



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

October
2023

Next Meeting

Date: Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023
Time: 1:30 Informal "talk story"
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Group Discussion
Topic: Orchid Culture and More

We're not going to have a speaker and presentation at our October meeting. Instead, we'll be talking about things of interest to you, our members.

First, Karl Mendonca will talk about our Holiday Party and Orchid Auction that will be held in December. We want to know what you, our members, like and don't like at the party and auction, so we can make the event fun and satisfying for everyone.

Then, we'll have a review of the orchid show-and-tell table, but with a difference. Some of our AOS judges will not only talk about the orchids that we will see on the table, but they'll talk about how to grow those orchids, because not all orchids like the same growing conditions. You don't grow a Paph the same way you grow a Cattleya!

Finally, we'll have a look at the website of Sunset Valley Orchids, run by our November speaker, Fred Clarke. Fred is giving us a 20% discount on any orchids that we order as a group, and the deadline for the group order is Oct. 15 (to give Fred time to ship the order), so this will be the last chance for people to order orchids from Sunset Valley if they haven't already.



Stanhopea embreei

Pre-Order from Fred Clarke

Our November speaker will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in California. He is offering a 20% discount on orchids that we pre-order, which he will ship to us before the meeting. This has to be done as a group order by October 15, so to get the discount, DO NOT order directly from his website. Instead, Charles Mans will be coordinating the order.

You can either fill out the spreadsheet that we sent to you in an earlier email and send it to Charles at manscharles@yahoo.com, or send Charles the following information about each orchid that you want to order from Sunset Valley Orchids:

1. The plant number in the Sunset Valley catalog
2. The plant name
3. Quantity (how many of this plant)
4. Catalog price of the plant

Charles will send in a single group order. Charles will pay for the order, so you MUST reimburse Charles when you pick up the plants at the November meeting. Charles will calculate the discounted price that you owe. You can pay by cash, check, or credit card.

Fred Clarke is known for his *Catasetinae* hybrids, including black orchids, but he also offers Cattleyas, Paphs, Dendrobiums, Sarcocylus, and others. See his website <http://sunsetvalleyorchids.com>

But remember – don't order from the website. Send your order info to Charles by October 15.



Bulbophyllum rothschildianum

Orchid Isle Project

The Orchid Isle project was the idea of HOS past President Julie Goettsch. Our island has the nickname The Orchid Isle, and Julie wanted to help us live up to our nickname by placing orchids where both visitors and residents could see them. Under Julie's leadership, this has been done by volunteers from not only the Hilo Orchid Society, but the other

two orchid societies on this island: the Kona Orchid Society and the Daifukuji Orchid Club.

Ellen Train has now taken over the Orchid Isle project, and the latest Orchid Isle effort occurred on Sept. 20, when HOS volunteers placed donated orchids around the Mauna Loa Macadamia Nuts visitor center.



Left: Ellen Train in front of the visitor center.

Center: Jeanine Megonigal spraying an orchid that has been mounted on a tree.

Right: Priyani and Don Carley mounting an orchid on a tree.



Left: Orchids mounted on a bamboo fence by Ellen Train, Ruth Robison and Debbie Cannoles.



Right: Tyler B. mounting an orchid.

November Meeting Date Change

Our November meeting will not be on the usual second Saturday. It has been rescheduled to Sunday, Nov. 5, so that we can share our speaker Fred Clarke with the Kona Orchid Society. Please mark this on your calendar!

Calendars and T-Shirts for Sale

Our 2024 Orchid Isle calendars will be for sale at the October meeting, featuring 12 gorgeous orchids grown and photographed by our members. They make nice Christmas gifts.

Also for sale at the meeting are our 2023 Waves of Orchids T-shirts, reduced in price to \$16 (they were \$20 at the orchid show). We have a limited selection of sizes and colors left.

Did You Know



Bee preserved in amber, with orchid pollinia on its back.

It used to be thought that orchids had evolved very recently because no orchid fossils had been found. Then in 2007, a bee was found preserved in amber dated at 15 to 20 million years old. The bee had pollinia (clumps of pollen) stuck to its back, and only orchids produce pollinia. So there must have

been orchids then!

More recent studies, based on the known rate of DNA mutation, have estimated that the orchid family originated about 70-80 million years ago, when dinosaurs walked the earth.

September Members Choice

Photos by Larry Kuekes



1st place: *Rlc. Amazing Thailand*, grown by Lise Dowd and Steve Forman



Left: 2nd place: *Rhynchostylis coelestis*, grown by Janice Williams
Right: 3rd place: *Gongora galatea*, grown by Sherry Partlow





Phragmipedium Giganteum 'Honoli'i Cookie' HCC/AOS, grown by Sandra Dixon

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Karl Mendonca

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371
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Treasurer – Rick Kelley

Recording Secretary – Lise Dowd lisedowd@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary – Larry Kuekes

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Past President – Tom Miranda biophiliak@gmail.com

Trustee 2022-2023 – Kevin Evans

Trustee 2022-2023 – Sandra Dixon

Trustee 2023-2024 – Kathryn Duval

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www.hiloorchidsociety.org