

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

July 2014

Date: Sat., July 12, 2014
Time: **1:30** Informal “talk story”
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Peter T. Lin
Topic: Neofinetia falcata and its
hybrids

Neofinetia falcata is known as the Samurai orchid, but not because it's threatening! It's a charming, sweet-scented miniature species native to Japan, where it has been prized for centuries. This month Peter Lin will tell us all about Neofinetia falcata and other miniature vandaceous species and hybrids.

Peter lives in southern California and is the owner of Diamond Orchids. He started growing orchids over 30 years ago but stopped due to work and studies. Then the orchid bug bit again 11 years ago. He is now an avid orchid hobbyist, AOS judge, and hybridizer of mini-catts. Due to limited growing space, Peter specializes in miniature orchids, both species and hybrids. In addition to mini-catts, his interests include Sophronitis, Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias.

Neofinetias have inspired fanatical devotion in some Japanese growers – some rare plants have sold for over \$100,000! Come to the meeting and find out why.



The Show is Almost Here

The 62nd Hilo Orchid Society Show and Sale, “Symphony of Orchids”, is coming on August 1-3 at Edith Kanaka’ole Stadium, with judging and the Preview Party on July 31.

There are three things that we’re counting on members for:

First, you should have received 15 show tickets from Joe Bush. We’re hoping you can sell the tickets to friends and neighbors for \$3 each, a bargain price (admission is \$5 at the door), or buy them yourself and give them away. Of course you’re not obligated to buy or sell the tickets, but if you can, it’s a great way to help the Society.

Second, we’re counting on members to lend us their blooming orchids for our Society exhibit, which will be front-and-center at the show. If you have some nice-looking orchids in bloom at show time – even one or two – please lend them to our exhibit – you will get them back, and you just might win a ribbon award!

And third, we’re counting on volunteers to help out at the show. If you have already volunteered, thank you.

Here’s what we have planned:

- AOS Judging on Thursday morning, July 31.
- Ribbon judging on Thursday afternoon. Volunteers will award ribbons to the plants they like the best. If you missed the sign-up sheet, contact Leonard Gines at ginesorchids@gmail.com or 966-4550.
- The Preview Party on Thursday night; a gala event featuring wine tasting, beer sampling from Kona Brewing Co, delicious catered food, and the chance to purchase orchids from vendors before the general public.
- Friday through Sunday the show is open to the public (Fri. 9am–6pm, Sat. 9am–5pm, Sun. 10am–2pm.), featuring dazzling displays of

orchids and aisles of vendor booths tempting you to buy just one more orchid.

- Entertainment featuring JAZZ×2, Auntie Diana Aki, Tradewinds, Stan Kaina, the Puna Taiko Drummers, and the Orchid Isle Orchestra.
- A fashion show featuring the creations of famous Hawaii designer Nita Pilago, owner of Wahine Toa Designs.
- Refreshments so you can quell those hunger pangs without leaving the premises.
- A series of speakers and demos to be given throughout the three days of the show.
- A silent auction to raise money for our scholarship fund, featuring a fantastic array of items.
- Membership, Sales, and Orchid Society tables, where visitors can buy T-shirts, ask questions, and join our Society.

Our show can only succeed because Society members have been generous enough to volunteer to help. If you're asked to help out, please say yes. It will only take a couple of hours of your time, and it'll make you feel good in the spirit of kokua!

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 divers 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@hawaii-mediation.org.

Fashion Show Models

Rayna Armour has succeeded in lining up a great group of volunteers to model Nita Pilago's designs at the orchid show fashion show event.

Our thanks go to the following people for volunteering to make this event a success: Maria & Kermit, Carol & James, Loretta & Gene, Linda & Fred, Sherry & Peter, Jan & Jim, Ruth & Barry, Janice & Josh, Lottie & Ryan, Pauline, Leslie, Eden, and Jennifer.

Rayna would like to meet with these volunteers for a briefing on Sat., July 12 at 1:00, just before the main meeting. Anyone who can't make it, or who is unable to be part of the fashion show, please contact Rayna at rayna@theorchidworks.com.

China Airlines Discount Extended

Because HOS members didn't have much time to take advantage of China Airlines' offer of discount fares, they have extended the deadline through July 31. The discount is \$20 off their regular fare, and it applies to trips to Taipei or Bangkok that are booked by July 31. Travel can occur any time from now until December 10. In order to get the discount you must go through a special web page for HOS members. You'll find a fuller explanation and a link to the special page on our website at <http://www.hiloorchidsociety.org/china-airlines.html>.

ORCHID SHOW CALENDAR

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

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|---------|---|
| July 28 | Show setup and HOS orchid exhibit construction. |
| July 30 | 9 am – 12 noon: Bring plants for HOS exhibit. |
| July 31 | morning: AOS Judging |
| July 31 | afternoon: Ribbon Judging |
| July 31 | 6 pm – 9 pm: Preview Party |
| Aug. 1 | 9 am – 6 pm: Orchid Show |
| Aug. 2 | 9 am – 5 pm: Orchid Show |
| Aug. 3 | 10 am – 2 pm: Orchid Show |
| Aug. 3 | 2 pm: Show breakdown. Pick up plants lent to HOS exhibit. |

June AOS Judging Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: Paph. superbiens 'Arden' AM/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm
Center: Laelia briegeri 'Father's Day' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros
Right: Phalaenopsis bellina 'Blessing' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Long Life Nursery



Left: Paph. Shin-Yi Surprise 'Purple Wings' AM/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm
Right: Phalaenopsis bellina 'Shogun' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Shogun



Left: Laelia schultzei 'Orchid Eros' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros
Right: Laeliocattleya Purpuratato-Rex 'Got The Blues' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros

June Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Left: Hobbyist 1st place: *Bulbophyllum graveolens*, grown by Glory Kirkland
Right: Hobbyist 2nd place: *Cattleya violacea*, grown by Fred Levine



Left: Hobbyist 3rd place: Unknown *Cattleya*, grown by Mildred Winans
Right: Commercial 1st place: *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* 'Lucky Red', grown by Karen Kimmerle



Left: Commercial 2nd place: *Ascocenda Ashley Lowe*, grown by Karen Kimmerle
Right: Commercial 3rd place: *Vanda* (Fuch's Delight x Bitz's Heartthrob), grown by Karen Kimmerle

Orchid Stories

Virus

In Holland, in the early 1600's, there was a mania of speculation in tulip bulbs. One single bulb was exchanged for 1,000 pounds of cheese, four oxen, eight pigs, twelve sheep, a bed, and a suit of clothes. The most desirable tulips were not the plain red or yellow varieties, but flowers that were striped and swirled with contrasting colors in new and different patterns. Ironically, these bulbs were not genetically superior, but merely infected with a color-break virus that caused the variegation.

In the orchid world we have a different attitude toward viruses. A cattleya with symptoms of color break would be immediately tossed out.

What's so bad about a virused orchid? Aside from ruining the appearance of a flower, viruses can cause more insidious effects. A virus-weakened plant may produce fewer flowers, even though they're normal-looking, or it may not flower at all.

How can I tell if an orchid is virused? You can't always tell just by looking, unless the flower exhibits obvious color-breaking (abnormal irregular light or dark streaks or blotches). Virused orchids also may have deformed flowers, but flowers can be deformed occasionally on a normal plant. They may have light or dark markings on the foliage, but this can also be due to mites, fungus, or other causes. They may exhibit general weakness and failure to bloom well, but the same symptoms can be caused by poor culture. Or virused plants may appear perfectly normal.

There are scientific tests to determine the presence of virus. The two most common orchid viruses are Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus and Cymbidium Mosaic Virus, which attack many kinds of orchids, not just Odontoglossums and Cymbidiums. The Genetics Core Facility at University of Hawaii Hilo will test an orchid leaf sample for these viruses for a fee. Home orchid virus testing kits are also available on the web.

How can I cure a virused plant? You can't. Unlike animals, plants have no immune system and can't fight virus. And no drugs have yet been demonstrated to eliminate virus in orchids. So if you know that your plant is virused, your best bet is to throw it out.

How does virus spread? You spread it when you repot a plant or snip off a flower spike. Orchid viruses are spread like AIDS – through contact of "bodily fluids", i.e. sap. Anything that might contact



A Cattleya showing symptoms of virus. Note the irregular colored streaks and blotches on petals and sepals.

the plant's sap (cutting tools, stakes, pots) should not be reused or should be sterilized.

Sterilized? How do I do that? Knives and other metal tools can be held in a flame. Use a propane torch or alcohol lamp if you have one. Or you can bake tools in a 500° oven. I use single-edged razor blades for cutting (good for flower spikes; not so good for dividing large plants) and accumulate the used ones to be oven-sterilized. Pots or tools can be soaked in a 10% Clorox solution or a saturated solution of trisodium phosphate (TSP). Your hands can transmit virus, too; wash them between repotting plants.

Is all that really necessary? One grower, writing in the A.O.S. Bulletin, March, 1983, decided to have his orchids tested for virus. He had never bothered with taking steps to prevent its spread. Of the plants grown for 15 years or more (those that had been repotted the most times), 100% were infected. This doesn't mean you should panic, but it does suggest that if a few of your plants are virused, which is quite possible, you should take precautions to prevent virus from spreading to 100% of your collection, too.

Larry Kuekes

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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|----------------|---------------------|--|
| 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 |
| July 28–Aug. 3 | | Hilo Orchid Society Show. See show calendar on page 2 for details. |

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964
lkuekes@me.com

President Elect – Rick Kelley 756-8145
rickkelley@att.net

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371
oliveros@orchideros.com

Treasurer – Bill Rawson 934-0552

Recording Secretary – Lisa Steinmeyer 769-4245
lisa@happyinhilo.com

Corresponding Secretary – Aimee Takamoto

Past President – Julie Goettsch 333-5989
juliegoettsch@gmail.com

Trustee 2013-2014 – Gerrit Takasaki 981-5500
lotaka81@aol.com

Trustee 2013-2014 – John Juszczak
jjuszczak@aol.com

Trustee 2014-2015 – Vivian Ueoka

Trustee 2014-2015 – Shelby Smith 408-966-5924
skelatenphish@yahoo.com

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



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Visit us on the web at
hiloorchidsociety.org