

Maui County Arborist Committee Meeting August 8, 2007  
Meeting Minutes

Those present: Bob Hobdy (presiding), Jordan Hart (new member), Harlan Hughes, William Jacintho, Richard Kempf, Sue Lipp, Terry Nutt, Jeannie Pezzoli; David Sakoda, Maui County Arborist and ex-officio member; Glenn Shishido, ex-officio member; Cindy Young and Jeff Ueoka, both of Maui County Corporation Counsel Office

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM when it was determined that a quorum was present.

The minutes from the July 11, 2007 were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Items and specifics discussed at meeting:

1.) Meeting Management and Protocol: this topic was postponed until the next Meeting, Sept. 12, 2007. Cindy Young will do a Workshop on Sunshine Law and Ethics. She also suggested that this be done on a yearly basis, at the beginning of the Board's year.

2.) Review of plant species added, via info from Hawaii Risk Assessment: this is pending receipt of additional information from Ernie Rezens, volunteer to the Committee and former Committee Member.

3.) Wailuku Area Redevelopment Plan: the idea suggested at the July 2007 MCAC meeting was to have the Committee draft a letter to the Department of Planning and to the Wailuku Town Action Committee, offering our kokua and assistance in respect to tree concerns in the pre-planning phase. Drafting of the letter is still pending.

4.) Suggested tree types to replace Wiliwili (*Erythrina spp.*): this was a free-ranging discussion, with Committee members offering their individual expertise and anecdotal knowledge about numerous plants; Bob Hobdy especially offered a large portion of the detailed info about each species. The mentioned species, in no particular order:

- Tiare (*Gardenia taitensis*): becomes only a small tree at best; this plant does better in cooler, wetter areas; prone to scale
- Beach Heliotrope (*Tournefortia argentea*): can be planted very close to the ocean; medium to fast-growing; maximum height 25 ft.; good wind and salt tolerance
- Naio (*Myoporum sandwicense*): tough, slow-growing, 20-30 ft. @ maturity in Ulupalakua area; can be used as a buffer/hedge; has a variety of forms
- Noni (*Morinda citrifolia*): very sturdy smaller tree to 20 ft.; salt-tolerant; grow in wet or dry areas; fruits can be messy, and always stinky
- Mamane (*Sophora chrysophylla*): grow best at elevations from 2,000-8,000 ft. elevation; slow-growing; good wind tolerance; beautiful yellow flowers

- Hao (*Rauvolfia sandwicensis*): 30 ft. at maturity; grows best in dry areas, sea level to 3,000 ft. elevation; easy to grow from seed
- Hau kuahiwi (*Hibiscadelphus giffardianus*): to 20 ft. at maturity; grows well at Volcano area on the Big Island; hard to grow in exposed lowland areas; soft-wooded trees
- Koki'o ke'oke'o (*Hibiscus arnottianus* and various subspecies): narrow white petals; big bush, sometimes tree-like to 20 ft. tall; doesn't take wind; best with regular moisture; some species have lightly fragrant flowers
- Pua kenikeni (*Fagraea berteriana*): takes dry or wet; spreading shrub or tree (20+ ft.), often wider than tall; the smell: you either love it or hate it
- Bombax (*Pseudobombax ellipticum*): better at lower elevations; to 40 ft. at maturity; beautiful "shaving brush" flowers, usually pink, in the winter/spring, when the tree is leafless; very showy; takes to dry, leeward areas
- Giant timber bamboo (*Bambusa oldhamii*): grows 50 ft. tall; clumps, doesn't produce runners; any recommendations about using this plant should be withheld pending additional information from the Weed Risk Assessment program

5.) Reports from the International Society of Arboriculture conference: Several MCAC members attended the ISA Conference in Honolulu July 27- Aug. 1. Their impressions:

Terry Nutt: was impressed especially by Utility Workshop by PG& E (California utility) on their programs to reward tree-trimming companies who pro-actively anticipate and respond to future utility cutting needs.

Richard Kempf: workshop on various testing equipment for tree decay showed that no one system is 100% effective; a knowledgeable arborist is often more valuable than a \$15,000 piece of equipment.

David Sakoda: reported on recreational tree-climbing in Japan, very popular as a sport.

Various other comments were expressed about the heightened awareness of the need for professionalism in arboriculture here in Maui County.

6.) Tree concerns: a.) Piilani Village: David Sakoda met with homeowners in the Piilani Village area of Kihei about their concerns with the Shower trees in the area, and the damage being done to the hardscape there (sidewalks, curbs, etc.) by the tree roots. The homeowners want the hardscape repaired and the trees replanted. David explained the process of how to assess/repair the damage to the hardscape from the trees, and who would handle this (Public Works for the hardscape repair). The current Shower trees are only about 12" in diameter, and are well cared for, but there is not enough of a planting area for the trees to grow adequately.

b.) Kamaole Beach Club Condominiums, Kihei: numerous trees (Star Apple?) were cut down in the past few months. There has been no response from the MCAC to date on this.

7.) Arbor Week: The planning sub-committee for Arbor Week events met earlier, and gave these details:

-- there will be a booth again this year at the Nov. 3, 2007 event at Maui Nui Botanical Garden (time: 9AM- 3 PM). Official title of the event is "Tree Giveaway and Lawn/Garden Fair."

-- we will again use the theme "Stop the Chop" to encourage visitors to prune wisely and according to good arboricultural principles (using info/handouts previously done by Gene Thompson; Sue Kiang may have copies of these)

-- the subcommittee recommended that Elaine Malina (of Maui Tropical Plantation in Waikapu, and former MCAC member) be offered the Honorary Chairmanship of the Arbor Week event. This was unanimously agreed to by the whole MCAC group.

-- Glenn Shishido suggested several possible planting programs at Polipoli State Park that could be done in conjunction with the Arbor Week events (not necessarily on the same Nov. 3 day, possibly later around Thanksgiving). A suggestion was made to piggyback this with the current Kula School's project with Koa seeds/seedlings.

8.) Chairman's Report: none

9.) Arborist Report: see David Sakoda's comments above about the ISA Conference and Piilani Village, above

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:40 PM

**Next meeting: Wed. September 12, 2007 at 1:30 PM in the Parks Conference Room at War Memorial complex.**

**Arbor Week sub-committee meeting will be the same day, same place at 12:30 PM**

(submitted by Richard Kempf, August 18, 2007)