

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2018

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., September 8, 2018

Time: 1:30-4:00

Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo

Speaker: Scot Mitamura

Topic: Integrated Pest Management

Have you ever had your orchid flowers ruined by thrips? Battled with scale or mites that keep coming back? Waited for a flower bud to open, only to have it chewed by a slug or snail? Had a leaf rot that spread until the plant died? Unfortunately, orchids have their share of problems. This month, Scot Mitamura will talk about how to control orchid pests and diseases.

Scot has been the Orchid Horticulturalist for the Honolulu Botanical Gardens for 29 years and also manages their conservatory and nursery operations. His personal collection is mostly cattleyas, which he has been growing and hybridizing for 40 years.



Scot encourages people to think about how orchids grow in their natural habitats and to join an orchid society to learn more. He joined the Windward Orchid Society on Oahu at age 15 and has been a member ever since. "One of the missions of the orchid society is to promote orchid culture," he says. "I just want to give back for what the old timers have done for me."

To find out more about how to control orchid pests and diseases and grow your orchids better, don't miss this meeting!

Logo Contest

Hilo Orchid Society doesn't have an official logo, so President Dana Culleney has announced a contest to create one. Members should submit entries by email to info@hiloorchidsociety.org. The deadline is Nov. 1. The winner will be announced at the November meeting and will receive two tickets to the holiday party in December.

Logo designs may be submitted in an enlarged size, but remember that they should be clear and legible when reduced to about one inch – the size for business cards or letterhead. For that reason, a simple design is probably best. The logo should incorporate the words "Hilo Orchid Society" and indicate that we were established in 1938 with wording such as "est. 1938" or "since 1938".

Here are some examples of other orchid society logos:



Fall Nursery Tour

Our nursery tour on Sept. 30th is sold out! Sorry, but we warned you this tour would be popular! We will have a waiting list in case tour members have to cancel. To get on the waiting list, please email Larry Kuekes at lkuekes@me.com.

August Members Choice

Photos by Dorothy Imagine



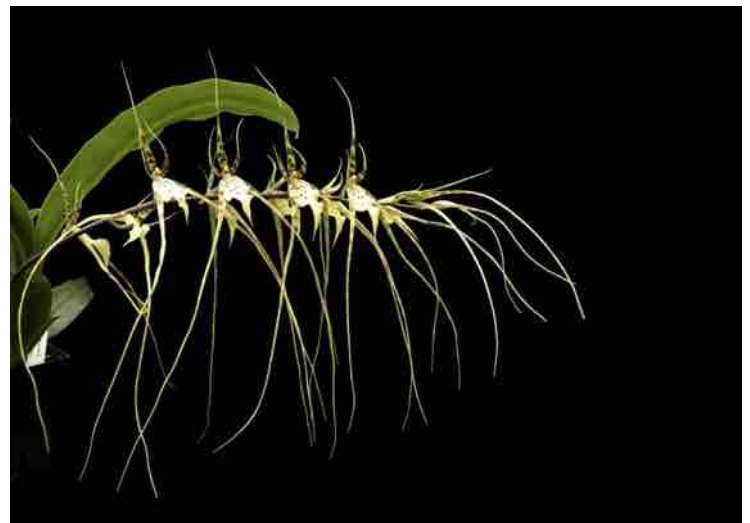
Hobbyist 1st place: *Laelia anceps* v. *disciplinata*, grown by Leslie Hayes-Cullins



Above left: Hobbyist 3rd place: *Phalaenopsis speciosa*, grown by Janice Williams
Above right: Hobbyist 2nd place: *Bulbophyllum medusae*, grown by Shelby Smith



Left: Commercial 1st place: (*Brassia caudata alba* x *Brassia* Edvah Loo), grown by Malika Orchids



Right: Commercial 2nd place: (*Brassia* Edvah Loo x *Brassia caudata alba*), grown by Malika Orchids

August AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cycnoches cooperi* 'Gabriel Amaru' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Laelia anceps* f. *disciplinata* 'Leslie's First' HCC/AOS, grown by Leslie Hayes-Cullins



Left: *Cattleya milleri* 'Fissure 8' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Cattleya* Raspberry Smoke 'Dragon Fruit' AM/AOS, grown by Waldor Orchids



Left: *Paph.* Macabre Hawaiian 'Slipper Zone Form Fantasy' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Rlc.* Happy Happy Joy Joy 'Pele' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

It Could Have Been Worse



Cattleya in the rain at the Newcomers Tour. Photo by Dana Culleney.

Friday, August 17 was beautiful in Orchidland Estates. Sunday, August 19 was fine. It rained all day Saturday, August 18, so of course that's when we scheduled our recent Newcomers Garden Tour. Our biggest crowd ever of 46 intrepid orchid enthusiasts braved showers to hike through Rick Kelley's three-acre garden under construction. Everyone got soaked, but had a good time in the process. And everyone took home a new orchid to mount on a tree in their landscape.

Minutes after everyone left, a violent thunderstorm dumped two inches of rain and knocked out power, so the morning showers were not so bad by comparison. Anyone wanting to visit Rick's garden again on a dry day is welcome to stop by.

Many thanks to Gail and George Crosthwaite for organizing the Newcomers Group and providing refreshments. We are always looking for new places to visit. If you would be willing to host a tour of your greenhouse, shade house, garden, or commercial nursery, please contact George and Gail or any of the board members. Share your secrets of success for your particular microclimate. The host gets to set the attendance cap to fit their parking availability and space.

Contest Reminder



Above are two photos submitted to our HOS orchid photo contest. Submit your photos by sending them to lkuekes@me.com before October 1. The orchids don't have to be yours. The only rule is that you must be the photographer. Check out the gallery of photos submitted on our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org under the Galleries menu. And don't forget our other contest for the person who brings in the most orchids to the Show Table at our meetings. Winners of both contests will be announced in November, and will each receive two tickets to our annual Holiday Party.

Ribbons List

John Juszczak has prepared a list of all the orchids that won blue ribbons at the show, which were not listed in the show program insert. It's interesting to see all the categories and John's descriptions of them. Why so many categories? Because we like to give awards to encourage growers to bring their beautiful orchids in to the show. Next year at show time, if you have a nice orchid in bloom, lend it to the HOS exhibit. It might win a ribbon!

You'll find the 2018 blue ribbon awards list as the first thing on our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org under "What's New" on the home page.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

Sept. 8 1:30 HOS Meeting

Sept. 8 4:00 AOS Judging

Sept. 28 6:00 pm AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St. Hilo

The following event requires signing up and payment in advance. A map will be provided showing where to meet.

Sept. 30 8:00 am Fall Nursery Tour

The following events are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo

Oct. 13 1:30 HOS Meeting

Oct. 13 4:00 AOS Judging

Orchid Stories

Survival of the Trickiest, Part 1



Left: Hinged lip of *Bulbophyllum lobbii* 'Kathy's Gold' (arrow).
Right: The lip tips and dumps the fly against the column. Photos by Larry Kuekes.

Many orchids have evolved mechanisms to improve their chances of getting pollinated. One of the trickiest – and most ingenious – is the hinged lip of the *Bulbophyllum*.

Bulbophyllum is the largest genus of orchids, with over 2000 species. They all have a couple of things in common. First, they're pollinated by flies, not bees or other insects. In order to attract flies, many *Bulbophyllum*s produce a fragrance like rotting meat, which is disgusting to us, but delightful to flies who think they've found a dead animal. Luckily for us, not all *Bulbophyllum*s stink, since some flies are attracted to other fragrances. For example, a *Bulbophyllum* might smell like ripe fruit to attract fruit flies.

After their fragrance, awful or otherwise, has attracted the fly to the vicinity of the flower, the *Bulbophyllum* has another trick up its sleeve to ensure it gets pollinated. All *Bulbophyllum*s have a hinged lip. That is, the lip is attached so it can tip back and forth like a see-saw (first photo). Some *Bulbophyllum* lips move in the slightest breeze. The lip is positioned so it's an attractive landing pad for the fly. But when the fly lands on it, the lip tips back and dumps the fly against the column (second photo).

Recall that all orchids have a structure called a column that combines the male part of the flower (the

pollinia, or clumps of pollen) and the female part (the stigma). In all other flowers these are separate, but in orchids they're joined together, with the pollinia on top and the stigma underneath, separated by a membrane so the flower doesn't pollinate itself.

When the fly is dumped against the column, a little sticky pad attached to the pollinia sticks to the fly. The lip tips back and the fly flies away with the pollinia stuck to it.

But flies are not very bright. So the fly is likely to try its luck again with another flower of the same species. Let's say this second flower has already had its pollinia removed (by another fly). Then the protective membrane will have dried up and fallen off, and the extremely sticky surface of the stigma is exposed. Our not-so-bright fly again lands on the lip, which tips back and dumps the fly against the column. The pollinia that the fly was unwittingly carrying now stick to the stigma, pollinating the orchid.

What does the fly get out of this? No food, no nectar, nothing. Some orchids do produce nectar to reward pollinators, but many other orchids just deceive their pollinators by promising a reward and not delivering it. They've been doing this for millions of years.

It's survival of the trickiest.

Larry Kuekes

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