

**Aloha Arborist Association  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2016**

Members Present: Steve Connolly, Steve Nimz, Carol Kwan, Gregory Severino, J. Zambo, Walt Warriner

Guests: Dan Sereno (guest of Walt), Tim Walsh (guest of Steve C.)

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 18, 2016, MEETING MINUTES**

- A) President J. Zambo called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. The May 18, 2016, meeting minutes were approved as is.

**II. WELCOME TO GUESTS**

- A) J. welcomed our guests, Tim Walsh – safety manager for Davey, and Dan Sereno – landscape manager for City of Newport Beach, CA

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

A) Training Workshops

i) Tree Fungi Workshops (WCISA Regional Conferences)

- (a) Carol reported that the Tree Fungi workshops did well financially. WCISA has calculated the local partners' shares at \$1,854 for AAA, \$606 for Maui Green & Beautiful, \$219 for Kauai Landscape Industry Council, and \$416 for HILA.

- (b) Steve Connolly mentioned that Jessie Glaeser is looking for samples of *Laetiporus* fungi from Hawaii. He sent some that he found but it turned out to be a different fungus. The fungus sample must be fresh and there are specific shipping methods. It can't be in a plastic bag. The U.S. Forest Service will pay the shipping costs. She's doing research on *Laetiporus* and is collecting samples from all over the world. Steve will send the info to Carol to disseminate to members via email.

ii) Lyon Arboretum Hands-on Training

- (a) Discussed sending out a survey to see what type of workshop would be of most interest – felling, rigging, or climbing. Steve Connolly will send Carol the info to put out on a survey. The workshop could be run through LICH so we can get the Employer Training Fund (ETF) match and keep employers' costs down. Tim Walsh mentioned that the Arbor Safety Training Institute (ASTI) provides funds for low cost training. He doesn't recall the dollar amount, but we should be able to find out from TCIA. Target September for the training. Walt said he would help to research what's required for ASTI funds.

iii) Tree Appraisal Workshop

- (a) Nothing new to report. Scheduled for 9/1/2016 at Ho'omaluhia. Speaker is James Komen.

B) Urban Garden Center Outreach Training

- i) We're confirmed for 8/13/2016. Steve Nimz and Desiree Page will handle the inside class, Carol, J. and Andrew will do the outside class under the tent. There will be an Ask an Arborist booth.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*)

- i) Description: Mature chilli thrips are less than 1-2 mm in length. ID should be confirmed by entomologist.
- ii) Distribution: Native to Southeast Asia. Found in Hawaii, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Australia, Eastern Europe, Kenya, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, and in numerous Caribbean islands.
- iii) Hosts: Attacks over 100 species in 40 different Families, including crape myrtle, golden dewdrop, star jasmine, camellia, Indian hawthorn, *Acacia* spp., *Ficus elastica*, *Schefflera arboricola*, *Pittosporum* spp., *Podocarpus macrophyllus*, castor bean, ashoka, *Prunus* spp., mountain apple, mango, and *Citrus* spp. It is one of two species of thrips that attack naio. Naio thrips (*Klambothrips myopori*) is the second species.
- iv) Symptoms and damage: Attacks all above ground parts of a plant but prefers young leaves, buds, and fruits. Feeding can cause bronzing of affected parts and distortion. Young leaves can curl upward and discolor. Infested plants may be stunted and can defoliate. Symptoms may be confused with herbicide damage and fungal disease.
- v) Control: Several pesticides are available. Rotation of pesticides is recommended. Although no biological control agents were noted in the references, Hawaii's infestation problems are much less than Florida's so something may be feeding on them.
- vi) Reference: <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/ChilliThrips.pdf>

B) Hawaii TCC

- i) We need a new chair to run the next Hawaii Tree Climbing Championship (TCC). Greg is willing to help judge but he's not up to running the event. Steve Connolly will not be available 10/1/2016 – 1/1/2017. Sergio and Andrew were suggested as possible chairs.
- ii) The ITCC 2017 will be held in August in conjunction with the ISA Conference so we should be able to push back HTCC until next year, maybe February.
- iii) Discussed changing the format of the event so that's it's more of a workshop rather than just doing what we've done in the past. Steve Connolly would like to see a hybrid workshop/competition. We have to comply with ISA's rules for insurance coverage, but we could make it more engaging. Maybe safety training in conjunction with climbing events. Tim Walsh said this should qualify for ASTI funding too. Steve Nimz noted that it started as a jamboree in the 1970s, with events from cross cut saw to a log drop to

raking up branches and leaves through a maze to a couple of climbing events plus a zip line for trees along with a barbeque. The current format isn't appealing to our local workers. We could make it an event with a competition going on in the background as a minor part of it. With the time and effort that we've been putting into it, we haven't been getting the desired outcome. Steve Nimz moved to put together a committee to restructure HTCC. Greg seconded. Motion passed. Steve Nimz, Steve Connolly, and Greg will co-chair the committee and send out notices.

C) LICH Conference 2016 – 10/6/2016

- i) Steve Nimz reported on the Arborist Track for the upcoming LICH Conference. *Steve Connolly* – understanding electrical hazards in the landscape; *Walt* – preparing trees for construction through root pruning; *Jamilee* – climbing a tree safely and easily; *Steve Nimz* – analyzing structural integrity of a tree without cutting it down using tomograph and Resistograph. There will also be something on irrigation. If anyone has another topic to suggest/volunteer for, they're still flexible at this point.

V. Tim Walsh

A) Tim had three items to share with AAA

- i) He will be Davey's safety director soon and will be traveling a lot. When he's in Hawaii, he's willing to put on a workshop in conjunction with his trip. Davey's president wants them out doing things in the industry. As soon as he knows of an upcoming trip, he can let AAA know so we can plan a workshop while he's here. We need some lead time – at least 2 months' notice helps. Getting a venue is the biggest issue. He has talks for preparing for ISA certifications (Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Worker) and TCIA's tree care academies.
- ii) The second comment period will be opening soon for the revised Z133. It should be in around 2-3 weeks. Make sure to take a look at it and provide input. They're hoping there won't be any major comments out of this round since major changes have already been made. The electrical work changes are significant. OSHA changed stuff in its 269 so our industry had to match those changes. There are 3 tables now for minimum approach distances.
- iii) In July, there's a meeting scheduled with OSHA because of proposed federal tree care safety standards. The industry has been fighting because once it's in print, it doesn't change for decades and our industry's technology changes too fast. We update the Z133 every 5 years. One of the things that our industry is pushing hard for is that utility line clearance is excluded from this.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) ISA Annual Conference 8/13-17/2016 in Fort Worth, TX. Tim Walsh will be there. No one local going that we know of.

- B) Steve Connolly proposed that the WCISA TCC be couple with the WCISA Conference. Walt commented that it's just too much all at once. Steve also noted that we've never had a WCISA TCC in Hawaii and we're one of the states. He suggested holding it in Hawaii in 2019 when the WCISA Conference will be here. Steve C. is willing to be the local volunteer to make sure things go smoothly. We should be able to put together enough gear locally so that we don't have to ship things from the Mainland. Carol will discuss this idea with Philip Ruiz, TCC Chair for WCISA. Greg noted that if it's held here, we could skip HTCC that year and just hold WCISA TCC instead.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President J. Zambo at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Kwan

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 17, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Old Spaghetti Factory*

#### Attachments:

1. Pest of the Month – Chilli Thrips

## Chilli Thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*): A Landscaper's Guide

Chilli thrips\* (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*) are extremely small insects that often go undetected by gardeners and landscapers. However, the damage they cause is apparent and prolonged. Chilli thrips is native to southern Asia. It was first detected on landscape plants in 2005 and 2007 in Florida and Houston, Texas, respectively.

**Biology:** Adults are less than 2 mm (0.08 inches), pale with dark wings. Immature are also pale in color but without wings. The chilli thrips resembles many other thrips species.



Photos from University of Florida files

**Hosts:** Chilli thrips feed on more than 100 plants from about 40 different families which include vegetable, fruit and ornamentals.

**Table 1: Some Host Plants of Chilli Thrips**

Common Name	Species	Family
Acacia	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Fabaceae
Asoka Tree	<i>Saraca indica</i>	Fabaceae
Awabuki	<i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i> var Awabuki	Adoxaceae
Banana	<i>Musa sp.</i>	Musaceae
Bay Laurel; Bayleaf	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Lauraceae
Castor Bean	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Citrus	<i>Citrus sp.</i>	Rutaceae
Dahlia	<i>Dahlia sp.</i>	Asteraceae
Dwarf Schefflera; Arboricola	<i>Schefflera arboricola</i>	Araliaceae
Eggplant	<i>Solanum melongena</i>	Solanaceae
Fig (Edible)	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Moraceae
Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>	Rosaceae
Levant cotton	<i>Gossypium herbaceum</i>	Malvaceae
Malay Apple	<i>Syzygium malaccense</i>	Myrtaceae
Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae
Maple	<i>Acer sp.</i>	Sapindaceae
Peanut	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>	Fabaceae

\*Chilli thrips is both singular and plural

**Table 1, cont. Some Host Plants of Chilli Thrips**

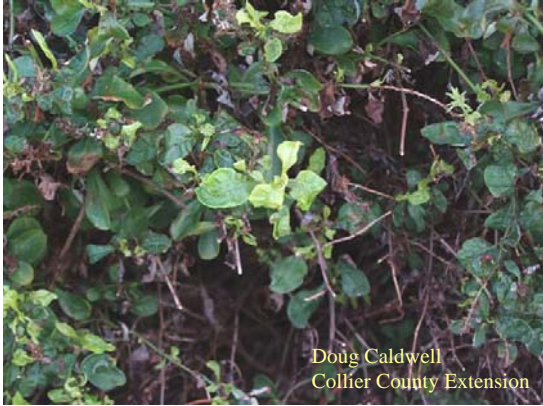
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Family</b>
Purple Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus blitum</i>	Amaranthaceae
Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Pittosporaceae
Plumbago	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	Plumbaginaceae
Podocarpus	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i>	Podocarpaceae
Rhododendrom	<i>Rhododendron sp.</i>	Ericaceae
Sensitive Plant; Touch-me-not	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Fabaceae
Star Jasmine	<i>Jasminum multiflorum</i>	Oleaceae
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria x ananassa</i>	Rosaceae
Tamarind	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Fabaceae

**Damage:** Chilli thrips attacks all the above ground parts of its host plants. It prefers young leaves, buds and fruits. Thrips feed by roughly rubbing (rasping) emerging and new plant parts. The rasping breaks plant tissue that oozes sap on which the insect feeds. Feeding may cause leaves to curl upward and become distorted appearing much like herbicide damage. Feeding also causes leaf, bud, and fruit tissue to turn bronze in color. Newer leaves are often shiny and older ones are frequently scarred from rasping. Infested plants become stunted and severe infestations can result in total defoliation of the host. The symptoms may be confused for a fungal disease. This was particularly true with plumbago before chilli thrips was identified as the culprit responsible for blackened leaves and leafless stems. Despite severe damage on its many hosts, it can be a challenge to collect more than a handful of chilli thrips even from many infested plants.



The bottom row of plants is *Plumbago auriculata* many of which were completely defoliated by chilli thrips and removed shortly thereafter.





Doug Caldwell  
Collier County Extension

Chilli thrips damage to plumbago causes distorted, curled leaves and defoliation.



Lyle Buss  
University of Florida

New damage on Indian Hawthorn



Stephen Brown  
Lee County Extension

Damage to variegated dwarf schefflera



Stephen Brown  
Lee County Extension

Old damage on Indian Hawthorn



Stephen Brown  
Lee County Extension

Damage to dwarf schefflera



Stephen Brown  
Lee County Extension

Defoliated Indian Hawthorn



Chilli Thrips affected *Viburnum odoratissimum* var. Awabuki on Captiva Island

**Chemical Control:** Without a good control strategy, chilli thrips can be a difficult pest to manage. There are a number of insecticides available to control this pest. Foliar applications of systemic insecticides have proven more effective in controlling this pest than soil drenches. Since chilli thrips feed on new growth, it is important to spray when the plant is actively growing. The thrips are generally not present on older damaged leaves. Thus, pruning of infected plant to stimulate new growth may be warranted. Systemic insecticides should be applied as a foliar spray. Resistance management strategies must be used. Such strategies may include, but are not limited to, rotation of products with different modes of action, avoid treatment of successive generations with the same products. On severely infested plants, an initial spray program may include a treatment with Spinosad, followed 7 to 10 days later by a neonicotinoid, and 7 to 10 days afterwards by the application of an organophosphate. Non-chemical alternatives such as beneficial arthropods and various cultural practices are recommended. For the latest on chili thrips go to <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/chillithrips.html>

**Table 2. Suggested Insecticides for the Control of Chilli Thrips**

Active Ingredient	Chemical Family	Brand Names	Use	Application for chilli thrips control
Acephate	Organophosphate	Orthene	Contact and systemic. Six to 9 days residual activity.	Foliar
Acetamiprid	Neonicotinoid	Tristar	Contact and systemic. Long lasting and fast acting.	Foliar
Dinotefuran	Neonicotinoid	Safari	Contact and systemic. Systemic activity is through the roots.	Foliar
Imidacloprid	Neonicotinoid	Merit, Discuss	Contact and stomach poison systemic. Good root systemic activity. Shorter systemic activity when foliar applied.	Foliar
Spinosad	Spinosyn. Derived from soil bacterium	Conserve, Precise	Translaminar**. Stomach poison. Not absorbed from the soil. Quick knock-down.	Foliar
Abamectin	Avermectins. Derived from soil bacterium	Avid	Translaminar. Stomach poison. Not absorbed from the soil. Seven to 10 days residual activity.	Foliar

\*\* Local, systemic activity. Does not move into and through the vascular system.

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