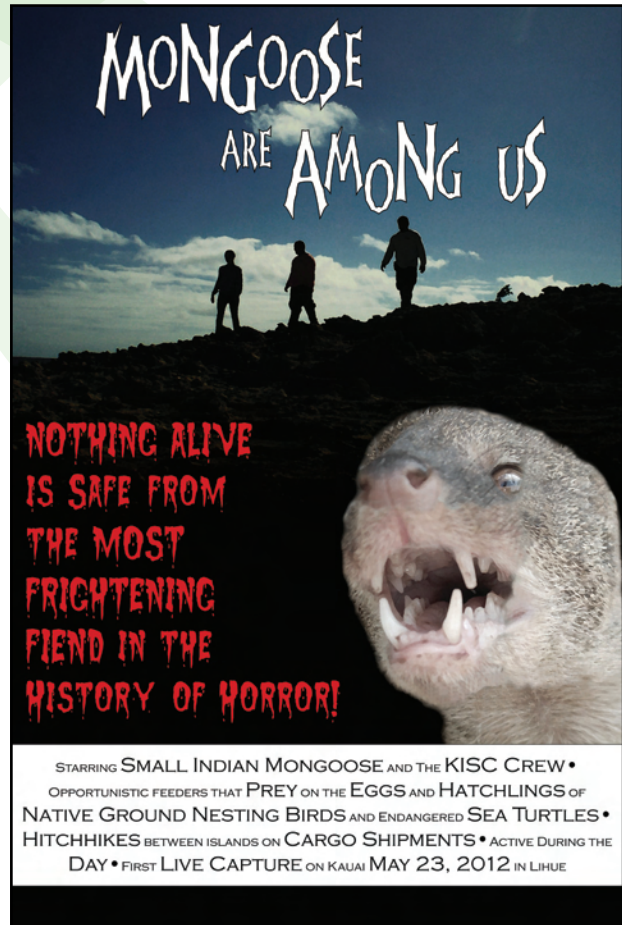
PUBLICITY AND PRESS COVERAGE

July was jam-packed with publicity and coverage following up on the 2nd mongoose capture that occurred on June 29. Blogs, radio, newspapers and television all carried the news of this historic event.

Chiefess Kamakahele Middle School Technology Program also spent time interviewing Pat Gmelin, KISC's Mongoose Technician for a video project they are working on.

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Coverage for the mongoose-hunting dog also hit the internet, as well as printed and television news.



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Employee of the Quarter



Joe Kona, KISC's Field Operations Supervisor, is this quarter's outstanding employee. Joe has been with KISC since 2005 and is responsible for overseeing all field operations, work scheduling, maintaining the vehicles, equipment and baseyard, as well as responding to and following up all new coqui calls. He is a valuable team player and vital part of KISC's daily operations.

In his spare time, Joe enjoys woodworking and has even taught several KISC staff and crew how to craft their very own ukuleles out of Hawaiian koa.

Congratulations, Joe!



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Target Updates

- **Miconia** - No aerial survey was conducted during this quarter. Ground work covered over 80 acres finding and treating 9 plants. 100 person-hours were expended.
- **Coqui Frogs** - Although Kaua'i's one wildland population of coqui has been eradicated, the KISC crew regularly schedules night-work to listen for new coqui introductions at high-risk areas (nurseries and big box stores). KISC also continues to be the primary responder to new reports on the island. One new coqui was detected and captured during this quarter.
- **Little Fire Ant** - KISC crew members assisted the Hawai'i Ant Lab and HDOA with treatment efforts in Kalihiwai. KISC also continues to survey for LFA island wide. No new LFA were detected. 31 acres were surveyed.
- **Long Thorn Kiawe** - With assistance from Craig Kaneshige, HDOA, crews were able to treat over 335 plants at PMRF this quarter.
- **Mongoose** - Trapping efforts continue with assistance from DOFAW Emergency hires. Traps have been set in high-priority areas around Kaua'i with no new captures. Over 1,100 person hours were expended including the effort with the mongoose-hunting dog.
- **Arundo, False Kava & Ivy Gourd** - Other priority species work included arundo, false kava and ivy gourd. Treatments continue for these species with over 700 plants treated this quarter.
- **Early Detection Species** - Herbicidal trials continue for two *Cissus* species with unfavorable results to date. *Clerodendrum macrostegium* is responding well to treatments and delimiting surveys are pushing this species toward becoming an adopted target.
- **Cattails** - Due to restrictions from the EPA regarding National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements, KISC has not had the ability to treat cattails for a year. We can continue to survey and monitor our previous work, but we are waiting on the Hawaii Department of Health to put in place permitting procedures before we are able to apply herbicide again. 89 acres were surveyed this quarter.



KISC crew deliberating on how to scale a steep area of the Wailua Game Management Area while conducting a miconia survey