

**Aloha Arborist Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**April 21, 2010**

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Dudley Hulbert, Steve Connolly, Daniel Severino, Sergio Vasquez, Andrew Kendall, Gregory Severino, Randy Liu, Brian Fukada, Misti Beirne, Ashlen Aquila, Doug DeMoss, Steve Nimz, Randy Liu

Guest: Justin Franzmeier

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

A) President Dudley Hulbert called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. The March 17, 2010, minutes were approved as written.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

A) Training Workshops

i) Single Rope Technique (SRT) Workshop 3/27/2010

(a) Steve Connolly reported that there was no tsunami this time. We had a good turn out and active involvement from the participants. Steve particularly enjoyed the interaction between the companies with different ways of doing things. That really helped to drive home how to do the technique. The estimated net for the two workshops was \$538 to go towards the Hawaii Tree Climbing Competition (TCC). Carol reported lessons learned on the SRT workshop: 1) we should charge more for this type of workshop and 2) we should make people pay in advance. We held slots for some companies but they only paid for the people who actually showed up. Doug added that for this type of workshop where we're fundraising for TCC, we shouldn't offer group discounts. This benefits people in their daily work. Dudley commented that the cash raised greases the wheels on events like TCC too. The general consensus was to not offer group discounts for future small workshops like this. Kudos to Steve Connolly for doing such a great job on the SRT workshops.

ii) False Crotch Technique Workshop

(a) Nothing has been scheduled as yet. Greg commented that we should do a false crotch workshop not for the Certified Tree Worker (CTW) exam but because more people in the Islands need to know how to do it. It's something many of us should be using. Dudley added that a lot of our trees are injured by rope friction. While everyone has their own setup, the ultimate point is to save the cambium. Steve Connolly said that false crotch is a short topic so he may combine it into a basic tree entry workshop to make a day out of it.

iii) Community Outreach Training

(a) Steve Connolly reported that his friend, Miles Burkhart, is trying to set up recreational tree climbing through Lyon Arboretum geared towards kids and their parents. For example, next Saturday he has a workshop with the Boy Scouts. AAA could support him as a community outreach effort by volunteering so he has more instructors. That would make for a better trainer-to-student ratio. Dudley said it was

a great idea but we should sneak in the message about “don’t top trees” too and train them while they’re young.

- (b) Steve Connolly has also been in contact with a guy from Japan who does “tree therapy”. He even got a 70+ year old disabled lady up a tree one time. The guy is interested in setting up similar programs with Lyon Arboretum.

iv) Arborist Report Writing

- (a) Nothing new to report. Carol asked if this is the only training that we’re planning to conduct for the industry this fall. Steve Nimz indicated that he’d rather not do the Tree Biology/Tree Dissection workshop this year. Other suggestions were insects, phenology, and pruning at the wrong time. It was decided to discuss this further at the next meeting.

B) Research Committee/Pearl City Urban Garden Center

- i) Dudley emailed Jayme Grzebik. We need to set the date for the November community pruning training event. It was decided that November 6, 2010, would be the best day since that will be the Arbor Day tree giveaway. This training will be lead by Steve Nimz and based on his structural pruning workshop. We want to reach people who are serious about their trees. If we can reach homeowners, we can indirectly reach the industry too because the homeowners will insist that the pruning companies do it right. Carol will also order ISA brochures on *Young Tree Pruning* and *Mature Tree Pruning* to be stamped with AAA’s info and handed out at the training class. There is still an ample supply of *Why Topping Hurts Trees* brochures from Carol’s Kaulunani grant that we can give away too.

C) Outer Island Meeting

- i) Tabled.

D) AAA Non-Profit

- i) Carol sent the info to Kevin. He’s in Beijing now and will look at it when he gets back.

E) 2010 Hawaii TCC

- i) Prep work will be done the weekend of April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. PLMI will be sending out a crew on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to start things off. Work will begin between 8 and 8:30 a.m. Dudley and Dan Severino volunteered to help. Ashlen will bring his truck and chipper Saturday morning and can help for most of the day. Steve Nimz volunteered a lift for someone else to operate. Greg said we’ll have more people than equipment so no problem there. If enough people volunteer, Greg hopes to have everything finished on Saturday.
- ii) On Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the competitors will be there for gear check in the afternoon and registration will be closed. Judges’ training will also be held that day to go over the 2010

rules. The entry fee for competitors was set at \$30/person. The entry fees are intended to help pay for the competitors' prizes. Steve Connolly suggested approaching Mike Richardson of Climb Aloha for sponsorship on prizes. He might be willing to sell AAA a lot of stuff at cost. It would be nice if each competitor got something, at least a carabiner.

- iii) Set up day for the competition is May 7<sup>th</sup>. Greg mentioned that Chad will be honeymooning on Kauai in May and would like to come over and help set up. All we'd need to cover is airfare.
- iv) For the competition on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Don Bergan has volunteered to help with the Speed Climb. Dan will take the lead for the Work Climb and the Masters' Challenge but he needs help. There will be six events total with five trees to clean and prep in addition to what was done last year.
- v) Greg suggested charging Aloha Power and Climb Aloha \$50/each to set up tables to display their goods. The money raised would pay for the portapotties for two days. It was decided to let the vendors set up tables for free and to raise additional funds from AAA members. Carol researched costs for going to Arizona for the WC TCC and a reasonable estimate is \$1,100. We've raised roughly \$550 so far and still have \$200 from last year. Steve Nimz issued a \$500 challenge for other members to match his pledge. Dudley, Carol, Ashlen, and Sergio pledged \$100 each. Andrew pledged \$50. Steve Connolly, Dan, Brian, Misti, and Randy pledged \$20 each. Carol will ask Mark Leon for a pledge as well.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A) Pest of the Month– Black Twig Borer

- i) Distribution: Hawaiian Islands. Native to Asia, found in coffee growing areas of the world
- ii) Hosts: Over 200 plant species including coffee, avocado, citrus, cacao, paperbark, *Eucalyptus robusta*, haole koa, guava, Christmasberry, lychee, macadamia, mango, mahogany, hibiscus, kukui, Surinam cherry, and podocarpus.
- iii) Symptoms: Pin-sized entry holes, twig death. Severe infestations can kill host plants, including large trees.
- iv) Management: Pruning and destruction of beetle-infested plant material. Good tree care to promote tree vigor and health.

#### B) Dudley Samples

- i) Dudley brought in samples to share. One showed borer damage from a large unknown borer (not black twig borer). There was a large hole in the plumeria branch with an extensive column of decay. The second sample showed a vertical pruning cut at a sharp angle. Steve Nimz commented that at least there wasn't any tree paint. He went to the TCIA conference and there was a company promoting tree paint again. It was in an

aerosol can. He doesn't know what the guy's theory was for why we should use it. The company had some good products besides the tree paint. When he goes next year, Steve will check out if the company is still in business.

#### C) Officer Elections

- i) There was a call for nominations from the floor in addition to the proposed slate of officers. When no further nominations were made, Steve Nimz moved that we close nominations and Brian Fukada seconded the motion. The motion carried. Polling was conducted verbally and the slate of officers elected unanimously. Our 2010-2011 officers are as follows:
  - (a) President – Steve Connolly
  - (b) Vice President – Sergio Vasquez
  - (c) Treasurer – Steve Nimz
  - (d) Secretary – Carol Kwan
  - (e) Past President – Dudley Hulbert
  - (f) Director – Randy Liu
  - (g) Director – Gregory Severino

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Randy discussed the leaf blower ban legislation that is pending. The bill is in conference. It gets pushed back on the agenda daily. The industry can still submit testimony but it's a waste of time to go down in person because there's no more verbal testimony. Steve Nimz commented that Randy did an incredible job as the lead on this issue. He's been one of the key guys to go down to save our use of leaf blowers and he doesn't even use them in his business. This has been a good lesson in the legislative process. All it takes is a few people with nothing better to do to go down and complain about blowers and the legislature could have passed something that would have severely impacted our industry. Randy took the lead and saved our industry from what could have been crippling legislation.
- B) Steve Nimz supports Frank Rinn from Germany for the ISA Board of Directors election. He's a really great guy. Steve would appreciate your voting for him if you haven't sent in your ballot yet.
- C) Great job to Dudley Hulbert, our new Past President, for the job he's done this past year. And thanks to Carol for the job she does too.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

- A) The meeting was adjourned by Past President Dudley Hulbert at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Kwan

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 19, 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 – *Black Twig Borer*

**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!**