

ENCHANTED LAKE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

December 2008

The Super Sucker sucks lake algae... carefully

Okay we had to try it. The University of Hawaii and the State DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) put a great deal of effort, design, and elbow grease into the construction of several vessels capable of clearing aggressive invasive algae from our coral reefs and reef flats. If it works on the reefs, it ought'a work in Ka'elepulu Pond to help clear our annual crop of algae.

The DAR crew, Kathy Gewecke and Julie Jezierski, supervised by Brian Hauk volunteered their time (and their \$40K boat and pumps!) to come out on a Saturday to demonstrate how well their special diaphragm pumps could suck up algae from the lake. The Kukilakila crew opened up the boat ramp early (Mahalo!) and the DAR crew just backed the catamarine into the algae rich waters at the base of the ramp. Using only one of their powerful pumps, Brian

waded into the muck and proceeded to suck algae through the 3-inch suction line attached to the pump. The pump discharges the algae into a large porous gunny sack in a box on the porous deck, so the algae stays in and the water just pours back out into the pond. While the system worked quite well, the volume of algae harvested was only about three sacks full in just about an hour of pumping.

Oh well... this is why it's best to test out someone else's equipment before buying our own system. The system is obviously designed for the relatively lower density of algae on coral reefs and needs to have a bit more control to avoid damaging the reef than we need here at Ka'elepulu.

Many thanks to Brian, his dedicated crew, and their supervisors at DAR who let them come out on a weekend to help us out.

— Bob Bourke



Above: Brian Hauk, DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources, holding the super-sucker hose and lake volunteer Hugo de Vries, in kayak, prepare to start sucking up the algae.

Below left: The super-sucker vessel goes into the water at the Kukilakila boat ramp.



Christmas Parade of Lights—Dec. 14

Sunday, December 14 is the date set for this fun annual event.

Boaters gather in the middle of the Lake at 5pm. Bring a dish or pupu to share for the potluck party out on the water. Barges are the preferred "yacht," but kayakers are welcome to join in and board one of the barges for the potluck.

Residents with boats on the canal are also invited to participate.

New ELRA President and Board Members Elected

At the October ELRA board meeting, a new slate of officers was elected and three new directors joined the team.

The biggest change this year was the election of a new president. After nine years at the ELRA helm, past president Kathy Kelly felt it was time to move on to other pursuits. Thanks for all your years of dedicated leadership, Kathy!

When Debra Wessel and her husband Brad purchased their lakefront Kukilakila townhouse from Ann McCoy, she had no idea that less than two years later she would be elected president of ELRA. Ann gave up her seat on the board to move to Greece, but before she left she got Debra interested in serving on the board.

Debra has always been concerned about the environment and feels that its health is everyone's responsibility — her highest priority as a board member will be creating a healthy environment for the lake and its surroundings.

Our new president has many

things she would like to focus on. She will be working with other board members, and input from lake residents, to reevaluate long-term

goals for the lake. She would also like to get the lake community more involved in lake projects and see the board get more involved with other community organizations such as the Kailua Neighborhood board and KBAC.

Debra works for Chugach Support Services, Inc. as the contracts manager for their Wake Island project. Her favorite things about living on the lake are the view, kayaking and barging. She also enjoys walking and jogging with her dog around the lake.

Debra brings a fresh new perspective to the position of president and



Debra Wessel

an open mind to suggestions from the community.

Three new directors have joined the board in the last couple of months. They are Bob Sanders, Jerry Reinhart and Karla Maosi.

Bob Sanders is impressed with how peaceful and relaxing living on the lake is. Bob, his wife Christine and daughter Kim (2.5 years old) arrived in Hawaii just four and a half months ago from Los Angeles, by way of Pittsburgh. When Bob is not busy working as an emergency physician at Pali Momi and Kapiolani Emergency Departments or as a hyperbaric physician at the University of Hawaii's Hyperbaric Treatment Center, he enjoys scuba diving, boating and photography. Bob would like to improve public awareness of the lake while protecting it for future generations.

Jerry Reinhart moved to Hawaii and into a home on the lake in March, 2007. The view, nice breezes and friendly neighbors have impressed him most about life on Enchanted Lake. Jerry retired from landscaping for the city of Walnut Creek, California and now lists bird watching, model airplanes and entertaining visitors as his favorite activities and hobbies. As a new board member, Jerry would like to pursue solutions to the sediment problem in the lake.

Karla Maosi grew up in Kailua and has lived on the lake for 13 years. She is the cafeteria manager at Kailua Intermediate School and enjoys spending time with her family on her days off. She would like to see the lake restored to the clear, deep lake filled with fish and crabs that she remembers when she was young.

You can find the complete list of board members and their positions on the ELRA website at <http://www.kaelepulupond.org/association/>

You'll also find listings of upcoming events, minutes of recent board meetings and much more.

Birds of Enchanted Lake

Ae'ō or Hawaiian Stilt

Enchanted Lake is home to many birds, three species are endangered birds found only in Hawaii. One is the Hawaiian Stilt, a slender, endemic wading bird that stands 16 inches tall. Their black back is glossy in males and brown-tinged in females.

The Ae'ō flies with its long pink legs stretched out straight behind. They are often seen in small groups feeding on water insects, worms, crabs, small fish and the seeds and roots of waterplants.

Listen for its soft, muted call when resting and its loud, sharp "kip-kip-kip" in flight or when disturbed on the ground. You can see them at Ka'elepulu Wetland and at the small island off Kukilakila.



USGS Completes Study in Kailua Waterways

The results are in! No Kukai – at least not the human type

USGS researcher Chip Hunt recently finished analyzing data from water quality samples taken in Ka‘elepulu Pond and the Ka‘elepulu and Kawainui (Hamakua) Canals. Wastewater and nutrient source tracking surveys were made in Ka‘elepulu Pond, Ka‘elepulu Canal to its outlet at Kailua Beach, and Hamakua Canal to its head at Kawainui Marsh levee in cooperation with the State of Hawaii Department of Health TMDL program on July 22-24 and 28-30, 2008.

For a complete description of the results check out the USGS web page at: http://hi.water.usgs.gov/studies/project_source_tracking.html

The data can be a bit overwhelming, as the USGS tested about 90 different compounds often seen as environmental pollutants. Water samples were analyzed for nutrients (ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, phosphorous), pharmaceuticals, waste-indicator compounds and even fabric brighteners. These tests are the most diag-

nostic for wastewater presence and nutrient-source inference because of low detection levels of the laboratory analyses. Depending on how costly the analyses, anywhere from 10 to 40 surface water locations were tested for these compounds in the lake and canals for a total of about 1,100 separate analytical tests. In cooperation with USGS Dr. Roger Fujioka, a UH bacteriologist also tested about 20 of the sites for bacterial contamination.

The good news is that there does not seem to be any significant evidence of sewage pollution in the lake or canal water. Congratulations to the City for an obviously excellent job of replacing our main sewer trunk lines around the lake! The bad news is that two chemicals, caffeine and cholesterol, were detected in low but quantifiable concentrations at 3 and 4 locations (out of 10 tested) in the lake and canals. 25 additional pollutants were also detected, but only at “trace” levels too low to be reliably quantified.

Like caffeine, some of these chemicals are most likely of human origin, but a number of others, like cholesterol, can have non-human sources including birds, fish, and feral animals. Dr. Fujioka’s test for bacteria confirmed that while bacterial are plentiful in the lake (that’s normal) the kind that come from human waste were not present.

The Kawainui Canal exhibited a number of locations that had multiple occurrence of low-level pollutants. In the main lake area, trace pollutants were primarily limited to the main freshwater canal storm drains entering the lake. It is fortunate (again) that the City is presently designing filters for three of these main inlets to the lake.

Download the whole story and feel free to email questions to Bob Bourke at rebourke2003@yahoo.com. He’ll collate the questions into one document and send them to the USGS for an official reply.



Ka‘elepulu Pond in 1952

A wide, undeveloped pond, surrounded by wetlands can be seen in this photo from 1952. The light shapes in the center of the photo appear to be sand dunes. Mokumanu is in the distance. If you have historical photos or stories of the pond, please share them with us. Call Cindy at 261-2179.

Lake cleanup nets thousands of Mangroves

Lake cleanups occur every second Sunday (weather permitting) in the mornings from 7 am until about noon. The board hires teenagers, preferably from Lake families, to perform a variety of cleanup functions around the Lake. During November two clean up activities occurred. On November 16 Jared Char and John Wessel helped board members Tom Vogt and Bob Bourke clear trash and thousands of mangrove radicals (floating seeds) from Kimo's cove. On



Bob Bourke and his all-girl cleanup crew.

November 30, all of the three regular teenage boy helpers were otherwise occupied so we had our **FIRST ALL-GIRL CLEANUP CREW**. Cudos to Hannah Latimer who convinced her big sister Emily, both of whom then talked Annie Bourke into rounding

out the work party under supervision of their AYSO soccer coach Bob Bourke. The girls cleared debris from Kimo's cove and then spent the bulk of the morning cutting mangroves from homefronts on the canal at the edge of the ELRA boundary. The

crew was rewarded for their hard work with cold drinks served on the Nowak's veranda. The girls plan to return in two weeks to earn additional Christmas cash (and no doubt give the guys some competition) so expect a large cleanup crew on December 14 to attack the build-up of debris in the canal at the mouth of the drainage ditch.

Cleanup workers always needed

This is a big job, so all lake members who want to volunteer some time, please call Bob Bourke to coordinate.

Any lake resident teenagers looking for occasional (paid) employment should contact Bob Bourke at rebourke2003@yahoo.com.

Enchanted Lake Residents Association

P.O. Box 1485

Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1485

www.kaelepulupond.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED