



Byron Ho,
Bob Harrison
and Bob
Tyler joined
the clean up
crew.

Spring Cleaning at Dad's Rock

By George Wessberg
Club Captain

The carpets were soggy, slimy and smelly, but that didn't deter a hearty group of energetic paddlers who volunteered to prepare the Ala Wai practice site for the 2006 canoe racing season. On a cold and rainy Sunday morning in late February, Canoe Racing co-chairs Jen Bossert and Byron Ho, along with Bob Harrison, Dave Larsen, George Wessberg, Darcy Iams, Kelly McMahan, Genie and Rachel Kincaid, Keoni and Thurston Kino, Kevin Allen, Ruby Ifversen, Fred Lowrey, Kisi Haine and Matt Kresser, with considerable help from Bob Tyler, his trusty Bobcat and his good friend Dwight, pulled, cut, rolled and discarded layers of old carpet, trimmed the palm trees, and leveled the ground. Marc Haine donated several large pieces of carpet to cover the sand and rocks.

The younger members of the clean-up crew thought the Ala Wai site was merely the venue for our canoe racing practices. But some of the senior members of the group remembered the site was also a memorial to "all the dads who come with their kids to enjoy the Ala Wai."

More than two decades ago the landscaping, the sand and the prominent Dad's Rock, were a labor of love, donated to the paddlers of Outrigger Canoe Club by a young man in memory of his father, an engineer who died in a tragic industrial accident in 1983.

Like so many fathers, Fred spent many hours standing on the spot occupied by that conspicuous rock, proudly watching his son Matthew, paddle with his characteristic enthusiasm, up and down the canal.

Now, more than 20 years after dedicating this wonderful memorial to his father and the sport he loves, Fred's son will lead the Outrigger Canoe Club through the 2006 regatta season as our Head Coach.

Jim Thompson, founder of the Positive Coaching Alliance, emphasized the need for coaches to "Honor the Game" and to "Fill Emotional Tanks." I can't think of anyone who will work harder to honor the sport of canoe racing and infuse our paddling program with enthusiasm than our Regatta Head Coach, Matt Kresser.