



# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

October  
2019

## Next Meeting

Date: Sat., October 12, 2019  
Time: **1:30-4:00**  
Place: Kamana Senior Center,  
127 Kamana St., Hilo  
Speaker: Dennis Olivas  
Topic: *Sarcochilus*

*Sarcochilus* is a genus of orchids not widely grown outside of Australia, where it is native. The plants make clusters of Vinca-like flowers in shades of pink, red and white, often with a contrasting ring of color at the center.

This month, Dennis Olivas will tell us all about *Sarcochilus* species and hybrids. Dennis was born on the island of Kauai. As a boy he helped his mom grow her orchids and got hooked. He joined the Future Farmers of America and his project was raising and selling orchids.



In 1980 he moved to the mainland and swore off the orchid family, but not for long, as he was introduced to Rod McLellan's "Acres of Orchids". First, he filled his home with upwards of 6,000 plants. Later he leased greenhouse space for his collection. A glutton for punishment, he continued to add to his collection, overflowing his 3,000 sq. ft. greenhouse in Half Moon Bay. Currently his greenhouse (D&D Flowers) is in Daly City, CA.

Dennis has been president of Peninsula Orchid Society, San Francisco Orchid Society, Diablo View Orchid Society and the Santa Cruz Orchid Society. He is an accredited judge of the American Orchid Society. Dennis belongs to over 14 orchid societies and tries to assist them whenever possible.

Want to find out more about these off-the-beaten-path orchids? Come to the meeting!

## Sign Up for Holiday Party

There will be no regular meeting in December. Instead, we're holding our annual Holiday Party and Auction on Sunday, Dec. 15 at Nani Mau Gardens in Hilo.

The event includes a delicious buffet lunch, followed by the auction of donated plants, where you have the chance to obtain some special plants and benefit your Society at the same time.

You must sign up and pay in advance. You're welcome to bring guests. The price is:

- \$25 per person if you bring a plant for our orchid gift exchange
  - \$30 per person if you don't do the gift exchange
- If you bring a plant for the gift exchange, you get to take home a plant (randomly selected). Your gift exchange plant does not have to be in bloom, but please make sure it's free of pests such as little fire ants.

Either price is less than the actual cost of the meal – the Society is subsidizing your ticket! If you'd like to attend, please sign up and pay at the October or November meeting, or send your check to:

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

Nani Mau Gardens includes 22 acres of beautiful tropical flowers and plants. There is plenty of free parking. Directions to Nani Mau Gardens will be in the December newsletter.

## CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

Oct. 12	1:30-4:00	HOS Meeting
Oct. 12		AOS judging
Oct. 13		HOS Fall Nursery Tour – advance signup required
Oct. 25	6:00 pm	AOS judging, 875 Komohana St.
Nov. 9	1:30-4:00	HOS Meeting
Nov. 9		AOS judging
Nov. 22	6:00 pm	AOS judging, 875 Komohana St.
Dec. 15	11:00 am	Holiday Party, Nani Mau Gardens

## Scholarship Winners



Scholarship winners Aaron Shipman, center left, and Lael Bukoski, center right, with HOS Scholarship Committee members Sonia Juvik, left, and Barbara Heintz, right.

Recipients of our Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year were presented at the September meeting.

Each year, the Hilo Orchid Society gives \$3000 scholarships to students at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. We raise the money for these scholarships at the silent auction at our annual orchid shows. Our deepest thanks go to silent auction donors and bidders and to the volunteers who run the event. To date, we have awarded \$36,000 in scholarships.

Our scholarships are named in honor of Yasuji Takasaki, one of the pioneers of orchid culture and commercial orchid growing on the island of Hawaii, work that is carried on today by his sons Sheldon and Gerrit. Unable to go to school beyond 8th grade, Yasuji made a promise that each of his children would go to college to have the opportunities that he never had. By working multiple jobs, he kept that promise. Eventually he founded Carmela Orchids and grew it into an internationally recognized orchid business. He passed away in 2011 at the age of 95.

Yasuji Takasaki believed in the power of education to help young people achieve their dreams.

This year's scholarship winners are Aaron Shipman and Lael Bukoski.

Aaron is a senior planning to graduate with a degree in Ag-Tropical Plant Science & Agroecology and Certificate in Beekeeping. He says, "the work I hope to do will involve agricultural microbiology and application of microbiomes." Aaron continues to work diligently towards a career in Hawaii horticulture and intends to pursue his graduate studies at UH Hilo and a doctorate at UH Manoa.

Lael is a sophomore Agriculture major with focus on Tropical Plant Science & Agroecology. She hails from Kauai and a background that is rooted in livestock ranching and farming. Lael adds that beyond her experiences in farming and gardening, she finds that orchid propagation is "especially satisfying."

We congratulate both the winners.

## September Members Choice

Photos by Larry Kuekes



1<sup>st</sup> place: *Miltonia moreliana*, grown by Glen Barfield



Left: 2<sup>nd</sup> place: *Cischweinfia pusila*, grown by Jeff Fendentz



Right: 3<sup>rd</sup> place: *Epicattleya Volcano Trick*, grown by Jeff Fendentz

## Seen Around Town



Rick Kelley recently sent in this photo of one of his Cattleyas growing on a tree with 24 flowers open. Rick grows all his orchids on trees, the way they grow in nature. That's what I call a happy plant.

## September AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *R/c.* Pamela Ann Oliveros 'Mom's Best' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii  
Right: *R/c.* Sydney Southwick 'Dark Devil' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

## September AOS Awards (continued)

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya bicolor* 'Sebastian Ferrell' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros  
Center: *Cattleya bicolor* "Sense and Color" AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros  
Right: *Cattleya bicolor* 'Teccapin Station' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Cattleya Pole Star* 'Sebasitan' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros  
Center: *Cattleya velutina* 'Kylo' CCM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros  
Right: *Cattleya velutina* 'Luke' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Cynoches cooperi* 'Isabel Rosalia' CCM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros  
Center: *Rlc. Harriet Brickell* 'St. Augustine' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros  
Right: *Cattleya Pole Star* 'Gabriel' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

## Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

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