

## Arbor Day Tree and Plant Giveaway



# NORTH SHORE OUTDOOR CIRCLE



## 2022 Wrap Up

By NSOC President Vera Stone Williams

After three years the North Shore Outdoor Circle held its first in-person General Membership Meeting on October 19th at Waimea Valley. The evening began with a delicious meal by Ke Nui Kitchen, then moved onto a recap of the NSOC yearly events on the North Shore.

We installed our new officers, awarded the coveted Beautification Awards, and enjoyed informative presentations by Senator Gil Riviere, North Shore Community Land Trust Executive Director - Adam Borello and Director of Conservation - Tim Tybuszewski.

**2023 Board  
Members at our  
Fall General  
Membership  
Meeting in Waimea  
Valley**

## Board Members include:

President Vera Stone Williams, Recording Secretary Lea Albert, Corresponding Secretary Ed Shanahan. Our Treasurer is Yvonne Alexander and Ruth Holmberg is an Advisor and is continuing to be our Membership Committee Chair.

Third Vice President for the NSOC and Volunteer Coordinator in Waimea Valley is Melani Spielman. She is also our fearless leader for our monthly adventure in the valley; maintaining Torch Ginger Alley.

First Vice President Rex Dubiel Shanahan gave an exciting update on one of our oldest projects (27 years!), the Ke Ala Pupukea Bike Path. Along with other NSOC members she has been instrumental in securing city funds of \$500,000 to restore this important thoroughfare in our community. She also gave away door prizes of seed packets to everyone who attended and Smith and Hawken trowels to fifteen lucky guests.

Another Advisor and our Events Coordinator on our board is Kerry "Gidget" Germain. She is also on the Tree Committee and put out a call for help in protecting the 110 year old Ear Pod Tree by the Waialua Library. There are cars and trucks parking on its roots. She would like to see a barrier installed around the tree to show respect for this beautiful part of Waialua history.

Second Vice President Dawn Pearson and the Chair of our Beautification Committee then awarded the Beautification Awards. After a long hiatus, Pearson shared how she and her committee toured the neighborhoods and commercial districts in Sunset, Pupukea, Haleiwa, Waialua, and Mokuleia, looking for beautiful front yards. This year's awards went to: Victor and Heidi Luarca of Waialua and Bellodgia Yamamoto of Pupukea. Other winners, Billy and Julia Barker of Sunset Beach, were unable to attend.

The NSOC is looking for a person for the Signs Committee, if this is of interest to you please reach out to us. In the meantime, all of us are doing our part to inform the Department of Planning and Permitting if we see signs that are obscuring view planes or adversely affecting the beauty of our North Shore environment. It's valuable to have a point person for this important role in our mission.

## *General Membership Meeting Beautification Award Winners*



One of the floral centerpieces that the NSOC created for the North Shore Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Party in Waimea Valley.



**State Senator Gil Riviere** gave us an update on the status of the traffic problems at Laniakea. He worries that the Department of Transportation is not concerned about parking, ingress or egress, and especially that there are no public restrooms. He feels strongly that the bypass road should go beyond Chun's Reef. He spoke about the successful efforts to protect the Marine Life Conservation District at Shark's Cove. He feels strongly that the MLCD area should be a model for Laniakea, and suggested that we look into ways to allow Laniakea to rest and heal as a sanctuary.

He also told us about business activity in Kaneohe Bay which might become an issue for us. Commercial activity (legal and illegal) is destroying the bay. Loads of people are being dropped off at the Sand Bar where there are no public restrooms or trash facilities. This causes an enormous rise in the pollution of the bay. We don't face that specific issue, but the internet information explosion has enabled home owners to create unregulated businesses, and unregulated profiteering of a precious environmental resource could create a problem for our community and our ecosystem. Gil is hopeful that the 50 new hires within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will help with some of these issues, however he reminded us that it's up to us to be on guard.

He also spoke about federal money that has come to our state. He clarified that once the money is gone we must be able to maintain the programs on our own. The federal funds are just to get the ball rolling, once they're gone it will require a responsible organization to maintain funding.

Senator Riviere suggested that he'd like to see the hale koa cleared from the Haleiwa side of Waimea Bay and native plants established. This would allow people to enjoy the view of the bay. The NSOC concurs.

Many audience members asked questions and Senator Riviere answered all of them.

**Tim Tybuszewski** and **Adam Borello** then presented a short history of the North Shore Community Land Trust, an independent trust created in 1997 which helped secure 7.5 million acres at the top of Pupukea and also helped secure the true ahapua'a that is now Waimea Valley. The Trust is also restoring the sand dunes along Kahuku Point to Marconi Road. They are also leading and assisting with the huge restoration project at Waiale'e. The project at Kahuku Point includes long term efforts to create boardwalks for hikers on the shoreline, the removal of non-native plants and trees, and the planting native species. Tim shared that they monitor the Laysan Albatross chicks. There were more nests this year, but fewer chicks because many of the Albatross parents are juveniles and still learning to care for their babies. Tim told us that he is heartened by the involvement of other non-profits and college, high, middle, and elementary school students who come and help.

At this point in his presentation, one of the attendees, Denise Antolini, brought up the RR3 Project between the Turtle Bay Hotel and Kahuku Point. This would include the development of 100 luxury and private condominiums which would sell for millions of dollars each. They would be situated alongside some of the most beautiful places where the Land Trust works. Neither Tim nor Adam were able to comment on this project, but the NSOC was interested to learn about this new development and will be keeping an eye out to make sure that the hotel maintains view planes and public access.



There were two representatives from the main TOC office who joined us, Operations Director, Jackie Wah and Executive Director Winston Welch. Winston took the opportunity to salute the NSOC as “vibrant!” He mentioned that Mayor Blangiardi is now a TOC member. He reminded us that in 1922, TOC established the “Shade Tree Commission” which eventually became the City & County Department of Parks and Recreation. Finally, Winston informed us that soon there will be hundreds of boxes of TOC and branch history that will be digitized and available for research.

## Christmas Party Festivities

On December 11th, a nice sized group met for dinner, drinks, conversation, and Christmas carols in Pupukea. The event was convivial with a relaxed but elegant atmosphere. Everybody was ready to be festive with people they hadn’t seen in years.



## Join us!

We are a small, but mighty organization. Many hands make light work, so we are always looking for volunteers. A good way to get your feet wet, literally, is to join us on the last Monday of every month for a work day in Waimea Valley. The word work makes it sound hard and sweaty and unpleasant, but it’s actually hard and sweaty and terrific! You’ll feel great being in the Valley and working with others and contributing to your community. We hope to see you at a future NSOC Meeting or event! Check us out on Facebook, or on the website at

<https://www.outdoorcircle.org/north-shore.html>