

The Galloping News from the Mountaintop – March 2005

For Friends of the Forest & the Koke'e Leaseholders Association

Koke'e Meetings with a difference

We've received word that State Parks has scheduled two more meetings (which we are characterizing as "meetings with a difference") on March 22 and 23, following a series of meetings with small groups of stake holders, including representative leaseholders. The meetings will be working or discussion groups devoted to the changes in the Master Plan as a result of the meetings in January. So there's no need to provide new testimony, but you may want to review the minutes of the January 13 briefing and January 14 Land Board meeting in Lihue, available at: <http://www.malamaokoee.org> and (at the same site) our February 2005 Galloping News, which summarizes those changes to the plan. Here's the notice received from Lauren Tanaka of State Parks:

Public Information Meetings Notice

The Division of State Parks will hold two public information meetings on the Master Plan for Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks. The meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, March 22, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall, and

Wednesday, March 23, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Kilauea Neighborhood Center.

Based on public and agency input received to date, several park conceptual plans have been developed. With further public review, the plans will be refined and enhanced for inclusion into the Master Plan and the potential impacts assessed in the draft environmental impact statement. If you have questions, or need additional information, please call Chester Koga, R.M. Towill Corporation at (808) 842-1133 or by email to chesterk@rmtowill.com or Lauren Tanaka, State Parks Planner at (808) 587-0293 or by email to lauren.a.tanaka@hawaii.gov.

Annual Meeting and Dinner

Just a reminder—Saturday, March 26 is our annual meeting, followed by dinner at The Lodge at Koke'e. **The meeting will be at the CCC Camp, beginning at 5.00 pm, followed by dinner at 6.30.**

Dinner is your choice of a Steak Diane with garlic mashed potatoes, an oven-poached fresh filet of Ahi (marinated in coconut milk, guava juice, with a dash of shoyu to balance the sweetness), or Angelhair pasta with fresh vegetables. The ahi is served with rice and topped with a pineapple-serano chile salsa.

Members only \$10, non-members \$20 -- includes soup a la Patty and garden salad. We're likely to sell out again, so call Ellie Snyder at 332.7988 or email her at Ellie.Snyder@rare-dear.com today.



What are these guys doing?

PO Box 1113, Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii 96765-1113
<http://www.malamaokoee.org>

The Galloping News from the Mountaintop – March 2005

Installing not one, but three septic systems for the YWCA Camp Sloggett – the Lodge, Bunkouse and Cottage

Beginning on Friday, March 4 and continuing for the last ten days, **Donn “Curly” Carswell, Mike Olson, and David Carswell**, with the help of almost three dozen volunteers, including Brandon Anakalea, Wendell Bermoy, Ruth Belmonte, Sam Blair, Patricia Bradley, Gale Carswell, Connie Clausen, Erik Coopersmith, Frank “Nani” Cox, Ed de Deo, Diane de Vries, Colin Dana, Duran Dana, Lindsey Dana, Terry Goering, Frank Hay, Canen Hookano and the Makaweli Flats Boys, Mary Lu Kelley, David Kuhn, Gail Landburg, Craig Millett, Eddie Molina, Peter Norberg, Sharon Ortiz, Robert and Kai Pa, David Pratt, Brandon Rathbone, Dick Rehmer, Kawiuka Rogers Ellie Snyder, Robert Sweney, Carmen Wong, and a host of others.

The new septic systems are required under the new EPA regulations for large capacity users and affect some 1,500 large capacity cesspools throughout the State. See the article in The Honolulu Advertiser at <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Feb/28/lh/lh03p.html>

Thanks especially to **Princeville Ranch, Canen Hookano, Jeff Lindner, Mandalay Bay Properties, Robert Pa and Waimea Garage** for donations of heavy equipment, materials and fuel.

For further information, please contact **Frank O. Hay 639.7704** or fhay@aloha.net

The latest information is always available on our web site:
<http://www.malamaokokee.org>

Koke’e in the News

From the March 2005 Environment Hawaii
<http://www.environment-hawaii.org>

Board Amends Koke’e Plan Following Public Outcry by Teresa Dawson

“What becomes strikingly clear from even a casual read of the [Koke’e and Waimea State Park Draft] Master plan is that excessive emphasis has been placed on unrealistic revenue generation at the expense of the cultural landscape and tight-knit community that has existed here for generations,” wrote National Tropical Botanical Garden director and Koke’e State Park cabin lessee **Chipper Wichman** in his January 13 testimony to the Land Board.”

“Families that have consistently cared for their lease-hold property as if it were their own are being penalized and punished for taking such good care of the ‘aina. Our family has been residing on the same property for over 100 years. Generation after generation we have cared for it diligently even after the controversial auction of twenty years ago in which the state claimed ownership of the homes we have built there with our own money and labor”

And what is the reward for such diligent love and care? Simply put, the Master Plan proposes that because our homes are so well cared for, they will be exploited and used to generate as much REVENUE as possible via short term five-year leases? Is this pono or right?” he asked”

This excellent article continues for almost another page, but is not yet available on the web.

The next two meetings on Kauai (March 22 and 23) follow working group meetings with the stakeholders, including the leaseholders, in response to the Land Board’s direction at its January 14 meeting in Lihue.

We expect that the Plan will change considerably. One thing we do know – it will NOT include an entry gate.