

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

October 2017

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., October 14, 2017
Time: **1:30-4:00**
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Peter Lin
Topic: Mini-Catts: Miniature Cattleyas
from the Past and Today

A big Cattleya is a spectacular thing. But Cattleyas come in all sizes, and for generations, hybridizers have been creating mini-cattleyas: plants whose flowers are just as beautiful, and often more colorful, than their large cousins, but can be grown in a much smaller space.

This month, one of those hybridizers, Peter T. Lin, owner of Diamond Orchids in southern California, in will tell us all about mini-catts. Peter started growing orchids over 35 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. Then the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again. He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society and has received numerous AOS awards. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country. He also has thousands of photos of his orchids. You can view them on Flickr at this Internet address:



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/minicatt/collections/>

Peter's other interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids in 3 small greenhouses as well as in his house under fluorescent lights.

Sign Up for Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party and plant auction will be held Sunday, Dec. 10 at Nani Mau Gardens in Hilo. Plan to arrive at 11:00 a.m. to view the gardens and talk story. Then we'll have a delicious buffet lunch, following which will be our auction of donated orchids – your chance to get some great plants at bargain prices.

The cost is only \$25 per person. Sign up at the next meeting or send a check to:

Hilo Orchid Society
P.O. Box 4294
Hilo, HI 96720

Photo Contest Ends

The deadline for submissions to our Orchid Photo Contest ended on Oct. 1. The response was overwhelming: over 500 photos were submitted. How can we possibly pick the one "best" photo? We're going to let you, the members, make the final choice from the winners of the preliminary judging round. Details will be in the November newsletter.

Our contest for the most plants brought in to the Show Table at our meetings is still going on. We will be counting plants brought to the October and November meetings. Winners of both contests will be announced in November and each will receive two tickets to the Holiday Party.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

The following events are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo unless otherwise noted

Oct. 14	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Oct. 27	6:00 pm	AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St. Hilo
Nov. 11	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Nov. 24	6:00 pm	AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St. Hilo
Dec. 9	4:00	AOS Judging
Dec. 10	11:00	Holiday Party, Nani Mau Gardens
Dec. 22	6:00 pm	AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St. Hilo

September Members Choice

Photos by Shelby Smith



Left: Hobbyist 1st place: *Miltoniopsis* Bert Field 'Ono' AM/AOS, grown by Loretta Ricketts
Right: Hobbyist 2nd place: *Slc.* Bright Circles, grown by Janice Williams



Left: Hobbyist 3rd place: *Cischweinfia pusilla*, grown by Jeff Fendenz
Right: Commercial 1st place: *Rlc.* Volcano Splash, grown by Akatsuka Orchid Nurseries

September AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya elongata* 'Gabriel Amaru' FCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Right: *Phragmipedium* QF Agnes Atkinson 'QF Heanu' AM/AOS, grown by Quintal Farms



Left: *Cattleya* Bow Bells 'White Sands' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

Center: *Cattleya labiata* 'Ching Hua #1' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Right: *Cattleya praestans* 'Isabel Rosalia' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Cattleya (Laelia) pumila* 'Mountain View' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Center: *Cattleya (Laelia) pumila* 'Super Nova' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Right: *Cattleya* Sunset Constellation 'Kona Dusk' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Above left: *Miltoniopsis* Bert Field 'Ono' CCM/AOS, grown by Loretta Ricketts

Above right: *Ryncattleanthe* Chance the Chance 'Kiramaki' CCM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

Left: *Paphiopedilum* Fred's Fantasy 'Slipper Zone's Syn Spectacular' JCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Below left: *Masdevallia* Haneczka 'Golden Girl' AM/AOS, grown by Kalapana Tropicals

Below center: *Phragmipedium* QF Lee 'QF Kala'Kaua' AM/AOS, grown by Quintal Farms

Below right: *Cattleya* Mrs. Mahler 'Orchid Eros' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Orchid Stories

Those @#% ^&* Latin Names

Part 3: What Do They Mean?

Nobody expects you to learn Latin (and Greek) to understand what the botanical Latin names mean. But over the years I have come across some interesting etymologies that are worth retelling.

Manly orchids. The very name “orchid” comes from the Greek *orchis*, which means – I am not making this up – “testicle”. The genus *Orchis* is one of several native to the Mediterranean region, including Greece, whose plants have two oval tubers. So when Theophrastus, a pupil of Aristotle, named the local orchid plants, he called it as he saw it – the roots looked like *orchis*.

Upon a tree.

Some orchid genera have very common-sense names, once you know what they mean. When Linnaeus published his book of plant names in 1753, he put all the tropical epiphytic orchids in the genus *Epidendrum*. The name comes from the Greek *epi* (upon) + *dendron* (tree). So *Epidendrum* means “upon a tree”, i.e. an

epiphyte, which is very appropriate. By the way, the word epiphyte itself comes from the Greek for upon + plant, i.e. a plant that grows upon another plant.

Likewise, the name *Dendrobium* comes from the Greek *dendron* (tree) + *bios* (life). So *Dendrobium* means “tree life”, again referring to an epiphyte.

Aphrodite’s shoe. Some orchid names are much more fanciful. Take *Cypripedium*, the genus of lady’s slippers. The genus was named by Linnaeus. The name is derived from *Cypris*, an obscure Greek reference to the goddess Aphrodite, who was supposedly born on the island of Cyprus, and *pedium*, from the word for foot (akin to pedicure). But Linnaeus probably meant *pedilum*,

from the Greek word for sandal or shoe, not *pedium*, in which case the name would have meant “Aphrodite’s shoe”, which is a kind of poetic translation of the common name “lady’s slipper”.

Instead, because of Linnaeus’ mistake, the name means “Aphrodite’s foot”. Literally, the name means “the foot from Cyprus”, which, you have to admit, is both puzzling and obscure. I think I like “lady’s slipper” better.

When the German botanist Pfitzer separated the Asian slipper orchids into their own genus, he avoided Linnaeus’ mistake and called the new genus *Paphiopedilum*, using the correct word *pedilum* for “shoe”. But the first half of the name is just as obscure. It refers to the city of Paphos on the island

of Cyprus where the residents worshipped Aphrodite, so the name still means “Aphrodite’s shoe”.

Say aa. You know that aa is a kind of lava, but did you know that *Aa* is also the name of an orchid genus? It was named in 1854 by German taxonomist Heinrich Reichenbach. Ostensibly named to honor Dutch printer Pieter Van der Aa, it’s rumored that the real

reason Reichenbach chose the name was to ensure that the first genus in any alphabetical list would always be his.

Say what? And then there are names that mean nothing at all. The genus *Aerides* was named from the Greek *aer* (air) + *eides* (resembling), again referring to an epiphyte. But in 1974 when taxonomists Garay and Sweet removed some species from this genus, they needed a new genus name. They chose *Sedirea*, which is just *Aerides* spelled backwards.

Next time: gender bender.

Larry Kuekes



Left: An old print showing Mediterranean orchids. Note the twin tubers. Right: *Cypripedium acaule*, the pink lady’s slipper. Photo by Larry Kuekes.



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