

**Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
March 19th, 2014**

Members Present: Jamilee Kempton, Steve Connolly, Nicole Brodie, Lance Bookless, Austin Braaten, Andrew Kendall, Carol Kwan, Steve Nimz, Ilana Nimz, Jon Williams, and Gregory Severino.

Guest: Zhiqiang Cheng from UH Manoa; CTAHR and PEPS.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 19th, 2014, MEETING MINUTES.

President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:49p.m. The February 19th, 2014 meeting minutes were approved .

II. Guest Speaker: Zhiqiang Cheng – Chinese Stem and Leaf Gall Wasp, and Lobate Lac Scale on Ficus trees at UH Manoa Campus.

- A) Z. Cheng has been conducting injections to treat both the Chinese Banyan Stem and Leaf Gall Wasp, and the Lobate Lac Scale on ficus trees at the UH Manoa Campus. He is using an Arborjet to inject trees with the pesticides.

- B) Imidacloprid is injected to treat LLS infestations. Injections started in December 2013. LLS is affecting mostly the Ficus benjamina trees on campus. Recent observations determined LLS infestations on Ficus microcarpa (Chinese Banyan). Some Ficus microcarpa trees are now infested with all three pests, the Leaf and Stem Gall Wasp and LLS. The LLS is still alive if it has a red body underneath the sooty mold shell, and when you pinch it with your finger a wet red liquid appears. If there are only dry black bodies with no red, the LLS is dead. The imidacloprid treatment seems to be working. The untreated trees have visible LLS crawlers, and the treated trees have very few LLS crawlers.

- C) To determine the most effective pesticide to treat the Chinese Banyan Leaf and Stem Gall Wasp, both imidacloprid and emamectin benzoate were injected. Injections started July 2013. Students are monitoring the trees' response to the pesticides. No response for the Leaf Gall Wasp, and some improvements with the Stem Gall Wasp. The emamectin benzoate treatment is most effective to control the Chinese Stem Gall Wasp. Some of the treated Chinese Banyan trees were recovering well, but are now showing signs of decline.

Heavy rain seems to improve the overall health of the untreated and treated ficus trees on UH Campus.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Training Workshops

i) 2014 Hawaii Tree Climbing Competition- Recap

- (a) Recap: It was a great show and safe event! The winners have already been announced for the master's challenge: Justin Donahue 1st, Mark Dobbertin 2nd, and Ash Aquila 3rd. This year we scored the women with the men. Jamilee Kempton took 6th overall. Every competitor walked away with some prizes. AAA will post the results up on the website. Steve Connolly will write thank you letters to the sponsors. The weekend had beautiful weather, great volunteer support and the Moanalua Gardens staff were very friendly and helpful.
- (b) Suggestions for next year: We should focus on efficiency as far as timing goes. If the competition flowed a bit better, we could attract spectators to stick around longer. Also, a sign out in the front of Moanalua Gardens a week prior to the competition would be helpful. A commentator would be great to have next year, to help explain and inform the public to what's going on. Austin has a P.A. we could use. We could use more gear checkers to speed up the gear check process. We have extra banners that were not used this year, we should use them for next year's competition. If possible, we should set the date for the competition much earlier, at least 6 months in advance. Providing food and drink may help persuade spectators to stick around all day for the event. Selling food to the public can be difficult, it is hard to estimate the amount of food needed. This year we ordered Bentos for volunteers, climbers, friends and family. We did not throw away a single Bento. In previous years, food has been either thrown away or AAA has paid for food tickets that were never sold. Climb Aloha was understaffed this year, maybe next year they will be able to set up a "Keiki Climb". They may be able to set up other climbing courses for adults too. Because ISA competition rules are very complex, it may be a good idea to schedule a judges meeting a week before the competition. Judges could go over any questions or concerns regarding the rulebook. This will help judges feel more confident in their knowledge of the rules. Nimz said from a spectator's point of view, it was a great show, fun to watch, and the flow seemed okay. We all give a big "thank you" to Steve Connolly for spearheading this event. Thank you judges and volunteers for your efforts. Overall, the competition ran very smooth, compared to the past. This is because most of the judges and volunteers are more experienced to help make the competition run more efficiently.

ii) Tropical Fruit Phenology Workshop – Recap

- (a) Dudley was not able to attend the meeting, but he wanted to report that he received a lot of positive feedback about the workshop. AAA also received positive feedback. Huge thank you to Dudley for showing up on Friday 3/7 to help man the AAA booth. Big Mahalo to Honolulu Botanical Gardens for donating the large seed display. The kids really enjoyed the seed display. Next year, AAA will display less seeds, to keep the kids moving along so they can check out every booth. Mark Nickum is interested in doing more fruit tree phenology classes for the tree care industry. It is valuable knowledge for the industry. AAA should work on organizing a workshop for the industry. It could be a lecture and hands on workshop. WCISA is looking for local speakers for the regional meeting in Honolulu. This may be a great opportunity for Mark Nickum to speak about tropical fruit tree phenology. If there is enough interest on outer-islands, maybe the costs

for Marks travel and incidentals could be covered.

iii) John Ball Safety Workshop 2014

- (a) The workshop is scheduled for May 20th Honolulu, McCoy Pavilion. May 22nd Maui, and May 23rd Big Island. Maui has low numbers for attendance. The Maui LICT exam is 2 days after the workshop, so they may not be able to satisfy the minimum attendance requirement. We will put advertisements about this workshop in the LICH magazine. Once the flyer is available, we will send it out to AAA members, and the training list.

iv) Palm Safety Workshop

- (a) Javier is on board for this workshop and is pretty flexible. He will be conducting palm-safety hands on workshop the same day as the NATCC, in Pasadena, CA. AAA was thinking about having Javier do a lecture at the 2014 LICH conference, and the following day conduct a palm safety hands-on workshop. AAA is leaning towards organizing an individual workshop separate from the LICH conference. The end of September is looking open for the palm-safety workshop. The Hale Koa hotel could be a great venue. Nimz will look into it. They have large Date Palms and Cocos. If Hale Koa is interested, how many people can attend the workshop, how much space is available?

B) Research Committee- Tabled

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month- Monkeypod Round-Headed Longhorn Beetle – *Xystrocera globosa*

- i) **Hosts:** Wide range of species of wild and cultivated leguminous trees, (*Mimosaceae*, *Papilionaceae*), belonging to genera such as *Acacia*, *Acrocarpus*, *Adenanthera*, *Adina*, *Albizia*, *Bauhinia*, *Cassia*, *Duabanga*, *Haematoxylon*, *Parkia*, *Xylia*, *Paraserianthes*, *Samanea*, and several Malvaceae (*Grewia*, *Salmalia*) and Rosaceae (*Prunus*).
- ii) **Distribution:** Originates from Southeast Asia, and is widely distributed. *X. globosa* is found in East Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Seychelles, Oceania, New Guinea, Hawaiian Islands, Madagascan Region, Caribbean (Puerto Rico), and subtropical areas of the Palearctic Region (Arabia, Egypt), Japan, Korea, Taiwan.
- iii) **Damage:** The round-headed monkeypod boring beetles attack stressed trees with grubs making large galleries in the sapwood. The galleries comprise two sections. The pre-pupal section is at a right or obtuse angle to the outer bark at least halfway through the bark. The pupal section is usually within the sapwood running parallel to the bark. Tree vigor and health minimizes the possibility of borer infestation.
- iv) **Control:** When the pests are within these galleries, spray insecticides are ineffective. One reference suggests that it may be possible to skewer the grub with a stiff thin wire. These grubs are considered delicacies in some areas of the world. References disagree on the effectiveness of systemic insecticides. As adults, these beetles are nocturnal and control is difficult.

- B) Nicole Brodie is taking over for Amy Nichols. Nicole is handling the website, Facebook, e-mails and admin responsibilities for workshops, and membership etc. Greg Severino has photos he would like to share on Facebook of the 2014 competition. Nicole should meet up with Chris Daicus to discuss LICH's website. LICH has a great website and they may be able to help give direction to improve our website. Maybe LICH and AAA website could work together somehow.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Aerial Rescue Training by Makani Consulting with Greg Severino, March 22nd, Kualoa Ranch, 8:00am-1:00pm. – prep for CTW exam, 4.75 CEU'S. water juice and snacks available. May go later than 1pm. Lot of interest in workshop.
- B) WCISA Conference, Arboriculture On Parade, April 5-10, Pasadena, CA. March 26th early registration ends. A few people from Hawaii are going.
- C) Please help support Ilana Nimz, Jamilee Kempton and Sal Hsu, the first team to represent Hawaii in the Western Chapter ISA bike ride for The Britton Fund!! For questions, donation forms or info: ilananimz@gmail.com or jfkempton2@gmail.com. All donations go directly to the Britton Fund to support tree related research, education and awareness! You can donate online at <http://www.thebrittonfund.org/the-britton-fund-ride/2014-riders/>. **Donation deadline is March 15th!** The deadline says March 15th, but you can still donate online!
- D) Jamilee Kempton will be competing at the NATCC April 5-6, Pasadena California.

ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamilee Kempton

PLEASE JOIN US!

*The Seven Palms Bar and Grille – April 16th, 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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