

Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2011

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Steve Connolly, Steve Nimz, Dudley Hulbert, Doug DeMoss, Jon Perry, Bob Speer, Andrew Kendall, Sergio Vasquez

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 18, 2011, MEETING MINUTES

A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The May 18, 2011, meeting minutes were approved as written.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

i) Small Workshops

(a) Basic Rigging Demo

(i) This will be at the Urban Garden Center (UGC) as an industry training event, not for the public. Bob Speer noted that any Saturday except second Saturdays of each month should be OK for our training events. Steve Connolly and Dudley will go to the UGC and meet with Steve Nagano to coordinate the workshop. Dudley noted that there was a nasty opiuma on the edge of the property that was identified previously. It has a nice drop zone and would be great for us as a training site because it has room for an audience. We could demonstrate slide lines, reverse blocking, etc. and the UGC would end up with one less big opiuma. The tree is located on the Home Depot side of the property. The two instructors will need to coordinate, with one person up in the tree doing the demonstrations and the other on the ground explaining what's being done. It might be beneficial to go in the weekend before to remove foliage to make the demo easier to see. Steve and Dudley will check it out in the next few weeks.

(b) WCISA Regional Meeting – Plant Doctoring: Science vs. Snake Oil 8/24/2011

(i) Carol has submitted the application for pesticide CEUs.

(c) Proposed WCISA Regional Meeting – Urban Soil Workshop

(i) Jon reported that Jonathan Deenik has been traveling so they haven't set the date yet. Steve Nimz suggested holding the workshop at the Waimanalo Experimental Station since it has free parking and digging shouldn't be a problem. Deenik also has some areas where he works that might be appropriate for a venue.

(d) Workshop for the Public – November 5, 2011

(i) A workshop for the public will be held on November 5, 2011, at UGC. That's the same day as the Arbor Day tree giveaway. The proposed topic is "Trees Underground". Discussions would include mulch, trees and turf, and maybe irrigation and soil – what to do to promote good growth. We should develop a handout that goes with that to give to people.

B) Research Committee

- i) Teresa Trueman-Madriaga and Mary Steiner have been working on a USDA Forest Service grant application for TUFRC that's due in July to DLNR. If approved, the grant would cover a literature review, a strategic plan, and website development among other things.
- ii) Dudley still needs to talk to Andy Kaufman about doing research at UGC with Jayme.
- iii) LICH is holding its Research Committee meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. on June 16, 2011, at Harris Methodist Church. Carol will attend on behalf of AAA. Dudley will attend also but will arrive late.

C) 2011 Hawaii TCC

- i) The dates have been set for October 1 and 2, 2011. Steve Connolly has spoken extensively with Jeremy, Dan and Greg but he hasn't talked to Ash recently and hasn't checked out Queen Emma's summer palace yet either. He's also talked to Austin about possibly being the chair, but that's not going to happen because Austin has other commitments for the next couple of months. There are a few people from the Mainland who are involved with ITCC who are interested in coming to Hawaii and working on judging and course setting. The City park next to the summer palace is the area proposed. Steve Connolly will talk to Stan about it. Even if it doesn't happen this year, we could explore it as an option for next year. Jon noted that it's easy for WCISA to get the City named as an additional insured. Dudley commented that anything in town would be better than anything remote like Mokuleia. This year's event in Mokuleia would be an awesome event but wouldn't showcase TCC like Steve Connolly would like. However, it would be similar to what we had at Kualoa Ranch in terms of remoteness. Steve Nimz will also approach Stan about possibly using the Honolulu Municipal Building grounds. Sergio noted that it rains a lot in Nuuanu, so the park by Queen Emma's summer palace is muddy all the time. That could be a problem in terms of how much damage the event would cause to the park.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Lightning Injury to Plants

- i) Affects: Any plant, particularly tall-standing, erect plants (like trees and palms)
- ii) Symptoms include: rapid wilting or collapse of plants or stems in combination with structural damage or carbonization (burning) of the internal stem tissues, premature mass dropping of green fruit, burns or strange scars on plants or organs, roots appear blackened or cooked, interior plant tissue blown out of the stem. Symptoms develop rapidly and coincide with recent thunderstorms.
- iii) Damage caused by: heat and shock waves

iv) Symptoms can mimic other diseases and disorders

B) Big Island Outer Island Meeting

i) HILA is holding its landscape conference on November 12, 2011. Steve Nimz and Mike Kraus will be speaking at the conference and there will be opportunities for CEUs. It's been awhile since we held an outer island meeting. They'd like to know if AAA would be interested in holding an outer island meeting on the Big Island on November 11, 2011, before the conference. Several members were interested so the decision was made to pursue this. Mike Kraus is willing to set up a tour somewhere. Steve Nimz will give Mike a call and let him know. We should be able to confirm by September if this is a go or not.

C) Maui Outdoor Circle Pruning for the Public Workshop November 19, 2011

i) Steve Nimz will be speaking at this workshop for the public on Maui. It was agreed that AAA will cosponsor the event by providing ISA brochures pertinent to the topic. Steve will carry them with him on the plane. We will also reimburse MOC for printing costs for AAA's pruning brochure if they choose to use it as a handout. The estimated cost is around \$20.

D) Certified Tree Worker Exams

i) Steve Nimz reported that there was a WCISA training session in Los Angeles that Terri Koike and he attended regarding CTW exams. The intent was to smooth out some areas and change things a little bit. The pass rate is horrendous everywhere for tree workers, not just in Hawaii. Most are failing on the written exam. Examinees are not prepared, they don't know what they're doing on the skills portion, they're not studying, they don't know their knots, and they have lousy aerial lifts. For certain chapters it's better for CTW candidates to prepare with the *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* – particularly the planting and cabling chapters. ISA's CTW exam doesn't include these two sections but WCISA's does. WCISA believes that CTWs should have more well-rounded knowledge.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) The ISA Conference is scheduled for July 23-27, 2011, in Sydney, Australia. Lester Inouye, Mike Kraus, Austin Braaten, and Kevin Eckert are going.

B) Sergio pruned a coconut in Kahala with a suspicious pest. The larvae looked very much like the photos circulated of the red palm weevil. The fronds at the end were wet and there was webbing with droppings that looked similar to termites. Everything went through the chipper before Sergio could grab a sample, but he'll ask the client's permission to collect samples to put in a Ziploc bag and take them to HDOA's office. Carol will send him the address.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 20, 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 – Lightning Injury to Plants

**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: _____ Mobile phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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

**Company members may send any of their employees to workshops at AAA member rates*

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!