**Next Meeting**

**Date:** Sat., October 13, 2018  
**Time:** 1:30-4:00  
**Place:** Kamana Senior Center, 127 Kamana St., Hilo  
**Speaker:** Courtney Hackney  
**Topic:** Blue Cattleyas

Blue is a rare color in orchids. So orchids that look blue (or blue-ish) are highly prized. Much hybridizing effort has gone into perfecting the blue or “coerulea” varieties.

This month, Courtney Hackney will tell us all about blue Cattleyas. Courtney is a marine ecologist specializing in coastal wetlands. Now retired, he was Director of Coastal Biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, FL. He is the author of the book “American Cattleyas”. He began growing orchids in the Florida Keys in 1962, while working for a small orchid nursery and has continued his interest in both orchid hybridizing and orchid culture since then.

He and his wife Rose live in Jacksonville adjacent to a tidal swamp. Rose paints and he enjoys the *Epi. conopseum* growing in the trees in his backyard, while he conducts his research in the swamp. His orchids are now enjoying residence in a 24’x25’ Florida shade house adjacent to the swamp.

While he is here, he would love to see “in-situ” orchids growing in people’s yards. If you’d like to show him your orchids growing outdoors, let us know.

If you love Cattleyas (and who doesn’t?), be sure not to miss this meeting!

**Logo Contest**

There’s still time to submit your entry for our contest to create an official logo for HOS. Members should submit by email to info@hiloorchidsociety.org. The deadline is Nov. 1. The winner will receive two tickets to the holiday party in December.

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:

![Logo Examples](logo_examples.png)

**Hanging Basket Demo**

Josh Black is giving a demo on Oct. 13 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Garden Exchange of how and what to plant in the copper wire baskets he makes.

**CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS**

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

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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>9:00-1:00</td>
<td>Hanging basket demo, Garden Exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
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<td>AOS Judging</td>
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<td>Nov. 23</td>
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<td>AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St. Hilo</td>
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Hobbyist 1st place: *Habenaria medusa*, grown by Joe Bush

Left: Hobbyist 2nd place (tie): *Dendrobium bataense*, grown by Janice Williams
Right: Hobbyist 2nd place (tie): *Paphiopedilum* Black Diamond, grown by Glen Barfield
September AOS Awards

Left: Cattleya bicolor ‘Lady with a Fan’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Center: Cattleya pumila ‘AWZ USA’ HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: Bulbophyllum amplebracteatum var. carunculatum HCC/AOS, grown by Jungle Mist Orchids

Left: Cattleya perrinii ‘Isabel Rosalia’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: Paph. Luna Hijinks ‘Slipper Zone Three’s a Charm’ HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Left: Cattleya trianae ‘Full Moon’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: Paph. Magical Fred ‘Slipper Zone Tall Tales’ HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Fall Nursery Tour

Our Fall Nursery Tour on Sept. 30 was a hit for everyone involved. Here are a few photos from the event. To see many more photos, visit our new gallery “2018 Fall Nursery Tour” under the Galleries menu on our website www.hiloorchidssociety.org. Thanks to Dana Culleney for the photos.

Left: a happy group on the bus. Jerome Siebenrock, at left front, organized the tour.
Right: Sheldon Takasaki, owner of Carmela Orchids, the first stop.

Left: Hawaii Hybrids, the second stop, specializes in Cattleyas.
Right: Janice Williams with an armful of purchases at Hawaii Hybrids. Members get incredible deals on orchids on these tours.

Left: Nathan Sherwood, at right, shows the group around Akatsuka Orchid Nurseries, the third stop.
Right: Our transport van was completely jam-packed with members’ orchid purchases.
Orchid Stories

Survival of the Trickiest, Part 2

Left: Mining bee performing pseudo-copulation on an Ophrys sphegodes flower in Brighton, England.
Right: The pollinia are stuck to the bee’s head. Photos by Keith Wilson on Flickr.com, by permission of Creative Commons license.

Some of the techniques evolved by orchids to lure pollinators and get pollinated without providing a reward are almost beyond belief.

Consider the genus Ophrys, native to various European countries. To us, the flowers look peculiar, but not especially beautiful. They are often covered with brown fuzzy bristles. But the flowers are not trying to attract us. They are trying to attract certain species of solitary bees, and different species of Ophrys attract different species of bees. These bees lead solitary lives, like bumblebees. They’re known as mining bees because they live in underground burrows, where they go dormant over the winter. In the spring, the male bees emerge a week before the females.

The Ophrys orchids bloom during that week, when the male bees have emerged but the females haven’t. Furthermore, the flowers emit a fragrance which closely mimics the female bee’s pheromone to attract males! Not surprisingly, the male bees fly over for a closer look. Although the flowers don’t look like bees to us, apparently to a male bee, the fuzzy flower looks sufficiently like a female bee, and it certainly smells like one. The male bee thinks he has hit the jackpot and tries to mate with the flower, a process called pseudo-copulation. In the process, he jams his head up against the orchid’s column (see left photo), and the pollinia stick to it (right photo).

Later, unchastened by his failure, he tries to mate with other Ophrys flowers. If he hits one where the pollinia have already been removed, then the pollinia on his head will stick to the orchid’s stigma (which is also in the column) and pollinate the orchid.

When the female bees emerge, the frustrated male bees stop wasting their time on orchids. But meanwhile, the orchids got pollinated.

Larry Kuekes
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Visit us on the web at hiloorchidsociety.org