

The Galloping News from the Mountaintop – May 2004 For Friends of the Forest & the Koke'e Leaseholders Association



Koke'e? Not yet

MASTER PLAN DELAYED

The next public meeting, at which the Draft Plan will be presented, is not likely to occur before mid-June 2004, according to State Parks.

Last October, the consultant, R. M. Towill Corp., presented alternatives for Koke'e at a public meeting in Lihue. In early November, the Board authorized them to proceed on a "Park Enhancement Plan." This will include a gate into the park at about the 8 mile mark to collect admission fees. Regarding the cabins, the planners were asked to explore two alternatives:

A single master lease to include the Koke'e Lodge, restaurant, gift shop, and cabins, and the 105 remaining recreation residence cabins, and

An auction for each of the 105 remaining cabins and a separate lease for the Lodge.

To ensure that DLNR makes intelligent decisions this time, we began a "Dollar a Day for Koke'e" campaign. **The response has been fantastic. Many thanks to all who have donated to this fund! Our voices will be heard LOUD and CLEAR.**

Koke'e and Pu'u Ka Pele Recreation Residence Tracts nominated as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places

"Since 1988, the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list has been one of the most effective tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage. The 11 sites chosen each year are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. Some are well-known Others ... are less famous but just as important, because they too represent preservation challenges facing thousands of communities. Each site raises awareness about the dangers to specific parts of America's heritage and about preservation generally." – <http://www.nationaltrust.org>

The Association's Board of Directors are convinced that the imminent threat to the Koke'e community deserves national attention. One alternative would effectively confiscate the cabins for the benefit of a private developer. The other could only result in willful destruction, on a scale likely to far exceed the loss of 13 historic cabins in the aftermath of the 1985 auctions.

Past listings in Hawaii include **Ford Island** at Pearl Harbor (2001), **Wa'ahila Ridge** (1997), and the **Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium** (1995).

The Association is actively exploring our alternatives and property rights.

State Parks has stated that if cabin owners want to move or demolish their cabins, they must file a Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) ... See the letter from Dan Quinn posted at our web site.

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However, the cost to move a cabin down the hill is likely to exceed \$20,000 –and some cabins are simply not accessible to heavy equipment...

The Association's goal over the years has been to partner with State Parks, to continue our long tradition of stewardship, and to help DLNR make more responsible and intelligent decisions for Koke'e.

Protect your home from Wildfire!
When adequately prepared, a house can withstand a wildland fire without the intervention of the fire service. In fact, a house and its surrounding community can be both Firewise and compatible with the area's ecosystem. Read the enclosed brochure and learn more by joining us on **Saturday, May 29 at Camp Sloggett**, when **Denise Laitinen**, the State Coordinator, will present the Firewise Program. The Leaseholders and Garden Island Resource Conservation and Development's Forestry Committee will co-host the presentation at a dinner meeting beginning 6:30 p.m.

Dinner provided – but only if you RSVP by Wednesday, May 26 to Ellie Snyder at Ellie.Snyder@rare-dear.com or 332.7988. Bring your own drinks.

Koke'e Represented at the National Forest Homeowners Convention in Sacramento – Frank Hay and Biene Putzier attended the annual meeting of the association that represents some 15,000 cabin owners in National Forests throughout the Mainland US last month. The theme of the convention was "Our Cabins – A National Treasure." Our display, including photos of representative cabins and our recent report, "A History and Architectural Inventory of Koke'e Camp Sites and Pu'u Ka Pele Park Lots," was very well received. The National Forests could teach DLNR quite a bit about administering historic cabins....more later.

Eighty Six Years ago at Koke'e –
The Garden Island, June 25, 1918.

"Camp Sites Are Laid Out by Chas. S. Judd. Territorial Forester Charles S. Judd arrived last Friday and immediately left for the table lands at the head of Waimea Canyon to stake out the summer camp sites. A large number of Kauai people went up on Sunday to pick out their summer camps ... These are beautiful camping sites and no one can go amiss who desires a place for a summer camp ... For those who desire hunting, there is a profusion of wild cattle, goats, and pig to be had."

What's happening on the mountain?

May 14 – Bid opening for the Koke'e Lodge. Big Save, Hui o Laka, Kikiaola Land and Koke'e Ventures compete to operate the Lodge.

May 24 – Land Board meeting on Kauai, 9 a.m. at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall in Lihue. **No Koke'e items are planned for the agenda thus far**

May 29, Saturday – Protect your home from wildfire! See the article opposite ...

May 30, Sunday – Hui o Laka's 15th annual Banana Poka Festival begins at 10.00 am in the meadow. Leaseholders will formally "Adopt the Parks."

August 14, Saturday – Our Annual Community Workday. Meet at 8.30 am at the Koke'e Pavilion.

For further information, please contact

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