

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

April 2014

Date: Sat., April 12, 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: Alan Koch
Topic: Species Habitat, Hybrid
Culture

This month, Alan Koch from Gold Country Orchids will talk to us about the basic species used in hybridization and how knowing how they grow helps us grow their hybrids. He'll show how to find information on how these plants grow in nature and the weather patterns where they grow. This is a culture talk aimed at all growers.

Alan started growing orchids in 1969 with three Cymbidiums given to him by an aunt. He now owns Gold Country Orchids, in the foothills of the Sierras, where he specializes in breeding miniature Cattleyas.

He is an AOS judge as well as an AOS Trustee and a director of Orchid Digest.

Alan is offering a 20% discount to HOS members who pre-order plants that Alan will bring to the meeting. To get the discount on Alan's website www.goldcountryorchids.com, enter discount code GCOD (in capital letters), select Delivery to Society as the shipping method (otherwise you'll be charged for shipping) and list Hilo Orchid Society in the comments field.



Come to the meeting this month and you may just learn something to help you grow your orchids better!

Symphony of Orchids Show News

Silent Auction: Sheryl Rawson, show chairperson for our 62nd annual show and sale, is requesting that all members help with the Silent Auction this year. All money raised goes toward our HOS-Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship Fund. Last year the Silent Auction raised \$6,000, and we provided scholarships to two University of Hawaii – Hilo students.

Sheryl is asking that each member think about what artwork, item or service they could provide as a donation, or that each member go to one business, hotel, or restaurant and ask for a donation. Please pick someplace that knows you personally, so we don't have 10 people asking the same business, and that you would want to choose as an auction item if you were bidding. Last year we had about 70 donations. We are hoping for as many this year. With your help we will have another successful silent auction. For more information call or contact Sheryl at 333-1852 or sherylhilo@gmail.com.

Show Committee Kick-off Meeting

Last year more than 100 HOS members participated in the show. Any member who is not already involved is invited to become a part of the show planning committee. The kickoff meeting will be held on the evening of Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Location is being determined and will be announced at the HOS meeting on April 12. For more information contact Sheryl at the above telephone number or email address. Join us and meet some other orchid enthusiasts and have some fun! Thank you in advance.

March AOS Judging Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Paraphalaenopsis labukensis CCE/AOS, exhibited by Jeff Fendentz



Cattleya Spring Climax 'Shogun' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Shogun



Caulaelia Margaret Klehm 'Pauka'a' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Pauka'a Orchids



Paph. Yang-Ji Hawk '#1' AM/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm



Paph. Shin Yi Williams 'First Class' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm



Cattlianthe Miracle of Mine 'Joy in Life' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros

A note on the awards: this month, Jeff Fendentz won a CCE (Certificate of Cultural Excellence) award for his *Paraphalaenopsis labukensis*. This rarely bestowed award is given for an exceptionally well-grown plant. It's the culture equivalent of the FCC award for flower quality and signifies that the plant scored 90 points or more on a 100 point scale. The award is given to the grower, not the plant. Congratulations, Jeff!

March Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Left: Hobbyist 1st place: *Paraphalaenopsis labukensis*, grown by Jeff Fendentz
 Center: Hobbyist 2nd place (tie): *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*, grown by Bill Rawson
 Right: Hobbyist 2nd place (tie): *Paph. Chiu Hua Dancer*, grown by Larry Kuekes



Left: Hobbyist 3rd place (tie): *Ludisia discolor*, grown by Mildred Winans
 Center: Hobbyist 3rd place (tie): *Bc. Burdekin Wonder 'Lakeland'* AM/AOS, grown by Vivian Ueoke
 Right: Commercial 1st place: *Maxillaria coccinea*, grown by Karen Kimmerle



Left: Commercial 2nd place: *Cattleya maxima* var. *alba*, grown by Ben Oliveros
 Center: Commercial 3rd place (tie): *Epigeneium triflorum*, grown by Karen Kimmerle
 Right: Commercial 3rd place (tie): *Maxillaria arachnites*, grown by Karen Kimmerle

Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement 2013 Financial Summary

FUNDS RECEIVED

HOS ORCHID SHOW FUNDS RECEIVED	\$63,327.64
SOCIETY FUNDS RECEIVED	
HOLIDAY PARTY	\$2,160.00
DUES/MEMBERSHIP	\$3,455.00
DONATIONS	\$469.00
T-SHIRT SALES	\$1,998.00
NURSERY TOUR	\$660.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$43.61
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$35.00
PLANT SALES	\$4,077.00
TOTAL SOCIETY FUNDS RECEIVED	<u>\$12,897.61</u>
TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED	<u>\$76,225.25</u>

FUNDS PAID OUT

TOTAL ORCHID SHOW COST	\$49,345.79
SOCIETY OPERATING COSTS	
HOLIDAY PARTY	\$2,332.04
INSURANCE	\$962.75
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$2,500.00
MEETING SUPPLIES	\$1,482.28
SOCIETY OPERATING COSTS	\$2,109.50
NURSERY TOUR	\$702.50
PHOTO AWARD	\$1,062.54
PLANT COSTS	\$1,226.00
POSTAGE AND DELIVERY	\$290.76
SPEAKER COSTS	\$3,330.23
GE TAXES PAID	\$78.28
TOTAL SOCIETY OPERATING COSTS	<u>\$16,076.88</u>
2013 TOTAL FUNDS PAID OUT	<u>\$65,422.67</u>
RESERVE FUNDS FROM 2013	<u>\$10,802.58</u>

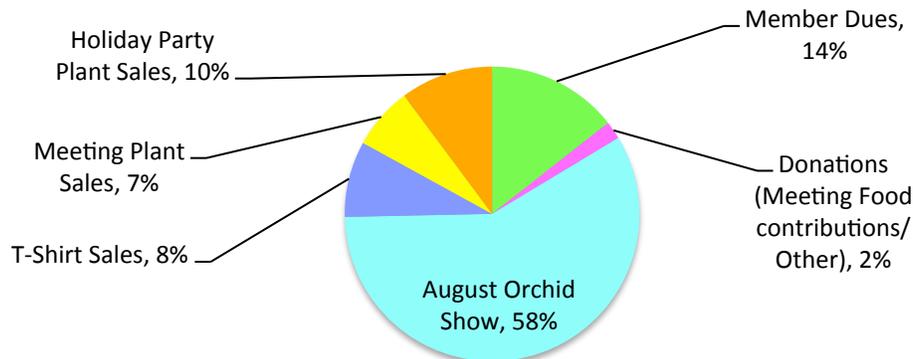
ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	
CHECKING / SAVINGS	
CD TROPHY ACCOUNT	\$5,850.00
CHECKING ACCOUNTS	\$26,650.02
SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE	\$11,000.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$28,644.10
TOTAL CHECKING / SAVINGS	\$72,144.12
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$500.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$72,644.12</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$0.00</u>
EQUITY	
OPENING BAL EQUITY	\$35,611.35
RETAINED EARNINGS	\$26,230.19
2013 RESERVE FUNDS	\$10,802.58
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>\$72,644.12</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$72,644.12</u>

Sources of Revenues



Member of the Month Shelby Smith



Shelby B. Smith is working as gallery manager at the Volcano Art Center and has an extensive history in art, gallery work and exhibitions. He is a sculptor who uses all types of media to create works that stretch the potential of materials and the imagination. His work has a fantastical and humorous quality that influences his re-use of many materials. Wheel-thrown and hand-built combinations in clay pieces have been his primary media for functional work using multiple clay bodies and firing techniques. His mixed media sculpture uses the history and patina of time in each object's construction.

Trained as an architect, Shelby began working in ceramics at the University of Kansas in 1998, where he received a double degree in Architecture and Design Ceramics in 2000. Shelby then went on to apprentice with noted ceramic sculptor Jun Kaneko at his studio in Omaha, Nebraska for 2 years. Shelby received an MFA from San Jose State University in 2006. Before moving to the Big Island, Shelby was the Ceramics and Glass

Technician for SJSU's art dept., as well as a part-time instructor in the South Bay area. His works are in many private/public collections, across the US, including Fortis Corp. San Francisco, Questus, and 1st Act, San Jose, CA. His studio is located on the east side of the Big Island. See his web site www.bluecinderstudio.com.

Shelby grows his orchid collection in Hawaiian Paradise Park close to the Beach area where he resides with his lovely wife and adorable baby girl. He is growing his orchids outdoors and mounting many on trees.

Shelby is a very busy man with his job at Volcano Art Center and he is also on the HOS board of trustees.

Pauline Brault



HOS Logo Contest

Our Society doesn't have a logo, and we thought it would be nice to have one. You know what a logo is – a little graphic that accompanies the name of a company or organization on signs, ads, letterhead, business cards, etc. Here are some familiar logos:



The Board is asking for your ideas on what our logo should look like. It could include the letters "HOS", or the words "Hilo Orchid Society", or just a graphic. It's your chance to be creative. Please email your proposed logo to Shelby Smith at skelatenphish@yahoo.com. You don't have to produce finished-quality artwork, but please include a sketch of the logo that's good enough so we can get the idea. If the Board likes your idea, we can get an artist to finalize it. If they don't like any of the submissions, they reserve the right not to use any of them. But we think we have enough clever and creative members to come up with a winning design. So put your thinking cap on!

Orchid Stories

By Larry Kuekes

GMO

Recently I had the privilege of interviewing a well-known orchid scientist from Germany, who was here on a speaking tour. I arranged to meet him for breakfast at a local restaurant. After we had ordered, I began by asking him about his work.

“For the past few years I have been doing some very interesting work,” he said. “It involves genetic engineering.”

“You mean GMO?” I asked. “Like that papaya that they spliced a gene into to resist the papaya ringspot virus?”

“Yes, just so. But what I have been doing is bigger than that, much bigger.”

“Tell me about it.”

“I started with the idea of making a blue *Cattleya*. Not like what they call blue now. Hah! Pitiful! I mean really blue, like a delphinium. Well, delphiniums and other blue flowers are blue because they make a pigment called delphinidin. But *Cattleyas* can’t make this pigment. They make purple pigments, and yellow pigments, and red pigments, but not blue.

“So I took the gene for making the blue pigment out of a delphinium plant, and spliced it into a *Cattleya*. This is not easy. You have to work with very tiny cells under a microscope, and then grow them into plants until they flower, which takes years. But this year the first ones started to bloom. Here, I show you.”

He took an iPhone out of his pocket, found something on it, then handed it to me. It was a photo of a *Cattleya* plant with a sky-blue flower.

“That’s amazing!” I said. “This would be worth a fortune to some people.”

“That’s only the beginning,” he said. “It’s possible to mix genes not just from other plants, but from animals as well.”

The waitress arrived with our order.

“My other interest is *Paphiopedilums*,” he continued, sipping his coffee.

“I know you wrote a book on *Paph* species,” I said.

“But I like the hybrids also, especially the large round ones you call ‘toads’. So I thought, what if we mixed in some amphibian genes? Then they’d really be toads, *nicht wahr?* But seriously, I’ve been trying to splice in a gene for skin color from the



South American poison arrow frogs. They have very brilliant colors, and it would be quite something to transfer those colors into a *Paph*. The problem is, the color gene is right next to the gene that makes the frogs’ skin poisonous, and it’s hard to transfer one without the other. And, you know, there wouldn’t be much of a market for *Paphiopedilums*, no matter how beautiful, if when you touch them you might die.”

“No, I can see that,” I said, munching on my doughnut.

“There’s more,” he said, lowering his voice. “You remember the East German Olympic women swimmers, during the Cold War?”

“Yeah,” I said. “They always won. They looked like men.”

“After East and West Germany reunified, we got access to some of the secrets that the East Germans used to produce their swimmers.”

“I thought they used steroids.”

“That’s what everyone thought,” he said. “They were genetically engineered. You’d be amazed at what they spliced in.”

“I don’t think I want to know. But what else did you find out?”

“Something the East Germans had been working on for years. You know about the famous speech your President Kennedy made in Berlin when he said ‘*Ich bin ein Berliner*’. Do you know what that means?”

“I am a Berliner.”

“Wrong. *Berliner* is also German slang for a type of pastry. If a German wants to say ‘I am a Berliner’, he says ‘*Ich bin Berliner*’. Kennedy said ‘*Ich bin ein Berliner*’, which means ‘I am a jelly doughnut’. The East Germans were convinced that this was not just a mistake, but evidence for an

elaborate CIA plot. Your country never would have risked sending the real President Kennedy to Berlin. Instead they sent a clone – a clone produced by a top-secret project that crossed the President’s cells with those of a doughnut!”

“That’s a little hard to swallow,” I mumbled with my mouth full.

“It’s the only way to make sense out of Kennedy’s assassination – it was necessary to cover up the secret project that had gone wrong. In any case, the East Germans started their own secret genetic pastry engineering project in order to catch up. They had many failures, but some successes, like the swimmers. Now I have access to the methods they developed over many years.”

“So what are you planning next?”

“I’m going to try again with Paphiopedilums. Imagine crossing a Paph with a glazed doughnut! The result would be round and shiny. The judges would love it! And because of the Paph genes, it would be high in fiber!”

The waitress came with the check.

“Are you finished?” she asked, looking at my half-eaten doughnut.

“Yes,” I said. “I’m not very hungry. Here, put it on my Master Card.”

In a moment she returned.

“I’m afraid your card has expired,” she said. Sure enough, the card was good through March, and today was April 1.

“Let me pay,” he said. “I’m going to make a fortune from those blue Cattleyas, remember?”

I wished him success as I left the restaurant. He was still lingering over the pastry tray.



Year of the Hawaii Island Orchid

On March 7, Mayor Billy Kenoi signed a proclamation declaring 2014 the Year of the Hawaii Island Orchid, and encouraging citizens to support the Hilo Orchid Society’s Orchid Isle project. Many thanks to Julie Goettsch for making this happen.

To see the proclamation, complete with Billy’s signature and the official County seal, go to our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org, find the first item under What’s New, and click on the link.

Spring Nursery Tour

We’re holding another of our ever-popular nursery tours on Sunday, June 15 (Fathers Day). We’ll be visiting four nurseries (and we’re working on a possible fifth) in the Hamakua and Pahoia areas. 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. We’ll leave Hilo at 8:00 a.m., and it will be a full day.

These tours have been very popular in the past. Seating is limited (23 seats), so you must reserve in advance. If you’re interested, you can sign up at the next meeting.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

The following events are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo unless otherwise specified

- | | |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apr. 12 | 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting |
| | 4:00 AOS Judging |
| Apr. 16 | Show Committee meeting. |
| May 4 | 8:00 a.m. Plant Sale at Pana’ewa Zoo |
| May 10 | 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting |
| | 4:00 AOS Judging |
| May 10 | 9:00-6:00, May 11 8:00-5:00 |
| | Kona Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale, Old Kona Airport |
| June 14 | 1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting |
| | 4:00 AOS Judging |
| June 15 | 8:00 a.m. HOS Spring Nursery Tour |

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

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Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371

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Treasurer – Bill Rawson 934-0552

Recording Secretary – Lisa Steinmeyer 769-4245

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Corresponding Secretary – Aimee Takamoto

Past President – Julie Goettsch 333-5989

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Trustee 2013-2014 – John Juszczak

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Trustee 2014-2015 – Vivian Ueoka

Trustee 2014-2015 – Shelby Smith 408-966-5924

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