

## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT by Tom Atkins

June 13, 2013

I am happy to announce that the Kuau Bayview Landscape Committee has been able to achieve most of its goals in the past year through the efforts of the Volunteer Landscapers. In a manner of speaking, the effort has been fueled by "love, not money" ... and even though the main goal was not simply to save money, this did occur, but only as a side effect of the volunteer effort to control the quality of the projects. I would like to thank all of the homeowners who allowed the members of the 2012 Board of Directors an opportunity to try something new. I would like to thank the skeptics of the "volunteer program" for their concern over the legal and competency issues of having community volunteers perform such tasks. This expressed concern was a welcome reminder that our "volunteer program" needed to be structured in such a way that the Association would be protected from all potential liabilities, and that the volunteers would be held to a professional standard in their work projects. Our volunteer effort proceeded under the umbrella of adequate liability insurance coverage, including signed Liability Disclaimer forms.

The two volunteers, Darlene Brothers and myself, attended a two day training course in the construction and maintenance of "rain gardens," which included comprehensive course work along with application of the principles in a full day of guided instruction, during which the volunteers built a large rain garden from scratch using shovels, pick axes, spades, and wheelbarrows, under the watchful eye of specialists who, in their desire to teach the course, had come from many places on the globe. This lovely garden can be seen at [Wahikuli Wayside Park in Lahaina](#). When you go there, you will observe many of the same features that have been incorporated into the landscaping garden projects at the entrance to the Kuau Bayview subdivision. Note that both the Wayside Park project and the [Kuau Bayview projects](#) have built into them the two characteristics known as "form and function" ... the twin goals of achieving beauty and practicality in unison. We hope that our homeowners will appreciate and enjoy the aesthetics of the gardens, and also recognize the practicality in the contours, rocks, and plant life which have been designed to absorb excess storm water by slowing the flow and giving the water places to settle and rest where it can drop its burden of silt on its inevitable course to the sea.

I will allow the [before and after pictures](#) to speak for the degree of success of the projects. The volunteers were constantly invigorated in their efforts by the overwhelming show of support from not just passer-by homeowners, but from our neighbors across Hana Hwy, and the joggers, moms & dads with baby carriages, and park users, to name just a few.

I think that all of the observers were impressed by the devotion and enthusiasm of one volunteer in particular, our very own Darlene Brothers, an individual who chose to live in Paia next to the sugar cane fields, tending her gardens well before any of our houses were built. As the song says, "She was country, before country was cool," enjoying the lifestyle of old Paia. I believe that Darlene has always deeply felt herself to be part of this particular and special North Shore piece of land, drawing from it and returning to it an energy of the spirit not often witnessed. In her passion to achieve harmony and order in the arrangement of the earth, the rocks, and the plants, she would often stand back in silence, metaphorically allowing the earth to speak to her. Most observers have expressed the opinion that the communication was successful. I would hope that the example she has set in this stewardship of the land and spirit of donation would be emulated by others... especially the younger generation. There would be no need to explain to ancient Hawaiians the reason for the passion she has shown, and continues to display, in caring for the land...they would understand. She asks only that she be allowed to continue caring for the gardens, and that poisons not be used. She does not ask for praise, but certainly deserves a great deal of it, considering the example she has set. So, I speak for a lot of people in saying, "Thank

you, Darlene."

The remainder of this report will address some other issues tackled by the Landscape Committee.

- 1) I have created a **Landscape Projects Manual** which consists of the following sections:

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### **SECTION A:** Project Location Map

- (1) Irrigation System Repairs and Modifications
- (2) Garden Projects

### **SECTION B:** Parts, Supplies, and Materials Receipts

### **SECTION C:** Schematic and Maps

- (1) Master copies
- (2) Project Schematics and Maps with notes on Projects

### **SECTION D:** Emergency Water Shut-Offs

- Backflow Valve
- Irrigation Zone Valve Locations

### **SECTION E:** Kuau Bayview Landscape & Irrigation History

### **SECTION F:** Notes To Future Landscapers

The purpose of this manual is to record the details of all present and future landscape projects to make them available online or in the office for viewing by anyone needing this information, such as contractors who may be involved in future projects. The manual provides places to record practically everything related to these projects, from the cost of materials and labor to schematic drawings and pictures of the components of each project's infrastructure. The recorded measurements used to locate the buried components of the projects will be especially useful to those performing modifications to the irrigation zones in future.

- 2) **Irrigation System Re-Structuring:** I am happy to report that we have finally solved a problem first mentioned in the minutes of the April 30, 1997 Annual Meeting wherein Mr Weaver noted that "several homeowners have hooked up their individual irrigation water to the common area of the project" and that this is a violation and must be discontinued. This persistent problem, along with some related issues involving leaky, broken, or vulnerable irrigation pipes, has now been permanently resolved as a result of several recent modifications to the antiquated irrigation system. Five irrigation zones have been capped off at the manifold, along with two other abandoned zones whose pipes still contained pressurized water. This leaves only the two zones needed to maintain irrigation to the Association's landscaping, neither of which is now vulnerable to tampering. The timer has been moved to a secure and locked location, and the pressurized pipes are now inaccessible. We thank Jay Nakashima of the Maui County Water Department, along with Pural Water Specialty Company, for their help in achieving our goal.

The Landscaping Committee thanks everyone who was supportive of our endeavors in the past year. I look forward to reporting on related projects in the future.