



# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

February  
2023

## In-Person Meeting

Note: the meeting scheduled for Sat., February 11, 2023 will be in-person. There will be no Zoom meeting.

Date: Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023  
Time: **1:30** Informal "talk story"  
**2:00** Meeting starts  
Place: Kamana Senior Center,  
127 Kamana St., Hilo  
Speaker: James Keach  
Topic: Promiscuous Orchids

Orchids are promiscuous little things. A species is normally defined as a group of organisms that can interbreed with each other, but not with other species. If two different species do interbreed, like a horse and a donkey, the offspring (a mule) is sterile. Not so with orchids. Orchids routinely interbreed not only across species, but across genera. This requires a whole new vocabulary when talking about orchid hybrids, using terms like "grec," "multigeneric," and "intersectional hybrid."

This month our own Dr. James Keach will tell us all about "Promiscuous Orchids Pushing the Line: Species, Hybrids, & Genetic Boundaries." His background is in plant breeding and developing new cultivars and forms of flowers and edible crops through traditional breeding techniques. In this capacity he has worked with a range of crops, including impatiens, sweet potato, taro, squash, peas, and many more. Prior to returning to Hawai'i, he headed an Orchid Improvement and Education project with Gardens by the Bay in Singapore. James is



currently Kaua'i Assistant Extension Agent for Ornamental Crops with the University of Hawai'i. He is an AOS judge.

Want to find out more about how we keep track of our promiscuous orchids? Don't miss this meeting!

## No Zoom Meeting

Our Board decided that it's time for us to go back to having meetings at the Kamana Senior Center.

We know that the Covid pandemic is not over, although the risk is now much lower for people who are vaccinated and boosted. Masks are not required at meetings, but you are welcome to wear a mask.

## Meeting Schedule

Several people have asked about our meeting schedule for 2023. We meet on the second Saturday of almost every month. In December we have a holiday party and auction, which has not yet been scheduled. Our annual orchid show is at the end of July, and we may or may not also have a regular meeting in July. We'll keep you posted.



## Dues Are Due

Your membership dues for 2023 are due. New members who joined at our Orchid Show at Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium in July and members who joined in September 2022 or later are considered paid through 2023 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.

You can pay at the meeting, or fill out the form on page 7 and mail it in with your payment (address is on the form). Thanks!

## Master Gardeners Event



On January 29, HOS was invited to participate in an information session and plant sale held by the Master Gardeners. We had an info booth where we answered questions, passed out brochures about the Hilo Orchid Society, and signed up a couple of new members. Manning the table were, from left, Natalie Hebden, Kathryn Duvall, and Larry Kuekes.

## Photo Contest

We're happy to announce another HOS photo contest for 2023. The only rule is: you must be the photographer. You don't have to be the grower of the orchid. We will be accepting photos until October, and then the photos will go through a judging process, with the winner selected by you, our members, in November. The winner will receive two free tickets to our Holiday Party in December.

So, please send your orchid photos to [Lkuekes@gmail.com](mailto:Lkuekes@gmail.com). Photos will be shared in a photo album on our website, but anonymously, so as not to bias the judging.

At right is a photo that one of our members took recently of an Epidendrum growing wild in a camellia bush at Island Veterinary.







*Dendrobium polysema* 'Eat Me' AM/AOS, grown by Jungle Mist Orchids



Left: *Dendrobium polysema* 'Suck on This' AM/AOS, grown by Jungle Mist Orchids



Right: *Laelia undulata* h.f. *alba* 'Shogun Hawaii' CCE/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii



*Epidendrum* Pacific Blaze 'OrchidFix Great Balls of Fire' AM/AOS, grown by OrchidFix



Left: *Cattleya rupestris* 'Okika' AM/AOS, grown by Okika



Right: *Dendrobium* Snow Festival '808 Orchids' AM/AOS, grown by Mindi Clark





*Rhynchostylis gigantea* 'Excellent' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii



Left: *Lycaste* Fire Bird 'Okika' AM/AOS, grown by Okika



Right: *Rlc.* Princess of Hawaii 'Shogun's Success' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii



Left: *Paphiopedilum* Enchanting Knight 'Slipper Zone That's Better' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids  
Right: *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* 'Come to Me' AM/AOS, grown by OrchidFix



Left: *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* 'Lily's Heavenly Palace' AM/AOS, grown by OrchidFix  
Right: *Paphiopedilum* Lune Francais 'OrchidFix, Thanks Slipper Zone' AM/AOS, grown by OrchidFix

## 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 – Karl Mendonca

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371  
[oliveros@orchideros.com](mailto:oliveros@orchideros.com)

Treasurer – Rick Kelley

Recording Secretary – Lise Dowd [lisedowd@aol.com](mailto:lisedowd@aol.com)

Corresponding Secretary – Larry Kuekes

President-Elect – Ellen Train

Past President – Tom Miranda [biophiliak@gmail.com](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com)

Trustee 2022-2023 – Kevin Evans

Trustee 2022-2023 – Sandra Dixon

Trustee 2023-2024 – Rusty Gorton

Trustee 2023-2024 – Natalie Hebden

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



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