



# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

January  
2021

## Online Meeting

**Please note change of date and time – Sunday Jan. 10 at 9 p.m.**

Note: the normal meeting scheduled for January has been **replaced by an online Zoom meeting.**

Date: **Sunday, January 10, 2021**

Time: **9:00 p.m.**

Place: On your computer or phone

Speaker: Simon Pugh Jones and his students

Topic: Orchid Conservation Project  
(Writhlington School, England)

Why is our January meeting scheduled so late on a Sunday? Because our speakers are joining us from England, and it's 10 hours later there (7 a.m. on Monday).

Simon Pugh Jones and his students from the Writhlington School in England will be telling us about their orchid conservation project, which we donated \$500 to support (see article at right).

They are working with a school in Sarawak, Malaysia, on the island of Borneo, to get local people there involved in orchid conservation. This has involved setting up the first orchid propagation lab in Sarawak as well as training Sarawak students in the techniques of in-vitro propagation of local orchid species.

Successful orchid conservation involves the support of the local people. We're excited about this project, which could be a model for the future.

Join us Sunday evening to find out all about it.

See you on Zoom!

## CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

Jan. 10 9:00 pm Online HOS Meeting via Zoom

## Dues Are Due

Your membership dues for 2021 are due. New members who joined in September 2020 or later are considered paid through 2021 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 5 and mail it in with your payment (address is on the form). Thanks!



## Conservation Donations

Each year, Hilo Orchid Society donates to organizations that support orchid conservation. Normally, this is funded by proceeds from our orchid show Silent Auction, which of course didn't happen this year. Nevertheless, our Board decided to make donations this year. If we don't support orchid conservation, who will?

This year we split the \$1000 that we had budgeted for conservation between two conservation projects. We donated \$500 to the Orchid Recovery Program at Illinois College, specifically for the endangered Hawaiian native orchid *Peristylus holochila*. Only 33 plants of this species are known to exist in the wild. Illinois College is propagating seed from this species to help ensure its survival.

We also donated \$500 to the Writhlington Orchid Project. In this project, students in England are working with students in Sarawak, Malaysia, on the island of Borneo. to set up an orchid propagation lab there and help young people there become involved with conservation.

## President's Message

Dear Hilo Orchid Society Ohana,

With 2020, and its many torments behind us at last, we Orchid folk are ready for and focused on all the good things we are anticipating in the coming year. While we still can't predict the future with any certainty, we do know that much progress has been made this past year to keep us safe and healthy. We hold great hope that with all our new knowledge, our HOS activities, such as exhibitions, meetings and orchids acquisition opportunities will resume soon!

Until safety in numbers (i.e. in person meetings) return, we have embraced ZOOM meetings as a technological solution to our problem. It is not perfect, but it is one way to stay connected with our Orchid Ohana, and it is actually an easy and inexpensive way to



engage speakers we may not otherwise be able to bring to you. This month we have a fine example indeed! We have an outstanding opportunity to receive a presentation from the young orchidists of the Writhlington School in England. Their most worthy program received grants through the Hilo Orchid Society and the American Orchid Society for their work teaching young people in 3 continents about orchid conservation techniques and the propagation of native species near their natural habitats. Please come support these young scholars as they present their incredible program of Education and Conservation outreach. We believe through such international collaborative efforts, orchids stand a chance of surviving the ravages of climate change and deforestation. Please join us for what will certainly be an inspiring presentation.

Tom



## Nature Conservancy Magazine Features Orchids



The Winter 2020 issue of the Nature Conservancy magazine featured two articles about orchids. The main article was about researchers unlocking the mysteries of North American orchids. There was also a small piece about what the Nature Conservancy is doing to help protect the three rare Native Hawaiian orchids, including *Anoctochilus sandvicensis* (photo above from the magazine).

## Installing Zoom

To attend a Zoom meeting, you first have to download the Zoom application onto your computer or smart phone. Just click on the link in the email invitation to the meeting. You are given a choice of joining the meeting or installing Zoom. 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 the meeting.

## Need Help with Zoom?

We're here to help. Like any tool, Zoom has a learning curve. It's easy once someone shows you how. If you don't know how to use Zoom or you tried it and had problems, contact Dana Culleney at [hilo.okika@gmail.com](mailto:hilo.okika@gmail.com). Dana will set up practice Zoom sessions for a few people at a time where she can give you individual help. But please contact Dana early this coming week. She'd love to help you, but she can't help everyone at the last minute before the HOS meeting! Mahalo.

## Members' Photos

We love to share photos of our members' orchids, so please send them in. Here are some recent photos.



*Epidendrum schweinfurthianum*, grown by Thane Pratt.



*Sobralia*, grown by Julie Goettsch



*Coryanthes (verrucolineata x misasii)*, grown by Larry Kuekes.

## Blast from the Past



Susan Forbes sent this photo of her mother in 1964 standing by a field of Vanda Miss Joaquim near Kapoho. At the time, lower Puna was filled with fields like this. Susan remembers it as a magical time – her first trip to the Big Island.

## Orchid Show Quilt

Longtime member Ned Daniger recently passed away at age 89. Ned ran Daniger Orchids out of his backyard greenhouse in California. But he also loved Hawaii. He kept up his membership in the Hilo Orchid Society, visiting us each year to attend the Hilo Orchid Show, often taking his children and grandchildren along.

His daughter Karen wrote us that Ned loved our newsletters, our shows, and our Preview Parties, telling everyone, “It’s the BEST party!”

Ned also collected our orchid show T-shirts, and Karen’s sister-in-law made this quilt out of ten Hilo Orchid Show shirts, plus a few other orchid-themed shirts. The Hilo Orchid Show shirts range from 1997 to 2019. What an imaginative idea!



## 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

Orchid Isle Project (mounting orchids on trees in public spaces)

Orchids at the Zoo

Serving as an officer

## Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Tom Mirenda [biophiliak@gmail.com](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com)  
Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371  
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President-Elect – Karl Mendonca  
Past President – Dana Culleney 430-6653  
[hilo.okika@gmail.com](mailto:hilo.okika@gmail.com)  
Trustee 2020-2021 – Ingrid Mendoza  
Trustee 2020-2021 – Shelly Nowaki  
Trustee 2021-2022 – Matthias Seelis  
Trustee 2021-2022 – Ellen Train

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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[hiloorchidsociety.org](http://hiloorchidsociety.org)