

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

February 2016

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., February 13, 2016

Time: **1:30-4:00**

Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo

Speaker: Peter Lin

Topic: **Miniature Orchid Displays:
How to create mini orchid displays
inspired by the Japan Grand Prix
International Orchid Show**

This month, Peter T. Lin will be presenting his newest talk on creating miniature orchid displays. Ever since Peter saw these charming displays at the JPG International Orchid Show, he has wanted to bring this art form to our orchid shows. This fast paced PowerPoint presentation will show many of the mini displays seen at the show as well as how to create your own.



Peter started growing orchids over 35 years ago, but then stopped due to school and starting a career. It wasn't until about 13 years ago that the orchid "bug" came back and he is now heavily involved once again. He is an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society and a hybridizer of minicatts. He enjoys meeting with other orchid enthusiasts, and can often be found at various orchid shows and societies around the country. He also has thousands of photos of his orchids. You can view them on Flickr at this Internet address: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/minicatt/collections/>

Due to limited growing space, Peter likes to specialize in miniature orchids, both species and

hybrids, and has received numerous AOS awards. His other interests in orchids include Dendrobiums, Angraecoids, and Neofinetias. He maintains a collection of a thousand or more orchids at his home in Southern California in 3 small greenhouses, as well as in the house under fluorescent lights.

Dues Are Due

Your membership dues for 2016 are due. You should have received a renewal notice in the mail. If you haven't already renewed and can't find the renewal form, 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!

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.

Carnival of Orchids

Show Committee chairperson Dana Culleney has announced that this year's show theme will be "Carnival of Orchids". The Show Committee will meet on Weds. Feb. 17 at 5:00 pm at the Kamana Senior Center, Room 2. If you'd like to help out with the show, please join us.

Calendar Photos Wanted

We'd like to use photos of orchids grown and photographed by a variety of our members in next year's Orchid Isle Calendar, which will be for sale at our show. We're especially looking for orchids growing outdoors for the Orchid Isle theme, but we can include some great shots of indoor orchids, too. If you have some calendar-worthy photos, please send them to Larry Kuekes at lkuekes@me.com.

January Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Hobbyist 1st place – *Cattleya trianae* v. *superba*, grown by Fred Levine



Left: Hobbyist 2nd place – *Blc.* Chyong Guu Chaffinch 'Ta Hsin', grown by Pauline Brault



Right: Hobbyist 3rd place – *Dendrochilum wenzelii*, grown by Glory Kirkland

Note: we were unable to vote for commercial grower members' choice plants this month because no commercial plants were identified with pink plant slips.

January AOS Awards

Photo by Glen Barfield



Phragmipedium longifolium v. *gracile* 'Serenity' AM/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Fix

Orchid Stories

Going to Pot, Part 4 Divide and Conquer

Monopodial orchids, like *Phalaenopsis*, keep growing upward, not across the pot, so they never need to be divided. *Sympodial* orchids, like *Cattleyas*, have rhizomes that grow sideways across the pot. Before they reach flowering size, don't divide them; just keep potting them into bigger pots as needed. After they reach flowering size, though, you can't keep potting them in bigger and bigger pots forever. Eventually they need to be divided or trimmed back.

Just a trim? First check to see whether, by chopping off a few of the oldest pseudobulbs, the plant will fit back into the same size pot with room to grow for a couple more years. This is often the best option if the plant only has one lead (active growth).

If the plant has multiple leads that have grown in different directions, it may not be possible to fit it back in the same size pot. If there are many leads and the plant is compact, you may want to put it in a bigger pot and grow it into a showy "specimen" plant. Otherwise, consider dividing the plant into multiple, more compact plants.

The next step is to determine where to cut the rhizome to get the size pieces that you want. How big should the divisions be? Each division should generally have at least 3 pseudobulbs, including at least one active growth, in order for it to be flowering size. A smaller division will live, but it may take a while to grow back to flowering size.

Cut to the chase. How do you divide the plant? Let's assume that you've already removed the plant from the pot and removed the old medium (we'll talk more about that process next time). Once you've determined where to cut, just cut the rhizome with a sterilized knife and gently pull the pieces apart to disentangle the roots. Dividing *Cymbidiums* is a bit more difficult – the pseudobulbs are so close together it's hard to get in between, and it takes quite a bit of force – but for most orchids, cutting the rhizome is easy. Before using the knife on another plant, make sure to sterilize it, either with a flame such as a propane torch, or by dipping it in a saturated solution of trisodium phosphate (TSP). This prevents spreading virus from one plant to another.

Back to the future. After dividing, you may have some older pseudobulbs, not attached to an active growth, left over. These are called backbulbs. As long as they're green and haven't rotted, even if they have no leaves, they can produce a new plant. Just put the backbulb into an empty pot in a semi-shaded location and sprinkle it with water from time to time. (Some authorities tell you to put the backbulb in a plastic bag, but every time I tried that, it rotted. I prefer the empty pot technique.) If the bulb still has any dormant growth buds, a new growth will eventually sprout and make roots, at which time you can pot it into normal medium. A backbulb may take a few years to grow into a flowering-size plant. Don't feel guilty about throwing the backbulbs away, if you have no use for all those extra plants.

Next time: the joy of potting.

Larry Kuekes

Member of the Month Dana Culleney



Dana with her grandson Jackson

Dana Culleney was born in Canada. Her parents moved to Hawaii when she was a small child when Hawaii was still a territory, before it became a State.

She lived on both O'ahu and Maui. She started high school at Baldwin High on Maui, but when her parents moved to Seattle, she finished high school and attended college there.

She married and her husband went into the military. She considers it an adventure being a military wife and moving every three years or so. They had one daughter.

She then started a career as a respiratory therapist and they lived all over the country, including Hawaii and lived three very interesting years in Italy. While living in Italy, Dana worked for a Montessori school as a teacher's aide and she also taught English as a second language. She also started a multi-national Girl Scout troop in Italy. She had previous experience in the US as a Girl Scout leader for her daughter's troop. In Italy, she was the leader as a cookie mom, camping mom, etc.

with the help of Italian, Turkish and Greek parents. She also did a lot of traveling while located in Europe.

The family came back to the U.S. and her husband was stationed near Seattle. She then went back to college to finish getting her nursing degree. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from Seattle University the same year she graduated with her associate's degree. She then transferred to the University of Washington in Seattle to complete her bachelor's degree.

She has always been very active in community services and has helped organize conventions and weekend seminars, etc. As a nurse, she has worked with vulnerable populations in unusual settings. She has worked in public health, home health nursing, forensic nursing (jail and prison) and also has been a sexual assault nurse examiner.

She has moved to Hilo about three years ago and since she has lived in Hawaii before, it has been a homecoming for her and her family.

She has always loved orchids and on the mainland had a difficult time to keeping them alive. She is thrilled to have so many orchids growing and thriving here in these perfect climatic conditions on the Big Island, and she loves being part of our local orchid society.

She is the Chairperson of this year's orchid show. Any and all help you can give Dana will be appreciated! If you are interested in helping, please contact her at 808-430-6653 or email: tutu.keakakona@gmail.com

Her daughter is now married and she has a wonderful 7 year old grandson.

Dana has had a very interesting life indeed.

Pauline Brault



CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

Feb. 13	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Feb. 17	5:00	Show Committee meeting
Mar. 12	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Mar. 16	5:00	Show Committee meeting
June 3-5	1:30	Hilo Orchid Show and Sale

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

hilojoe@twc.com

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

ken@theorchidworks.com

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

skelatenphish@yahoo.com

Hilo Orchid Society

P.O Box 4294

Hilo, HI 96720



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