

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

June 2014

Date: Sat., June 14, 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: Glen Barfield
Topic: Basics of Orchid Culture

Why are some growers' plants always larger, have more flowers, have richer greener leaves and more robust root systems? This month, Glen Barfield will talk about these and other points. Glen should know.

He's an AOS judge and the general manager of The OrchidWorks. In the 1980s he had a nursery in California called Okika Ltd. The name was a clue about his love for Hawaii – it means “orchid” in Hawaiian. Glen also loved surfing (he was a surfer since age 16), so it was only a matter of time until he moved here, which he did in 1995. In addition to managing The Orchid Works, Glen has a small nursery in Mountain View, still called Okika, where he pursues orchid breeding, primarily in the Oncidium alliance. Over the years he has won numerous AOS awards.

Glen has long been active in the Hilo Orchid Society and has often served as the auctioneer at our annual holiday party.

Glen says his way of growing orchids is not the only way, but it has been working well for many years. Come to the meeting to find out Glen's secrets of success.



Pick Up Show Tickets at June Meeting

Each year we ask all HOS members to sell 15 tickets for the orchid show, or buy them and give them to friends and neighbors. Please pick up your packet of 15 tickets at the June meeting – it saves us the cost of mailing them to you. The preshow ticket price is only \$3 each compared with \$5 at the door.

This year we are holding a sales contest. The winner gets a pair of tickets to the holiday party and a free 2015 HOS membership. If you want more tickets to sell, they are available from Joe Bush.

We will be selling tickets and T-shirts at the HOS booth set up at farmers markets around the island in late June and throughout July. Anyone who volunteers to work at the booth will be credited for all the tickets they sell there. Contact Joe Bush at [935-6714](tel:935-6714) or Rick Kelley at [756-8145](tel:756-8145) to pick a date to help.

China Airlines Discount For HOS Members Expires June 14

Thanks to Rayna Armour, China Airlines has become the official airlines of the Hilo Orchid Show, and has offered discount pricing to HOS members booking trips to Taipei or Bangkok. To get the



discount price, members must book their flight by June 14 and must book through a special page on their web site for HOS members. You can get to the special page by scanning the QR code at left with

your smartphone, or follow the link on our HOS website. For that link and all the details, go to <http://www.hiloorchidsociety.org/china-airlines.html>.



Paph. Johanna Burkhardt 'Black Eagle' AM/AOS, shown by Hilo Orchid Farm



Cattleya violacea 'Flaming Lips' HCC/AOS, shown by Orchid Eros



Cattleya maxima f. *alba* 'Peruvian Pearl' HCC/AOS, shown by Orchid Eros



Paph. Johanna Burkhardt 'Long Neck' HCC/AOS, shown by Hilo Orchid Farm

May Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Rick Kelley



Left: Hobbyist 1st place – *Laelia purpurata* var. *anelata* 'Waterfield's Corona' HCC/AOS, grown by Pauline Brault
Right: Commercial 1st place – *Laelia purpurata* var. *cindarosa*, grown by Shogun



Hobbyist 2nd place – *Cattleya* no name, grown by Rick Kelley



Left: Hobbyist 3rd place – *Cattleya warscewiczii* 'Edward', grown by Fred Levine



Center: Commercial 2nd place – *Paph.* (*Lady Isabel* x *adductum* var. *anitum*), grown by Shogun



Right: Commercial 3rd place – *Paph.* (*philippinense* x *Hsinying Franz*), grown by Shogun

Symphony of Orchids

The 62nd Hilo Orchid Society Show and Sale, "Symphony Orchids", is coming this August. It's the biggest and best orchid show in the state of Hawai'i, and it will take place at Edith Kanaka'ole Multipurpose Stadium, August 1 – 3. AOS and ribbon judging activities as well as the Preview Party kick off the event on July 31. Show hours are Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

August is not far away, and show preparations are already in full swing. Sheryl Rawson has stepped up for the second year to be our Show Chair, and she has an enthusiastic group of folks on the Show Committee working to make the show a reality. HOS is especially fortunate to have our President-elect, Rick Kelley, serving as the Assistant Show Chair, in training to be the Chair of the Show next year.

Joe Bush will handle the distribution of show tickets to members. (See article on page 1.) Tickets are a bargain at \$3 each (admission is \$5 at the door). Also at the door, people will be able to upgrade their tickets to a 3-day SuperPass for an additional \$3.

On Thursday, July 31, before the show is open to the public, events begin with AOS judging in the morning and ribbon judging in the afternoon. Sandra Song will coordinate the AOS judging. Leonard Gines will be in charge of ribbon judging by HOS members, the process of awarding 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes (those blue, red, and white ribbons). This is a fun way for HOS members to learn more about orchids and the traits that make them special.

Thursday night, 6 - 9 pm, the Preview Party gala will be held at the show site (see article on page 5).

Friday, August 1, the show will be opened to the public, featuring dazzling displays of orchids and aisles of vendor booths. Shelby Smith will be designing the Hilo Orchid Society display this year, and he needs our assistance to make it a success. If you have some nice-looking, disease-free and fire ant-free orchids in bloom at show time, please lend them to our display. You will get them back, and you just might win a ribbon award!

Rayna Armour is again using her formidable creative energy to organize refreshments, entertainment, and the fashion show. There will be a

variety of delicious, reasonably-priced dishes from local sources for sale right inside the show, with tables and chairs where you can sit and eat and perhaps take in an informative lecture or listen to live Hawaiian entertainment.

On Friday and Saturday at lunch time and in the late afternoon, there will be musical entertainment by talented Hawaiian performers, including Aunty Diana Aki, JAZZx2, the Tradewinds Trio, the Orchid Isle Orchestra, and the Puna Taiko Drummers.

On Saturday, the orchid show will host a fashion show by Wahine Toa Designs. Models will display new designs for men and women by acclaimed Hawaiian designer Nita Pilago, accompanied by live Hawaiian music. This fashion show and sale of items from the clothing line immediately after the show were enormously popular last year. Hana hou!

Pauline Brault has arranged for an excellent series of speakers and demonstrations to be presented by our most knowledgeable HOS members throughout the three days of the show. Topics range from "Basic Orchid Culture" by Karen Kimmerle of Island Sun Orchids, who is an American Orchid Society Judge, to "Flower Arranging with Orchids" by Lottie Haspe, who is a distinguished Past President of HOS.

Several of the Show Committee members have joined together to organize the silent auction, where show attendees can bid on donated items to raise money for our scholarship fund. Quality donations are still being sought and accepted. Please consider providing donations of artwork or services. You can give them to Sheryl Rawson at the June HOS meeting.

President Larry Kuekes will be in charge of the Hilo Orchid Society table, where show visitors can have their questions answered and join our Society. Putting on a show means taking care of a myriad of tasks, as you can imagine, from the descriptions of activities above. In addition, volunteers are needed for setup, take down, front gate, daytime security ... the list goes on. Our show can only succeed because Society members have been generous enough to volunteer to help. If you are asked to help out, please say yes. It can be as little as a couple of hours of your time, and you will feel good that our show was a big hit because of you!

Ruth Robison



Gala Preview Party is July 31st

The 2014 benefit Preview Party kicks off HOS's 62nd Orchid Show and Sale at the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium. Held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, the gala event features drinks, food, music, and orchid pre-sales.

Libations include a selection of fine wines, plus beer from Kona Brewing Co., served in a souvenir wine or beer glass. Delectable food will be catered by Island Naturals and AJ & Sons Catering. Party-goers will have the first chance to purchase exciting new hybrids and exotic orchid species, as well as other unusual plants and orchid-related products.

Proceeds of the Preview Party benefit both the HOS scholarship fund and Ku'ikahi Mediation Center. The non-profit community mediation center empowers people to come together—to talk and to listen, to explore options, and to find their own best solutions. To achieve this mission, Ku'ikahi offers mediation, facilitation, and training to strengthen the



ability of diverse individuals and groups to resolve interpersonal conflicts and community issues.

Tickets are \$65, of which \$25 is tax deductible, and can be purchased at: The Most Irresistible Shop (256 Kamehameha Ave.) and Ku'ikahi Mediation Center (The Hilo Lagoon Centre, 101 Aupuni St, Suite PH 1014 B-2). Or contact Julie Mitchell at 935-7844 x 116 or julie@hawaiimediation.org.

Julie Mitchell

Plant Silent Auction Update

The plant auctions at the Holiday Party and the September picnic are very popular. And everyone stocks up on plants at the August show. But that only gives you plants that tend to bloom at those times of the year. HOS members want blooming plants year round. That's why we are trying a silent auction format for member plants at the monthly meetings. All HOS members, both commercial growers and hobbyists, are encouraged to bring their extra plants to sell. The seller sets a minimum opening bid. Almost all plants sell, but if the opening price is not bid, the plant goes back home with the seller. The seller keeps 80% of the sales price and 20% goes to HOS to support programs. As you can see from the graph, many plants are purchased for bargain prices, but competing bidders drive up the prices of choice plants. After four months total sales are just under \$1000.

The next time you are looking at your overcrowded greenhouse and trying to decide how you will make room for the plants you will buy on



the spring nursery tour or the August Show, consider bringing those extra divisions to the silent auction. You can make some cash and your plants will find a new, loving home. And if you are looking for a gift orchid but want something more unusual than what you see at Home Depot, you will probably find the perfect plant on the silent auction table. One of the best ways to turn a casual first time visitor into a committed orchid enthusiast is to have them go home with a beautiful blooming orchid that they got for a great price.

Rick Kelley

Pauline's Website

HOS past President Pauline Brault is known for her impressively well-grown specimen plants, mostly in the Cattleya alliance. HOS members might be interested in checking out Pauline's new website orchidartbypauline.com, featuring photos of Cattleya alliance species and hybrids, Bulbophyllums, and more. Pauline is also an artist, and the website shows several of her paintings for sale. All proceeds will be donated to a charity supporting children in Zambia who lost their parents to AIDS.

Member of the Month

By Pauline Brault

Josh Black



Josh Black, age 31, is originally from the small town of St. George in southwestern Utah, and now resides in Kukuihaele near Waipio Valley lookout. You can generally see him at every orchid society meeting, and he is very sociable and easy to talk with.

He grows many varieties of orchids and especially likes species. His favorites are miniature species, Lady slippers & Vandas.

In order to be able to afford his orchid addiction, he has been doing work as a Fiber artist, spinning yarn from local fibers, weaving with premium fibers from around the world, crocheting, and making wire orchid baskets from copper phone wire that will never rust away. He works out of Neptune's Garden Gallery in Kukuihaele during the week and sells his yarn at the Waimea Parker School Farmers Market at The 1st Friday event in Honoka'a.

He sometimes has his wire baskets for sale at Orchid society meetings, and if you would like him to bring a certain color combination to the meeting to look at, you can call him at 808-333-2432. If he does not answer, just leave a message or e-mail him at orchidislefiberarts@gmail.com.

New T-Shirts Are Here

Our 2015 Hilo Orchid Show T-Shirts have arrived. They feature the orchid chosen for this year's show artwork, Laelia Santa Barbara Sunset, and they're available in a variety of sizes, colors, and styles – crew neck, V-neck, and tank top.

Lisa Steinmeyer will be selling them at the June meeting. They're only \$15 each. Last year these were hot sellers, so make sure to get one while they're still available in your size.

Reaching Out at the Zoo

HOS participated at the annual Friends of the Zoo Plant Sale, which was held on May 4 at the Pana'ewa Zoo and Gardens. We didn't sell any plants, but Rick Kelley and Larry Kuekes manned an information booth to distribute flyers about HOS membership and the upcoming orchid show and to answer questions.

Rick also did demonstrations of how to mount an orchid on a tree, using pieces of Ohia wood. The mounted orchid plants were given away to ten lucky observers.

We plan on holding more outreach events like this one to try to get the word out to the public that yes, Hilo has an orchid society that people might be interested in joining, and yes, we put on a great orchid show in August that almost everyone would enjoy attending.



Rick Kelley demonstrating how to mount an orchid at the zoo plant sale.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

Hilo Orchid Society meetings and AOS Judging are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo unless otherwise specified.

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|---------|---------------------|--|
| June 14 | 1:30 | Hilo Orchid Society meeting |
| | 4:00 | AOS Judging |
| June 15 | 8:00 a.m. | HOS Spring Nursery Tour |
| July 12 | 1:30 | Hilo Orchid Society meeting |
| | 4:00 | AOS Judging |
| July 27 | 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. | Kona Daifukuji orchid show, Daifukuji Soto Mission, Kealakekua |

The following Orchid Show events are held at Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium, Hilo.

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|---------|----------------------|----------------------|
| July 31 | 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. | Preview Party |
| Aug. 1 | 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. | Orchid Show and Sale |
| Aug. 2 | 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Orchid Show and Sale |
| Aug. 3 | 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. | Orchid Show and Sale |

Orchid Show Sponsors

The following businesses and individuals have provided early and needed support for our show:

Gold Sponsors:

Julia D. Goettsch
Bill and Sheryl Rawson

Silver Sponsors:

Big Island Toyota
Hilo Orchid Farm

Bronze Sponsors:

Akatsuka Orchids

Trophy Sponsors:

The Floral Connection
Gines Orchids
Island Sun Orchids
Olomana Orchids
Edith Crabb Realtor
Garden Exchange

We thank them for their valuable support.

Blast From the Past

Hilo Orchid Society has put on orchid shows since its beginning, except for a three-year hiatus during World War II. You think that having a fashion show at our orchid show is a new idea? Read the following excerpts from an article in the Bulletin of the Hawaii Orchid Society (which became the Hilo Orchid Society), dated December, 1949.

ORCHID SHOW – JULY 1949

By Rev. M. Yamada

Some prominent growers of Honolulu attending the Hawaii Orchid Show on July 16 and 17, 1949, commented, "It's the best vanda display I have yet seen. Hilo certainly is the Vanda country."

By attendance, number of exhibits, and general comment, this year's show could be acclaimed as the most appreciated to date. In the two days over 10,000 visitors crowded the Hilo Center Gymnasium to see every popular orchid species or hybrid on exhibit. Also by the number of free-will donations deposited at the gate, the show was a complete success...

The outstanding vandas were blooms from the Hilo crosses, the Ohu Ohu and the Onomea ... The Vanda Onomea lacked conformation but its rich, deep rose color attracted the eyes of the public...

Herbert Shipman's section was another attraction center. His cold climate orchids, seen by many for

the first time, created interest in miltonias, odontoglossums, and cyripediums...

The mainstay of the show, the large colorful cattleyas were of real quality this year ... The huge specimen plant from Paho, Cattleya Sir Walter Scott with 92 large purple blooms, attracted visitors for its cultural technique as well as its beauty...

Along with the orchids, a mannequin fashion show was on parade. Ten dress shops of Hilo cooperated to enhance the use of orchid booms. Every dress, whether a muumuu, holoku, wedding gown, beach wear, travel suit, or street dress was matched by an appropriate orchid bouquet, corsage, or lei...

Mrs. N. Oshima arranged a table of Japanese Flower arrangements. Her artistic and creative lines, using orchids as foundations were admired for originality and composition...

The Society's education exhibit this year was on "cinder culture" ... Many visitors were amazed at the growth of the plants in plain cinders. "Seeing is believing," but many could not quite believe what they saw.

Orchid Isle Project Update

Here are highlights of what's been going on in the Orchid Isle Project (OIP):

- We got newspaper publicity with a picture of Mayor Billy Kenoi meeting with three HOS board members and reading his declaration proclaiming 2014 as the "Year of the Hawaii Island Orchid".
- We're preparing a 2015 Orchid Isle Calendar for publishing and sale at the Show.
- Presentations on the OIP, mounting orchids on trees, and the gift of orchid starts were made to: AAUW, Hilo Bay Rotary, Hilo Garden Girls, Hakalau Homeowners' Assn., Kohala Business Network Professionals.
- Contacted the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Gardens about placing orchids in trees.
- Made plans with Hilo Downtown Business Assn. to place orchids.
- Met with Director of Hawaii State Parks on Island of Hawaii on orchid placement in parks.
- Made contact with Kona and Daifukuji Orchid Clubs to team on OIP all around our island.

Julie Goettsch

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

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