

WAIMEA OUTDOOR CIRCLE

2016-2017 OFFICERS

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Cheryl Langton

Co-President
Jean Bassen

Vice Presidents
Bevil Walker
Megan MacArthur
Balbi Brooks

Treasurer
Bevil Walker

Assistant Treasurer
Juanita Montgomery

Recording Secretary
Jean Bassen

Corresponding Secretary
Kathrin "Chacha" Kohler

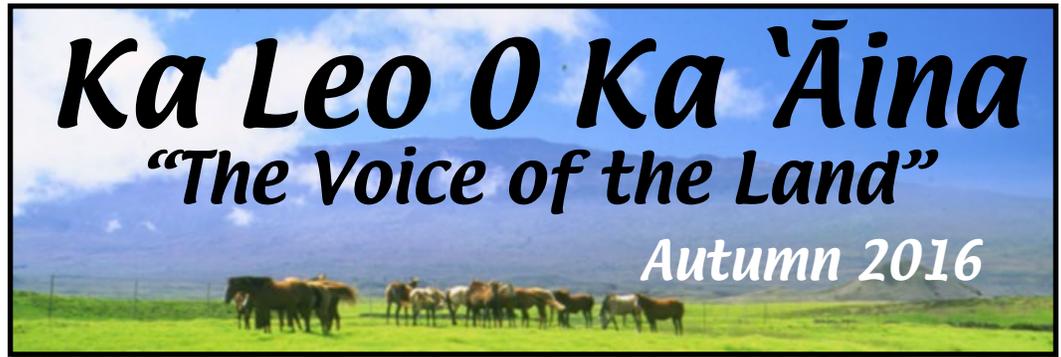
Advisors
Roz Wright
David Stubbs
Malia M. Kitchen
JoAnn Conley
Graciela Borisoff

Membership
Karin Hazelhoff, Chair
Kathrin "Chacha" Kohler

Nominating Committee
Barbara Campbell, Chair
Carol Hendricks, Co-Chair
Cheryl Chesnut
Megan MacArthur

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Ka Leo O Ka 'Aina **"The Voice of the Land"**

Autumn 2016

The Beginning of the Waimea Outdoor Circle

Long ago, it was in 1988 – 1989 Waimea went through a time of heavy tree destruction. Hundreds of trees were cut down in town so well known for it's beautiful trees.

Many of us were very upset. Were we turning into another L.A.? A nurse at Lucy Henriques Medical Center cried when she saw birds escaping their nests as trees came down.

People started to call the Kona Outdoor Circle asking for help. When I called again, their President Kathy Martin said, "So many folks of Waimea have called us, you all should get together".

So we did. Kathy was kind enough to come up from Kona to meet with us at the new Merriman's Restaurant for lunch and we decided to start our own branch. Kathy Martin assured us that the Kona Outdoor Circle would back us and assist us.

This was the time before everyone had a home computer. Priscilla Growney was one of the few who did and she went to work. She sent a note to all the people we knew of and thought would be interested asking them if they would join us. We got an immediate response with over 150 members and so the Waimea Outdoor Circle was born.

We still are working on encouraging the community to plant trees and to care for the ones we have.

The Waimea Outdoor Circle is committed to keep Waimea clean, green and beautiful.

Upcoming Events

November 5 — Annual Plant Sale

November 26 — Wreath Making Event

2nd Saturday of April 2017 — Spring Plant Sale

2nd Saturday of May 2017 —
Annual Membership Luncheon
at Anna Ranch

Visit the Waimea Outdoor Circle's website
www.waimeaoutdoorcircle.org

~a work in progress and input will be appreciated!~



President's Message

This past year has been an exciting and productive one for Waimea Outdoor Circle and Ulu La`au the Waimea Nature Park. One of the highlights took place on April 9, 2016 at the blessing ceremony for our new "Educational Center", made possible through the generosity of our members, grants from public and private foundations, The Outdoor Circle and many volunteer hours from our local residents. Designing and constructing a simple, multi-purpose building that is ADA accessible and can serve as an education center, among other things was a component of the Park Management Plan created in 2002. With its completion, we are now able to offer an attractive covered space for environmental education classes, meetings and community events.

Looking forward to the long term future of Ulu La`au and its sustainability, Hawaii County's Parks & Recreation Department is now assisting the WOC with general maintenance, including mowing, trash removal and water usage for the native plants. With this Memorandum of Understanding in place, we are hopeful that the incoming administration will recognize the value of Ulu La`au and continue to honor the agreement we entered into with the County earlier this year. We are so proud to provide this beautiful open space to the public and it would not be possible without the hard work of our dedicated members and park volunteers.

As a branch of The Outdoor Circle, Hawaii's oldest environmental organization, we continue to work together on a daily basis to protect Hawaii's natural beauty from unsightly signage and visual blight. We have recently been reminded of the value of large shade trees during some of the hottest days many of us can remember in Waimea. All of us must continue to advocate for our trees, whether it's to protect existing ones or by planting more in a responsible manner.

Thank you for your continued support of Waimea Outdoor Circle. We appreciate your contributions and all you do to help us keep Hawaii clean, green and beautiful.



November 4 is Arbor Day in Hawaii

On January 4, 1872 a pioneer to Nebraska named Sterling Morton, proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day". The date was set for April 10, 1872.

It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day!

Trees were needed as windbreaks to keep soil in place, for fuel, building material and for shade from the hot sun. Besides, the pioneers missed their trees!

Today the most common date for the state observance is the last Friday in April and several U.S. Presidents have proclaimed a national Arbor Day on that date. But a number of state Arbor Days, including Hawaii's, are at other times to coincide with the best tree planting weather.

To get the whole great story go to: www.arborday.org/celebrate/documents/history.pdf





Rapid Ohia Death

A new fungal pathogen known as Rapid Ohia Death was identified on Hawaii Island in 2014. The fungus attacks and can quickly kill ohia trees. Ohia is endemic to Hawaii and comprises about 80% of Hawaii's native forests.

The Waimea Outdoor Circle has an extensive and most special collection of Ohia in the Waimea Nature Park – Ulu La'au. We hope that our trees stay healthy and will be spared this terrible disease.

Up to date information can be found at www.rapidohiadeath.org.



Student Volunteers make a difference

Since the Nature Park's beginning in July of 1999 students have been important volunteers in the park. Over the years students from Parker School, HPA, Waimea Elementary and Middle Schools, Waimea Country School and others have all been coming at various times.

Many times the teachers just want the students to do community service with reporting to be done when they get back to class. Sometimes they come on an excursion, bring their lunch, work for an hour and then have free time to play.

Often the teacher has specific goals for the students like searching for specific plants or drawing pictures of them.

The teachers contact us to set up the visit and in turn we have one or two of our Park volunteers organize the event. After all the years of visiting the Park with their students many teachers know it well and will not need volunteer guides any longer.

It has been 17 years now since we started this wonderful education program and a lot of the kids have come several times and at various grade levels.

We have learned that kids do not like to weed. Quite by accident we learned that they love to build trails! This is hard work. It takes clearing of debris, shrubs and leaves, leveling and laying down the black plastic. Then they have to cover the trail with wood chips and border it with logs. By far most of the trails in the park have been built by students. They are proud of them and we have marked each trail with a sign telling you which class built it.

We know that this work and involvement gives these young people a feeling of owner - and stewardship.



“Eleutherodactylus” ?

What is it? A dinosaur? A flowering vine? A coqui frog?

Yes, it is a coqui frog! Such a big name for a little frog, only one inch in size.

They are native to Puerto Rico with no natural predators in Hawaii. They arrived on the Big Island in the late 1980’s via imported plants.

They are noisy! The males are territorial and their call can travel a quarter mile or more.

They are attracted to moist areas such as ferns, bananas, heliconia and ginger. To discourage them from invading, remove leaves from the ground and trim bushes and vines.

The females lay 34 to 75 eggs every 2 to 4 weeks, up to 24 clusters a year. The males guard the eggs. They reach maturity in 8 to 12 months and live for 4 to 6 years.

For more information visit: coquifreewaimea.org
It offers good advice on how to locate and eliminate them.



Notes from the Treasurer...

With one month remaining in our fiscal year, I am pleased to report our restricted/unrestricted and direct public support donations have totaled \$25,345! We truly appreciate everyone’s generous support of the WOC.

Our Silent Auction fundraiser at the annual membership luncheon in May 2016 was a great success. Thanks to everyone’s generosity, we made \$730! Many thanks to all who donated items and those who bid.

Our fall events in November 2015, Plant Sale and Wreath Making Class, netted WOC \$1,700. I will report on our upcoming Plant Sale (Nov. 5, 2016) and Wreath Making Class (Nov. 26, 2016) in the next newsletter.

Park Surveys

The Waimea Outdoor Circle conducted their second Ulu La’au Visitor Survey on August 25, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 5 pm.

We had 112 Visitors that day: 80 adults, 32 children and 12 dogs.

Last August 2015 the count was 72: 62 adults, 11 children and 22 dogs.

It was a beautiful day with a newly moved lawn. The increase in numbers of children was partly due to a school field trip (16 children) who came to study native plants and the water animals in our stream.

Everyone came by car or walked in – there were no bikers this year. Some people remained in their cars and others used the park to access the trail system.

The majority of the comments were positive.

- I love it and my dog loves it
- It’s an awesome park
- It is a great place
- Keep up the good work
- We took our wedding pictures here
- I love it because it is quiet, peaceful and outdoors

The negative comments:

- Proper signage is lacking
- The access road is unknown
- The toilet is a problem

The activities people came for were:

- Eating lunch
- Reading
- Chasing chickens!
- Walking dogs
- Doing homework
- Using the WiFi
- Simply bench sitting and relaxing



ulu La’au
Waimea Nature Park

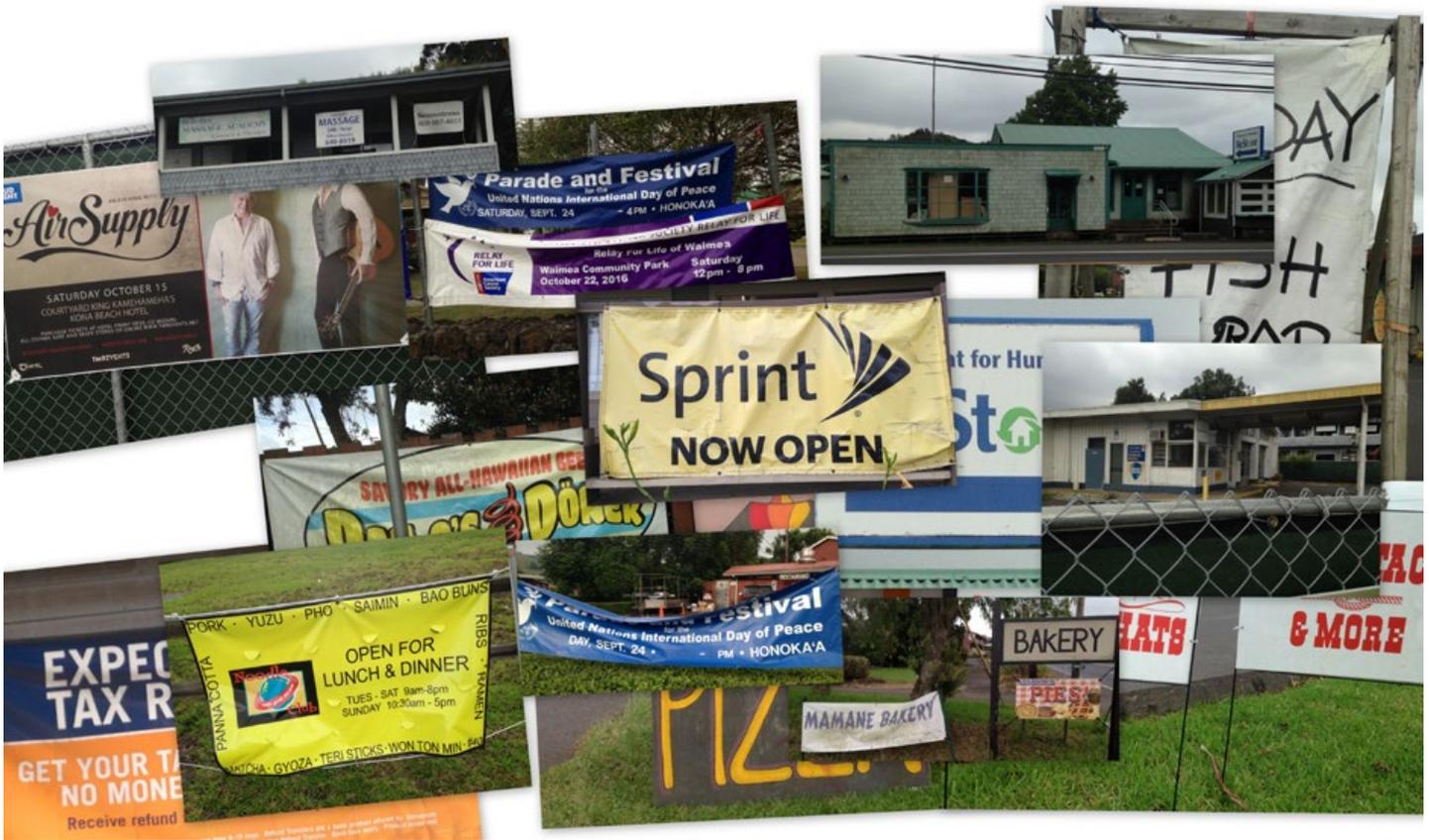
Air Cleaning Plants

Houseplants are not something you would typically associate with NASA, but in the late '80s the US government agency joined forces with the Associated Contractors of America, to determine the most effective indoor plants for removing toxic agents from the air (check the 'NASA Guide to Air-filtering Plants')

The study found that some plants were effective at filtering out the likes of benzene, ammonia and formaldehyde from the air, helping to neutralize the effects of sick building syndrome.

The aptly named 'Florist's Mum' proved most effective, alongside the Peace Lily, or Spathiphyllum, which we have here a-plenty, good in shade, and both shown to filter out amounts of benzene, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene, xylene, toluene and ammonia.

While the research does date back over 25 years ago, the findings have stood the test of time, and are regarded as the most comprehensive and accurate results to date. Check NASA site!



**Clean, green and beautiful??
Please help Waimea Outdoor Circle protect our
town from illegal signs and visual blight.**

Next Waimea Outdoor Circle project: Planting of Medians - to keep Waimea clean, green and beautiful!



Education Pavilion Dedication: Joyous event - dedication of the Education Pavilion in the Nature Park

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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