

**Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2013**

Members Present: Steve Connolly, Carol Kwan, Jamilee Kempton, Amy Nichols, Dudley Hulbert, Chris Dacus

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 17TH, 2013, MEETING MINUTES

President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The April 17, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as is

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

i) Trees and Biology Workshops (WCISA Regional Meetings)

- (a) We should have the final accounting by end of May. Carol estimated that AAA will make around one thousand dollars from the workshops

ii) Trees and Law - 2013

- (a) Dennis Kucinich will be the speaker coming in from California with a target date September 6th or 20th
- (b) No venue yet – Stan Oka is checking in with the Ala Wai Golf Course

iii) John Ball Workshop 2014

- (a) Carol contacted John Ball and he is interested in coming, target February - April 2014
 - (i) AAA would like to aim for April 2014
- (b) We may set up one workshop for AAA/WCISA and one workshop for the city
 - (i) Workshops for Big Island and Maui if enough people are interested
- (c) No Venue set for Oahu - depends upon when McCoy Pavilion will be available again after the construction project
- (d) WCISA might possibly get a grant to help fund the costs and keep the registration fees reasonable
- (e) Steve Connolly plans to run into John Ball at WCISA Annual Day of Safety Workshop in Los Angeles June 14th

iv) Request for Hands-On Workshops- Structured Tree Climbing Skills

- (a) Don Coffey CTSP is writing the Single Rope Technique (SRT) manual that ISA will be publishing. He is a safety-minded guy and he might be coming to Hawaii. John Maddich connected with Don first and sent him some info. Steve Connolly will check with Don to see what his requirements will be

- (i) If BMP for SRT is available through ISA before workshop – AAA can buy in bulk and sell at workshop
 - (ii) No new info regarding Don Coffey and John Maddich for hands-on workshop
- (b) We could also put on a hands-on workshop with local speakers like we've done in the past
- (i) Mock Tree Climbing Competition (TCC) where we set up a course, demonstrate how each event is done, score participants, and then run the course again
 - (ii) “Structured Skills Course” or SRT Technique/advanced climbing techniques hands-on workshop
 - (iii) Hands-on knot tying course
 - (iv) Potential Venues - Moanalua Gardens, Urban Garden Center or Lyon Arboretum
 - (v) Local Hands-On Workshops could raise money for HTCC

B) Research Committee

- i) John Montoya is no longer on DOT grant

C) New Meeting Venue

- i) The June 19th Meeting is scheduled at the Aloha Beer Company 580 N Nimitz Hwy

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – *Gliocladium* blight – Pink Rot of Palms

- i) Pathogen: *Gliocladium vermoeseni* (fungus)
- ii) Hosts: *Chamaedorea* spp, *Dypsis* spp. (Areca palms, etc.), date palm, queen palm, Mexican fan palm, others.
- iii) Symptoms: Invasive rot of buds, petioles, leaf blades, and trunks/stems, dark brown necrotic areas near the base of the stem, gummy exudates, premature death of fronds, plant death
- iv) Signs: Pink- to salmon-colored spore masses on the surface of diseased plants
- v) IPM: Minimize plant wounding, use of fungicides as prophylactic during transplanting, minimize water splashing between plants, remove dead leaves from plants, use increased plant spacing, provide air movement, decrease relative humidity, irrigate in the morning to avoid prolonged periods of wetness
- vi) Fungicides: Dithane, Thiophanate methyl. Apply after removing diseased leaves.

B) LICH Conference - October 10, 2013 - Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall

- i) Native Plant Theme
- ii) Arborist Track
- iii) Free Social - the night of Conference
 - (a) Free Pupus and Drinks

C) LICH Plant Runway Show

- i) June 14th 2013 - 5:30pm – 8:30pm
- ii) KCC - O'hia
- iii) Learn about the top 60 unknown plants everyone should be using in the landscape
- iv) Admission includes a runway show, show guide book, plant tradeshow, pupus made from locally grown produce and one complimentary glass of wine.
- v) \$10 early registration by 6/7/13
\$25 after 6/8/13 and at the door

D) CTHAR – research projects that benefit Hawaii

- i) Maria Gallow – Dean of CTHAR
 - (a) AAA should set up a meeting with Maria to propose arboricultural research project ideas that could benefit Hawaii
 - (b) Growth rate of subtropical trees – utilizing HECO's Vegetation Management Database
 - (c) Density of subtropical trees – Green wood load charts

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Western Chapter “Annual Day of Safety” June 14th Los Angeles
- B) LICH Plant Runway Show June 14th KCC – O'hia
- C) WC TCC June 15-16, 2013 in Los Angeles
- D) The ISA Conference is scheduled for August 3-7, 2013, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- E) LICH Conference October 10, 2013

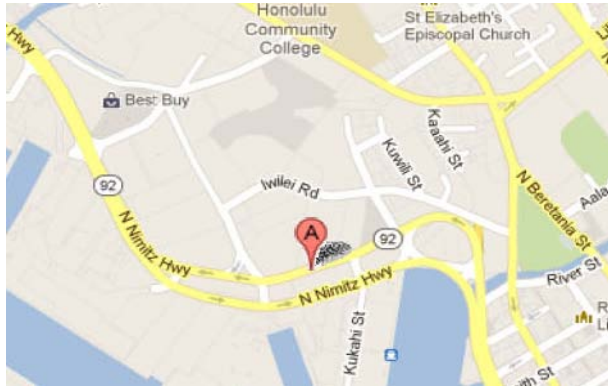
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamilee Kempton

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday June 19th at Aloha Beer Company 580 N Nimitz Hwy



Attachments:

1. 2013 Membership Application
2. Pest of the Month

**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 Palm¹

Monica L. Elliott²

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 *Stigmata palmivora* (large brown spots). Note that some *Stigmata* 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