

**Aloha Arborist Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**March 18, 2009**

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Doug DeMoss, Dudley Hulbert, Gregory Severino, Dan Severino, Randy Liu, Steve Connolly, Rodney Nakashima, Wayne Hu, Sergio Vasquez, Kevin Eckert, Steve Newman, Mark Leon

Guest: Darcy Oishi

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2009, MEETING MINUTES**

A) President Doug DeMoss called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. The February 2009 minutes were approved as written.

**II. GUEST SPEAKER**

A) Darcy Oishi, entomologist for Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), spoke about red palm mites.

- i) Red palm mites are a new pest from Asia. They're moving quickly, having already invaded Florida, the Caribbean and Venezuela in South America. The mite's primary host is palms, with 32 host species known so far. Assume that it will attack every type of palm. It also attacks banana. It can invade new areas via hand crafted materials where the palm leaves are still green. It's unlikely to enter via dry palm materials. Hawaii has a strict quarantine for palms and bananas.
- ii) If you find something that might be red palm mite, turn it in to HDOA right away. For identification, look for droplets on the hairs. It's very hairy compared to the red spider mite. It will probably make a red smear similar to the red spider mite. To see the hairs, you need to look at it through a loupe.
- iii) Symptoms of infested palms are similar to lethal yellowing. Whole yellow patches appear in the crown because it strips away the chlorophyll. The symptoms cause death in the plant.
- iv) Red palm mites are found on the undersides of leaves. Outbreaks tend to flare up in the summer. The mite likes it humid but not lots of rain.
- v) Natural enemies of the red palm mite are already present in Hawaii, although HDOA is not sure how large of a population. Some pesticides work but they are expensive and difficult to apply on larger palms.
- vi) The University of Florida is doing a lot of research on red palm mite. HDOA is partnering with DLNR to help improve our network.
- vii) There are lots of coconut pests that HDOA is worried about, including coconut rhinoceros beetle, red coconut beetle, red palm mite, and red palm weevil.
- viii) Kevin Eckert asked about how to treat banana leaf roller. Darcy suggested carburel, systemics (only when not harvesting the coconuts for food) such as Merit and Safari, and BTs.

- ix) Steve Connolly asked about a “most wanted” list. HDOA is working with DLNR on this now. It will probably come out in June or so, when they have an outreach person working with them.
- x) If anyone sees an ant nest with a mound, call right away, 643-PEST(7278). HDOA is on the lookout for little fire ant.
- xi) A copy of Darcy’s red palm mite handout is attached to the minutes for reference. He would appreciate feedback on whether the handout is helpful or not at darcy.e.oishi@hawaii.gov.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Research Committee.
  - i. Nothing new to report.
- b. Coconut Care Guidelines
  - i. Carol sent the old graphics to Dan to use as a reference for drawing new ones. Kevin said that he got someone to redo the graphics already, so never mind. Kevin is still working on the layout. Once it’s done, he’ll submit it for publication in Western Arborist.
- c. Mokuleia Activity
  - i. Ashlen and Greg will be going out again on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Anyone else interested in helping is invited too. They’ll be working on old topped trees, trying to make the area around the office and house safer. A recent failure took out half of the brand new office. It’s coming into busy season so any additional work will be deferred until later in the year, probably October.
- d. Training Workshops
  - i. Knots Workshop
    - 1. It went well despite the rain. Greg added that there’s a useful website on knots, [animatedknots.com](http://animatedknots.com), with video clips of knots tying and untying themselves. It has many categories of knots.
  - ii. Fall 2009
    - 1. WCISA is interested in working with us on the Tree Dissection workshop to make it a Regional Meeting.

b. Hawaii Tree Climbing Competition (HTCC)

- i. On Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, a group will be meeting at the beach park parking lot at 8 a.m. to work on the trees at Kualoa Ranch. The guys will be bringing grills and having a potluck afterwards. The monkeypods are hurting but they were able to find one big, beautiful one. Dudley will be competing and challenged Kevin to compete too.
- ii. Greg pledged \$100 of his own money to sponsor the HTCC's winner's trip to compete at the WCISA TCC in California in June and challenged others to match it. He also thinks the HTCC would be a better competition if we had a second place prize. He spoke with Mike Ward of Aloha Power Equipment and he's willing to sell AAA a special saddle at cost, around \$300. Greg made the motion that AAA purchase the second place prize. Dudley seconded it. The motion carried.
- iii. Kevin asked if Greg had found a 15m footlock tree at Kualoa Ranch. If not, we could do it with a crane. Greg noted that he doesn't want to have to bring a crane to Kualoa Ranch because he's paying for this out of his own pocket. Dudley added that the spirit of the contest matters more than precise measurements, but they will be looking for a tree that can meet the standard 15m footlock.

c. Randy's Bird Problem

- i. Dudley asked if Randy had fixed his bird problem at Moana Surfrider. Randy said that nothing has worked so far. Other suggestions were "bird bang", an irrigation system up in the tree, and "pied piper of pigeons".

d. Annual Meeting/Election of Officers

- i. Carol asked to add three directors to the slate of officers since the State requires a minimum of seven officers/directors when she makes the annual report. The 2008 president, Doug DeMoss, was added, along with Steve Nimz and Gregory Severino.

e. Certified Arborist/Certified Tree Worker Exams

- i. The next exam dates are
  1. Big Island – April 10, 2009 (written exams only, no skills for CTW)
    - a. The prep class finishes March 20, 2009
  2. Honolulu – April 18, 2009 (all exams offered including skills)
    - a. Bobby Midkiff offered to judge the CTW per Greg.

- b. The Oahu prep class is offered on 4/3 & 4, 4/10 & 11, 4/17 at Keeia State Park just past Kahaluu. The price is \$450/each and CEUs will be offered as well. Contact Kevin Eckert at 254-4161 or keckert@arborglobal.com if you're interested.

## II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. LICH Conference October 7 & 8, 2009
  - i. LICH asked for suggestions for its upcoming conference. Mark Leon suggested tree law topics. Maybe Kevin, Steve, Abner, and Mike Kraus could go through scenarios. Once you touch a tree, you own it in terms of liability. There are lawyers here who handle tree cases but none who specialize in it. Dudley suggested tapping a California attorney who's an arborist too. It was decided that that would be better as a WCISA/AAA regional meeting than at a LICH conference. Kevin Eckert suggested resistograph training. He does it, but won't be here in October. Mark said that Oliver is coming out himself next year with a new type of resistograph plus a tomagraph. It would be better to have training on that in 2010 instead. Carol suggested Julian Yates to talk about termites in trees, such as which species are more prone to attack.

## III. Announcements

- a. Welcome to Steve Newman, new AAA member. His company is Da Kine Trim, North Shore Oahu.
- b. Dudley brought in samples of a shower tree with what appears to be parrot damage to pass around.
- c. The WCISA Conference "The Business of Arboriculture" will be held May 4-8, 2009, at Reno, Nevada. The registration deadline is April 1, 2009. Online registration is available at <http://www.wcisa.net/>. Jackie Ralya was able to get air/hotel/shuttle for ~\$600 through Travelocity.com, a real bargain. Greg added that equipment manufacturers will be teaching CTW judges how to judge candidates on their equipment at the WCISA Conference as well.
- d. Jon Perry will be coming back to Hawaii to work for PLMI.
- e. Dan Severino's doctor gave him the OK to climb as much as he can tolerate. That's eight months after his accident.
- f. There will be a plant sale at Foster Garden on May 4, 2009. Kevin suggested setting up a climbing and pruning demonstration.
- g. There will be no meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Instead, our Annual Meeting is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. on April 29, 2009, at the Navy Marine Golf Course.

- h. Carol will be on vacation April 9-22, 2009.

#### IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President Doug DeMoss at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Kwan

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

*The next meeting will be our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Navy Marine Golf Course.*

Attachments:

1. 2009 AAA Membership application
2. *Red Palm Mite*

**2009 Aloha Arborist Association  
Membership Application**

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2009.

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: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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!**