

**Aloha Arborist Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2009**

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Steve Nimz, Sergio Vasquez, Mark Leon, Steve Connolly, Greg Severino, Quenna Johnson, Ashlen Aquila, Thomas Aceves, Maria Aceves

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 17, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

A) President Dudley Hulbert called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. The June 17, 2009, minutes were approved subject to any additional corrections from Darcy Oishi.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Research Committee

- i) Dudley went to the CTAHR party with Dr. Paull and Ken Leonhardt. From his discussions with them, a new dean is coming soon so the focus may shift for department after that. During prior discussions, they suggested that AAA come up with the funds on our own and then the professors will be interested. Maybe for our research wish list, we can come up with language that is more scientific and specific on exactly what we are looking for.
- ii) Chris Dacus is confident that the DOT research project for root growth impact on sidewalks will eventually be funded. The project is approximately \$120K. Steve Nimz noted that it has to go through UH and hopefully AAA will be involved and help guide the project. It may take a couple years before the funding is approved.

B) Coconut Care Guidelines

- i) The Coconut Care Guidelines were discussed at length. Carol will incorporate the changes and email them to AAA members for any additional comments, which will be due before the August meeting.

C) Training Workshops

- i) James Urban – Up by Roots Fall 2009
 - (a) Some issues have come up regarding a venue. Steve Nimz suggested checking with Blaisdell Center for how much it would cost.
- ii) Small Workshops – Greg Severino
 - (a) Greg would like to do something about every six weeks with the intent of raising funds for Hawaii Tree Climbing Competition (HTCC). These workshops would be planned well in advance so they could be publicized in articles. All marketing would include Greg's contact information instead of Carol's. Dudley commented that the knots workshop was well done with good attendance. Dudley is in favor of Greg working on this. Carol proposed paying Misti Beirne to help put these together. It was agreed that Misti would be paid at the same rate as Carol's admin support rate of \$25/hr. plus GET to help with the workshops. Justin Donohue has volunteered to do a workshop on aerial rescue training. Ashlen Aquila suggested modifying Justin's

workshop into an aerial rescue workshop with just a short talk at the end about competition. The important thing is that we know how to rescue each other. Only a few people will be interested in the competition aspect.

D) Tree Climbing Competition

- i) The Western Chapter Tree Climbing Competition (WCTCC) was awesome. Ashlen said he learned a lot in the process and is motivated to train for next year. It was inspiring, competing alongside some of the best climbers in the U.S. and world. Dudley suggested videotaping it to show at a meeting next year so we can all learn from it.
- ii) Greg also reported on WCTCC. His written report is attached to the minutes.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – *Cassytha filiformis*

- i) Hosts: Mainly woody species including native and naturalized coastal hosts such as tree heliotrope, beach naupaka, ohia lehua, noni, and hala.
- ii) Habitat: Primarily found in coastal areas on all major islands except Kaho'olawe. It requires full sun. On Oahu, it grows in Ewa and at Barbers Point. This species is indigenous to Hawaii.
- iii) Effects: This is a parasitic plant. Infections can be fatal to host species.
- iv) Treatment/prevention:
 - (a) Remove (prune) infected limbs as early as possible
 - (b) Shading (it's intolerant of shady conditions)
 - (c) Fire (if allowed)
 - (d) Avoid planting contaminated seed or using soil that may be contaminated
 - (e) Control or destroy unwanted host plants
 - (f) Minimize coastal habitat modifications, such as bulldozing and forestry

B) Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Worker Exams September 19, 2009.

- i) The Certified Arborist (CA) and Certified Tree Worker (CTW) exams have been scheduled for September 19, 2009, in lieu of the usual October exam. This will be the last time for retaking previously failed modules only. Beginning October 1st, both CA and CTW candidates must retake the entire exam. Also for CTWs, this will be the last exam where climbers are not required to install a friction saver during the skills component. Greg is planning to present a workshop on friction savers to help the transition. There's a long learning curve before a climber becomes proficient with these devices.
- ii) Greg and Mark volunteered to be skills judges. More volunteers are needed. Carol volunteered to help with the CA exam.

C) Meeting Venue

- i) Buzz's is nice, especially the upstairs room, but a single check for all attendees is an inconvenience. Carol said she'd spoken to Cattle Company manager and has reservations there for the rest of the year. It was agreed to continue to meet at Cattle Company for now.

D) Outer Island Meetings

- i) Our last Outer Island meeting was on Maui in 2005. We tried to set something up with HILA on the Big Island in 2006 but things didn't work out. Maui has the most AAA members outside of Oahu, so that might be a good location. We'll discuss this further at the August meeting. Mark suggested arranging for a tour of an unspoiled native forest area. This would be very educational for all of us. Greg mentioned this could coincide with the TCIA conference if we go to the Big Island.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) TCIA Winter Management Conference will be on February 7-11, 2010, at Hilton Waikaloa Village in Hawaii. For more info, visit http://www.treecareindustry.org/public/meetings_winter_management_conference.htm.
- B) Quenna is looking for wood for a woodturner: pink tecoma, 8" minimum diameter, or any fruit tree except mango, no minimum size. If you know of any, please contact Francisco Clemente at 428-1452.
- C) Al Remyn contacted Carol regarding an Eagle Scout who is coming to plant endangered trees on the Big Island. The boy was originally from Oahu but lives in California now. Carol helped Al with notifying the media.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Dudley Hulbert at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.

Attachments:

1. 2009 AAA Membership application
2. Gregory Severino's WCTCC report

**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!

WCTCC: The Culture of Competition

by Gregory Severino

We arrived at Castaic Lake around midmorning on Friday, June 19, 2009. Ashlen's father had already set up a base camp for us. This would be the first of many surprises for us this weekend.

From beautiful motor homes and trailers to standard camp sites and sleeping under the stars, the Western Chapter arborists were ready for the long weekend.

By lunch time on Friday, the Abrojena clan had hanai'ed both Justin Donahue and Ashlen Aquila. Originally from South Kona and 30 years on the Mainland, Gary and his family are as Hawaiian as it gets. Judging by the aloha we received from all in attendance, the Abrojena's fit right in with the Western Chapter culture of competition.

Every free moment, somewhere in the park area, climbers were checking gear, sharing techniques and ideas and even coaching each other on how to approach the event trees. I know of no other sport where competitors cheer so loudly for those they compete against.

After the late afternoon gear inspection, pizza arrived while grills were fired up. Just like a beach camp out here in the Islands, there was plenty of food and all were welcome!

By mid-morning Saturday the 'walk-through' of the day's 4 events was completed and everyone was anxious to begin.

The Belayed Speed Climb was set up in a leaning smooth-bark Eucalyptus. This made the climb difficult, and the entire first group struggled with this tree.

Throw Line competition was in a spreading pine tree and proved to be equally challenging. With a lot of small foliage in the upper portion of the tree and the pitch that exudes from even the smallest wound, it was no easy task to score high in this event.

Aerial Rescue had us in yet another pine tree, and with our 'victim' perched around 40' high, a good number of climbers timed out before successfully completing this station.

The Work Climb was in another pine, but this event looked like fun. At least two competitors performed the limb walk by going inverted and pulling themselves hand over hand out to the work station with feet in the air!

Saturday night was the campfire and group cookout. On our way to the camp fire Justin Donahue and I bumped into Bill Gardner. "You've got a good man there," Bill said pointing to Justin. Bill then jumped into a story from his earliest encounter with Dr. Alex Shigo. "So you want to be an Arborist? You'll have to come to New Hampshire three or four times a year" Bill told us how walking the dog was the best. "As we walked through the forest, Shigo would explain everything we looked at." Dr. Alex had a way of leading you across tangents that ultimately came full circle around to his point. He didn't just teach, he imparted wisdom. "Where are you from? How are things there? Go and find out."

These are some things he would say to get you to do the work that brought wisdom.

Again Bill said, “You’ve got a good man there” – a compliment, it seemed, from the good Doctor himself. Shigo is still teaching through all of those he touched directly.

Sunday morning...Andy Trotter was cooking up another feast – scrambled eggs with potato and Elk sausage. Delicious! After the food was cooked Andy went back to his grinder where he was making the sausage right there at camp.

Head-to-Head Footlock races dominated the morning and satisfied the restless crowd that really felt the need to make some noise. Fast or slow, expert or novice, nothing mattered. Everyone was cheered. You gotta love tree people!

Just as the old timers event was getting underway, reality set in and some of us had to head to the airport. We missed the Master’s Challenge, but we did earn our position as participating members of the Western Chapter. We’ll be back next year, and in 2010 Hawaii will stay ‘til the end.