

Minutes for April 21, 2017

In Attendance:

Nathan Hooke	Landscape Sup. Waikoloa Beach Marriott
Erin Lee	Landscape Dir. Four Seasons Hualalai
Richard Sumrall	Four Seasons Hualalai
Keola Dudoit	Four Seasons Hualalai
Tennille Howard	Four Seasons Hualalai
Rob Curtis	HDOA
Nancy Redfeather	The Kohala Center
Lauren Nuillman	Nicole Lowen – Legislative Assistant
Robyn Tadio	Landscape Sup. Mauna Lani Bay Hotel
Moku Straus	Landscape Sup. Mauna Lani Bay Hotel
Shawn Souza	Landscape Mgr. Fairmont Orchid Hotel
Michelle Montgomery	Hawaii Ant Lab Research Specialist
Kamalani Duerksen	West Hawaii Assoc. of Realtors
Tracy Leverone	Pres. Nat'l Assoc. of Real Property Mgt.
David Wiseman	Citizen Group
Maile David	Council member Dist. 6
Jane Clement	County council
Karen Eoff	Council member Dist. 8
Susan Kim	Governor's Office
Carolyn Dillon	Chair - Little Fire Ant HUI

Our meeting began with a brief explanation to new attendees of the vision and mission of Little Fire Ant HUI along with our first two initiatives: mapping LFA throughout the school system and training landscapers/yard care providers for LFA control.

Emphasis was placed on the fact that Hawaii County will be living with LFA forever. Now beyond attaining eradication, we must immediately begin the process of creating sustainable resources for containment and control. Our landscape training initiative is a step in that direction.

Hilo based Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) is the world's leading expert on LFA. Research Specialist Michelle Montgomery gave an informative presentation on LFA behavior, the threat they pose, high risk behavior to avoid, and best practices. Explanation was given that essentially it is people moving the LFA around. Resort parking lots have a particularly high exposure due to rental cars continually touring the island. Periodic surveying of parking lots was advised. Nursery products were highlighted as especially high risk as well. Resort/hotel landscape personnel were urged to treat all materials as suspect and create a quarantine area to survey them thoroughly before committing them to their properties. They were also encouraged to dialog with their nursery providers about LFA.

Realtors were likewise encouraged to share facts with yard service and landscape personnel about risky LFA behaviors, and to be especially wary of new home construction where large landscape jobs with volumes of nursery material would follow the build out. Driveways were noted to be a particularly high exposure risk.

The presentation was followed by Q&A. A sampling follows:

- 1) Since the County voucher program to buy LFA control products has ended, the question was asked if the program will be renewed for next year. The answer to this is, as yet, unknown.
- 2) A separate query was posed regarding the past practice of surveying nurseries potted plants island-wide. What happened to this important safeguard and where did that data go? Not known.
- 3) A question arose as to the difference between HAL and BIISC. The answer:

HAL and BIISC are both projects of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawaii, Manoa. HAL conducts research to develop effective treatments, including the gel bait for Tango, but have also examined the efficacy of a wide range of ant treatments on the market, established a label for the use of Provaunt pesticide in gel bait, and leads the LFA eradication

operations on all the islands as well as providing training for the HUI's landscape/yard care initiative.

BIISC uses protocols developed by HAL and UH Manoa CTAHR researchers to provide workshops to neighborhoods who will work together as a whole. BIISC is likewise a key partner in the HUI's initiative to provide training to yard care personnel.

Resort and real estate attendees indicated the meeting and HAL's presentation as being valuable and informative. They collectively voiced concern that their properties should remain LFA free and were interested in undertaking the efforts necessary to ensure this. The HUI encourages all landscape and yard care personnel to seek proper training for LFA with HAL and BIISC our two best resources on island.

The first opportunity for the Kohala resort personnel to train with HAL will be a workshop scheduled for June 15th. The attendees expressed willingness to participate and agreed upon a 4-hour training slot from 8am – 12pm. Erin Lee of Four Seasons Hualalai offered their resort as site host. The HUI will follow up with the remaining resorts on the Kohala Coast to encourage broader participation in this workshop.

Steps are underway to make LFA control services available to private property owners by collaborating with the realtor sector for outreach to yard care providers. Training dates will be announced as this portion of the initiative gathers steam.

The takeaway from this meeting was a greater awareness and understanding of the serious threat that LFA pose, and that each one of us has an important role we can assume in protecting ourselves and our island from the many LFA harms. The HUI thanks the attendees for their engagement and proactive stance.

Together we will make a difference!

