



Kōke'e Connections

Hui o Laka Membership Newsletter

September 30, 2016

Park News

It is that time of year again for the Eō e Emalani i Alaka'i Event and we have a new Queen representing Queen Emma – Yvonne Hosaka. She is pictured, to the right, at the Queen's home at Lāwai Kai courtesy of National Tropical Botanical Gardens. She works for Kaua'i County coordinating the Kekaha Host Community Citizen's Advisory Committee. Last year, through Yvonne's prodding, Hui o Laka wrote a grant for assisting us with furnishings for Emalani. She has been a volunteer at Emalani assisting with the horses each year. This time Yvonne is riding in as Queen Emma.

We have 25 hālau coming to Kōke'e to honor the Queen this year. Two are from California! Festival Coordinator Michelle Hookano was kept busy fielding all the information for the program and schedule. One of the original founders of the event, kumu hula Roselle Bailey will be the emcee. The event is starting an hour earlier this year. The number of hālau has grown substantially over the years so that it has become a challenge to end on time. Even the Queen will be arriving an hour earlier at 11am. Hui o Laka needs to return the Meadow to its pristine splendor before dark.

At 9am KNUI and friends will be performing followed by Nick Castillo. The Queen and her party arrive at 11 am. During the 1pm intermission, The Triple T's will be providing that special Ni'ihau touch to the event. So bring your blankets and beach chairs and enjoy the day. There are exhibits, crafts, snacks at the event. Check out our silent auction headed by Hui o Laka Trustee Lorraine Wichman and her team. The auction helps defray the cost of the event. Kōke'e Natural History Museum will be open from 9am-3pm and the Kōke'e Lodge opening at 8am for coffee and 9am for food.

Remember that the hālau are performing for the Queen and their backs may be towards the spectators. We ask that you do not crowd the Queen's tent or walk through a performance. Any umbrellas, tents, and tall chairs need to be set back away from the general seating. No audience tents will be allowed near the Queen's tent. State Park rules prohibit alcohol, smoking, and animals in the park. DOCARE does have a presence during the event.

We've worked on parking this year – making helpful suggestions to the hālau so that there are less of their vehicles. We've solicited Waimea High School ROTC to help us with parking in the park so that there is less wasted space - all to provide more parking for spectators. There will never be enough parking so please car pool if possible.

Thanks to generous support from the EHW Broadbent Foundation, we are again providing busing to the event from Kekaha Neighborhood Center. It was important to link the bus times to the public bus. Last year a number of kupuna traveled all the way from Anahola to catch the shuttle. Alu Like is working with us to coordinate the Hawaiian kupuna in their program. We are also offering seats on the Akita school buses, first come, first serve, to our Hui o Laka members. There are two full-size school buses. One departs at 8:00am and the other at 9:00am so that passengers will arrive well before the Queen arrives at 11am. The buses will depart at 1:30pm and 3:30pm. Lots of our seniors got up really early to catch the Kaua'i Bus so it is already a big day so the early bus is especially for them. The 3:30 bus will get people back to Kekaha on time so they don't miss the Kaua'i Bus back east. There is parking at Kekaha Neighborhood Center and adjacent park. Remember there is a farmers market at 9am under the tennis court trees so please leave that area free. Shuttling is a work in progress.



Emalani VIP Seating

A new thing this year is a section of VIP seating under a tent to the Queen's left. The \$35 price includes a chair in the shade, lunch, and cold water. We are offering this section to our major sponsors, hālau dignitaries, and our members. This space is limited. Please call Michelle prior to the event. It is too late to make arrangements the day of the event.

Membership

All current and new members qualify for an additional 5% off in the Museum's gift shop – a total of 15% on any regularly priced item. Excluded are consignment and sale priced items. Membership discounts apply only to purchases made by member. A membership table will be located under the tent and memberships can be purchased in the gift shop. Queen Emma spiderlilies will be given to the first membership signups. Rosalind Thompson has the gift shop well stocked with interesting local and unique items.

CCC Camp Construction

The Administration building renovations for 2016 have been completed. The Admin building was spruced up when Hui o Laka moved in 2 and a half decades ago but the more serious structural issues continued to fester. A State of Hawai'i grant-in-aid was sought to work on the building. As in any remodel, the issues proved to be more serious as layers were pulled away. An additional office wing was added to the northern end of the building in the 1960s. Being on an incline, one of the addition's walls was nearly at ground level. When the driveway and parking areas were paved this low wall was buried in asphalt. Over the years, water ran down the driveway and against the building. Eventually the footing, structural beams and lower end of the wall rotted. The office had serious sag: sit in a chair and the wheels took you straight to a corner. True dimensional wood was needed to replace the rotted sections. The materials are much more costly and difficult to find.



In July, the Kikiaola Construction Company crew and materials were in place and construction began in earnest. Of course it chose to rain. A workroom of tarps was created on the side of the building so that work continued despite the weather. Windows and doors open and close now, a wheeled chair no longer slides the corner. The building looks and feels fabulous in that section inside and out! More expense went into the repair of the walls than anticipated so the porch is still in dire need of replacement. That may be another grant-in-aid.

A grant from the Freeman Foundation / Historic Hawai'i Foundation provided us with replicated windows for the camp. Although finally termite tented in December, the termites were pretty active before then. The windows seemed to be tasty treats. If they were merely decorative we could have just patched and painted them, but the sliding windows need to slide and they receive a lot of use during the summer months when it is actually hot (relatively) in the buildings. The windows are at the camp and are being put into place now. The first completed area is the bunkroom in Barracks C (Dreamers). The room is bright and airy. One double sliding window had been blocked off for years by a board. Users of the room often flung open windows to watch them fall out – termites having hollowed out the stops. After shaping and securing the new windows, patching and painting the frames, a coat of wax on the sliding section makes them very easy to slide again. What a difference! It is a wonderful camp, full of history, but it also is a functioning site where people have to be able to use the buildings as intended.

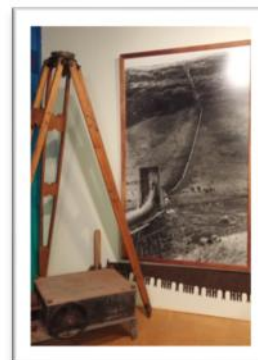
Staff Albert Shraepfer and Sonya Wilhelm have been taking on the clearing the rooms for construction, patching and painting construction and then, not just returning things to their places, but clearing out unneeded things and doing general deep cleaning.



Kōke'e Natural History Museum

The museum is getting some new exhibits this fall. A timeline of cultural history is replacing the weather exhibit. Already the room looks very open and inviting and the exhibit panels haven't even been installed. Most noticeable, besides the new paint, are the addition of artifacts and images that provide tangible links to the people and events of the past. The Hawaiian artifacts have a new case and we have insects, land snails and seashell collections added to the natural history section. Expect to find new exhibits and changes when you visit.

The Nature Trail gets a new outdoor display sign as a gift from Hawai'i Tourism Authority. It provides an introduction to Hawaiian cultural values and protocols towards the forest. It should be arriving in late October. Hui o Laka will have to assemble the stand and plant it in the ground.



Volunteers Extraordinaire

Waimea High School ROTC spent a day and night at the CCC Camp and did "damage" to the landscape around the museum and camp! 44 young people broke up into 3 groups and alternatively painted, got rid of blackberry, cleared beds full of grass, and assisted Kōkua Kōke'e program director Brad Soria with invasive tree removal on the nature trail. They promise to be back up again in October to do some more painting and chopping up old Cyprus logs on the terraces. Anyone wishing to donate tools, gloves, and other items, new or used would be appreciated for Kōkua Kōke'e volunteers.