

# ENCHANTED LAKE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter

Spring 2011

### New Koapa Subdivision responsible for repeated mud runoff in lake

You have probably noticed that Enchanted Lake has been unusually brown with muddy runoff after many rainstorms this winter and spring. This most recent assault on the health of the lake began in November, 2010, when work started on a new subdivision located several blocks away from the lake. Rainwater that is not absorbed into the ground at this construction site flows directly into Kaelepulu Pond, often turning the entire lake brown.

Last November Delta Construction began grading and infrastructure work on the Koapa subdivision at the end of Akipola Street on the steep hillside between Lakeview Townhouses and Kaelepulu Elementary School. The owner and developer of the ten home lot subdivision is listed as GB Construction whose business address is 802 Pahumele Place. Delta Construction began work on the project by completely clearing a huge swath of hillside — scraping off all the grasses, brush and small trees that stabilized the slope

and had previously kept the soil in place during heavy rains.

The ELRA board contacted Delta expressing concern about the potential for silt-laden runoff from the construction site into our lake and was told they had an approved erosion control plan and that if we wanted a copy we could get one from the Department of Health (DOH).

After obtaining and reviewing the plan in December, we again (1/6) expressed our concern to Delta, along with photos of some preliminary samples of very muddy water we had obtained during a relatively minor winter storm. Very muddy runoff (measured as high as 100 grams per gallon!) was found to flow from the site at the construction street entrance and through two storm drains. Unfortunately Delta stopped communicating with us at this point, so we took runoff samples from two subsequent storms and submitted a formal complaint with DOH (1/28).

It was only after a neighbor posted a dramatic video of mud runoff

from the site on YouTube — you can see it at <http://www.kaelepulupond.org/runoff> — that the DOH (and City) called us back to say they'd look into the problem. (*Hooray for the power of the internet!*)

Both the DOH and the City have sent inspectors out to the construction site. To their credit, Delta appears to have done some work to control the outflow problem at their construction entrance. Unfortunately, it was not enough. On March 5, ELRA board members again found that very muddy water from the construction entrance and two City storm drains are still filling our lake with rock and silt-laden sediments.

The DOH has not yet charged Delta for any Clean Water Act violations. The ELRA board will continue to monitor and document further violations and pressure the DOH to enforce regulations.

If you have connections with Delta Construction, DB Construction or the Department of Health, we urge you to contact them and demand that they take effective measures to prevent further pollution of our lake!



Photos from two separate storms show rivers of muddy water running off the Koapa construction site.



# 2010 ELRA Annual Meeting Highlights

The ELRA Annual Meeting at the Mid Pacific Country Club in September, 2010, was well attended. 82 individuals representing 48 households were there and another 32 proxies were received.

Guest speakers at the meeting included Representative Pono Chong, Senator Jill Tokuda, and Andrew Malakoff representing Councilman Ikaika Anderson. Randall Wakumoto from the Waste Water Runoff Department of the City Environmental Services also did a presentation on the City's efforts to prevent storm water runoff sediment into Enchanted Lake.

ELRA President Bob Sanders spoke of the reasons we live on the lake and the fact that our maintenance fees (at \$18 a month) are a very small price to

pay for this privilege. Bob noted that the board is committed to looking beyond our boundaries and planning for the future safety and security of the lake.

He also relayed that ELRA board members are attending the Kailua Neighborhood Board meetings monthly and communicating with legislators about the needs of the lake. Several grants have been obtained by the board to improve the water quality and decrease sediment accrual. Regular lake clean-ups employ local teens. There is aggressive monitoring of water quality with frequent testing for pollutants. The board is budgeting for an emergency fund and formulating a long range plan to increase recreational use of the Lake.

Bob Bourke, ELRA first vice presi-

dent, presented an information slideshow featuring everything from views of the lake in 1948 to the recent mangrove removal project (which was paid for in part by a federal grant). Nowhere else in Hawaii has there been complete eradication of mangrove. Bob discussed a project which will study the restoration of water flow from the Kawainui Marsh to the Hamakua canal. The project is expected to begin next year. Future projects the board is working on include dredging the canal near the Keolu bridge which will increase water flow into and out of the lake. Permits, which can take a couple of years, are being submitted by Ron Rickman to Army Corps of Engineers.

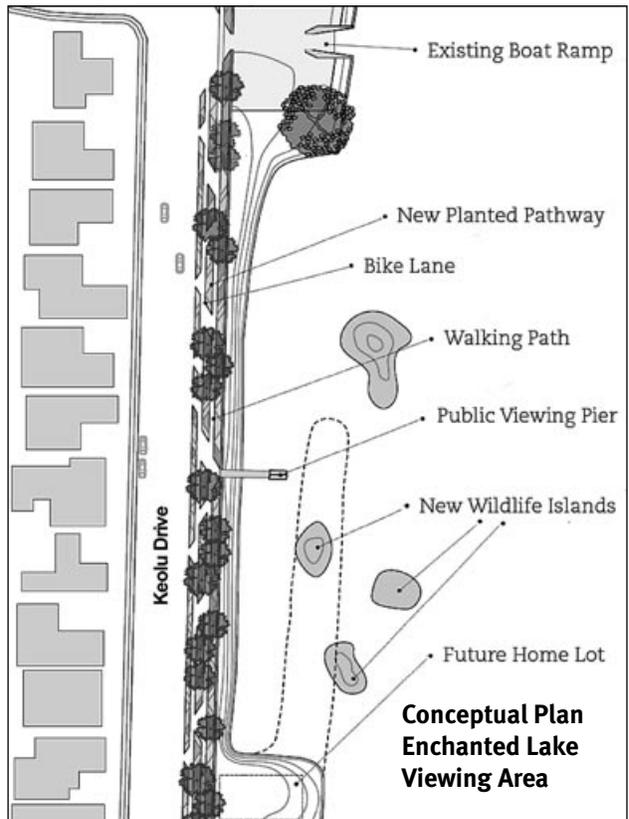
Bob discussed Clyde Tamaru's continuing water sampling and analysis. A complete report will be going to the Department of Health. There have been no recent sewage spills and no evidence that the fish from the lake are toxic.

Bob also presented conceptual plans for what could be done at the Kamehameha Schools property. See the article below.

## Is a Park-Like Viewing Area of the Lake at Keolu Drive in our Future?

Conceptual plans for a tree-shaded mini-park with walking paths, a viewing pier and new islands for wildlife were unveiled at the annual meeting. Jeff Bourke, an architecture graduate student at Yale, volunteered to come up with some creative ideas for the narrow strip of lakefront that is owned by Kamehameha Schools. This property is on Keolu Drive, adjacent to the Kukilakila boat ramp. Jeff, assisted by his sister Katie, also built a 3-D model depicting other possible improvements including a community center with a boat docking area.

These concepts generated both excitement and discussion at the meeting. They provide ELRA with a valuable starting point for future planning.



### Amendment to Articles and By-Laws

An amendment to the articles and by-laws that would allow for separate group memberships was presented. This would allow a group wishing to become part of ELRA to negotiate their membership separately (such as Kukilakila or a canoe club). There was much discussion about the potential for the future additions of groups that would not be a positive influence to the Lake. There was a call for a vote and ballots were distributed. The results were 62% for the amendment and 38% against. A vote of 66% in favor was needed for the amendment to pass.

### Election of New Board Members

Three current board members agreed to stand for re-election. They are Bob Bourke, Mike Compton and Franklin Denis. Two new board members were elected, they are Sue Alden and Stephen Brennan.

## Holiday Flotilla 2010: Santa Sighted?

Several lake residents reported seeing Christmas lights floating by with a funny looking man in a red hat and hearing Christmas carols playing on the lake shortly before the Holidays. While there have been many rumors flying about, I can assure you that Santa did not crash in the lake, instead it was a very festive group of residents enjoying a freshly cleaned lake, and perfect weather, and the funny man in the red hat was none other than your association president.

After a large and well attended clean-up, the Annual Holiday flotilla on the Lake was held Sunday December 12, from 5-9pm. The laughing, the carols you heard and the lighted boats were the antics of 19 happy lake members, and 1 canine as well. A total of 4 powered boats and 3 paddled joined together in the center of the lake, after a brief parade, for a pot luck feast including Brie, sushi, homemade wontons, roast chicken, and Chicken Mc Nuggets, followed by a smorgasboard of cookies, and homemade apple cranberry bread. These were all washed down with a real variety of Holiday libations.

This event also presents a great opportunity to get to know your neighbor! Last year I discovered that one of my neighbors and I work for the same employer, once again we chatted this year

to find we grew up only a few blocks from each other on the mainland!

Everyone in attendance, with all ages represented, had a great time! There were veteran flotilla participants as well as some new faces! Though there were stories levied about past flotillas with twice as many vessels, the spirit this night was unsurpassed! All there thought having it much closer to Christmas would encompass even more cheer, so that will be planned. If anyone else has thoughts to include more people we would love to hear it. One suggestion was for even more lake events, possibly quarterly. As always, we represent you and value your opinion!



### Next Lake Event: 4th of July Potluck and Fireworks Viewing Party on the Lake

Join your friends and neighbors out on the lake this summer for the 4th of July potluck. Boats start to assemble around 5 p.m. and stay until the fireworks are over. The middle of the lake is a great spot for watching the aerial action!

Bring some food to share if you want. Barges, kayaks or anything safe that floats are welcome to be a part of the fun.

### ELRA Partners with Kailua Canoe Club to remove Mangroves

Kailua Canoe Club and ELRA have recently received a NOAA Community-Based Restoration Project grant from Hawaii Community Foundation to remove mangrove from the Ka'elepulu Canal. The project site runs from the muliwai (stream mouth) at Buzz's to the Keolu Drive bridge and the Ka'aweke Street bridge.

The removal of mangroves will be done on select workdays throughout 2011, with small clean ups taking place during practice time throughout the 2011 paddling season (April - August).

Mangroves that have grown since the City's removal project two years ago will be cut down or pulled out, and trash and debris will also be removed. Water quality sampling is also planned.

In many parts of the world, mangroves are a common and beneficial coastal plant. However, here in Hawai'i mangroves are an aggressive and invasive species that have been known to grow up to 70 feet tall.

Mangroves collect mud and debris creating anoxic conditions that stink. They also encroach upon and can completely block waterways.



## Enchanted Lake Residents Association

www.kaelepulupond.org

PO Box 1485, Kailua, Hawaii 96734

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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## ELRA Board Member Profiles

### Steve Brennan

Steve Brennan was elected to the ELRA board at the 2010 annual meeting. When asked what his highest priority as an ELRA board member is, Steve says, "Seeing our community and our elected officials recognize the value of the lake, both for its role in our natural ecosystem and its beneficial effect on our property values and way of living."

Steve is vice president of business development for Concentris Systems, a small high-tech R&D firm based in the Manoa Innovation Center. The company is focused on advanced wireless network applications for government and commercial customers.

Steve has been living in Hawaii for 17 years, and has been enjoying life in his lakefront Kukilakila home for just over a year.

Both Steve and his wife, Joelle, are "water people," and they chose their Enchanted Lake townhouse because they wanted to raise their two daughters on the water. They all love sitting on their lanai watching the fish jump. Steve especially loves waking up to the

view of the lake — a glassy lake means no wind, which means it is time to check the surf!

Steve and Joelle's youngest daughter was born in early February 2011, so Steve says his main interest right now is just finding time to sleep. Usually, however, he enjoys surfing and going to the beach with his kids. They love to go to Kailua Beach, and Steve often stand-up paddleboards back home through the canal. Steve says, "I'm the guy on the big blue paddleboard. Please tell your dogs I'm OK!"

### Sue Alden

Sue Alden was born and raised in Hawaii, but as Sue says "I was an Army brat and so I've been all over the world".

Her parents purchased their lakefront home in 1963. They had a choice between Lanikai and their home on the lake. Sue has many happy memories of life on the lake. Sue's parents have since passed away, and she now manages the home as a rental.

Sue has two adult daughters; the eldest is a First-Grade teacher living in

San Diego with her husband and two sons. Her youngest daughter and her husband and two children are stationed in Hawaii with the Army.

After having worked for over 25 years as a real estate and corporate paralegal, Sue decided to follow her dream of being a realtor. She received her license in 2007 and joined Century 21 All Islands in February 2010. She loves meeting new people and sharing her expertise to help them achieve their real estate goals.

Since Sue was elected to the board in 2010, she has been concentrating on reviewing the ELRA Articles and Bylaws and drafting recommended revisions to these legal documents.

Asked what her favorite activities are, Sue says "I enjoy just about anything if it is at the beach. I also very much enjoy reading".

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**Lake Watch Phone Number  
808-366-6479**

*The number to call to report suspicious or illegal activities on the lake.*