

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2016

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., January 9, 2016
Time: 1:30-4:00
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Guillermo Salazar
Topic: Orchids of El Salvador: A
Country of Hidden Treasures

Guillermo Salazar was born in Miami but grew up in El Salvador, where he started collecting orchids at age 9 and became the youngest member of the San Salvador Orchid Society.

In this month's talk, he will explore the rich orchid diversity of that country, highlighting the top species that we can grow.

Guillermo returned to Florida for college and grad school, receiving a Master's degree in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida. He currently works as a private landscape designer, adjunct faculty for Miami Dade College, and Landscape Superintendent for the city of Miami Lakes.

Guillermo is an AOS student judge, board member of several orchid societies, and a Florida Master Gardener. He has published several orchid articles for South Florida and international magazines. His special interests in orchids are Angraecoids, Bulbophyllums, and rare and miniature tropical species.

Don't miss this meeting to find out more about some Central American treasures!



Dues Are Due

Your membership dues for 2016 are due. New members who joined at last year's orchid show or in September or later are considered paid through 2016. Dues are still only \$20 for individual membership or \$25 for family membership. In return, you get a year of interesting speakers, newsletters, and activities, plus the chance to get together with folks who share your interest in these beautiful and fascinating plants.

Please fill out the form page 5 and mail it in with your payment (address is on the form), or you can pay at the meeting. Thanks!

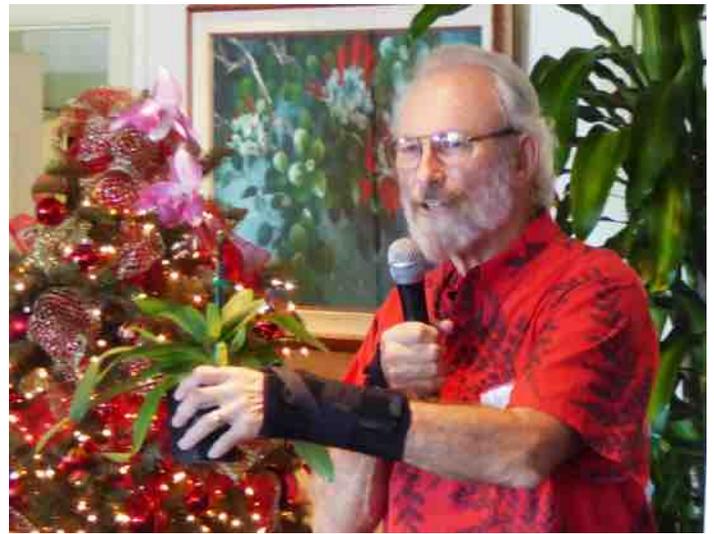


Holiday Party

Our holiday party was a good time for all. After an hour of talking story at the scenic oceanfront Hilo Yacht Club, we had our official swearing in of the officers and trustees for 2016, followed by a delicious buffet lunch. Then we had our annual fund-raising auction of donated orchid plants, supplemented by a silent auction.

We thank all those who volunteered to help out with the party: Vivian Ueoka and Nora James checked in attendees, Fred and Linda Levine sold scrip for beverages, Sheryl Rawson and Julie Goettsch made the gorgeous table centerpieces with orchids donated by Orchid Isle Dendrobiums and OrchidPeople, Glen Barfield was our auctioneer, Bill Rawson and Larry Kuekes recorded bids, and Ben Oliveros and Karen Kimmerle organized the orchid donations. Special thanks to the following people and nurseries for donating plants for the auction: Orchid Eros, Island Sun Orchids, Hawaii Hybrids, Newman's Nursery, The OrchidWorks, Kalapana Tropicals, Hilo Orchid Farm, Lee Nishimoto, and Glen Barfield. Mahalo!

Pictures From the Holiday Party



Left: Julie Goettsch enjoying the company of friends. Photo by Dana Culleney.

Right: Our auctioneer Glen Barfield holding up a Paphiopedilum for bidding. Photo by Larry Kuekes.



Left: Ben and Mirtha Oliveros behind one of the table centerpieces made by Sheryl Rawson and Julie Goettsch.

Right: New President Rick Kelley presenting a gift certificate to ex-President Larry Kuekes. Photos by Sheryl Rawson.



The new 2016 Board of Trustees. From left: Barry Yamada, Bill Rawson, Rick Kelley, Ben Oliveros, Larry Kuekes, Shelby Smith, Ken Armout, Joe Bush. Not pictured: Lisa Steinmeyer and Lillian Paiva. Photo by Karen Kimmerle.



Masdevallia tonduzii 'Golden Gallifrey' AM/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Fix



Left: *Paphiopedilum* Irish Fair 'Lehua's Mrs. Song' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids



Right: *Paphiopedilum* Macabre Pops 'Lehua Purple Pride' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

Jan. 9 1:30 HOS Meeting
 4:00 AOS Judging
 Feb. 13 1:30 HOS Meeting
 4:00 AOS Judging

Mar. 12 1:30 HOS Meeting
 4:00 AOS Judging

June 3-5 1:30 Hilo Orchid Show and Sale

Orchid Stories

Going to Pot, Part 3: Pots

What kind of pots should you use for growing orchids? The primary choice is clay versus plastic. Both have their advantages.

Feet of clay. Clay pots absorb water from the mix, so the roots dry out faster than in plastic pots. This is good if you tend to overwater, and essential for certain species that are intolerant of soggy roots. For example, *Tolumnias* either need to be mounted (where the roots dry instantly) or potted in tiny clay pots. Plastic pots, or even larger clay pots, don't dry out quickly enough.

Clay pots are also good for tall plants like certain *Dendrobiums*, because the weight of the clay helps keep the plant from tipping over. There are special clay pots with slots in the sides for orchids, but regular pots work fine.

Just one word: plastics. However, most of my orchids are in plastic pots. If you're lazy about watering, like me, plastic pots can go longer between waterings. When it's time to repot, orchid roots tend to stick to plastic pots less tightly than to clay pots, making it easier to remove the plant without damaging the roots.

A technique I've used for plants that grow lots of roots outside the pot is to "double-pot": simply stick the pot, roots and all, into a slightly larger pot, so the aerial roots are between the two plastic pots with no medium. The orchids that I have tried this on have been quite happy, with the roots between the pots getting perfect drainage but not drying out instantly as they would if exposed to the wind. This technique is good for plants like *Brassavola nodosa* that don't like too much water.

Size matters. How big a pot should you use? With all orchids it's better to underpot than to overpot, to let the roots dry out so they don't rot. For *sympodial* orchids (ones like *Cattleyas* with a

rhizome that grows horizontally across the pot), use a pot big enough to allow for two years' growth. A bigger pot may not dry out fast enough. If the plant has grown to fill a large pot – 8 inches or larger – consider dividing it into multiple smaller plants, unless you've decided to keep it as a specimen plant. It's much easier to keep from accidentally overwatering a 6-inch pot than a 12-inch pot.

For *monopodial* orchids (ones like *Phalaenopsis* that grow vertically, not horizontally across the pot), if the newer leaves are the same size as the older ones, keep the plant in the same size pot. If the newer leaves are significantly larger (i.e. the plant

has not reached maximum size), repot into a slightly larger pot.

Wired. Here's a technique that I've successfully used for *Bulbophyllums*, which tend to sprawl and which like to stay damp. I bought some "hardware cloth" at Home Depot. It's actually not cloth at all: it's a wire grid with half-inch spacing. Using wire cutters, I made wide but shallow square wire baskets and filled them with sphagnum moss, in which the *Bulbophyllums* are planted. Some of these baskets sit

in trays where they actually soak up water for hours after it rains – that's how wet *Bulbophyllums* like to be! They shouldn't sit in water all the time, though.

Wire baskets are also good for orchids like *Stanhopeas* that send their flower spikes down through the bottom of the basket – in a pot you'd never get any flowers.

Basket case. Speaking of baskets, you can buy wooden baskets that are often used for growing *Vandas* with no medium at all, just aerial roots. If you do this, be aware that they need to be watered every day, including all the hanging roots. I'm too lazy to water every day, so although I do grow a few *Vandas* this way, they don't bloom very well for me.

Next time: Divide and Conquer.

Larry Kuekes



A happy plant: my *Bulbophyllum lobii* 'Kathy's Gold' growing in sphagnum moss in a shallow wire basket.

HILO ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please print this form, fill it out, and mail with your dues payment to:

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

Dues are \$20 for individual membership, \$25 for family membership.

Please print clearly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email for receiving newsletter: _____

Check one:

- Individual membership (\$20)
 Family membership (\$25)

Check one:

- I grant permission to publish this information in the Hilo Orchid Society Directory.
 I do not grant permission to publish this information in the Hilo Orchid Society Directory.

Signature: _____

Optional:

Are you interested in volunteering to help with any of the following activities? Check as many as you like.

- Monthly meetings
 Annual Orchid Show
 Orchid Isle Project (mounting orchids on trees in public spaces)
 Orchids at the Zoo
 Serving as an officer

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President– 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 – Joe Bush

Past President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

lkuekes@me.com

Trustee 2015-2016 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2015-2016 – Barry Yamada

Trustee 2016-2017 – Ken Armour 808-963-6233

Trustee 2016-2017 – Shelby Smith 408-966-5924

skelatenphish@yahoo.com

Hilo Orchid Society

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hiloorchidsociety.org