



**ALOHA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES – 04/18/2018 - DRAFT**  
**Gordon Biersch, Honolulu, HI**

Members in Attendance: J Zambo, Lance Bookless, Desiree Page, Dudley Hulbert, Sergio Vasquez, Andrew Kendall, Angela Liu, David Serpa, Kainoa Holt

1. Call to Order and Approval of Meeting Minutes of 01/17/18, 2/21/18, and 3/21/18 - The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm. The minutes from January to March were approved with no changes.
2. Old Business
  - a) Research Committee (Chair: Dudley Hulbert) – Dudley reported he expects to be able to arrange a meeting with the new dean at UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. It appears that the college's plans for the next four or five years does not include expansion or addition of any new positions (there had been hope that an extension position was being considered). Per Dudley's communications with Dr. Kaufman, DOT funding is no longer available. There followed a discussion coordinating a seminar or workshop to be delivered by an entomologist. Sergio agreed to contact the entomologist he has worked with before as a possible candidate.

Dudley also suggested a workshop for homeowners on abiotic disorders; Desiree suggested that the event should have free registration. J let the group know that Leeward Community College wants to be on our community [contact] list and take advantage of all of AAA's activities. Dudley added that ideally AAA would have a community talk every month.
  - b) ISA Certified Arborist / Tree Worker Exams, Saturday 04/14/2018 (Desiree Page) – Tabled.
  - c) Hui Manu-o-Kū Collaboration with AAA – Bird Banding Project (Angela Liu) – Tabled.
  - d) Summer Volunteer Workday (Dudley Hulbert) – Angela clarified that this is the event discussed last meeting to do cleanup at Kualoa Ranch. Andrew added that he would like AAA to develop relationships with more centrally located facilities, including for example parks where the trees already are regularly maintained. J restated that AAA should always be looking to build a variety of relationships, and asked Dudley to identify three dates when the event might take place.
  - e) Aerial Rescue Training, August 2018 (Andrew Kendall) – The group had previously discussed picking a date in August, and settled on the eighteenth as a tentative date. There also have been email discussions with Jake Kane to hold an aerial rescue training on Maui. AAA would like to develop other instructors in addition to Justin Donahue, which will entail vetting candidates' backgrounds and credentials.
  - f) Western Chapter Regional Conference in Hawai'i, August-September 2018 (Angela Liu) – Ty McDonald, this year's local coordinator, has had a full plate with other commitments including kicking off a new program. Carol Kwan has suggested to him that Gordon Mann may be more available if Rick Gessner has family commitments that limit his ability to travel here. Carol will be seeing Gordon at the Western Chapter Annual Conference in Santa Rosa, and will be talking to him about his availability. The timeframe for organizing this event is becoming more limited.
  - g) Proposed Hawai'i Tree Jamboree 2019 on Big Island (Andrew Kendall) – The board voted to hold the next Jamboree on the Big Island. The proposed date at this time is February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. There continues to be interest in dovetailing an aerial rescue training event either the preceding

Thursday or the Monday following the Jamboree. There was an acknowledgement that preparations for the Jamboree would be taking place on Friday, so that day would need to be left clear. That Monday will be Presidents' day, so it maybe the better option.

- h) Chainsaw Safety Workshop, Beginner Level (Dudley Hulbert) – Per Jayme Grzebik, Dudley’s contact at the Urban Garden Center, September would be a good month for this event. Desiree suggested that this event be geared towards homeowners, and that it should be free of charge.
- i) Proposed Certified Tree Worker (CTW) Exam Prep Course, March (Andrew Kendall) – Some board members feel that this would be an important service for AAA to provide. At the same time, it is a major undertaking as it would involve multiple class dates over a period of several weeks or more. This topic will be taken off the agenda until further notice.
- j) ISA Publications order (Carol Kwan) - Angela will be taking over responsibility for this order.
- k) Treasurer’s Report (Desiree Page) – Desiree distributed a report on the Aerial Rescue Training, showing revenues and expenses, as well as pass/fail rates for the aerial lift versus climbing trainees. She explained that AAA needs an audit committee that will oversee and review the treasurer’s activities on a monthly or other periodic basis, which is required for 501(c)(3) organizations. She will develop an outline of how the audit committee will operate, to be made available to everyone who is interested.

### 3. New Business

- a) Election of AAA officers and board members 2018-2019 (J Zambo) – There was a discussion about the roles and responsibilities of officers and board members, and the election process. The concern about having any one individual serve in multiple roles as officers or board members was acknowledged to be valid. J pointed out that a number of officers and board members recently left for different reasons, preventing the monthly meetings from reaching quorum in the last three months. He further emphasized that anyone interested in serving must attend at minimum seven out of eleven meetings in the year. Following the discussion, Andrew Kendall was nominated as treasurer and Desiree Page withdrew her nomination as treasurer. Kainoa Holt was nominated as a board member. The following slate was elected for the coming year:

President	Desiree Page	Past President	J Zambo
Vice President	Sergio Vasquez	Director	Dudley Hulbert
Treasurer	Andrew Kendall	Director	Justin Donahue
Secretary	Angela Liu	Director	Kainoa Holt

- b) Pest of the Month – Banyan stem gall wasp (*Agaonidae* (fig wasp) family, *Josephiella* sp.)  
Description: A gall wasp from the same genus as the Ficus leaf gall wasp (*Josephiella microcarpae*). This black wasp, about 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch (2mm) in length, was first discovered by board member Dudley Hulbert in Hawaii 2012, and has yet to be named (as of 2016).  
Distribution as of 2012: Oahu (widespread), Hawaii Island (Hilo), Maui (Kahului, Wailuku)  
Symptoms and Damage: Following oviposition in young stems and twigs, larvae hatch, feed and pupate inside the twig, causing swelling and gall formation; adults tunnel out leaving an exit hole. Some leaf drop, twig dieback, thinning. Degree of damage is difficult to separate from other pests infesting banyans, though it can contribute to tree death.

Control: Trunk injection of emamectin benzoate persisted against stem gall wasps for up to 14 months in pesticide trials. Phosphorous acid applications did not demonstrate any added benefits. However, field experience with emamectin is not consistent with research findings, and this remains a difficult pest to control.

Selected References:

- Bhandari ,Bishnu P., and Zhiqiang Cheng, “Trunk injection of systemic insecticides to control stem and leaf gall wasps, *Josephiella* species (Hymenoptera: Agaonidae), on Chinese banyan (Rosales: Moraceae) in Hawaii.” *Florida Entomologist* (2016 June), 99(2):172-177 (<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1653/024.099.0203>)
  - Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Plant Pest Control Branch, “Banyan Stem-Galling Wasp, a New Insect in Hawaii,” 08/28/2012.
- c) LICH Annual Conference: Education, The Key to Success – Request for Speakers / Arborist / Contractor Track (Sergio Vasquez) – Sergio will contact Matt Lyum to find out the planning schedule and how AAA can support this year’s program.

4. Announcements

- a) WCISA Annual Conference April 23-26, 2018 – Santa Rosa, CA
- b) Desiree announced that AAA will need to replace the signature card we currently have for the organization’s bank account. It will have at minimum Desiree as president and Andrew Kendall as treasurer, and may include Sergio as the vice president. The signature card will permit access to online banking. Also, Desiree is planning an executive committee meeting to review officer and board roles and responsibilities, as well as to organize the audit committee and other essential activities. She is interested in having this meeting at the Urban Garden Center.
- c) ***Please join us on:***

*May 16th, 2018, 6:30pm – Location to be determined*

5. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Liu

# HANDOUT

## Banyan Stem-Galling Wasp, a New Insect in Hawaii

Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Plant Pest Control Branch - August 28, 2012

**Insect species:** undetermined at this time. Specimens being sent to insect specialists for identification. Belongs to the family Agaonidae (fig wasps).

**Description:** a black wasp, about 1/16th inch or (2mm) in length (Fig. 3).

**First found in Hawaii:** July 13, 2012 (samples of infested stems submitted to HDOA by an arborist from the East-West Center, University of Hawaii).

**Host:** Chinese banyan, *Ficus microcarpa*, family Moraceae (Fig. 1). Tree is native from Ceylon to India, southern China, Ryukyu Islands, Australia, and New Caledonia.

**Island Distribution:** Oahu (widespread), Hawaii Island (Hilo), and Maui (Kahului, Wailuku).

**Biology:** The female wasp lays its egg in the young stems. The wasp larva hatches and feeds within the tissue (Fig. 4). As the larva develops, the stem becomes swollen and forms a gall (Fig. 5). The larva pupates and the wasp adult eventually emerges (Fig. 5), leaving a distinctive exit hole in the woody tissue (Fig. 2).

**Damage:** Some leaf drop and dieback of stems, causing canopy to thin out, although our surveys indicate varying degrees of infestation and damage.



Figure 3. Stem-galling wasp (1/16th inch)



4. Wasp larva in gall (1/16th inch)



1. Chinese banyan, *Ficus microcarpa*.



2. Galls in green stem tissue (left side in each picture) and old galls in woody tissue with wasp exit holes (right side).



5. Adult wasps in dissected stem galls.