Next Meeting
Date: Sat., June 8, 2013
Time: 1:30 Informal “talk story”
      2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
       127 Kamana St., Hilo
Leader: Pauline Brault
Topic: Orchid Potting Demo

Are you nervous about repotting your orchids? Not quite sure where to begin? Potting orchids is different from potting other plants, because they don’t grow in dirt. But fear not – help is on the way.

This month, we’re holding another of our ever-popular potting demo sessions, so you can see exactly how it’s done. HOS past President Pauline Brault has arranged for the following all-star lineup to demonstrate their favorite potting techniques:

**Cattleyas:** Ben Oliveros is HOS Vice President, an AOS judge, and winner of many AOS awards. He owns Orchid Eros [www.orchideros.com](http://www.orchideros.com) where he specializes in breeding and growing Cattleyas.

**Paphiopedilums:** James Fang is an AOS judge. Last year he won an amazing three FCC/AOS awards, one of which appeared on the cover of Orchids magazine. He owns Hilo Orchid Farm [www.hiloorchidfarm.com](http://www.hiloorchidfarm.com) where he grows a variety of orchids but is especially known for his Paphs.

**Potting for the Waterholic:** Jerome Siebenrock is a long-time HOS member and owner of Seven Rocks Orchids [www.sevenrocksoorchids.com](http://www.sevenrocksoorchids.com) where he grows a variety of orchids including the popular honohonos. He will show the use of alternative media and pots to help you grow good roots.

**Mounting Orchids:** Eric Guttormsen has been mounting orchids at the zoo for years. He will demonstrate how to grow orchids the natural way – by mounting them on the trees in your yard.

Each of our demonstrators will be at a separate table so everyone can gather around to see and ask questions. Instead of staying at one demo table the whole time, we’ll ask you to watch for a while, then move to another demo. In fact, we’ll bang on the gong when it’s time to move along. That way, you get to see a bit of everything.

So if you’re not confident about your potting skills, this is your chance to see how it’s done. Even if you’ve been potting for years, come and see how the experts do it – there’s always something to learn!

**Zoo Day**

We rescheduled our outreach event at the Pana’ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens. Originally it was going to be held in place of our regular meeting. Now it’s a separate event, to be held Saturday, June 1 at 1:00 at the zoo. The regular meeting will be held on June 8 at 1:30 as always. Sorry if that has caused any confusion!

For years, Eric Guttormsen has made it his mission to place orchids in trees at the zoo where visitors can enjoy them. But Eric can’t do it all by himself, so on June 1st we’re going to give him a hand mounting more orchids at the zoo. We have a supply of orchids, many donated by Winning Orchids, but if you have a spare orchid or two that you’d like to donate, we’d love to have them (please make sure they’re free of pests). We’ll also have an information table to tell zoo visitors about the Hilo Orchid Society.

If you’d like to help, please come to the zoo at 1:00 on June 1. Bring a snack for yourself (we’ll provide water and soda) and a lawn chair, if you have one. And if you can bring a ladder, it would be great – the more ladders, the quicker things will go.

We’re proud of our zoo, and we hope to make it even better – and to introduce more zoo visitors to the beauty of orchids.
President’s Message

Aloha, Fellow Orchid Enthusiasts!

As you know, another annual orchid show and sale is upon us! "Orchids around the World" is coming up fast now! Only eight weeks to go! Yikes!

Sheryl Rawson, whom most of you know, has volunteered to chair our efforts to put on the show this year. She is one dynamite ball of fire in her enthusiasm for our society, our community, and our efforts to put on the best show ever! Much Mahalo to Sheryl for stepping up in this way. With her leading us, I know the 2013 show will be one to remember!

We will have a Preview Party on Thursday evening, August 1, to benefit the Ku’ikahi Mediation Center. One hundred percent of the proceeds from party ticket sales this year will go to this worthy non-profit. They will be recruiting their own members to work this event. We will be providing only the venue for them. Tickets will be $65 per person. Linda Levine will be selling tickets at the June and July meetings. Tickets are also available from past show chairperson Sandra Song, who is also on the Ku'ikahi Board. Sandra is our liaison between HOS and Ku'ikahi and will be the Preview Party Chairperson.

In turn, I am encouraging all our HOS members to use their energy to work the show itself on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. I know we will all be busy doing our part.

There is one important part of the show, however, that now needs the special attention of each of us. That is the society display. As you may recall, no one volunteered to design and organize set-up for our own display this year. Whenever this happens, the society engages an experienced display planner. For this year's theme, "Orchids around the World", the HOS Board has chosen Matthias Seelis to build the display for us. In order for us to feel like it is truly "ours", we need two things from you. First, we need you to bring in some of your blooming plants on Show Week for our display. Make sure pots are cleaned up and that the plants are pest-free. They need to be labeled with tags as to what they are. Your name needs to be on pieces of tape on the pots so the plants can be returned to you at show's end. Second, we need you to stop by the stadium during set-up and see what you can do to help put up the display. In order for us to call this display our own, it is important that HOS members provide the plants and the labor. And it is important that each of us does something, no matter how seemingly inconsequential, to make the display happen.

You can find out more about all of this at the next meeting, June 8, at the Kamana Center. On that day you will also receive your packet of fifteen tickets we are asking you to sell. Pre-sale cost is $3 from members while tickets at the gate are $5. If you don't feel like selling tickets, why not purchase them yourself at the less expensive price, and give them to your orchid loving friends?

Thanks, in advance, for all you are going to do!

Yours in the love of our special "Orchid Isle",

Julie

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CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Hilo Orchid Society Zoo Day, Panaewa Zoo</td>
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<td>Hilo Orchid Society meeting</td>
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<td>AOS Judging</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
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<td>Hilo Orchid Society meeting</td>
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<td>Aug. 1</td>
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<td>HOS Show Judging and Preview Party, Edith Kanaka’ole Stadium, Hilo</td>
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<td>Aug. 2-4</td>
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<td>Hilo Orchid Society Orchid Show, Edith Kanaka’ole Stadium, Hilo</td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
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<td>Hilo Orchid Society meeting</td>
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Get Ready For the Show

The 61st Hilo Orchid Society Show and Sale, “Orchids Around the World”, is coming this August. It’s the biggest and best orchid show in the state of Hawaii, and the second biggest event in Hilo all year (second only to the Merrie Monarch festival). It will take place at Edith Kanaka’ole stadium from Aug. 2 – 4, with judging and the Preview Party on Aug. 1. Show hours are Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

August is not far away, and show preparations are already in full swing. Sheryl Rawson has stepped up to be our new Show Chair, and she has an enthusiastic group of folks on the Show Committee to make the show a reality.

Long before the show begins, Bob and Patty Ferazzi will handle the distribution of show tickets to members. Of course you’re not obligated to sell (or buy and give away) the tickets that you get from Bob and Patty, but if you can, it’s a great way to help the Society, and they’re a bargain at $3 each (admission is $5 at the door).

On Thursday, Aug. 1, before the show is open to the public, events kick off with AOS judging in the morning and ribbon judging in the afternoon. Leonard Gines is in charge of ribbon judging, the process of awarding 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes (those blue, red, and white ribbons). It’s done by HOS volunteers, and it’s fun.

Thursday night will be the Preview Party, a gala event held at the show site that Sandy Song is organizing. See the article on page 6 for more information.

Then, Friday, the show is opened to the public, featuring dazzling displays of orchids and aisles of vendor booths tempting you with that orchid that you just have to have.

New member Matthias Seelis will be designing the Hilo Orchid Society display, but he needs material to fill it up. If you have some nice-looking orchids in bloom at show time, please lend them to our display – you will get them back, and you just might win a ribbon award!

Rayna Armour is organizing refreshments, entertainment, and the fashion show. Entertainment will include performances by Esther Zamora, Gonzo Jazz X2, the Puna Men’s Chorus, Auntie Diana Aki, Stan Kaina, and the Puna Taiko Drummers. The fashion show will feature the creations of famous Hawaii designer Nita Pilago, owner of Wahine Toa Designs.

Pauline Brault has arranged for an excellent series of speakers and demos to be given throughout the three days of the show.

John Jusczak is organizing the silent auction, where show attendees can bid on donated items to raise money for our scholarship fund.

Vivian Ueoka and Julie Goettsch are in charge of the Membership, Sales, and Orchid Society tables, where show visitors can buy T-shirts, ask questions, and join our Society.

Putting on a show means taking care of a hundred and one tasks – setup, take down, front gate, daytime security, nighttime security … the list goes on and on.

Our show can only succeed because Society members have been generous enough to volunteer to help. If you’re asked to help out, please say yes. It will only take a couple of hours of your time, and you’ll feel good that our show was a big hit because of you!
May AOS Judging Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield

Left: Masd. Peach Allure ‘Lehua Apricot’ HCC/AOS, shown by Lehua Orchids
Center: Masd. Peach Allure ‘Lehua Golden Joy’ AM/AOS, shown by Lehua Orchids
Right: Masd. Peach Allure ‘Lehua Golden Presence’ AM/AOS, shown by Lehua Orchids

Note: AQ (Award of Quality) is awarded to a cross to recognize the overall quality of the cross. A group of at least 12 different clones of the cross must be exhibited, at least one of which has won a flower quality award.
Members’ Choice Winners for May

Left: Hobbyist 1st place: *Vanda* Reverend Masao Yamada, grown by Jane Awa
Right: Hobbyist 2nd place: *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*, grown by Janice Williams

Left: Hobbyist 3rd place (tie): *Cattleya mossiae*, grown by Bill Rawson
Right: Hobbyist 3rd place (tie): *Cattleya gaskelliana ‘RG’*, grown by Bill Rawson
Gala Preview Party is August 1st
This year’s benefit Preview Party kicks off the 61st anniversary Orchid Show and Sale at the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium. Held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, the gala event features drinks, food, music, and orchid pre-sales.

Libations include fine wine tasting, plus beer sampling from Kona Brewing Co., served in a souvenir wine or beer glass. Delectable food will be catered by Island Naturals and AJ & Sons Catering. Party-goers will have the first chance to purchase exciting new hybrids and exotic orchid species, as well as other unusual plants and orchid-related products.

Proceeds of the Preview Party benefit both the HOS scholarship fund and Ku’ikahi Mediation Center (KMC). KMC is a non-profit community mediation center that empowers people to communicate, collaborate, and negotiate—finding peaceable resolutions to conflicts in the East Hawai‘i community.

Tickets are $65, of which $25 is tax deductible, and can be purchased from Linda Levine (808) 963-6306.

Orchid Stories
What’s In a Name, Part 1
Why Do They Keep Changing the Names?
	
Taxonomists are the scientists we love to hate. They’re the ones who assign the names to species and genera. Often they “revise” the work that a previous taxonomist has done, which changes the names. This confuses the rest of us, even if the taxonomist had a good reason for the change.

Name changing is nothing new. It has been going on ever since 1753, when Linnaeus published his two-part naming scheme for species: genus name followed by species epithet (for example, he named the tomato Solanum lycopersicum). In Linnaeus’ day, only a few tropical epiphytic orchids were known, and he put them all in the genus Epidendrum, which is Latin for “upon a tree”, describing the way they grow. But as more and more orchid species were discovered, it became obvious to scientists that they shouldn’t call them all Epidendrums. So they started splitting them into multiple genera (genera is the plural of genus). For example, Vanda tessellata was originally named Epidendrum tessellatum in 1795, but by 1820, Vandas got split off into their own genus, so the name changed.

The process has continued ever since. When I started growing orchids, toolumnias were called oncidiums. Although their flowers look like oncidiums, toolumnias are vegetatively different (they used to be called equitant oncidiums because their leaves overlap) and hybridizers never crossed them with “real” oncidiums, only with other equitant species, which was a clue that they were genetically different. In 1986 a taxonomist recognized this and split the genus. That’s what taxonomists do.

As a side note, it has been claimed that scientific names are better than common names because they’re less confusing and more stable. It’s true that common names can cause confusion if the same name is used for two different species. For example, “robin” means one bird in America and a different bird in England. But I contend that common names are far more stable than scientific names, which can change at the whim of a taxonomist. For example, many gardening books say that geranium is an incorrect name for pelargonium. But the plants commonly called geraniums were, in fact, officially named Geranium by Linnaeus in 1753. Another botanist changed the scientific name to Pelargonium in 1789, but the common name for the garden plant...
has remained geranium for over 200 years!

Are scientific names more stable? Don’t get me started on *Epidendrum cochleatum* – or is it *Encyclia cochleata*? Or *Prosthechea cochleata*? Or *Anacheilium cochleatum*? (End of rant – deep breath.)

Let’s get back to the process. How do taxonomists decide which species are closely related enough to be in the same genus, and which ones should be in a different genus? Basically, they look at the characteristics of the plants, especially the parts of the flower, and then use their best judgment to decide how to group them into genera. For example, they may group them based on the shape of the lip or the number of pollinia. Of course, this is somewhat subjective, so it often comes down to a matter of opinion. *Vanda sanderiana*, the large flat vanda that is the cornerstone of vanda breeding, was split off into its own genus *Euanthe* in 1914 because of some differences between this species and other vandas. For the last hundred years, taxonomists have disagreed whether the differences are important enough to warrant a separate genus or not.

Next time, we’ll look the most recent trend in taxonomy – DNA analysis – and why, because of it, there’s a whole lotta shakin’ going on – and a whole lotta names are going to change.

Larry Kuekes

Is this *Epidendrum cochleatum*, or *Encyclia cochleata*, or *Prosthechea cochleata*, or *Anacheilium cochliatum*? Trick question. Answer: all of the above.
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
   jwalkeresq@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