



## Along the Trail

Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club

News letter

July 2016

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### IN MEMORIAM

Miles Yamane, a former member of HTMC and Solemates, passed away on March 29 in Bellevue, Washington. He was 66 years old, and a retired FBI agent. A memorial service was held on May 7 at Mililani Mortuary Mauka Chapel.

“He was one of my favorite hiking buddies in Solemates. So sorry to hear that he is gone.”—Carren Han

“I hiked with Miles often, and enjoyed his company. I always had confidence in his knowledge of the trails.”—Lily Narimasu

“I felt completely safe hiking with him. He always knew where he was, even without a GPS.”—Yuki Anthony

Miles’ ashes will be scattered on the Halapepenui Trail on Saturday, June 25. Hikers should meet at the Waimano trailhead at 8:30. Please contact Lily Narimasu (394-2891) if you have any questions.

### FENCES - A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Roy Kikuta

*(In the April Issue of Along the Trail Patrick Rorie wrote an article critical of fencing installed in Oahu’s forested areas. The following contribution takes issue with that article—Editor)*

Recently an article titled “Twenty Years of Oahu Fencing” was published in the April 2016 Newsletter that criticized the fencing installed in the Waianae and Koolau mountains as adversely affecting the hiking experience - the implication being that the “somewhat successful effort to preserve rare and endangered Hawaiian plants

and snails” was not enough to offset the negative impact on the hiking experience. I have to disagree with this. Hawaii has the rather dubious distinction of being called the “extinction capital of the world” - and not without good reason. Although the State of Hawaii comprises less than 0.3% of the nation’s total land mass, some 25% of species on the endangered species list are endemic to Hawaii. That said, the fences are an integral part of a bigger plan to restore native ecosystems and stem the further loss of endangered species of plants and animals. Remember - extinction is forever - and every loss diminishes our wilderness experience.

A short background: I joined HTM sometime back in the early 80’s because I loved to hike. Conservation wasn’t on my mind in those days - I only knew that I wanted to hike. Back in those days, fences were mostly about action by landowners - both government and private - to restrict access onto/thru private property... they were meant to keep people out. Fences that have been installed in the mountains by “Army Environmental” and DLNR over the last decade are meant to keep pigs and other ungulates out - not people. Ultimately, these new fences keep out undesirable animals that threaten the native Hawaiian mountain forest - the very thing we enjoy when we hike up there. Some fences even have latched doors to make entry/exit easier, while other crossings have stepping posts to allow crossing over. I’m a retired Electrical Engineer by training, so I know nothing about biologic sciences... what little I know about conservation, I learned by doing over the last 8-9 years - i.e., volunteering with DLNR and OANRP (Oahu Army Natural Resource Program). I’ve been signing up for Service Trips with DLNR and OANRP - and provide unskilled labor under the expert tutelage of conservation specialists... weeding, cutting strawberry guava trees, outplanting nursery-raised native plants. We typically work inside these fenced-off areas that provide the necessary habitat for the few remaining wild, rare, and endangered plants, birds, and snails.

Ever wonder why the U.S. Army is even involved with conservation of endangered species? Short version: Turns out that the Army trains in many locations that harbor endangered species, and as a result, is charged with the mandate to take steps to preserve endangered species - rather than reading my feeble interpretation, Googling “OANRP” will find you plenty of reading material.

The point is - having to climb or step over a fence is a small inconvenience. Fences merely mark out physical boundaries where the front-line fight to preserve the native habitat and endangered species is on-going. These fences are not meant to keep people out - they keep pigs and other ungulates out. Fences are the most visible consequences of a fierce fight being waged by a small group of dedicated professionals. I urge everyone to keep an open mind the next time you run into a fence - I’m thankful every time I run into a fence along the summit - it means that rather than government inaction (more typical), here is an example of proactive government action. Please close gates behind you, and be gentle if you must climb over a fence. Volunteer with DLNR (<http://dlnr.ivolunteer.com/#6>) or OANRP (<https://oanrp.com/>) to see what it’s all about - you’ll appreciate your hikes thereafter a lot more - I guarantee it!

*(The following letter on this subject was received by the club president, and her answer is printed below it.—Ed.)*

Aloha Barbara,  
Not sure if you know me but I am a lifetime member of HTMC, have hiked most trails on Oahu, as well as many throughout Hawaii and other places. Like many in the HTMC, likely the majority, I am a staunch conservationist and want to protect Hawaii’s unique natural

environment. As such, I spent my career as a conservation biologist both in Hawaii and the Mainland. I was surprised and disappointed in the article by Patrick Rorie in the April HTMC Newsletter. I have known Patrick for many years as well as his opinions on fencing and conservation, which I believe to be contrary to the HTMCs stated policy and the general feelings of the members. Why is it that such an article is in the Newsletter?

Mahalo,  
Randy Kennedy

Hi Randy.

Thanks for your email. Pat Rorie's article stated his own opinion and was not intended to represent the opinion of the club. As much as possible, we like to allow members to express their opinions on hiking-related matters in the newsletter. If you disagree with his viewpoint, you are very welcome to submit a comment for publication in the next newsletter. The next deadline is June 5, and all articles should be submitted to [newsletter@htmclub.org](mailto:newsletter@htmclub.org) I hope this addresses your concerns.

Best regards and aloha  
barb

*(Are fences good or bad for our wilderness areas? Have an opinion? Share it with the membership by submitting your views to the Newsletter. —Ed.)*

#### FEATURED HTMC AUTHORS

*In the October edition I mentioned that future newsletters would feature published books by HTMC authors. This is the second of these articles.—Editor)*

STUART BALL, JR.

Stuart needs no introduction to HTMC members. He has been hiking in Hawaii for more than 30 years. He is a past president of the club, and is one of the most senior hike coordinators. Retired from the Bank of Hawaii after serving as its Cost Profitability Manager, he holds a B. A. from Dartmouth College and an M B. A. from Stanford University. He has published four books.

**“The Hikers Guide to O’ahu.”** University of Hawaii Press, 2013.

Originally published in 1993, this book is now in its third edition. It quickly became the bible for serious hikers on Oahu. It contains 50 main entries, and 37 “closed” hikes are listed in an appendix (outdoor clubs can often get permission to hike quite a few of these trails). Maps are portions of USGS topo quads with the trail route superimposed upon them, creating a clear understanding of terrain features along the way. Way points on the maps are well keyed to the trail descriptions, which are detailed and easy to follow. (It has been said by many hikers that no one can get lost if he follows Stuart’s book). A section of “Notes” accompanies each trail description, which contain information about the flora, history, and other significant facts about the trail and the surrounding area. Included is an 8-page center section of fine color photos.

**“The Hikers Guide to the Hawaiian Islands.”** University of Hawaii Press, 2000.

Hikers familiar with Stuart’s fine guide to hiking on Oahu will be completely at home with this book. Using a similar format, he selects 44 hikes from four islands. A two-page Hike Summary provides trail information in table format, and an eight-page section of excellent color photos occupies center space in the book.

**“The Backpackers Guide to Hawaii.”** University of Hawaii Press, 1996.

Choosing to separate backpacking trips from day hikes, in this small volume Stuart describes 10 trips on four islands. His selections qualify as including the best backpacking experiences in Hawaii. The previous book descriptions above serve as well here, so I won’t repeat them. Fine color photography and detailed topographic maps are hallmarks of Stuart’s books, and he does not disappoint here.

**“Native Paths to Volunteer Trails.”** University of Hawaii Press, 2012.

In this book Stuart explores the history of 50 of Oahu’s trails, who built them, why they were built, and when. He begins with the early Hawaiians, who created routes for plant and wood gathering, bird catching, and contact between settlements. Sugar plantations needed paths to access water from the mountains, and then to maintain the ditches that brought the water to their fields. The U. S. Army built trails for training and defense, the Territorial Forestry Division and the CCC for reforestation and pig control, and finally, volunteers and hiking clubs constructed trails for recreation purposes. Photographs of the periods involved enhance the reading experience, as does Stuart’s detailed research.

#### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

ALONG THE TRAIL is a quarterly publication of the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club designed to inform the membership of club activities and matters of interest to the hiking community. HTMC members and any other interested parties are welcome to submit articles to ALONG THE TRAIL. Contributions may be edited for clarity, grammar, or length. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions voiced by contributors do not necessarily represent the views of the officers or the general membership of the club.

Submissions must be received by the 5th day of March, June, September, and December in order to appear in the newsletter published for the following quarter, and may be sent in any of the following ways (email preferred):

email: richard27@hawaii.rr.com  
Phone: 293-2554  
Mail: Richard McMahan  
57-531 Kamehameha Hwy  
Kahuku, HI 96731

CHECK OUT THE HTMC WEB PAGE  
<http://htmclub.org>

**MOVING?** Our low-cost newsletter mailings are not forwarded by the post office, so don’t forget to send us your new address. Address changes can be emailed to [membership@htmclub.org](mailto:membership@htmclub.org) or sent by regular mail to HTMC, PO Box 2238, Honolulu, HI 96804

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