

**Aloha Arborist Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2010**

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Steve Connolly, Daniel Severino, Jon Perry, Sergio Vasquez, Andrew Kendall, Kevin Eckert, Mark Leon, Gregory Severino, Randy Liu

Guest: Teresa Trueman-Madriaga

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2010, MEETING MINUTES**

- A) President Dudley Hulbert called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. The February 17, 2010, minutes were approved as written.

**II. GUEST SPEAKER – Teresa Trueman-Madriaga**

- A) Teresa Trueman-Madriaga reported as a follow up to the Urban Forestry Summit. They're almost complete with the assessment and strategy. The Tropical Urban Forestry Research Center is high on the priorities list. Work has started on the Urban Forestry Strategic Plan. This summer/fall, the assessment of tree canopy in Honolulu and Kapolei using LIDAR will start. Stan Oka is helping with that.
- B) Grant applications are due to the federal government by September and they'll need our input. Is the Tropical Urban Forestry Research Center a brick-and-mortar place or more of a concept? We should be able to actually get started on some research projects if we want. We can work with people like Ed Gilman and Greg McPherson for support. First we need to put together the project, methodology, etc. Where does it fit best? Forestry service? University of Hawaii? Someone has to track it down and then apply for a grant. Research isn't eligible for a Kaulunani grant. They're looking to the industry to show the need and take the lead. Kevin and Teresa can provide input, but they don't have the time to do it themselves. Once AAA is a legal non-profit again, this would be a great way to bring in some funds. Dudley asked where we are in the process between the big picture and the nuts and bolts. Teresa responded that we don't even have a comprehensive list of what research has already been done and what still needs to be done. It would be good to bring researchers together to make a comprehensive 10-year plan. A literature review needs to be performed. Dudley noted that the man from NTBG who attended the Urban Forestry Summit said there's a website with tropical tree research from botanical gardens, but he hasn't had a chance to look it up yet. Teresa and Kevin are working on a video for ISA on utility pruning and utility trenching. Vermeer is funding the video. It helps to find people or companies with a vested interest to kick in some funds, but it does take a lot of effort and coordination and we're all volunteers who are busy with our own jobs. Teresa said maybe we could get \$200K and hire enough people to do what really needs to be done.
- C) Mark suggested a research project on reducing a coconut. Sometimes they get aerial roots higher up. Perhaps it would be possible to cut the trunk below the aerial roots and root it – similar to airlayering. This would be of particular use for hotels and other sites with historical coconuts. Coconuts usually have a maximum height of around 110' – 130'. Maybe this could keep them growing and help them live longer. Dudley added that we're open to any research suggestions. Randy suggested researching fruit pinching to eliminate fruits. This would be trying different products to see if anything works on banyans, monkeypods, and coconuts.

- D) Teresa also reported on 2010 urban forestry legislation. Act 76, a civil defense bill, includes language giving Civil Defense the authority to enter into a property to eliminate hazards, including trees. Because of a Kokua Line column, Civil Defense has been stuck with having to respond to lots of calls. The process is that Civil Defense notifies the owner of the hazard. If the owner doesn't agree or respond, Civil Defense can remove trees, put a lien on the house, etc. Civil Defense knows it's not the right agency to be making the call on whether or not a tree is hazardous. This legislation has come about because of Japanese billionaire Genshiro Kawamoto buying lots of houses and not taking care of them, creating public health and safety problems. Civil Defense is stuck in the middle of it. The language about trees had been taken out of the bill, but it was put back in during conference and went through under the radar without anyone noticing it. The main problem areas seem to be Manoa, Kaneohe, and Nuuanu – wet areas where lots of retirees live. It's driving Civil Defense nuts with petty complaints between neighbors. Steve Nimz, Kevin, Mary Steiner, and Teresa have met with Civil Defense regarding the issue.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### A) Training Workshops

##### i) Single Rope Technique (SRT) Workshop 2/27/2010

- (a) Because of the tsunami, there were a lot of 'no shows', but it was a great workshop and we had great weather and food too. Climb Aloha had lots of people with different climbing backgrounds.

##### ii) Single Rope Technique (SRT) Workshop 3/27/2010

- (a) This is a make-up workshop for those who weren't able to make the first one. It will be open to others to attend as well. The format will be exactly the same except for a half hour for lunch and ZipPacs for food.

##### iii) False Crotch Technique Workshop

- (a) Steve Connolly will do a false crotch workshop but the schedule needs to be worked out. He was trying to get it done prior to the April Certified Tree Worker (CTW) exam but it will be tight. Kevin reported that the false crotch won't be on the April exam and after 7/1/2010, false crotch will be on the CTW exam as a bonus situation on an experimental basis.

##### iv) Arborist Report Writing

- (a) Arborist Report Writing is being deferred to around September. There are too many things going on in March, April and May already.

#### B) Research Committee/Pearl City Urban Garden Center

- i) Dudley and Steve met with Bob Speer, Carlton Luka, and Jayme Grzebik and identified potential ways we can help each other. It's still preliminary, but Dudley would like to

firm up some language describing what we'd like to do. It's a great opportunity for AAA to do community outreach. The Urban Garden Center already has a loyal following for the Second Saturday activities and presentations. Bob is trying to define who's in charge and can give AAA permission to do what we want to do there. They have acres that are unused. A felling workshop, possibly on opiuma, might be an option. There are a lot of ways that we can help each other. The goal at this point is to hold our first activity there in November 2010, perhaps in conjunction with Arbor Day. Bob thinks it will take about that long to work out paperwork and permission from UH.

C) Outer Island Meeting

- i) Mark spoke with Mike Kraus. Mike will look at getting us into a virgin forest area. The target date is August 14, 2010. Once a month there are special tours going through lava tubes. Mark will see if that might work out for us. Dudley suggested arriving at the Big Island on a Friday late afternoon and leaving the following Sunday afternoon. Volcano House is closed per Randy, due to a transfer of ownership. It may reopen but he doesn't know when. Kilauea Military Camp is a good place and cheap too if we can get military sponsorship. Mark suggested perhaps some people could even arrive at the Big Island Friday morning.

D) AAA Non-Profit

- i) Carol got the 2007, 2008, and 2009 revenues and expenses detail done and sent to Dan Skinner. Dan said he won't have time to work on this until maybe May. Kevin said to send the stuff to him and he'll have his admin assistant take a look at it.

E) 2010 Hawaii TCC

- i) Greg got the dates of May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Kualoa Ranch for TCC. David Morgan, Kualoa Ops Manager, is enthusiastic about it. He had nice things to say and constructive criticism about last year's event. He suggested having some colorful enterprising folks at each station to make it more interesting. Kualoa could set up a buffet for us and that would be a way to give them some money as a thanks for the venue. They discussed doing a press release. David would like to get together with Greg and Dudley and promote the event in a mutually beneficial way. They'll meet with David on March 20<sup>th</sup> and look at the trees. Greg and Dudley would prefer to use different trees to change things up a bit, but they're not sure if that will work out or not. Some of last year's trees look like they're recovering. Kevin suggested mulching the trees to help them out long term.
- ii) There will be five events in the Master's Challenge. It would be nice to have companies sponsor TCC by providing something like coffee, water and fruit, even money would help. Companies could also adopt a particular event by providing volunteers and setting it up and staffing it throughout the competition with judges, timers, etc. We're planning to break up the field of competitors so that we can keep 2-3 events going at once, staggered slightly so people can move around. We need to get the judges together ahead of time and make sure everyone is on the same page so we don't waste time on judges figuring things out the day of the event. That will help everything go more smoothly.

Greg will get a copy of the rules out to the judges so they can read them a month ahead of time. They shouldn't be reading through them that morning. Carol suggested doing the call for competitors now so we can firm things up and make sure we're not having competitors doing prep work on the trees. So far we have Jon, Steve Connolly, Sergio, Paul, Lino, Jeremy, and Ashlen. Are we going to do an old timers climb? A women's climb? Maybe we could do just one event for the old timers. Around 50 people show up including competitors, judges, and other volunteers. If we're lucky, we may get another 50 spectators if the press release goes out on time. Dan suggested having experienced judges for the Master's Challenge since that decides who the winner is. Greg will send Carol a Call for Competitors email to forward to the AAA training list. Since WCISA's conference goes through May 1<sup>st</sup>, Greg will try to push the dates out to May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and get the correct info to Carol for sending out.

#### F) Certified Arborist/Certified Tree Worker Exams

- i) Greg has a number of employees taking the test this time. Austin, who has historically been a judge, will be stepping up to take the lead to oversee the CTW exam now. He'll need more judges to volunteer. Judges need to be CTWs or have demonstrable skills plus all judges must go through training. Judges need to have their names in with the Chapter. Kevin suggested training judges earlier to help meet the Chapter requirement. Greg noted that we only need to replace two judges so a large percentage of judges should be experienced. Kevin said there have been too many inconsistencies in judging around WCISA and if the names aren't submitted on time, it will invalidate the exam results. Jon mentioned that he thinks Austin has already been working on getting the paperwork in. The City is taking over the whole thing now. Steve Connolly volunteered to help if he's on island. Dudley, Mark and Sergio volunteered as well. Judges training will be held between 3:30-4 p.m. on April 16, 2010, at Kapiolani Park.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A) Pest of the Month– Banana Moth (revisited)

- i) Distribution: Islands of Oahu and Hawaii
- ii) Host: Mortality in Hawaii has been found in *Pritchardia* sp., floribunda palm, foxtail palm, Manila palm, and coconut palm. Alternate hosts include grasses, banana, and coffee as well as in any decaying vegetation
- iii) Symptoms: Browning of leaves, heart leaves easily pulled out with necrosis of living stem tissues beneath, heart rot, entry holes of larvae, and frass pellets.
- iv) Management: Minimize plant stress especially due to drought and poor nutrition, herbicide overspray, and over-pruning of leaves. Pruned surfaces should be treated with an approved insecticide such as one derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* ("Bt").
- v) Mark Leon suggested this pest of the month after he had a close encounter with an infestation. He'd always thought the holes and droppings that he was seeing in coconut trunks were from termites. A couple of weeks ago when it was windy and wet, he found

a larva coming out of one of the holes and scooped it up in a sample jar and took it to UH. Apparently it's rare to see one during the day. UH said coconuts will get ground termites but drywood termites are extremely rare. Banana moths will affect the palm's health but not its structure. They can actually do a lot of damage, especially on a stressed palm, but they're not much of a problem on a healthy palm. The frass looks like termite frass except that it clumps together. Dudley commented that if anyone finds stuff like this, sharing it at the meeting is the best way for all of us to learn.

B) 1000 Tree Giveaway

- i) Dudley asked for volunteers to work at the Ask an Arborist booth for the 1000 Tree Giveaway in Manoa on April 18, 2010, beginning at 7:30 a.m. He suggested bringing reference books because there are usually some avid amateurs, plus bring your business cards to hand out as well. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated. This is on the day after the CA/CTW exams. Pat Avery is the contact for Malama O Manoa. Let Dudley know, 927-1585, and he'll give her a consolidated list of volunteers. Teresa commented that this would be eligible for CEUs but someone needs to apply for it. It runs around 2 hours. Volunteers should wear their AAA t-shirts.

C) AAA Annual Meeting April 21, 2010

- i) We'll be holding our officer elections at the annual meeting on April 21, 2010. That's our regularly scheduled meeting date at Cattle Company. The slate of candidates were agreed as follows:
  - (a) President – Steve Connolly
  - (b) President – Dudley Hulbert [nominated at the meeting but subsequently withdrew]
  - (c) Vice President – Sergio Vasquez
  - (d) Treasurer – Randy Liu if no one else runs [subsequent to the meeting, Steve Nimz agreed to run so Randy withdrew]
  - (e) Secretary – Carol Kwan
  - (f) Walk-in/write-in candidates will be accepted the night of the elections.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Randy discussed the leaf blower ban legislation that is pending. Carol has been forwarding his emails on this subject as a courtesy to LICH. As it stands, the bill only reduces the hours of use, but the proposed hours are still more than normal construction hours. Anything can happen, though, because the bill still has to go to conference. There's no hearing for the conference. The Senate and House talk it out and make a decision, so it could still end up with a full ban on gas blowers and with electric blowers only during certain hours. A lot of senators support a ban, while the representatives are leaning more toward controlling hours. There's still time to write to your senators and representatives. Lots of people have showed up and testified. Thanks for all of the support. We need to keep on top of this, write in, get involved, and help out. If you like, you can cut and paste from Randy's email. Mark commented that a lot of the problem is from weekend warriors who aren't trained on the equipment. Randy said maybe we can get a bill to that effect introduced next year.

- B) Carol was contacted by a John Hancock representative offering association group rates and workshops on ownership succession, long term care insurance, retirement plan, and business planning strategies if we're interested in having them talk to us. The general consensus was to have her come to a future meeting to discuss this further.
- C) Gary Weller is helping sell some equipment. The items available are a Bandit 280 Chipper for \$49,000, a 1999 Hitachi EX200 Excavator for \$45,000, and a 1999 Ford 800 Crane for \$35,000. If anyone is interested, contact him at [wellerge@manaikaika.com](mailto:wellerge@manaikaika.com) or 253-0675 and use code "Tunnelman".

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by President Dudley Hulbert at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Kwan

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Pearl City.*

Attachments:

1. 2010 AAA Membership application
2. Pest of the Month – *Banana Moth*

**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!**