Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2026

Date: Sat., August 15, 2026
Note this is the 3rd Saturday not the 2nd
Time: **1:30-4:00**
Place: Nani Mau Gardens
(see map)
Topic: Potluck Picnic

This month, instead of a meeting, we are celebrating the success of our 72nd Hilo Orchid show with a relaxing August Picnic. It will be on the THIRD Saturday of the month: August 15th at Nani Mau Gardens. See the directions to Nani Mau at right.

The picnic will be a Potluck so bring your favorite picnic dish.

We will also have a Silent Auction featuring the orchids that we bought to enhance the HOS Show Display, plus a few other items.

Cindy Cui is the owner of Nani Mau. She is a new Hilo Orchid Society member, and she is providing the `Ohia Lanai to us free of charge. She is giving us the venue; our members will provide the food via potluck.

2027 Hilo Orchid Show Theme

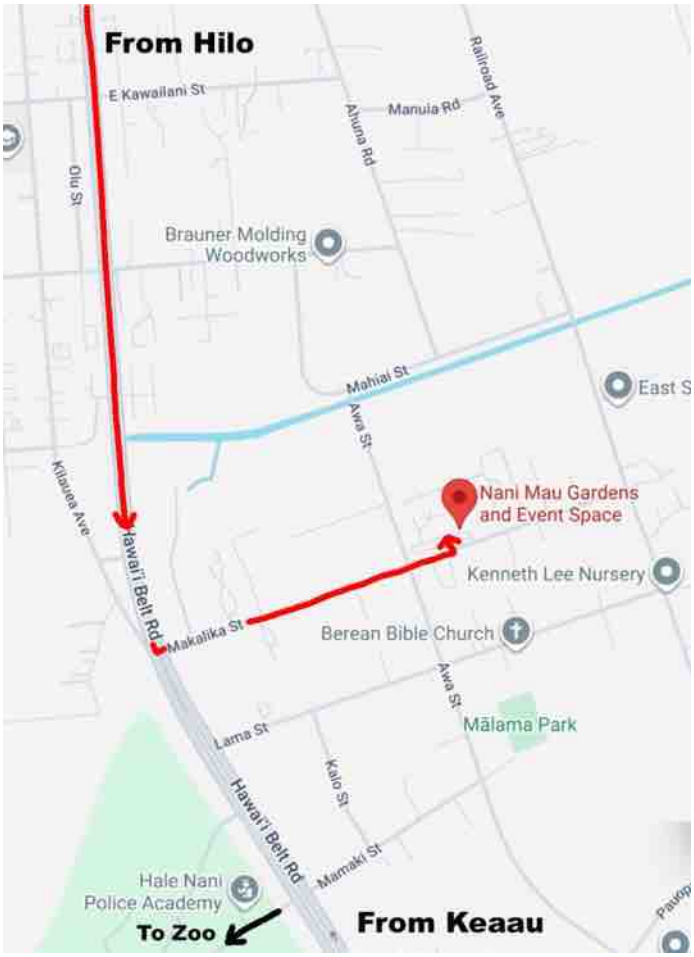
We are looking for ideas for the theme of the 2027 Hilo Orchid Show. You can see the themes of past orchid shows by going to our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org. Go to the Galleries menu and click on HOS T-Shirts. You'll see a gallery of HOS T-shirts from previous orchid shows, each labeled with the show theme for that year.

Please send your proposed theme idea(s) by emailing them to hiloorchidsociety@gmail.com. All ideas are welcome. Mahalo!

Art Chadwick Speaking at Kona

Art Chadwick will be speaking at the Kona Orchid Society this month, but it will be on Friday, Aug. 21, which is not their usual meeting date.

Directions to Nani Mau Gardens



From Hilo: take Route 11 toward Keaau. After the speed limit increases to 55 mph, take the first left (there is a left-turn lane) onto Makalika St.

From Keaau, take Route 11 toward Hilo. Makalika St. is the second right after the road that goes to the Hilo Zoo on the left.

Head up Makalika St. past the first cross-street. Shortly after that, turn left into a large parking lot with associated buildings. This is Nani Mau Gardens.

Orchid Stories

Stinky Orchids

Left: Bill Rawson with his *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* plant. Note the length of the leaves.
Right: the flowers of Bill's *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*. Photos by Larry Kuekes.

Many orchids have delightful fragrances, some smell a bit strange and medicinal, and some have no fragrance at all. And then there are those that are downright stinky.

Orchid fragrance evolved to attract pollinators. The plants that were best at getting pollinated were the ones that produced the next generation – survival of the fittest!

Luckily for us, most orchids are pollinated by insects such as bees and moths, which are attracted to the same sweet floral fragrances that we like. Some tubular red orchids are pollinated by birds, and since most birds do not have a good sense of smell, these orchids usually have no fragrance, attracting the birds by their bright color instead.

Then there are the bulbophyllums. All bulbophyllums are pollinated by flies. Some flies are attracted to scents that we like. For example, fruit flies are attracted to the scent of ripe fruit, and the bulbophyllums that attract this kind of fly have a pleasant scent, or sometimes a scent that we can't smell at all but the fly can.

However, some bulbophyllums are pollinated by carrion flies – flies that are attracted to the rotting carcasses of dead animals. And that's the smell that those bulbophyllums produce.

A good example is *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*. This orchid is noted for its leaves that superficially resemble a Phalaenopsis, but can grow enormously long (see photo). The flowers of *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* are rather strange – kind of reddish-brown and fuzzy looking. Evidently, to a fly, the flowers look like a (dead) animal. Combined with the stench of rotting meat that the flowers produce, it's more than any fly could resist, and in the process of investigating, the fly ends up pollinating the orchid.

I have seen and smelled Bill Rawson's *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* (it's not bad from a distance, but Bill's greenhouse is very well-ventilated). I have never seen or smelled what is considered the champion of stinky orchids, *Bulbophyllum beccarii*. The stench of this orchid is said to be overpowering, having been described as smelling like a herd of dead elephants rotting in the sun. Then again, I've never smelled a herd of dead elephants.

Don't let this discourage you from growing bulbophyllums. Many of them have no scent or even a slightly sweet scent. *Bullbophyllum lobbii*, a delightful species to grow, is said to have a pleasant fragrance, though I can't smell mine at all.

But if you decide to grow one of the stinky ones, don't say you haven't been warned!

Larry Kuekes

Photos from the 2026 Hilo Orchid Show

The Hilo Orchid Society exhibit. Show chair Karl Mendonca made the amazing “stone” arches and walls by painting boxes.

Left: The Hilo Orchid Society booth. Right: We sold HOS T-shirts at the booth, and for the first time ever, we sold out!

Left: The show drew record crowds. Right: Jan Anderson's Keiki and Ohana Orchid World for children.

Left: There were many talks and demonstrations, like Sheldon Takasaki's talk about Cattleyas. Right: The Shogun Hawaii exhibit.

Left: The Hilo Orchid Farm exhibit. They won the Grand Prize for one of their Paphiopedilums. Right: The Carmela Orchids exhibit.

Orchids on the July Show Table

Photos by Larry Kuekes

Left: *Cattleya* Hardyana, grown by Steve Meyer
Center: *Dendrobium ceraula* (formerly *Dendrobium gonzalesii*), grown by Ellen Train
Right: *Dendrobium farmeri* var. *aureum*, grown by Karen Kimmerle

Left: *Prosthechea radiata*, grower unknown
Center: *Rhynchostylis* hybrid, grown by Jeff Fendentz
Right: *Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis*, grown by Glen Barfield

Left: *Paphinia* Majestic, grown by Kathy Gollaher

July AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield

Left: *Cattleya* Flavescens 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Miltoniopsis* 'Wailea' AM/AOS, grown by Okika

Left: *Rlc*. Hanoi 'Maisy' HCC/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids
Right: *Rlc.* Heinalove 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Left: *Cycnodes* Leopard's Gold 'HOF' AM/AOS, grown by Hilo Orchid Farm
Right: *Paphiopedilum* (Silver Moonbeam x Hawaiian Moonlight) 'Slipper Zone Champagne' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Left: *Cattlianthe* Miracle of Mine 'Fire On The Mountain' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Bulbophyllum lobbii* ssp. *boreobornense* 'Hamakua's Firebird' CHM/AOS, grown by Daniel Bark

Left: *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* 'Lucky Red' CCM/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids
Right: *Oncidiopsis* Rose Quartz 'NO CLONE NAME' AM/AOS, grown by Mauna Kea Orchids

Left: *Coryhopea* Woji's Procrastinator 'Dee's Spot' AM/AOS, grown by Carmela Orchids
Right: *Chysis limminghei* 'NO CLONE NAME' HCC/AOS, grown by Leslie Hayes-Cullins

Left: *Paphiopedilum* Wossner Black Wings (Syn. Johanna Burkhardt) 'Sunlight' FCC/AOS, grown by Hilo Orchid Farm
Center: *Paphiopedilum* Johanna Burkhardt (syn. Wossners Black Wings) 'HJ207-1' FCC/AOS, grown by Hilo Orchid Farm
Right: *Rhynchostylis rieferi* 'Maisy' CBR/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids

Left: *Paphiopedilum* Johanna Burkhart FCC/AOS, grown by Hilo Orchid Farm
Right: *Paphiopedilum* Hsinying Anita 'HOF' AM/AOS, CCE/AOS, grown by Hilo Orchid Farm

Left: *Bc*. Katherine H. Chatham 'Suckers' HCC/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Right: *Encyclia granitica* 'Carmela' CCE/AOS, grown by Carmela Orchids

Left: *Dendrobium lasianthera* 'NO CLONE NAME' AM/AOS. CCM/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids
Right: *Rlc*. Star Struck 'Mezmerizing' HCC/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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