Next Meeting

**NOTE: We are meeting on June 8 for our annual picnic. Note time change! And remember, the orchid show is June 28-30!**

**Date:** Sat., June 8, 2019  
**Time:** Noon-3:00  
**Place:** Kamana Senior Center, 127 Kamana St., Hilo  
**Program:** Potluck Picnic and Silent Auction

This month we’re having our annual potluck picnic and silent auction of donated orchids, and you’re all invited! We’re meeting in our usual place, but on the lanai or picnic table area, starting at noon.

There’s no official program, just eating, talking story, having fun, and picking up silent auction bargains. Feel free to bring your kids, family, and friends.

**Everyone is asked to bring a favorite pupu or potluck dish to share.** We’ll have water to drink, but you are also welcome to bring wine or beer.

Since it’s not a regular meeting, please don’t bring any orchids for the show table.

**But please bring orchids for the auction!** This year our picnic is before the show, so we won’t have donations from show vendors. Instead, we’re counting on you, our members, to donate orchids for the auction (see next article).

So bring your wallet or checkbook, bring your potluck dish, bring your extra orchids for the auction, and we’ll see you there!

**Bring Orchids for the Auction**

Is your orchid growing space crowded with too many plants (and whose isn’t)? Free up some space to get some new orchids and help out your Society at the same time by donating a plant or two to our silent auction on June 8.

Maybe you have an extra division, or a plant that’s beautiful, but you have more than enough plants of that kind and you want to try a different kind. Why not donate it and give someone else a chance to enjoy it?

Plants *don’t have to be in bloom*, just healthy and pest-free (no scale or little fire ants!)

If you have a photo of the flowers, that’s great, but if not, the plant name and a description would be good. We can provide blank plant labels.

It's not too late to make divisions of your plants for the auction. You don’t even have to repot the divisions. Bare-root divisions are fine; in fact, they’re ideal for mounting on trees.

Even if you can only donate one orchid, please do. If everyone brings one or two, the auction will be fantastic!

**Please Lend Us Your Orchids for the Show**

We need your orchids for our HOS orchid show exhibit. (It’s just a loan; you’ll get them back!) The big growers can’t lend us orchids because they have their own displays. We’re counting on the little growers. Even one or two beautiful orchids make a difference, and if enough people bring them, the result will be spectacular!

If you have some nice orchids in bloom at the time of the show, and they’re pest-free, please lend them to our display. See page 3 for some tips on how to prepare your orchids for the show and how to check for little fire ants.

Bring your orchids to the Edith Kanaka’ole Stadium on **Tues., June 25 between 1:00 and 4:00**. Plan on picking them up promptly at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 30 when the show closes. Mahalo!
The Show is Almost Here

The 67th Hilo Orchid Society Show and Sale, “Orchid Odyssey”, is coming on June 28-30 at the Edith Kanaka’ole Stadium, Hilo.

There are three things that we’re counting on members for:

1. **Sell or give away tickets.** We’re hoping you can sell the 15 show tickets you received to friends and neighbors for $3 each, a bargain price (admission is $5 at the door), or buy them yourself and give them away. Of course, you’re not obligated to buy or sell the tickets, but if you can, it’s a great way to help the Society.

2. **Lend us your orchids.** We’re counting on you to lend us your blooming orchids to help make our Society exhibit the highlight of the show. See article on page 1.

3. **Volunteer.** Our show can only succeed because Society members volunteer to help. If you’re asked to help out, please say yes. It will only take a couple of hours of your time, and it’ll make you feel good! If you’ve already volunteered, thank you!

You can sign up at the meeting or contact Karl Mendonca at karlsandi@comcast.net.

Silent Auction Donation

New member Harry Messenheimer is chairing the orchid show silent auction this year, and he needs your help. Do you have items you could donate to the auction, or know a friend or business who could donate something? Past auction items have included artwork, jewelry, business services, and more. All proceeds from the auction go toward our scholarships for University of Hawaii students as well as orchid conservation and orchid education.

Although Harry lost his beautiful home and palm garden in Leilani Estates to last year’s eruption, he says he is happy to have this opportunity to continue to contribute to the community. Contact him at hmessenheimer@earthlink.net.

Fragrance Judging

For the first time, we will have a fragrance judging competition at the show. Members are invited to enter one or more fragrant orchids for the competition. You don’t have to be a show exhibitor to enter.

Each entry will be given a 2x2 tabletop space (or larger if required). Judging will be by the people’s choice. Show attendees will vote for their favorite fragrant orchid on Friday and Saturday, and the winner will be announced on Sunday.

Complete information and an entry form are on our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org, under the Orchid Show menu. If you have questions, contact John Jusczak at jjusczak@aol.com.

Key Show Dates & Times:

**Monday, June 24:**
- Show setup begins in the afternoon.

**Tuesday, June 25:**
- 1:00 to 4:00. Bring your orchids to lend to the HOS display (pick them up at 2:00 on Sunday).

**Wednesday, June 26:**
- All exhibits, including mini-displays, must be complete and ready for judging by end of day.

**Thursday, June 27:**
- Morning: AOS Judging
- Afternoon: Ribbon judging
- 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Preview Party

**Friday, June 28 through Sunday, June 30:**
The show is open, featuring:
- Dazzling displays of orchids
- Vendor booths tempting you to buy just one more orchid.
- Entertainment featuring a variety of local musicians.
- Refreshments
- A series of speakers and demos
- Membership, Sales, and Orchid Society tables, where visitors can buy T-shirts and calendars, ask questions, and join our Society.
How to Prepare Your Orchids for the Show

- Estimate what’s likely to be in bloom for the show.
- Continue watering and feeding to encourage best blooming. Now is not the time to let a drought ruin your flowers.
- Consider staking the flowers for best viewing if they aren’t naturally held upright. Staking needs to be done before the flowers open. After they open, staking them will put them into unnatural-looking positions.
- We can only use healthy plants, so they must have no scale or other insects and especially no little fire ants (see article below).
- Prepare a list of the orchids you’re lending us and give us the list along with the plants. This helps us keep track of them and makes sure you get back the plants you lent us.

Mahalo!

How to Test for Little Fire Ants

We want your blooming orchids for the show, but not if they have little fire ants, which could spread to someone else’s orchids.

If you have little fire ants on your property, they could be hiding in your orchid pots, even if you don’t see them. We will be testing all plants that members bring in with the “peanut butter” test, but if you have any doubt, please test your plants before you bring them in. Here’s how:

Take a thin piece of wood (like half a chopstick or a coffee stirrer) or a strip of cardboard a few inches long, smear a thin layer of peanut butter on one end, and stick it in the pot. Wait for 20 minutes or more. If little fire ants are present, they will be all over the peanut butter.

Mini-Display Registration

There’s still time to register for a mini-display at the show. We’re encouraging as many members as possible to create mini-display exhibits. There is no fee. It’s a chance to show what you can do with just a few orchids and a lot of imagination. For more information, contact Leslie Hayes-Cullins at leslie@cullinsplumbing.com.

Wine, Beer, Food, Flowers, Fun!
Hilo Orchid Show Preview Party is June 27

You are cordially invited to the 2019 Hilo Orchid Show Gala Preview Party, a "fun"-raiser that kicks off the 67th anniversary Orchid Show and Sale in Hilo... and raises funds for peace and agriculture. Held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27 at the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium, the evening gala features drinks, food, music, and orchid pre-sales. The event is zero waste, with eco-friendly eating utensils.

Each party-goer receives a souvenir wine or beer glass, in order to enjoy a wide array of fine wines, plus beer on tap from Kona Brewing Co. and beer from Hilo Brewing Co. Also served are gourmet fruit juices, and coffee from Hilo Coffee Mill. Pupu, dinner, and dessert buffets are compliments of AJ & Sons Catering and friends. Vegetarian and vegan options are available.

Tickets are $75 (of which $30 is tax deductible) and may be purchased in advance from The Most Irresistible Shop, Day-Lum Rentals, and Ku'ikahi Mediation Center. Reserved tables for 4, 6, 8, or 10 people are available at bronze, silver, gold, and platinum sponsorship levels. To purchase tickets or tables/sponsorships with a credit card, visit http://www.hawaiimediation.org/events.html or contact Erika at (808) 935-7844 x 1 or erika@hawaiimediation.org.

All ticket proceeds benefit the non-profit Ku'ikahi Mediation Center and the cause of "Finding Solutions, Growing Peace." All silent auction proceeds benefit Hilo Orchid Society’s scholarship fund, orchid conservation, and orchid education.

“We hope the community will come out to enjoy a fun party while supporting two good causes,” says Kuʻikahi Executive Director, Julie Mitchell. “Please join us as a partner for peace and a giver of hope. Your support changes lives.”

Show Committee Meeting

The last Show Committee meeting will be held Wed. June 12 at 5:30 pm at the Kamana Senior Center. If you’d like to help with the show or have ideas on how to make it better, we hope to see you there.
May Members Choice

Left: 1st place: *Dendrobium densiflorum*, grown by Lottie Haspe
Above right: 2nd place: *Bulbophyllum purpureascens*, grown by Shelby Smith
Below right: 3rd place (tie): *Phalenopsis* Spunky, grown by Ellen Train

Left: 3rd place (tie): *Paraphalaenopsis labukensis*, grown by Jeff Fendentz
Right: 3rd place (tie): *Dendrobium jenkensii*, grown by Jeff Fendentz
April AOS Awards

Left: *Cattleya schilleriana* ‘Vibrant’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Center: *Cattleya schilleriana* ‘Dark Knight’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Cattleya schilleriana* ‘Isabel’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Left: *Aerangis modesta* ‘Gariel Amaru’ CCE/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Cattleya warneri* ‘Pink Perfection’ HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Left: *Paph. rothschilianum* ‘Fantastic Four’ AM/AOS, grown by OrchidFix
Center: *Paph. Johanna Burkhardt* ‘Ginnungagap’ AM/AOS, grown by OrchidFix
Right: *Encyclia randii* ‘Sebastian Ferrell’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
May AOS Awards

Left: *Cattleya warscewicii* fma. *alba* ‘Gabe’s 10th’ FCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Center: *Cattleya* x *dolosa* ‘Mirtha Isabel’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Paph.* Petula’s Sensation AQ/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Left: *Paph. armeniacum* ‘Orchid Fix Golden Orb’ HCC/AOS, grown by OrchidFix
Center: Rlc. Mirtha Luz Estrada ‘Mother’s Day’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Dendrobium* Nopporn White Diamond ‘Lily’s White Grace’ HCC/AOS, grown by OrchidFix

Left: *Encyclia randii* fma. *suave* “Sebastian Ferrell” HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Center Left: *Encyclia* Rioclarense ‘Honoli’i’ HCC/AOS, grown by Pauka’a Orchids
Center Right: *Oncostele* Tan Treasure ‘Brown Sugar’ AM/AOS, grown by Okika
Right: *Paph. Johanna Burkhardt* ‘Imperial Prelude’ AM/AOS, grown by OrchidFix

Not shown: one orchid grown by Orchid Eros and 20 orchids grown by Lehua Orchids, including four of the orchids in the AQ group. We congratulate the growers, but we regret that we do not have space to show all the award photos here. You can see all the photos in our website gallery. Visit [www.hiloorchidsociety.org](http://www.hiloorchidsociety.org) and look for Hilo Judging Center AOS Awards in the Galleries menu.
When a plane is landing at night, the airport turns on a set of lights on the sides (and sometimes down the center) of the runway. From the air, these beacons form stripes outlining the runway, guiding in the plane to a safe landing.

Many flowers have the equivalent of runway lights: patterns guiding a bee to the center of the flower where the bee will find nectar or pollen. Sometimes the patterns are visible in ultraviolet light, which bees can see but we can’t. These patterns are common enough to have a name: nectar guides.

Bees learn to follow nectar guides, and some orchids, like the *Cattleya purpurata* pictured above, have taken advantage of that fact. Just follow the stripes! If the bee does, it bumps into the orchid’s column (which is where the stripes lead to), and the orchid gets pollinated.

But in this case, the nectar guides do not lead to nectar. Cattleyas are among the one third of all orchids that deceive their pollinators and provide no reward.

Little research has been done on Cattleya pollinator deception, but it’s thought that the tubular shape of the Cattleya lip attracts pollinators who have learned to visit other tubular, nectar-producing flowers. No doubt color and fragrance also play a role. Whatever it is, a bee will investigate the Cattleya until it discovers that this flower isn’t worth it. But by the time it figures that out, the Cattleya has been pollinated.

Larry Kuekes
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