Note meeting time is two hours earlier than usual (February only)

Next Meeting
Date: Sat., Feb. 9, 2013
Time: 11:30 Informal “talk story”
       12:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
       127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Karen Muir
Topic: Maxillarias

Many of you know *Maxillaria tenuifolia*, the orchid that smells like coconut. But the genus Maxillaria is a large and diverse one, with over 650 species from tropical America. This month, Karen Muir will show us examples of these species and talk about how to grow them.

Karen began growing orchids in Michigan in 1975 and became an AOS judge in 1997. She then moved to Irvine, CA, and retired, but she has been far from idle, traveling around the world to lecture and judge orchid shows, chairing the AOS Pacific South judging region for five years, and currently serving as Treasurer of Orchid Digest.

More of us should try growing Maxillarias. To find out more about them, don’t miss this meeting!

Meeting Time Change
Due to a scheduling conflict with another organization, we had to schedule the February meeting two hours earlier than usual. So plan on arriving at 11:30 to talk story. The meeting proper will start at 12:00 and should end around 2:00. Sorry for the disruption, but it’s only for one month.

Dues Are Due
Your membership dues for 2013 were due in January. If you’ve already paid, thank you. If not, please pay Vivian Ueoka at the meeting, or send in the form that she mailed you with your check. Dues are still only $20 for individual membership or $25 for family membership.

December Auction Success
The December holiday party and auction was a huge success. Those of us who were there got to bring home some beautiful orchids, most at prices far below retail. And the auction raised over $2400 for our Society, considerably more than last year.

The auction was made possible by the generous plant donations from the following individuals and nurseries:

- Leonard Gines, Gines Orchids
- James & Wei Fang, Hilo Orchid Farm Hawaii
- Mindi Clark, Kalapana Tropicals
- Glen Barfield, The Orchid Works
- Jeffrey Newman, Newman’s Nursery
- Ben Oliveros, Orchid Eros
- Elton & Elisa Mow, Orchid Plantation
- Ilyn Narciso, Puna Orchids
- Kaila & Kai Quintal, Quintal Farms
- Pauline Brault
- Jerome Siebenrock, Seven Rocks Orchids

Many thanks to all these folks and to all those who helped out with the event. For those of you who missed out, be sure to come next December and get in on the action!
**President’s Message**

Aloha, my orchid loving friends,

I have two things to tell you about this month regarding the 2013 Show and Sale.

First, I will be the "show chairperson of record" in case anyone needs a single person to contact regarding the show. However, in "reality", there will be seven of us sharing the leadership responsibilities, which we have divided up. This group will serve as the Steering Committee for show planning. We are: Ben Oliveros, Larry Kuekes, Sheryl Rawson, Rayna Armour, Bill Rawson, Sandra Song, and me. Sandra has agreed to stay on as our immediate past show chairperson to let us draw upon her experience and knowledge. You can see by these names that this group has tons of experience working on the annual shows. You might say HOS knows how to put on a show! With the exception of Sandra, each leader will be developing a sign-up list for help needed and will circulate these at the next meeting asking for volunteers who are willing to fill certain necessary roles.

Second, at the February Board Meeting, our HOS Board of Trustees will be considering once again allowing Ku'ikahi Mediation Center to use our show venue to host a Preview Party as a fundraiser for their organization. Ku'ikahi is a non-profit organization which provides highly-trained volunteers to work to resolve conflicts between disagreeing parties before our local courts. This is an extremely important and valuable service provided to the East Hawaii community free of charge! Since it is difficult for HOS members to sell the necessary 300 party tickets at $65 each, it will be my recommendation to the Board that HOS members help with the party as they wish, and buy tickets as they can afford, but that we focus our major efforts on making the Show a success and let Ku'ikahi manage and run the Preview Party.

For more information on Ku'ikahi, check out: [www.hawaiimediation.org](http://www.hawaiimediation.org).

Stay tuned for lots more information on the 2013 show and, as always, if you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call or drop me a note.

Aloha,

Julie Goettsch

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**New Officers and Trustees**

Some time ago, Ken Armour indicated that, due to other commitments, he wished to resign as Treasurer when a replacement could be found. We are fortunate that Bill Rawson agreed to step in as Treasurer. Ken resigned in December, and the Board has appointed Bill to fill the remainder of Ken’s term, which runs through 2013, as provided in the Bylaws.

During his tenure, Ken took the Society’s finances from a state of confusion and put them on a solid footing. We owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Bill’s appointment left his former Trustee position vacant, which also runs through 2013. The Board has appointed Vivian Ueoka as Trustee to replace Bill.

We congratulate Bill and Vivian on their new positions, and we’re confident that the Society is in good hands.

New Board member Vivian Ueoka
January AOS Judging Awards

Hobbyist First Place: Angraecum eburneum, grown by Larry Kuekes

Hobbyist Second Place: unidentified species, grown by Dorothea Fendentz

Hobbyist Third Place (tie): Cattleya trianae, grown by Fred Levine

AOS Judging

We’re fortunate to have a regional AOS judging center right here in Hilo, chaired by Sandra Song. Judging occurs at 4:00 on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Kamana Senior Center, which is conveniently right after our monthly Hilo Orchid Society meeting.

If you have an exceptionally good orchid, you’re welcome to submit it for judging. But be aware that the judges’ standards are tough – you’re competing against every other orchid of the same type that has ever been grown! So an AOS award is something special, and the growers of these orchids are to be congratulated on their achievement.
Members’ Choice Winners for January (continued)

Hobbyist Third Place (tie): *Dendrobium*
Roy Tokunaga, grown by Vivian Ueoka

Commercial First Place: *Paphiopedilum*
In Shape, grown by Lehua Orchids

Commercial Second Place: *Dendrobilum wenzelti*, grown by Seven Rocks Orchids

Commercial Third Place: *Paphiopedilum xanthophyllum*, grown by Lehua Orchids

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**Orchid Stories**

**Super-Resupinate**

The most conspicuous part of most orchid flowers is the labellum or lip, which is usually differently colored or shaped than the rest of the petals. Examples include the tubular frilly lip of many cattleyas and the slipper or pouch of paphiopedilums.

Cattleyas and paphs, like most orchid flowers, have the lip at the bottom of the flower. Often magazine and book editors get this confused, printing upside-down pictures of orchids with the lip at the top. I guess it’s because they aren’t used to dealing with the issue of what’s right side up with other flowers such as lilies.

Scientists noticed something interesting about how orchid buds open into flowers. Inside the bud, the lip actually always starts out uppermost, at the top of the bud. Then, as the bud matures, its stem twists around through 180° until, when the bud opens, the lip is at the bottom. This process is called resupination, and orchids that do this are called resupinate (pronounced reh-SOUPI-in-ate). All familiar orchids with the lip on the bottom are resupinate, including Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Phalaenopsis, and many others.

But there are some orchids that have the lip at the top. The picture of *Encyclia radiata* above is not upside down. It really grows that way, making clusters of flowers with the lips uppermost.

In orchids such as *Encyclia radiata* with the lip at the top, the bud does not twist. The lip starts out at the top and stays at the top when the bud opens. Such orchids are called non-resupinate.

However, there is a final “twist” to the story. In a very few orchids, the bud twists through 360° so that the lip starts at the top, turns all the way around, and ends up on top again when the flower opens! Such orchids are called super-resupinate (or hyper-resupinate).

I recently bought a plant of *Angraecum eburneum* in bud at the annual Hilo Orchid Society auction. This orchid is one of the few that are super-resupinate. It was fascinating to watch the buds twist round and round before opening (see pictures). And it got me to thinking.
By twisting through 360°, the flower achieves nothing. The part holding the flower to the stem, which is actually the ovary and will become the seedpod if the flower is pollinated, has been horribly contorted, but the lip ends up back at the top, where it would have been if the flower hadn’t twisted at all. So why does it do it?

I would venture to say to those who believe in “intelligent design” that this is an example of a very stupid design. No intelligent designer would have designed a flower to work like this. But in light of the theory of evolution, it begins to make sense. Consider an earlier proto-orchid species. Like most orchids, it was resupinate (twisted 180°). Then a mutation occurred that changed the amount of twisting. If the mutation resulted in less twisting, then the result was non-resupinate (twisted 0°). If the mutation resulted in more twisting, then the result was super-resupinate (twisted 360°).

Intelligence had nothing to do with it, just a random mutation. Of course, the result of the twisting (the lip on the top versus the bottom) could affect the survival of the new mutated species – it might be better at attracting pollinators, or worse. But the point is, evolution explains how such a bizarre design as a super-resupinate flower could occur.

I think Alexander Pope’s epigram on Newton applies equally well to Darwin:

\[ \text{Nature and nature’s laws lay hid in night; God said “Let Darwin be” and all was light.} \]

Larry Kuekes

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**CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS**

All events are held at the Kamana Senior Center, Hilo, unless otherwise noted.

- **Feb. 9** 11:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting
- 4:00 AOS Judging
- **Mar. 9** 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting
- 4:00 AOS Judging
- **Apr. 13** 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting
- 4:00 AOS Judging
- **May 10-11** Kona Orchid Society
  - Mother’s Day Sale, Old Airport Events Pavilion, Kailua-Kona
- **May 11** 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting
- 4:00 AOS Judging

Photos by Larry Kuekes
Hilo Orchid Society
P.O Box 4294
Hilo, HI 96720

Visit us on the web at
hiloorchidsociety.org

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Julie Goettsch  333-5989
  juliegoettsch@gmail.com
President-Elect – Larry Kuekes  860-380-7964
  lkuekes@me.com
Vice President – Ben Oliveros  345-1371
  oliveros@orchideros.com
Treasurer – Bill Rawson  934-0552
Recording Secretary – Susan Forbes  286-6130
  sksforbes@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary – Aimee Takamoto
Past President – Diane Luoma  640-2200
Trustee through 2013 – Jim Walker  964-1293
  jwalkerresq@aol.com
Trustee through 2013 – Vivian Ueoka
Trustee through 2014 – Gerrit Takasaki  981-5500
  lotaka81@aol.com
Trustee through 2014 – John Jusczak
  jjusczak@aol.com