

**Aloha Arborist Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2011**

Members Present: Gregory Severino, Carol Kwan, Steve Connolly, Dudley Hulbert, Quenna Johnson, Steve Nimz, Mark Leon, Kevin Eckert, Misti Beirne, Bob Speer, Sergio Vasquez, Jon Perry

Guests: John O'Shea, Bob Speer

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2010, MEETING MINUTES**

- A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. The November 17, 2010, minutes were approved as written.

**II. GUEST – Master Gardener Bob Speer**

- A) Bob thanked AAA for its involvement in the November 13, 2010, pruning demonstration. It was outstanding and they look forward to continuing our partnership. The Master Gardeners don't have a lot of experience with trees so it's easier for them to refer people to AAA. The Urban Garden Center (UGC) is 30 acres owned by the University of Hawaii and there are all kinds of demos that we could do there. There is an increased emphasis and support for trees, including a few paid staff who will help them take better care of their trees. The UGC is planning to do another event with AAA in November 2011 but they haven't decided whether to do it on the first Saturday with the Arbor Day tree giveaway or for their normal Second Saturday event. Dudley reported that the pruning demonstration was a very positive experience for AAA as well. If we can find another way to participate, that would be great. One of the things the UGC has to offer is access to the public. Over the past year, they have just about doubled the number of questions received per month. John asked if UGC does something at the Hawaii State Fair. Bob said that it does and Jayme would be the person to talk to about that since she's the paid staff person at UGC. All of the Master Gardeners are volunteers.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

A) Training Workshops

i) Small Workshops

(a) Basic Entry Methods/False Crotch

- (i) A conflict came up at Lyon Arboretum for January 22, 2010, so the workshop has been rescheduled for February 26, 2011. If another conflict comes up, they will switch venues to Greg's nursery. The workshop will cost \$50/person for AAA members and \$75/person for non-members. BYO food if you want to hang out afterwards. There won't be any actual climbing, just demonstrations like throwball techniques, equipment review, and a lot of little techniques to show people.

(b) Chain Saw Workshops

- (i) Tabled

(c) Basic Rigging Demo

(i) Tabled

(d) Advanced Diagnostics Workshop

(i) Steve Nimz spoke with Tim Johnson. The third week of March looks good. Sixteen people have confirmed so far plus Steve Connolly as an assistant instructor. The target date is March 24<sup>th</sup> unless that's a furlough day for the government. If it is a furlough day, then March 21<sup>st</sup>.

ii) HECO Live Voltage Demo

(a) It went well. Just AAA people and our contacts were there. Around 85 people signed up and 75 people attended.

B) Research Committee

i) Dudley has been continuing talks with Andy Kaufman and Jayme Grzebik, but has been unable to get the three of them together to discuss it so far. It's a great location for urban research, similar to many of our urban areas. Bob said we have his endorsement but that doesn't count very much. He suggested to keep working with Jayme because the squeakier wheel gets more attention. There are so many demands for the UGC that it's hard to sort the priorities. Dudley said maybe even some of the DOT research might be able to be done there.

C) Tropical Urban Forestry Research Center Steering Committee

i) The first meeting was held in December. It went well but we haven't gotten far yet. We're still in the brainstorming stage, identifying, defining, and looking at the broader vision. Christopher sounds like a positive ally in the cause. A number of good points came out of it. The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2011.

D) 2011 Hawaii TCC

i) Steve Connolly got full approval from Christopher for using Lyon Arboretum for Hawaii TCC on April 23 and 24, 2011. Greg and Steve have scouted out the trees. Christopher is pretty excited about it. The main concern is liability. We should check with WCISA to see if they can help with insurance for the event. There needs to be a work weekend up there to get trimming done well in advance of TCC. We don't want to conflict with the Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Worker exams by doing it the weekend before. We may be able to do volunteer forms to cover the climbers. There is a standard risk and release form within the UH system. Saturday will have parking issues because the Arboretum is open to the public. Hopefully we can work something out with Paradise Park. Once the liability issues have been resolved, we can put out flyers and open registration. Greg and Steve hope to square things away within the next week. Restrooms are available in the area. There's a nice kitchen and we can put up small tents

in case it rains. Steve Connolly will set up a couple of volunteer work days and report at the next meeting.

E) Girl Scouts Exceptional Trees Brochure

- i) The brochures are printed. AAA got 100 for handing out. Quite a few went out to the public at the UGC pruning workshop.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a) Pest of the Month – Palm Bud Rot (*Phytophthora palmivora* and *Thielaviopsis paradoxa*) and Palm Trunk Rot (*Thielaviopsis paradoxa*)

- i) Hosts: Fishtail palms, pineapple, coconut, *Dracaena fragrans*, *Ficus* spp., *Phoenix* spp., *Rhapis* sp., royal palm, cabbage palm, sugarcane, queen palm, Manila palm, *Washingtonia* spp., aglaonema, *Syngonium podophyllum*
- ii) Distribution: California, Florida, Arizona, Hawaii, and other subtropical and tropical areas where palms are important landscape plants.
- iii) Symptoms: For palm bud rot, discoloration and wilting of the spear leaf and wilting/discoloration of the next youngest leaf. If severe, the spear leaf will easily pull from the bud. For taller palms, often the first symptom noticed is that no new leaves are being produced. The crown may fall over or snap off (*Thielaviopsis paradoxa*). For palm trunk rot, the palms fall over with the stem bending about half-way up the bole. The trunk may begin to bleed from small cracks, possibly with a foamy, white fluid that smells like wine or beer. In later stages, the trunk is essentially hollow with stringy tissue left inside while the outside appears normal.
- iv) Diagnosis: Laboratory diagnosis is necessary to determine which pathogen is causing the symptoms.
- v) Spread by: Contaminated tools; contaminated soil; rain/irrigation splashing spores; flooding; movement of spores by insects, snails, or rodents.
- vi) Management: Remove and destroy the palms, roots and all, and replace the soil in the planting hole with clean soil. Replant with non-susceptible species. Avoid mechanical injury. Disinfect tools. Treatment with either Benlate (Benomyl) or Cleary's 3336 (thiophanate methyl) for palm trunk rot that is not severe.
- vii) Thanks to Garrett Webb for suggesting this as a pest of the month.

b) Punahou School Pruning

- i) Dudley noted that a beautiful old pink shower tree has been stubbed back to 6"-8" diameter wood at Punahou School. He spoke to Michael, the guy in charge there, who said that the branch broke. It was basically a weekend hack job by staff. Dudley suggested that the staff there need to be trained in proper pruning. Steve Nimz said that

the school isn't hurting for money, so they should hire a professional to provide training for their staff. Carol will send Dudley a list of AAA members who teach pruning classes for him to forward to Punahou. It might encourage them to train their staff if The Outdoor Circle approaches them with concerns about the improper pruning.

c) Website

- i) Dudley spoke to Doug Behrens. There's a picture fee of \$35 that is due. To post photos on the website, email them to Doug Behrens. Also, there was \$500 damage to Doug's roof during our volunteer workday a few years ago. The expenditure was previously approved, we just need receipts. Dudley will get a receipt so we can reimburse Doug.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Welcome back to former AAA President, John O'Shea, who just moved back to Hawaii from the Mainland.
- B) The WC TCC will be held on January 29-30, 2011, in San Diego, California.
- C) WCISA Conference is scheduled for May 11-13, 2011, in San Diego, CA (La Jolla).
- D) Sergio brought up problems with Hawaiian Earth Products' (HEP's) scale not working most of the time at Kapaa Quarry Road. When it's not working, they're significantly overcharging. They refer people to their Campbell Industrial Park location but that's three hours of driving and \$100 gas. Mark agreed, noting that they're overcharging by as much as four times what the cost should be. Steve Nimz noted that HEP pays to haul everything that's dumped at the Kapaa Quarry location to Campbell. He doesn't think the City or government has any say in what HEP charges, so complaining to the government won't help. People could complain to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) or we could send a letter from AAA informing HEP of the complaints. Steve Nimz made a motion that AAA send a letter to HEP. Sergio seconded. The motion carried. The BBB should be copied on the letter. Carol and Steve Connolly will write up the letter with input from the members who have complaints. It might be a good idea to raise the subject with other green industry organizations that are being impacted. We can let LICH know and they can pass it on.
- E) Greg Severino has acquired the old Greg Boyer Nursery in Kahaluu on Pulama Road. It's a 9-acre property that has been neglected for a year and a half. He's having a barbeque there on January 22, 2011, for a volunteer workday to cut weeds and chip trees. He'll be there at 7 a.m. and it will go all day. Anyone who's interested, he'd really appreciate the help. There are all sorts of things out there in no particular order – 3-4 varieties of hau, lots of palms, a couple of plumerias he'd never seen before. It's an interesting place full of surprises. He's also looking for clean fill, around 1,600 CY.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Kwan

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.*

**Attachments:**

1. 2011 AAA Membership Application
2. Pest of the Month – Palm Bud Rot (*Phytophthora palmivora* and *Thielaviopsis paradoxa*) and Palm Trunk Rot (*Thielaviopsis paradoxa*)

**2011 Aloha Arborist Association  
Membership Application**

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2011.

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

You may publish this information on the AAA website:  Yes     No

Please send this completed form to Aloha Arborist Association, P.O. Box 893953, Mililani, HI 96789-0953 with a check made payable to Aloha Arborist Association.

**Mahalo for your support!**