

**Aloha Arborist Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2010**

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Steve Connolly, Gregory Severino, Daniel Severino, Doug DeMoss, Steve Nimz, Ivan Asato, Nusi Manufekai, Mark Leon, Misti Beirne, Sergio Vasquez, Ashlen Aquila, Wayne Hu

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

- A) President Dudley Hulbert called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. The November 18, 2009, minutes were approved as written.

II. GUEST SPEAKER – Bob Speer, President of Oahu Master Gardener Association

- A) Bob introduced himself. He's retired from the U.S. Navy and does a lot of volunteer work now. He's liked to "play in the dirt" since his childhood and works out of Pearl City Urban Garden Center as a Master Gardener. Carol has been working with him on the landscape pest identification cards. His Master Gardener handouts are attached to the minutes.
- B) The University of Hawaii is a land grant college and as such was established for conducting agricultural research, including forestry. There's a Cooperative Extension Service with a paid staff primarily to service farmers. Information gets to the public via volunteers – the Master Gardeners. This is a similar format for all of the States. The Master Gardeners' charter is public outreach on gardening. Master Gardeners are people who love plants and like to help people. They go through a 16-week course. Their backgrounds vary and many are novices before the course. The course covers 25 different subjects including trees, grasses, herbs, vegetables, insects, diseases, and organics. This provides a basic introduction on the various topics. The course costs \$95. There are three open book exams and one final exam during the course. Master Gardeners commit to providing 50 volunteer hours in the year after graduation. Most of the questions from the public are very basic. The Master Gardeners do an analysis after asking the person a few questions about their plants. There are currently 60 Master Gardeners participating. Master Gardeners have a phone line at Pearl City Urban Garden Center and there's also a Plant Doctor table at the KCC farmer's market, the Island Seed Festival, etc. Demands for their services are increasing including doing outreach at workshops, with schools, and for the elderly. They actually need 100 Master Gardeners on Oahu to satisfy the demand for their services.
- C) The Master Gardener program needs a spectrum of people to deal with the various issues raised by the public. At this point, the only Certified Arborist actively involved with the Master Gardener program is Carlton Luka from Foster Botanical Garden. In general, Master Gardeners don't know that much about trees. They would be interested in developing a relationship with AAA to help fill this gap and perhaps they may be able to help AAA as well. There's a big event on the second Saturday of every month. The next one is on February 13, 2010, on chocolate. There's a different topic every month. It would be great to have a second Saturday program focused on trees where AAA members could explain proper tree care.
- D) There is a training venue at Pearl City Urban Garden Center. The classroom has some restrictions since it's associated with U.H. A service project for Pearl City Urban Garden Center would probably be a reasonable venue for training. Their fruit trees are in bad shape and need lots of help. Dudley said that we're looking for ways to communicate to the public

better ways to care for their trees, so this might be a good way to accomplish that. Pearl City Urban Garden Center has 30 acres, quite a bit of which is growing wild. The purpose of the Center is demonstration. Greg noted that to really learn how to prune, you have to revisit the tree to see how it responded to what's been done. Bob would also like to see other aspects of tree care discussed, like mulch, watering, and amendments.

- E) If anyone is interested in becoming a Master Gardener, give Bob a call at 551-7652. The course takes half a day a week for 16-weeks, Friday mornings from 9 a.m. – noon.
- F) Pearl City Urban Garden Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are 5-6 paid staff who are generally quite busy. The volunteers are hit or miss. If AAA is interested in coming as a group, there's a form to sign first.
- G) Steve Nimz mentioned that there is a tremendous amount of fruit trees at Pearl City Urban Garden Center. Most of the people he's dealt with there ask, "How do I make my fruit trees fruit and how do I prune the tree?" Maybe we could hold a class on pruning fruit trees and promote AAA at the same time. A lot of the work can be done with a pole saw because of the size of the trees that they have. We can tell them that trees larger than that should be pruned by a Qualified Arborist. Doug added that we should be sure to emphasize the "call the Arborist" part due to liability concerns for AAA. Bob said that the Master Gardeners can give people general advice to "call an Arborist", but when they do that, the arborists need to be prepared to receive the calls because there will a lot of them. Right now they don't know who to call, but if we can give the Master Gardeners a list of names and phone numbers for referrals, that would help.
- H) Ed Mersino, a former extension agent, has retired. He lives in the Mainland now.
- I) Sergio asked if Pearl City Urban Garden Center accepts free mulch. Bob replied that they take it from Akahi a lot. They're in the process of developing a mulch coordination program because they want to be able to get composted mulch to the public.
- J) Dudley suggested that we form a small committee to meet with Bob and others at Pearl City Urban Garden Center to work out details on how we're going to do this. He thanked Bob for joining us.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A) Landscape Pest Identification Cards
 - i) Carol delivered the sample cards from California to Bob Speer. Bob said that the Master Gardeners like them and are considering what to do with them.
- B) Treasurer's Report
 - i) Randy presented the 2009 year end treasurer's report. See the attachment to the minutes.

C) Research Committee

- i) Tabled.

D) Training Workshops

i) Up By Roots Workshop

- (a) AAA's portion of the net proceeds was \$341. The check has been received from WCISA. Thanks to everyone for turning out and supporting the workshop, because the numbers were very tight until just before the workshop.

ii) Single Rope Technique (SRT) Workshop

- (a) Steve Connolly had trouble arranging for the January 23, 2010, date. A new date was set for Saturday, February 27, 2010. The workshop is geared to advanced climbers, but others can attend to observe. It will run for 6 hours. We'll either buy bentos or cook at Lyon for lunch.

iii) False Crotch Technique Workshop

- (a) Steve Connolly has been thinking about Kevin Eckert's suggestion at the last meeting about a false crotch technique workshop. Steve would be interested in hosting a workshop for that as well, maybe 2-3 hours in a morning. Certified Tree Worker candidates are now required to know the false crotch technique and some have never been taught, so it would be good to give them an opportunity to learn. Dan suggested offering the workshop twice about a month apart prior to the exam. Steve will check the dates for Lyon and let Carol know when this can be scheduled.

iv) Arborist Report Writing

- (a) Carol sent out a survey to see if people would be interested in this. Twenty-three people have said "yes" so far. She'll work with Stan on planning the workshop with a target date of April or May. The maximum class size will be around 30 people. We can keep an overflow list and do an additional workshop if there's enough demand.

E) Outer Island Meeting

- i) Mark spoke to Mike Kraus. He needs to know an exact date. Mike can't think of any virgin forest area right now but can probably find some. We could also do a special tour at Volcano National Park of lava tubes that aren't normally open to the public if we want. The target date was set for August 14, 2010.

F) Up By Roots Book Order

- i) Five people have responded so far. Anyone interested in buying a book, let Carol know by Friday, January 20, 2010.

G) AAA Non-Profit

- i) Carol spoke with Dan Skinner and sent him what's been done so far on AAA becoming a non-profit again. Randy and Val have helped with financial info. At this point, we're stuck on the IRS form. Dan will review it, talk to the Stihl accounting people, and see if they can help us with what we need to submit. Once we're a legal 501c(3), donations to AAA will be tax deductible and AAA can earn money without worrying about having to pay taxes on it as long as the earnings are in line with our non-profit mission.

H) 2010 Hawaii TCC

- i) Kualoa Ranch was set as the proposed venue. Greg will call Kualoa. He's planning a 2-day event. Once the 2010 Hawaii TCC is finished, we'll start working on 2011 and try to find a new venue with different trees, possibly Lyon Arboretum. Greg asked that competitors let him know they're planning to compete so he doesn't have them helping to set up the TCC. Once he's firmed things up with Kualoa, he'll set the deadline for entrants to register.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Sooty Mold

- i) Hosts: Any plant that hosts phloem-feeding insects and has honeydew on it
- ii) Range: Throughout the world's temperate and tropical regions
- iii) Symptoms: A black, non-parasitic superficial growth on plant surfaces that can be completely rubbed off with your fingers to reveal healthy plant tissue
- iv) Spread through: airborne sooty mold spores
- v) Control: management is only warranted when the mold affects the aesthetic value of fruits or landscapes. The best way to control sooty mold is to eliminate their sugary food supply by controlling phloem-feeding insects on foliage. Controlling the pests may also require controlling the ants that tend and protect them.

B) 2010 LICH Conference

- i) LICH has requested input from AAA on possible topics for the Arborist Track as well as a possible keynote speaker. The following topics/speakers were proposed:
 - (a) Coconut issues – diseases and pests
 - (b) Monkeypod issues – diseases and pests
 - (c) Quarantine pests – pests we should be on the look out for and report if we see them – Darcy Oishi
 - (d) Introduction to Trees and Law – Steve Nimz as speaker. Carol will check with WCISA if this will qualify for CEUS.
 - (e) Termites and Plants – Julian Yates
 - (f) Beneficial Insects – Darcy Oishi

- (g) Ants: the Root of All Evil – Darcy Oishi
- (h) Walt Warriner as a keynote speaker to talk about his work for the City of Santa Monica. He grew up here and may be willing to come for the price of the airfare. Carol will contact him.

ii) Oliver Hein is planning to attend the LICH conference and have a vendor's booth. He might also be a speaker. Steve Nimz suggested that Oliver hold a class separate from the LICH conference. If Oliver speaks at the LICH conference, then he should talk generically about all decay detection devices and not just Resistograph or else it turns into a sales pitch. We've had problems with that at prior LICH conferences.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Welcome to AAA member, Ivan Asato, of Glad's Landscaping & Tree Trimming.
- B) Please renew your membership for 2010 if you haven't already.
- C) Doug announced that the stinging nettle caterpillar is on Oahu in Kipapa Gulch. He heard from the State Ag inspectors that visited his nursery. They've set up traps. If anyone encounters them elsewhere, please let Department of Ag know right away.
- D) Randy said that if you haven't seen the movie *Avatar* yet, he highly recommends it. It's inspirational and touches a lot of arborists.
- E) James Toyama's retirement party is on January 29, 2010, at 11 a.m. at McCoy Pavilion per Doug.
- F) Doug just finished monitoring pruning in Ala Moana Beach Park and the incidence of fire injury is approaching catastrophic. Many trees that have been there 40-50 years have been damaged plus new replants as well. Olelo is amiable to doing a Public Service Announcement if we want to. Steve Nimz suggested working with The Outdoor Circle since they already have a brochure on it. There are Exceptional Trees that are being burned. People are also peeling bark off of the kamanis and heliotropes for medicine. It's the park users, not the City, that are causing the problem. Austin and Stan are on board with working with AAA to educate the public. If the problem continues, the City could end up stopping all coal burning at the park.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Dudley Hulbert at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.

Attachments:

1. 2010 AAA Membership application
2. Master Gardener handouts
3. 2009 Year End Treasurer's Report
4. Pest of the Month – *Sooty Mold*

**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!