



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

May
2020

Online Meeting

Note: the normal meeting scheduled for Sat., May 9, 2020 has been **replaced by an online Zoom meeting.**

Date: Sat., May 9, 2020
Time: **2:00 p.m.**
Place: On your computer or phone
Speaker: Karen Kimmerle
Topic: A tour of Island Sun Orchids

Due to the ongoing corona virus outbreak, we cannot hold our May HOS physical meeting at the Kamana Senior Center.

But we still have an orchid treat scheduled for you! Karen Kimmerle, owner of Island Sun Orchids, will conduct a tour of her nursery, commenting on some of the beautiful orchids that she grows. And you can watch it from your computer or smart phone without leaving home.

To participate, you have to download the Zoom application onto your computer or smart phone. It's easy. A day or so before the meeting, you will be sent an email invitation to the meeting, with a link to click on. When you click on the link, you are given a choice of joining the meeting or installing Zoom. If this is your first time, click on the link to install Zoom and follow the instructions.

If you haven't already installed the Zoom app, please do this before the meeting, since installing the app takes a few minutes, and you don't want to miss the start of Karen's tour.

With many people in a Zoom meeting, we need everyone who isn't talking (this means you) to please mute your microphone so we're not inundated with background noise. That's easy, too. Find the microphone symbol in the lower left corner of the screen and click to mute or unmute.

Last month we held a trial run HOS meeting via Zoom a week after our normally scheduled meeting date. It worked great! Tom Mirenda gave a

presentation on his visit to Costa Rica and the orchids he saw there. This month, we're hoping that more of you will participate via Zoom. Give it a try!

Hilo Orchid Show Postponed

Our Board of Trustees has voted that the Hilo Orchid Show will not be held in June when it had been scheduled. It may be possible to hold the show in September, depending on the corona virus situation.

Because we had to cancel our normal meetings in March, April, and May, there is no way that we can adequately prepare for the show next month, even if large group events such as our show will be allowed by the State at that time (which is still unknown).

The Board discussed the possibility of holding the show on Sept. 4-6 (just before Labor Day), if the virus situation is sufficiently under control and large gatherings are permitted by the State. If not, the show may be cancelled entirely for 2020. At this point, there are too many unknowns for the Board to make that decision. Stay tuned, and mahalo for your patience while this difficult situation unfolds.

President's Message

Dear HOS Ohana,

As Governor Ige extends his stay-at-home order through the month of May, I am feeling proud of what this action really means for the residents of Hawaii. It is truly an act of Aloha. It means the state of Hawaii genuinely cares about the health and safety of its people. Even though it is so hard for many in our community, Big Island residents have adapted well to social distancing and all the new rules that have 'flattened the curve' so successfully here.

Yes, we face other pressures through unemployment, supply chain irregularities, and a depressed economy, but without our health, without our LIVES! what good is wealth? We that are blessed to live on Hawaii Island, know we are already rich in the things that really matter. We are surrounded by

beauty, Ohana and plenty as well as the treasure that is Aloha.

The HOS cares deeply about the well-being of our community, and of course, we must maintain social distancing for at least another month, probably more. We want everyone to feel safe and nurtured at HOS meetings and events. Unfortunately this means we had to decide about whether or not it was safe to hold our beloved Orchid show this coming June. In the end, with sadness, the Board members felt that none of us could feel safe congregating in the Stadium quite so soon. And have cancelled our June dates.

But we felt that there was the possibility we might feel differently in a month or two, and have reserved the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium for Labor Day weekend. Of course, if it is determined that September isn't safe to resume activities, we will cancel this as well and focus on having a magnificent Orchid Show next year instead. Please know that these decisions are made because we love our members and would never want any of our Orchid Ohana to be put in harm's way.

Last month, we successfully had our first Zoom meeting and even had a Powerpoint presentation about Costa Rica. Even though only about 20 or so participated, we proved it could be done successfully! We are hoping more of you will attend our upcoming meeting where we will have the special treat of enjoying a presentation and tour of Island Sun Orchids. Karen Kimmerle will show you her beautiful operation and some of her most special plants! It should be a wonderful day in a beautiful place with exceptionally well grown orchids! Do Not miss it!

Tom Miranda



CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

May 9 2:00 Online HOS meeting via Zoom

All in-person meetings have been cancelled for the month of May.

Please Send Photos

Even though we don't have a show table at our cancelled monthly meeting, you can still show off your orchids! Send photos of your orchids to info@hiloorchidsociety.org, and we'll post them in the 2020 HOS Photo Contest gallery on our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org (it's under the Galleries menu).

The only rule of the contest is that you must be the photographer. You don't even have to be the grower – they could be your neighbor's or someone else's orchids. And check out the gallery to see what other members have sent in. Mahalo!

Here are a couple of photos that members have recently sent in:



The Best of the Best

Each year the American Orchid Society gives out special annual awards for the best orchids in certain categories, such as the best Cattleya and the best Vanda. The April 2020 issue of Orchids magazine reported the winners for 2018 (we're not sure why it takes them an extra year to do this) and out of the 22 national awards given, members or ex-members of the Hilo Orchid Society won four of them! That's an amazing accomplishment. And kudos to our AOS photographer Glen Barfield, whose great photos played a part in the national judges' selection of the winners. Congratulations to all!



James and Marie Riopelle Award (left), given to recognize the grower of the most outstanding *Miltonia* or *Miltoniopsis* species or hybrid. Winner: Ricardo Chen (Winning Orchids), for *Miltoniopsis* Michiko Hiyasuke 'Mango Dancer' AM/AOS, exhibited at the 2018 Hilo Orchid Show. Photo by Glen Barfield.

W.W. Wilson Award (right), given to the grower of the most outstanding example of the Cypripedioideae (slipper orchids). Winner: James Fang (Hilo Orchid Farm), for *Paphiopedilum* Chiu Hua Dancer 'Golden Seven' FCC/AOS, exhibited at Hilo monthly judging, March 2018. Photo by Glen Barfield.



Masatoshi Miyamoto Award, given to the grower of the most outstanding member of the Cattleya alliance. Winner: Ben Oliveros (Orchid Eros), for *Cattleya trianae* 'Full Moon' AM/AOS, exhibited at Hilo monthly judging, September 2018. Photo by Glen Barfield.



Paul and Mary Storm Award, given to the grower of the orchid plant regarded as the most outstanding example of a hybrid with at least one valid *Myrmecophila* species and/or the former *Schomburgkia* species in its background. Winner: Leonard Gines, who was for many years a mainstay of the Hilo Orchid Society and an AOS judge in Hilo, for *Myrmecocattleya* Maku'u Mana 'Maku'u' HCC/AOS, exhibited at Pacific Northwest monthly judging, July 2018. Photo by Ross Leach.

Members' Photos

Here are some past HOS photo contest photos that members have sent in. We love your orchid photos; please send us more of them!



Phragmipedium besseae 'Madame Pele', by Jurahame Leyva



Lc. Toshi Aoki, by Julie Goettsch



Cymbidium with mo'o, by Dana Culleney.



Miltoniopsis, by Dorothy Imagine



Cat and Catt by Jeanine Megonigal



Dendrobium in yard, by Lou Rhoades

Orchid Stories

Stinky Orchids



Left: Bill Rawson with his *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* plant. Note the length of the leaves.
Right: the flowers of Bill's *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*. Photos by Larry Kuekes.

Many orchids have delightful fragrances, some smell a bit strange and medicinal, and some have no fragrance at all. And then there are those that are downright stinky.

Orchid fragrance evolved to attract pollinators. The plants that were best at getting pollinated were the ones that produced the next generation – survival of the fittest!

Luckily for us, most orchids are pollinated by insects such as bees and moths, which are attracted to the same sweet floral fragrances that we like. Some tubular red orchids are pollinated by birds, and since most birds do not have a good sense of smell, these orchids usually have no fragrance, attracting the birds by their bright color instead.

Then there are the bulbophyllums. All bulbophyllums are pollinated by flies. Some flies are attracted to scents that we like. For example, fruit flies are attracted to the scent of ripe fruit, and the bulbophyllums that attract this kind of fly have a pleasant scent, or sometimes a scent that we can't smell at all but the fly can.

However, some bulbophyllums are pollinated by carrion flies – flies that are attracted to the rotting carcasses of dead animals. And that's the smell that those bulbophyllums produce.

A good example is *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*.

This orchid is noted for its leaves that superficially resemble a *Phalaenopsis*, but can grow enormously long (see photo). The flowers of *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* are rather strange – kind of reddish-brown and fuzzy looking. Evidently, to a fly, the flowers look like a (dead) animal. Combined with the stench of rotting meat that the flowers produce, it's more than any fly could resist, and in the process of investigating, the fly ends up pollinating the orchid.

I have seen and smelled Bill Rawson's *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* (it's not bad from a distance, but Bill's greenhouse is very well-ventilated). I have never seen or smelled what is considered the champion of stinky orchids, *Bulbophyllum beccarii*. The stench of this orchid is said to be overpowering, having been described as smelling like a herd of dead elephants rotting in the sun. Then again, I've never smelled a herd of dead elephants.

Don't let this discourage you from growing bulbophyllums. Many of them have no scent or even a slightly sweet scent. *Bulbophyllum lobbii*, a delightful species to grow, is said to have a pleasant fragrance, though I can't smell mine at all.

But if you decide to grow one of the stinky ones, don't say you haven't been warned!

Larry Kuekes

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Hilo Orchid Society

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