



Kōke'e Connections

Hui o Laka Membership Newsletter

December 2023

Kōke'e Museum's 70th Anniversary

by Katie Beer

On Sunday, November 19th, the journey up the mountain was first eerie and foggy, and then we passed through heavy downpours. But for those who ventured up the mountain, in spite of the inclement weather, the reward was magical!

Five minutes before the program celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Kōke'e Natural History Museum was set to start, the clouds parted, and the sun came out. The Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawai'i enthusiastically started off the program, followed by the kī hō'alu slack key sounds of Paul Tokioka.

After a welcome and blessing, refreshments by Chef Neil Navratil were served and bidding began on a silent auction of baskets packed full of wonderful items! A tour of the CCC Camp were given with emphasis on all of the restoration work completed to date.

Elvrine Chow offered lessons in haku lei making and Board member Frank Hay shared Proclamations from both Governor Josh Green and Mayor Derek Kawakami. The day concluded with entertainment by The Goats! Another amazing day spent up the mountain!



Paul Tokioka braved the torrential rains to celebrate with us.



Haku lei making was enthusiastically enjoyed by many of the participants.



Above: An amazing spread of finger foods created by Chef Neil with support from CCC Camp Manager Wai Kuapahi. To the left: theme gift baskets created for the event were a hit.



Hui o Laka Trustee Neil Navratil chaired the event committee and provided the wonderful food for the anniversary event.



The Celtic Pipes & Drums of Hawai'i serenaded Wai with the theme song from Outlanders. A special shout out to Dave Walker and Dan Quinn for this special appearance. We also want to thank the Rotary Club of West Kaua'i for their valant attempt to put up tents for the event in the howling wind.

The Biodiversity Collective Researches Fungi at the C.C.C. Camp

By Carole Wellmann

In November a group of scientists, researchers and nature enthusiasts met to document and preserve fungal diversity on Kaua'i. The group of scientists from the Biodiversity Collective, a grassroots organization of scientists from around the country, recognized the lack of information on fungi of Kaua'i, one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. The scientist and researchers invited others from local communities as they shared their findings, gave presentations, and explored the trails around the C.C.C. Camp.

This event at the C.C.C. Camp on Nov. 2-5, 2023 is a part of the organization's project, the Kaua'i Biodiversity Survey. The scientific survey consists of fungal collections documented by the researchers and will go to the Bishop Museum on O'ahu for preservation for future studies. Additionally, the images and DNA sequencing from the Kaua'i Biodiversity Survey will be posted online through iNaturalist, a free platform. The Kaua'i Biodiversity Survey documented over 700 observations with more than 300 different species including approximately 200 vouchered fungal collections with DNA sequences. For the first time at the C.C.C. Camp, DNA sequencing for the fungal observations were completed in the Hui o Laka library and the Mokihana cabin.

The Biodiversity Collective hopes to continue to spread awareness and knowledge about Kaua'i-rich fungal diversity and plans to return to Kaua'i in 2025. These events are open to the public for anyone who is interested in learning more about fungi. For more information about the Biodiversity Collective, please visit www.biodiversitycollective.org or contact thebiodiversitycollective@gmail.com.

The Biodiversity Collective also plans to create a "Mushrooms of Kōke'e" brochure for the Kōke'e Museum that will include images and beginner-friendly information about fungi and mushrooms you see in the nearby forest reserves around Kōke'e State Park and C.C.C. Camp. Stay tuned!



Biodiversity Collective Group at the CCC Camp

Top from left: Hayley, Harte Singer, Humphrey, Carole Wellmann, Amanda Lillibridge, Ben Lillibridge, Kevin Faccenda. Bottom from left: Karl, Graham Steinruck, Kat, Kira, Emily, Honuleia, Emilie, Jack Johnson, Lauren Ré.

Mahalo to State Parks Kaua'i District head David Tsuchiya for assisting in research permitting.



Above: The researchers working in field from left: Jack Johnson, Harte Singer, Kevin Faccenda, Lauren Ré.

Harte Singer, the lead DNA sequencer from FunDis, in the Mess Hall library instructing on how to use PCR for DNA sequencing. Harte Singer in the Mokihana cabin working on PCR lab prep.

Short Stories

Corteva Workday in the Plum Orchard



Deer grazing preventive measures were created by Corteva Agriscience volunteers for the grove of young plum trees in the terrace below the Foreman's Cabin. Although few see the black tail deer, they have been grazing intermittently on the delicate young trees. The plum tree project has been a chance for the westsiders to get a cool workday as they fence each tree.



Electricians Jon Henkel and his son Andrew Evans have routed a new supply line through the CCC Camp which will eliminate the overhead wires in the Quad. They have worked on a number of remedial projects at both the museum and camp.



A few weeks of rain have again filled Kōke'e Stream which drops into Waimea Canyon as Waipo'o Falls. Waipo'o is one of the dramatic falls visible from a paved roadway on Kaua'i. It has been seen intermittently and almost not at all this summer and fall. The waters from streams at the beginning of the Kōke'e Ditch system are no longer being diverted to fields in Kekaha. They have fed the falls for almost 100 years.



Daylight on Friday morning, December 22, revealed venerable and massive cypress trees had fallen in the Meadow. Local park visitors have conveyed their sorrow at losing such a wonderful picnic site in the shade of those trees.



CALENDAR

Monday, December 25, 2023

Christmas Day

Kōke'e Natural History Museum
Holiday Hours 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

New Years Eve & Day

Kōke'e Natural History Museum
Regular hours 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Keep up on the latest information at the Museum on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/KokeeMuseumNew/>

CCC Camp Reservations

We will soon have a new online reservation system for CCC Camp stays. You will be able to access the reservation site through our website. Until then the website <https://www.kokee.org/index.php?ccc-camp-staying-at> has a calendar, accommodation descriptions, camp rules, and suggestions on what to bring. All forms needed for your reservations are downloadable and payments can be made with PayPal. For more information, 808-335-9975 or cccamp@kokee.org (Hui o Laka members receive 10% on camp stays.)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KokeeMuseumNew/>

For the CCC Camp
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086949441337>

Membership Information and Paypal Payments:
<https://www.kokee.org/index.php?kokee-membership-donations>

Hui o Laka once again has a company vehicle to transport goods up and down the mountain. Relying on the executive director's open truck has been a chancy thing and works fine during the summer, but Kōke'e's wet weather can delay stocking the shop in a timely fashion. The Subaru Forester has come in handy this rainy Christmas season. *Shown to the left* are HoL treasurer Frank O. Hay and executive director Chris Faye on pick up day at Servco Kaua'i. A typical haul from the Kekaha Post Office and Kikiaola Land Co whose staff kindly accepts our UPS and FedEx deliveries. Mahalo to Scott Topp for his research on appropriate vehicle.

Reasons to Become a Member

Members provide support and put a face to who we serve as a nonprofit. During rough times, such as the Covid-era, members provided enough financial support so that we could survive on a day-to-day basis. We were able to reopen the museum well before there were any financial rewards and provide the CCC Camp as staycations for our community. To focus on what our mission is and enhance it to the best of our ability has been the goal this past year. This was due to the support of our members and staff and trustees working together to keep the fires burning.

We have been remiss in our membership acknowledgements and catching up for 2023. Due to the newsletter coming out in December, we are not able to fully acknowledge donations as this time. This list covers December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023 and is in order of when received. Some members and donors will be mentioned twice. We apologize if we missed anyone. December 2023 donations will be covered in the next newsletter. We also want to thank all those participating in our 70th Anniversary fundraising which garnered \$13,250.

Patron – Koa members

Liedeke Bulder
Joy & Randall Goto
Jennifer & Eric Blouin
E. Nakaya & C. Nakamine
Tom & Olga Van Dis
Captain Andy's Sailing
Adventures
Wendy Wichman
Charles & Deborah Pratt
Allison Chuang
Melinda Walker
Gerda Faye
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Patron Members – Lama

Sandy Howatt
Michael Bill In Memory of
Sinclair Knudsen Bill

Endowment

David Pratt

Unrestricted Donations

Tim & Jill Pratt in memory of
Joan Pratt
Tim & Jill Pratt in honor of
David & Carol Pratt
Charles & Deborah Pratt in
honor of Tim & Jill Pratt

Storybook Theatre of Hawai'i
Fidelity Charitable Foundation
Molly Summers
Waimakua Foundation

Capital Campaign

Donations & Grants

Waimakua Foundation -
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G.N. Wilcox Trust
DLNR - State Parks
Historic Hawai'i Foundation
Captain Andy's Sailing
Adventures
Hale Kaua'i
Cushnie Construction Company
Business Insurance
Earthworks Pacific
The Baldwin Family
Kukui'ula Charitable Committee



BECOME A MEMBER

- ☐ \$12 Maile Student
- ☐ \$25 Mokihana - Individual
- ☐ \$50 Hāpu'u - Family
- ☐ \$75 'Ōhi'a - Sustaining
- ☐ \$100 Koa - Patron
- ☐ \$250 'Iliahi - Patron
- ☐ \$500 Kauila - Patron
- ☐ \$1000 Lama - Patron

Donations

- ☐ Unrestricted
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☐ Other (describe) _____

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made by phone. (808) 335-9975.