

**Aloha Arborist Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**June 17, 2009**

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Gregory Severino, Dan Severino, Steve Nimz, Doug DeMoss, Misti Beirne, Wayne Hu, Randy Liu, Lake Gibby, Andrew Kendall

Guests: Darcy Oishi, Rob Hauff

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 20, 2009, MEETING MINUTES**

- A) President Dudley Hulbert called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m. The May 20, 2009, minutes were approved subject to correction of the meeting time for the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**II. GUEST SPEAKERS**

- A) Darcy Oishi discussed naio thrips a.k.a. Myoporum thrips and provided an update on the Erythrina gall wasp status.

i) Myoporum Thrips (*Klambothrips myopori*)

- (a) Myoporum thrips, red palm mites, red palm weevil, and hala scale were on the initial target list for pests. Unfortunately Myoporum thrips showed up. The Myoporum thrips are similar to banyan thrips. The butt has a long tube coming out of it. Immatures are white to yellow colored. The thrips are about the size of an ant. The easiest way to know that it's Myoporum thrips is that it's on Myoporum plants. It's hitting the naio hard here. So far it seems to attack only Myoporum plants, but the entomologists aren't sure. No one knows where it originates. They think maybe it's from Australia or New Zealand. California doesn't care about Myoporum thrips because they don't have the money to fight it and most of their Myoporum species are pests anyway.
- (b) Telstar will knock the thrips down. It doesn't work immediately on the adults but is very effective on the immatures. It takes about two months before positive results are seen. There are natural enemies that were introduced to control the banyan thrips. These seem to be attacking naio thrips as well, but HDOA is not sure if they will be effective in the long term.
- (c) There are other pests attacking naio, including a *Scirtothrips* sp., a native Delphacid leafhopper (*Aloha myoporicola*), and a new weevil that attacks the flowers. However, Myoporum thrips are by far the biggest problem.
- (d) Hawaii will be driving the fight for Myoporum thrips after July 1<sup>st</sup> when the new fiscal year begins. Please keep in mind the State furloughs, so Darcy won't be at work on Fridays. If anyone finds Myoporum thrips other than on the Kona side of the Big Island, please let Darcy know at 973-9524 or darcy.e.oishi@hawaii.gov.

ii) Erythrina Gall Wasp

- (a) The Erythrina gall wasp parasite, *Eurytoma erythrinae*, is doing well. More were released recently on Molokai. The Big Island got control in the first month after

release. When trees have been treated with systemics, the good guys get set back too. It takes longer for the control to work. Erythrina is recovering in areas where Eurytoma hasn't been released, including areas upwind and over mountains from where releases were done. HDOA doesn't know if Eurytoma will be effective in the long term. They've primarily focused on the native wiliwili. HDOA is now expanding Eurytoma releases into *E. variegata* and *E. crista-galli*. Both the gall wasp and Eurytoma don't seem to like the crista-galli. Eurytoma is establishing on *Erythrina fusca*. HDOA is also completing host range studies on a second parasite to Erythrina gall wasp. They will be evaluating whether the new parasite attacks Eurytoma as well. If it does, that will make it less likely that it will be released. Eurytoma lays its eggs in the same galls as the Erythrina gall wasp and then feeds on the larvae of the gall wasp. The second predator sucks the juices out of the gall wasp larvae.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### a. Research Committee.

- i. Dudley drank beers with Dr. Paull and Ken Leonhardt. One of their suggestions was to go to Lyon Arboretum to check Hawaii Sugar Planters Association's (HSPA's) research records on growth rates. HSPA is now HARC (Hawaii Agriculture Research Center). Richard Criley is soliciting funds for research on tree selection, so AAA could possibly work with him to support that research. Another suggestion was that we raise money and donate it to the UH Foundation. They wanted to know our three highest priorities, but we sent that to them a couple of years ago when the research committee started and it went nowhere. On June 20<sup>th</sup> there's a big CTAHR party at Ken Leonhardt's house. Dudley has a flyer.
- ii. Dudley also spoke with Chris Dacus. The money for the DOT research project is still on its way, maybe in the next year or two.

#### b. Coconut Care Guidelines

- i. Carol will send AAA members the text portion of the Coconut Care Guidelines for further review and comment.

#### c. Training Workshops

- i. James Urban – Up by Roots Fall 2009
  1. Dudley spoke to Chris Dacus. ASLA is cosponsoring the workshop. Jim got clearance from ISA to bring the workshop here. He plans to arrive in advance of the workshop to check out local situations. Rose says WCISA wants to be a part of this. She'd like to make this a regional meeting. Steve Nimz moved that we do the Up By Roots workshop as a WCISA Regional Meeting with AAA and ASLA cosponsoring and that we ensure that we don't conflict with the LICH

conference. Carol seconded. The motion carried. Jim wants to do the workshop here in the 10/19 – 10/23/09 timeframe. Dudley will send him an email to confirm the date.

ii. Small Workshops

1. Greg would like to do a series of small, low budget and low impact workshops. These would be half day sessions on rigging, climbing, etc. They would be demonstrations, not hands-on training. He plans to set an itinerary by September. Steve asked Greg to put something together on what he's proposing so we can discuss it at the next meeting. Then we can get other volunteers to help so the load is not all on Greg. Misti volunteered to help.

d. Hawaii Tree Climbing Competition (HTCC)

- i. Greg has some ideas for future HTCCs. He's signed up for training at the ISA Conference in Providence, RI, on how to set up an international class contest. For the 2010 HTCC, he would like to have a kumu's blessing, food available for participants and spectators, vendors' booths, and prizes. Dan would like to see more climber judges.
- ii. Tomorrow (June 18<sup>th</sup>), four people are leaving for the WC TCC. Good luck to all of our Hawaii competitors.
- iii. Our fundraising efforts have brought in \$1,135 so far. This should cover the expenses for Ashlen and Misti and we may have a small surplus. Carol moved that if there are any excess funds raised for TCC that we roll the money over to the 2010 HTCC. Steve seconded. The motion carried.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pest of the Month – Myoporum Thrips
  - i. See Darcy Oishi discussion above

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Welcome to guest speakers Darcy Oishi (HDOA) and Rob Hauff (DLNR-DOFAW). Darcy and Rob have a joint grant with Kaulunani. Also, thanks to Rob for the giveaway items (caps and mugs with 643-PEST). Rob has contacted Boyd Ready about putting up a pest page on the LICH website.
- b. Welcome to AAA member Lake Gibby, winner of the Stihl MS200T chainsaw, and happy birthday!
- c. Welcome to Andrew Kendall who works for Hawaii Landscape Corporation.

- d. Ken Leonhardt is working on making sterile trees for invasive species such as African tulip, haole koa, and albizia. These will be grown in a greenhouse and then released. Doug questioned how that will help the invasive species situation when the fertile trees are so numerous in the wild.
- e. Greg provided an update on PLMI's Kailua tree removal project. An agreement has been reached where the trees will be removed but only after the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Some crown reduction will be done prior to the parade to mitigate risk and the trees will be removed in mid July. The replacement trees will be royal poincianas instead of the previously proposed shower trees. He also wanted to note that contrary to some opinions expressed by others last meeting, he thinks that the City has been more than fair in its treatment of him and PLMI.
- f. Randy Liu asked how common double-headed coconuts are. The Sheraton Waikiki has one. Steve said that there are a few of them on Oahu and a famous one that he knows of in Tonga. There used to be one just after the bridge in Haleiwa but it was cut down.

#### IV. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned by President Dudley Hulbert at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Kwan

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.*

Attachments:

1. 2009 AAA Membership application
2. *Myoporum Thrips*

**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!**