

**Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
January 15th, 2014**

Members Present: Dudley Hulbert, Steve Connolly, Steve Nimz, Carol Kwan, Andrew Kendall, Sergio Mendez, Quenna Johnson, Greg Severino, David Severino, Chad Toth, Paul Mckern, Austin Braaten, Doug Demoss, Ilana Nimz, Amy Nichols and Jamilee Kempton.

Guest Speaker: Darcy Oishi

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 20th, 2013, MEETING MINUTES

President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:38p.m. The November 20th, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

II. Guest Speaker: Darcy Oishi – Update on Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) and Little Fire Ant (LFA).

- i) CRB has recently been detected on Oahu. There is a thriving population at a golf course near the Pearl/Harbor Hickam Base. The CRB infestation located at the golf course has not been confirmed to be the initial site of the infestation. HDOA suspects that CRB has been on Oahu for about 1.5-2 years. CRB lay eggs and develop in rotting logs, mulch, or compost, which the adults emerge. Even just a small bag of grass clippings could host the development of CRB. The adults are very active at night and can fly about 100 yds. If there is visible frond damage to a coconut palm, the CRB has been there for at least 6 months. Just a couple individuals could be capable of doing extensive damage. Adult CRB can lay 120 eggs in one lifetime, which is about one year. CRB develop from egg to adult in approximately 4 months. As of now, there are no approved pesticide applications that would be cost effective or practical to control CRB in Hawaii. There may be a “crown drench” available for very important specimens that are at risk, HDOA is still looking into this option. HDOA, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Plant Protection Quarantine (PPQ) are working on eradicating the CRB populations.

- ii) LFA was recently detected on Oahu. One colony was successfully eradicated and two remain; one colony in Kapolei and one in Waimanalo. LFA most likely came to Oahu on Hapu’u fern from Big Island, but may not be limited to Hapu’u fern. All sales of infested material were stopped. HDOA determined the LFA came on one shipment of 1,000 parts of propagated Hapu’u plant material. HDOA suspects that there will be at least 5-10 more sites on Oahu where LFA populations will establish. The Governor may seek emergency funds to support the efforts to eradicate LFA. Let it be known that many nursery companies on Big Island worked very hard to avoid spreading the LFA. There are no regulations to enforce companies to test for LFA before shipping plant material to other islands. Many nursery companies on Big Island have gone through great lengths to manage and to avoid spreading the LFA. In many cases, nurseries have nearly gone out of business because of the costs associated with managing LFA.

A) Training Workshops

- i) 2014 Hawaii Tree Climbing Competition February 22-23, at Moanalua Gardens
 - (a) AAA has received great sponsorship from Treestuff.com. Prizes have been shipped. AAA has not heard back from Petzl and Aloha Power yet. The climbing insurance is in the process of being secured. So far, by word of mouth, we are experiencing fairly good interest from volunteers and competitors. There will be CEU opportunities for competitors and volunteers. Friday 2/21 8:00am, set up will begin. JP Damon discussed with Dudley about contacting KITV to provide local coverage of the competition. Darcy Oishi mentioned he knew of other media options and was willing to help AAA make those contacts. Austin Braaten has a media template he could fill out for a press release for the competition. Jamilee will work on creating a 2014 HTCC flyer and post it around UH Campus, on the AAA Website and Facebook. Mark Susio is interested in sponsoring the 2014 HTCC and would like to set up a fruit tree booth at the completion.

- ii) ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)- Tabled
 - (a) Rose is working on this.

- iii) Tropical Fruit Phenology Workshop
 - (a) Workshop is scheduled for March 8th, CTAHR's Agricultural & Environmental Awareness Day at the Urban Garden Center. Dudley will work on developing the outline for the workshop. Amy and Jamilee offered to help in anyway. Darcy mentioned he could help get the information to Mark Wright regarding this workshop and the content for fruit tree pests.

- iv) John Ball Safety Workshop 2014
 - (a) This will be a WCISA workshop. AAA is working on scheduling this workshop for May 2014. Oahu, Maui and B.I are interested in this workshop. The City and County of Honolulu and the Military may be interested as well.

- v) Palm Safety Workshop
 - (a) There will be an SRT focus. Javier Quiroz is on board, and there is nothing new to report. Javier is flexible, and AAA is looking to schedule this workshop sometime September 2014.

- vi) Rigging Workshop- Leeward Community College
 - (a) The trees have not been inspected yet to determine if a rigging workshop would be feasible.

B) Research Committee

- i) Steve Connolly met up with Kalani to discuss HECO growth rates. Kalani is leaving next semester. Hopefully a new researcher will take the lead.

C) AAA Project Review Committee

- i) AAA needs to discuss this further with the Outdoor Circle. AAA would like to help the Outdoor Circle regarding certain tree-related issues.

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

- i) Carol plans on volunteering 1 day. She mentioned that HDOA will bring live samples of pests, and CGAPS and OISC would be there. Sounds like this is going to be a great event.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month Update – Little Fire Ant (LFA), *Wasmannia auropunctata*.

- i) The Hawaii Department of Agriculture has confirmed that the LFA has spread from Big Island to Maui and Oahu. <http://www.kitv.com/news/hawaii/agriculture-officials-confirm-spread-of-fire-ant-to-oahu-maui/-/8905354/23720066/-/15huymlz/-/index.html>
- ii) **Hosts:** LFA are found both on the ground and in vegetation. They climb onto plants of all sizes, including trees, but they easily fall off when plants are disturbed. Pruning branches, harvesting fruit, or picking flowers in infested areas can cause LFA to rain down in large numbers.
- iii) **Distribution:** LFA is native to Central and South America but has spread throughout the Pacific. LFA are transported to new sites in potted plants, or on plant materials, green waste, and rubbish.
- iv) **Damage:** LFA are serious pests that infest yards and agricultural fields and will move into houses and other structures. The bites from these very tiny ants initially hurt then may cause welts, followed by intense itching that can last for two weeks or more. Multiple stings to the eyes can result in blindness by secondary infection or even death of newly born or small animals.
- v) **Control:** You can help by looking out for LFA, and reporting their presence to 643-PEST. The best way to detect LFA is to place peanut butter coated sticks (approximately 10-12 yds. apart) around your property, preferably in shade, in plants and at the base of trees. Wait about an hour. Pick up the sticks and place them in a sealable plastic bag, and examine the ants on the peanut butter. Are they red-orange? Are they no longer than 1/18 inch (the thickness of a penny)? Are they slow moving, and do they fall off the stick easily when you tap the side of the stick? If you answered yes to these questions, you may have the LFA and should contact HDOA.
- vi) **Pesticide Use:** Do not treat the LFA with a pesticide until the population has been reported and mapped. HDOA will advise you how to proceed if you do have a LFA infestation.

B) The Britton Fund Ride- Ilana Nimz

- i) Ilana Nimz has signed up for the Britton Fund Ride in Pasadena, CA, April 7th. Ilana Nimz and Sal Hsu will be raising 1,200 dollars combined for the Britton Fund Ride. Donation deadline is March 1st. This will be the first team from Hawaii to sign up for the Britton Fund Ride! Contact Ilana Nimz for donation information ilananimz@gmail.com.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) 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 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamilee Kempton

PLEASE JOIN US!

*The Seven Palms Bar and Grille – February 19th, 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!

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