

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

October 2014

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., Oct. 11, 2014
Time: **1:30** Informal “talk story”
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Thanh Nguyen
Topic: Paphiopedilums

If orchid growing is an obsession, surely the genus that inspires the most fanatical devotion is Paphiopedilum, the Asian relative of the lady’s slipper. Many Paph growers will grow nothing else.

This month, Thanh Nguyen, owner of Springwater Orchids in Melbourne, Florida, will tell us all about Paphiopedilums: how they grow in nature, how we can to grow them better, and what’s happening in Paph breeding to improve color and shape and make them easier to grow.



Thanh has been collecting and growing orchids for over 30 years. His orchid business began in 2001. He loves orchid species of all genera, but his forte is Paphiopedilum, which he grows, sells, and breeds.

Come to the meeting and find out what the special attraction of this genus is.

Silent Auction Reminder

If you haven’t paid for the plants you won at the silent auction at the September picnic, please pay at the October meeting or send your check to:

Hilo Orchid Society
P.O. Box 4292
Hilo, HI 96720

If you’ve already paid, thank you.

President’s Message

Lava Threat

As I write this (late September), the lava heading toward Pahoia has stalled, but experts are predicting that it will resume its march toward Pahoia, cutting off Rt. 130, and unless the flow stops, continuing down to the sea.

Unfortunately, that path goes through populated areas where some of our members live, and many more of our members live south of Pahoia where they could be isolated if all the roads are cut off, not to mention losing electricity, telephone, and cable service.

I know many of these folks are planning to stick it out, and I admire their spirit, but when we’re faced with something bigger than any of us, we need to think about helping each other out.

After the recent email that I sent to members, I received many responses, both from people potentially threatened by the lava as well as people generously offering assistance to those in need. But we can’t help you if we don’t know that you need help. If you live in the projected path of the lava, or the area south of Pahoia that will be cut off by the lava flow, please contact me by email at lkuekes@me.com, or if you don’t have email, by phone at 860-380-7952, to let me know your situation. And if you live north of Pahoia and are willing to offer assistance – perhaps you could house somebody’s orchids for a while, or store some of their possessions if they have to evacuate – let me know, too.

Like I said in my email, I don’t have any magic solutions, but we can put people who might need help in touch with people who are willing to help.

So let’s hope for the best (that the flow stops), but prepare for the worst, and together we can get through this.

Larry Kuekes

Pictures From the Picnic



The silent auction table was filled with beautiful plants donated by our orchid show vendors.



There was tons of delicious food. Everyone had a good time. Photos by Tom Kuekes.

August AOS Judging Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya* Mem. Bob Crowder 'Orchid Lady' AM/AOS, grown by Pauline Brault
Right: *Cynoches cooperi* 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Lc.* Flamingo Dance 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Paph.* Wossner Ministar 'Lisa' HCC/AOS, grown by Alawaena Orchids

OrchidWorks Open House

The OrchidWorks will be holding their Fall Harvest Gathering on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, featuring plants from their nursery as well as plants from other certified nurseries not open to the public. Plants available will range from the unusual and hard to find species to hybrids and seedlings to fully-grown blooming plants. Purchases can be made by check, credit card and of course cash.

Glen Barfield will be giving two short classes at 10:00 and 12:00. The 10:00 class will be on Genera Familiarity for five different genera, including basic identification and culture and a Q&A session. The 12:00 class will be on potting up and mounting

young plants. Please be here at 9:45 for the first class and at 11:45 for the second class. Seating is limited.

Directions from Hilo: Go North on Highway 19 pass mile marker 14 and cross the Kole Kole bridge. After crossing the bridge, there will be an intersection sign (1/4 mile); turn right at the next driveway. The Greenhouse is on the left.

Directions from Waimea: Go South on Highway 19; go under the pedestrian overpass just before mile marker 15. There will be an intersection sign .4 of a mile past mile marker 15; turn left into the driveway. Greenhouse is on the left.

For more information, click on this link:

www.theorchidworks.com/OrchidWorks%202014%20Open%20House.pdf

Orchid Stories

What's In a Name, Part 4

Is *Odontoglossum* a Four-Letter Word?

Last time we looked at the effect that the changes to orchid genus names has had for *Cattleya* alliance hybrids. But *Cattleyas* are not the only major group of orchids that have been affected by DNA analysis. Names in the *Oncidium* alliance have undergone an equally seismic shift.

In a paper published in 2008, Mark Chase et al. argued that DNA evidence showed that there was no clear way to separate *Odontoglossums* from *Oncidiums*. So all *Odontoglossums* were moved to the genus *Oncidium*. The genus *Cochlioda* was also moved into *Oncidium*. A few *Odontoglossums* that had been previously moved into other genera such as *Lemboglossum* got moved into *Rhynchostele*. So the genus *Odontoglossum* has ceased to exist.

The DNA also showed that the Brazilian *Oncidiums* were closely related to the genus *Gomesa* but not closely related to other *Oncidiums*, despite floral similarities. So these *Oncidiums* were moved into *Gomesa*. There were also changes to a bunch of other, less common genera, but the changes mentioned above were the big ones.

The AOS and Britain's Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) have approved these changes. In addition, the RHS, which is the international authority for registering orchid hybrids, decided to recognize *Milioniopsis* for registration purposes. Scientists had split *Milioniopsis* from *Miltonia* in 1976, but it has been treated as *Miltonia* for registration purposes until now.

As with *Cattleya* hybrids, this is going to play havoc with the names of *Oncidium* alliance hybrid genera. Any hybrid genus containing *Cochlioda* or *Odontoglossum* ceases to exist. For example, there is no more *Wilsonara*, *Vuylstekeara*, or *Degarmoara*.

Just as with *Cattleyas*, in order to figure out what the new genus name should be for a hybrid, you need to know what species were in the background, or look it up on the RHS official web site <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>, which has the new names. For example:

- *Vuylstekeara* Cambria (the first orchid I ever grew) is now an *Oncidopsis* = *Oncidium* x *Milioniopsis*



Formerly *Beallara* Pluto's Drummer, now *Aliceara* Pluto's Drummer. The genus *Beallara* (*Brassia* x *Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum*) doesn't exist anymore.

- *Colmanara* Wildcat is now an *Oncostele* = *Oncidium* x *Rhynchostele*.
- *Oncidium* Sweet Sugar is now an *Oncidesa* = *Oncidium* x *Gomesa*
- *Oncidium* Sharry Baby is still an *Oncidium*.

So what does all this mean? Is *Odontoglossum* a four-letter word now, or are you still allowed to use it? Relax. Nobody is going to force you to use the new names. Remember the geraniums which gardeners still call geraniums, even though the scientific name changed in 1789?

But history shows that orchid growers do accept change, although slowly. Consider *Paphiopedilums*. Originally, all slipper orchids were called *Cypripediums*. In 1903, the genus *Paphiopedilum* was split off from *Cypripedium*, but people kept calling their slipper orchids Cyps, not Paphs, and the RHS still registered Paph hybrids as *Cypripediums*. Finally, in 1959, the RHS recognized the name *Paphiopedilum* for registration purposes, and orchid growers figured that, after 56 years, it was OK to start using the new name.

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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| Oct. 11 | 1:30 | HOS meeting. Thanh Nguyen will speak on Paphiopedilums. |
| | 4:00 | AOS Judging |
| Nov. 8 | 1:30 | HOS meeting |
| | 4:00 | AOS Judging |
| Dec. 14 | | Holiday Party at Hilo Yacht Club |

Donation to Ku'ikahi



At the September picnic, Larry Kuekes presented a check to Julie Mitchell of the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center, representing the proceeds of the Preview Party for our August orchid show. Ku'ikahi is a non-profit organization providing low- or no-cost mediation services to help the people of East Hawaii resolve disputes while avoiding costly court battles. The amount raised was substantially more than last year. If this seems like a large amount for us to be donating, it is, but here's the deal: Ku'ikahi does all the work of putting on the preview party. In exchange, we give them the net proceeds. With so many other things to do for the orchid show, our volunteers are stretched too thin to put on a preview party, too. If Kui'kahi didn't do it, there wouldn't be a preview party. And the money raised by our Silent Auction at the preview party goes toward our

Scholarship Fund, not to Kui'kahi. So both organizations benefit.

Donor Appreciation

Our Society would not be what it is without the generous support of our members who are commercial orchid growers. Most recently, the following growers donated the plants for the silent auction at our September picnic:

- Carmela Orchids
- Hawaii Hybrids
- Orchid Eros
- The OrchidWorks
- Shogun Hawaii

Our apologies if anyone was inadvertently omitted. Thanks to all these growers for making this event possible. Mahalo!

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hiloorchidsociety.org