Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2018

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., August 11, 2018
Time: **1:30-4:00**
Place: Kamana Senior Center, 127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: David Off
Topic: Cattleya Collecting in the 21st Century

This month David Off of Waldor Orchids will tell us about Cattleya collecting in the 21st century.

A third-generation orchid grower, Dave was born into the family orchid business in 1979. His grandfather George Off started growing orchids in the 1920s. Dave grew up next to the greenhouses in Linwood, New Jersey and learned about orchids hands-on at an early age. Currently Dave oversees Waldor's renowned classic Cattleya collection, as well as his personal collection of several thousand plants.

Anyone wishing to pre-order plants for Dave to bring to the meeting should email him at waldordave@aol.com. Be sure to mention that you are pre-ordering for the Hilo Orchid Society meeting. See www.waldor.com for the list of available plants.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

Aug. 11	1:30	HOS Meeting
Aug. 11	4:00	AOS Judging
Aug. 12	8:00-2:00	Daifukuji Orchid Club Show and Sale at Daifukuji Soto Mission in Kealakekua
Aug. 18		Newcomers Group Tour at a grower in Orchidland Estates
Aug. 24	6:00 pm	AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St. Hilo

Fall Nursery Tour

We have scheduled another of our popular tours of commercial orchid nurseries on Sunday, Sept. 30, visiting Carmela Orchids, Malika Orchids, and Hawaii Hybrids.

These tours are great opportunities to buy high-quality orchids at wholesale prices from nurseries many of which aren't normally open to the public.

To go on the tour, you must sign up in advance. The price is $35 per person, which covers the cost of the bus and the driver. We'll provide water, but plan to bring your own lunch and wear comfortable shoes.

You can sign up at the next meeting or by sending a check to:

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

Seating is limited, so don't delay!

Another Great Show

Once more, with the help of all of you who volunteered, we pulled off the largest orchid show in the state of Hawaii.

The show theme "Kaleidoscope of Orchids" inspired some interesting orchid exhibits. The 40-foot-long HOS exhibit was another work of art designed by Shelby Smith, with a design suggesting a deconstructed kaleidoscope. Thanks to everyone who lent their orchids to fill this spectacular display.

Malika Orchids again won the award for best use of the show theme for their exhibit. Several other exhibits used mirrors or Mylar to provide kaleidoscope-like reflections. The Vireya Society exhibit featured a giant custom-built kaleidoscope that you could look through.

In addition to the always-popular mini displays, this year we introduced youth mini displays constructed by keiki and youth groups. And a new Keiki Corner provided lots of fun activities, including block printing and a scavenger hunt.

(continued on page 2)

Show (continued)

Of course, visitors could buy orchids as well as look at them. Visitors could get also get food, relax, and see demos about how to grow orchids or hear live local musicians.

We deeply appreciate the generosity of the people and organizations who supported the show financially as show sponsors and as donors to our Silent Auction. Please see our website for lists of these generous supporters.

And finally, we thank all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the show possible. We couldn't have done it without you. Mahalo nui loa!

Newcomers Group Tour Aug. 18

HOS new members can visit a three-acre property with hundreds of orchids growing in trees on Saturday, Aug. 18. The property is in Orchidland Estates, 17 miles south of Hilo. Wear sturdy shoes (no sandals or flip-flops) due to the uneven, slippery terrain and bring an umbrella in case of showers. Learn how to mount orchids in trees so your plants grow into large specimens. Everyone who has joined in the past two years (at the *Carnival of Orchids* show in 2016 and later) is welcome to attend. Enjoy the garden tour, refreshments, drawings for free plants, and camaraderie. Invitations with directions and times will go out by email. If you don't receive a notice, there may be a problem with your contact information in our database. Those without email should call 756-8145 for directions. Please carpool if possible to lessen parking congestion.

One of the orchids growing on trees in the Orchidland Estates property that the Newcomers Group tour will visit.

Orchid Isle Award

The 2018 Orchid Isle award to James Fang was presented at the show. After Dana Culleney read the award citation, Julie Goettsch presented the award to Jurahame Leyva (above) on behalf of James, who could not be there.

Daifukuji Orchid Show

The Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club is holding their annual orchid show and sale on Sunday, Aug. 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Daifukuji Soto Mission in Kealakekua. Admission is free. For directions, see www.daifukuji.org/map.html.

Champion Orchids

This year the $300 Grand Champion award (best orchid in the show) went to *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*, grown by Malika Orchids. The $200 Reserve Champion award (runner-up) went to *Vanda* (Charles Goodfellow x Southeast Beauty), grown by Carmela Orchids. Many thanks to James Fang of Hilo Orchid Farm for generously providing the funding for these awards.

See the first two AOS award photos (page 3) for pictures of these magnificent orchids.

Award List Errors

The show program awards insert mistakenly credited two awards to the wrong growers. The Best Paphiopedilum and Best Slipper Orchid awards should have been credited to Norman Mizuno. We apologize to all concerned.

July AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield

Left: *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* 'Rayna Armour' CCE/AOS, grown by Malika Orchids
Center: *Vanda* (Charles Goodfellow x Southeast Beauty) 'Maddie' HCC/AOS, grown by Carmela Orchids
Right: *Miltoniopsis* Muchiko Hayasuke 'Mango Dancer' AM/AOS, grown by Winning Orchids

Left: *Cattleya tenebrosa v. alba* 'Pauwela' AM/AOS and CHM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Dracula vespertilio* 'Hayden and Drew' HCC/AOS, grown by Jungle Mist Orchids

Left: *Paph.* White Promise 'Slipper Zone White Happens' AM/AOS and AD/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: Mauna Kea Orchids display, Silver Certificate award to Mauna Kea Orchids

Photos from the Show

Here are a few photos from the show. You can see many more show photos in a new gallery "2018 Hilo Orchid Show" on our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org under the Galleries menu. Dana Culleney contributed most of the gallery photos, with other photos by Donna Barr, Faith LeLievre, Sheryl Rawson and Larry Kuekes. Thanks to all the photographers, and thanks to all the volunteers who made the show possible!

Left: Another stunning Hilo Orchid Society exhibit designed and built by Shelby Smith.
Right: Keiki Corner activities included balloons for the kids, plus coloring, block printing, and a scavenger hunt.

Left: Youth mini display 'Bees a Buzzin' by Boys and Girls Club of Big Island. It cleverly featured Oncidium flowers as bees.
Center: Does your orchid need psychiatric help? Ask Orchid Doctor Julie Goettsch.
Right: Volunteer Armon Collman viewed through the kaleidoscope in the Vireya Society exhibit.

Lottie Haspe's exhibit featured a fountain-like *Dendrochilum filiforme*.

Orchid Stories

The Zen of Plant Movement

I will not be afraid of death and bane,
Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane.
– Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

You probably learned in elementary school that one of the differences between animals and plants is that animals move – they walk, run, swim, or fly around – and plants don't. Of course, there are some exceptions, like barnacles: animals that anchor themselves in one spot and don't move. But there aren't any plants that move around. Hence Macbeth's overconfidence, because the prophecy says he can only be defeated if Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane castle, and plants don't move. Do they?

Blowing in the wind. Well, some parts of plants can move. Dandelion seeds are made to blow away. Orchids, too, have airborne seeds. They're so microscopically tiny, like dust, that they float in the air and can be carried by the wind for long distances. That's how orchids can spread from one tree (where the mother plant grew) to another.

This *Maxillaria tenuifolia* (coconut orchid) is gradually creeping up the tree. Photo by Tim Brown.

The birds and the bees. Another way plants (or parts of them) can move around is by hitchhiking on animals that move. By far the most common technique is for plant pollen to hitchhike on bees or other insects, or occasionally birds, which carry it from one flower to another. This is so important to the plants that almost everything we like about flowers – their colors, their shapes, their fragrances – have evolved to attract the pollinators on which their pollen can hitch a ride.

Moving by not moving. But these are special cases. Plants don't need to walk, swim, or fly. The Zen-like secret to how plants move is that they move by not moving. They grow. Plant growth is so slow, measured by our human sense of time, that we don't think of it as movement, but it is.

The most obvious example in orchids is how a plant spreads along a tree trunk or branch. If it's a sympodial orchid like a Cattleya or Maxillaria (see photo), each new growth advances a little farther up the trunk or along the branch. The oldest leaves and pseudobulbs may die off, but the new growth is still alive. Over the course of several years, the plant moves up the trunk or across the branch. But it happens so slowly that we don't see it as moving. We just see the plant sitting there. If you could see a time-lapse video of the plant, speeded up so a year's growth was compressed to 30 seconds, you'd see it creeping along. But that's a million times faster than real life. So plants do move. They just move a million times slower than we do.

Totally tubular. Still not convinced? Consider the amazing mechanism by which a grain of pollen fertilizes an egg to make a seed.

In animals, a sperm cell swims to find and fertilize the egg cell. It even looks like a tiny swimming tadpole.

In plants, grains of pollen contain the plant's sperm cells. A pollen grain can't swim. It can't move at all. Pollen gets deposited on the surface of the flower's stigma. But the ovary, containing the eggs which the pollen needs to fertilize, is in the stem behind the flower. This may be an inch or more away from the stigmatic surface. How can the grains of pollen move an inch, when they can't move at all?

The remarkable answer is that they don't move. They grow. Each grain of pollen grows a pollen tube from the surface of the stigma down the stem, until it reaches the ovary. As the tube grows, it carries the internal sperm cells along with it, until sperm meets egg, and voila! Moving by not moving.

Larry Kuekes

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