

Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2011

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Steve Connolly, Jon Perry, Dudley Hulbert, Steve Nimz, Sergio Vasquez, Jamilee Kempton, Andrew Kendall

Guest: Karen Thompson

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 20, 2011, AND AUGUST 17, 2011, MEETING MINUTES

A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. The July 20, 2011, and August 17, 2011, meeting minutes were approved as written.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

i) Basic Rigging Demo

(a) Dudley met with Steve Nagano at the Urban Garden Center (UGC). Steve would like to have some pruning work done on the big monkeypod at the entry to UGC. We just need to make a plan and submit an actual request of what, when, etc. It could be a pruning workshop instead of a rigging workshop, covering crown cleaning, crown reduction, removal cuts, and rigging. The target audience will be the industry. This workshop will be scheduled for 2012.

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

(a) Approximately 100 people attended and the workshop went well.

iii) CTW Prep Class - Oahu

(a) There was only about 40% attendance at last night's session for this class per Steve Connolly. It was a good class on pruning. There are two more sessions left and then the class is pau.

iv) CTW Prep Class – Big Island

(a) This will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, with the net proceeds going toward TCC. Thirteen people have registered so far. Jon Perry and Steve Connolly will be the instructors. Steve Nimz suggested that if Jon and Steve like doing this type of class, they could continue to put this on with some financial reimbursement for them as well. Maybe in the future the net proceeds could be split 50/50 between the instructors and the TCC fund. It's a quick way to make money for TCC but the instructors should be compensated in the future.

v) Urban Soil Workshop March 2, 2012

(a) Dr. Jonathan Deenik will be the lead speaker with Pete Bunn assisting. There will probably be just two speakers. Topics will include soil compaction and soil

properties for tropical soils. The proposed venue is at the UH Waimanalo Research Station. Steve Nimz suggested that we make this workshop an AAA event instead of a WCISA Regional Meeting since we have local speakers. The workshops where we are bringing in Mainland speakers could be the WCISA Regional Meetings. The consensus was to keep this workshop local. We should be able to do a nice promotion of this workshop in *Landscape Hawaii* to attract the entire green industry.

vi) WCISA Regional Meeting – Palm Workshop 2012

- (a) Steve Nimz suggested that we bring Don Hodel over here to discuss palm abiotic disorders and other issues maybe late summer/early fall 2012.

vii) LICH Conference & Tradeshow October 6, 2011

- (a) Steve Connolly will be presenting climber safety and changes in tree climbing equipment at 9 a.m. Greg will be talking at 1 p.m. about rigging and worker safety. Also, Greg will be assisting Steve and Steve will be assisting Greg. The plenary address will be about the Disney concept. Disney has a totally different way of looking at landscape.
- (b) Steve Nimz will be running a fundraiser at the LICH Conference with a 50/50 sale. He'll sell tickets. LICH will get half of the money to go into a scholarship fund and one winner will get the other half of the money. Dudley will help sell tickets. There will be 30+ vendors at the Trade Show.

B) Public Outreach

- i) This workshop will be held for the public on November 5, 2011, at UGC. The name has been changed from *Trees Underground* to *Trees from the Ground Down*. Dudley will work out an outline. The main points to be covered are mulch, water, and soil. Dudley would be interested in handing out a soils map of Oahu at the workshop. Jon mentioned that Deenik put one together that's available online. We could have some small ones as handouts and a large one to point to as we discuss it. Dudley will draft a brochure for the group to review and approve at the next meeting. He'll also talk to Terri at UGC since she's in charge of mulch there.
- ii) Maui Outdoor Circle Pruning for the Public Workshop November 19, 2011. This is oriented towards homeowners so the information will be basic. The workshop will be held at UH Maui College (formerly MCC).

C) Research Committee

- i) The pre-proposal for the Literature Review grant has been submitted to the Britton Fund. It should be reviewed in the October/November timeframe. If it makes it through the initial review, the full proposal will be due in December 2011.

D) 2011 Hawaii TCC

- i) Steve Connolly was able to secure insurance through WCISA. Rose has been a big help with this. WCISA will invoice for the insurance based on the number of competitors. The entrance fee is \$40/climber. Some competitors and judges will be coming in from the Mainland.
- ii) The current TCC Fund balance is \$2,371. Jim from Altec has said that they'll sponsor the event with a monetary contribution based on an email he sent to Dan Severino that Carol was copied on. Costs are coming in for porta potties. Last year we spent around \$700-\$800 for prizes from Climb Aloha. Steve Connolly would like to purchase prizes from Climb Aloha, North Shore Rentals, and Aloha Power Equipment. He's hoping to get the word out about TCC next week. We need at least 10-12 judges and volunteers who will be there the whole time. The setup will be the day before. Sergio and Andrew Kendall volunteered to judge. Doug DeMoss, Brian Fukada, and Bobby Midkiff were suggested as other possible judges. Dudley and Jamilee volunteered to help too. There should be a judges meeting the day before to go over everything. Steve Nimz has a commitment that conflicts with TCC but he'll try to switch it around so he can come. He'll also check if Bert Santiago is willing to help. Steve Connolly added that the site is awesome with incredible trees and the area is conducive to barbeques too. Hopefully we'll have a good audience. We just need to keep everything moving and interesting.

E) Landscape and Forestry Pest Identification Cards

- i) Carol reported that Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) approved \$6,000 for the project. We should hear about the Kaulunani grant application for \$15K in November.

F) Big Island Outer Island Meeting – November 11, 2011

- i) Carol moved and Dudley seconded that AAA pay for Steve Connolly's airfare to the Outer Island meeting. The motion passed unanimously. So far eight AAA members have signed up to attend the meeting. Garrett has arranged for a Koloko Cloud Forest Sanctuary tour. He's still working on a restaurant for the meeting. Jamilee agreed to take notes at the meeting. The meeting format will be more brainstorming/collaboration, not our usual meeting format.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Bacterial Leaf Blight of Panax

- i) Host: Panax
- ii) Symptoms: Lesions on young leaves have a water-soaked appearance. Mature lesions have dried brown centers and dark-colored or black margins. Lesions are sometimes surrounded by diffuse purplish or reddish halos. Blighted leaves may curl and drop prematurely.
- iii) Spread by: Splashing water or windblown rain.

- iv) Management: When propagating, use pathogen-free plant material. Do not plant panax in moderate- to high-rainfall areas where the disease is present. Prune heavily diseased branches periodically and destroy the pruned material. Pick up and destroy fallen leaves. Avoid overhead sprinkler irrigation. Limit water applications. Ensure that the soil drains adequately. Increase the space between panax plants or plant non-host plants in between. Avoid planting panax in heavy shade. Orient rows perpendicular to prevailing trade winds.
- v) Steve Nimz noted that it's an urban legend that panax attracts termites. They get an accumulation of deadwood and that's what attracts the termites, not the plant itself. If they're pruned properly, they don't attract termites. It's difficult to find panax at nurseries anymore.

B) AAA Website/Pest of the Month Online

- i) Carol has asked Doug Behrens to include the Pest of the Month info with the minutes when he posts them to AAA's website, which is he now doing. She would like to post the short summary from the agenda with the links to the websites with more detailed information as well. That would be easier to do on a blog and the AAA website isn't set up for that. She is working on constructing a website for her company with a blog section and wanted to know if AAA would like to have that info posted there. There was concern that this would create confusion between AAA and Carol Kwan Consulting. It was decided that Carol would be paid to create a new AAA website where she can maintain it directly including Pest of the Month. Carol will check with her accountant whether or not a non-profit can charge for ads on its website to generate revenues. Another idea was to charge companies extra for additional information listings, like Certified Tree Risk Assessor, Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Worker, etc.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Welcome to Jamilee Kempton, a new student member of AAA. She is taking Dave Ringuette's program at WCC and works for LLS Pacific (formerly Jacobsen), fixing up their nursery in Waimanalo.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 19, 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 – Bacterial Leaf Blight of Panax

**2012 Aloha Arborist Association
Membership Application**

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2012.

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!