



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

July
2021

Online Meeting

Note: the normal meeting scheduled for Sat., July 10, 2021 has been **replaced by an online Zoom meeting.**

Date: Saturday, July 10, 2021

Time: **2:00 pm**

Place: On your computer or phone

Speaker: Jan Takamiya

Topic: Honohono Orchids

A few months ago, through the generosity of Matthias Seelis, we were able to give blooming-size honohono orchids (*Dendrobium anosmum*) to all of our members who had attended recent meetings. This is a group orchid growing project, to compare notes on how these orchids grow under different growing conditions.

How should you grow your honohono? This month we are pleased to have Jan Takamiya from Mililani on Oahu as our speaker, to tell us just that.

Tom Miranda says about Jan, "A master at growing Honohono orchids to perfection, she has won many blue ribbons at Oahu Orchid shows in recent years with some of the best specimen plants ever seen in our state!...and therefore, the WORLD! We are lucky to have her share her secrets of successful culture of these spectacular, colorful and deliciously fragrant orchids.

"Having recently retired, Jan can devote even more time and effort into orchids and has entered the AOS judging program. She also coordinates speakers for some of the Orchid societies on Oahu. Some of you may also know of her talented husband, Lance, who is a beloved slack key guitarist and recording artist. Sounds like a charmed Hawaiian life to me!"

To find out how to grow this classic Hawaiian orchid, don't miss this meeting!



HOS Orchid Sale July 30-31

On July 30-31, we are holding a big orchid sale event, instead of our usual orchid show, in Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium. Many of our commercial orchid vendors who normally sell at the orchid show will be there. The show hours are:

Friday, July 30 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 31 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The following vendors have already signed up for the sale, and we're expecting a few more:

Akatsuka Orchid Gardens
Hawaii Hybrids
Island Sun Orchids
Jungle Mist Orchids
Kalapana Tropicals
Norman Mizuno Orchids
The Orchid Fix
OrchidPeople
Shogun Hawaii

Because of the pandemic, the vendor booths will be spaced farther apart than usual, and there will be some other precautionary measures, such as asking attendees to wear masks and limiting the number of people inside the stadium at any one time.

Karl Mendonca is doing a great job organizing the whole event, but he's going to need help from some volunteers. We're asking volunteers to help out for a 2 or 2½ hour shift. We could use to help for:

- Front gate: Admission will be free, but we need volunteers to monitor the entrance and the exit. To volunteer, contact Karl Mendonca at 808-217-7078 or karlsandi@comcast.net.
- Membership: we are hoping to sign up some new Hilo Orchid Society members. To volunteer, contact Ellen Train at pecetrain@gmail.com or 808-968-6148.

We're excited about the opportunity to see and buy from our Hawaii orchid vendors. We hope to see you all there!

President's Message

Dear Hilo Orchid Society Ohana,

Summer has arrived in East Hawaii, after a rainy and cold (for the kamaaina) winter and spring. Despite the challenges of the last 18 months, we are starting to emerge on the other side at last. Let us hope the good news and good times continue. As we open up again to tourism and gather more freely with friends and Ohana we hope to be able to be together again soon and share our orchids with each other and the world.

For those who attended Rick Kelley's garden tour last month, it was a delicious reminder of what it means to live in such a verdant and beautiful place, as well as the potential we all have to create beauty and spectacle with our gardens and orchids.



For those of you participating in the Honohono challenge, we have the amazing Jan Takamiya of Mililani as our speaker this month. I have never seen better grown honos anywhere in the world! Do not miss this talk!

We are also thrilled to be using our Stadium Orchid Show dates for an Orchid sale. While the state rules will not allow us to have the kind of celebratory shows we've had in past years, with massive exhibits, food and music, this is yet another step in reviving and replenishing our society, relationships and our collections, so important to our island lives. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Tom

Scholarship Fund Appeal

Our Scholarship Fund is our reserve of money out of which we pay for our annual scholarships for students at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. These scholarships are \$3000 for each student.

We try to maintain enough money in the fund for two years' worth of scholarships for two students: \$12,000. Normally, the proceeds of the Silent Auction at our annual Hilo Orchid Show goes into the fund.

Last year and this year, no money went into the Scholarship Fund, because there was no Hilo Orchid Show. But there were still deserving students, so we

still gave out scholarships. The result is that we now have only \$3,000 in the fund, which will soon disappear when (and if) we give scholarships this year.

We don't want our scholarships to dry up just because we haven't been able to hold an orchid show. In the past, some HOS members have generously sponsored our orchid show, donating \$1000 (gold sponsor), \$500 (silver sponsor) or \$300 (bronze sponsor) to support the show. In the absence of a show, we would like to ask those members who might have been show sponsors to consider donating a similar amount for our scholarship fund as a way to support the Hilo Orchid Society. Of course, donations of any size are welcome.

Any money that is donated for the scholarship fund will be held separately and will only be spent on scholarships. To donate, please send a check to

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

Please note "scholarship" on the check or an attached note, so we know that's what it's for.

Mahalo nui loa.



Larry Kuekes, your newsletter editor, hiding behind a Giant Anthurium at Rick Kelley's garden tour. Photo by Dana Culleney.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

- | | | |
|---------|------------|--|
| July 10 | 2:00 pm | Hilo Orchid Society Zoom meeting |
| July 10 | 4:00 pm | AOS judging, 28-499 Kulaimano St.,
Pepeekeo, HI |
| July 22 | 4:00 pm | AOS judging, 17-1072 Old Volcano
Road, Mountain View, HI |
| July 30 | 11:30-7:00 | Hilo Orchid Society Orchid Sale,
Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium |
| July 31 | 8:00-2:00 | Hilo Orchid Society Orchid Sale,
Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium |

Members' Photos

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



Left: *Coelogyne pandurata*, grown by Ruth Robison

Right: *Cattleya purpurata*, grown by Rick Kelley



Left: *Dendrobium fimbriatum* var. *oculatum*, grown by Eric Guttormsen

Right: *Oncidium Valentine*, grown by Linda Damas



Photos from Rick Kelley's Garden Tour

Photos by Larry Kuekes

In lieu of a June meeting, members had a tour of Rick Kelley's 3-acre property. Rick grows all of his orchids on trees, the way they grow in nature, and the results show that's how they love to grow. In addition to being a past president of the Hilo Orchid Society, Rick is currently the president of the Hawaii Island Palm Society, and he grows many varieties of rare palms, in addition to other beautiful garden plants.



Left: Rick Kelley has worked for years transforming his property into what looks like a botanical garden.

Right: Rick (at center) conducting a group of attendees on the tour of his garden.



Left: Rick grows more than just orchids. This is an anthurium.

Center: An oncidium, possibly *Oncidium sphacelatum*, has a flower spike as long as a person is tall.

Right: A renanthera provides a blaze of color.



Left: Rick (at right) talking about a plant of *Coelogyne pandurata* growing on a tree.
 Right: A cattleya, possibly *Cattleya purpurata*, growing on a tree.



Left: Many of Rick's Ohia trees have succumbed to Rapid Ohia Death, a fungal disease. This cattleya on a piece of a fallen tree is blooming anyway.
 Right: Vanda growing on a tree.



Left: There were so many attendees that they were split into two groups. Eric Guttormsen (second from left) led the second group.
 Right: Miltoniopsis growing on a tree.

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

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Trustee 2021-2022 – Matthias Seelis
Trustee 2021-2022 – Ellen Train

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