

Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2012

Members Present: Steve Connolly, Carol Kwan, Daniel Severino, Steve Nimz, Mike Clark, Andrew Kendall, Don Bergan, Dudley Hulbert

Guest: Darcy Oishi

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 22, 2012, AND SEPTEMBER 19, 2012, MEETING MINUTES

A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. The August 22, 2012, and September 19, 2012, meeting minutes were approved as is.

II. GUEST SPEAKER – DARCY OISHI, HDOA

A) Darcy reported on the *Ficus benjimina* at Moanalua Gardens that was found to be infested during HTCC. Trees of Hawaii dropped off some samples to HDOA. The pest is new to Hawaii. It appears to be the lobate lac scale but they're waiting for confirmation on the species. It's infesting the *Ficus benjimina*, *Ficus microcarpa*, red hibiscus, and mango at Moanalua Gardens. Everything along the canal is infested. Coffee is also a host but is not currently infested. In the U.S., there are 200 known hosts. In the world, there are over 300 known hosts. No one knows where the pest is originally from. HDOA had thought they saw evidence of parasitism, but the hole turned out to be where its honeydew is secreted. The black substance found on the tree is sooty mold on the honeydew. Even the branches on the tree that look OK are already infested. Based on the amount of time for the pest's life cycle and the different stages found at Moanalua Gardens, the infestation has been there for at least a year. Dudley asked what pesticides are effective on this pest. Darcy will look up that info and relay it to Carol. It may need systemic and spray. If you're spraying a foliar, it has to make it through all of the sooty mold too. Prune away the dead branches before treating the tree. It would be a good idea to do other things to try to help the tree's health as well, like decompaction of the soil (air spade), mulch, etc. Darcy also noted that the red hibiscus at the entry is heavily infested. There were very little signs of mealy bug or other hibiscus pests – just this scale. We need to find out if the hibiscus has been treated by Moanalua Gardens staff already. If so, the pest might be resistant to pesticides. HDOA is looking into biocontrol. In Florida, this was a major pest for a few years and then the impacts became part of the background noise. Hopefully it does the same thing here. The concern is that it has host species that are closely related to a lot of our native species. Also, macadamia, coffee, and dendrobiums are hosts. Unfortunately the two guys who were working on biocontrol in Florida retired. HDOA will be bumping this pest up on its priority list.

B) The pest has been found in other areas on Oahu. It's been found on hibiscus at Moanalua High School. Hibiscus and citrus are sentinel plants for this pest.

C) Dudley reported that there is a huge banyan in front of Roosevelt High School that is black right now on Nehoa St. The *Ficus microcarpa* is bad plus another banyan near it. It's located just past the football field entrance.

D) If AAA members find these scales at any new locations, please let HDOA know. Also, please report any unusual symptomology on any species to HDOA. You can call 643-PEST, the hotline, or contact Bernarr or Walter directly at 973-9534 or 973-9526 respectively.

E) Darcy also reported that the Chinese banyan stem gall wasp is new to science.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

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

(a) AAA's share is \$621.54.

ii) Crane Truck Rigging Workshop 10/8/2012

(a) The net for the Crane Truck Rigging workshop was \$5.85. Steve Nimz reported that the workshop went well and everyone learned a lot. California uses some different types of cranes than what we use. The field session was excellent but maybe a little longer than what was needed. It would have been nice if we could have rigged a couple of the branches on the ground to demonstrate. Jared Abrojena uses long slings with a half hitch for rigging. There was very little adjustment or movement when the removal cut was made. He did a good job. Carol noted that Waylen Rodrigues did a good job too, particularly considering that it was the first time that the two of them had ever worked together and Waylen had never used that crane before.

iii) LICH Conference 2012 – October 25, 2012

(a) Darcy reported that Walter Nagamine will be presenting during the Pest Track. Steve Nimz added that Criley will be talking about new tree selection. He suggested that it might be good to sell t-shirts at the LICH trade show booth in addition to books.

iv) Trees and Law 2013

(a) It looks like March, May, or June would work for this workshop. Carol will talk to Steve Nimz (who left the meeting early) to see what works for him and the speaker(s) he was planning to contact. Dudley added that the average arborist needs to know the basics.

v) Venue for Felling or Rigging Workshop

(a) Andrew has found a venue that would be appropriate for a rigging or felling workshop in Waimanalo when we are ready to schedule one.

B) Public Outreach

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

(a) Dudley has done a lot of work on his part. Carol needs to draft the shrubs brochure. The previous pruning brochure will also be handed out.

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

(a) Tabled

C) Research Committee

- (a) John Montoya will be at the LICH conference. Dudley has no idea what is going on with the research stuff because John has been difficult to reach.

D) 2012 Hawaii TCC, October 5-7, 2012, Moanalua Gardens

- i) Steve Connolly reported that the top finisher was Jeremy Williams, with Ashlen Aquila in 2nd place (top local finisher), Justin Donahue in 3rd place and Jon Perry in 4th. Jamilee Kempton took 1st place in the women's division and Ilana Nimz finished 2nd. Ash and Jamilee will represent Hawaii at Western Chapter TCC. Everything went smoothly. The judges and volunteers really helped. There was also a lot of sponsorship and Steve will be sending out thank you letters to our sponsors: Aloha Power Equipment, Climb Aloha, Treestuff.com, and Petzl. The only complaint was that it would have been nice to have had a much larger audience, but that comes down to having things organized earlier and getting the word out. J.P., Moanalua Gardens owner, was there. He seemed to be happy with it and interested in having us back. He would also like for us to attract a bigger audience.
- ii) As far as the budget goes, we need to fund raise. He doesn't have the final numbers yet, but the TCC fund has gone down a lot. We need to sell t-shirts. Steve will send Carol an email about the t-shirts being available for sale that she can forward to AAA members. The estimated cost for insurance is around \$300-\$400. Steve will send his receipts to Steve Nimz soon so we can finalize the numbers and see where we stand.
- iii) Dudley added that Steve Connolly did an extraordinary job with the TCC as the point man.

E) Landscape and Forestry Pest Identification Cards

- i) Tabled

F) AAA Website – PayPal for Membership Dues

- i) Steve Connolly moved that we incorporate PayPal on our website to make it easier for members to pay their dues by credit card. Dudley seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Potassium Deficiency of Palms

- i) Symptoms: Light-colored or brown necrotic speckling, and scorching of the leaf tips or margins. Show on lower, older leaves first. Advanced symptoms include reduced crown

size and smaller trunk diameter (pencilings). New leaves may be small, frizzled, and chlorotic. Plant death is possible.

ii) Causes:

- (1) Soil is infertile and inherently low in K
- (2) Potassium in soil is tightly bound due to arid conditions
- (3) Potassium is leached from the soil due to high rainfall
- (4) There is an unbalanced ratio of nitrogen to potassium
- (5) Root pathogens can reduce the uptake of K
- (6) Poor planting site leads to poor root growth and development
- (7) Improper fertilization practices
- (8) Soil is poorly aerated and impedes the uptake of K
- (9) Soil is acidic and has aluminum or manganese toxicity that inhibits root growth

iii) Diagnosis – through identification of symptoms and/or soil sample analysis.

B) Malama the Trees Maui Outdoor Circle November 17, 2012

- i) Maui Outdoor Circle has asked if AAA would be willing to sponsor its Malama the Trees public outreach workshop again this year. Ernie Rezens will be the speaker. Carol moved that we provide a \$100 sponsorship for the workshop. Steve Connolly seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

C) AAA Meeting Location

- i) Dudley suggested that we rotate where we meet again. He suggested the Elks Club. Steve Nimz would have to get us in since he's a member. There's a room upstairs. It was agreed to stay with Sizzlers Kailua through our November meeting and find a new venue beginning with the January 2013 meeting.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Welcome to AAA member Mike Clark, who is attending a meeting for the first time, and to returning guest Darcy Oishi, Hawaii Department of Agriculture.
- B) Steve Nimz reported that Tim Womick is coming the first week of November to put on his Tree Circus with kids at several locations in honor of Arbor Day. He's a really neat guy. We might want to do a get together with him.

ADJOURNMENT

A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Sizzler's Kailua.

Attachments:

1. 2012 AAA Membership Application
2. Lobate lac scale handout from HDOA
3. Pest of the Month – Potassium Deficiency of Palms

**2013 Aloha Arborist Association
Membership Application**

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2013.

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 for voting purposes*:

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. If you prefer, you can pay online with a credit card at alohaarborist.com/index.php/become-a-member/ and send us this form via email (info@alohaarborist.com) or fax (808) 625-4287.

Mahalo for your support!