Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
July 17th, 2013

Members Present: Steve Connolly, Amy Nichols, Steve Nimz, Dudley Hulbert, Jamilee Kempton, Kevin Eckert and Andrew Kendall.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 19TH 2013, MEETING MINUTES

President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. The June 19th, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

i) Trees and Law - 2013

(a) Dennis Yniguez is the guest speaker.
(b) September 20th 2013. This workshop will be held at the Ala Wai Golf Course, conference room second floor. 8:00am-4:00pm. Lunch will be provided.
(c) The cost for the workshop is $100.00 for LICH or AAA members and $125.00 non-members.

ii) John Ball Workshop 2014 – no new developments.

iii) AAA Hands-On Workshops

(a) Still in development - Steve Connolly, John Perry and Dan Severino may work together to organize a hands-on workshop.
(b) This workshop can help raise funds for the HTCC 2014.
(c) The workshop could be in conjunction with the "Work Day" at Moanalua Gardens. We need to secure some dates. October may be a good time to schedule these events.
    (i) It may work out to be 2 Saturday events: "Work day" first week. Hands-on workshop second week.

iv) 2014 Hawaii Tree Climbing Competition

(a) HTCC aiming for February 2014 at Moanalua Gardens. Dudley is working on securing dates.
(b) It may be time to start looking into sponsorships for HTCC 2014. Amy has agreed to help obtain sponsorships for the competition. Steve Connolly will work with Amy if she needs assistance.
(c) AAA should work on advertising for HTCC. Jamilee will volunteer her time for advertising efforts once the competition dates are set.

v) 2013 LICH 13th Annual Conference

(a) October 10, 2013 Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall.
(b) Hotel and Condo Association Industry are invited to attend LICH Conference to learn about the importance of hiring PLANET Landscape Industry Certified Technicians and Certified Arborists.

B) Research Committee

i) A new student is on the DOT Grant. Kalani Matsumura is an enthusiastic Master Degree Soil Science student.
ii) HECO growth rates for subtropical tree species is still a potential research topic.

C) New Meeting Venue

i) The August 21th Meeting is scheduled at the Real A Gastropub – 1020 Auahi St.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Graphiola leaf spot, *Graphiola phoenicis*

i) Hosts: The primary hosts in Florida are *Phoenix* species, especially *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island date palm) and *Phoenix dactylifera* (date palm).
ii) Distribution: Widely distributed throughout the date-palm growing world.
iii) Damage: Very small black, cup-shaped fungal bodies (sori) are present on leaf blade of the oldest leaves. This disease is primarily cosmetic – it does not adversely affect plant growth.
iv) Control: Remove diseased leaves only. Fungicides may be useful for managing this disease, but research is limited as to products to use and timing of applications.
v) Other: Confusion regarding the seriousness of the disease occurs because most *Phoenix* palms grown in Florida suffer from nutrient deficiencies, which are far more debilitating than this disease.

B) AAA Facebook Page

i) Amy is developing a Facebook page for AAA. It will help AAA stay connected with LICH, Western Chapter, ISA, and AAA members. We can post our meeting venues, minutes, agendas and promote our events.

C) Restocking ISA Tree Care Brochures

i) Do we need to re-order? We will check with Carol to see which brochures we need to order.

D) ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

i) Kevin Eckert is a qualified TRAQ instructor – he would like to know is there is enough interest among our members to make the TRAQ course available in Honolulu.
ii) What is the cost?
iii) AAA should send out a survey to our members to determine interest in TRAQ.

E) Promote your organization's events on the LICH Event Calendar, magazine and newsletter

i) Great way to advertise AAA events. Once the date is set, we can promote HTCC 2014 on LICH Event Calendar.

F) Windward Community College - Subtropical Tree Care Program

i) The program is at risk for being cancelled after spring 2014. WCC needs at least 10 students for upcoming classes starting January 2014.
ii) AAA should talk with large companies - IMUA, Paradise, HTM, Trees of Hawaii, and Davey. Would each company be willing to send 1-2 workers who are motivated and willing to take the program? This program will help prepare them for the ISA Certified Arborist Exam and/or CTW Exam.
iii) AAA should advertise the program on our website.
iv) WCC Subtropical Tree Care Program should reserve a booth at the 2013 LICH Conference.
    (a) Maybe the LICH Magazine could advertise the program in an upcoming magazine.

G) Tropical Fruit Phenology Workshop - Mark Nickum

i) This could be a very popular workshop for homeowners. This is a new idea for AAA. We're thinking a 1 - day workshop.
    (a) Details are in development. The Urban Garden Center could be a possible venue for this workshop.

H) AAA has agreed to offer funding for ITCC competitor Jamilee Kempton

i) $1,000 is available for Jamilee if she needs help funding her trip to Toronto.

I) The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle is on Guam.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) The ISA Conference is scheduled for August 3-7, 2013, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, The ITCC is August 3-4 on Toronto Island.

B) KLIC is offering CTW Prep Classes through Kauai Community College in August 2013, to be followed by an exam in early September. For more information, visit http://info.kauaicc.hawaii.edu/training.

C) LICH Conference October 10, 2013 – Neal S. Blaisdell Center.

D) WCISA Certified Tree Worker and Certified Arborist Exams October 12th 2013.

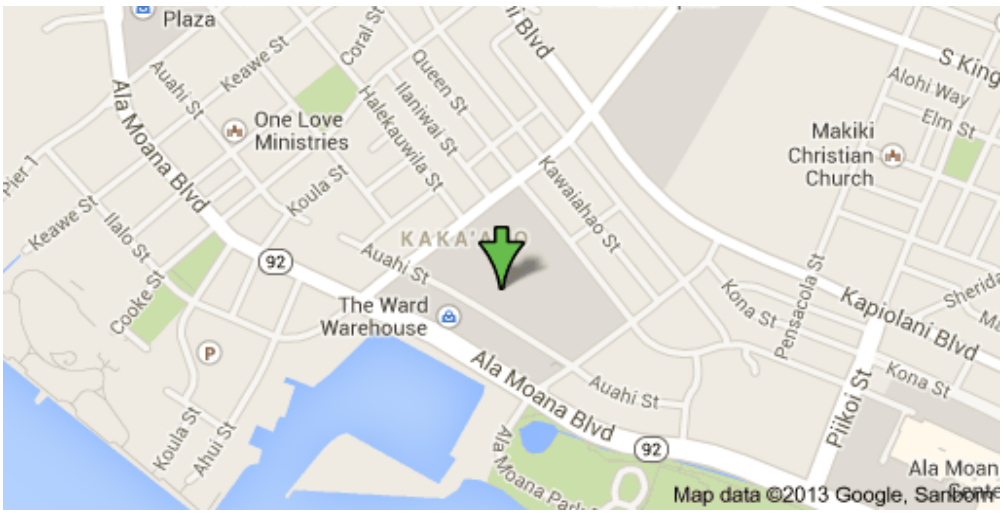
ADJOURNMENT

A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamilee Kempton

PLEASE JOIN US!

Real A Gastropub – August 21st 6:30pm



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, 333 Lala Place, Kailua, HI 96734 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).

Mahalo for your support

Graphiola Leaf Spot (False Smut) of Palm[1]

Monica L. Elliott[2]

Summary

- Graphiola leaf spot is a fungal leaf disease caused by *Graphiola phoenicis*. The disease is often referred to as "false smut."
- The primary hosts in Florida are *Phoenix* species, especially *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island date palm) and *Phoenix dactylifera* (date palm).
- The disease is easily diagnosed by direct examination of the affected leaf tissue. Very small (1/16 inch), black, cup-shaped fungal bodies (sori) are present on the leaf blade of the oldest leaves (lowest leaves in the canopy). They can be easily observed without any magnification.
- The disease is primarily cosmetic, and does not adversely affect plant growth in the landscape. Confusion regarding the seriousness of the problem occurs because most *Phoenix* palms grown in Florida suffer from nutrient deficiencies, which are far more debilitating than this disease.
- Remove diseased leaves **only** if the palm is not exhibiting nutrient deficiency symptoms. Removal of nutrient deficient leaves will only make the nutrient deficiency worse, which will adversely affect palm health.
- Fungicides may be useful for managing this disease, but research is limited as to products to use and timing of applications.

Introduction

Graphiola leaf spot, also referred to as "false smut," is a foliar pathogen of certain palm species. In Florida, it is primarily a cosmetic disease and does not adversely affect plant growth. Nutrient deficiencies, such as potassium or magnesium deficiency, are much more serious palm health problems than this disease, especially for *Phoenix* species.

Pathogen and Hosts

This disease is caused by the fungal pathogen *Graphiola phoenicis*. It is a unique fungus, both in appearance and life cycle, but it is widely distributed throughout the date palm-growing world. While numerous palm species have been identified as hosts of this fungus, the disease is most prevalent in Florida on *Phoenix* species, such as *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island date palm) and *Phoenix dactylifera* (date palm). It is rarely observed on *Phoenix sylvestris* (wild date palm).

Other palms on which *G. phoenicis* has been observed include: *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii, Arenga pinnata, Butia capitata, Chamaerops humilis, Coccothrinax argentata, Cocos nucifera, Dypsis lutescens, Livistona alfredii, Livistona chinensis, Phoenix roebelenii, Phoenix sylvestris, Phoenix theophrasti, Prestoea acuminata, Roystonea regia, Sabal minor, Sabal palmetto, Syagrus romanzoffiana, Thrinax morrisii,* and *Washingtonia robusta.*

Symptoms and Signs

The symptom of a disease is the plant's expression of infection from a plant pathogen, such as spots, lesions, cankers or root rots. The sign of a disease is the observation of the causal pathogen on the affected plant tissue. With Graphiola leaf spot, the signs of the disease are more prevalent and more easily observed than the symptoms of the disease. Both signs and symptoms will be observed on the oldest leaves, which are the lowest leaves in the canopy.

The initial symptoms of the disease are very tiny (1/32 inch or less) yellow or brown or black spots on both sides of the leaf blade. They are easily missed without close observation. The fungus will emerge from these spots, rupturing the leaf epidermis (leaf surface) (Figure 1). It is the resulting fungal reproductive structures (sori) that are most commonly observed and which obscure any true symptoms.

The sorus (sori is the plural form) is a black fruiting body that is less than 1/16 inch in diameter (Figure 2). As the sorus matures and yellow spores are produced, short, light-colored filaments (thread-like structures) will emerge from the black body (Figure 2). These filaments aide in spore dispersal. Once the spores are dispersed, the sori deflate and appear like a black, cup-shaped body or black crater. You can easily see the sori, but you can also feel the sori with your finger as they are raised above the leaf epidermis. The number of sori indicates the level of infection (Figure 3).


Figure 1.

The small black bodies are sori (fruiting bodies) of *Graphiola phoenicis* that have erupted through the leaflet epidermis. The black spots are symptoms of potassium deficiency, and not Graphiola leaf spot.


Figure 2.

Close-up of sori of *Graphiola phoenicis* with filaments protruding.


Figure 3.

Heavy infestation of Graphiola leaf spot.

Diagnosis

This is a disease that can be easily identified by examining the leaf. While the fungus can be cultured, there is no need to do this as the fungus is easily observed with the unaided eye. A simple magnifying glass will provide adequate “close-up” views.

Confusion regarding the seriousness of the problem occurs because most palms grown in the Florida landscape usually exhibit symptoms of nutrient deficiencies on the oldest leaves, the same leaves affected by the fungus (Figures 1 and 4). The yellow and necrotic spotting caused by potassium (K) deficiency is often misidentified as Graphiola leaf spot. Similarly, the extensive necrosis on old leaves of *Phoenix* spp. is caused by potassium

deficiency and not Graphiola leaf spot. In both cases, it is nutrient deficiencies, not the disease, causing the leaf decline affecting palm health.

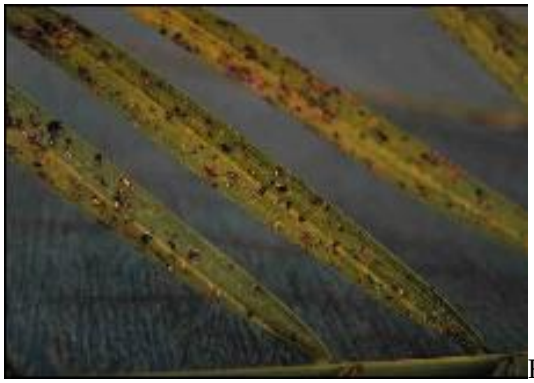


Figure 4.

Potassium deficiency symptoms and *Graphiola phoenicis* sori on the same leaf.

Figure 5.

Mixed infection of *Graphiola phoenicis* and *Stigmina palmivora* (large brown spots). Note that some Stigmina leaf spots have a sorus of *Graphiola phoenicis* within the leaf spot.

Disease and Fungal Life Cycle

After the fungus penetrates (infects) the leaf tissue, it has very limited growth within the leaf tissue, with most growth occurring just below the sorus (black fruiting body). The time span from infection to spore production is 10 to 11 months. This is unusual when compared to most leaf pathogens that have a life cycle often measured in weeks. This means that the active disease being observed today is the result of infection that occurred almost a year ago.

Source: **http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp140#.UbJ4wzi3kIc.email**

Website provided by the University of Florida – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension