

# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2015



## There is no August meeting due to our annual show

### Key Show Dates & Times:

- Weds. Aug. 5** **9 am to noon** – Bring your blooming orchids to lend to the Hilo Orchid Society's display.
- Thurs. Aug. 6** **Morning** – AOS Judging  
**Afternoon** – Ribbon Judging.  
**6 pm to 9 pm** – Preview Party
- Fri. Aug. 7** **9 am to 6 pm** – Show is open
- Sat. Aug. 8** **9 am to 5 pm** – Show is open  
**Noon** – Fashion show
- Sun. Aug. 9** **10 am to 2 pm** – Show is open  
**2 pm** – Show takedown. Pick up orchids if you lent them to the Society display.

All show events are at the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium, 323 Manono St., Hilo.



### Planetarium Show 'Darwin and His Fabulous Orchids'

On Thursday, Aug. 6 at 10:00 a.m., the Imiloa Astronomy Center is holding a special showing in their planetarium of a 360-degree video called "Darwin and His Fabulous Orchids". In giant close-up, the audience will learn the tricks used by orchids to ensure their reproduction. Charles Darwin is famous for his theory of evolution, but he studied orchids for years, and he once wrote that hardly anything else fascinated him as much as orchids.

Admission to Imiloa is \$17.50 for adults, which includes the planetarium show. The show lasts 50 minutes. This is a special one-time showing, not on the regular Imiloa schedule. Don't miss it!

### Please Lend Us Your Orchids

We want the Hilo Orchid Society display to be the biggest, most eye-catching exhibit at the show. We want to show off our members' orchids, and that means you! If you have some nice orchids in bloom at the time of the show, and they're pest-free, please lend them to our display. Even one or two beautiful orchids make a difference, and if enough people bring them, the result will be spectacular!

Bring your orchids to the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium on Wed., Aug. 5 between 9 am and noon. Plan on picking them up promptly at 2 pm on Sunday, Aug. 9 when the show closes. See page 5 for more tips. Thanks!

### Ticket Contest Ends August 5

Our contest to see who sells the most orchid show pre-sale tickets will end on Wednesday, Aug. 5. Mail your ticket payments to:

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

Payments must be received by Wed. Aug. 5 to count for the contest. Or you can turn in your payments to Joe Bush. He will be at the front entrance of Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium until 3:00 p.m. on August 5 to receive any last-minute payments. To arrange to receive more tickets or to pay Joe earlier, call Joe at 935-6714.

The winner will be announced on the first day of the show and will receive a free 2016 HOS membership, a pair of tickets to our December 2015 holiday party, and a year's subscription or renewal to Orchid Digest magazine, courtesy of Steve Gollis.

It's not too late to sell a few more tickets. At only \$3, what a bargain! Tickets can be upgraded to a 3 Day SuperPass at the front gate for just \$3 more. Ticket sales money can also be turned in after Aug. 5, but that will not count towards the contest. Checks or exact change are always appreciated.

## Hawaii Tropical Botanical Gardens Receives 2015 Orchid Isle Award

When former HOS president Julie Goetsch launched the Orchid Isle Project two years ago to encourage individuals, groups, and businesses to place beautiful orchids in trees around the island, it was only natural to recognize those who have made this a reality. Last year HOS recognized the great work of the Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo and Garden and our member Eric Guttormsen who maintains the orchid collection.

This year, on Friday Aug. 7 at 11:50 am at the show, HOS president Larry Kuekes will present the award to Hawaii Tropical Botanical Gardens. This botanical gem on the Hamakua Coast is famous for its amazing waterfalls, collections of rare palms, heliconias, gingers, and other tropical plants. But what we love most is the display of blooming orchids that fills the grounds. Many are potted plants to ensure that all visitors see lots of flowers up close regardless of the time of year they arrive. However, the garden also features many orchids growing naturally in trees so guests can appreciate how orchids live in nature.

The collection is cared for by Ryan Atiz, who many of you will recognize as a former Orchid Show fashion model. The next time you bring visiting houseguests to HTBG, be sure to say hi to Ryan and thank him for all his great work.

Rick Kelley

## Picnic In September

September won't be a regular meeting. Instead, we're having a picnic, and you're all invited! We have reserved the large pavilion at the Wailoa River Park in Hilo for Sunday, September 13 (note this is a day later than the usual meeting date). It's a potluck event – we're asking everyone to bring something to share. We'll have some soda and water to drink, but you're welcome to bring your own beer or wine.

There will also be a silent auction of orchids donated by orchid show vendors. But there isn't any official program – just eating and having a good time in the park! Feel free to bring your kids, family, and friends.

We'll remind you again in September, but for now, mark your calendar!



Leslie Hayes-Cullins modeling a Wahine Toa design at a previous Hilo Orchid Show. Photo by Julie Goetsch.

## It Could Only Happen In Hilo

Last month, HOS members Ken and Rayna Armour and Leslie Hayes-Cullins decided to get some good local food at Ken's House of Pancakes. Rayna remembered, "As the young hostess was getting ready to seat us, Leslie said to her, 'Isn't your dress from Wahine Toa?' The girl looked shocked and said it was her roommate's but she loves it and borrowed it for work. We then told the young girl that the Hilo Orchid Show is having a Fashion Show at noon on 8/8 featuring all Wahine Toa Designs followed by a boutique from 1 pm until they run out of clothes!"

Not only did the hostess come back to their table to write down all the information, but she said she was going to bring her mom and aunties because "They love orchids!" Rayna declared, "It could only happen in Hilo."

## July Members Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Hobbyist 1<sup>st</sup> place: Miltonia Honolulu Spectacular, grown by Jane Awa



Hobbyist 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Epicattleya Serena's Tinkerbell 'Paradise', grown by Bill Rawson



Hobbyist 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Cattleya warscewiczii semi-alba, grown by Pauline Brault



Commercial 1<sup>st</sup> place: Phalaenopsis equestris, grown by Malika Orchids



Commercial 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Psychopsis papilio, grown by Malika Orchids



Commercial 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Dendrobium lowii, grown by Malika Orchids

## July AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya Leoloddiglossa* 'Hot Tuna' AM/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros

Center: *Catcylclia Serena's Tinkerbell* 'Paradise' AM/AOS, exhibited by Bill Rawson

Right: *Paph. Shin-Yi Edward* 'Flying Tiger' AM/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm



Left: *Prosthechea radiata* 'HOF' AM/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm

Right: *Paph. parishii* 'Volcano Queen' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm

## Orchid Stories

### Leafless Orchids



*Taeniochilum pusillum*, a leafless orchid. Grown by Larry Kuekes. Photo by Shelby Smith.

Did you know there are orchids that have no leaves? Instead, photosynthesis is performed entirely by their extensive exposed roots, which contain chlorophyll. The most famous leafless orchid is *Polyradicon lindenii*, known as the Ghost Orchid. This rare species lives on cypress trees in Florida swamps. It was featured in the plot of the book *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean, which was made into the movie Adaptation.

I've never grown that species, but last year Ken Armour gave me another leafless orchid, *Taeniochilum pusillum* (thanks, Ken). I mounted it on a small branch and it has been blooming sporadically ever since. Its flowers are tiny (what look like ropes in the photo are pieces of twine), but I love it because it's so unusual.

Although it's strange for an orchid not to have leaves, it's not strange for orchid roots to perform photosynthesis. Lots of orchids have exposed roots that stick out into thin air (vandas and phalaenopsis are prime examples, but almost all non-terrestrial orchids will do this). Generally the roots look white, with a green tip. But if you drench them with water, the roots turns green.

What's happening? The roots are covered with a sponge-like substance called velamen. When dry, it's white. When wet, it becomes translucent, showing the green root tissue underneath, and yes, those roots have chlorophyll and can perform photosynthesis. Just another amazing fact about orchids.

Larry Kuekes

## How to Prepare Your Orchids For the Show

We want your orchids for the HOS exhibit! Don't think that somebody else will provide them. The big growers can't lend us orchids because they have their own displays. So we're counting on the little growers. If everyone can lend us one or two nice orchids, our display will be gorgeous. If nobody does, it will be bare and ugly. Here's how you can help:

- Look at what's in bud or has recently opened and estimate what's likely to be in bloom for the show.
- Continue watering and feeding to encourage best blooming.
- Consider staking the flowers for best viewing if they aren't naturally held upright. Staking needs to be done *before* the flowers open. After they open, staking them will put them into unnatural-looking positions.
- We can only use healthy plants, so they must have no scale or other insects and no little fire ants. If you have little fire ants on your property, isolate any plants you're lending us. Try rapping the pot on a tabletop. If ants come out the bottom, it's infested. Even if the plants look clean, you may want to drench them with an insecticide containing Sevin a few days before the show, just to be sure.
- Prepare a list of the orchids you're lending us and give us the list along with the plants. This helps us keep track of them and makes sure you get back the plants you lent us.

Mahalo!



## CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

*The following Hilo Orchid Society Orchid Show events are held at the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium*

Aug. 5	9:00 am – Noon:	Bring plants for HOS exhibit
Aug. 6	Morning:	AOS Judging Afternoon: ribbon judging 6:00 – 9:00 pm: Preview Party
Aug. 7	9:00 am – 6:00 pm:	Show open to the public
Aug. 8	9:00 am – 5:00 pm:	Show open to the public
Aug. 9	10:00 am – 2:00 pm:	Show open to the public

*The following event will take place at Wailoa River Park, Hilo*

Sept. 13 HOS Picnic

## **Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees**

President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

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President Elect – Rick Kelley 756-8145

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Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371

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Recording Secretary – Lisa Steinmeyer 769-4245

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Corresponding Secretary – Joe Bush

Past President – Julie Goettsch 333-5989

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Trustee 2014-2015 – Vivian Ueoka

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

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Trustee 2015-2016 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2015-2016 – Barry Yamada

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