

KEEPING THE NORTH SHORE; Clean, Green, and Beautiful.

# NORTH SHORE OUTDOOR CIRCLE

June 2016

[www.outdoorcircle.org](http://www.outdoorcircle.org)



## A busy year so far, for the North Shore Outdoor Circle

### WHAT'S IN THE WIND

#### SPRING 2016

The NSOC has been very busy these first few months of 2016, with meetings, field trips, educational programs, working with local organizations, and fund raisers like our beautiful shopping bags for sale as well as a yard sale.

*Continued on Page 2*

#### IN MEMORIAM

Find out why a tree was planted at the Banzai Skate Park.

*Continued on Page 2*

#### ISSUES AND EVENTS

Field trips, Lectures, and Yard sales - oh my. It has been a busy year, and is sure to continue with activities to engage and encourage.

*Continued on Page 3,4*

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kerry Germain's (Gidget) personal mission statement.

*Continued on Page 5*



*A tree grows next to Banzai Skate Park*



*Learning how to repot a Bonsai!*



*NSOC Board*

A special message from  
our President,  
Kerry Germain on the  
final page of this  
newsletter



# THE NORTH SHORE OUTDOOR CIRCLE



*Dedication  
of tree in  
honor of  
Ruth Leinau*



*Bike Path Cleanup*



*Bonsai*



*Yard Sale*



*Denise Antolini*

## IN MEMORY OF RUTH LEINAU

A tree was planted in memory of Past President, Ruth Leinau at the Banzai Skate Park. It will provide some much-needed shade as well as pink blossoms, a favorite of Ruth's. Her son, Bob Leinau, and others are watering and caring for the tree, to make sure that it flourishes.

## HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL COURT

On March 16th, the NSOC hosted a talk by Professor Denise Antolini, co-founder of the Hawaii Environmental Court and UH William S. Richardson School of Law associate dean of academic affairs. This event was held in the Old Waialua Courthouse. Professor Antolini was joined by John Foster and David Sakoda. They told us all about this vanguard organization - only the second in the United States. It is considered a model which other states can follow for creating a forum for addressing, investigating, punishing if necessary, but always educating the public about crimes against our precious Hawaiian environment. She covered the history of the court, its 12 year process

of becoming a law, and the role TOC played in the process. Denise also provided us with a global perspective with a look at the National Green Tribunal in India, which she recently visited. She also talked about the work being done in Brazil and New South Wales.

Environmental courts or tribunals represent a growing movement. They address a broad range of issues. Hawaii will be at the center of this global environmental movement when the World Conservation Conference is held here in September. One of their priority issues is to establish a Global Institute for the Environment.

## YARD SALE

March 26th, at Sunset Beach Christian School, we had our first fund-raiser Yard Sale. We all had been "weeding out" our homes and brought together collectibles, ceramics, jewelry, artwork, furniture, household items, and clothes. Mahalo to Pastor Larry and Secretary Priscilla.



*John Foster, Alexandra Avery, David Sokos,  
Denise Antolini, Gidget Germain*



**A big mahalo to  
Gordon's Nursery  
for donating the  
orchids for our  
Yard Sale  
and being a  
NSOC supporter  
for many years.**



## Brief Update - Loko'Ea Fish Pond

The proposed development at Loko'Ea Fishpond was brought to our attention in September 2015. In October, the NSOC Board voted to support the use of land around Loko'Ea Pond as a cultural and educational site for the community as stated in the North Shore Sustainable Communities Plan. We urged the landowner, Queen Liliuokalani Trust (QLT) to conserve the land and protect the view plane of Loko'Ea Pond from Kamehameha Hwy and cancel plans for a retail development. We presented information to officials of QLT on possible ways they could conserve the land without losing the revenue they need for their mission. We have made our position clear to the community, to QLT and to our elected officials. However, QLT continues to state that they want to go forward with the planned retail development despite opposition from many members of the community. This is very disappointing.

To date the NSOC role has been to advocate for preservation of the open space and view plane and to facilitate discussion between the parties, landowner, surrounding landowners and developer in the hope of a win-win alternative for land conservation.

With the help of Council Chair Ernie Martin, we were able to bring all parties to a meeting on Thursday, June 2. We invited Doug Cole of North Shore Community Land Trust who explained how land conservation could meet the financial needs of QLT. But QLT's representative said it would require staff resources and legal fees for them to review and evaluate alternatives, and since they had already invested their time and resources in the current plan, it is now too late and too costly to consider alternatives. The asset manager for Kamehameha Schools (KSBE) was also present since KSBE owns Loko'Ea Pond. Although he had previously contacted QLT about working on alternatives so the land could be conserved, he stated that KSBE would not object to what QLT wants to do with their land and that KSBE will continue their work to restore the Pond regardless of the development plans of QLT.

The Chevron station that was demolished on this site in 2008 left substantial soil contamination. Chevron has still not completed remediation of the damage and is still paying ground rent to QLT. All parties acknowledged that the State Health Dept. must sign off on the completion of soil remediation before any construction can take place at this site.

So, the developer does not currently have a lease on the land and will not have one unless this environmental problem is solved.

Although the remediation of soil contamination is not complete and the developer does not have a long-term lease, the Honolulu Dept. of Planning and Permitting and the Council Committee on Zoning and Planning have both recommended approval of the developer's request for a Special Management Area Use Permit for the new project.

NSOC now must decide what further steps we should take to continue to pursue our goal of conserving this open space and view plane in such a significant historic location.



Gidget Germain, Kathy Whitmire, Keith Chang KSBE



Approval of this permit will be considered by the full City Council at its next meeting on July 6. This will be a chance for concerned residents to attend the hearing and express their views. Those who can't attend can submit written testimony online regarding Resolution 16-133 through the City Council Website:  
<http://www.honolulu.gov/council>.

# THE NORTH SHORE OUTDOOR CIRCLE

## Previous and Upcoming Events

### ALL THE GOOD THINGS HAPPENING WITH THE NSOC

#### BIKE PATH CLEANUP

On April 15, some people weren't worried about taxes - they were keeping the North Shore clean, green and beautiful. 30 soldiers from an intelligence unit at Ft. Shafter worked with NSOC/Community volunteers Rex and Ed Shanahan, Steve Albert, Yvonne Alexander, Bob Leinau, and Jeannie Martinson to clean up our beautiful bike path.

#### BONSAI

A few days later, on April 19th, NSOC members were hosted by Jim and Dawn Peerson at their lovely home in Pupukea and treated to a fascinating workshop on the ancient Japanese art of Bonsai. We learned about the history, saw some exquisite examples and learned how to repot a miniature tree.

#### SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE SIGNS

Bill 78 was proposed to the City Council, and would allow sponsorship of city assets - allowing sponsors to

place signs on those assets. The Outdoor Circle believes that this would constitute advertising, similar to a billboard, thus in violation of the state sign law that The Outdoor Circle created. TOC and our own 2nd Vice President, Kathy Whitmire have testified against it. It has been deferred at the moment, but Kathy encourages vigilance as this issue may be revisited.

#### MARI'S GARDENS

In June, our intrepid members found their way to Mililani to Mari's Gardens. If you haven't been to this place - GO! NOW! We were given a tour, which covered the basics of hydroponics, and aquaponics. We saw beautiful garden accessories, plants for sale, landscape ideas and enjoyed a yummy lunch at a glass table while watching little fish dart in and out of decorative rocks.

Visit their website for more information [www.marisgardens.com](http://www.marisgardens.com)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Haleiwa Arts Festival is coming up, July 16 and 17, and we will have a table there to answer questions about our organization, offer our shopping bags for donation and to sign people up. Anyone who joins NSOC will get an orchid plant. If you haven't signed up to help spread the word and share the joy, please contact Vera Stone at [verastone60@gmail.com](mailto:verastone60@gmail.com).

Sometime this year we will be working with the Aloha Arborists Association to undertake a much needed grooming of the large Earpod Tree in Waialua next to the library. It has not been pruned since 1991, and is a Exceptional Tree. There is interest in getting a new Exceptional Tree plaque for the tree.

#### SAVE THE DATE

September 27th - General Membership  
- Beautification Awards  
Venue TBD



*Yard Sale with Carolyn Sandison, Rex Shanahan, Dawn Peerson, Ruth Holmberg, and Yvonne Alexander*



*Bike Path Cleanup*



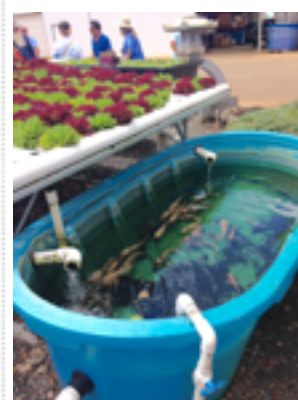
*Bonsai with Jim Peerson*



*Mari's Gardens*



*Mike Germain*



*Aquaponic system at Mari's Gardens*

# President's Message

Aloha NSOC Members and Friends,

Nine months have passed since I stepped into the role of president and it seems remarkably similar to the nine months of pregnancy with my only child. I took on this commitment seriously; reading lots of material to prepare myself, creating agendas, laying awake at night questioning myself, but once I had done my best in getting organized I began to relax and enjoy the ride. The only thing I was not prepared for was the amount of time that would be spent emailing. In this age of constant communication, the smallest of issues can be discussed at length through email and text messaging. Many letters sent through e-mail, which used to be mailed out, will need to be printed and saved for our archives, a new step for our changing times. Because it's easier (but less personal) to email, I have pushed myself a bit more to make connections by meeting in person with people— board members, local Parks Department management, community groups, government officials etc...

It's nice to begin to see the rewards of all the ideas and plans made back in October. Our visibility on Facebook has been greatly increased with Vera Stone, Publicity Chair, doing a wonderful job posting interesting information as well as events and issues that we have been involved with. Our quarterly articles in the North Shore news have been engaging people in the community and I believe will inspire more new membership. The good work and constant effort made with the Loko'Ea proposed development issue could not have been achieved without the positive support from our 2nd VP Kathy Whitmire. I am so grateful to have worked with her the last seven months on this important cause. Through it all we have become very good friends, lifting each other up when needed, through the ups and downs of taking on a challenge like this. NSOC member Bill Quinlan has been with us every step of the way and we have often called ourselves "The Three Musketeers." You can be assured that the new assets manager of Kamehameha Schools as well as the Queen Liliuokalani Trust know about NSOC and what our mission is.

Our enthusiastic board members and committee chair people are doing excellent work. It's been a joy to work with each of them, knowing they're all doing their best to fulfill our mission through their duties. It really is a team effort and because we're volunteers we can only do so much., however with each small success we're achieving a nice big picture of accomplishments that I believe is why we do this —to be a positive part of our community and have some fun with good vibes along the way. LOL!

I'm looking forward to the Haleiwa Arts Festival where we can meet and talk story with our members and the community at large, to spread the word on how they can get involved with the oldest environmental organization in the State of Hawaii and how they help us uphold our Motto:

To help keep Hawaii, Clean, Green and Beautiful!

In closing I'll say mahalo for the pleasure to serve.

A hui hou,  
Kerry (Gidget) Germain



We welcome members, past members, and non-members to come to a meeting.

The next one will be held Monday, July 11th at 3:30pm on the lanai of the Proud Peacock in Waimea Valley. The group meets every other month.

Find more information about meetings, events, and our mission on our Facebook page, North Shore Outdoor Circle, and on The Outdoor Circle's website,

## SAVE THE DATE

Haleiwa Arts Festival  
July 16th and 17th

