

APRIL 29, 2017

north shore outdoor circle

keeping the north shore clean, green, and beautiful



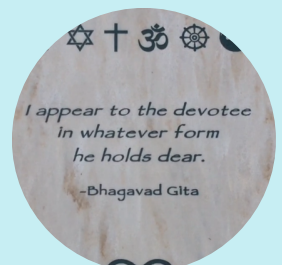
Tree Dedication and Garden Tour were spring highlights.

On a lovely morning in January, The NSOC offered the chance to visit the **North Shore Silent Meditation Garden**. This "tour" started with meeting Dave Druz, the owner and creator of this spectacular garden. He gave us a brief history, explaining it's origins as a Buddhist retreat for many years, followed by the dark days when new owners considered demolishing it in order to build a large mansion, only to have the happy ending of Dave purchasing and not only restoring but exceeding the beauty of the original garden. Please visit the website silentmeditationgarden.org to find out more about this special place.



Tour attendees

Left to Right - Front row; Susan Spangler, Kerry (Gidget) Germain, Pitter Scanlan, Kathy Whitmire, Ruth Holmberg, Shirley Head, Sue Lucas, Bob Wilhelm, Dave Druz, Vera Stone. Back Row; Amber DuBois, Allen Wehmer, Gena Whitten.



On February 25, 2017 a touching **Community Plaque Dedication Ceremony** was held for the Exceptional Ear Pod Tree in Waialua. The tree had been groomed by both Oahu Tree Works and HECO, and although had lost most of its leaves, was still an inspiration with its great size and lovely form. NSOC Tree Committee worked on the project to groom and recognize this tree with Friends of the Waialua Library and The Nakamura family for the past year. The ceremony was led by the Reverend Kojun Hashimoto of the Wahiawa and Waialua Hongwanji Missions. Noelle Sutherland spearheaded the gathering of seedlings from the great tree. She planted them in tiny pots and offered them to anyone attending the event, along with instructions for their care and feeding. The morning was cool and crisp, there were goodies provided by NSOC and coffee from Brew and Foam. Our President, Kerry Germain told an amazing story about Jim Wong who planted the tree in 1902, the same year the Waialua Hongwanji was established. She tracked down his son and invited him to attend. Sadly, he was unable to attend, and passed a few weeks after hearing about this event, but a commemorative plaque will be given to his family. Everyone who was present was moved by the ceremony.

Myles Ritchie, Kerry Germain,
Antya Miller, Barbara Ritchie, Rev.
Takako Hashimoto, Rev. Kojun
Hashimoto, Kano Hashimoto, Jon
Perry, Shoshi Hashimoto



Blessings
bestowed



NSOC
President
Kerry
"Gidget"
Germain



Working to keep the North Shore - clean, green, and beautiful:

GOOD NEWS!

Bill 79 - Sign Code upheld

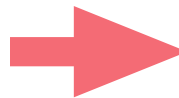
This bill would have included changes to the sign code which would allow for more and larger signs in 6 zoning categories. NSOC members rallied opposition across Oahu to call attention to this potential new sign clutter. On April 6, the Zoning and Housing Committee removed all of the changes we requested. It is a victory for now.

BAD NEWS!

Bill 78 - Ad Sign proliferation

We voted to oppose this bill a year ago because it allows the County to put up advertising signs in parks and on other city property. This year, the City Council Budget committee changed it to remove the word "sign" and change it to "sponsor recognition". But Bill 78 still allows for visual displays on all city property as "sponsor recognition". The Outdoor Circle obtained a legal opinion that this Bill would violate the Hawaii Outdoor Advertising statute which outlaws all "off-site" outdoor advertising. NSOC joined The Outdoor Circle in a huge effort to stop Bill 78. Our local Council member Ernest Martin joined us in opposing it. But the City Council passed it anyway on April 26 with several City Council members saying they would pursue further legislation to reduce the negative effects Bill 78 will have on the scenic environment. The Outdoor Circle is considering legal action. Stay tuned!

We don't want this!



ONGOING

Resolution 17-79 - Food Trucks

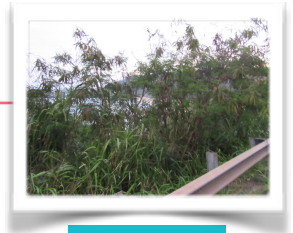
We support the proposed changes to the Haleiwa Special District ordinance, Resolution 17-79, which we hope will reduce the visual blight caused by the proliferation of food trucks throughout the small town of Haleiwa. NSOC testified for these changes in food truck regulation in the Haleiwa Special District but we are asking that more limitations be put on signs posted on the trucks. We are also asking that the city find a way to reign in the surf school trucks displaying large signs that park all day at Haleiwa Beach Park. Next stop for Res.17-79 is the Planning Commission. NSOC will advocate for reducing sign clutter.

Completed projects.

JANUARY 12, 2017

NSOC partnered with Sunset Beach Community Association and convinced the Parks Department and the Mayor's office to trim the shrubs that blocked the view plane at Waimea Bay. City and County Parks had no further plan to maintain the view plane, so wanting to act quickly, our board of directors voted to take bids from licensed landscape/tree trimming companies with the goal of maintaining the area by keeping the grass and koa trimmed to guard rail height. In a wonderful turn of events the first contractor to look at the job, Jon Perry, of Oahu Tree Works, decided that as a way of supporting NSOC and the community he'd donate his time and crew for a day's work in trimming the area. We now are working with Parks for the permits to have the work done, to keep one of the North Shore's most scenic view planes open. We'll let you know when the work will happen.

Big Mahalo to Oahu Tree works! <https://www.oahutreeworks.com>



Before



After

The *General Membership Meeting* on April 24, 2017 was a fascinating, and convivial event. We met at 6:30 for light pupu, wine, and beer at the Proud Peacock. It was a wonderful venue with a delicious and creative presentation of pupu provided by Ke Nui Kitchen. We encourage all to check out this venue for your next special event or meeting. There were scrapbooks, filled with old memories of past events with the NSOC on the tables which the good sized group enjoyed. Then the meeting started. After the usual NSOC business, David Orr was introduced. He told us about the recent flooding in the valley which was as bad, if not worse than he's ever seen in the valley, but the park was 90% back to pre-flood status. Serendipitously, there was a group, Dawson Construction, "a native Hawaiian Company", at the park that day. They took one look around and put up their sleeves and got to work helping to clean up the damage left by the mud. The ravages of nature is something a botanist expects, but there was one tragedy - they lost a broadleaf mahogany tree. It was only about 7 years old and not endangered, the 40 year old true mahogany (about 20 ft. farther from the stream bank) was spared. Then Myles Ritchie took the floor. He gave an illustrated talk on the Exceptional Tree Map that TOC has created, as well as a volunteer program to map and quantify all the trees in Kailua. He also told us about a Google Trek program whereby a film camera has been lent to TOC to create a virtual reality experience for places in Hawaii that are not accessible to the regular Joe.

May 27, 2017 Field Trip to Ruppen Farm - Waiahole Valley, 9am. Tour with farm lunch to follow at the Poi Factory.

June 12, 2017 Board Meeting, 3:30pm Proud Peacock Lanai

June 24, 2017 Field trip to Manoa Heritage Center
www.manoaheritagecenter.org

We are also contemplating a field trip to do the walking tour of exceptional Trees offered by the Greater Waikiki Branch.

