

Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association September 2018 Newsletter

President`s Message

PMKCA President Joe Clarkson

Aloha PMKCA Neighbors

General Meeting Report

Our annual summer potluck was held on Saturday, July 28th, at Kalopa State Park. The turnout was very good, the weather was fine and the food for the potluck lunch was great. The bingo game distributed a number of donated prizes to winning members. Prizes included several dozen eggs, young tomato plants in pots, a beautiful bouquet of protea, lots of books, PMKCA Oral History DVDs, and many other prizes too numerous to mention. Mahalo to all who came and especially to all who contributed such nice prizes.

John Kari, our community policing officer, made a presentation about recent police reports of crime in the area, most of which involved opportunistic theft from easily entered cars or buildings. We were reminded once again to lock our doors and windows.

A question was asked about target shooting on private property. Officer Kari said that it was illegal to discharge a firearm, even on private property unless it was for the protection of agricultural animals and crops. I asked him how a rifle that would be used in that way could be sighted in and I was told that it should be done at a range, but that there were no rifle ranges on the Big Island.

One of the most interesting questions put to Officer Kari was a request to describe the numerous objects and devices hanging from his belt. He described his revolver and holster, his radio with clip-on speaker and microphone, taser, pepper spray (water-based and non-flammable in case it had to be used in conjunction with the taser), and his handcuffs in a small holster furthest back. He noted that everything he was carrying was standard equipment for routine patrol and that the total weight was about 20 lbs. Special operations gear might weigh as much as 40 lbs.

Officer Kari invited anyone with concerns that might involve police assistance to feel free to contact him at the Honoka`a police station. He said he is delighted to help. We thank him for his work in our community.

Council Chair Val Poindexter and Representative Mark Nakashima had conflicting events that prevented them from making presentations, although Rep. Nakashima did arrive from Hilo at the very end of the meeting. We missed having a chance to interact with them.

Pa`auilo Mauka Road Botanical Garden

Every other morning my daily constitutional takes me along Pa`auilo Mauka Road and its six

wooden bridges. I have always noticed with amazement the great variety of food plants along the margins of the road, including fruit and nut trees, berries and vines. These are plants that were introduced to Hawai'i decades or centuries ago and have since become naturalized and spread throughout the area, including along the shoulders of the road.

The following are some of the plants I have noticed. I am only counting plants that grow on the county right-of-way (not including commercial and family orchards or gardens next to the road). These plants are listed with the most common first and the least common last.

Waiawi, strawberry guava; *Psidium cattleianum*; native to southeastern Brazil, it was brought to Hawai'i in 1825. A recently released scale insect will sicken this tree, but not kill it. The purpose of the release is to slow the spread of waiawi into areas of native forest.

Yellow guava, common guava; *Psidium guajava*; introduced in the early 19th century for its fruit. Now spreading over the entire state. I often nibble on waiawi and guava fruit hanging over the road.

Coffee; *Coffea arabica*; coffee trees along the road are remnants of small coffee farms that were prevalent in the area from the 1880s until the 1950s. I have heard that the many silver oaks in the Pa'auilo Mauka area were planted as shade for the coffee trees. They do seem to thrive in the shade of other trees along the road.

Loquat; *Eriobotrya japonica*; originally from China. Some speculate that it may have arrived in Hawai'i with Chinese explorers that pre-date Captain Cook, but it more likely arrived with the coming of Asian immigrants in the 19th century.

Avocado; *Persea americana*; although native to southern Mexico, it is reported that many of Hawai'i's first avocado varieties were cultivated by Japanese coffee farmers in Hamakua.

Kukui; *Aleurites moluccanus*; our state tree was a canoe plant, brought to Hawai'i by the first Polynesian immigrants. The nut can be eaten only after being cooked and was used as a source of light when burned, hence the name candlenut.

Liliko'i, purple passion fruit; *Passiflora edulis*; originally from South America, it came to Hawai'i in 1923 by way of Australia.

Red thimbleberry; *Rubus rosifolius*; native to Asia and Australia, but I couldn't find out how it got here.

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson
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