



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

February
2019

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., Feb. 9, 2019
Time: **1:30-4:00**
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Jade Miyashiro
Topic: Little Fire Ants

If Hawaii is a paradise, then there's a serpent in our garden. It's not a snake; our agriculture inspectors have done a good job of keeping snakes out of Hawaii. No, the villain here is an ant, and an incredibly tiny one: the Little Fire Ant. These stinging pests first appeared in Puna in 1999 and have been spreading ever since. If they're not in your area yet, just wait. They're especially bad news for commercial plant nurseries, since infested plants can't be sold.

But there's some hope. Although little fire ants can't be eradicated from the island, they can be controlled. This month, Jade Miyashiro from the Big Island Invasive Species Committee will tell us how to find out whether you have little fire ants on your property, and if you do, what you can do to control them.



Jade Miyashiro has a degree in tropical horticulture from University of Hawaii at Hilo. She went on to work for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at UHH, helping different nurseries around the island with pest problems ranging from ants, slugs, and beetles to coqui frogs. She now works at the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) to help the community rid themselves of little fire ants.

Want to know more about what you can do about these pests? Don't miss this meeting!

Dues Are Due

If you haven't already paid, your membership dues for 2019 are due. New members who joined at the last orchid show in July or who joined in September 2018 or later are considered paid through 2019 and do not have to pay.

For the rest of you, dues are still only \$20 for individual membership or \$25 for family membership. In return, you get a year of interesting speakers, newsletters, and activities, plus the chance to get together with folks who share your interest in these beautiful and fascinating plants.

Please fill out the form on page 7 and mail it in with your payment (address is on the form), or you can pay at the meeting. Thanks!

2019 Photo Contest

We're holding another orchid photo contest this year. The only rules are that the photo must feature one or more orchids, and you must be the photographer (you don't have to be the grower). You can submit photos all year until October. So send in your photos! Email them to info@hiloorchidsociety.org and mention that they're for the photo contest. The winning photo will be chosen by our members at the November meeting, and the winning photographer will receive two tickets to our annual Holiday Party in December.

2019 Show Table Contest for New Members

We're also holding another contest for the person who brings in the most blooming orchids to the show table at our meetings. But we've changed the rules to encourage new members to bring their orchids. Only members who joined in 2017 or later are eligible to win (but we hope "old-time" members will keep bringing in their orchids, too). The new member who brings in the most orchids will receive two tickets to our annual Holiday Party in December. The winner will be announced at the November meeting.

Orchid Stories

Survival of the Trickiest, Part 4 Bucket Orchids



Left: *Coryanthes speciosa*, one of the “bucket orchids”, growing in Bahia, Brazil.

Right: Euglossine bees trapped in the bucket. Photos by Alex Popovkin on Flickr.com, by permission of Creative Commons license.

Another almost unbelievable pollination mechanism was evolved by the genus *Coryanthes*, the “bucket orchids” of Central and South America. These orchids are pollinated by Euglossine bees, which are known as orchid bees because they are found visiting many kinds of orchids such as *Stanhopeas*, *Gongoras*, and *Catasetums*, as well as *Coryanthes*. These bees have brilliant iridescent colors of blue, green, red, or purple. The male bees are attracted to the orchids not for nectar, but to gather fragrant oils that the orchids produce, which the male bees use to attract females, kind of like a teenage boy putting on cologne to attract girls. Different orchid species attract different species of Euglossine bees.

The *Coryanthes* orchids take this one step further. First, the flower attracts the bee from afar with a powerful fragrance. The cologne that the bee wants is produced near the top of the flower, over the bucket. The flower is very waxy and slippery, so while collecting his cologne, the bee may fall down into the bucket. The bucket is partly filled with water (the orchid has special glands to fill it), so the bee’s wings get wet and it can’t fly out. It can’t climb up the slippery sides of the bucket, either. So far, this sounds like a carnivorous plant, like a pitcher plant.

But the orchid’s purpose is more subtle. There is one, and only one, escape route from the bucket. The bee climbs up a little bee-sized step at the back of the bucket (the left side in the photos above), which leads to an escape tunnel. The bee squeezes through the tunnel, and along the way it is forced to pass by the orchid’s column, picking up the orchid’s pollinia (for the first bee that comes through), or depositing the pollinia from another *Coryanthes* (for subsequent bees that come through). This orchid leaves nothing to chance!

Other orchids use similar strategies to force the pollinator to pass by the column. Slipper orchids like *Cypripediums* (lady’s slippers) and *Paphiopedilums* don’t have a bucket, but they have a lip that forms a bulbous pouch. The pollinator is either attracted to the pouch by scent, or it slips and falls into the pouch. Once inside, the pouch is too confined for the insect to fly out, so it has to crawl out. All the sides of the pouch are slippery except the back side, so the insect crawls up the back, and – guess what? – that path forces the insect to pass by the column and pollinate the flower.

Larry Kuekes

January Members Choice

Photos by Dorothy Imagine



Hobbyist 1st place: *Dendrobium* Hsinying Chrysopense, grown by Vivian Ueoka



Left: Hobbyist 2nd place: *Dendrochilum parvulum* 'Tom's Favorite', grown by Thane Pratt



Right: Hobbyist 3rd place: *Dendrochilum wenzelii* 'Dana', grown by Glen Barfield

Show Committee Meeting

It's already time to start planning for our annual orchid show, which will be held the last weekend in June. Show Chair Karl Mendonca has scheduled a Show Committee meeting on Wed. Feb. 13th at 5:30

pm in Room 2 at the Kamana Senior Center. The show can't happen without the help of our volunteers. Everyone interested is welcome to attend.

January AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Rlc.* Hisako Song 'Shogun's Pride' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

Right: *Laelia undulata* f. *alba* 'Shogun Hawaii' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii



Left: *Cattleya aclandiae* 'Grace' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Center: *Cattleya aclandiae* 'Holy Mackerel' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Right: *Paph.* (Friedrich Von Hayek x Superb Fred) 'Slipper Zone Red Rising' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: *Paph.* (Fred in Pink x President Fred) 'Slipper Zone Dorsal Splendor' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Center: *Paph.* Hawaiian Peacock 'Slipper Zone Green Fire' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Right: *Paph.* Montera Vogue 'Slipper Zone Pink Delicately' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: *Paph.* Macabre Hawaiian 'Slipper Zone Gallantly Green' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Center: *Paph.* Mystically Macabre 'Slipper Zone Petal Prominence' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Right: *Paph.* Wolf's Folly 'Slipper Zone Got There' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

President's Annual Report to Members

Aloha kākou,

What a challenging year 2018 has been for all of us. We started off the year with an erroneous 'ballistic missile inbound' warning in January, then went on to have three solid months of rain in February, March and April. At the end of April, going into May and through August, we experienced earthquakes and lava flows, with accompanying poor air quality, loss of homes, farms and livestock. Orchid nurseries were first being affected by the sulfur dioxide. Then, many nurseries were overtaken by the lava flow. It seemed like it would never end. Through it all, we persevered, came together and did what we could for each other as a community.

Before I go on to talk about the year we had as an orchid society, I want to gratefully acknowledge all of you many members who made everything possible this year. I can accomplish nothing alone, but WE, coming together, can do anything. I also want to send a big mahalo to the Kamana Senior Center for allowing us to meet on their premises.

Mahalo nui loa to all of you who helped out in any way at all, from setting up the meeting room to cleaning it up afterwards. Mahalo to everyone who showed up, whether you brought an orchid in to share with the membership or brought food to share for our potluck. Mahalo to Gail, George, David and others, who organize the potluck and keep it running smoothly. Mahalo to Thane and Rick, who take care of the silent auction out on the lanai. Thank you to the Board for all of your tremendous work. You are truly stewards of the Hilo Orchid Society. Mahalo to Vivian and Ellen, who are at the table during meetings, signing people up for memberships and selling opportunity tickets. Mahalo to Lillian for being our hospitality person, welcoming first-time attendees. Thank you to Dorothy and Larry for photographing the orchids. Larry also sets up our sound system every month. If I am leaving someone out at this moment, I apologize. Please know that I appreciate all of you who help to make the Society such a success.

We had a wide variety of meeting speakers and topics this year. Mahalo to Ben Oliveros for coordinating that. Ben also arranges for our opportunity plants.

We had speakers talk about the orchid-rich jungles of Thailand; about AOS judging and what that entails; a talk about growing hard cane Dendrobiums along

with how to control pests and what kind of media and fertilizer to use; we learned "When is a species not a species?" We had a speaker talk about Lycaste orchids and another talk about blue Cattleyas; we heard about integrated pest management and how to control pests and diseases; we also heard about why orchids need fertilizer and how they use it, with a detailed explanation of what the three numbers mean on the fertilizer containers. BONUS-- Three of the talks were given by HOS members: Past Presidents Karen Kimmerle and Rick Kelley and current Vice President Ben Oliveros.

Some of the highlights from last year include:

Shelby Smith and Donna Barr did two popular workshops on how to make mini orchid displays, one up at the Volcano Art center in January and another at Kamana Senior Center in May.

We continued with our popular photo contest and 'show and tell' table contest in 2018. At the end of the year members voted for their favorite photo and Shelby Smith's photo of *Cattleya schilleriana* var. *semi-alba* was the winner. Glen Barfield won the award for bringing in the most orchids for show and tell.

Past President Julie Goettsch was presented with the Orchid Digest Diamond Award for her outstanding contributions to the HOS, which include starting up the Orchid Isle Project and also being our Orchid Doctor during the orchid show every year. Brava, Julie!

Preparations began for our annual orchid show and the theme for 2018 was '*Kaleidoscope of Orchids*'. An art contest was held for a show logo design and Al Yano's design was chosen by orchid show chair Julia Hoskins and assistant show chair Karl Mendonca. As part of our prep for the show, we participated in the Lei Day event held in Kalakaua Park in Hilo on May 1st.

We moved our monthly meeting to the first Saturday in May in order to support our friends in the Kona Orchid Society, who always have their orchid show on the second Saturday of May. Our May meeting was our annual picnic potluck and orchid auction. Many member-growers donated plants, such as Karen from Island Sun Orchids, Ben from Orchid Eros. Nathan donated plants from Mr. Akatsuka himself and Matthias from Shogun Orchids generously donated forty Cattleya and Vanda orchids. Members also brought in plants for the auction. A good time was had by all and we raised a lot of money for the Society with the auction.

At the June Board meeting, we unanimously agreed to donate all proceeds from the upcoming

orchid show's silent auction to go for lava relief. (This was originally the idea of silent auction chair Leslie Hayes-Cullins.) Orchid show silent auction revenues always go for scholarships, orchid education and conservation. We made an exception this time, as there was such a great need in the community because of the eruption. Business and tourism were also affected and local merchants were suffering, too. We DID raise \$8,000, due to everyone's generosity. After the show, we voted on how best to distribute that money and decided on \$3,000 to Hope Services, as they were building tiny houses for people displaced by the lava. The Hawai'i Island Food Basket also got \$3,000, as the need for food was great and they were doing a wonderful job of feeding everyone. \$2,000 went to Hawai'i Island Humane Society towards their lava rescue efforts of all sorts of animals. Mahalo to all who donated or bid at the auction.

Karl Mendonca stepped up to become Orchid Show Chair when Julia Hoskins resigned from the show in early June. His was a trial by fire and he rose magnificently to the occasion, as did several Board members who stepped up and said, "I can do this... I can do that." The show is a collaborative effort and it takes EVERYONE to pull it off. We have an excellent committee and lots of folks who really know their jobs. Josh Black also had to step down as sponsorship chair, due to lava-related events in his life. Julie Goettsch took over for him and together they raised almost \$12,000 from corporate and individual sponsors, which goes toward our show expenses.

The July orchid show ended up being a fantastic success and this is because we all pulled together to make it happen. We had more mini exhibits done by keiki this year, from the Girl Scouts and the Boys and Girls Club. We had a great Keiki Korner, helmed by Dorothy Imagire and Nathan Sherwood. It appeared to be a big draw for the kids. Julie's 'Orchid Doctor' booth was also very popular. And our membership chair Ellen signed up fifty-five new members during the show, the largest number of new members ever. A BIG mahalo to everyone who was involved with the success of the show! And a shout-out to Shelby Smith, who designed another great HOS exhibit and won a trophy for best exhibit in the show. Karl is the show chair this year also, so please volunteer and ask how you can help. And if he asks you to help out in any way, please say "yes."

Our new members were invited to a newcomer's tour of Rick Kelley's property in Orchidland in August, to see how orchids grow on trees.

Unfortunately Mother Nature decided it was a great day for a gully-washer, so everyone had a very wet time indeed! Mahalo to Rick for hosting, and to George and Gail for coordinating the newcomer tour. The new members still had a great time, despite the rain.

At the end of September, we had another popular nursery tour. We went to three different nurseries. This very popular tour sold out right away. The fee to go covers renting a bus with driver and renting a chase van for all the orchids. I think we still needed Gerrit's truck to help carry all the orchids everyone bought! Thank you to all who helped with this.

2018 was our 80th year as an orchid society, but we have never had a logo. I announced a logo contest and showed people examples of other orchid society logos. Six of our members with artistic talent submitted their entries and you all voted on which one you liked the best. The winning entry was of Larry Kuekes' logo with a Miss Joaquim Vanda, often thought of as the Big Island's orchid, since it was an integral part of the early orchid industry here on the Big Island. Check out our logo or our website cover page and our Facebook page, too. Congrats to Larry and thanks to all who submitted an entry.

We have also begun accepting debit and credit cards via the Square app. Be aware that the 3% convenience charge is passed on to you if you choose to pay with plastic. We still accept cash or checks, though!

We had another wonderful holiday party at Nani Mau Gardens in December. Mahalo to Dorothy Imagire for arranging for the great menu and to Patty Goodwin for the unique table decorations. Ben Oliveros did a spectacular job being our live auctioneer since Glen Barfield couldn't be there. Ben kept the orchid auction running smoothly and quickly. We also had a new feature this year: an orchid gift exchange for \$5 off of the cost of your ticket. Members brought in their own orchids for this and the drawing was done anonymously. Rick had a great system for making this work, where your paddle number was also the number that got put on your orchid. Other numbers went into a bowl for the drawing. Ben Oliveros made sure everyone got a small, baby orchid to take home, also. I think everyone went home happy.

Thank you all for being on this journey with me, during my first year as your President. Let's have a great 2019!

Dana Culleney

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

Feb. 9 1:30-4:00 HOS Meeting
Feb. 9 4:00 AOS Judging
Feb. 13 5:30 Show Committee meeting

Feb. 22 6:00 pm AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St, Hilo
Mar. 9 1:30-4:00 HOS Meeting
Mar. 9 4:00 AOS Judging
Mar. 22 6:00 pm AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St, Hilo

HILO ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please print this form, fill it out, and mail with your dues payment to:

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

Dues are \$20 for individual membership, \$25 for family membership.

Please print clearly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email for receiving newsletter: _____

Check one:

- Individual membership (\$20)
 Family membership (\$25)

Check one:

- I grant permission to publish this information in the Hilo Orchid Society Directory.
 I do not grant permission to publish this information in the Hilo Orchid Society Directory.

Signature: _____

Optional:

Are you interested in volunteering to help with any of the following activities? Check as many as you like.

- Monthly meetings
 Annual Orchid Show
 Orchids at the Zoo
 Serving as an officer

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Dana Culleney 430-6653

hilo.okika@gmail.com

President-Elect Tom Mirenda

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371

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Treasurer – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

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Recording Secretary – Lise Dowd lisedowd@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary – Joe Bush

Past President – Rick Kelley 756-8145

rickkelley@att.net

Trustee 2018-2019 – Ken Armour 808-963-6233

Trustee 2018-2019 – Nathan Sherwood 808-365-5824

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Trustee 2019-2020 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2019-2020 – Dorothy Imagire

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