Note change in meeting date and place

Next Meeting
Date: Sat., Sept. 21, 2013
Note this is one week later than usual
Time: 1:30 Informal “talk story”
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Wailoa River Park
Piilani St., Hilo
Program: Potluck Picnic and Auction

September won’t be a regular meeting. Instead, we’re having a picnic, and you’re all invited! We have reserved the large pavilion at the Wailoa River Park in Hilo for Saturday, September 21 (note this is a week later than the usual meeting time). There isn’t any official program – just eating and having fun in the park! Feel free to bring your kids, family, and friends.

Everyone is asked to bring a favorite pupu or potluck dish to share. We’ll have some soda and water to drink.

Because we’ll be at the park pavilion, this will be a little different from a regular meeting. There won’t be any show table or sales table, so please don’t bring any orchids.

But there will be orchids there! Our generous show vendors donated lots of orchids that will be auctioned off at the meeting. We’ll do it as a “silent auction” to give you more time to enjoy the party.

Directions: From the north, take Rt. 19 into Hilo. Turn right on Manono St., then take the first right onto Piilani St. At the end of Piilani, turn right and go past the first parking lot to the second parking lot. We are in the large pavilion.

From the south: take Rt. 11 into Hilo. Turn left on Kekuanoa St. opposite Airport Rd. Turn right at the light on Monono St., then take the second left onto Piilani St. At the end of Piilani, turn right and go past the first parking lot to the second parking lot. We are in the large pavilion.

Fall Nursery Tour
By popular request, we’re holding another of our bus tours visiting local orchid nurseries. It’s scheduled for Sunday, October 20. This time we’ll visit five nurseries in the Puna region: Orchids Paradise, Orchid Plantation, Hawaiian Tropicals Direct, Ho’okupu Orchids, and Gines Orchids. This is a great chance to see (and buy from) these nurseries, some of which are not normally open to the public.

The cost is $30 per person, which includes transportation and a tip for the driver. We’ll provide water, but plan on bringing your own lunch and wear comfortable shoes. It will be a full day, leaving at 8:00 a.m. and returning by 4:00 p.m.

These tours are very popular and usually sell out. Seating is limited (23 seats), so you must reserve in advance. If you’re interested, don’t delay. Sign up at the next meeting.

Orchid Show Success
Our 61st Hilo Orchid Society Orchid Show and Sale was a resounding success, from Thursday’s judging and Preview Party until the doors closed on Sunday. The show was bigger and better than ever, with more attendees and more people signing up as new HOS members. The first thing that people saw entering the show was our spectacular, bigger-than-ever HOS display, designed and built by Matthias Seelis with a host of volunteer helpers. The food, entertainment, demonstrations, and fashion show were all hits, not to mention the orchids!

What visitors didn’t see was all the work that went into the show behind the scenes. For months

(continued on page 6)
Pictures from the Orchid Show

The Hilo Orchid Society exhibit, designed by Matthias Seelis, won an AOS award for Artistic Merit. The background is Matthias’ painting of a serene Mt. Fuji. Photo by Glen Barfield.

Left: Exhibitors started constructing their exhibits days ahead of time in the empty stadium. Right: Hilo Orchid Farm’s exhibit won the award for best interpretation of the show theme with their witty depiction of orchids arriving from around the world – but the inspector is out to lunch. Photos by Rick Kelley.

Other gorgeous exhibits included Carmela Orchids (left), Orchid Eros (right), and too many others to show. Photos by Rick Kelley.
August AOS Judging Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield

Left: Oncidium Irish Mist ‘Big Hot Sun’ AM/AOS, exhibited by Mauna Kea Orchids.
Center: Paph. callosum ‘Show Stopper’ HCC/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm.
Right: Miltoniopsis Island Peach ‘Kalapana Surprise AD/AOS, exhibited by Kalapana Farms.

Left: Blc. Yen Surprise ‘Seiko’ HCC/AOS, exhibited by Newman’s Nursery.
Right: Oncidium Roman Candles ‘Red Rooster’ HCC/AOS, exhibited by Mauna Kea Orchids.

Left: Bc. A. C. Oliveros AQ/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros.
August AOS Judging Awards (continued)

Left: *Vanda* (Dr. Anek x Katmea) ‘Kelsie and Daren’ AM/AOS, exhibited by Carmela Orchids.
Right: *Dendrobium* Suzuki ‘Hilo Orchid Farm’ AM/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm.


Above left: *Paph.* Fred’s Moon ‘Lehua Glow’ HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids.
Above right: *Paph.* Magic Pink ‘Lehua’s Mr. Wonderful’ HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids.
Left: *Paph.* Red Illusion ‘Lehua’s The Only One’ HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids.
President’s Message
Aloha, wonderful HOS members!

Well, three weeks after the Show I am still feeling the glow and satisfaction of a super-fantastic experience. I know you all share with me in the wholehearted "Mahalo" to our show leader, Sheryl Rawson. She did such a conscientious, admirable job and was so obviously enjoying herself in the process. I think we all enjoyed each other's company and had fun while we worked hard. It was all just so successful. Sheryl, please accept the sincere thanks of all of us! You really brought out the best in us all! AND, the orchids weren't bad either! Haha!

As I start the last lap of my three years as your President, I am looking forward to Larry taking over as leader, and my moving to "Past President" on the Board. I have agreed, while in that role, to stay active and take on the implementation of the HOS "Orchid Isle Project". If you have missed out on learning what this is, please read my "Letter" in the July newsletter and browse the "Project Plan", Draft 2 (below). The first step in kicking off this project is to put together a Steering Committee of HOS members who will help establish the "scope" of the project; in other words, what and how much should we undertake in what period of time. If you would like to help out, mainly with your good ideas and good sense, please shoot me a note. I am looking for a handful of good folks to help get this started and move it along. It should provide a great opportunity for you to get to know some of the key folks in our community and provide an effort that has potential of increasing the joy of seeing orchids all over our beautiful "Orchid Isle". Please consider signing on! Call me if you would like to discuss this with me. Much Mahalo!

Aloha,
Julie

The Orchid Isle Project Plan

The Vision:
• Orchids should be EVERYWHERE on the Orchid Isle!
• Tourists should come here to see orchids!
• When people think of Hilo they should think of “The Orchid Capital of the World”.
• Orchid research and development centers here.
• Everyone who lives here can play a part in making this happen.
• Orchids bring visitors.
• Orchid popularity brings jobs and a vibrant economy.

The Players:
• Homeowners
• Orchid hobbyists
• Print and electronic media
• Orchid Isle Commercial Growers
• Mayor’s Office, Hawaii County
• County Council
• Hawaii State Parks
• Hawaii Tourism Authority
• Three Orchid Societies of the Orchid Isle
• UHH College of Tropical Ag and Human Resources
• Downtown Hilo Improvement Association
• Bayfront Businesses
• Community Organizations (Rotary, Board of Realtors, AAUW, etc.)
• Hotels, Ali’i Drive
• Airports, Car Rental Places, Public Buildings, Shopping Areas
• Schools
• Nurseymen’s associations
• Merchants
• Entrepreneurs
• Cruise and Tour Operators

The Plan:
• Hilo Orchid Society spearheads this ongoing project. Kona and Daifukuji Societies work with West Hawaii.
• Mayor and Council buy in.
• Contact list is created.
Project Plan (continued)

• Kick-off meeting is held to develop scope, action plan, roles, timelines.
• Communication plan is developed.
• To start, orchids from commercial growers will be placed in trees in State and County parks all over the island by regular staff.
• “Hawai‘i Island Grown. (Our “brand” re-develops).
• Homeowners are encouraged to place orchids where they can be seen from the street.
• Big box stores are asked to buy local.
• Orchid classes are offered at Big Box stores, nurseries, senior centers, EHCC, clubs, schools, churches.
• Ships and tour companies offer greenhouse tours.
• Orchid viewing highlights map is developed.
• TBD

The Cost: Zip

Success (continued)

before the show, volunteers were lining up exhibitors, vendors, sponsors, and silent auction donors. Other volunteers were generating publicity, ordering trophies, making posters…

Then, the Monday before the show, setup was supposed to begin – but the stadium was closed because of un-hurricane Flossie! Luckily, setup crews made up for lost time on Tuesday and Wednesday, and then, Thursday through Sunday, everything went off without a hitch, due to all the volunteers who kept everything running. To each and every volunteer – mahalo! We are truly lucky to have so many people who are willing to help out.

To Sheryl Rawson, who took on the job of Show Chair, mahalo nui loa! A big show like ours involves a thousand details, and Sheryl made sure that not a single one was forgotten.

To everybody: well done!

Orchid Stories

What’s In a Name, Part 2
Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On

Last time we looked at why taxonomists keep changing the names of orchid species, and how the process of defining a genus is somewhat subjective.

But lately the basis for that process has changed, which has totally shaken up the world of taxonomy. What has changed is the method for deciding how closely two different species are related, and what has made that possible is DNA analysis.

Scientists are now able to decode and compare pieces of DNA from many different species and see how they differ. Mutations to DNA occur from time to time, and each mutation results in one difference in the DNA code. For example, one species might have the sequence CTAAGTTTCAG and another might have the sequence CTGAGTTTCAG. Each letter stands for one of four “base” molecules that make up DNA – that’s the code. In our example, a mutation has changed the third letter from A to G. Of course, real DNA sequences are thousands of letters long.

Scientists can then count how many differences there are between two species. Species that have fewer differences are more closely related; those with more differences are more distantly related. Since it just involves counting, it’s a far simpler and more accurate method than guessing based on things like the shape of the lip. Scientists can then arrange the species in a diagram to show the degree of difference between the species, or equivalently, how far back you have to go to find a common ancestor. Then the species can be grouped into genera based on their proximity in the diagram, which is called the
The diagram below is a simplified version of such an analysis done on several hundred orchid species in 2000 by taxonomist Cassio van den Berg for his PhD thesis. The original analysis was much more detailed; I have grouped things for simplicity. If you trace the lines connecting groups of orchids, the farther you have to go to the left, the more distantly related they are. Brazilian Laelias and Sophronitis are grouped together because in the detailed chart, they’re all intermixed with no obvious line of separation.

Note that Brazilian Laelias are more closely related to Cattleyas than they are to Mexican Laelias. Based on this, taxonomists decided to split the Brazilian Laelias and the Mexican Laelias into separate genera. Historically, Laelias had been separated from Cattleyas based on the number of pollinia in the flower – Cattleyas had four pollinia; Laelias had eight. Over the years some scientists questioned whether this was a good criterion. For example, other than the number of pollinia, *Laelia purpurata* (a Brazilian Laelia) looks much more like a Cattleya than it looks like any of the Mexican Laelias.

Initially the thought was to keep the Mexican Laelias in the genus *Laelia*, and to move the Brazilian Laelias into the genus *Sophronitis*, since the DNA analysis grouped them together. But the final decision was even more radical. In 2008, taxonomists decided to move all the Brazilian Laelias and all the Sophronitis species into the genus *Cattleya*. Note that this makes sense when you look at the diagram – they are all closely related.

Also note that a couple of Cattleya species (*Cattleya aurantiaca* and *Cattleya skinneri*) are not closely related to the other Cattleyas. As a result, taxonomists moved these species (plus a couple of others not shown on this simplified diagram) into a new genus *Guarianthe*.

The American Orchid Society and Britain’s Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) have approved these changes, so, like it or not, it’s official.

All this makes for good news and bad news. The good news is that, since the names now have a more scientific, logical rationale, they’re less likely to change again in the future.

The bad news is that we now have tons of name changes to deal with, not just for species, but hybrids. Next time we’ll talk about what happens to the hybrid names.

Larry Kuekes

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**CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS**

The following event is held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo
Sept. 14 4:00 AOS Judging

The following event is held at Wailoa River Park, Hilo
Sept. 21 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society Picnic

The following event is held in Honolulu, HI
Oct. 11-13 Honolulu Orchid Society Show

The following events are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo
Oct. 12 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting
Oct. 12 4:00 AOS Judging

See page 1 about signing up for the following event
Oct. 20 8:00 a.m. HOS Nursery Tour
Hilo Orchid Society
P.O Box 4294
Hilo, HI 96720

Visit us on the web at
hiloorchidsociety.org

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