

**Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
November 20th, 2013**

Members Present: Dudley Hulbert, Steve Connolly, Steve Nimz, Carol Kwan, Andrew Kendall, John McComas, Lance Bookless, Sergio Mendez, Amy Nichols and Jamilee Kempton.

Guest: Mark Susio.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 16TH, 2013, MEETING MINUTES

President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:47p.m. The October 16th, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

i) 2014 Hawaii Tree Climbing Competition

- (a) The date has been confirmed, the competition will be held February 22-23 at Moanalua Gardens. AAA does have sufficient funds to organize the competition. Steve Connolly has lined up prizes with Climb Aloha and TreeStuff.com. Dudley and Nimz would like to help organize the event. They suggested dividing some of the responsibilities, so no single volunteer is overloaded. Greg Severino previously expressed interest in taking the lead to organize the competition. AAA needs to check with Greg and determine his level of involvement.
- (b) The main goal for this competition is to create an educational event for the tree care industry of Hawaii that promotes professionalism and safety. AAA would like to see more local tree workers who are interested come out to the event. There are volunteer opportunities to help with the competition and open spots for first time local competitors.
- (c) AAA would like to see the public attend the competition. This competition is a perfect opportunity to teach the public about the tree care industry of Hawaii. Advertisement efforts will be led by Dudley, Amy and Jamilee. Steve Connolly may have connections to different news organizations through HECO to help promote the competition.
- (d) Climb Aloha usually sets up a booth at the HTCC's. If sponsors would like to donate prizes they can set up a booth at the competition. If sponsors would like to donate cash, we discussed standardizing the cash donation to \$100 to allow sponsors to set up a booth. Carol will look into a sponsorship from TCIA.
- (e) AAA discussed a couple options for food at the competition. We can cater in food for climbers, volunteers and families and AAA could sell water, juice, soda and snacks for spectators. Or we could purchase food for the climbers, volunteers and families from a food truck vendor, and the food truck could stay on site to sell to the public at the event.

- (f) John mentioned raffle prizes at the competition. He mentioned that we could ask hotels' to donate a "1-night stay" for raffle prizes at the competition. Maybe this is feasible; John will be looking into it.

ii) ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

- (a) HSUFP is not interested in organizing a TRAQ course. WCISA has decided to organize and run a TRAQ course in Honolulu and no date has been scheduled yet. AAA will support the efforts by volunteering with registration before the workshop, and assist WCISA to find a venue.

iii) Tropical Fruit Phenology Workshop

- (a) Mark Susio, President of the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers Association and Dudley were discussing ideas for the "Tropical Fruit Phenology Workshop". Dudley has been working with Jayme from the UGC to set a date for the workshop. Another title for this workshop could be "Fundamentals of fruit tree care: phenology, pests, pruning and mulch". The workshop could consist of 1 hour for phenology, 1 hour for pests, and a pruning and mulch hands-on demonstration.
- (b) March 8th, 2014 is the CTAHR Agricultural & Environmental Awareness Day at the Urban Garden Center, and could be a great opportunity to put on the "Tropical Fruit Phenology Workshop". AAA discussed who do we want to attend this workshop, home gardeners, general public, or the tree care industry? Should we have separate workshops for the general public and the tree/landscape industry? How many seats are available for the classroom at the UGC? Could the workshop have the lecture, hands on- portion, and classes running concurrently to satisfy the amount of people on "AG Day" March 8th? Or, should we develop a simple workshop on a less busy day, maybe April sometime? A second Saturday might be a better option to hold this workshop instead of March 8th CTAHR's Agricultural & Environmental Awareness Day. AAA is still working out logistics, and no date is set yet.

iv) John Ball Safety Workshop 2014

- (a) This will be a WCISA workshop. Amy will confirm with outer-islands for the workshop to be held in May.

B) Recap: Timmy Wommick and the TreeCircus.

- i) Timmy is an amazing educational entertainer! AAA is very excited to have him back next year!

C) Research Committee

- i) Kalani will be meeting up with Steve Connolly to go over HECO growth rates.

D) AAA Project Review Committee

- i) The Outdoor Circle would like to develop a “Project Review Committee”. This would be on a volunteer basis to provide a professional second opinion on tree removal or pruning projects that is of concern to the Outdoor Circle. There may be certain situations where AAA could assist the Outdoor Circle regarding trees and this needs to be discussed further with Marty. AAA has not decided to organize a formal committee for the Outdoor Circle. AAA will look into this further.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month –Biological Control Release of *Tectococcus ovatus*, a Gall-forming Scale Insect to Aid in the Control of Strawberry Guava (*Psidium cattleianum*).

i) **Strawberry guava:**

- (a) Was introduced to yards and gardens of Hawai‘i in 1825. Since then, it has spread into moist and wet forests statewide. Strawberry guava is killing and replacing native forests by forming dense, single-species thickets.

ii) **Biocontrol insect to control the spread of strawberry guava**

- (a) The biocontrol selected and tested for release is a scale insect. The newly hatched nymphs crawl to young strawberry guava leaves, forming “galls”, and they reduce plant vigor by diverting resources normally used for plant growth and reproduction. Strawberry guava is the only plant in Hawai‘i that this insect is able to feed and make galls on.
- (b) Decreased plant vigor will slow the spread of this plant, which will allow koa, ‘ōhi‘a and other native forest plants to survive and better compete for space, sunlight, and water.
- (c) Decreased plant vigor will also decrease the number of seeds produced. This will allow land managers to achieve better control with chemical and mechanical techniques.

B) AAA Christmas Party 2013

- i) The AAA Christmas Party will be held at Lyon Arboretum. December 7th. 2-6pm. There will be pupus, drinks, food from You Hungry Lunch Wagon, and homemade pie! There will be tour through the garden, and an opportunity to climb one of the largest Ficus trees at the Arboretum.

C) Leeward Community College needs help removing 2 African Tulip trees

- i) Steve Connolly plans to check out the trees and determine if a rigging workshop is feasible.

D) Palm Safety Workshop

- i) Details are still in development for the Palm Safety Workshop. AAA would like to cover climbing palms SRT. We could cover the different techniques to access Cocos, Royals, Pritchardia, and Washingtonia robusta palms. AAA also discussed covering a cultural aspect at the workshop e.g. weaving coconut fronds into hats and mats.

E) Invasive species booth- Kunia Orchid Society Annual Show 3/21 – 3/23, Leilehua High School Gym.

- i) AAA agreed to volunteer 1 day for this event, we need to confirm which date with Carol. Carol will volunteer a ½ day to man the booth, and one more AAA member is needed to

volunteer ½ day. Do we need to replenish our brochures before this workshop? Amy has the brochures, and she will double check and re-order any brochures that are low in supply.

F) Wicked Tree Gear- collapsible pole saws.

i) John presented product information about Wicked Tree Gear at the meeting. This company could be a potential sponsor for the HTCC 2014.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) AAA Christmas Party at Lyon Arboretum – December 7th, 2-6pm.

B) Please renew your AAA Membership for 2014! You can find the membership form online at Alohaarborist.com and you can pay for your membership online or by mailing a check.

ADJOURNMENT

A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamilee Kempton

PLEASE JOIN US!

*The Seven Palms Bar and Grille – January 15th, 6:30pm
943 Valkenburgh St.*



2014 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!