Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

June 2026

Date: Sat., June 13, 2026
Time: **1:30** Informal "talk story"
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Juraj Kojš
Program: Imagining Orchid Music

Dr. Juraj Kojš is a professor at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music. He is also into orchids. He is an AOS judge; he has written articles for Orchids magazine; and he is a past president of the Coalition for Orchid Species.

Juraj has combined his passions for music and orchids in innovative ways. In particular, he created the Orchid DNA Music project, which he will tell us about.

Born in Slovakia, Juraj came to the U.S. in 1997 to study music. He went on to teach at the University of Miami, and he now creates multimedia music.

His Orchid DNA Music project makes music out of the decoded DNA of some Florida native orchid species. He translates the sequences of DNA bases into rhythms and sounds including instruments and voices. The presentation invites orchid lovers to listen to plants in surprising new ways and to consider how art can help raise awareness for orchid conservation.

Want to hear music made from Orchid DNA? Don't miss this meeting!

Please Pick Up Your Show Tickets

We still have orchid show tickets that HOS members can buy for $3 each. You don't have to buy tickets, but if you can, it's a great way to help your Society. The $3 price is a bargain compared with $6 at the door.

You can pick up your tickets at the meeting. It saves us the cost of mailing them to you.

You don't have to pay for the tickets when you pick them up. We trust you. You can pay online at our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org, or you can mail your payment ($45 if you use 15 tickets) to

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

Thank you for helping to make the show a success!

All Hands on Deck

The Hilo Orchid Show is rapidly approaching. We're looking for volunteers to help out at the Front Gate, Plant Hotel, T-shirt sales, Membership Desk, Silent Auction, and Keiki & 'Ohana Orchid World.

Volunteers can sign up for one of these times:

- Friday, July 24: 9-11; 11-1; 1-3; 3-6
- Saturday, July 25: 9-11; 11-1; 1-3; 3-5
- Sunday, July 26: 10-12; 12-1:30

We also need help with Green Plants for the Display as well as Set-up and Break-down before and after the Show.

If you can't sign up at the meeting, please email us at hiloorchidsociety@gmail.com with your preferred times and stations. We will reply to your email.

The Perfect Opportunity

Did you know that when you bring a Potluck Dish or a Show & Tell Plant to our monthly Saturday meeting, you can receive a ticket for a chance to win an Opportunity Plant at the end of our meeting?

Gatherings in Hawaii always include food. Please bring a "pupu" or dessert to the meeting to add to the Aloha Spirit.

In addition, consider bringing a blooming orchid to the Show & Tell table. Our expert AOS judges talk about each plant, which can provide useful information about your plant.

If you brought food or a Show and Tell plant, just tell Vivian and she will give you a ticket.

Orchid Stories
Flytrap

Bulbophyllums are great orchids to grow in Hilo. Many of them like to grow warm and to be kept moist, and that's perfect for our climate. There are over 1500 Bulbophyllum species, and they have a bewildering diversity of shapes, but they share a couple of characteristics.

First, most of them are pollinated by flies, not bees. This has the unfortunate side effect that many Bulbophyllums are stinky, to attract flies. The worst, *Bulbophyllum beccarii*, is said to smell like a herd of dead elephants! Luckily, not all Bulbophyllums stink, because even flies have different tastes. There are Bulbophyllums that don't smell bad.

Second, all Bulbophyllums have a hinged lip that rocks back and forth like a seesaw under the slightest pressure. What could be the purpose of this strange device? Many orchids don't leave pollination to chance. Instead, they employ some amazing devices to make sure that any insect visiting them is forced into contact with the column, which contains the pollinia (bundles of pollen) and the stigma (which receives the pollen).

In the case of Bulbophyllums, the fly lands on the lip of the orchid. But because it's hinged, it tips over and dumps the fly against the column. It's like a booby-trap.

One time, my plant of *Bulbophyllum lobii* 'Kathy's Gold' AM/AOS had nine flowers, and I wanted to show it off, so I brought it to the show table at a meeting. I was surprised when Leonard Gines announced that people should come over and look at it because there was a fly trapped in one of the flowers. Sure enough, there it was! It was alive and still wiggling, but it was stuck (see photo above). The hinged lip had done its booby-trap trick and had dumped the fly against the column (the lip is the triangular thing in front of the fly; the column is behind the fly). The next day the fly was gone and the lip was back to its normal position.

I don't think the fly was supposed to get stuck for that long; I think this fly was just unlucky. But it was a perfect demonstration of how the amazing Bulbophyllum hinged lip flytrap works.

Larry Kuekes

Orchids on the May Show Table

Photos by Dana Culleney

Cattleya schilleriana, grown by Karen Kimmerle

Epidendrum randii, grown by Ben Oliveros

Cattleya

Dendrobium loddigesii, grown by Leslie Hayes-Cullins

Miltoniopsis, grown by Okika

Miltoniopsis, grown by Okika

Miltoniopsis, grown by Dana Culleney

Cattleya (Laelia) purpurata

Dendrobium

Stanhopea wardii, grown by Glen Barfield

Trichopilia hybrid, grown by Karen Kimmerle

May AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield

Cattleya warscewicii (h.f. alba) 'Osa Polar' FCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Left: *Cattleya granulosa* 'Sebastian Ferrell' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: Bulbophyllum Dragonslayer Gold 'Shogun's Golden Dragon' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

Left: *Cattleya purpurata* 'Better Than the Others' FCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Cattleya warscewiczii* h.f. coerulea 'Richard Mocarski' FCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Left: *Catasetum* DF Adriana Feitoza AM/AOS, CCM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Right: *Dendrobium loddigesii* 'LHC May Day' HCC/AOS, grown by Leslie Hayes-Cullins

Left: *Cattleya warscewiczii* 'Tango' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Cattleya warscewiczii* h.f. causiconcolor 'Girola' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Ero

Left: *Cattleya purpurata* 'Glen Barfield' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Right: *Cattleya warscewiczii* 'Greatness' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Left: *Cattleya porphyoglossa* 'Gabriel Amaru' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Coelogyne caloglossa* 'Jungle Mist' CHM/AOS, grown by Jungle Mist Orchids

Left: Catasetum Maria Mercado 'Shogun's Aztec Warrior' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Right: Miltoniopsis Kelly 'Big Boy' AM/AOS, grown by Glen Barfield

Left: Miltoniopsis Rubenesque 'Cheryl Blackburn' AM/AOS, grown by Glen Barfield
Right: Phragmipedium Lutz Rollke HCC/AOS, grown by Matt Silva

Left: Phragmipedium QF Kaleimomi HCC/AOS, grown by Whitney Steele
Right: Phragmipedium QF Nohea 'Kai Quintal' HCC/AOS, grown by Matthew Sylva

Cattleya warscewiczii 'Salsa' FCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Wine, Beer, Food, Flowers, Fun at Orchid Show Preview Party July 23

You are cordially invited to the Hilo Orchid Show Gala Preview Party**,** a "fun"-raiser that kicks off the 2026 Orchid Show and Sale in Hilo... and raises funds for peace and agriculture. Held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23 at the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium**,** the evening gala features beverages, catered food, live music, and orchid viewing and pre-sales. The event is low impact, with recycling and eco-friendly eating utensils.

Each party-goer receives a souvenir wine or beer glass to enjoy the libations and take home after the event. A wide variety of fine wines, beers on tap from Kona Brewing Co., and hard beverages from Ola Brew and Kvasir's Mead are served, along with kombucha from The Booch Bar & Big Island Booch, gourmet fruit juice, iced tea, and water. Pupu, dinner, and dessert buffets are compliments of AJ & Sons Catering and friends. Vegetarian and vegan options are available.

Tickets are $115 (of which $40 is tax deductible) and may be purchased in advance from The Most Irresistible Shop and Ku'ikahi Mediation Center. Reserved tables for 4, 6, 8, or 10 people are available at bronze, silver, gold, and platinum sponsorship levels. To purchase tickets, tables, and sponsorships online, visit https://hawaiimediation.org/event/previewparty2026 or contact Carol at (808) 935-7844 ext. 8 or carol@hawaiimediation.org. Tickets purchased online will be held at will call, unless prior arrangements are made to pick them up at Kuʻikahi.

All ticket proceeds benefit the non-profit Ku'ikahi Mediation Center and the cause of "Finding Solutions, Growing Peace." All silent auction proceeds benefit Hilo Orchid Society's agriculture student scholarship fund.

"We hope the community will come out to enjoy a great party while supporting two good causes at this 'fun'-raiser," says Kuʻikahi Executive Director Julie Mitchell. "Let's create a world where people know how to navigate conflict, build bridges, and seek resolution. Your support changes lives!"

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

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Vice President – Tom Mirenda
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Hilo Orchid Society
P.O Box 4294
Hilo, HI 96720

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Visit us on the web at
www.hiloorchidsociety.org

Contact us at
hiloorchidsociety@gmail.com