

Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2012

Members Present: Steve Connolly, Steve Nimz, Carol Kwan, Gregory Severino, Quenna Johnson, Lance Bookless, Amy Nichols, Brian Fukada, Sergio Vasquez, Dudley Hulbert, Andrew Kendall, Kevin Eckert

Guest: Darcy Oishi

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2012, MEETING MINUTES

- A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. The February 15, 2012, meeting minutes were approved as corrected. The correction was submitted by Stan Oka via email. The February minutes had stated that Steve Connolly took Steve Nimz's place on the Arborist Advisory Committee. This is not correct. Each mayor appoints his or her own Arborist Advisory Committee. Mayor Peter Carlise appointed Steve Connolly.

II. GUEST SPEAKER – DARCY OISHI ON SOUTH AMERICAN PALM WEEVIL

- A) The South American Palm Weevil (SAPW) is high on the species watch list because it has a nasty impact on palms – particularly coconuts, date palms, and oil palms. It can also live on sugar cane. It is found in South America and up into Mexico. There have been a few incursions into California in parts of San Diego and Orange County but it is not established there at this time. The SAPW, *Rhynchophorus palmarum*, is related to the Red Palm Weevil (RPW). In addition to the direct damage to the palm, SAPW vectors a nematode that causes red ring disease in palms. This can kill a young palm in weeks and a mature palm in months. That's what makes SAPW more devastating than RPW. The SAPW's direct damage to palms kills 20%-80% of the ones that are infested. So far, California hasn't picked up the nematode but Darcy is waiting to hear back from some people there. He will let Carol know if he hears differently. The SAPW larvae are big – bigger than the adults. They burrow into fresh wounds in palms, laying their eggs typically in the crown of the palm. A mature female can lay close to 700 eggs. There is little external evidence that damage is occurring until the palm is pretty much dead already. The SAPW and RPW are the only large weevils that we might get attacking our palms. The larvae are white. The SAPW is a higher risk for Hawaii than coconut rhinoceros beetle at this time.
- B) For RPW, California is having problems fighting them. The lures don't work well. The pheromone lures are used for detection but they're not good for detection and even worse for control. So the people working on this in California aren't sure if they're finding things from California or if they're collecting new ones coming across from Mexico.
- C) How would we get it here? All palms are prohibited to be transported into Hawaii from the Mainland but they still come in from international locations. There's a foreign loophole in the nursery trade. Smuggling occurs too. If the SAPW or RPW are infesting places like Los Angeles, we could get it from hitchhiking as well. It could take months to years before we realize we have an infestation. Usually pests start around the airport but we can't really tell for sure. RPW can also come in on palm leaves, like woven hats.
- D) A lot of people are bringing in New Guinea sugarcane weevil to Department of Ag thinking that it's RPW, but there's a huge difference in size. They're mimics of each other. Both species take the debris they create and make a cocoon around themselves before they pupate.

- E) Lance asked Darcy about the new mosquito that's been reported in the news – the dengue fever/yellow fever one. Darcy said that we have the mildest form of dengue here, but we have a population of people who've experienced hemorrhagic dengue so the egyptae mosquitoes could potentially begin spreading that form of dengue. But this mosquito has been in Hawaii on the Big Island for decades. The likelihood of an established population on Oahu looks very low at this time.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

- i) Pruning Workshop at UGC

- (a) Tabled

- ii) HIOSH/AAA Basic Tree Care Safety Workshop

- (a) The Kauai workshop will be held on March 23, 2012 and a Lanai workshop has been added for April 13, 2012. Kevin reported that over 350 people have been trained already and we're on track to exceed 400. Hopefully we can make a small profit that we can share with the Neighbor Island groups.

- iii) Urban Soil Workshop March 30, 2012

- (a) This will be held at the Waimanalo Research Station with Dr. Jonathan Deenik as the keynote speaker. The current registration count is 22 and we're estimating around 50 people total.

- iv) TCIA EHAP Workshop June 2012

- (a) Tabled.

- v) WCISA Regional Meeting – Palms Workshop 8/29/2012

- (a) Tabled.

- vi) Felling Workshop – Mike Kraus

- (a) Tabled.

B) Public Outreach

- i) Trees from the Ground Down

- (a) Jayme sent a schedule for 2012. There won't be a Second Saturday event in November this year. It looks like Trees from the Ground Down fits best with the July 14th activity on Organics. Carol will relay that to Jayme.

C) Research Committee

- i) We haven't heard anything official yet. If the Britton Fund grant doesn't come through, perhaps we can fund raise to support the literature review and use the monies raised to match a Kaulunani targeted grant.

D) 2012 Hawaii TCC

- i) Steve Connolly wants to form a separate committee and get things going but hasn't started yet. He would like to see a different venue. Brian Fukada proposed holding the event on September 22nd and 23rd with clean up the week before that on September 15th. Those dates fit with the University of Hawaii football schedule. Dudley noted that he would be more enthusiastic about it with a different venue. Steve Connolly added that there were some advantages to each of the past venues, but he's certainly open to change. He'll spend some time in the upcoming weeks to try to work something out.
- ii) Mark Dobbertin will be representing Hawaii in the Western Chapter TCC in mid May. We designated \$700 for his ticket. Steve Nimz moved that if there's extra left over after paying for his airfare, then the extra should go toward Mark's hotel expenses. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Steve Connolly has some extra t-shirts that we can give him to wear while he's there on the condition that he get some photo ops so we have some photos of him. No one knows of anyone else going from Hawaii to the competition.

E) Landscape and Forestry Pest Identification Cards

- i) The cards are with CTAHR for writing. Carol will follow up with Rob Hauff to see if he's heard anything on their progress.

F) Certified Arborist/Certified Tree Worker Exams April 14, 2012

- i) We have 13 aerial lift candidates so far and 2 climbers. Aerial lift is closed to registration because it's already overbooked by 3 people. We need volunteers for judging. Sergio, Brian, and Dudley volunteered. If there's anyone else who wants to help judge aerial lift, contact Austin Braaten and let him know. Greg will be holding a class on Saturday, March 24, 2012, on aerial lift inspection. Judges can come for free if they're not fully comfortable with doing this stuff. Greg will also ask his two guys who recently became CTWs to see if they'd be interested.

G) AAA Elections April 2012

- i) Sergio got a new place in Hawaii Kai and it's taking all of his time with a nursery and a house in addition to his tree care business. He's willing to continue as vice president if Steve Connolly is willing to extend a year as president. Steve said he would be willing to do so. With this, the slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting will be:

President – Steve Connolly for a 1 year extension
Vice President – Sergio Vasquez for a 1 year extension
Treasurer – Steve Nimz
Secretary – Carol Kwan
Past President – Dudley Hulbert
Director – Gregory Severino
Director – Andrew Kendall

H) AAA Meeting Venue

- i) Sizzler Kailua is OK for now. We hold the meeting there for a couple more times or so. Several members were interested in continuing to explore other venues.
- ii) The Annual Meeting in April will be held at Gordon Biersch.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – South American Palm Weevil

- i) See discussion above from our guest speaker, Darcy Oishi.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Welcome to new AAA member, Amy Nichols. She moved here about a year ago from Nevada. She lives in Lanikai.
- B) TRACE will be held on April 24th and 25th at Paki Hale. Registration is through WCISA. The deadline for registration was today but they're will to accept registrations through Friday, March 23, 2012, at the latest.
- C) The WCISA Conference will be held April 29th through May 2nd in Pacific Grove, California. Kevin is going. Steve Nimz will probably go as well.
- D) Western Chapter TCC will be held on May 15th and 16th.
- E) The ISA Conference will be held August 11-14, 2012, in Portland, Oregon.
- F) Darcy volunteered to have a pathologist come and talk to AAA about the laurel wilt project perhaps for our May meeting. Carol will follow up with Darcy in early May.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Gordon Biersch in Aloha Tower Market Place. **[Note: date changed to April 25, 2012 after the meeting due to a conflict with a concert at Aloha Tower Market Place on April 18th.]***

Attachments:

1. 2012 AAA Membership Application
2. Pest of the Month – South American Palm Weevil

2012 Aloha Arborist Association Membership Application

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2012.

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!