Next Meeting
Date:  Sat., July 13, 2019
Time:  1:30-4:00
Place:  Kamana Senior Center,
        127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker:  Rafael Romero
Topic:  Schomburgkia Species and Hybrids

Schomburgkia was a genus in the Cattleya alliance that has since been renamed, some species becoming Laelia and others Myrmecophilas. Although they were renamed, the former Schomburgkias still look quite distinctive, having long flower stems (sometimes several feet long!) topped by clusters of flowers with attractive wavy-edged sepals and petals.

This month, Rafael Romero from Sarasota, Florida, will tell us all about Schomburgkias. Rafael was born in Caracas, Venezuela and graduated as a biologist from the Universidad Simon Bolivar. He began working with orchids in 1986 with his father in law, Henrique Graf, owner of Plantio La Orquidea, the largest orchid nursery in Venezuela.

Together with his wife, Rafael started a laboratory at Plantio La Orquidea in 1986 where they produce the species and hybrids for which they are well known. They moved to Sarasota in 2003 and established a 10,000 sq. ft. nursery featuring many of the species and hybrids they produced in Venezuela as well as interesting species and hybrids from around the world.

If you want to learn more about these fascinating orchids, don’t miss this meeting!

Fall Nursery Tour
We have scheduled another of our popular tours of commercial orchid nurseries on Sunday, Oct. 13, visiting Kalapana Tropicals, Newman’s Nursery, and Carmela Orchids.

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 “Orchid Odyssey” inspired some interesting orchid exhibits. The HOS display featured an outrigger canoe, suggesting the odyssey of the Polynesian voyagers who settled Hawaii, which was also featured in the show art by Esther Szegedy. Mahalo to everyone who lent their orchids to fill this spectacular display.

A new show feature was an orchid fragrance contest. Visitors sniffed a group of orchids selected for their fragrance and voted for their favorite. The winner was Prosthechea radiata, grown by Dorothy Imagire, which smelled just like root beer.

(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, see demos about how to grow orchids, and 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!

Orchid Isle Award

Julie Goettsch presented the 2019 Orchid Isle award to Greenwell Coffee Farm at the show, for their efforts, assisted by the Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club, in mounting orchids on trees to be enjoyed by visitors to their coffee farm, spreading the spirit of the Orchid Isle.

Champion Orchids

This year the $300 Grand Champion award (best orchid in the show) went to Cattleya purpurata var. carnea, grown by Winning Orchids. The $200 Reserve Champion award (runner-up) went to Stanhopea assidensis ‘Peter Warren’, grown by Janice Williams. See the photos at left of these champion orchids. Many thanks to James Fang of Hilo Orchid Farm for generously providing the funding for these awards.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>1:30-4:00</td>
<td>HOS Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
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<td>AOS judging</td>
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<td>July 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 10</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>AOS judging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 23</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>AOS judging, 875 Komohana St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
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<td>HOS Fall Nursery Tour – advance signup required</td>
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Grand Champion Cattleya purpurata var. carnea, grown by Winning Orchids

Reserve Champion Stanhopea assidensis ‘Peter Warren’, grown by Janice Williams

Orchid Isle Award
May 24 AOS Awards

Left: *Cattleya purpurata* (delicata) ‘Shogun’s Grace’ CCM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Center Left: *Paph. bellatulum* ‘Oxblood’ AM/AOS, grown by Hilo Orchid Farm
Center Right: *Podochilus intricatus* ‘Orchid Fix Tiny Gem’ CBR/AOS, grown by Orchid Fix
Right: *Paph.* Johanna Burkhardt ‘Imperial Splendor’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Fix

June 8 AOS Awards

Left: *C. purpurata* (flammea) ‘Shogun Fire’ AM/AOS and CCE/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Right: *C. warscewiczii* (semalba) ‘Pauline Brault’ CCE/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

Left: *Paph.* Fred’s Allure ‘Slipper Zone Dorsal Supreme’ HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Paph.* Odette’s Desire ‘Slipper Zone Burgundy Maud’ AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
AOS Awards at the Hilo Orchid Show

Photos by Glen Barfield

Left: *Cattleya purpurata* ‘Shogun’s Dancing Angles’ HCC/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Center Left: *Cattleya tenebrosa* ‘Orchid Eros’ CCM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Center Right: *Cattleya warscewiczii* (f. coerulea) ‘Orchid Eros’ HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Enc. adenocaula* ‘Orchid Eros’ HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Left: *Louiscappeara* Richard Ace Otaki ‘Hawaii’ AM/AOS, grown by Hawaii Hybrids
Center Left: *Paph. Odette’s Fantasy ‘Slipper Zone Why’ AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Center Right: *Paph. superbiens* ‘Quintal Farms’ AM/AOS and CCM/AOS, grown by Quintal Farms
Right: *Phrag. caudatum* ‘Quintal Farms’ AM/AOS, grown by Quintal Farms

Left: *Cattleya* Pacavia ‘Orchid Eros’ AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Center: Artistic Certificate for display by Tom Mirenda
Right: *Acriopsis lilifolia* ‘ISO’ CCM/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids

Left: Educational Display by Akatsuka Orchid Gardens
Center: Hilo Orchid Show Trophy for display by Hilo Orchid Society
To end this series with a bang, we present the genus *Catasetum*. These orchids ensure pollination by literally shooting their pollen onto the bees.

*Catasetum* is one of only a few orchid genera that have separate male and female flowers. Male flowers vary wildly in shape and color from one *Catasetum* species to the next, but they all have one thing in common. The column of the orchid (the white thing in the center of the first photo) is connected to two triggers that hang down below the column. You can see them as little white spikes in the photo – the left one is curved back behind the right one.

*Catasetums* are pollinated by the brilliantly colored, iridescent Euglossine “orchid bees”. Just as we saw with Coryanthes orchids, male orchid bees visit *Catasetum* flowers to gather fragrant oils to mix into a “cologne” to attract female bees.

But a bee visiting a male *Catasetum* flower is in for a big surprise. The flower’s pollinia are under tension. When the bee touches one of the triggers, the pollinia are released and are literally shot through the air onto the back of the bee, where the viscidium (a sticky pad attached to the pollinia) instantly sticks.

Charles Darwin described this mechanism in his book on orchids. He was ridiculed by some scientists who didn’t believe that plants could do such a bizarre thing, but as always, Darwin was right.

The startled bee flies off. Having just been shot at by the flower, he may be wary of visiting another similar flower. But he is still looking for fragrant oils to mix his cologne. Here’s where the *Catasetum*’s final incredible trick comes into play.

Female *Catasetum* flowers look nothing like the male flowers, although the female flowers of all *Catasetum* species look similar to each other: the flower resembles a green hood or helmet. And the female flowers have the same alluring fragrant oils as the male ones do.

The bee may be pretty smart, avoiding the flowers that shot at him, but the orchids are smarter. The bee will visit a female flower of the same *Catasetum* species, since it looks different from the male flower. The bee enters the hooded cavity and the pollinia on his back slip into a groove perfectly shaped to scrape the pollinia off onto the flower’s stigma. The bee gets his cologne, and the orchid gets pollinated.

Larry Kuekes
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