

Aloha Arborist Association
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2011

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Steve Connolly, Dudley Hulbert, Steve Nimz, Jamilee Kempton, Andrew Kendall, Doug DeMoss

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTMBER 21, 2011, MEETING MINUTES

- A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. The September 21, 2011, meeting minutes were approved as written.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Training Workshops

i) Pruning Workshop

- (a) This would be pruning on the big monkeypod at the entry to the Urban Garden Center (UGC). The date has not been set as yet.

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

- (a) AAA's share of the net proceeds was \$611.50. WCISA will be sending a check.
(b) The workshop evaluations were generally good.

iii) CTW Prep Class – Big Island 10/11/2011

- (a) This was basically the same workshop as what was held on Oahu over a six week period but crammed into one day. There were a few kinks but generally people seem to be satisfied. We got some negative feedback as well, but people were happy that we held a class over there. About half of the people attending the class were Certified Arborists and no one was taking the CTW exam, but it was a CEU opportunity for them. It was a very different audience than the Oahu one. There was enough interest to justify going back in the future and doing another course with topics tailored to their needs.

iv) Urban Soil Workshop March 2, 2012

- (a) No report. We need to check with Jon if this is ready to publish in the next *Landscape Hawaii*.

v) WCISA Regional Meeting – Palms Workshop 8/29/2012

- (a) McCoy Pavilion has been confirmed as the venue for August 29, 2012. Don Hodel, Garrett Webb, and Darcy Oishi are confirmed as speakers and Chris Dacus/Rick Barboza have been invited to talk about the Native Palm Initiative.

vi) Advanced Felling Workshop – Mike Kraus

- (a) Steve Connolly suggested that we bring Mike Kraus over to Oahu to conduct an Advanced Felling workshop. This would probably be held at the Lyon Arboretum since it has large trees that need to be removed.

vii) LICH Conference & Tradeshow October 6, 2011

- (a) This was an interesting conference. Steve Nimz thinks LICH probably came out in the black this year. About 200 people attended. The one-day venue worked well.
- (b) We need to think ahead for the 2012 LICH Conference. Steve Connolly volunteered to talk again next year. Steve Nimz said that it might be possible to do a longer session, maybe two hours, on climbing across the street at Thomas Square. Dudley commented that he'd like to see more bug stuff. He also suggested a talk about what is a safe tree to climb. This talk could save lives.

B) Public Outreach

i) Trees from the Ground Down

- (a) This workshop will be held for the public on November 5, 2011, at the UGC. Dudley shared a draft brochure. Carol got permission from ISA to use some of their graphics. He's planning to reference a soil map from Jonathan Deenik that shows what the soils are around Oahu. Dudley and Carol will finalize the brochure in the next few days. The speakers for this workshop are Dudley, Greg, and Carol, plus Steve Nimz will be doing a 1-hour talk in the UGC classroom. Steve said to be sure to cover the issues of dry mulch vs. wet mulch, particularly how dry mulch is hydrophobic and water doesn't go through it. The point is to not let the mulch dry out. He's not sure if residents and other non-plant professionals understand this. It doesn't appear that they do based on his dealings with military contractors. There will be an Ask an Arborist booth at the end of the class.

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

- (a) Nothing new to report. Steve Nimz is going over for this.

C) Research Committee

- i) We haven't heard anything back yet regarding the pre-proposal for the Literature Review grant that was submitted to the Britton Fund.

D) 2011 Hawaii TCC

- i) Overall the event was successful. It was a big time learning experience for Steve Connolly. We had a lot of Mainlanders who paid their own dime. They did a great job and really helped in setting up the event and running it. They brought \$1K-\$2K worth of prizes too. Jeremy Williams from Arkansas placed first, Mark Dobbertin from Maui

placed second, and Dan Severino placed third. Petzl is paying for the Hawaii candidate's registration at WC TCC. WCISA is holding a spot for a Hawaii competitor. Steve Nimz moved that AAA's TCC Fund pays for the top Hawaii finisher's plane ticket (coach) to compete at the WC TCC in 2012 for an estimated not to exceed amount of \$700. Carol seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Carol will find out where WC TCC will be held in 2012 and check ticket prices to make sure that the estimated price limit is reasonable.

- ii) Andrew suggested that for next year's TCC that we should have someone on a public address system announcing and commentating about what's going on for spectators. That will make them feel more comfortable and help them understand what they're watching.
- iii) Lessons learned: we need to identify the chair of the TCC Planning Committee and establish a structure for information to flow through the Committee. There should also be a budget set, approved, and voted on. The current balance in the TCC coffers is \$2,373.60 with about \$300 in insurance costs still to be paid.
- iv) Steve Connolly still has some shirts from the 2011 TCC for sale. These are large and extra large, mostly XL. They sold for \$15/each at the event. The current price is \$10/each. Contact Steve Connolly at steven9@hawaii.edu or 397-4099 if you are interested in buying one.
- v) Steve Nimz suggested that for 2012, maybe he and Austin Braaten could organize TCC. Perhaps Austin could be the chair and Steve could be his assistant. He'll look for a venue close to town, hopefully something where we can hold the event for several years. We've cleaned up an awful lot of trees to get a venue these last few years. It would be best if there's not so much work doing that every year. We should also look at making it a one-day event instead of two. Gear check for the competitors could be held the day before, not on the day of competition.

E) Landscape and Forestry Pest Identification Cards

- i) Kaulunani will review the grant application on October 28, 2011. We should hear back in early November.

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

- i) Garrett Webb and Mike Kraus are looking forward to hosting the AAA meeting on the Big Island. Once Carol receives the venue info from Garrett, she'll forward it to AAA members. The HILA conference is on the next day, November 12, 2011. Steve Nimz and Mike Kraus will be speakers there. Steve Connolly and Jamilee are planning to attend.

G) Certified Arborist/Certified Tree Worker Exams

- (a) The CTW exam on October 15, 2011, was full. Many candidates had to be turned away. An additional CTW exam may be scheduled for January 2012 to handle the

overflow from the October exam. Terri Koike will let Carol know if this gets scheduled. Steve Nimz noted that we need to have enough judges that we can call on so that we don't have to wear out the same volunteers all the time. The October exam finished around 3 p.m. We need to work out a way to get the aerial lift guys through faster. Doug stated that it would be easier if we don't have knuckle booms. We have to set up the trees with a knuckle boom because we're simulating line clearance work, not just tree maintenance. Another problem is that the CTW candidates need to know that they have to study planting from the *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* or the *Best Management Practices Tree Planting* booklet. Planting is not in the CTW Study Guide. The candidates don't seem to realize this.

ii) Possible Big Island CTW exam

- (a) Some people expressed interest in having a CTW exam held on the Big Island so Carol sent out a survey to AAA's Big Island training list. So far 4-5 people have expressed interest. There needs to be at least 6 people to justify holding an exam there.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Ohia Psyllid (several native species of the Family *Psyllidae*)

- i) Host: Ohia
- ii) Distribution: Native to Hawaii
- iii) Symptoms: Circular, conical, or convex galls on leaves, particularly new growth
- iv) Management: Biological control by other native species (*Sympiesis* sp.) Because the ohia psyllids are native insects, avoid the use of pesticides as they or their parasites could become threatened or extinct.

B) TCIA EHAP

- i) The Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) contacted Carol to see if AAA might be interested in helping TCIA hold an Electrical Hazards Awareness Program (EHAP) training in Honolulu in 2012. The workshop would be funded through a grant that TCIA got, so participants would only have to pay a fee for food and drinks. We need to find a free or inexpensive venue for the event. Carol is checking with HECO since a high voltage demo is part of the training agenda. Steve Nimz noted that EHAP is a certification program. To be certified, participants are supposed to have done aerial rescue certification and have CPR cards and take a test. To stay certified, a person is supposed to renew the certification every year. Steve has looked at this with Chris Dacus from the Department of Transportation, but DOT decided to go with electrical hazard awareness only, not certification. Carol will check if participants are required to have aerial rescue certification and CPR as a prerequisite to attending the workshop. TCIA usually hires Kevin Eckert to be the EHAP instructor. Steve commented that Kevin does an excellent job at teaching EHAP. Carol will check with TCIA to see whether or not it

pays any administrative costs to local hosts. We could promote this to all AAA members first since space is limited to 30 people. If there is still room, then we can extend the invitation to AAA's training list. It was agreed that AAA should support TCIA's EHAP workshop for 2012. Carol will complete the application form and submit it to TCIA.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Kevin Eckert will serve a 2-year term on ISA's Certification Board. This may be an opportunity to get more tropical questions on the certification exams.
- B) Dudley expressed concern about the low member attendance at our monthly meetings. He would like to see more people turn out. Steve Nimz commented that we just need to make sure that when we're putting on events, we distribute the responsibilities and get support from the broader membership. If we get participation at the events, then we're fulfilling our mission. When people aren't at the meetings, they can get volunteered by those present to help with our different activities. While it would be nice to have more people at the meetings, we can't force people to come.
- C) This is the last meeting of the year on Oahu. Please renew your membership for 2012.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Friday, November 11, 2011, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at The Brew Pub, Kona Brewing Company, 75-5629 Kuakini Highway, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740, (808) 329-2739, on the Big Island.

Attachments:

1. 2012 AAA Membership Application
2. Pest of the Month – Ohia Psyllid

**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!