

Aloha Arborist Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2009

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Mark Leon, Steve Connolly, Gregory Severino, Daniel Severino, Randy Liu, Wayne Hu, Jon Perry, Andrew Kendall

Guest: Teresa Trueman-Madriaga

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

- A) President Dudley Hulbert called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. The September 16, 2009, minutes were approved as written.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) Girl Scouts Exceptional Tree Project

- i) Carol made a motion to donate \$500 from the Shigo Fund to the Girl Scouts' Exceptional Tree project. Mark seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- ii) Individual AAA members have also pledged \$125 to support the project, including \$50 from our Nevada member, Jose' Olvera.

B) Urban Forestry Summit/Research Committee

- i) AAA members attending the Summit are Kevin Eckert, Dudley Hulbert, Mike Kraus, Terry Nutt, Carol Kwan, and Boyd Ready. Carol nominated Dudley Hulbert to be AAA's representative. Greg seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- ii) Teresa discussed the Summit, which will include 45 representatives from across the industry. Others who are interested can hear it live on iTunes for free. Hawaii's urban forest is sandwiched between mountains and oceans and what we do in it affects everything else – watershed, invasive species, etc. We would like to get a tropical urban forestry research center here in Hawaii. The industry has long said we need research. There's tons of money spent in the northeast near Washington, but not out in the Pacific, in the tropics. Teresa is hoping participants will vote on this and other critical issues. From the survey, urban forestry management was the number one issue. The State forester wants our forest to work better with the natural forest. We also need geospatial data. This will help bring us up to 21st century standards and provide tools for the future. The Summit will help us develop a plan for the next five years. AAA's research ideas will fit in well. Urban forestry is a new industry; tropical urban forestry isn't even a blip at this point. We need to get it on the radar.
- iii) Dudley circulated his draft research topics list and asked for input on other items to add. He pointed out that for the Moana Surfrider banyan, there's no research person to call now. We have Steve Nimz and other arborists, but no scientists to consult. Greg suggested setting up an interactive database. We call each other and ask questions; others have tree stories. We could all contribute and then everyone could access it. Teresa mentioned that one of the guys at the Summit wrote *Traditional Trees of the Pacific*. Maybe some of the things that we're discussing are in his book. Jon added that it's a good book. Carol noted that once we get the non-profit issue resolved, perhaps we could

apply for a Kaulunani grant and put together a table with all of this different info: where the tree grows well, where it grows poorly, its salt tolerance, pH range, construction tolerance, how well it compartmentalizes, etc.

- iv) Dudley discussed input that he received prior to the meeting. Austin told him that Stan wants to be part of the national tree failure database. Jon suggested using City trees to develop the resistograph database. Mark said IML already has a database with a lot of our tropical trees in it, like ironwoods. It might be good to use IML's database as a starting point and build on that. He also noted that it's probably better to use field stock instead of nursery stock. Jon said the City has some fairly mature trees in their nursery that might work.

C) Training Workshops

- i) James Urban – Up by Roots 10/22/2009

- (a) Up By Roots was a great show. Thanks to Carol for all of her hard work. Thanks to Randy and Dudley for their efforts too. Probably everyone who went learned something. Carol noted that the workshop did not lose money but it will take awhile to work out how the finances came out. Steve Connolly would have liked to have seen a lot more on soil volume including hard data.

- ii) Small Workshops – Greg Severino

- (a) Greg reported that there's nothing concrete yet. As soon as he has things firmed up, particularly a venue, he'll send info to Carol to send to the training list. The first workshop he's planning is on entry techniques.

- (b) Steve Connolly is planning a SRT (Single Rope Technique) workshop. It will be 4-5 hours at Lyon Arboretum on a Saturday or Sunday. This would be a very specific topic for tree climbers. Participants need to have some sort of knowledge about climbing practices. Greg is looking at covering the basics in other workshops first to get them up to that level. There was much discussion about whether or not to limit the class to advanced climbers and if so, how to do that. There were problems at the Climbing Skills workshop with having lots of beginners who couldn't or wouldn't fully participate in the workshop. Steve pointed out that this is for dedicated climbers who are advanced in the field, so they have an opportunity to try different systems. It has to be a small group, no more than 25 people, who are already competent climbers and want to learn new techniques.

- iii) Arborist Report Writing

- (a) Tabled

D) Outer Island Meeting

- i) It was decided to target August 2010 on the Big Island for the next Outer Island Meeting. Mark plans to get in touch with Mike Kraus and the tropical fungus guy and see if we can

set up something. He'll also ask Mike if we can arrange a trip into a native Hawaiian forest. Mike did a talk on resistance to sulphur, like ohia around the volcano. Maybe we can include something like that as well. We also want to have a meeting for Big Island arborists and those who would like to become arborists. Mark will report back at our January meeting.

E) Landscape Pest Identification Cards

- i) Carol left a message for the lady who coordinates the Master Gardeners to see if we can get Landscape Pest Identification Cards here. The lady is on maternity leave and gets back in November. Some members were interested in buying the California pest id cards. Carol will find the source online and email it to members.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

- i) Hosts: Numerous, including koa, ohia, Norfolk pine, *Eucalyptus* sp., macadamia nut, hala, avocado, and strawberry guava
- ii) Range: Hawaii, and most of the rest of the world (Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America, Central America, Caribbean, Micronesia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea)
- iii) Symptoms: primarily root rot in Hawaii plants, leading to dieback and death. Causes trunk cankers in macadamias.
- iv) Spread through: soil, water, root-to-root contact, movement of contaminated soil or plant debris.
- v) Control: alleviation of high soil moisture levels, increasing aeration through improved drainage, and attention to mineral deficiencies. Systemic fungicides offer some chemical control.
- vi) Steve Connolly discussed problems at Lyon Arboretum believed to have been caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Their ethnobotanist pointed out a tree that was dying on Steve's first day at work. Within a week it was dead. It was a native tree, *Tetrapalsandra* sp. It was near other trees that had died of the same species at the same time of year. The tree was about 30 years old. It had a little bit of lawnmower damage, but nothing else obviously wrong. He was working on the diagnosis when it occurred to him that it could be *Phytophthora*. He wasn't able to get a sample in time to have it analyzed, but it's a species susceptible to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. There's no real way to stop it. In Australia, there are areas that are off limits to any traffic at all, because a little bit of mud from boots is contaminating native forests and killing huge acreage overnight. It's often related to weather patterns. The one at Lyon died after a week of relatively dry weather. When Steve surveyed Lyon employees, this was the fourth *Tetrapalsandra* that's died just about overnight. How do things die this fast? From Steve's research, phosphites have some affect in controlling *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

Mulching and maintaining a healthy soil community aids resistance. This is basically research through experience, identifying what species has this been seen in. Lyon has seven other specimen *Tetrapalsandras* that they'd like to keep plus other susceptible species in the area.

- vii) Carol discussed *Phytophthora cinnamomi* with Steve Nimz prior to the meeting. He said it's mostly a tropical agriculture problem in Hawaii. He hasn't seen it much in the urban forest. Occasionally a citrus in someone's yard will succumb.
- viii) Mark said that there are a lot of different species of *Phytophthora*. We have to worry about crown rot of coconuts too. Of all of the coconuts that he's found, only one has tested positive as *Phytophthora* and that was in Maunawili, a wet area. It can be spread through tools.
- ix) Dudley said that this is a great example of how we can all learn from each other. If there were some way we could put this info where others can get to it, through the website or whatever. We need to be able to communicate in a clear way. Not everyone can come to the meeting on a regular basis. Teresa suggested that we get a grant to hire someone to help us with all of this.

B) Dudley Samples

- i) Dudley brought in a sample and posed the question, "Why do borers attack live, young, vigorous growing wood?" The sample showed a progression of borers from dead wood into live wood.
- ii) The second sample was a beetle or possibly a weevil from a coconut.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Our next meeting is the last meeting of the year. Please renew your AAA membership.
- B) Mark discussed his new business as a Woodsman dealer. You can deal directly with the factory and get the wholesale price if you want. Mark handed out a Woodsman CD. One of the negatives was that they weren't willing to give a year warranty at first. He talked to them and they've changed it so you can use your own mechanic and they will cover everything for a year.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Dudley Hulbert at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

[PLEASE JOIN US!](#)

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.

Attachments:

1. 2009 AAA Membership application
2. Pest of the Month – *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

**2010 Aloha Arborist Association
Membership Application**

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2010.

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!