

Aloha Arborist Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2008

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Steve Nimz, Mark Leon, Jon Perry, Dudley Hulbert, Dan Severino, Gregory Severino, Ashlen Aquila, Drew Hardman, Doug DeMoss, Quenna Johnson, Michael Ward, Kenlie Ward, Randy Liu, Erin Purple

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

A) President Doug DeMoss called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The May 2008 minutes were approved as written.

I. OLD BUSINESS

a. Climbing Skills Workshop

- i. Jon reported that the workshop went well. The instructors did a great job and the stations were awesome. Unfortunately the level of participation by attendees was disappointing. We need to use rotation and other methods to force people to participate. A lot of people showed up and didn't know any knots so the knot station needed more instructors at the beginning of the workshop. Greg suggested having knot training as a separate event and making it a prerequisite to the Climbing Skills workshop. It's unreasonable to expect a person who just learned knots to learn to climb a tree on the same day. A knots workshop will be put on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. Carol asked if we really needed two ITCC climbers as instructors. Greg noted that we have enough local talent to handle the skill level of the attendees at this workshop without bringing in ITCC climbers. Steve suggested for a future workshop that we preregister qualified climbers first and only bring in ITCC climbers if there is enough interest. The fee could be more for an advanced climbing class. Dan added that going through basic climbing with local instructors should be a prerequisite to the advanced class. It would also be good if we could have the stations closer together. Dudley asked how Aloha Power Equipment did at the event. Michael reported that they sold some stuff. He'd be willing for the company to sponsor something like this workshop again.
- ii. Once a final accounting is made, Jon would like to pay Chad and Charley honorariums assuming that we netted enough money. For future training events we need to do a budget projection in advance as well as contacting sponsors around six months prior to the event. The budget projection should include honorariums instead of doing them after the fact.
- iii. Thanks to all of our Climbing Skills Workshop sponsors. This event would not have been possible without your support. Thanks also to Jon Perry for stepping up and taking the lead on planning the event.

b. WCISA Regional Meeting in Hawaii

- i. *What's Bugging You?* will be held on Friday, November 21, 2008, at McCoy Pavilion. Dr. Michael Raupp, Desmond Ogata, and others will be speaking.

Steve requested help with bringing in samples of damaged foliage from beetles, leafminers, etc. for attendees to practice identifying pests. The workshop is intended to be a basic class that will include identifying parts of the insect in the field. It is not an entomology class.

c. Research Committee

- i. Nothing new to report.

d. 2008 LICH Conference

- i. The conference went well, especially Steve's and Mark's talk on coconuts. Good job!

e. Mokuleia Activity

- i. Steve asked if there was enough interest to do this. It's about 90% bucket work. Greg volunteered to bring some equipment to help. Dan is interested in attending too. Steve will talk to them and try to have more specifics for next meeting.

I. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pest of the Month – Bacterial leaf blight fishtail palms

- i. Distribution: Most common in nurseries with overhead irrigation and in high rainfall areas.
- ii. Symptoms: Initial symptoms are small, water-soaked, translucent to light yellow to light brown banded areas running along and around leaf veins. Mature lesions develop a brown to black color and may have a chlorotic (yellow) halo; lesions range from a minimum of 1-2 mm wide and in length up to the entire length of affected leaves.
- iii. Treatment:
 1. Eliminate overhead irrigation that impacts leaves, irrigate in the morning instead of the evening, grow plants under cover from frequent rainfall
 2. Use preventive sprays of copper-containing or antibiotic-containing pesticides
 3. Remove & destroy symptomatic leaves; destroy entire plants if they are affected severely
 4. Provide good air circulation around plants to allow leaf drying after they become wet
 5. Do not transplant symptomatic plants into landscapes

b. Meeting Location

- i. IHOP has its keiki night in the private room on the third Wednesday of the month so it's not available in the future. It was agreed to go back to Cattle

Company. Please note that Cattle Company now includes a 15% gratuity in the bill for parties of 12 and over, so check your bill before you add more tip.

c. New Webmaster

- i. The AAA webmaster position is vacant. The primary duties are to provide content to Doug Behrens for posting on the web. Jon Perry volunteered.
- ii. Jon noted that Google is still pulling Greg's old AAA website on "Aloha Arborist" searches. Greg will contact Tripod and have them delete it and will notify Google as well.

d. Coconut Care Guidelines

- i. The old verbiage was passed around and is attached to the minutes. Thanks to Kevin Eckert who retyped the text and provided a new photo so it's not so fuzzy. Steve noted that we need to make significant updates to this document before letting it go public. The language currently is vague and can result in safe, healthy palms being removed unnecessarily. We need to define the terms we use. Input was requested from all members and should be brought to the next meeting. A committee will be formed to work on this.

e. AAA Membership Rates

- i. Carol pointed out that our current individual membership rate barely covers the cost of annual postage for the minutes to that member. Steve said that AAA's membership rates have been the same since 1976 when the organization was formed. After much discussion the annual membership rates were set as follows:

1. Student membership rate - \$10 (stays the same)
2. Individual membership rate - \$50
3. Company membership rate - \$150
4. Government employee rate - \$25 per person (City and State)
5. Life membership rate - \$1,000

The new membership rates go into effect for the 2009 calendar year. The government employee rate was established to recognize the support of the City and the State for our organization.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. OSHA is pursuing a tree care standard. See handout attached. Greg has volunteered to be part of the process but he hasn't heard back yet. If federal standards come through, HIOSH will have to follow suit. Steve noted the specs will be written for palms, not coconuts. The standards effecting coconut pruning is the biggest concern.

Machete or cane knife use to prune coconuts is already a violation of OSHA but is required by many specs including the City's.

- b. Jon reported that Chad has found a device with a chain and climbing line married together. He thought it would be of use to us for coconuts in particular.
- c. Certification exams will be held at Maui Community College on August 2, 2008, for Certified Arborists, Certified Tree Workers, Utility Specialists, and Municipal Specialists. Please note these are written exams only. Skills testing will not be provided.
- d. Greg attended proctor and judges training in California in May. There are lots of changes coming. For example, the CTW exam will be 100% pass/fail. If the written or skills portion is failed, the entire exam for both portions must be retaken. Cambium savers must be used as well. Judges do not have to be CTWs but they must have demonstrable knowledge of climbing. The new rules go into effect in 2009. Once all of the changes are confirmed the various tree care companies and judges will need to be notified. It might also be a good idea to hold training to get candidates up to speed.
- e. Drew noted that there are contractors, such as Star Farms, working without proper licensing. In addition, they are claiming to have credentials and affiliations such as Certified Arborist, ISA, AAA, and NAA (now TCIA). ISA will pursue violators but the Better Business Bureau and others say that you have to be a client of the company before they'll take your complaint. The Licensing Board was among those that said 'no'. We should ask Kevin to bring up the problem with LICH that only customers, not competitors, are allowed to file complaints with the Licensing Board for non-licensed contractors. Steve moved that we send such violators an AAA letter not to use AAA's logo or name on their advertising. This includes business cards as well as the yellow pages. Carol will write a letter on behalf of AAA to Star Farms. Drew will get her a copy of their business card.
- f. Aloha Power Equipment is starting a new AAA special of the month program with member-only rates. It is offering the Samurai C330LH for \$18.99 to members until the next meeting (July 16, 2008). Mark noted that Samurai really stands behind its products. He had one break once and they sent a case of them as the replacement.

The meeting was adjourned by President Doug DeMoss at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Cattle Company, Pearl City.

Attachments:

1. 2008 AAA Membership application
2. Guidelines for Care of Coconut Palms
3. Pest Advisory – Bacterial leaf blight fishtail palms
4. OSHA Pursuing Tree Care Standards

**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!