



Next Meeting: Saturday, January 12, 2013



Board of Trustees Meeting 12:00 pm

Informal "Talk Story" 1:30 pm

General Announcements 2:00 pm

Program 3:00 pm



Meetings are at the Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana Street, Hilo.

SPEAKERS: Pauline Brault and Jurahame Leyva

TOPIC: Orchids of Machu Picchu, Peru

You've heard of Machu Picchu, the famous lost city of the Incas. But did you know that 200 species of orchids grow in and around Machu Picchu, including Epidendrums, Masdevallias, Maxillarias, Oncidiums, Odontoglossums, Phragmipediums, Sobralias, and many others?

This month, Pauline Brault will take us on a short but fascinating tour of Peru, one of the hot spots of orchid diversity with 3000 orchid species, visiting Lima, the capital, the Inca city of Cusco, and the amazing ruins of Machu Picchu.

Following Pauline's slide show, Jurahame Leyva will talk about the culture of these orchids and how to grow them in Hawaii, including how to divide and repot them. The orchids of Machu Picchu will thrive at higher elevations in Hawaii, where temperatures get down to 50 degrees, but many of Jurahame's growing tips apply to warmer-growing orchids, too.

Pauline Brault is an HOS member and past president. Prior to moving to Hawaii, Pauline was president of the Orchid Society of California and the Napa Valley Orchid Society. She lives in HPP and primarily collects fine Cattleya species and hybrids.

Jurahame Leyva joined HOS as a young boy. He has been an avid orchid grower ever since, has made many new crosses, and has been active in helping the Society. Most recently, he co-authored the book "Growing Orchids - A Picture Guide: How We Grow Orchids In Our Hawaii Garden".

FROM JULIE, HOS PRESIDENT

Aloha, Fellow Society Members!

On behalf of our new 2013 Officers and Board of Directors, I would like to wish each of you the best blooming year possible! We think we will have another wonderful year among orchid growing friends!

We do have one big issue, however, I need to bring to your attention at this time. You may recall that after several years of service to the Society in chairing the work of putting on the annual show and sale, Sandra Song has given up the reigns for 2013. As of this moment, no one has emerged to take up the challenge of leading this year's show efforts. This will be a critical time for the Society's and even East Hawaii's orchid future. It seems to have become the trend in orchid communities that shows are dropping in size and even in numbers of shows being held. I think this is very sad and will do everything in my power to see that this does not happen to us...at least not as long as I am your president. It seems that chairing it will fall to me by default unless someone comes forward. I am beginning to feel a little overwhelmed and am concerned that I can't handle the regular duties of the president PLUS the duties of putting on the show by myself.

So I am now calling once again to see if someone would like to come forward and either take the chairperson job, or be willing to co-chair it with me. I have already put in place a seven-person steering committee with chairpersons who have each agreed to lead a certain segment of the show. I have the structure lined out with the first level of leaders and duties in place. If you want to know more, please call me to express your interest, and we can talk in more detail about this.

Now is the time to find out just how much value we put in having our show. I certainly hope it isn't going to die for lack of interest! Please give some serious thought as to how much time and energy you can spare to bring this show to life just one more year.

Mahalo Nui Loa!

Julie



ORCHID STORIES

Manly Orchids

By Larry Kuekes

Many people think of orchids as being frilly and feminine. They would be surprised to learn that, in at least one respect, orchids are the most masculine of plants. The very name "orchid" comes from the Greek "orchis" which means – I am not making this up – "testicle".

The story of how this came about goes back to the ancient Greeks. The genus *Orchis*, from whose name the orchid family derives, is native to Europe and the Mediterranean region, including Greece. It happens that most of the orchids in this genus have two oval tubers. Not a variable number of

tubers, like a dahlia or a potato plant, but always exactly two, right next to each other. Now the ancient Greeks were not exactly prudish about the human body, as evidenced by all those nude statues. So when Theophrastus, a pupil of Aristotle, wrote his book *The History of Plants* in the fourth century B.C., he named the local orchid plants *Orchis* or testicles, after their conspicuous twin tubers. This is, by the way, the earliest mention of orchids in Western literature (Confucius had referred to Chinese orchids two hundred years earlier).

The actual reason that *Orchis* plants have two tubers is that one is from the current year's growth and one from the previous year. Each year the plant makes a new tuber and the oldest tuber dries up. However, Theophrastus didn't know this. He just called it as he saw it.

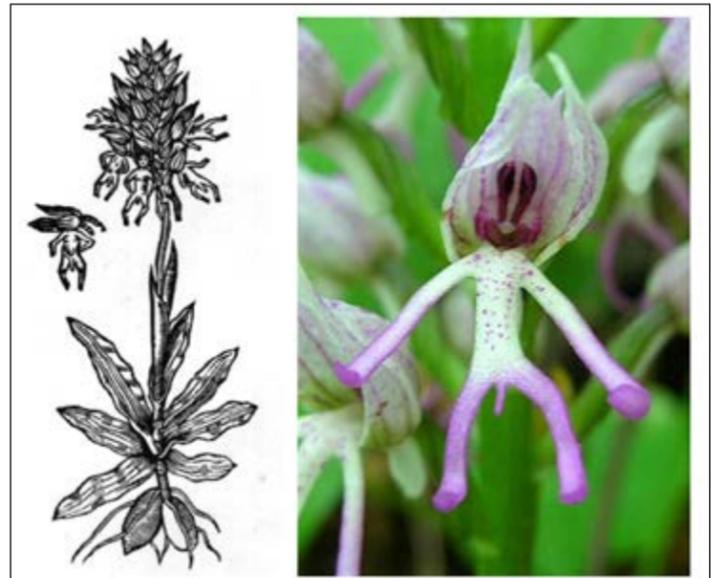
In about 100 A.D., another Greek, Dioscorides, wrote a book, *Materia Medica*, about medical uses of plants, in which he mentioned two orchid species. According to the then-popular theory called the Doctrine of Signatures, the use of a plant was determined by its appearance. So, for example, hepatica, or liverwort, was thought to be useful for treating liver diseases because its leaves are shaped like the liver. Although this seems idiotic to us, you must remember that until the nineteenth century, people were ignorant of the true cause of most diseases from bacteria and viruses. For centuries, through the Middle Ages and beyond, the writings of the ancient Greeks were believed unquestioningly. So, according to the doctrine of signatures, people believed that eating *Orchis* tubers could enhance virility, or could cause men to beget male children. In fact, to this day, a concoction called salep is made of ground-up *Orchis* tubers and eaten in Turkey. It is said to have a bland, tapioca-like taste.

Shakespeare referred to orchids only once, in *Hamlet*, where the queen, speaking of the death of Ophelia, says:

*There, with fantastic garlands did she come,
Of crow-flowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples,
That liberal shepherds give a grosser name,
But our cold maids do dead men's fingers call them.*

"Long purples" was a common name for *Orchis mascula*, which has purple flowers. The grosser name used by the shepherds undoubtedly referred to the testicle-like tubers, probably Fool's Stones, a name which shows up a few decades later in John Parkinson's book *Theatricum Botanicum* to refer to *Orchis* species (see picture).

Parkinson's drawing shows the two tubers clearly enough, but the flowers, with little manikins hanging out of them, look to be pure whimsical invention. Not so! The flowers of some *Orchis* species, such as *Orchis militaris* and *Orchis simia*, bear an amazing resemblance to a tiny man (or monkey), as you can see in the photograph, complete with arms, legs, a clown-like face, and a "manly" appendage.



(Left) The "Neapolitane Foolestones" from John Parkinson's *Theatrum Botanicum* (1640).

(Right) A single flower of *Orchis simia*, looking for all the world like a grinning little man (or monkey).

PICTURES FROM THE HILO ORCHID SOCIETY DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

Photography by Lynn Blue



AOS JUDGING - NOVEMBER, 2012

Photography by Glen Barfield



Paph. villosum v. amnamense 'Hilo Bronze', HCC-AOS, Hilo Orchid Farm.



Paph. villosum v. amnamense 'Hilo Gold', AM-AOS, Hilo Orchid Farm.



C. walkeriana 'Mirtha Isabel Oliveros', AM-AOS, Orchid Eros.



Den. bracteosum 'Silang', CCM-AOS, Janice Williams.



Den. bracteosum 'Silang', AM-AOS, Janice Williams.



Bc. A. C. Oliveros 'Starry Night', HCC-AOS, Orchid Eros.



Bc. A. C. Oliveros 'Olive Lover', HCC-AOS, Orchid Eros.



C. skinneri v. coerulea 'Orchid Eros', HCC-AOS, Orchid Eros.



Paph. (Hsinying Ving x Hsinying Web) x Hsinying Quatal 'Jackpot', HCC-AOS, Hilo Orchid Farm.

NOVEMBER, 2012



Odcdm Space Tiger 'Kai Quintal', HCC AOS, Walter Scheeren.



Paph. Villosum v. anamense 'Copper Angel', HCC AOS, James Fang.

DUES ARE DUE!

Your membership dues for 2013 are due. Dues are \$20 for individual membership; \$25 for family membership. If you haven't already renewed, please pay Vivian at the meeting, or send the following form with your payment to: Hilo Orchid Society, P.O. Box 4294, Hilo, HI 96720. Thanks!

HILO ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please check one:

Individual \$20

Family \$25

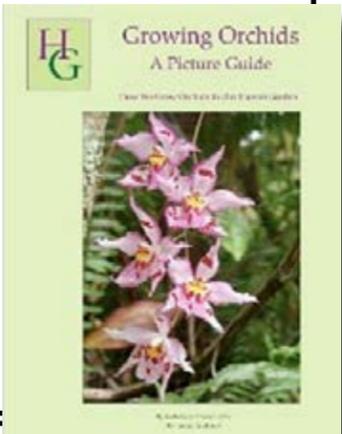


ASSIGNED READING BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

One of our two speakers this month, Jurahme Leyva, has a new book out and it is available on Amazon.com. Just do a search on "Jurahme Leyva" and you will find it. The Amazon description says,

"Growing Orchids - A Picture Guide The third in a series of gardening how-to books designed specifically for gardeners in Hawaii but relevant to gardeners everywhere who are interested in learning more about these exotic and spectacularly varied plants and flowers."

We had a look at a copy of the book at our November meeting and it looks very good.



BLOOMING EVENTS

January 12, 2013

- 12:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- 1:30 pm Informal Talk Story
- 2:00 pm General Announcements
- 2:30 pm Snack
- 2:45 pm Speaker and Presentation

February 9, 2013

- 12:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- 1:30 pm Informal Talk Story
- 2:00 pm General Announcements
- 2:30 pm Snack
- 2:45 pm Speaker and Presentation

March 9, 2013

- 12:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- 1:30 pm Informal Talk Story
- 2:00 pm General Announcements
- 2:30 pm Snack
- 2:45 pm Speaker and Presentation

April 13, 2013

- 12:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- 1:30 pm Informal Talk Story
- 2:00 pm General Announcements
- 2:30 pm Snack
- 2:45 pm Speaker and Presentation



Margin insert images by Michael Poore are of blooms on display at 2012 meetings.

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SEND TO:



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Visit us on the web at
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