

COQUI FROG WORKING GROUP

Minutes to meeting on January 13, 2003 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Komohana Agric. Complex, Hilo HI

1. Report on Lava Tree State Park project (K. Onuma, S. Veriato, L. Nakahara by e-mail)
 - over 4 to 5 days in December, the County of HI, DNLR, DOA, UHH, UHM CTAHR, and USDA coordinated the work to remove understory on just under 2 acres
 - Animal Control sprayed 16% citric acid on the cleared area; repeated treatment every night
 - Post-treatment sound levels were lower than pre-treatment decibel levels.
 - Refuse was mulched and put back into the same area (to decrease possibility of spreading the coqui frogs)
 - Last week's meeting with Nanawale Estates residents (including Board president Joseph Mathiew and Al Kualii) indicated positive response to the project (park use by children and elderly, beautification, discourages criminal element); they will write articles for their newspaper (Puna News), participate in the planning (soliciting donations) and replanting with native plants (Amy Smith, coordinator, will work with G. Taguchi)
 - Future work: 1/3 of the park to go; tentative work days planned for finishing Phase II ('habitat modification') are Jan 22-23 and Feb 5-6 to remove another 1/4 acre of *Clidemia* and about a half acre of exotics that lead up to the park access road to the main highway, spread the mulch, and move the *Albizia* tree trunks that were already there to the perimeter of the park to create an aesthetically pleasing border and create a suitable landscape for replanting. 50 ft boundaries will not be disturbed or treated pending possible environmental impact requirements. Need to have coordination of work to be done by community groups (Rene Siricusin of the Malama O Puna, Outdoor Circle, Leilani and Nanawale) for Phase III (replanting the area with community support) and Phase IV (maintain the park with community involvement).
 - Goal: to complete work by the end of April 2003
 - Observations: habitat modification can be very labor-intensive (up to 20 prisoners working 6-hr days for 4-5 days to clear < 2 acres)
 - C. Jacobsen: When understory was not cleared prior to citric acid spraying (one-time application), frog population "rebounded" to pretreatment numbers (graph handout). Frogs may go into hiding or migrate into the treated area after 4 weeks. Frogs were invariably found less than 2 feet off the ground, perched on sticks and bare branches to avoid contact with citric acid residue on leaves.
 - A. Hara: Citing L. Woolbright in a Science News Online article, plot densities in Puerto Rico averaged 40 frogs (reproductively mature adults, not including juveniles) compared to 200 in Big Island plots, primarily due to lack of predators (owls, snakes, tarantulas, scorpions)(see article on <http://www.sciencenews.org/20030104/bob9.asp>)
2. Status of HI County's homeowner's guide to coqui frog control (B Kenoi)
 - CFWG members are requested to submit revisions, comments, additions to the information on the "Two Notes, Three Steps" website in two weeks so that it can be published in handbook form
 - With the submitted comments, a draft of the publication will be circulated at the next meeting
3. Citric acid recommendation: label, availability, cost, dilution, and application instructions
 - Need to see a copy of the HI DOA label
 - Availability: Garden Exchange, Farm Supply, BEI (by next week): most repackaged into small quantities for homeowners

- Cost: about \$14 / 10 #
- Dilution: for 16% solution, use 1.3 pounds citric acid per gallon of water
- Application: cover leaves thoroughly; do not use sparingly; may be rinsed off after 1 hour to avoid or reduce phytotoxicity.
- Homeowner calls are being taken by K. Onuma and K. Tavares; they need accurate, consistent information to disseminate
- B. Sugihara: W. Pitt is evaluating efficacy of washing off citric acid 24 hours after application.
- S. Chun showed frog eggs that had been sprayed with 16% citric acid (with and without rinsing), and for both treatments, cases, there was decreased viability compared to untreated eggs.

4. List of "Top 10" plants that harbor coqui frogs

- Might be premature to list ALL plant species affected; may give a false sense of security if homeowners do not have the listed plants in their yards because the frogs are so adaptable
- Might be more useful to list common locations of the frogs (e.g., specific parts of plants, under piles of wood or corrugated iron, in curled, dried leaves, on ground, etc.)

5. Comprehensive strategic plan / timeline for the CFWG and pursuit of funding dedicated to coqui frogs and/or invasive species in Hawaii and/or Big Island (including status of previously submitted proposal for funding, contacting Eric Weinert and approaching Gov. Lingle)

- R. Rosenthal shared thoughts on the financial stakeholders, long-term research goals for coqui frog eradication.
- T. Ohashi: The USDA Invasive Species Management Plan will be resubmitted in early February. He updated the narrative, but did not add the Lava Tree State Park project.
 - CFWG members are asked to review the plan to see where their work may fit in, and write something for their section if they want to be included in the funding. Deadline: give Tim your input in 2 weeks (by Jan 30).
 - Need to work on getting Gov. Lingle's support to ask for USDA's approval of the plan without declaring a state emergency (which would be detrimental to our nursery, real estate and tourism industries).

6. Big Island CFWG spokesperson/PR person who can attend the meetings regularly

- -no progress to report

7. Other Committee Reports

- M. Enriques: Plant Quarantine (PQ) has been monitoring citric acid treatments at nurseries in Hilo and Kona. A 16% solution of citric acid kills frogs within 10 minutes provided spray coverage is complete. One shipment was rejected after spraying because frogs were still alive due to plants being placed against a greenhouse wall and only one side of the plants were sprayed. The person doing the spraying must completely wet both sides of all plants. This cannot be accomplished if plants are stacked close together. The plants are washed down with fresh water approximately one hour after treatment (according to citric acid label) to prevent burning. PQ is waiting for data from A. Hara & staff regarding the effect of washing on eggs.
- Big Island CFWG spokesperson/PR person who can attend the meetings regularly: no progress to report

- S. Veriato & T. Ohashi: Next operation will probably be the county's Kea'au landfill site.

8. Next meeting

- Wednesday, February 12, 2003; 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.; UH Manoa CES, Komohana Agricultural Complex, 875 Komohana Street, Conference Room A (upstairs), Hilo, HI

Attendance – January 13, 2003

LAST	FIRST	ORGANIZATION
Chun	Stacey	UH - CTAHR
Crowell	Mark	BEI Hawaii
Enriques	Melvin	HI DOA Plant Quarantine
Hara	Arnold	UH - CTAHR
Hopkins	Margarita	County of HI R&D
Jacobsen	Christopher	UH - CTAHR
Kashiwamura	Van	HI DOA Plant Quarantine
Kataoka	Kurtis	HI DOA
Kenoi	Bill	HI County - Mayor's Office, MODERATOR
Larish	Linda	DOH
Lawrence	Sonya	BEI Hawaii
McCully	Jim	Farmer
Namihira	Bruce	DOFAW - HI
Niino-DuPonte	Ruth	UH – CTAHR, Recorder
Ogata	Lance	UH - CTAHR
Ohashi	Tim	USDA – Wildlife Services
Onuma	Kyle	DOA - Pesticides
Rosenthal	Rosey	HI County - Mayor's Office
Sugihara	Bob	USDA
Veriato	Shayne	USDA Wildlife Services
Williamson	Scott	DOFAW