

Aloha Arborist Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2008

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Val Aipperspach, Chris Hudnall, Gregory Severino, Steve Nimz, Dudley Hulbert, Randy Liu, David Ringuette, Jon Perry, Dan Skinner

Guests: Beth Skinner

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2008 MEETING MINUTES

- A) President Doug DeMoss called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. The January 2008 minutes were approved as written.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A) WCC Urban Forestry Program

- i) Dave Ringuette thanked AAA for supporting the WCC Urban Forestry Program with its \$1,500 donation. He has also gotten a \$10K federal grant. The greens mower was part of that grant as well. It cost \$6K so he has \$4K left. He's ordered some supplies and has received donations of others, including three chain saws from Stihl. Mark Leon's donation of \$500 was used to purchase ISA materials. Dave estimates an additional \$1,500 will be needed for miscellaneous unforeseen items. Scholarships to the Program would be another possible use of the Shigo money. Steve asked Dave to firm up the numbers and report back to AAA with how much more the Program really needs. We need to be fiscally responsible too.
- ii) Other ways AAA members can support the Program is to send company workers to it. Dave needs at least 10 students to continue a class. Greg noted that the industry needs this Program because it's much more cost effective to fill jobs locally than to bring employees over from the Mainland. Dave noted that it's great to have a cross section of students to get a co-mingling of ideas. The Program starts in late August 2008, with the exact date to be advised. It will be a 100 level curriculum. For a certificate of completion, a tree worker needs 12 credits and an arborist needs 14 credits. Classes will be held on Saturdays and in the evenings.
- iii) Shigo Fund
- (a) The t-shirt sales have broken even. An inventory of the remaining t-shirts was passed out. See Val's report and inventory, attached. The report is net of the \$1,500 donation to the WCC Urban Forestry Program in December 2007.
- iv) Climbing Skills Workshop
- (a) Jon passed out handouts, copies of which are attached to the minutes. These are the same handouts as those passed out at the September 2007 meeting. The workshop had been planned for Saturday, April 26, 2008, but the Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Worker exams are on that day, so the workshop will be rescheduled. Jon met with Dudley, Greg, and Dan. Stihl has budgeted to help with the insurance costs. The venue is still to be determined. Dave noted that WCC is a possibility. Greg and Dudley volunteered to check out WCC with Jon.

B) WCISA Regional Meeting in Hawaii

- i) Carol contacted Dr. Michael Raupp of the University of Maryland regarding possibly speaking at a Regional Meeting here. He's interested and sent his rates. Dudley volunteered to join the planning committee. Steve noted that it would be good if we could get a cross section of the green industry represented at the Regional Meeting.

C) Research Committee

- i) Chris Dacus, Dudley, and Andy have put together a proposal for Chris to submit for a federal grant. It addresses roots, pruning, and several other research aspects. We'll be working with the City, CTAHR, and DOT. Andy will be the PhD overseeing the research. \$200K in grant money is proposed. Stan Oka is interested too. Working with the City's ongoing projects saves the cost of concrete, installation, etc. There should be positive impacts from this. Once we have experience in this research project, we'll look at other topics to take on. Chris is proposing trees along Ala Moana Blvd as the research venue. They'll be removed and replaced using structural soil and other methods of root control. AAA needs to submit a letter to Chris supporting the program to show that other organizations are supporting the grant, not just DOT. Actus Lend Lease is onboard per Steve. He hasn't talked to Forest City yet. We should be part of writing up construction specifications so they include the grant requirements. That means City, State, and Federal specifications.

D) 2008 LICH Conference

- i) The arborist track will be on palms. Don Hodel, U.C. Davis Los Angeles Extension Agent, is confirmed. He'll be supported by Steve and others locally. Steve will be discussing local palm risk assessment and needs volunteers to assist. Doug, Val, Dudley, and Mark volunteered.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pest of the Month – Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (see DOA Advisory attached)

- i) Distribution: Leeward Oahu
- ii) Hosts: monkeypod, java plum, haole koa, Plumeria, mountain apple, African tulip, lime, pummelo, kou, bottlebrush, Caribbean trumpet, hibiscus, gardenia, papaya, green/red ti, croton, crown flower, and oleander
- iii) Status as of FY2006: Biologically controlled by a mymarid parasitic wasp

Chris Hudnall noted that the grape industry in California has been devastated by this pest.

B) Malama o Manoa 1000 Tree Giveaway

- i) Volunteers are needed for Malama o Manoa's 1000 Tree Giveaway on April 20, 2008, 8 a.m. – noon in 2 shifts (8 a.m. -10 a.m., 10 a.m.-12 p.m.) for the "Ask an Arborist" booth

with at least 2-3 arborists per shift. Free lunch will be provided for volunteers. Dudley, Steve, Doug, and Greg volunteered.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- b) Welcome to Dan Skinner of Pacific Stihl and his wife, Beth. Dan has been an AAA member for the past year and has been highly supportive of our activities. Steve asked Dan his opinion regarding one-handed saws. Stihl's position is that a saw shouldn't be used one-handed. Other members noted that in certain circumstances it does make sense for properly trained persons. Some large tree companies have discontinued using a top handle saw entirely because of the risks involved. Stihl has to bow to statistics and the industry standards that say you can't use saws one-handed. You need to position yourself so that you can use two hands to make a cut. Common sense is always a requirement on the job. The biggest problem causing injuries is getting tired.

There have been a lot of technical improvements in chainsaws in recent years. Stihl has four hundred engineers working on outdoor power equipment. Logging is a small part of the business now, and tree care is much bigger. There will also be lots of changes in the next 2-3 years due to EPA requirements. In 5-7 years, there will be fuel injected chainsaws and changes in weight and balances. Workers should rely on sharp chains, not have to force the chainsaw through something. That's when they get into trouble. Steve asked if the government mandated changes will increase the weight of chainsaws. Dan said they would but over time the weight should go back down again as more innovations are implemented. There will be a lot more electronics too. Doug asked how it will hold up in the field. Will it require a technician to get it fixed? The changes are being dictated by the need to protect the environment. Line trimmers and backpack blowers will be as light or lighter with more torque and 35% more fuel efficient with a longer life. There may be some initial hiccups but for the long term they should be as good or better than what we have in the market now. Randy attests to Stihl products and the 4 cycle engine is excellent – cutting edge technology. Dan added that Mr. Stihl has invested a huge amount in R&D.

- c) Thank you, Val, for serving as AAA's treasurer for 12 years. Chris Hudnall added that he wanted to acknowledge Val as the outgoing treasurer and welcome incoming treasurer, Randy, plus welcome the other officers too. Doug wants to acknowledge outgoing president, Gregory Severino. He's a great ambassador for the tree care industry and he made Doug feel very welcome when he first joined.
- d) Chris noted that the carbon neutral Pro Bowl planting was a great time and activity.
- e) HISCO also offers drainage and erosion control products if anyone ever needs them.
- f) Steve brought up a volunteer project at Camp Mokuleia. They had challenges with a windstorm. Their 200 ironwoods didn't fare well and they would love to have AAA out to help. AAA members can camp and they'll cook meals for us. There's pruning, aerial lift work, a complete package of AAA member type of work. Spending the night at the camp is included. Doug said that this is a really good group; they do lots of stuff for area schools and the homeless. It's right on the water and they will take care of disposal work. Dudley recommends that we go together – it's great camaraderie. We could work on Saturday and

spend the night. On Sunday we could play, do the obstacle course, and just kick back. They're flexible Steve will try to schedule something and report back.

- g) Greg reminded everyone of the TCIA EHAP to be held on Friday, March 14, 2008, at the Ala Wai Golf Course. The price is \$15 to cover the cost of lunch and 6 CEUs will be offered. Bring your work forces, it may save someone's life. Kevin Eckert will be the instructor.

The meeting was adjourned by President Doug DeMoss at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company Restaurant – Stuart Anderson's at 98-1262 Kaahumanu, Pearl City.

Attachments:

1. 2008 AAA Membership application
2. Treasurer's Report and T-Shirt Inventory
3. Climbing Skills Workshop Hand-outs
4. DOA New Pest Advisory – Glassy-winged Sharpshooter

**2008 Aloha Arborist Association
Individual Membership Application**

YES! Please process my individual membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2008 for \$25.00 (\$10.00 for students).

I am a New Member Renewing Member. Date: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

_____ Website: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

You may publish my information on the AAA website:

Please send this form to Aloha Arborist Association, P.O. Box 893953, Mililani, HI 96789-0953 with a \$25.00 check (\$10.00 for students) made payable to Aloha Arborist Association. Mahalo for your support!

**2008 Aloha Arborist Association
Company Membership Application**

YES! Please process our company membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2008 for \$75.00. We understand this membership is valid for up to three designated company representatives to receive AAA minutes and for discounts for our employees on certain AAA training workshops.

New Member Renewing Member. Date: _____

Company: _____

Company Members: _____

Address: _____

_____ Website: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail(s): _____

You may publish our information on the AAA website:

Please send this form to Aloha Arborist Association, P.O. Box 893953, Mililani, HI 96789-0953 with a \$75.00 check made payable to Aloha Arborist Association. Mahalo for your support!