



ALOHA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES – 02/21/2018 - Approved
Dixie Grill, Aiea, HI

Members in Attendance: Desiree Page, Sergio Vasquez, Angela Liu, Kevin Eckert, Andrew Kendall, Michael Kraus
Guests: Kainoa Holt, Justin Donahue

1. Call to Order & Approval of the Meeting Minutes of 1/17/2018 - The meeting was called to order at 6:42pm. There was no quorum, therefore adoption of the minutes was postponed to the next meeting. Desiree welcomed Mike Kraus from the Big Island.
2. Guest Speaker – Mike Kraus, Tree Works – Proposal to Hold Hawaii Tree Jamboree 2019 on Hawaii Island.

Mike proposed that the next Hawaii Tree Jamboree be held at Kalopa State Park on the Big Island, mauka of Honokaa. The park has cabins available, and bunk-style sleeping arrangements. This would make a two-day event possible, and participants or others could spend the night at the park if desired. The camp sites and cabins need to be reserved now. There are eucalyptus trees at the site, some over 150 feet tall, that could be used for the events. Mike acknowledged that the trees would need to be cleaned in advance of any event. He passed around a tablet showing photos of the location and the trees.

There was agreement that the 2019 Jamboree should go to the Big Island and be held over two days. Desiree moved to adopt this plan, and Andrew seconded the motion; Sergio voted in favor, in the event there is an electronic vote on this motion. The group discussed how this year's Jamboree was affected by the one-day timeframe. Mike agreed to reserve the cabins.

There was a discussion about whether to synchronize the 2019 Jamboree with the Western Chapter Tree Climbing Championship. Mainland climbers like the option of coming to Hawaii during the winter months for the Jamboree. On the negative side, if the Jamboree coincides with the WC TCC, interested people may end up being unable to attend due to the lack of time. Desiree will find out when the WC TCC is taking place, and determine if there is any scheduling conflict.

The Hawaii Tree Jamboree thus far is not tied to the sponsorship of a Hawaii climber to participate in the WC TCC, but this option was considered. Andrew added that there's already discussion about taking the Jamboree to Kauai in 2020.

Justin shared feedback that we need to improve time management for the individual events, and transitions between events over the course of the day. He also shared that the climbers are very interested in a Masters' Challenge event as part of the Jamboree. There was general agreement that the Jamboree also should emphasize having fun, and include family-oriented events and activities.

3. Old Business
 - a) Research Committee (Chair: Dudley Hulbert) – Tabled.
 - b) LICH Annual Meeting (Sergio Vasquez) – Sergio attended the annual meeting, and will represent AAA in the future. He shared that Matt Lyum is leading a committee to develop a LICH pesticide certification. The goal is to improve the level of professionalism in companies who treat plants. The certification would have mandatory training, ending with a test.
 - c) Hawaii Tree Jamboree, Maui- Feb. 3, 2018 – Wrap-Up (Andrew Kendall) – At the time of the meeting, income from the event was \$1,305 and expenses totaled \$614; some information was

still missing. Andrew was uncertain as to what the budget might be for future events, though he anticipated positive changes.

The general feedback was that it will be helpful for future Jamboree events to coordinate all aspects starting at a much earlier timeframe. AAA will participate and support future Jamboree events. Desiree discussed marketing, branding, logistics, volunteer coordination, and a number of other aspects of the event.

- d) Tree Climbing Workshop, Feb 9, 2018, Hilo, Hawaii Island – Wrap-Up (Andrew Kendall) – The workshop was very successful. It had high attendance, and there was a great deal more participation from those attending than expected. Much of the presentation was at an advanced level (possibly at a level exceeding what was ideal for those attending), but provided the attendees with a very good exposure to the subject matter. The income net of expenses was around \$2,000, and would be divided equally between AAA and Tree Works.
- e) 2018 Ag & Environmental Awareness Day (Feb 9th and 10th, 2018) (Desiree Page) – Desiree reported that our booth had high attendance and the event went well. She brought climbing gear and other items to share with the visitors.
- f) Ken Palmer Workshop, Feb 22-23, 2018, Oahu (Desiree Page) – Desiree reported that coordination is going smoothly.
- g) Chainsaw Safety Workshop, Beginner Level (Dudley Hulbert) – Tabled.
- h) Proposed Certified Tree Worker Exam Prep Course, March (Andrew Kendall) – Andrew reported that the Aerial Rescue Training is scheduled for Saturday March 10th. J is lined up to help with marketing, and securing a venue. Justin requested a fee of \$500; Sergio plans to bring a 35-foot bucket truck. A registration fee of \$115 was suggested. Andrew asked for a survey to be sent out to find out how many people might be interested.
- i) Membership Drive (Angela Liu) – The membership drive went well, there are some who haven't renewed yet including some board members, and additional contacts will be made in March.
- j) SmartTrees Pacific Citizen Forester Training (Desiree Page) – Desiree helped out on one of the training dates for the boy scout group. Some of AAA's volunteers who had committed to the second training date did not follow through, and Kevin Eckert had to fill in at the last minute. Kevin let the group know that the volunteer commitments for this program are important – when we don't show up, it creates chaos for the staff at SmartTrees Pacific. Also, STP is planning to make a donation to AAA, so AAA must be consistent with our participation.
- k) Safety Workshop by HEMIC (Andrew Kendall) – Tabled.
- l) ISA Publications order (Carol Kwan) – Angela shared for Carol that, due to the busy AAA schedule at this time, the order will be put on hold. Carol will send out another email announcement, possibly in March, once the activity level calms down somewhat.
- m) Treasurer's Report (Desiree Page) – Desiree reported that she still hasn't been able to get access to AAA's online banking. This is needed so she can download the transaction history. Desiree will produce a spreadsheet report for the next meeting.

4. New Business

- a) Pest of the Month – *Asterococcus* sp. Prob. *yunnanensis* – A new exotic scale insect pest
Distribution: In Hawaii, this new scale pest is so far found only in Waimea, Hawaii Island.
Hosts: In Waimea, hosts include *Rhaphiolepis indica*, *Gardenia taitensis*, and *Rhododendron* sp. (three different plant families). Elsewhere, hosts in three other family also are known.
Damage: Ornate pit scale feeding can result in major levels of sooty mold, which in turn causes twig dieback, defoliation, and sometimes plant death.
Resources: Hawaii Dept of Agriculture, Plant Pest Control Branch (Prepared by Janis Matsunaga). “*Asterococcus* sp. prob. *yunnanensis* Borchsenius (*Hemiptera*: *Cerococcidae*): A New Exotic Scale Insect Pest in Hawaii and the U.S.,” October 2016.
<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2017/01/Asterococcus-yunnanensis-flyer.pdf>
- b) Nominations for AAA Board of Directors 2018-2019 (J Zambo) – Angela expressed the opinion that the AAA board and officers nomination process lacks clarity and should be updated. She pointed to the existence of a draft by-law document that originally belonged to a different organization, and that has confusing passages that should be edited. Angela shared a document describing the process used by Western Chapter ISA, with new sections added to adapt the process for AAA. There was a discussion about the need to have officers and board members who can attend the monthly meetings consistently, and the possibility of changing future meetings to attract more attendance. One suggestion included having an educational component so attendees could earn CEUs.
- c) Hui Manu-o-Kū Collaboration with AAA – Bird Banding Project (Angela) – Lake Gibby, a member of the hui, will be organizing a training for arborists who are interested in helping to band white tern chicks. When the chicks are old enough, the hui plans to band several dozen; these birds will be tracked in the coming years so scientists can learn about the species. Climbers are needed to go up each tree, collect the chick into a bag, and lower it to a ground crew who will work on the chick before returning it up the tree. Desiree expressed interest in volunteering.

5. Announcements

- a) HI Invasive Species Council new PestAlert apps – Angela shared the announcement that HISC created an app for both iPhones and Android devices.
- b) Trees for Honolulu’s Future: Growing Our Urban Forest workshop 3/9/2018 – This event has been moved to the Ala Wai Golf Course. Kevin shared that, based on studies of satellite images, Oahu has lost about 5% of its canopy cover in the last five years. Urban forestry planting programs are not doing a good enough job replacing lost canopy cover. On March 9th, the internationally recognized urban forestry program in Melbourne, Australia, led by Ian Shears, will be featured. Mayor Caldwell will be speaking, as will Steve Nimz, Mark Leon, Brandon Au, and Greg Chun. The conference will help convene working groups to solve the problem of canopy loss.
- c) OSHA Respirator Awareness Training presented by 3M on 3/16/2018 in Hilo. Contact: Stafford Oyama
- d) Certified Arborist/Certified Tree Worker Exams – 4/14/2018 – Desiree offered to find out if Carol Kwan is proctoring, and what kinds of volunteers are needed.
- e) WCISA Annual Conference April 23-26, 2018 – Santa Rosa, CA
- f) Kevin Eckert expressed dismay concerning how contract specifications for state jobs fail to protect public trees. He has observed on innumerable occasions tree resources being damaged as the result of below-standard work. He stated that the Division of Forestry and Wildlife is close to

hiring a new urban forester, and expressed hope that this new position will help improve the quality of contract work. He also encouraged AAA to get involved in this topic.

g) ***Please join us on: March 21st, 2018, 6:30pm – Monthly Meeting – Location TBD***

6. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Liu

HANDOUT

Asterococcus sp. prob. *yunnanensis* Borchsenius (Hemiptera: Cerococcidae)

A New Exotic Scale Insect Pest in Hawaii and the U.S.

Dr. Christopher J. Hodgson, National Museum of Wales, identified a new exotic ornate pit scale insect that is new to the State of Hawaii and U.S. According to Hodgson, this scale is closest to *Asterococcus* sp. prob. *yunnanensis*, however, the genus may need revision as many species descriptions are not clearly defined for this group. Two species, *A. schimae* and *A. muratae* are also very close to the specimens from Hawaii and may be synonyms.

Distribution

In Hawaii, *A. sp. prob. yunnanensis* has only been found in Waimea, Hawaii Island. Worldwide, *A. yunnanensis* and *A. schimae* are only known from China, while *A. muratae* is known from China, Japan, Georgia, and the USSR. This represents the first U.S. and Hawaii record of any *Asterococcus* species, as well as the first species of the Cerococcidae family to establish in Hawaii.

Hosts

Recorded host plants of *A. sp. prob. yunnanensis* in Waimea include *Raphiolepis indica* (Rosaceae) (This seems to be its preferred host in this area), *Gardenia taitensis* (Rubiaceae), and *Rhododendron sp.* (Ericaceae).

According to Scalenet, hosts of *A. yunnanensis* also include *Alangium* (Cornaceae), *Pterocarya stenoptera* (Juglandaceae), *Cinnamomum camphora* (Lauraceae), and *Rosa* (Rosaceae).



Indian hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica*) showing black sooty mold and die-back from a heavy infestation.



Damage

Ornate pit scale feeding can cause twig die-back, premature loss of foliage, possible death of plant. Copious amounts of honeydew is excreted, inducing the growth of sooty mold. Thick layers of sooty mold cover the leaves and stems of woody plants, negatively affecting photosynthesis.

Reference

García Morales M, Denno BD, Miller DR, Miller GL, Ben-Dov Y, Hardy NB. 2016. *ScaleNet: A literature-based model of scale insect biology and systematics*. Database. doi: 10.1093/database/bav118. <http://scalenet.info>



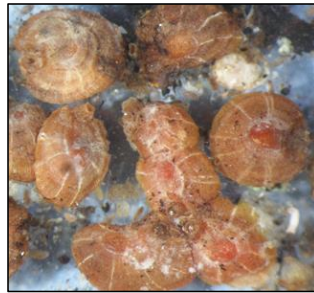
Severe black sooty mold growth on stems and leaves.



Severe black sooty mold growth on stems and leaves.



Immature scales.



Magnified female scales.



Asterococcus sp. prob. *yunnanensis* on the woody stem of Indian hawthorn.

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