

**Aloha Arborist Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2009**

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Mark Leon, Steve Connolly, Gregory Severino, Thomas Aceves, Maria Aceves, Daniel Severino, Randy Liu, Wayne Hu

Guests: Carin Lim, Cristin Lim, Jelene Wong, Cheryl Wong

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 19, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

- A) Vice President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. The August 19, 2009, minutes were approved as written.

II. GUEST SPEAKERS – CRISTIN LIM AND JELENE WONG OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 355

- A) Cristin Lim and Jelene Wong introduced themselves as juniors at Iolani School with 10 years as Girl Scouts. They are currently working on their gold award, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. Their project has to have a sustainable impact to the community. They met with The Outdoor Circle (TOC) and found out about Exceptional Trees from them. For their project, they've decided to make an interactive tour of Exceptional Trees for people of all ages to go on. For now the focus is on downtown Honolulu, though more may be added at a later date. The tour will probably include downtown, Foster Botanical Garden, and Waikiki. The end product will be a self-guided tour pamphlet including information on each tree's species and history. The tour could be walked or driven. Next year is the Girl Scouts' 150th anniversary, so they may try to include 150 trees. Their timeline is to have the project completed by the end of 2010. Dan suggested that they consider a booklet format because it could be difficult to cover a lot of trees on a one page trifold brochure.
- B) The Girl Scouts requested AAA's support through donations to assist with printing costs. The projected printing costs are \$2,500 for a color, high quality pamphlet, probably trifold. Wayne suggested publishing it electronically too so people can print it out themselves from the Web. Steve suggested that Cristin and Jelene might want to give the tour themselves as tour guides towards the end of their project. Randy suggested putting it in the newspaper too. TOC might be able to help with that. Steve noted that as arborists, we're all in support of raising knowledge of trees and Exceptional Trees are a great place to start.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A) Research Committee

- i) Dudley reported that Carol had a great idea about tag teaming with someone who's already doing the research and generating another paper off of the same work instead of reinventing the wheel. Carol discussed Goro Uehara's biochar research. The control plants are growing without charcoal and they're measuring growth rates. That could parallel our research work.
- ii) Randy suggested a research project on the Moana Surfrider banyan. It's been documented with photos for years with lots of history written about it. If we could turn it around and make it thrive again, that would be a great write-up. He has soil and tissue sample results. Dudley suggested getting Jim Urban to take a look at it while he's here. Randy said that he's already rushing sample analysis to have results prior to Jim's arrival.

Mark noted that the banyan was horribly overpruned in the past and has sunscald on its upper branches. Paving the entire area probably contributed to the tree's decline as well since it doesn't get water or nutrients and has a lot of compaction. Stepping stones with slats would have been better. Randy noted that the tree was already stressed prior to paving the area. Greg added that the chemicals used to wash the paving stones probably contributed to the decline. Could remediation include removal of some of those paving stones? There's \$20K earmarked to remove some pavement and get an open area with rocks or mulch but not turf, which was considered at one point. Construction was 20 years ago. The area around the tree was cut into about 20'-30' on three sides. The corner where the tree is suffering the most may have 2'-3' of fill and possibly construction debris. Mark thinks mulch is the way to go. It's in sandy soil so oxygen should get in there. He also suggested using a dingo to break up the pavement instead of a bobcat so there's less equipment weight and damage. Dudley said this is a shining example of what we'd like to be able to do, fix this tree. We've already outlined a blueprint for a tree in decline with all of the things that can go wrong. Randy said we might need a professor to write it up. Steve added that it's more like telling the story of the tree so a trade journal might be better than a scientific journal.

B) Urban Forestry Summit

- i) AAA delegates are needed for this. Kevin has volunteered if we want him. Carol will be attending as well. The summit is on November 4th and 5th. Greg will join the committee to work on AAA's top priorities. Carol will find out who's planning to attend and we'll pick AAA's delegates from those people at the next meeting.

C) Training Workshops

- i) James Urban – Up by Roots Fall 2009
 - (a) Only eight people are registered so far. We need around 90 people to break even. The deadline for early registration is October 8, 2009.
- ii) Small Workshops – Greg Severino
 - (a) Please suggest your topic ideas for hands-on training to Greg Severino, gks1@hawaii.rr.com. He'll meet with whoever has ideas and report back at an AAA meeting. The goal is to raise money for the 2010 TCC. Steve C. is interested in hosting one of these workshops on Single Rope Technique (SRT).
- iii) Arborist Report Writing
 - (a) This workshop is planned for spring 2010. Maureen Murphy, a KCC English professor, Stan Oka, and Carol will be the instructors. The workshop will cover professional letter reports.

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

- i) Greg, Dan, Steve Connolly, and Mark will be judges. There are 9 Davey employees signed up for the CTW exam – 8 bucket, 1 climber. For the skills portion, Greg is planning to have the inspection first. If any candidate is unprepared, he'll fail that quickly so the judges can go home. If there are a large number of unprepared candidates similar to past exams, Greg proposes to decrease the frequency of the CTW exam to once per year to avoid judges' burnout.

E) Outer Island Meeting

- i) Tabled.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Girl Scout Exceptional Trees Project

- i) After our guests left, discussions were opened regarding the amount of support that AAA should provide for the project. AAA's proposed donation would be from the Shigo Fund. Some suggested amounts were \$250, \$500, and \$1,000. Carol will forward the Girl Scouts' letter via email to AAA members and solicit individual pledges for the project. A copy is also attached to the minutes. All donations should be acknowledged on the final printed product and AAA would like to review the draft prior to its going to printing. AAA's support check would be delivered after that review. Mark suggested levels of sponsorship such as gold, silver, and platinum. A decision on the amount to be donated from the Shigo Fund was deferred to the October meeting to see how many pledges would be received from individual members and to solicit Steve Nimz's input on the amount to be pledged from the Shigo Fund.

B) Pest of the Month – Lightning Injury to Plants

- i) Affects: Any plant, particularly tall-standing, erect plants (like trees and palms)
- ii) Symptoms include: rapid wilting or collapse of plants or stems in combination with structural damage or carbonization (burning) of the internal stem tissues, premature mass dropping of green fruit, burns or strange scars on plants or organs, roots appear blackened or cooked, and/or interior plant tissue blown out of the stem. Symptoms develop rapidly and coincide with recent thunderstorms.
- iii) Damage caused by: heat and shock waves
- iv) Symptoms can mimic other diseases and disorders

C) Landscape Pest Identification Cards

- i) Carol brought California's Landscape Pest Identification Cards and suggested that we should have something like these for Hawaii. Further discussion was deferred until the October meeting.

D) Dudley Samples

- i) Dudley brought in a longitudinal section of a canker/burl on lychee. The wood tissue was disorganized. The tree was planted 40 years ago and there was no mechanical injury to have caused the canker on a major scaffold. The limb was dying due to restricted vascular tissue.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Important Safety Recall – aluminum rings not individually tested. Recalled by Kong Bonaiti of Italy with the recall notice sent out from Sherrill Tree. If you have the rings, either discard them or return them to the place of purchase.
- B) Mark discussed Aloha Power Equipment no longer being an authorized Stihl dealer. He suggested calling Stihl and voicing concerns if anyone has any. Competition is better.
- C) Woodsman is dealing through Mark here if anyone is interested. The downside is that the parts are from the manufacturer and Woodsman won't offer one year parts and labor in Hawaii. Woodsman is an affordable option with mid range quality.
- D) Randy Liu has Stihl items being sold at cost for 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.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Steve Connolly at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.

Attachments:

1. 2009 AAA Membership application
2. Letter from Girl Scouts re Exceptional Trees project
3. Pest of the Month – Lightning Injury to Plants

**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!