

Oahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) General Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2003, 9am-12pm
Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Building

I. Welcome and Sign In

II. Approval and corrections of previous meeting minutes

III. Introduction of new members

IV. OISC Chairperson rotation

OISC has established defined leadership position duties, term length, and a rotational system developed by Duane Nelson, chair of CGAPS. The OISC Chairperson becomes the Emeritus Chair after their one-year term is up, and the Deputy Chair becomes the new Chairperson. Each term lasts for one year and turnover should occur in June. The Chair (Mindy Wilkinson) will be responsible for most of the organizational issues for the Committee; the Emeritus Chair (Colleen Cory) helps to advise the Chair, and the Deputy Chair is mainly responsible for the OISC budget. These three leadership positions are volunteer positions. OISC is seeking someone to fill the Deputy Chair position. This position requires approximately 10% of the volunteer's time per week, and the intent is for the Deputy Chair to become familiar with how OISC works, so that the Deputy Chair can take over as Chair when the yearly turnover occurs. The idea of a rotating chair is to allow all the agencies/organizations to play a part in the development of OISC. It takes up to 30% of Mindy Wilkinson's time. Ideally it should be a work time position.

V. Work Update:

OISC lost two staff members. Lydi Morgan and Laura Clint. OISC is in the process of re-hiring for these two positions. OISC would also like to implement a GIS Database/Administrative Specialist and Field Manager positions, but are waiting to see the financial outlook for the following year.

VI. Announcements

- A. There is a conference this month – Hawaiian Entomological Society Feb 19th. Rob Hauff has the contact information
- B. This summer, July 10 –11, the Conservation Alliance (Formerly the Secretariat for Conservation Biology) will host the 2003 Hawaiian Conservation Conference.
- C. George Staples has put forth a federal proposal of \$300,000 towards efforts to use a bio-control for \$300,000 for *Salvinia molesta*. If the grant is won, OISC would assist with mapping and tracking.
- D. The Economic Dimensions of Managing Invasive Species will give a talk at UH this week.
- E. Toxicants working group is meeting about aerial broadcasting
- F. Maui Invasive Species Committee is meeting this week. Everyone is invited to attend.

- G. The coordinator and chair will seek out volunteer help when needed. Any announcements will be posted on the web. Anyone interested in commenting or attending meetings can do so. Please email oisc@hawaii.edu.

VII. Accomplishments

- A. Control updates (November 2002 through January 2003):

1. Miconia: 217 plants, acres, 508 people hours, 319 Volunteer Hours.

No mature trees found! There was one aerial survey in Palolo conducted, but it was cut short due to bad weather conditions. OISC plans to do more helicopter survey this year.

2. Caribbean frogs: 17 Coqui frogs and 195 Greenhouse frogs (Reported by Scott Williamson)

Scott is compiling data from several sources into an Access database. He feels that this will provide a better understanding about the frog problem on Oahu.

- a. At Home Depot Scott aided a group to remove the landscaped vegetation that was housing the frogs. A landscaping company was contracted to remove the vegetation. People from DOA and DOFAW bagged vegetation. As it was being cleared the team was catching frogs and spraying citric acid. The removed vegetation was placed on the roof to “cook” it in the sun. This was done to kill any eggs that may be in the vegetation. 17 Coqui frogs and 195 Greenhouse frogs were collected. It was a two-day operation.

Scott has learned more about using citric acid from agencies on the Big Island that are using it for frog control. There is evidence that it works relatively well in nurseries. He has visited the Big Island several times to observe how they are treating populations so that he may find a good way to control the population in Wahiawa. At the Lava Tree State Park they cut the under story, which was almost all non-native plants. They chipped anything 8 inches or less on the site. The USDA APHIS came back with a large 125-gallon tank and sprayed everything that was left to a point of saturation. This was on the 21st and 22nd of January. This was the second time they had treated the area. Scott felt that it was hard to say what the success level of the treatment was at this time. It definitely knocked it back a bit.

- b. Nilton Matayoshi added that the DOA has purchased a large sprayer for the public to use to control frogs. These are gas-powered sprayers to handle the large amount of citric acid needed to affect area. The DOA is supporting several bills in the legislature. One would allow invasive species technicians to enter land without the landowner being liable.

- c. The nursery in Waimanalo is out of business and being disassembled. Scott has visited the site several times at night, but has not heard anything. Of the five sites on Oahu two of them may not contain frogs.

3. Blackberry: 2704 plants treated, 113 people hours.

OISC has modified treatment methods from a 'snip and drip' method to a foliar application (Garlon 4 1.5% and Roundup 1.5%) OISC uses Garlon 4 for areas that have uluhe in order to minimize collateral damage. Three areas have been treated; Palolo Stream, Palolo Ridge, and Lanipo Ridge. Due to adverse weather re-treatment will be necessary in Palolo. OISC plans to wait at least 6 weeks to check the efficacy of the treatment on Lanipo Ridge.

4. Fountain grass: 2 main populations, 8-10 satellite populations. 3624 plants treated, 205 hours.

OISC joined forces with the Marines Corps, and the National Guard to control Fountain grass at Bellows Marine Corps Base. OISC is working in conjunction with the National Guard to develop and implement a strategy to control Fountain grass on the outside of Diamond Head crater. Currently all Fountain grass has been controlled on the inside of the crater.

5. *Morella faya*: 3 plants were treated, 65 people hours.

OISC revisited the only known fire tree in the Koolaus (found by Charlotte Y.) While revisiting the tree, OISC surveyed and found three mature trees.

6. *Schizachyrium condensatum*: 381 plants treated, 20 people hours.

There are two known populations of this fire-promoting grass. One is located next to H-3 and the other in Temple valley. OISC is working with H-3 staff to gain permission to spray herbicide there, but for now we are removing flower heads and manually removing clumps. OISC has put together a document that provides information on the herbicide that we would like to use

7. *Hiptage*: 14 plants treated, 10 people hours.

More *Hiptage* was discovered in Nuuanu and in several places in Manoa. OISC monitored the population of *Hiptage* in Manoa that was treated in November. The treatment method used was 20% Garlon 4 in crop oil in a 100sq. plot. It was successful with 80% efficacy.

8. Manuka: 3759 plants treated, 164 people hours.

OISC engaged in an overnight trip to Williwillinui Ridge. Although manuka is fairly widespread around the island, it is still a good target for OISC. It threatens several critical habitat areas. OISC enjoys working on this species every so often as it is the one time in which staff get a chance to work in primarily native areas. This allows staff to get a better sense of their purpose during more day-to-day

field activity in weedy areas. OISC will only assist with control operations in 'critical habitat areas.'

9. Thorny Kiawe: 3 plants treated 28 People hours.

OISC aided DOA with a Thorny Kiawe Survey at Barber's Point. DOA is scoping out the project before they start treating. They want to know how large the project is before they start. They have a new Trimble unit and will switch over to NAD '83 datum. As of yet the DOA is not using the herbicide Spike due to water contamination concerns. Many of the Thorny Kiawe plants are close to the water table or to the high tide mark. DOA plans to use Garlon 4 frill cut to treat plants.

10. Tibouchina: No activity with this species was performed this quarter.

B. Opportunistic Invasive Plant Control – Species of Concern

Melastoma candidum: 32 People hours.

OISC surveyed Waihee Valley (City and County land) for this species and is working with landowners and BWS for larger-scale control operation in the near future.

C. Rapid Response Candidates

1. Brown Tree Snake: OISC has become part of a Rapid Response Team in Cooperation with USFWS, DOA, and USDA. Earl Campbell is currently working on funding for training to send some members of the Rapid Response Team down to Guam for training. This may happen at the end of this legislative session when things calm down. There have been several trainings at night for Jackson's Chameleons to train the eyes of the team to search at night. It helps create a search image that can carry over to BTS.

2. Pampas Grass: OISC has located three new populations. Mindy Wilkinson is currently working on a list of problem weeds to send to the DOA for proposed listing on the DOA's noxious weed list. This will be one of them. Christy Martin noted that in Maui at one golf course where several plants had been planted now contains several thousand. This indicates that it is a serious pest.

D. Education and Outreach: OISC manned a booth at the Lyon Arboretum Plant Sale to raise awareness about OISC and its mission. It was a good test for future educational and outreach events. OISC now has a nice banner for events.

E. Training: OISC staff members will be attending a Trimble Training Class to help them use the new Trimble unit to its fullest capacity.

VIII. Budget/Purchases/Updates:

The OISC staff has just made the big move to the new Pearl City office.

Address: 2551 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, HI 96782.
Phone: 453-6111, 453-6112.
Fax: 453-6113

All office equipment was donated by DOFAW, USFWS, TNC, and BWS. Special thanks to those organizations! Due to the amount of time spent in the field, it is best to reach OISC on our cell phone at 286-4616.

IX. Legislative Update:

There are several bills that are being presented and are currently in committee. Mindy expects many of them to die, but that some will get pushed through to vote. If anyone would like to provide testimony for bills please contact Mindy for specifics. Mindy has focused on the same bills that CGAPS supports. Some bills that we may want to get behind are:

- (House Bill 193 & Senate Bill 552): These bills have to do with landowner liability for Invasive Species Technicians searching private property.
- House Bill 182: To allow four brown tree snakes (sterilized) to enter Hawaii for training.
- Senate Bill 1620: Allowing Belgium rabbits (sterilized) to be kept below ground. Currently rabbits are only kept above ground. From enforcement standpoint DOFAW opposes this Bill.
- House Bill 505: Received support last year for EEWf and may get passed this year as well. (Christy feels that we should support this as long as it does not take away money from other organizations and agencies.)

Others of Interest (Contact Christy Martin, Mindy Wilkinson, or Mark Fox for more detail)

- HB157: Fireweed
- HB311: Miconia Funding
- SB1504: Miconia Funding

There are some concerns that some of the funding will be redirected into these bills away from other sources such as DOA and DOFAW that currently need these funds to aid us.

X. Upcoming Events:

The field crew's schedule for each month is available to those interested. Volunteers are always welcome.

XI. Species Presentation: Domingo Carvalho: A Presentation on the Veiled Chameleon

The Veiled Chameleon is established on Makawao in Maui. The Maui Invasive Species Committee has canvassed this area and surveyed for the Veiled Chameleon. They are working in conjunction with DOA, The Bishop Museum, USFWS, and DOFAW on this problem in Makawao. Domingo gave an in-depth report on how the DOA is working on

this problem and specific locations of where Chameleons were found. He showed the spread of the species in Maui and details about their control efforts.

Description: These species have spots and stripes as well as a hood or “casque”. They have a bony ridge that continues from the tip of the head down to the tail. The male and female have variations of these characteristics. Once a female lays eggs it may not need a male to reproduce again. The Chameleons eat insects, other arthropods, and some leaves and blossoms. They also may eat small mice and possibly birds in mid flight. They are faster and more illusive than the Jackson’s Chameleon making it more difficult to catch. There is literature that these species may prefer corn and coffee farms.

Totals: 21 Veiled Chameleons recovered on West Maui (18 of these recovered by DOA after the initial find within a 100m radius.)

Next: 1.) Need to confirm extent of population. 2.) Repeat follow-up searches of adjacent properties (i.e., 200m radius out). 3.) Establish long-term cooperation with property owners to support search efforts. 4.) Continue public awareness and outreach with multi-agency/ organizations for grass roots efforts.

Domingo also brought in a Bearded Dragon that was found in Wilhemina Rise from a landscaping company. This is the only one that DOA has found out in the wild on Oahu. Domingo is unsure of how it got to this particular site (escaped form a landowner or released).

10. Next Meeting:

May 7, 2003, 9am-12pm, Wednesday.

OISC Pearl City Office

2551 Waimano Home Road

Pearl City, HI 96782.

Call Mike Leech @ 286.4616 for more details

Attendees: Ronald Walker, Nilton Matayoshi, Randy Miyashiro, Cynthia K L Regents, Leilani Durand, Leila Gibson, Christy Martin, Mindy Wilkinson, Meghan Halabisky, Ryan Smith, Mike Leech