



ALOHA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES – 01/18/2017 – Approved
Old Spaghetti Factory, Ward Village, Honolulu

Members in Attendance: Carol Kwan, Desiree Page, Lance Bookless, Steve Nimz, Steve Connolly, Jamilee Kempton, Kevin Eckert, J Zambo, Andrew Kendall
Guests: Darcy Oishi, Diane Eckert, Ilana Nimz, Josh Ongman, Kailee Tam

- 1) Call to Order & Approval of Minutes – The meeting was called to order by President J Zambo at 6:50pm. The minutes from October and November 2016 were approved. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Gregory Severino.
- 2) Guest Speakers – Darcy Oishi, Plant Pest Control Branch, HI Department of Agriculture
Kailee Tam, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Specialist
 - a) Hala scale – The pest, also known as Pandanus scale (*Thysanococcus pandani*), was initially discovered in SE Asia. Little is known about the pest’s biology or ecology. The early stages of larval development are almost impossible to see with the naked eye – a loupe must be used to detect them. Instead, one should look for yellowing and necrotic spots, progressing toward the leaf margins as tissue death becomes more widespread.
 - The hala scale is a pest of all species within the hala genus (Pandanus), and it attacks all aerial parts of the hala plant – leaves, stems, aerial roots, and fruit. Species with more pronounced thorns appear to be more resistant to the hala scale. More mature trees also appear to survive longer and have more resistance. On Maui, persistent infestation over years have killed some hala trees. Trees that are not maintained – and infestations that go untreated – are the biggest source of the problem.
 - A population has been found on Oahu in Waialua and St. Louis. (The pest is widespread on Maui, and is found in pockets on Molokai.) So far there has not been any detection on the Big Island. Chaminade University is working with HDOA on an eradication program. Eradication will be challenging, due in part to the difficulty in detecting the pest early enough. HDOA needs arborists to keep their eyes open and report symptoms and suspected discoveries, especially on Oahu. Light infestations may be overlooked.
 - Cultural practitioners are the primary mode of inter-island transport of scale-infested hala material. The scale can be moved on live or dead hala material. Outreach has been conducted and very well received, but just one person moving hala material can introduce the pest.
 - Symptoms of this scale on hala include yellowing (chlorosis) of the leaves. On Maui, this scale is widespread and well-known.
 - Many chemical controls have been tested, so far none have been effective at the goal of eradication. HDOA in concert with University of Hawaii is currently testing injectable systemics, though it is highly uncertain whether there will be a successful outcome. There also are efforts underway to find a biological control agent. One biocontrol agent from Indonesia had poor survival rates and was not viable. Oils are most effective, but they also kill the natural enemies of hala scale.
 - HDOA asks that samples be brought to their King Street office. On Maui and Molokai, HDOA recommends that infested plant material be removed, bagged, solarized, and then disposed rather than recycled as green waste.
 - National Tropical Botanical Garden is putting together a presentation for a major conference in the near future.
 - b) Based on information from a meeting of experts from California, Florida, and Hawaii in which Darcy participated, he is of the opinion that threats from the South American palm weevil are greater than those posed by CRB. SAPW-infested palms are found with such extensive internal damage as to require removal by crane.

- c) Polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) vectoring *Fusarium dieback* – PSHB infests live trees, reproduce by the millions and can result in tree death within 6 months. Apparently healthy trees were observed with borer holes on every centimeter of trunk area all the way to the top. Four different fungal pathogens are vectored by this beetle.
 - Tree industry professionals should look for a high density of small borer holes on the trunks of host species. If found, these trees should be reported to HDOA immediately.
 - The fungal pathogens have not yet been discovered in our state. Hawaii’s existing pests could act as vectors if those pathogens are introduced into the state.
 - Mr. Oishi has recommended to HDOA that a team of the state’s experts go to California to investigate. He is particularly concerned about shipping between San Diego naval bases and Hawaii that could introduce the pest along with its associated pathogens.
- d) Janice Uchida, UH CTAHR, will be getting funding from USDA to study laurel wilt. HDOA has asked her to expand her research to include other *Fusarium* pathogens as well.
- e) Kevin Eckert mentioned that he’s seen peach scale on papaya at his residence and it seems worse than usual. Darcy asked him to take photos and send them to him as HDOA thinks there might be a more aggressive scale attacking papayas now, but unfortunately the first plant it was reported on was destroyed before they were able to collect samples.
- f) Coconut rhinoceros beetle –
 - The main populations are at Iroquois Point, Ewa Beach, and Pearl City peninsula off of Lehua Avenue. CRB have been found where mangrove trees were chipped and left as mulch.
 - Additional discoveries have been made in Puuloa (27 or more palms are expected to be removed and destroyed), and Mamala Bay (currently the number of cases there are low). Experts at this point are uncertain as to whether Malama Bay was the starting point of infestations, and believe that signs are now pointing to Iroquois Point as the starting point.
 - Various treatments are being tested, including foliar sprays, sound, and wrapping tree trunks with ribbons. HDOA has installed permanent spray nozzles in coconut palm canopies to apply continuous treatment. Treatment options have been expensive to maintain.
 - HDOA would like Guam to do more research about wrapping trunks with ribbon mesh. There has been some evidence that adult CRBs fly onto the trunks five to six feet above ground, then walk the rest of the way up to the crowns of palms.
 - Studies on chemical control are currently testing imidacloprid and acephate (Orthene) injections. One hundred trees were treated, and initial results show some promise. Even if the chemicals could contribute a small percentage population reduction, that would help the effort to eradicate it.
 - The tree industry is being asked to be on the lookout for larval activity in palm crowns, especially if you’re in infested areas. Please report any suspected infestations immediately.
- g) For the next Aloha Arborist Association meeting, Darcy will present on new avocado tree pests, including infected germ plasm delivered to Frankie’s Nursery.

3) Old Business

- a) Research Committee (Chair: Dudley Hulbert) –Tabled.
- b) Hawaii Tree Jamboree, February 25 2017, Kualoa Ranch (Chair: Andrew Kendall) –
 - The Kualoa Ranch location has been confirmed.
 - Lake Gibby is corralling climbers from all around.
 - Climb Aloha will be participating.
 - The Jamboree is looking for volunteers to help before and during the event.
 - o They need someone to run the crosscut sawing, leaf-raking maze, and wheelbarrow relay events
 - o We also need logs with set dimensions for the wheelbarrow event (contact Lake Gibby 426-6881 for more information)

- The Jamboree committee is working on finding sponsorship; this has been challenging. TreeStuff, a potential sponsor, was bought out by Sherrill Tree. Carol will contact Aloha Power about sponsoring.
 - The committee is looking for donations to be used as prizes. Anything related to climbing is acceptable; they may get a chain saw for the grand prize. Darcy Oishi offered to find out about getting a hotel stay as a prize. Potential sponsors are being informed that this event is aimed at a larger audience within the industry, including groundsmen. Cash prizes also may be given. The committee also is planning to get a trophy, which will be given to the winner for a one-year time period, and which will be relinquished to the next year's winner.
 - AAA will provide water, a portable toilet, and PA system, memorial for Greg Severino, and possibly a banner to hang outside Kualoa Ranch announcing the Jamboree to passersby.
 - The following events have the designated volunteer oversight:
 - o Dudley – master of ceremony
 - o Steve Connolly – work climb
 - o Lance – speed climb, foot lock event
 - o Desiree – throwball
 - o Dudley – tug o' war
 - o Aloha Power – Keiki climb
 - Event Preparations:
 - o J – Two wheelbarrows and wood for the wheelbarrow race, 1" diameter rope for the tug o' war, bullhorn for Dudley. He also has a big trailer that can be used to anchor for the crosscut sawing event. (uniform 18" to 24" diameter pine logs will be used for this event.)
 - o Sergio – 6-8 rakes plus small coconuts for the coconut raking event.
 - o We need hard-to-rake objects for the Rake Master challenge, e.g. fronds.
 - o Alan Anduha – checking for equipment and supplies that Greg Severino had been storing on behalf of his employer Paradise Landscape Maintenance Inc.
 - o Carol – contact David Leonard to take photos
 - o Desiree – Signage (Darcy to donate white corrugated boards for this purpose)
 - o Two weeks before the event – Set up bells and flags
 - o One week before Jamboree – Saturday Feb. 18, 8:00AM – clean crown, stage events, etc. Everyone is encouraged to come help.
 - A barefoot coconut tree climb was suggested, however there are no coconut palms nearby.
 - Everyone is encouraged to get the word out that the Jamboree this year does not have a master challenge, it's all about having fun.
 - It was noted that this year Hawaii will not have official representatives at the Western Chapter Tree Climbing Championship (climbers interested in competing are going as individuals).
- c) Chainsaw Workshop, Beginner Level – Tabled.
- d) Queen Emma's Summer Palace Volunteer Workday & Barbecue (Carol Kwan) – The palace's board of directors has approved a donation to AAA of \$1,000. Carol and Steve Connolly will schedule a meeting at the site. They're aiming for the event to take place in March.
- e) Alternate Workday, Bellows Air Force Base (Dudley Hulbert) – This item was struck from the agenda. The work has recently gone out to bid.
- f) WCISA / AAA 2017 Hawaii Regional Workshop with John Ball (Angela Liu) – The talking points proposed by John Ball were approved by the board.
- g) WCISA Annual Conference 2019 (Carol Kwan) – Requests for Proposals have been sent out to four possible venues.
- 4) New Business
- a) LICH Conference 2017
- Steve Nimz is planning to have Frank Rinn present half of the arborist track for the next LICH

conference, or to have Frank do a separate workshop in late October/early November. The main cost for this plan would be transportation.

- Garrett Webb is planning an environmental theme for the conference, with speakers like Kathleen Wolf. Steve Nimz will take the lead on any activities related to Frank Rinn.

 - a) UH Agricultural and Environmental Awareness Day (Fri & Sat. 2/10/2017 to 2/11/2017) – Carol and Lance will be volunteering on Friday; Desiree volunteered for Saturday. Additional volunteers need to be recruited.
 - b) DCCA Annual Filing – Interim appointment of new board member (Desiree Page) – The DCCA annual filing requires the submittal of the names of all officers and board members. To fill the vacancy due to the recent passing of Gregory Severino, president J Zambo appointed Sergio Vasquez as the new board member.
 - c) Aerial Rescue Training for CTW Exams (Carol Kwan) – Kevin Eckert and Jamilee Kempton will be able to make Aerial Rescue Training available for tree workers preparing for the Certified Tree Worker exam.
 - d) Proposal for AAA Workshop on New OSHA Mandate on Use of Travel Restraint System (J Zambo) – OSHA ban of body belts and lanyards on buckets 1/17/2017. Employers required to provide training for new systems by 5/17/2017. J will write an article about this for *Landscape Hawaii*.
 - e) Tree Appraisal Workshop Part 2 by James Komen. James is interested in presenting another Tree Appraisal workshop in Hawaii. It was agreed that Angela should send out a survey to determine how much demand there is for the workshop before we decide if we want to support this effort.
 - f) Kunia Orchid Society Meeting (Carol Kwan, 9/05/2017) – Carol was invited to present on pruning young trees and shrubs for Kunia Orchid Society. She would like to do this on behalf of AAA. This activity was approved by the Board. The honorarium will be given to AAA.
- 5) Announcements
- b) Carol Kwan is working on organizing a Celebration of Life for Greg Severino including a tree planting. She's trying to get permission to plant a tree at a City beach park since he wanted his ashes scattered in the ocean.
 - c) ***Please join us for our next meeting on:***

February 15th, 2017, 6:30pm, Old Spaghetti Factory

- 6) Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Liu