



For Immediate Release
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Waimea Valley's David Orr honored by Center for Plant Conservation

ST. LOUIS, MO – David Orr of the Waimea Valley Audubon Society was awarded the annual Star Award from the Center for Plant Conservation at the CPC annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, last month.

The CPC Star award honors those who demonstrate the concern, cooperation and personal investment needed to conserve our imperiled native plants. Orr was recognized specifically for “years of dedication to the vulnerable native flora of Hawaii at Waimea valley, keeping the vision of conservation alive through commitment and personal sacrifice.”

The Board of Trustees of the Center for Plant Conservation passed a resolution expressing “profound gratitude to David Orr, for more than a decade of commitment to preserving the priceless collections of imperiled native flora at Waimea valley. As a research assistant, superintendent of collections, and now collections manager, he has weathered tempests and foregone pay in the name of maintaining these rare plants and valuable records. Due to his unswerving loyalty to these plants and a conservation vision for this unique site, he has provided a beacon of hope that has proved vital to the long-term survival of this conservation resource.”

The award was presented by Dr. Kathryn Kennedy, President and Executive Director of CPC, during the annual awards banquet. As Orr was not able to attend, board member Emmy White Seymour of Hawaii accepted the plaque on his behalf.

The Center for Plant Conservation is dedicated solely to preventing the extinction of America's imperiled, native flora. CPC is a network of more than 30 of America's leading botanical institutions. By conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research, awareness and information exchange, the center's network is striving to save America's rarest plants from being lost forever. For more information about the Center for Plant Conservation, please visit the Web site at www.centerforplantconservation.org.

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