



ALOHA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES – 03/21/2018 - APPROVED
Dixie Grill, Aiea, HI

Members in Attendance: J Zambo, Desiree Page, Dudley Hulbert, Sergio Vasquez, Angela Liu, Justin Donahue, David Serpa, Daniel Link
Guests: Kainoa Holt

1. Call to Order and Approval of Meeting Minutes of 01/17/2018, 2/21/2018 - The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm. There was no quorum, therefore adoption of the minutes was postponed to the next meeting.
2. Old Business
 - a) Research Committee (Chair: Dudley Hulbert) – CTAHR has a new dean, and Dudley will look for an opportunity to reach out about Dr. Kaufman’s arboriculture research. Desiree asked Dudley if he would like new members in the Research Committee. Dudley reviewed the history of Dr. Kaufman’s project. AAA’s relationship with Dr. Kaufman began with Steve Nimz. Dudley expressed that Hawaii arborists would benefit from better access to the state’s community of experts on diseases and pests of woody plants and other areas related to arboriculture. For example, the ability to turn to such experts when concerns encountered in the field could help the industry with new and unfamiliar pest and disease conditions. Others also shared that outreach beyond the industry is important for building the industry’s rank and file, and for growing public awareness. AAA’s ongoing outreach efforts – to groups as diverse as pre-school children to college students – contributes to our mission from the bottom up.
 - b) Hui Manu-o-Kū Collaboration with AAA – Bird Banding Project (Angela Liu) – Angela contacted the Hui the week before this meeting, and did not hear back from them. Desiree is interested in this opportunity and agreed to contact Lake Gibby for an update.
 - c) Chainsaw Safety Workshop, Beginner Level (Dudley Hulbert) – There are two different levels for this event – homeowners versus professional. The homeowner version of the training would not be a hands-on program, due to the risk of injuries. Desiree offered to teach this class. This also is an opportunity to maintain our relationship with the Urban Garden Center. Dudley has reached out to Jayme Grzebik, and will follow up on that contact. Separately, Sergio offered to hold the event at his yard. Desiree offered to put together the outline. TCIA has funding available to support this type of training. Justin added that TCIA likely require the instructor to be TCIA certified – he holds TCIA certifications and based his statement on previous experience with the organization.
 - d) Proposed Certified Tree Worker (CTW) Exam Prep Course, March (Andrew Kendall) – This topic was tabled. There was a short discussion about the aerial lift training scheduled for March 24th. There currently are about sixteen signed up, with three signed up for the aerial lift practical exam only. Dudley emphasized that it’s important for ISA’s CTW practical exam to hold up high standards for aerial rescue. He explained that for the application phase of a candidate’s CTW exam process, ISA currently will accept certification of a candidate by anyone who is a CTW. There is concern that there is not enough oversight of that aspect of the certification.
 - e) ISA Publications order (Carol Kwan). This topic was tabled.

- f) Treasurer's Report (Desiree Page) – There is no Treasurer's report for this day, except that AAA currently has a good financial cushion due in part to the recent training events. Dudley reported that, in appreciation for holding the aerial rescue training at Kualoa Ranch this coming weekend, he and other AAA volunteers pruned six coconut palms for the facility (in addition to cleaning the tree to be used). Kualoa Ranch was very appreciative of AAA's gesture. Dudley emphasized how important it is that AAA do these kinds of things to honor our relationships, adding that he had wished we had done more volunteer cleanup in 2017 when we had our Jamboree there. After a short discussion, it was agreed that Dudley would let Kualoa Ranch know AAA is interested in coming back in June and do another cleanup. There was a discussion about applying for CEU's for the event, either for volunteer work done or for an educational piece that AAA could put together for the event.

3. New Business

- a) Pest of the Month – Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) – Update

Distribution: Big Island – widespread; Oahu, Maui and Kauai – localized detections are being managed by public agencies. LFA is not known to be present in Lanai or Molokai at this time.

Description: Little fire ants will live in trees, including very tall trees such as coconut, and shrubs as well as in the ground. In warm, shady and moist environments, LFA can grow to 20,000 ants per square meter with dozens of queens. Once established, they are very difficult to eradicate. Tree workers are much more vulnerable to being stung by them while up in a tree or while working on the ground, and they may make an infested tree off-limits. When you feel the sting, like a burning rash, the ants are already gone. Little fire ants cultivate sap-feeding pests in trees they inhabit, and are suspected of driving away both native and exotic insectivores. Where there is LFA, pest problems on woody plants and in agricultural settings multiply, and may contribute to canopy dieback and declines in forest health. LFA infestations have caused humans to abandon use of their properties on other Pacific islands, and may cause widespread ecosystem damage if keystone organisms are affected. Find out about the trainings on Hawaii Island, the last Friday of every month, at www.littlefireants.com. Maui Invasive Species Committee produced a very effective youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJ8TQ_ASsYQ

Control: All suspected LFA infestations should be reported to 643-PEST or www.reportapest.org. There was a question as to whether it's possible for peanut butter to fail as bait – the group was not aware of the specific habits of this species, but it was suggested that Spam also could work. Research on biological controls has been under way but has not yet produced results. A multi-pronged approach including systemic pesticides, baits, treatment of infested materials, and reducing LFA-friendly conditions, is the best way to handle LFA problems. Currently, on Oahu, Maui and Kauai, the current strategy is the complete eradication of known populations, followed by monitoring.

Resources:

- Lee, Donna J., Michael Motoki, Cas Vanderwoude, Stuart T. Nakamoto, and PingSun Leung, "Huge Benefits from Managing Little Fire Ant on the Big Island," *Economic Issues*. University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, September 2014 (EI-26).

- Department of Land and Natural Resources: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/invasive-species-profiles/little-fire-ant/> (Accessed 03/15/2108)

- b) ISA Certified Arborist / Tree Worker Exams, Saturday 04/14/2018 (Desiree Page) – Desiree shared that Terri Ann Koike will be proctoring the exams. Terri has reached out to J and Sergio to help judge the climbing portion of the CTW exam.
- c) Nominations for AAA Board of Directors 2018-2019 (J Zambo) – J nominated the following slate, with participation from and discussion with the other board and AAA members present:

President	Desiree Page
Vice President	Sergio Vasquez
Treasurer	Desiree Page
Secretary	Angela Liu
Past President	J Zambo
Director	Dudley Hulbert
Director	Andrew Kendall
Director	Justin Donahue

In this slate, Desiree would have the option of voting during meetings as Treasurer.

- d) Aerial Rescue Training, August 2018 (Andrew Kendall) – Sergio will host this event at his yard. The banyan there has a somewhat limiting area beneath it for teaching the class, but should still be workable. The tree itself probably is okay; Justin will go by and have a look. The event should be scheduled in August, allowing those who are interested in the CTW exam to get their certificates and apply for the exam by the mid to late-September deadline. Separately, Justin is working with arborists in Maui to hold a training there. Bobby Burritt now has a rescue dummy on that island.
- e) Western Chapter ISA Regional Conference, ~ August-September 2018 (Angela Liu) – Ty McDonald on the Big Island is coordinating the event. He suggested bringing either Gordon Mann or Rick Gessner over to Hawaii for a program about recent updates to ANSI A300 Pruning and ANSI Z133 Safety. The program also will need to be reviewed by Larry Borgatti and Elaine Malina, coordinators on Kauai and Maui respectively. There was a short discussion as to whether other presenters, such as Ken Palmer, Mark Chisholm, or Jared Abrojena, should be considered, with the comment being made that the topics these speakers cover will have a big audience on Oahu. On the other hand, the Fungi program in 2016 was well attended, and just about any CEU event in Hawaii will draw an audience. Desiree moved that AAA consent to having the regional conference on ANSI updates, as presented either by Gordon Mann or Rick Gessner, preferably in August. Sergio seconded the motion, and Dudley and J both voted in favor. Desiree agreed to put the motion to vote by email, after which Angela would contact Ty to give the go-ahead from AAA. There was further discussion about the possibility of having a pest program toward the end of this year.

4. Announcements

- a) WCISA Annual Conference April 23-26, 2018 – Santa Rosa, CA

b) *Please join us on:*

April 18th, 2018, 6:30pm – Annual Meeting – Gordon Biersch, Honolulu

5. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Liu

HANDOUTS



Report Little Fire Ants (<http://stoptheant.org>)

Finding little fire ants before they've had a chance to become truly established is critical. Heavily infested East Hawai'i no longer has the option of eradicating the pest, but other communities in Hawai'i can remain free of this stinging menace so long as new populations of the little fire ant are detected early before they can spread.

It's up to us to stop them in their tracks. Report any suspected little fire ants before it's too late.

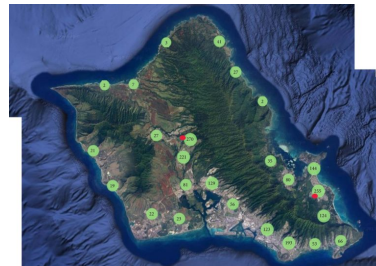
You may have little fire ants without ANY of the following experiences, so test for ants whether or not you experience:

- Small, slow-moving orange or red ants.
- Stings on your neck or torso, particularly when working in overhanging brush, bananas, and fruit trees.
- Any movement of soil, plants, mulch, or even a used car from an area infested with little fire ants.
- Animals' exposed skin becoming "mangy" and eyes becoming cloudy; a potential indication that little fire ants could be stinging their cornea.

Little Fire Ants on O'ahu

Current Status on O'ahu

Note that these ants may be present anywhere on O'ahu, and the status report is only for infestations that were discovered and reported. **We need your help** to find them before colonies grow too large to eradicate. O'ahu has the highest population of all the islands, which means that we have a greater chance of catching little fire ants before they become established. Test your property at least once a year and Find them before they find you...survey your yard and submit your ant samples to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.



The green dots represent the number of properties where community members tested and no LFA were found. The two red dots (Waimānalo and Mililani Mauka) are where LFA were found—and eradicated (or will soon be eradicated).

It may be helpful to understand that it **takes at least 4 years to eradicate an infestation** of little fire ants! The Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) tested and recommends a 4-year treatment and monitoring regime to eradicate little fire ant infestations. This consists of a full survey to find the edge of the infestation, followed by treatments of the area (plus treatment of a "buffer zone" around the edge) every 6-8 weeks over the course of one year. At the end of the year, an intensive survey is conducted to detect any remaining little fire ants. If ants are found, that site is treated in the same manner for an additional year. If and when no ants are found, the site moves into the next phase of the eradication program, which is quarterly surveys for at least 3 years. Only at the end of this treatment and monitoring regime can an infestation be considered eradicated.

Infested materials have, and continue to slip through inspection, and small pockets of little fire ants are still being found in and around nursery and landscaping businesses. These businesses are cooperating fully with HDOA and the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee to survey for, and treat these pests. The success of eradication efforts to date are largely the result of vigilance and cooperation, guided by good science.

Waimānalo

Background: Located on an abandoned lot, this was the first large infestation discovered on O'ahu. Detected in April 2014, the infestation and treatment area is roughly seven acres. Based on the size of the population, LFA had likely gone unnoticed and/or unreported for several years before it was detected. The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, the Hawai'i Ant Lab and the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee conducted ten treatments between May 2014 and April 2015,

Current Status: Monitoring Phase. The infestation in Waimānalo also received 1 year of treatment cycles, although during the post-treatment surveys, a small amount of ants were found in two spots within the treatment area. One group were found in the canopy of a large tree and the other in a heavily vegetated spot. These areas have undergone more spot treatment and ants are no longer detected. The entire site will be continue to be surveyed quarterly until at least three years after the last ant detection.

Mililani Mauka

Background: Mililani Mauka is the second large infestation detected on O'ahu and the only known infested residential site. In June 2014, a resident brought ant samples from his yard to HDOA after being stung and because of this, the infestation was discovered while it was relatively small (about 20 adjoining properties & green spaces). Equally important, all the neighbors allowed staff on their property to test for and treat the ants. Beginning in August 2014, HDOA, HAL and OISC began treating every six weeks.

Current Status: Monitoring Phase, meaning that the area was treated for 1 year and no little fire ants were detected at the post-treatment survey or subsequent quarterly surveys. The site will be monitored for little fire ants quarterly until at least the end of 2018 (unless ants are detected again).

*LFA queens walk to start new colonies (instead of flying away to start a new colony), so an infestation grows only about 60 feet per year. Of course, we spread LFA much more effectively when we accidentally move their colonies hidden in plants, cut flowers, fruit, or other materials from infested areas. It is possible to stop LFA from invading O'ahu, but we need your help to find them. **TEST YOUR PROPERTY** at least once a year, or anytime you bring new plants or high-risk materials to your property. Samples of dead ants may be submitted to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Kaua'i

Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee

808.821.1490

HDOA: 4398A Pua Loke St., Lihue

Maui

Maui Invasive Species Committee 808.573.6472

HDOA: 635 Mua St., Kahului

Moloka'i

Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committee

808.553.5236

O'ahu

O'ahu Invasive Species Committee

808.266.7994

HDOA: 1428 S. King Street., Honolulu

Hawai'i Island

Hawai'i Ant Lab: 16E Lanikaula St., Hilo

Lāna'i

Pūlama Lāna'i

HDOA: 635 Mua St., Kahului

Or Report [Online](http://www.reportapest.org) via www.reportapest.org