

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

December 2013

Note: In lieu of a December meeting, we're holding our annual Holiday Party. To attend, you must sign up and pay by noon on Dec. 5.

Date: Sun., December 15, 2013
Time: **10:30** Doors open to talk story
12:00 Luncheon buffet
Place: Hilo Yacht Club
77 Laehala St., Hilo
Program: Holiday Party and Auction

Last Chance to 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. But if you want to go, you have to act fast! You have to sign up and pay in advance, and the deadline is **noon on Thursday, Dec. 5.**

The event features a social hour and sumptuous buffet lunch at the scenic oceanside Hilo Yacht Club, providing a chance to get together with old friends and maybe make some new ones. Then comes the auction, an opportunity to obtain top-quality donated orchid plants at bargain prices and benefit your Society at the same time. This event is not open to the public, but as a Hilo Orchid Society member, you are invited, and you are welcome to bring guests.

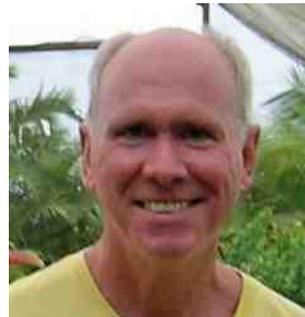
Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. to enjoy beverages and talk story, followed by the installation of officers at 11:30. Lunch will be served at 12:00, followed by the orchid auction from about 1:00 to 3:00. If you can't be there by 10:30, no problem – come later and enjoy the lunch and auction.

The cost is \$30 per person, and guests are welcome. To sign up, contact Bill Rawson at bill137hilo@gmail.com or 934-0552, and mail your check to Hilo Orchid Society, P.O. Box 4294, Hilo, HI 96720.

New Board Members

The election in November resulted in some changes to our Board of Trustees. Jim Walker decided not to run for another term. We'd like to thank Jim for his dedicated service on the Board.

Rick Kelley is President-Elect for 2014-2015. Before retiring and moving to Hawaii, Rick was a professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where he ran a genetics lab. Shelby Smith is a Trustee for 2014-2015. Shelby is an artist and proprietor of Blue Cinder Studio, as well as curator and gallery manager at the Volcano Art Center. We welcome Rick and Shelby to the Board, and we're confident the Society is in good hands.



Rick Kelley



Shelby Smith

President's Annual Report to Members

Aloha, Hilo Orchid Society Members!

Under our Bylaws, the Society President must present a yearly report to the membership on how the Society is faring. Although I try to keep you informed of our monthly news and events at ALL our meetings and in our newsletter, this letter to you will provide an overview of how I see the Society's current state.

First, it is always important to compare our yearly activities with our Purpose as stated in our original Charter of Incorporation. As members of any organization you should always look to make sure what we DO matches what we SAY we do. So here goes:



PURPOSE OF THE HILO ORCHID SOCIETY

Our Society’s Charter of Incorporation sets forth the purposes of our organization, which include the following among others:

To promote, carry on, and aid in every possible way, the culture of orchids of all kinds; to acquire and disseminate information relating to said culture, through the media of exhibitions, lectures, publications, and otherwise, by these means, to aid those interested in said culture of orchids; and generally, to extend the knowledge, production, use, and appreciation of orchids, of any kind and in any manner.

2013 ACTIVITIES OF THE HILO ORCHID SOCIETY FURTHERING OUR STATED PURPOSE:

We held nine monthly meetings for members which each contained brief reports on the Society’s activities, including standing committees on membership, public relations, hospitality, programs, scholarship, and annual show. These meetings meet a variety of goals:

Educational Opportunities: Presentations

During these meetings we brought in speakers who are experts in the cultivation and breeding of various specific kinds of orchids, as well as in cultivation guidelines in general. On occasion, these presentations were made by our own members, too! Each speaker gave interesting and informative talks accompanied by slide shows demonstrating points made. Members were able to ask follow-up questions. In 2013 we heard presentations on these topics:

- Orchids of Machu Pichu
- Maxillarias

- Spathoglottis, the Ground Orchid or the Philippine Orchid
- The Orchid Doctor: diagnosing orchid ailments
- Orchids around the World. This was also the theme of our Show this year. We learned where orchids originated and what growing conditions would match what Hilo offers. This helps members know what orchids “should” thrive here.
- Orchid Potting Demo
- The Three A’s: Angraecum, Aerangis, and Aeranthes, Orchid Species from Africa and Madagascar
- Tips for Growing Better and Happier Orchids
- The History of Orchids in Cultivation, Out of the Wild and Into Our Homes. Gardens, and Greenhouses

A huge 2013 thank-you goes to Ben Oliveros, our outstanding Program Vice President! We should feel truly honored to have Ben be such a key part of our Society. Not only does he build a fantastic line-up of programs and speakers for us each year, but he also does presentations himself and hosts the monthly discussion of the blooming plants brought in by our members for sharing and learning! Please join me in giving him your thanks, too!

Educational Field Trip:

We again held a nursery tour this year. We visited five commercial greenhouse operations in lower Puna. We filled a 24 passenger bus and were followed by “chase and carry” cars that brought our new purchases home. Such tours are an eye-opening and educational experience for us all. They allow us to see all the processes that are involved in growing orchids and the intensive labor and time taken to bring an orchid from pollination to bloom....sometimes upwards of five years! It is truly a labor of love. It is my personal hope that instead of saying, “My, aren’t orchids so expensive!” we will hear instead, “Wow, what a fantastic deal a blooming orchid is! How can the growers make any money!” I remain hopeful that our members will honor and promote orchids grown by our professional members, meaning support them whenever we get the chance!

For this success I want to give another big hug and pat on the back to Jerome and Carol Siebenrock. They organized the nurseries, timing, and transportation for many tours now. And, of course, no words can give ENOUGH thanks to our ever-

faithful professional growers who help us in every way they can!

The 61st Annual Show and Sale: Our biggest educational and motivational effort for members and community alike! Community Outreach and Education at its Finest!

We held our 61th Show and Sale, which over 4000 people attended. The theme this year was "Orchids Around the World". The first weekend in August, thousands of blooming plants were brought into the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium and placed in living displays or made available for purchase. In order for a professional grower to sell orchids, we required that he/she must also design and set up a display for attendees to enjoy.

The Society's own display was the masterpiece of our member artist, Matthias Seelis. It depicted the regal Mt. Fuji as a backdrop and showed off a gorgeous display of orchids contributed by our members and others. Next year, we will work harder to solicit a larger participation on this. We did not get as many member orchids as we had hoped. But the display was indeed something to behold. We all fell in love with Matthias and embraced his passion and spirit! What a delight!

Presentations and hands-on demonstrations were given throughout the three-day event by our senior members:

- Orchid Growing for Beginners
- Basic Orchid Culture
- Paphiopedilum Culture
- Cattleya Culture
- Dendrobium Culture
- Mounting Orchids on Trees
- Keiki to Flower
- Dividing and Repotting Orchids
- Honohono, Hawaii's Favorite Orchid
- Flower Arranging with Orchids

Ribbon judging and AOS judging was completed with HOS members on both teams. This was again a great educational opportunity for non-accredited judges, who are HOS members, to experience looking at orchids with measures of quality in hand. First-time judges were taught these measures and practiced their new skills in ribbon-judging events.

Many, many thanks again to Leonard Gines for organizing this entire effort! I wish I could report how many members participated in this and received this training. I recommend that next year, we

document who and how many members participate. Everyone appeared to be having a grand time!

We were also supported with a variety of publicity by our own Hilo Tribune-Herald Newspaper. HOS member David Bock is the Editor! They printed items on orchid culture as well as placed many announcements of meetings and articles promoting our August Show.

For this year's show, I share the gratitude of the Society to our 2013 Show Chairperson, Sheryl Rawson, who for the last several years headed up the regular Society and Show publicity. Sheryl's positive and enthusiastic manner made the whole event fun for everyone who did the work of putting it on. Thank you, Sheryl!

AND for the 2014 Show, we have already begun work by appointing a Show Chairperson! This is the first time in memory we have gotten going so early! Sheryl Rawson has agreed to chair the show once again and many folks are already coming forward with exciting ideas!

We are also excited about announcing we have applied for and received a \$15,000 Grant from the County of Hawaii and the Hawaii Tourism Authority. Thank you, Sheryl! For the first time ever, we are actually going to go all-out for bringing in visitors specifically for the Show. To this end we have created a video with highlights of this year's show and shots of popular tourist spots around our island. It is already posted on the web and receiving hits! Thank you Rick Kelley and Larry Kuekes!

More Community Outreach: Preview Party!

Again this year, HOS demonstrated its community cooperation with Ku'ikahi Mediation Center. By offering this fine organization the use of our venue the night before the show officially started, Ku'ikahi raised \$5,542.00 which will be put toward its volunteer services in our local courts to help resolve disputes peacefully. The party itself was a fantastic social event staged in the middle of the stadium filled with the fresh blooms!

HOS Outreach! Recruitment of New Members:

(!) Forty-two new HOS members were recruited at the show and given gifts of blooming orchids to take home. The show is our main recruiting event of the year. This year, for the first time, we prepared a tri-fold color brochure and had it professionally printed. These brochures explained the value in joining and participating in the Society and were given to new and prospective members.

They will also be placed at the Hawaii County Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Garden and at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden at Onomea Bay, as well as other locations.

And More Outreach! Over 600 orchids now grace the trees at the Hawaii County Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens!

Under the leadership of former HOS Board member, Eric Guttormsen, the Society spent a Saturday afternoon refreshing plantings, cleaning up, fertilizing, and replacing orchids which Eric and volunteers installed in the past two years. An information table was also set up to visit about placing orchids in the outdoor environment with zoo visitors. A huge Mahalo goes to Eric. Not only do our members get hands-on training in placement of orchids in the trees, but also we show support for the County's zoo. In addition, in 2013, we have begun to use this zoo setting as our "Pilot Project" for recreating "The Orchid Isle" in 2014.

And Even More Outreach: Two Scholarships Were Presented!

We awarded two scholarships to two deserving University of Hawaii at Hilo students who are pursuing studies associated with agriculture. Each student will receive \$1250 per semester for two semesters this year. We wish them much success in their bright futures. I also want to give a nod of gratitude to Ruth Robison and Gloria Myklebust who worked with me on the Scholarship Committee. They built a list of criteria for recipients and they screened and selected winners. Their documentation and communication models will last into the future and give guidance to future scholarship committees.

This year the Silent Auction proceeds from the Show were designated to go fully to Scholarships. Thank you, John Juszczak!

Ongoing Educational Opportunities:

Each monthly meeting, the Show, and the Holiday Party gave members and others in our community continuing opportunities to:

- get to know our member orchid professionals, our commercial growers
- interact with each other
- share concerns about cultivation
- get questions answered
- enlarge their knowledge and interest in orchid culture

- acquire a variety of quality orchids through either donation or purchase
- become ever-more knowledgeable about recognizing quality orchids
- promote growing orchids among friends and family
- encourage more and more people to place orchids in their yards
- help promote orchids in our community

Newsletter Production:

We provided printed news and information about the Society and orchid culture. Our monthly newsletter contained many articles specific to kinds of orchids available in East Hawaii as well as interesting information about orchid culture:

- The joy of growing species orchids
- The "Aa" genus
- The changing taxonomy and naming conventions for orchids; the effects of new DNA testing
- The bulbophyllum "flytrap" orchid: pollination by flies and purpose of the hinged lip

It also contained many colorful pictures of awarded plants provided by members for our monthly meetings.

I want to honor Larry Kuekes, who will be our incoming President, and who has promised to continue editing the newsletter during his two-year presidency. As many of you have noticed, he has fantastic skill in writing and editing. Not only did Larry write and edit our beautiful newsletter, but he wrote many charming and very personal articles about interesting aspects of some of his favorite orchids. He also did presentations and shared his computer expertise with our new Technology Committee.

Growing Membership!

At the end of 2013, we have 217 members! Last year at this time we had 176 members, over the 121 at the end of 2011. Our members represent a broad base of orchid growing experience from new enthusiasts and hobbyists to lifelong orchid professionals.

I want to give a huge Mahalo to Vivian Ueoka, our Membership Chairperson, who does everything in her power to attract new members at the annual shows, welcome them to their first membership, and chase them down for their next year's dues! Along with Viv, I want to honor Rayna Armour, our Hospitality Chair, for her enthusiastic welcome of

visitors and new members alike. Who wouldn't love orchids with welcomes and greetings like hers!

Organizational Improvements:

- Implemented annual calendar of actions needed by month. Thank you, Larry!
- Implemented annual President's Report to Members.
- Implemented annual Treasurer's Report to Members
- Built preliminary project plan for The Orchid Isle Project in 2014
- Sought and found new leadership and revitalized approach for Sponsorships for the Show. Thank you Sri Pfuntner!
- Implemented a standing Technology Committee with a future designation of webmaster to come
- Developed and implemented a list of criteria to be used in selection of scholarship recipients
- Developed and documented procedures for future Scholarship Committee use
- We tried holding one meeting outdoors at Wailoa Park with potluck and auction of plants donated at end of Show. Thank you John Juszczak!
- For the first time, we had enough financial data to plan the next year's budget based on expenses of the previous years!
- For the first time, we built the Show budget based on the actual expenses of the preceding year! Thanks to Bill Rawson and Ken Armour for their work and for showing us the way!

New Project for 2014: Re-establishing the Big Island as "The Orchid Isle", to commence in 2014

We have already made contacts on the County Council and in the Mayor's Office to help us launch our project. The Council will hear, and hopefully adopt, a Resolution from Councilor Margaret Wille of North Kohala and Waimea, to declare 2014 "The Year of the Hawaiian Orchid"! The Council has asked us to prepare a calendar with 13 orchid photos with comments and tips for growing! We will be testifying at the Council Meeting on Dec. 17, at the Agriculture Committee Meeting in Hilo. We have already gotten the interest and buy-in of Kona Daifukuji and Kona Orchid Societies! It will be an island-wide project!

Active and Generous Board Members!

Without an active, innovative, unselfish, and tireless Board of Trustees, no Society is worth its blooms. I feel it an honor to serve with folks such as

Larry Kuekes, Ben Oliveros, Aimee Takamoto, Susan Forbes, Bill Rawson, John Juszczak, Jim Walker, Gerrit Takasaki, and Vivian Ueoka. They form the leadership of our Society. Without you as our backbone, we are nothing. We are so very thankful for you and for all you do!

Just One Snafu This Year!

In the spring, our long-time web host crashed...with no back-up having been completed in years! So we had to go back to the last back-up they had which meant we had lost all the changes I made myself in early 2011! Susan Forbes and Larry Kuekes rose to the occasion and started researching what other hosting arrangements we could find. This is not an easy job. Susan has looked at many, many websites from other orchid societies and on the ones of similar size to HOS, called their webmasters to get ideas on what they do to host their sites. Armed with this information, we are getting close now to being able to select another method of hosting and make arrangements for a cutover sometime in the first half of 2014.

Financial Report

Treasurer Bill Rawson will provide the annual treasurer's report in April 2014, as provided by the Bylaws.

In Conclusion:

As I end my third year as your President, and look over everything we undertook and accomplished this year, I continue to be amazed at how much we can get done through the creativity and efforts of all of us working together. I take my hat off to each one of you for your ongoing hard work, your attendance, supplying food, participation in helping with events and the annual show, and of course, your financial support, not to mention your moral support! We have such a wonderful group of folks. There were so many of you helping this year that, again, I could not plan an annual volunteer recognition at the Holiday Party without scheduling another three or four hours! It was virtually EVERYONE in the Society. I always say that people who take joy in helping things grow...and helping each other bloom.... are GOOD people. May you continue to enjoy YOUR society and may it continue forever! Thank you for allowing me to be your leader. It has been an honor!

Mahalo Plenty!
Julie Goettsch

November AOS Judging Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Brassavola nodosa 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS,
exhibited by Orchid Eros



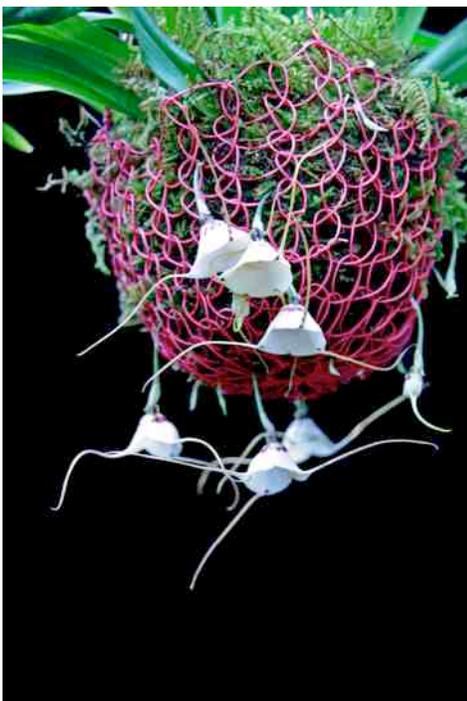
Paphiopedilum Hilo Girl 'Hilo Beauty' HCC/AOS,
exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm

About AOS Judging

The American Orchid Society (AOS) runs the world's largest and most comprehensive program for judging orchids. AOS awards are internationally recognized. AOS judges go through rigorous training that generally takes 7 years. Orchids may be submitted for monthly judging at 35 judging sites in the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. In addition, AOS judging takes place at AOS-sanctioned orchid shows such as the annual Hilo Orchid Society Show and Sale. We are lucky to have an AOS judging site right here in Hilo. AOS award photos published in this newsletter are orchids that were awarded at the Hilo judging site.

November Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Rick Kelley



Left: Hobbyist 1st place – *Dracula inaequalis*, grown by Glory Kirkland.



Center: Hobbyist 2nd place – *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Summit' FCC/AOS, grown by Bill Rawson.



Right: Hobbyist 3rd place – *Caulocattleya* Spring Fragrance 'Hawaii', grown by Mildred Winans.

November Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Rick Kelley and Larry Kuekes



Commercial 1st place (tie): *Paph. Sorcerer's Stone 'Big Wave'*, grown by Hilo Orchid Farm



Commercial 2nd place: *Maxillaria reichenheimiana*, grown by Karen Kimmerle



Commercial 1st place (tie): *Vanda* (Crownfox Keylime x Crownfox Yellow Sapphire), grown by Karen Kimmerle

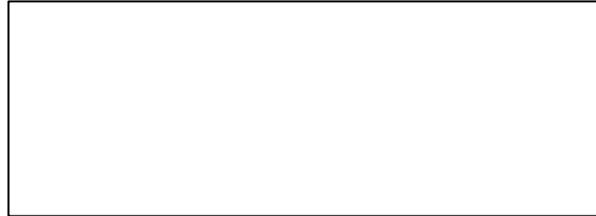
Did You Know?

Other than vanilla, the only other orchids used for food are two species of *Orchis* native to the Mediterranean region. In Turkey, the *Orchis* tubers are ground into flour and mixed with hot milk to make a thick, creamy drink called salep. It's said to taste pleasant but bland, so cinnamon and spices are usually added. The Turks also add salep flour to ice cream, but because the flour is a thickener (like corn starch), the salep ice cream comes out chewy. No thanks – I'll stick to vanilla!



Salep. Photo courtesy of Robyn Lee on flickr.com.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Visit us on the web at
hiloorchidsociety.org

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