

Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2012

Members Present: Steve Connolly, Carol Kwan, Jamilee Kempton, Daniel Severino, Sergio Vasquez, Andrew Kendall, Don Bergan

Guest: Walter Nagamine

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 20, 2012, AND JULY 18, 2012, MEETING MINUTES

A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The June 20, 2012, and July 18, 2012, meeting minutes were approved as is.

II. GUEST SPEAKER – WALTER NAGAMINE, HDOA

A) Walter introduced himself as an entomologist for Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) Plant Pest Control Branch. He talked about what is going on with the Chinese banyan stem gall wasp, the new pest that Dudley Hulbert found at East-West Center and brought in to HDOA. At this point, the pest species is undetermined. HDOA is hoping that a gall wasp specialist in France can identify it. Back in 1989 when the gall wasp that attacks Chinese banyan leaves was found, the species was undescribed prior to that. This could be a similar situation. The two gall wasps look very similar, but the stem gall wasp is consistently slightly larger. See the handout, *Banyan Stem-Galling Wasp, a New Insect in Hawaii*, for more information and photos of the pest. The pest has been determined to be widespread on Oahu and is also in Hilo on the Big Island and in Kahalui on Maui. So far it has only been found attacking Chinese banyan (*Ficus microcarpa*). The wasp just attacks the young stem tissue. Galls form after the larvae starts feeding. There is some leaf drop and dieback. Some trees have sparse canopies; others don't show much impact. If AAA members see anything changing from what HDOA has observed, please report it to HDOA.

B) Steve Connolly brought up the issue of excessive monkeypod defoliation this year. There seems to be an unusually high population of monkeypod moths, far beyond anything Steve has seen before. He and Dudley took samples to Mann Ko to check for other types of issues, like bacterial, fungus, and viral infections. The samples tested positive for two fungal infections, but those could be secondary due to the caterpillar damage. Steve has seen this at Portlock and Campbell and he asked other arborists to keep an eye out for it. Trees are still bare when they shouldn't be. Bernarr was interested in getting some specimens – larvae, pupae, or adults. Steve will take samples to him. Sergio will be treating this week. He wraps the trunk with carpet, ties a string on the bottom tight and another one loose at the top so the caterpillars can crawl in. He puts Sevin inside the carpet and treats for 6 weeks with biweekly Sevin applications. It seems to work. The monkeypods have shown significant improvements. Some of the caterpillars that he's been getting have been huge.

C) Dan Severino reported that West Indian mahogany trees have been defoliating a lot. Some look fine while others are almost bare with yellowish-brown foliage. East Manoa Road has a big one that is looking pretty bare. Walter asked that Dan look for insect damage and try to bring in a sample. HDOA used to have a survey entomologist but the position was lost with budget cuts. That was a person who went out to monitor for new insect pests. HDOA asks people to bring in samples if at all possible. That really helps. Call Walter Nagamine (973-

9526) or Bernarr Kumashiro (973-9534) or anyone in Plant Pest Control Branch, 1428 S. King Street.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

i) WCISA Regional Meeting – Palms Workshop 8/29/2012

(a) There are 98 people registered as of today. Looks like there will be a good turnout.

ii) LICH Conference 2012

(a) Tabled

iii) Possible training Waimea Arboretum

(a) Tabled

iv) Felling Workshop – Mike Kraus

(a) Carol checked with Mililani Town Association. We can't use their facilities because there's a restriction in their covenants that prohibits use for commercial activities.

B) Public Outreach

i) Pruning Young Trees and Shrubs, November 17, 2012

(a) Tabled

ii) Trees from the Ground Down, March 9, 2013

(a) Tabled

C) Research Committee

(a) Tabled

D) 2012 Hawaii TCC, 10/6 & 7/2012, Moanalua Gardens

i) Set up day will be on Friday, October 5, 2012. Steve Connolly is working with the owner on scheduling everything. The owner said we can use the restrooms there so we don't need portapotties. The tree work day will be scheduled separately as kokua and mahalo for letting us hold the event there. We need to get the word out and get more competitors. An article went out in Landscape Hawaii with a photo of a local guy at a previous competition. Steve is trying to get Petzel to sponsor the event again. Don Bergan knows some TV people at KITV where we might be able to get some coverage. Steve needs to check if that's OK with the owner first. Dan commented that it's difficult

to find the entrance. We need signage. When we do the press release, we should mention safety in tree care too. Andrew volunteered his bucket truck. Sergio volunteered his chipper for clean up day. Steve would like to see as much local involvement as possible for competitors. We need to ask food trucks to show up. Steve plans to get a flyer out in the next week or two hopefully depending on getting things confirmed with the owner. It's going to be a good show. It would be great to keep this venue going for future years too. Steve will send out an email with things we need to get together in the next week or so. He will also send emails to Carol for forwarding to our training list re competitors, sponsorships, etc. Last year we had around 14 competitors. Hopefully we get at least that many this year. We don't want people intimidated. He hasn't set the entry fee yet, maybe \$35/person, but he's willing to waive fees for first time competitors. Steve needs more info before he can firm it up. We should get as many tree people out there as possible – competing, volunteering, and as spectators. Dan has a photographer he's planning to have there.

- ii) Steve Connolly reported that Ashlen Aquila has been saying that Jared Abrojena wants to come to TCC and put on a crane workshop around TCC dates. Jared's father will be out here too. It's Ash's kuleana if he wants to set up a workshop.
- iii) Dan asked whether we'll be using the same jerseys. Steve wants to get more printed up this year just for sale. We sold a lot last year. This time the t-shirts will have no date so we can use them year after year. The design will be simple too and the sponsors won't be listed on the shirts since they change each year. The sponsors will be acknowledged elsewhere.

E) Landscape and Forestry Pest Identification Cards

- i) There is a lot of stuff going on with this. We're trying to finish by the end of this year.

F) AAA Website

- i) Carol spoke to our webmaster about what it would take to set up AAA's website to accept PayPal for membership dues. It would cost around \$100-\$150 for him to set it up and train Carol. It's possible we could do this for future workshops as well. Steve Connolly wanted to defer the vote on this until Steve Nimz is present since he's the treasurer.

G) Safety Campaign

- i) Carol spoke with Sharon Lilly about adding foreign language soundtracks on various safety videos. Sharon said that the first step is to develop Glossaries of Arboricultural Terms in the foreign languages. Carol is planning to go in for a Kaulunani grant in November to include a survey of the demographics of the industry plus the glossaries.
- ii) Carol drafted an article targeted to the hotel industry. Steve Connolly hasn't reviewed the revised article yet. Randy Liu reviewed it and thought it was a good article. He had a minor comment which has been incorporated.

- iii) Sergio reported that there was another accident. Damien crushed his leg working on a banyan tree. Sergio wasn't sure who his employer was. Steve commented that there have been lots of accidents because people aren't using safe work practices.
- iv) HIOSH/OSHA – Starting October 2012, OSHA will be taking over general industries safety enforcement including tree care and then slowly transitioning management back to HIOSH over a three year period.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Asian Citrus Psyllid (Update)

- i) Hosts: Restricted to Citrus and closely related Rutaceae, such as mock orange
- ii) Distribution: Hawaiian Islands – Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, and Lanai. Other U.S. – Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, California, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Also found in southeast Asia, South America, Middle East, and the Caribbean
- iii) Damage: Stunting and twisting of young shoots and severe curling of leaves
- iv) Identification: Adults are small (3-4 mm) with mottle brown wings and are active, jumping insects. Eggs are bright yellow deposited on emerging plant shoots. Nymphs are green or dull orange.
- v) Vectors: Asian Citrus Psyllid is known to vector Citrus Greening Disease (CGD) which has devastated Citrus in Asia, Africa, and Brazil. CGD is caused by a bacteria, *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* Garnier. Symptoms include mottling and/or interveinal yellowing of citrus leaves and misshapen, green, and bitter-tasting fruit. There is no known cure for CGD. Thus far CGD has not been found in Hawaii.

B) Arbor Day Tree Giveaway 11/3/2012

- i) Volunteers arborists are needed at each giveaway site. Contact Jackie Ralya, jralya@hawaii.rr.com or 392-5167 to volunteer. Volunteers will earn 2 CEUs.
- ii) The trees to be given away are awesome per Steve Connolly. They are mostly smaller stuff, fruit trees, natives, etc. – no species that matures over 30' tall.

C) Landscape Hawaii December/January Arboriculture Issue

- i) Chris Dacus asked for info on what articles we will be providing. We will be submitting articles on the Arbor Day Tree Giveaways and Hawaii TCC. Steve Connolly will write an article about safety in the industry. The pest article should be about large shade trees – monkeypods in particular. Carol will contact Linda Larish for writing that. Carol also has an article that she did a few years back for Western Arborist about an ironwood with exposed roots. She'll rewrite that to be more for general landscaping and submit it to Landscape Hawaii.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) ISA Conference *Trees: A Global Necessity* August 11-15, 2012, Portland, OR. Steve Connolly reported that the conference was good. Jamilee added that the presentation at the Climbers' Corner about traversing over 200' in the air across redwoods for 5 days without coming down for the whole time was great. Kevin Eckert put on a good show. We had several people from our state. Maureen Murphy, Mark Leon, Steve Connolly, Dudley Hulbert, Kevin Eckert, Jamilee Kempton, Garrett Webb, and others were there.

ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Sizzler's Kailua.

Attachments:

1. 2012 AAA Membership Application
2. Handout – Banyan Stem-Galling Wasp, a New Insect in Hawaii
3. Pest of the Month – Asian Citrus Psyllid

**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!