

Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2011

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Steve Connolly, Steve Nimz, Dudley Hulbert, Doug DeMoss, Jon Perry, Andrew Kendall, Sergio Vasquez, Gregory Severino, Quenna Johnson

Guest: Jon Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 15, 2011, MEETING MINUTES

- A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The June 15, 2011, meeting minutes were approved as written.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

i) Basic Rigging Demo

- (a) This will be at the Urban Garden Center (UGC). The date and time haven't been set yet. Steve Connolly and Dudley need to meet with Steve Nagano. Greg commented that it would be good to go fairly soon. He recalls a lot of earth and junk pushed up against the opiuma trunk. We need to ask UGC to clean the area before AAA prunes the tree prior to the workshop. Dudley will call Steve Connolly next week to schedule a time to go out. Greg volunteered to chip the debris since he has equipment close by. Sergio should be able to help too as long as the work is scheduled for a Saturday.

ii) WCISA Regional Meeting – Plant Doctoring: Science vs. Snake Oil 8/24/2011

- (a) The workshop was approved for 4.5 pesticide applicator CEUs. Registration is open at www.wcisa.net.

iii) Proposed WCISA Regional Meeting – Urban Soil Workshop

- (a) Jon has been emailing with Dr. Deenik. Deenik will be covering recognizing different soil types and dealing with soil compaction and would like some other people to speak as well. Someone could talk about mitigating soil compaction. Dudley suggested Goro Uehara as another speaker. Steve Nimz suggested Pete Bunn. Carol will check with Pete. February/March 2011 is still good but the date hasn't been set yet.

iv) LICH Conference & Tradeshow October 6, 2011

- (a) Steve Connolly and Greg will be speaking on ropes and knots and tree gadgets. Steve Nimz needs them to get together and coordinate. They can do both topics together or each take one topic. The sessions will be indoors. The program has lots of tracks and breakout sessions so we'll need to drum up customers to attend the arborist track. These talks are intended to be brief overviews. Each topic will be about 45 minutes long. We can set up actual workshops and go into more detail at a later date.

B) Public Outreach

- i) A Trees Underground workshop will be held for the public on November 5, 2011, at UGC. Carol will purchase one pack each of ISA brochures *Proper Mulching, Trees and Turf*, and *New Tree Planting* for AAA to hand out at the workshop.
- ii) A Maui Outdoor Circle Pruning for the Public workshop will be held on November 19, 2011. Eileen Malina and Ernie Rezens are putting this together. Steve Nimz will be speaking.

C) Research Committee

- i) Teresa Trueman-Madriaga and Mary Steiner have been working on big a USDA Forest Service grant application for TUFRC. In case that doesn't get approved, Carol contacted Rose Epperson about whether it might be possible to get a grant from the Britton Fund for a literature review. Rose discussed it with Nelda Matheny and Nelda supports the project. This may help with the Forest Service grant application because it shows broader support for the project.

D) 2011 Hawaii TCC

- i) Steve Connolly spoke with Mike Ward of Aloha Power Equipment. Mike is interested in sponsoring TCC. Steve left a message with Garrick & Sons but hasn't heard back yet. The venue is set for Dillingham Ranch on October 1st and 2nd. Steve also spoke with Scotty Olsen who is a big organizer and judge for ITCC. Scotty is very interested in helping us out. The trees need a lot of work to clean them up prior to TCC. Dudley contacted Clark after the last meeting but no one responded about holding the event somewhere else. Steve Connolly hasn't tried getting in touch with Stan Oka yet. He would still like to change the venue this year if possible, but otherwise we'll just go with Dillingham Ranch. Steve will try to get more details worked out before he leaves town July 29 – August 8.

E) Landscape and Forestry Pest Identification Cards

- i) Carol submitted a grant proposal to Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) for \$5K. Darcy Oishi was at the HISC meeting and he offered for HDOA to be a supporter of the project.
- ii) The Kaulunani grant application is due on August 15, 2011.
- iii) A survey to estimate the demand for the Cards was emailed to the training list. Carol will resend it since it appears a lot of people overlooked it. The survey closes on July 31, 2011.

F) Big Island Outer Island Meeting

- i) HILA is holding its landscape conference on November 12, 2011, on the Kona side. The AAA Outer Island meeting is proposed for the Friday before the conference on

November 11, 2011 (Veteran's Day). The details for this need to be finalized no later than September.

G) Lightning Damage

- i) Steve Nimz reported problems with coconuts in Kahala, UH, Lanikai, and other isolated locations. The deaths appear to be from lightning damage followed by *Chalara* infestations. The inside of the trunks are pink. Ooze on the outside of trunks is from general locations, not specifically from spike marks. The damage looks like coffee tree borers but is all around. The coconuts are dying or dead and are being removed. Steve will give Roxanne Adams a call again about the UH cocos. Andrew Kendall noted that there was a removal of two coconuts from Kalani Kai at Koolina that had tons of "rust" oozing out of the entire trunk. The palms were about 40' from each other. There were no burn marks on the ground, but it could be lightning damage. Ultimate Innovations was the contractor that removed those coconuts. Steve will contact them for more info. If anybody sees other coconut problems that might be lightning injury, please let Steve Nimz know.
- ii) Greg reported a monkeypod with lightning damage and foam coming out of the tree. The lightning blew the bark off of four different leaders plus the main trunk but the tree appears to be OK, just superficial damage of bark cracks. He hasn't had to do anything to it. The tree is lopsided and growing on a slope. The damage is on the top side of the lean.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Coconut Mealybug *Nipaecoccus nipae*

- i) Distribution: North, Central, and South America, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Africa.
- ii) Hosts: *Dracaena*, sago palm, *Heliconia*, avocado, banana, orchids, palms (dwarf date, *Washingtonia*, *Chamaedorea*, queen palm, & *Rhapis*), *Coffea* spp., *Citrus* spp., potato, & ginger
- iii) Damage: Adult females and immatures feed on sap. Honeydew secretions may lead to black sooty mold, which can result in reduced photosynthesis, defoliation, and occasional plant death. Ants are often found and they may defend the mealybugs from predators.
- iv) Management: Early detection improves control. Pruning or washing infected plant parts reduces populations. *Pseudaphycus utilis* Timberlake, a parasitic wasp, has successfully been used as a biological control in Hawaii. Select appropriate insecticides, timing, and application methods to reduce negative impact on the natural enemies. The pest is most susceptible to insecticides during the crawler stage. Horticultural oil and insecticidal soaps can provide good control with repeat applications. Systemic insecticides can provide excellent control but should not be overused. To avoid insecticide resistance, rotate among insecticide groups.
- v) Per Doug, organophosphates work well as systemics but rotate them with other stuff.

B) 2011 Hawaii Education Campaign on Trees

- i) Carol will be submitting for a Kaulunani grant for a Hawaii Education Campaign on Trees and asked for AAA's support. The project includes donations to the State and University libraries. Greg moved that AAA support the project. Dudley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Welcome to our guest, Jon Williams. Jon worked for Davey Tree for about a month, but was laid off. He has his own gear and would like to keep working in the tree care industry so he's looking for a job. He can be reached at 348-7808 or 4dreamlandscape@gmail.com.
- B) The ISA Conference is scheduled for July 23-27, 2011, in Sydney, Australia. Ashlen Aquila, Mike Kraus, and Kevin Eckert are going.
- C) Greg announced that David Barton, a historian, will be talking about the American Revolution and Founding Fathers at 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on July 29, 2011, at the First Assembly of God Church on Red Hill if anyone is interested.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.

Attachments:

1. 2011 AAA Membership Application
2. Pest of the Month – Coconut Mealybug

**2011 Aloha Arborist Association
Membership Application**

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2011.

Membership: \$10 Student \$25 Government Employee \$50 Individual

\$150 Company \$1,000 Lifetime Member Date: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

If Company Membership, please designate 3 company representatives*:

Address: _____

_____ **Website:** _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Mobile phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

You may publish this information on the AAA website: Yes No

**Company members may send any of their employees to workshops at AAA member rates*

Please send this completed form to Aloha Arborist Association, P.O. Box 893953, Mililani, HI 96789-0953 with a check made payable to Aloha Arborist Association.

Mahalo for your support!