

# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

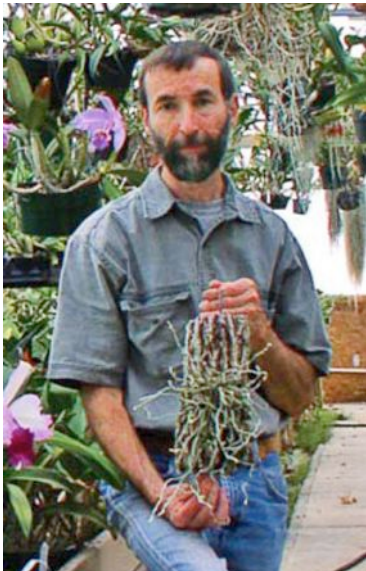
October 2013

## Next Meeting

Date: Sat., October 12, 2013  
Time: 1:30 Informal "talk story"  
2:00 Meeting starts  
Place: Kamana Senior Center,  
127 Kamana St., Hilo  
Speaker: Keith Davis  
Topic: Tips For Better Growing and  
Happier Orchids

Are you interested in how to grow your orchids better? Then this month's meeting is for you. Our speaker is Keith Davis, a grower from North Carolina. Keith has degrees in forestry, horticulture, and agricultural education from North Carolina State University. But he learned how to grow orchids the hard way.

After college, he purchased twelve orchids at a yard sale and proceeded to repot them in dirt. Eleven of them promptly died, but he still has the twelfth one to this day (not in dirt, of course). Since then, he has become an expert grower and orchid hybridizer. In August 2002, disaster struck when the power went off and his greenhouse temperature went over 140 degrees. He lost 90% of his collection of mostly cattleyas, but he has been rebuilding it. In 2007, he won an FCC/AOS for his plant of *Dendrophylax lindenii*, the famous leafless "ghost orchid" of the Florida swamps, which is considered very challenging to grow. He's holding it in the picture.



He promises that his talk will not be a boring slide show, but a fun, entertaining and informative meeting where every person will be able to take home some new ideas to try out. He will provide a handout.

## Last Chance To Sign Up For 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. We still have a few seats left, so if you're interested, sign up at the meeting.

## Do You Grow *Catasetum pileatum*?

Glory Garner, our talented artist who painted the picture that's on this year's HOS T-shirt, is looking for someone who grows *Catasetum pileatum*. She has already painted a picture of the unusual-looking female flowers of this orchid, and she would love to paint a companion picture of the male flowers (this orchid has separate male and female flowers). If you grow this orchid, Glory would love to come see it and photograph it when it's in bloom. Contact Glory at [gbgarner@gmail.com](mailto:gbgarner@gmail.com). Who knows, your orchid might be on next year's T-shirt!

## Pictures from the Picnic

Last month's meeting was a picnic in Wailoa River Park, with a silent auction of plants donated by orchid show vendors. If you didn't make the meeting, you missed a good time!



We loaded up on the delicious food that members brought.



Donated plants were auctioned, including the handsome boxes.



No program, just enjoying ourselves with friends.



A good time was had by all.

Photos by Julie Goettsch.

## Speaking of Food ...

Have you noticed what appreciation folks on our beautiful island have for eating good food? Everywhere we go we find folks eating together, talking story, and sharing favorite dishes. You may also have noticed that at Hilo Orchid Society meetings, our "Dishes to Share" are getting fewer and fewer with each passing month. For those of you who are new to HOS, you might like to be aware that we encourage members to bring a potluck dish to share with others at our break time. We call these "Kokua Dishes", meaning

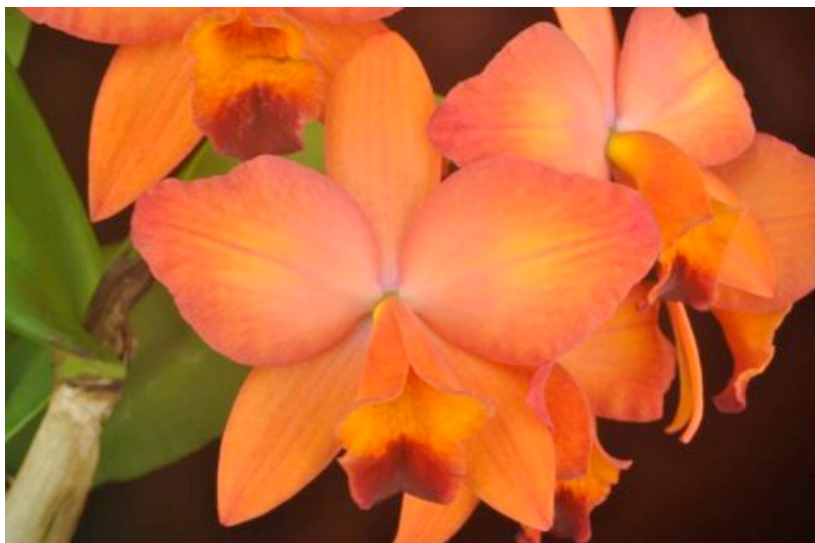
"Helping Dishes". If you bring food, you get a ticket for a special "Kokua" drawing at the end of the meeting which might win you an orchid plant. We hope this will entice you to bring some "Ono Grindz" (great food)! The Society always provides disposable plates, napkins, etc., and pays for our long-time Hostess, Gloria Myklebust, to pick up a large container or two of hot food. So why not dig out one of those favorite local recipes and let us try it out? We hope to see you at the next meeting dish in hands!

Julie Goettsch





*Vanda* Pure's Wax 'Orchid Lady' AM/AOS, exhibited by Pauline Brault



*Cattleya* Miracle of Life 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros



*Slc.* Miyuki Little King 'Dark Star' AM/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros



*Epiarthron* Kevin Mark Ragbir 'Snow White' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros



*Encyclia phoenicea* 'Orchid Eros' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros

## President's Message

Aloha, Everyone!

Another fall has arrived and our fabulous 2013 Orchid Show came and went with the hot August sun...and Hurricane Flossie. But! Not to let us rest on our laurels for the next few months, I have a challenge for you! How about dreaming up a new theme for 2014...NOW! And while you are at it, how about dreaming up something that calls attention to our new Orchid Isle Project? And think of something that will lend itself to creating displays and artwork! If we could get started NOW, instead of after the holidays, think how much easier it will be by taking off some of the pressure of limited time. And won't it be so much BETTER with creative juices starting to flow sooner than later! So, how 'bout it? Send me a note or call me with your idea. For every suggestion, I will personally come over and spend an afternoon with you repotting your orchids. And I'll bring all the "stuff"! Will work for ideas! 333-5989 or [juliegoettsch@gmail.com](mailto:juliegoettsch@gmail.com)



Aloha,  
Julie

## HOS Scholarship Named To Honor Yasuji Takasaki

We have lots of news about our HOS scholarships to share this month. First, the Board has voted to set aside \$7500 out of proceeds from the show for our Scholarship Fund. We want to give a huge, grateful MAHALO to Rayna Armour who first had the inspiration to hold a silent auction for the purpose of offering scholarships to UHH students. Rayna set up the drive for donations and organized the auction for three years before turning it over to John Juscak this year. She was also the inspiration behind offering food at the show. It was important to Rayna that we offer financial assistance to our Hawaii students in these times of so much need. In her honor the Board also decided to add dollars for

scholarships from food sales to the amount gained from the auction. We also want to give John a big pat-on-the-back for enlisting the help of 80-plus donors of items and services this year. This has become one of the great successes of our annual show!

Second, with the expert help of Ken Armour, and now Bill Rawson, (our able treasurers), HOS has now gotten to a financial position that is stable enough to be able to offer aid to not one, but two, students. AND, we are able to award this assistance for not just one, but two, semesters as well! We give these gentlemen a tip-of-the-hat for their persistent work on implementing accounting practices that should guide us for years to come.

Scholarship Committee member Ruth Robison has been instrumental in the selection process for awarding our 2013-2014 Scholarships. Working with the UHH Financial Aid Office she led the review and selection process for this year's recipients. With the help of member Gloria Myklebust, 13 qualified UHH upper classmen were given consideration for the awards. We hope to have our two recipients come to our October meeting so you can meet them.

Lastly, the Board voted to honor the late Mr. Yasuji Takasaki by naming the scholarship "The Hilo Orchid Society Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship". We want to keep alive the legacy of Mr. Takasaki's ongoing contributions to the Hilo Orchid Society and his pioneering work in orchid culture and business on our island, work that has been carried on to this day by his sons Sheldon and Gerritt, and their wives, Pearl and Lorene. In addition, we want to honor Mr. Takasaki's value for hard work and education. Unable to go to school beyond 8th grade, he made a promise that each of his children would have the opportunity he never had. By working multiple jobs he kept his promise to see that each was able to go to college. He believed above all else in the power of education to help young people achieve their dreams and provide the kind of life they want for their families. We in Hilo Orchid Society believe that, too. Yasuji Takasaki passed away on May 2, 2011, at the age of 95.

Julie Goettsch





HOS President Julie Goettsch, left, and Show Chair Sheryl Rawson, right, present the HOS donation to Julie Mitchell of the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center, the result of our orchid show's Preview Party. Ku'ikahi provides a community service by helping people resolve disputes and avoid costly lawsuits. Ku'ikahi did all the work of putting on the Preview Party; in return, HOS donated the profits from the event to them, except silent auction proceeds, which went to the HOS scholarship fund. So it was a win-win.

## Did You Know?

You know that 'a'a is a kind of lava, but did you know that Aa is also the name of an orchid genus? It was named in 1854 by German taxonomist Heinrich Reichenbach and contains about 25 species. Ostensibly named to honor Dutch printer Pieter Van der Aa, it's rumored that the real reason Reichenbach chose the name was to ensure that the first genus in any alphabetical list would always be his. You can forget about growing Aa species in Hawaii – they're cold-growing terrestrials from the high Andes (from 10,000 to 14,000 feet!) and aren't found in cultivation.

## CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

*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  
4:00 AOS Judging

*See page 1 about signing up for the following event*

Oct. 20 8:00 a.m. HOS Nursery Tour

*The following events are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo*

Nov. 9 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting  
4:00 AOS Judging

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