

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

February 2014

Date: Sat., February 8, 2014
Time: **1:30** Informal “talk story”
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo

We're in the meeting room to the right.

Speaker: Phoenicia Zeller
Topic: Landscaping with Orchids



In nature, orchids don't grow in pots, and you don't have to grow them in pots either.

This month, Phoenicia Zeller from Ocean View will tell us how to grow our orchids out in the landscape instead of in pots, and why they grow better that way. She calls it “setting the orchids free”. She'll talk about how to decide where to place plants, creative materials to attach them, mistakes that she's made, and other tips.

Phoenicia and her husband Bob run Pele's Island Plants, a small farm at 2300 feet elevation on the slopes of Mauna Loa in the Kau district, where they grow succulents, cacti, and orchids.

If you're intrigued by the idea of setting some of your orchids free, don't miss this meeting!

Dues Are Due

Your membership dues for 2014 are due. Dues are still only \$20 for individual membership or \$25 for family membership. In return, you get a year of interesting speakers, newsletters, and activities, plus the chance to get together with folks who share your interest in these beautiful and fascinating plants.

If you haven't renewed yet, please fill out the form on page 5 and mail it in with your payment (address is on the form), or you can pay at the meeting. Thanks!

New Recording Secretary



Lisa Steinmeyer has been appointed by the Board to take the place of Susan Forbes as Recording Secretary, as provided in the Bylaws. We welcome Lisa to the Board of Trustees.

Susan decided to resign as Recording Secretary because she is so involved with other HOS activities such as our show and developing our new web site. We thank Susan for her past and continuing service.

President's Message



Sometimes you find inspiration in the most unexpected places. Like when driving to the Hilo dump. A little handmade sign along the side of the road always catches my attention. It says, “SMILE. ENJOY LIFE.”

And you know what? No matter what problems I'm having, no matter what I've been worrying about, when I see that sign, I smile. I can't help it. At least for the moment, the problems melt away.

“Smile. Enjoy life.” What a great philosophy. Yes, life has its share of tragedy, and our daily lives are filled with problems and worries. You can complain about all the bad things in your life, and make yourself miserable. Or you can enjoy the good things in your life. It's your choice.

I've read the great philosophers. They use long and learned arguments, and they all contradict each other. And then there's the anonymous philosopher who wrote the handmade sign on the way to the dump. As a guide to living, I find it hard to improve on. So, my friends, smile. Enjoy life.

Larry Kuekes



Left: *Dendrochilum wenzelii* 'Shogun' AM/AOS, shown by Matthias Seelis. Right: Closeup of the flowers.



Left: *Laelia alarorii* 'Peter Lin' HCC/AOS, shown by Orchid Eros.
Right: *Paphiopedilum* Mr. Wonderful 'Shogun's Luck' HCC/AOS, shown by Matthias Seelis.

We're Set Up to Set Up

Most members don't think about it, but the meeting room doesn't set itself up. Someone has to arrange the chairs and tables and set up things like the light poles and sound system. In the past, the Board members have been doing this, coming early to set everything up. This month we're trying something new. Vivian Ueoka has organized a Set Up Committee of people who agreed to come a few minutes early to help set up these things.

Committee members are Gail and George Crosthwaite, Dorothea and Jeff Fendentz, Eric Guttormsen, Nora James, Diep Pearson, Sandra Rambaut, Barry Yamada, Kay Kozohara, and Kenji Oshita.

If you'd like to join these folks and help at future meetings, contact Vivian. With many helpers, the job will be easy. And a big thank-you to all those who already volunteered!

January Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Joe Bush



Left: Hobbyist 1st place – *Cattleya* (Classy Lady x Waikiki Splendor), grown by Pauline Brault
Right: Hobbyist 2nd place – *Cattleya lueddemanniana*, grown by Fred Levine



Left: Hobbyist 3rd place – *Dendrobium spectabile*, grown by Victoria Azuolas
Right: Commercial 1st place – Presumed *Angraecum* x *Aerides*, peloric form (multiple lips), grown by Karen Kimmerle



Left: Commercial 2nd place – *Vanda* (Manuvadee x *coerulea*), grown by Karen Kimmerle
Right: Commercial 3rd place – *Dendrochilum glumaceum*, grown by Karen Kimmerle



Longtime OCA supporter Pauline Brault and President Larry Kuekes present our donation to Ron Kaufmann, at right.

HOS Donates to Orchid Conservation Alliance

There are many conservation organizations, but the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA) is the foremost one dedicated specifically to protecting orchid habitat.

Recognizing that supporting orchid conservation is one of our Society's fundamental purposes, the Board decided to celebrate the visit of our speaker, OCA director Ron Kaufmann, by presenting him with a check for \$1000. Because if we don't support orchid conservation, who will?

Ron's talk covered what OCA is doing to purchase and protect orchid-rich habitat in threatened areas. By helping OCA, we're not only protecting orchids in the wild, but all the other plants and animals that would disappear if these areas were developed. It's an investment in the future, to ensure that there will still be orchids and other wild things in years to come.

If you're interested in the OCA, check out their web site at www.orchidconservationalliance.org. In addition to supporting the OCA's work with their dues, members are eligible to go on Orchids In The Wild trips arranged by OCA to see orchids in their native habitat.

New Sales Table Silent Auction

We're trying a new approach to sales of plants by members – a silent auction for each plant, with a sheet to record your bids. The seller will specify a minimum bid. Bidding will end at the end of the refreshment break. At the end of the meeting, if you had the highest bid, congratulations – you can collect and pay for your plant.

House and Greenhouse For Sale

Lifetime HOS member Floyd Lundquist is selling his property in Paradise Park with two houses on one acre and an 18'x48' greenhouse. See the listing at <http://www.owners.com/hi/keaa/15-1558-kaloli-drive/wpg2104>, or contact Floyd at 982-6378.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

The following events are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo

Feb. 8	1:30	Hilo Orchid Society meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Mar. 8	1:30	Hilo Orchid Society meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Apr. 12	1:30	Hilo Orchid Society meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging

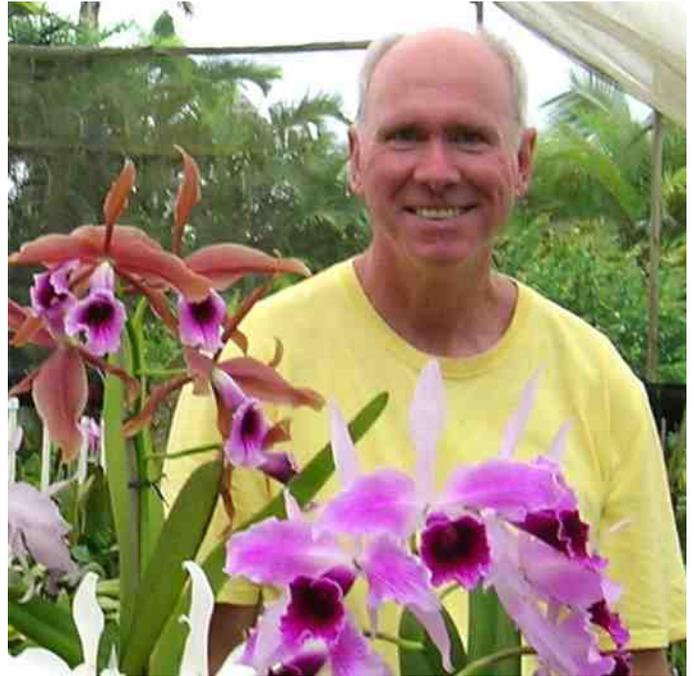
Member of the Month Rick Kelley

Rick Kelley is our society's President-Elect. He arrived here in October 2012 from Houston, Texas, where he had been growing orchids about 15 years. He lives on a three-acre lot at 800 feet elevation in Orchidland Estates forested with Ohia trees, but no soil. Rick lacks a greenhouse and so grows orchids either mounted on trees or hanging from cables tied between the Ohia trees.

Rick states that he is re-learning how to grow orchids as everything he learned in Houston, where he was a member of the local orchid society there, is different from growing orchids here on the Big Island.

He is currently growing cattleyas and oncidium hybrids, which do well on trees. He intends to grow more vanda orchids in the future.

He received his Ph.D. at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif. and was an associate professor in genetics at the Baylor College of Medicine. He used fruit flies as a laboratory research animal because genetically fruit flies and humans are very similar but fruit flies grow much faster. Part of his research was on the "Battle of the Sexes" between males with a single copy of the X chromosome and females with two.



Rick began his working career on the log ride at Six Flags Over Texas (fun, he says, but terrible pay). His worst job was working in a lead smelter in Dallas (like something out of Dickens).

Rick played volleyball for 20 years until his knees went out. He has traveled to Machu Picchu, Easter Island, the Taj Mahal, Paris and many interesting places in the world.

Pauline Brault

Membership Renewal Form

Please fill out and send with your payment to:

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

Check one: Individual membership (\$20)

Family membership (\$25)

Please print clearly:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email for receiving newsletter: _____

Check one: I grant I do not grant permission to publish this information in the Hilo Orchid Society

Directory for members only. Signature: _____

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

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hiloorchidsociety.org