

# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

February 2013

## 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



Karen Muir



*Maxillaria tenuifolia*

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.hawaiimeditation.org](http://www.hawaiimeditation.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



Julie Goettsch looks on as Sandy Song presents a check to Julie Mitchell of the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center for the funds raised by last year's Preview Party.

## 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

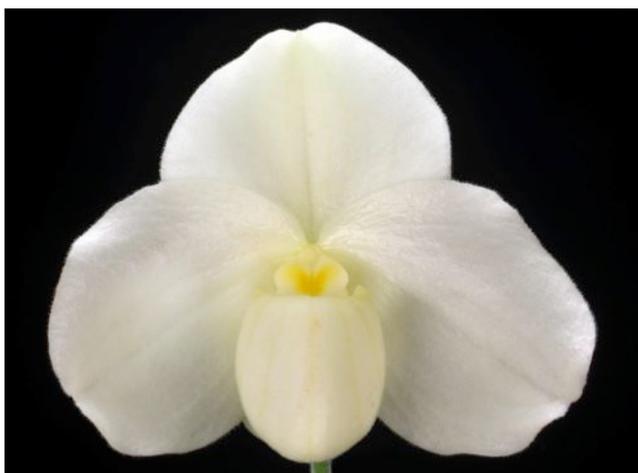
Photos by Glen Barfield



Paph. xanthophyllum 'Exotically Lehua', AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Dendrobium aberrans 'Lisa' CCM/AOS, grown by Alawaena Orchids



Paph. Wellesleyanum 'Kate' HCC/AOS, grown by Peter Wiggin

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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## Members' Choice Winners for January

Photos by Glory Garner



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

## 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: *Dendrochilum wenzelii*, grown by Seven Rocks Orchids



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

Right: *Encyclia radiata* is not upside-down; it's non-resupinate



## 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-SOUP-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:

*Nature and nature’s laws lay hid in night;  
God said “Let Darwin be” and all was light.*

Larry Kuekes



**Left:** *Angraecum eburneum* buds in the process of twisting. The leftmost bud has twisted through 180°. The nectar spur, which will eventually hang down, is pointing up. The bud at its right has twisted more.

**Center:** The bud has twisted through almost 360°.

**Right:** Top view of the opened flower. The ovary joining the flower to the stem has been twisted into a curlicue.

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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<br>Mother’s Day Sale, Old Airport<br>Events Pavilion, Kailua-Kona |
| May 11    | 1:30  | Hilo Orchid Society meeting   |
|           | 4:00  | AOS Judging   |

**Below:** Front view of the flowers. Who would guess they go through such contortions?



Photos by Larry Kuekes

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[hiloorchidsociety.org](http://hiloorchidsociety.org)

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