

Aloha Arborist Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2009

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Steve Nimz, Sergio Vasquez, Mark Leon, Steve Connolly, Doug DeMoss, Misti Beirne, Brian Fukada, Issac Lolohea

Guests: Teresa Trueman-Madriaga, Chad Miles

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 15, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

- A) President Dudley Hulbert called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. The July 15, 2009, minutes were approved as written.

II. GUEST SPEAKER – TERESA TRUEMAN-MADRIAGA RE URBAN FORESTRY SUMMIT

- A) Teresa informed the group about the upcoming Urban Forestry Summit to be hosted by Kaulunani and DLNR on November 4 & 5, 2009, at the East-West Center. There is no cost to participate. Kaulunani is looking for delegates from various organizations including AAA. Steve Nimz asked if it would be possible to attend even if you aren't a delegate. Teresa said it was, just contact her separately (672-3383 or ttm@hawaii.rr.com). A wide variety of topics will be discussed at the summit, such as how trees can be solutions to stream problems, etc. Trees are often overlooked as a solution for a wide range of issues. Also, people in the conservation industry are unaware that there is such a thing as an "urban forest". People talk about planting trees for climate change but don't look at all of the other benefits trees offer. More research is needed as well for expanding the tree palette that's used in urban forests.
- B) Dudley commented that he wished we'd had this discussion a year ago because we've been knocking on the research door. If we can come up with the money, University of Hawaii (UH) will find a grad student to do the research. Teresa added that she writes grant applications all the time because we need money here. Dudley suggested that we revisit our previous research priorities and flesh it out, then prioritize the research projects and identify how much money it would cost to do each one. Steve noted that the projects need to be doable. He also suggested that Dudley take Jim Urban out to dinner with Teresa to see if Jim has any ideas for things that we can bring up at the Summit. The following volunteered to be on the committee to decide AAA's priorities for the Summit: Mark, Steve Nimz, Dudley, Doug, Misti, Sergio, and Teresa. If anyone else is interested, please contact Dudley.
- C) Doug said that we need to educate the people who live in the urban forest about why it's important. The City doesn't have the resources to police every tree. He spends so much time telling homeowners who want to cut their street tree down about the tree's benefits.
- D) Steve Nimz asked if we need to bring anything with us to the summit. Teresa said there's lots of homework to be done beforehand. The idea is to a) get grant money and b) implement a plan. If we can get this started, then Hawaii can become a leader in tropical tree research. Teresa added that U.S. research typically excludes Alaska and Hawaii. Steve Nimz noted that AAA should focus on what we bring to the table. It would be great if we have something we can latch onto and carry out.
- E) Mark pointed out that in Los Angeles, they're using trees to protect the shorelines against flooding. That helps the coastal areas and reefs. Since Hawaii is so dependent on tourism, it

will affect our economy if we don't address it. By his house there's a big stream that receives stormwater runoff and it was designed using the decades old technique of getting the water to the ocean as fast as possible. Carol said that can contribute to Clean Water Act violations. Teresa added that there's a lawyer on the Kaulunani Council who looks at things like getting the money from those Clean Water Act fines to fund urban forestry projects, but so far he hasn't been successful.

- F) In preparation for the summit, a short survey is being done. Teresa will forward the link to Carol so it can be distributed to AAA's email list. The survey input will provide a clear understanding of issues going into the meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A) Research Committee

- i) Carol saw an article in Western Arborist about Landscape Pest Identification Cards for California. These are field cards laminated with photos for common landscape problems. Something similar for Hawaii would be great. Dudley pointed out that these would be helpful for homeowners too.
- ii) AAA could apply for a Britton Fund grant for tree research in Hawaii. Carol discussed this with Rose Epperson and she thinks it's a great idea. That could provide the funding to motivate UH to work with us. Teresa pointed out that the Britton Fund money could be leveraged as match for another grant. She also noted that Kaulunani does not fund research.

B) Coconut Guidelines

- i) The *Hawai'i Guidelines for the Management of Coconut Palms* were discussed with minor changes to be made. Steve Nimz reviewed our Guidelines against the latest ANSI A300 Pruning standards and noted that we need to modify Kevin's "trimmed coconut" sketch to show the fronds touching a horizontal line. The language has been changed and no longer refers to petioles at a 45 degree angle. Carol will make the changes on the computer. The Guidelines were unanimously approved as amended. Carol will submit them for publication in *Hawaii Landscape*.

C) Training Workshops

- i) James Urban – Up by Roots Fall 2009
 - (a) The venue will be Sheraton Waikiki. Workshop cost is \$135 for members (ASLA, AAA, or WCISA). Attendees can also buy the book at a special rate when registering.
 - (b) Chris Dacus would like us to find an abused street tree within easy walking distance. We would need the City's approval to use any of its street trees as part of the workshop. Steve Nimz said there are some horribly abused trees on a construction site along Royal Hawaiian Avenue. He can check if the owner would be willing to let

us look at them. If there are any other suggestions, please let Carol know, ckwan@hawaii.rr.com or 381-1342. A Kaulunani grant request was submitted for \$3,000 to help cover costs in case not enough people attend. We will also need AAA's support for various items for the afternoon Labs. Carol will bring a list of items to the next meeting.

ii) Small Workshops – Greg Severino

- (a) Greg has scheduled a CTW Climbers Test training for September 12, 2009 [subsequently cancelled after the meeting]. He's planning to hold small workshops about every two months. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact him at 478-1972 or gks1@hawaii.rr.com.
- (b) Mark knows someone on the Big Island who specializes in tropical fungi – Joe Sneider, originally from Calastoga, California. Mark will take the lead in tracking him down and see if he's interested in doing a training workshop for us. Maybe this could be combined with an Outer Island trip to the Big Island.

iii) Arborist Report Writing

- (a) Stan suggested this as a training topic. He gets a lot of poorly written arborist reports. Carol knows an English professor at KCC who is interested in helping us. The workshop would use *A Consultant's Guide to Writing Effective Reports* from ASCA as a basis. Steve Nimz commented that it's a good book but it's written for people who want to become an ASCA member. We should focus on simple, professional reports, specifically letter reports. Only a select group of people need this sort of training. The workshop would be held during 2010.

D) 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. More volunteers are needed for CTW skills judges. Brian is interested in helping.

E) Outer Island Meeting

- i) Mark volunteered to plan an Outer Island meeting to the Big Island for next year.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – *Phytophthora Coconut Heart and Bud Rot*

- i) Hosts: Primarily affects *Cocos nucifera*, mostly on Maui and Kauai.
- ii) Symptoms: Loss of young fruits, brown mottling on immature and mature green fruits, heart rot of plant evident when youngest spear leaf dies, leaf death, death of palm

- iii) Spread: Via movement of infected nuts and palms, pruning with contaminated equipment, insects, rodents, wind-driven rain
- iv) Control: Remove and incinerate diseased nuts and palms
- v) AAA member Philippe Visintainer from Maui sent an email prior to the meeting pointing out that he has an injection system for treating infected coconuts. For more information, visit <http://www.coconutprotectors.com/>. Steve Nimz noted that Agri-Fos and Subdue can be used to treat Phytophthora as well.
- vi) Mark mentioned that UH told him there is also a Phytophthora that affecting the trunk. This can be even more dangerous because a climber can be half way up the palm and have it fail.

B) LICH Conference

- i) Jay Deputy asked Steve to do a talk on Day 1 (October 21st) on air spading. This will probably be in Thomas Square. For more information on the LICH conference, visit <http://lichawaii.com>.

C) DUF Participation

- i) There was some discussion about why the City Division of Urban Forestry (DUF) is not represented at the AAA meetings. Dudley noted that Stan Oka used to come to meetings many years ago. Steve Nimz stated that whether or not Stan or DUF is represented at the meetings, they are a critical supporter of AAA. Steve made a motion to offer free membership for a representative of DUF who attends the meetings. This person would represent both Stan Oka and DUF and would facilitate communication between AAA and DUF. Carol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D) Dudley Samples

- i) Dudley brought in a citrus with galls. The tree had been topped. There was no insect evident inside of the galls and he doesn't know what's causing it. The gall wood looks regular except it's swirled, not organized. Steve Nimz said that he was taught that insects carry viruses, infect a tree, and that causes galls.
- ii) Dudley's second sample was a magnolia with 20 penny nails. The tree still had a large amount of living tissue. It was struggling, but it had withstood the injury.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Welcome to Chad Miles, Misti's boyfriend and guest.
- B) There's a site for dumping wood chips on the North Shore, off of Kamehameha Hwy near Sunset Elementary School. Please contact Meleana Judd at 551-8132 or MeleanaJudd@gmail.com for more info.

- C) Aloha Power Equipment is no longer an authorized Stihl dealer. Stihl deals of the month can be still redeemed on Oahu at Garrick & Sons. Dudley was just at Aloha Power Equipment and they are still in business.
- D) Gregory Severino has 16 sets of *Basic Training for Ground Workers* (5 video tapes (VHS) plus one workbook per set), \$25/set. If interested, contact Greg at 478-1972 or gks1@hawaii.rr.com. These originally sold for \$239.95/set from ISA.
- E) Brian asked about CEUs. He took a CPR class, sent the paperwork to ISA, and was denied because he'd taken CPR before. Steve Nimz said that doesn't sound right because you can take other workshops multiple times and still get CEUs.
- F) Randy Liu sent an email regarding Stihl items being sold at half price off of retail by LICH. These have been lightly used for the CLT program. If anyone is interested, please contact Randy at 282-5328.
- G) Mark announced that there's a municipal arborist exchange program. This is for anywhere in the world. Visit www.urban-forestry.com for more information.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Dudley Hulbert at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.

Attachments:

1. 2009 AAA Membership application
2. Hawai'i Guidelines for the Management of Coconut Palms

**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!

**Aloha Arborist Association
Hawai'i Guidelines for the Management of Coconut Palms
Approved August 19, 2009**

Coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*) are a significant palm throughout Hawaii and tropical regions around the world. These palms can reach over 100' in height and may live over 100 years. They regularly shed coconuts and large fronds, which may expose people and property to injury and damage. To minimize this risk, coconuts and fronds must be regularly removed prior to their fall. In certain instances, coconut palms may possess structural defects that increase the risk of failure of a portion or all of the palm.

This brochure is designed to provide guidance for arborists, tree workers and property owners/managers in the proper pruning and general assessment of coconut palms. When caring for coconut palms, the safety of people and property is our greatest priority.

Pruning is recommended a minimum of two times per year within developed areas to manage the hazards of falling coconuts and fronds and to minimize risk to persons and property within the fall zone.

In order to ensure safe, healthy and attractive palms that can achieve a maximum life-span within a specific site, we recommend that the tree worker who is pruning the palm:

1. Report abnormal conditions in the crown, trunk, or base of the palm
2. Remove fronds, fruit, seedpods and fruit stalks carefully without damaging the trunk or fronds that are to be retained.
3. Remove lower fronds where any part of the frond hangs below a horizontal plane if desired. (see Figure 1)
4. Not remove live, healthy fronds above horizontal except where encroaching on utilities or structures (see Figure 2)
5. Not embed the cutting tool into the trunk or fronds that will remain on the coconut palm.
6. Avoid the use of spikes where practical. In most instances, damage from repeated spike use is primarily cosmetic, but structural defects may develop over time.

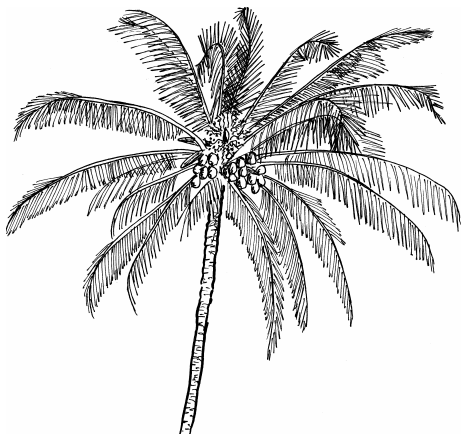


Figure 1

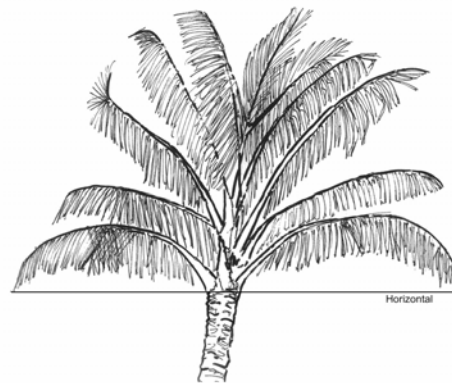


Figure 2

Listed below are some of the potentially serious defects or conditions that should be inspected by a Qualified Arborist:

1. Large wounds, cracks and cavities in the trunk (over 25% of the trunk circumference or cross section affected).
2. Penciling (abrupt tapering of the upper trunk immediately below the crown).
3. Significant hour-glassing (narrowing and enlargement of the trunk in an hour-glass form that exceeds 30% reduction of the diameter at the site of the hourglass).
4. Excessive root damage near the base of the palm (more than 25% of the roots within two-feet of the trunk).
5. Trunk flare restrictions (less than 1' radius of open space around trunk).
6. Excessive dead areas within the root initiation zone (more than 25%).
7. Termite damage.
8. Discolored, stunted or deformed fronds or leaning or missing crown shaft.
9. Excessive trunk lean (over 35 degrees).
10. Growing under, over, or into utility lines.
11. Palms with trunk heights over 70 feet.

As coconut palms age, replacement planting programs should be implemented.

This brochure has been prepared by the Aloha Arborist Association (AAA), a professional association of arborists, tree care services and arboricultural consultants with experience and knowledge of the growth and management of coconut palms in Hawaii. AAA advocates proper tree and palm care in conformance with the standards and practices set forth within the most current versions of the ANSI A300 pruning standards and ANSI Z133.1 safety standards.

A Qualified Arborist is a professional experienced in the type of work to be performed who has maintained an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist certificate continuously for at least 5 years, and can demonstrate technical knowledge and skill through conformance with internationally accepted arboricultural standards and practices.

The advice contained herein is of necessity general in nature and is intended as a guide. Each palm is subject to unique conditions that cannot reasonably be anticipated within this publication. The final determination for proper care and treatment of an individual coconut palm should be according to the recommendations of a Qualified Arborist who has conducted an inspection and assessment of the subject palm.