

# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

November 2013

## Next Meeting

Date: Sat., November 9, 2013

Time: **1:30** Informal "talk story"  
**2:00** Meeting starts

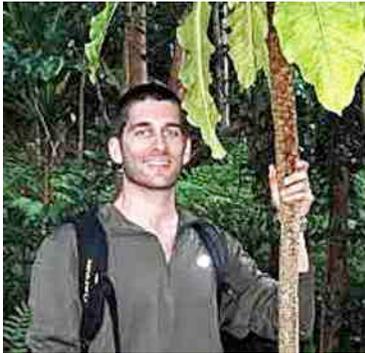
Place: Kamana Senior Center,  
127 Kamana St., Hilo

**Note: we are in the meeting room to the right of the usual room.**

Speaker: Peter Wiggin

Topic: Half-Hour History of Orchids

This month, Peter Wiggin will briefly tell the story of orchid growing, from the days when explorers combed the far corners of the earth to discover new species, up to the present time, touching on advances in orchid culture and hybridization as well as the nurseries, breeders and growers that have had a big impact on the industry.



Peter is a research botanist for the Hawaii

Rare Plant Program of the University of Hawaii's Lyon Arboretum on Oahu. He is currently working on a PhD. on Paphiopedilums. He is a probationary AOS Judge. Peter was formerly head grower at Kalapana Orchids, and he has a small nursery in lower Puna specializing in species orchids.

After Peter's brief talk, he will answer your questions on orchid growing in an informal Q&A session.

If you like presentations that are short and to the point, this month's talk is for you. See you there!

## Sign Up for Holiday Party and Auction

There will be no regular meeting in December. Instead, we're holding our annual Holiday Party and Auction on Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Hilo Yacht Club. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. to enjoy beverages and talk story. At 12:00 will be a delicious buffet lunch, followed by the main event, an auction of donated plants. It's a chance to get together with old friends, perhaps make new ones, and obtain some special plants at bargain prices and benefit your Society at the same time.

The cost is \$30 per person, and guests are welcome. You must sign up and pay in advance. Either sign up at the November meeting, or contact Linda Levine at [Levine@netscape.com](mailto:Levine@netscape.com) or 963-6306. Please pay at the meeting or mail your check to Hilo Orchid Society, P.O. Box 4294, Hilo, HI 96720.

## Election of Officers and Trustees

The election of officers and trustees for 2014 will take place at the November meeting. As specified in our Bylaws, Board members serve two-year terms, with half the members up for election each year. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Larry Kuekes, Rayna Armour, and Pauline Brault, has produced the following slate of nominations for the 2014-2015 term:

President	Larry Kuekes
President-Elect	Rick Kelley
Treasurer	Bill Rawson
Trustee	Vivian Ueoka
Trustee	Shelby Smith

Additional nominations may be made from the floor prior to the election. Any additional nominees must be present at the meeting and willing to run against the slate endorsed by the Nominating Committee.

The new officers and trustees will be officially installed at the holiday party on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.



Ruth Robison, left, and Rayna Armour, right, present scholarship winners Meghan Rau and Ron O'Brien. Photo by Julie Goettsch.

## HOS Scholarship Winners

HOS awarded scholarships of \$2500 for this academic year to two seniors attending the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. These two deserving students were honored at our October 12th meeting. Let's meet them.

**Ron O'Brien** was born on Kaua'i. After graduating from high school in 2009, he enrolled full-time at UH Hilo. He will graduate in May 2014 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management, specializing in Tropical Horticulture, with a certificate in Tissue Culture. He has qualified for the Dean's List, earning a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher, three times.

Ron has been involved in community service on Kaua'i since he was young. When he visited his sister in Australia, he volunteered with university and community environmental programs and research. Through UH Hilo's Study Abroad Program he went on exchange to Uppsala University in Sweden and volunteered with student organizations there.

Ron's goal is "to perpetuate sustainable and productive agricultural programs to ensure that quality farming practices, and food availability, continue for future generations."

**Meghan Rau** was born in Evansville, Indiana and grew up in Columbus, Ohio. She spent weekends on her uncles' farms learning about dairy cows, swine, and horse husbandry, as well as sustainable farming and growing one's own food.

She spent her high school breaks traveling across the US, visiting 47 states, including Hawai'i. She also traveled abroad to Australia, New Zealand, the Virgin Islands, Canada and Mexico.

She enrolled at UH Hilo and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Marine Science in 2008, earning a place on the Dean's List. She will graduate in December 2014 from UH Hilo with her second Bachelor's degree from the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management and certificates in Tissue Culture and Forestry Management.

Meghan has volunteered for many organizations including The Humane Society, Mokupapapa Discovery Center, The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and as a soccer coach with Youth Boosters.

Sustainable agriculture is her "calling and passion." She plans to have her own farm with aquaponic systems and live stock.

Ruth Robison

## October AOS Judging Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



*Monnierara* Millenium Magic 'Witchcraft' FCC/AOS  
Exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm



*Cattleya maxima* 'Peruvian Beauty' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Orchid Eros



*Cattleya walkeriana* 'Isabel Rosalia Oliveros' AM/AOS  
Exhibited by Orchid Eros



*Paphiopedilum charlesworthii* f. *album* 'Alawaena' HCC/AOS  
Exhibited by Alawaena Orchids

## October Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Hobbyist 1<sup>st</sup> Place: *Aeridovanda* Akia Akiikii x (*Vanda* Mevr. L. Velthuis x Eisenhower), shown by Julie Goettsch



Hobbyist 2<sup>nd</sup> place: *Stanhopea oculata*, shown by Guy Shepard



Hobbyist 3<sup>rd</sup> place: *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry', shown by Guy Shepard



Commercial 2<sup>nd</sup> place: *Epidendrum ciliare*, shown by Lehua Orchids



Commercial 1<sup>st</sup> place: *Angraecum (florulentum x eburneum)*, shown by Orchid Eros

## Orchid Show Video

We've produced a short, fun video showing scenes from our August show, from show setup to orchid displays, vendors, show entertainment, and other things to see and do when visiting Hilo. The idea is to attract more visitors to attend next year's show. Rick Kelley came up with the idea for the video, and Rick also filmed the video footage. Julie Goettsch edited the hours of raw footage down to 4½ minutes, and Larry Kuekes composed original music for it.

The video had its debut at the October meeting, but we have also posted it on Youtube. So, if you didn't see it at the meeting, or you'd like to see it again, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "hilo orchid show". The new video should show up as one of the first few in the list of search results. It's the one by Hilo Orchid Society. Check it out – we think you'll like it!

## Membership Chairperson Wanted

Can you maintain a list in Microsoft Excel? Then you might be just the person who could help us out! Since Vivian Ueoka joined our Board of Directors, she has been looking for someone to take over from her as our Membership Chairperson, which basically involves maintaining the membership list. It's not hard, and Vivian can show you what to do. If you'd like to help, talk to Vivian or any of the officers.

## Orchid Stories

### Species

I'm a species nut. Oh, I grow hybrids, too, and some of them are very beautiful, but what I really love is to see the amazing things that nature has produced without any help from the hand of man. There's always another orchid species to try – there are over 20,000 of them (the exact number depends on who's counting) – and the variety is staggering.

When I'm looking at listings from orchid nurseries, figuring out what to buy, I need to consider my growing conditions. I live near sea level, and that means warm. If an orchid needs cool temperatures to bloom, it's not for me.

It's also helpful to know how much light the orchid needs, and whether it needs to have a dry rest at certain times of year. I can provide more or less shade, and though I grow the orchids outdoors, where it rains a lot, I can move plants onto my lanai to keep them dry.

But which orchids require which conditions? While looking at on-line orchid nursery listings, I spent a lot of time leafing through orchid books and doing Google searches like "Dendrobium farmeri culture" to see whether a particular species would grow in my conditions.

Then I found the Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com). It's a web site with photos and cultural information about orchid species. Not just one genus. Not just the species that one nursery grows. It covers a staggering 16,874 species in 778 genera, at last update. Every species I've looked for has been in there. For each species, it has at least one photo, information on the required temperature, light, blooming season, flower size, and whether the orchid is fragrant, plus a technical description that includes the country of origin and elevation where it grows in nature. It also lists synonym names, which is useful because the taxonomists keep changing the names. If you look up *Oncidium pulchellum*, for example, it refers you to *Tolumnia pulchella*, since the equitant *Oncidiums* have been renamed *Tolumnias*. It doesn't reflect the latest changes to the *Cattleya* alliance, but I'm sure that will come in time.

It's the labor of love of one man, Jay Pfahl, another species nut who lives in Key West, Florida,

with photographs contributed by people around the world.

The home page asks you to contribute a "subscription" of \$10 to help support it, but that's optional. The site is completely free and open – you don't have to sign in to use it. I use it so often that I've bookmarked it in my browser, so I decided to send in the \$10. If you're at all interested in species, especially if you're considering buying some, or even if you just want to see some beautiful photographs, be sure to check it out.

Larry Kuekes

## Open House at The Orchid Works

Malika Orchids/The Orchid Works are hosting an Open House on Sat., Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will have plants for sale from their nursery as well as several others not open to the public, ranging from unusual hard-to-find species to fully-grown blooming hybrid plants. Complimentary coffee provided by Hilo Coffee Mill. Glen Barfield will give a class on potting and mounting young plants (limited seating; please arrive at 8:45).

Directions: From Hilo, take Rt. 19 north past mile marker 14. After you cross the bridge, watch for intersection sign (1/4 mile), turn right at next driveway; greenhouse is on left. From Waimea, take Rt. 19 south under pedestrian overpass just before mile marker 15. Watch for intersection sign (.4 mile); turn left into driveway; greenhouse is on left.

## CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

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

*The following event is held at The Orchid Works, Hakalau*

Nov. 16 9-1 Open House, The Orchid Works

*The following event is held at Hilo Yacht Club*

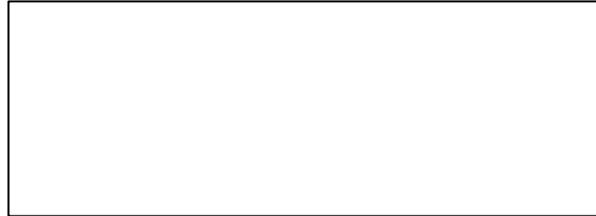
Dec. 15 10:30 Hilo Orchid Society Holiday Party  
and Auction

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

Jan. 11 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting  
4:00 AOS Judging

Feb. 8 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting  
4:00 AOS Judging

Hilo Orchid Society  
P.O Box 4294  
Hilo, HI 96720



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

## **Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees**

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