

ALOHA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES – 09/21/2016
Location: The Old Spaghetti Factory, Ward Warehouse

Members in Attendance: Desiree Page, Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Angela Liu, Kevin Eckert, Steve Nimz, J Zambo, Steve Connolly, Alicia Yballa
Guests: Don Bergan

1) Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Meeting called to order by President J Zambo at 6:50pm. The 8/17/2016 Minutes were approved without changes.

2) Old Business

a) Training

- i) Hands On Training at Lyon Arboretum, late February to March 2017 (Jamilee Kempton/Steve Connolly) – Tabled. This topic is to be removed from the agenda until further notice.
 - ii) Tree Appraisal Workshop, 9/01/16 Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens (Carol Kwan) – There were 37 attendees, and \$500 was received from James Komen.
 - iii) WCISA / AAA Hawaii Regional Workshop 2017 (Angela Liu) – AAA has reached out to WCISA and contacts on Kauai, Maui and the Big Island to coordinate dates between the second and fourth full weeks of June. We're also waiting to hear back from John Ball about potential hands-on safety topics.
- b) Research Committee (Chair: Dudley Hulbert) – Dudley will be inviting Andy Kaufman to an AAA meeting to provide an update on his DOT-funded research project on the impact of tree roots on road pavement.
- c) Hawaii Tree Climbing Championship, February or March 2017, Location TBA (Steve Connolly/Greg Severino?) – Tabled.
- d) LICH Conference 2016 (Steve Nimz) – All available slots for the Arborist Track are filled, and speakers include Roxanne Adams, and J Zambo among others. There will be about 5 CEUs available, and Kirk Caldwell will be the keynote speaker.
- e) WCISA Annual Conference 2019 (Carol Kwan) – Phil Ruiz and Rhonda Wood, coordinators for the WCISA Tree Climbing Championship, have agreed to hold their TCC in Hawaii for 2019 at the same time as the annual conference. Logistics to be worked out include shipping, and finding trees that can be used for the competition.
- f) Volunteer Workday, Queen Emma's Summer Palace (Carol Kwan) – Tabled.
- g) Chainsaw Workshop, Beginner Level – Tabled.

3) New Business

a) Pest of the Month – South American Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus palmarum*)

- i) Description: ~1 ½ inch long, shiny black, with small hairs on its body and a typical weevil "snout". The larvae are 1-5" long and pupate in a 3" fibrous cocoon. SAPW also is the primary vector of the nematode causing red ring disease and one of the most significant pests of oil and coconut palms.
- ii) Distribution: Recently discovered in San Diego County in California. Native to South America, and Central America to Texas area. SAPW and the red ring nematode currently are both limited to South and Central America, and the Caribbean islands.
- iii) Hosts: 35 plant species in 12 different families, with economic damage to palms and sugar cane. (SAPW is found feeding on ripe fruit of other species.) Hosts include *Phoenix dactylifera* and *P. canariensis* (date and Canary Island date palms), coconut palm, *Cycas revoluta* (king sago palm), Mexican fan palm, mango, papaya, avocado, breadfruit, banana, guava, citrus, and cocoa.
- iv) Symptoms and Damage: This weevil feeds on and destroys apical growth of the palm host, eventually killing the palm. Foliage yellows, new and emerging fronds bend and die. Frass, holes and tunneling, foul odor, and pupal cases also are observed.

- v) Control: Chemical control is ineffective at destroying weevils and larvae once a palm is infested. Infested tree material should be chipped and treated with an insecticide, burned or buried deeply.
 - vi) Reference:
 - “*Invasive Species Compendium: Rhychophorus palmarum*,” (updated June 2016),” CAB International. Retrieved from: [www.cabi.org http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/47473](http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/47473)
 - “South American Palm Weevil Detected in San Diego County,” *UC IPM Green Bulletin* (Vol.6 No.2 August 2016), p.1, p.5.
 - b) Honolulu Trees Coalition – Desiree Page signed on to represent AAA for HTC activities
 - c) 6th Annual Malama the Trees Workshop – AAA Co-sponsorship (Angela Liu) – Maui Green and Beautiful asked AAA to sponsor their 11/12/16 workshop with a commitment of \$100. The donation will be used for costs such as advertising, airfare for speakers, copies, and other workshop costs. AAA will be recognized in advertisements, and can provide materials to be given out at the workshop. Carol Kwan motioned to sponsor the event, and was seconded by Dudley Hulbert; the motion was passed.
- 4) Announcements
- a) Arborist and Tree Worker Certification Exams, 10/08/16 – Carol Kwan will be proctoring by herself for the first time; Angela Liu, Desire Page and others will be helping. Greg Severino, Sergio, and Austin Braaten do not yet have approval for their applications to be evaluators for aerial lift operation, though this is not expected to impact the exam.
 - b) ANSI A300 Review and Comment Period (Carol Kwan) – Public review and comment of Part 1 Pruning and Part 9 Tree Risk Assessment is due 10/03/16. AAA will be sending out an email encouraging members to submit comments about these important industry standards.
 - c) Jamilee Kempton was congratulated for being awarded the 2016 Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship.
 - d) Department of Agriculture Tree ID (Carol Kwan) – Bishop Museum helped identify the tree as *Cordia dichotoma*, an invasive species of the Hawaiian islands. The tree has a weedy appearance, and abundant sticky fruit. See attached photos.
 - e) Aerial Rescue Training – Eleven individuals attended the aerial rescue training by Makani Consulting on 9/10/16. The event assisted tree workers in preparing for ISA’s Tree Worker Certification exams in October.
 - f) The Tree Risk Assessment Qualification training 10/DD/16 has enrolled sixteen participants.
 - g) **PLEASE JOIN US!** *The next meeting is scheduled for:*

November 16th, 2016, 6:30pm, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, Ward Village

- 5) Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Liu

Attachments:

- “South American Palm Weevil Detected in San Diego County,” *UC IPM Green Bulletin* (Vol.6 No.2 August 2016), p.1, p.5.
- “*Cordia dichotoma* – Photos,” Carol Kwan (2016).



South American Palm Weevil Detected in San Diego County

The South American palm weevil (SAPW), *Rhynchophorus palmarum*, was recently discovered in a Canary Island date palm in San Ysidro, southern San Diego County.

Twenty additional Canary Island date palms in the San Ysidro area appear to be infested, but have not yet been confirmed.

The biology of SAPW is similar to the red palm weevil that was eradicated from Laguna Beach, Orange County, between 2010–2012. The adult of the South American palm weevil is approximately 1½" long, all black in color, with small hairs on its body (Figure 1). The larvae range from 1–5" long and pupate in a 3" fibrous cocoon (Figure 2).

The SAPW, native to Mexico and Central and South America, destroys the apical growth of the palm by feeding on the growing tissue in the palm crown, eventually killing the palm (Figure 3). This differs from the symptoms of fusarium wilt which causes dying of lower branches.

Symptoms of infested palms include yellowing foliage as well as death of new and emerging fronds.

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T. ELLIS, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Figure 1. South American palm weevil adult (*Rhynchophorus palmarum*).



L. TAYLOR, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Figure 2. South American palm weevil cocoon.



J. PELHAM, UCCCE

Figure 3. Dead Canary Island date palm from South American palm weevil.

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Palm Weevil

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Signs of the pest include accumulated frass (insect excrement) at the base of the leaves and pupal cases on the ground near the tree. Holes and tunneling can also be found at the base of palm fronds.



L. TAYLOR, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Figure 4. Chipping Canary Island date palm to reduce SAPW population.

In addition to Canary Island date palms, the South American palm weevil is also known to attack coconut palms, date palms, and the king sago palm in the cycad family.

It is believed that the spread of this pest can be delayed with the fast detection and removal of infested trees. Chipping (Figure 4), burning, and burying infested material deeply can reduce the likelihood that SAPW will emerge and escape from infested palms.

To report a palm displaying SAPW symptoms in San Diego County, please call the County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures Insect/Bee Hotline at 1-800-200-2337. If the affected palm tree is in another county, please contact your local agricultural commissioner's office.

—**Jennifer Pelham**, UCCE Area Environmental Horticulture Advisor UCCE San Diego & Orange counties, jlpelham@ucanr.edu; **Tracy Ellis**, Agricultural Entomologist, County of San Diego, Tracy.Ellis@sdcountry.ca.gov.

Flux Diseases ...continued from p.2

they can be more serious). Neither disease affects tree structure, and slime flux only occasionally causes branch dieback.

Foamy flux is typically also benign, as it usually dries up with the onset of cool weather in late fall. Importantly, no treatment has been shown to consistently result in tree improvement, and chemical treatments are ineffective.



J.K. CLARK, UC IPM

Stained wood exuding fluid around the crotch due to bacterial wetwood infection.

Slime flux has occasionally been treated with scribing (excision) of the margins of the bleeding canker, but this is supported only by anecdotal evidence. On the other hand, such "surgery" may risk interfering with the tree's own process for compartmentalizing and sealing-over the damaged area. Because of this concern, installation of drainage tubes is also no longer recommended.

Instead, provide appropriate cultural care—which may mean providing water—and avoid wounding the tree. The bark staining can often be washed off with water.

Additionally, continue monitoring the tree, as other problems (such as Phytophthora or other canker diseases like *Armillaria*) could occur on the same tree and should not be allowed to go unnoticed as they can resemble the flux diseases, but are distinguishable upon closer examination.

—**Igor Lacan**, Urban Forestry Advisor, UCCE San Francisco Bay Area, ilacan@ucanr.edu



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Production: C. Laning



Produced by the University of California Statewide IPM Program with partial funding from the USDA NIFA EIPM Coordination Program. To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

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WHAT IS IPM? Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs focus on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques including resistant plant varieties, biological control, physical or mechanical control, and modification of gardening and home maintenance practices to reduce conditions favorable for pests. Pesticides are part of IPM programs but are used only when needed. Products are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.







**St. George's Episcopal Church
511 Main Street
Unknown Tree**



Figure 1



Figure 2

**St. George's Episcopal Church
511 Main Street
Unknown Tree**



Figure 1



Figure 2