

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

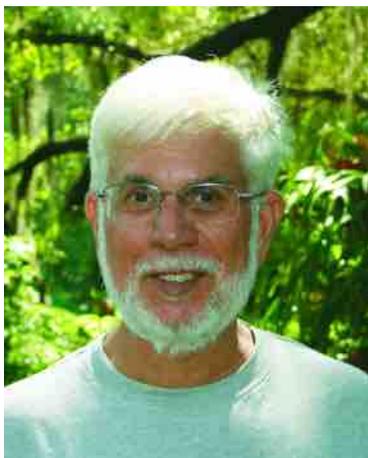
October 2016

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., Oct. 8, 2016
Time: **1:30-4:00**
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Louis Del Favero
Topic: Orchid Collecting in the
Bahamas

This month Louis Del Favero of Tampa, Florida, will take us along on an orchid collecting trip in the Bahamas.

Louis received a Vanda Rothchildiana from a family friend for his 12th birthday. In 1968 he began working for Jungle Orchids after school, weekends and summers. A year later he established Louis Del Favero Orchids in Miami. It was also during this time that he took a collecting trip with Fred Fuchs to British Honduras (now Belize) and Honduras. After that trip, Louis was consumed by a desire to view orchids in their native habitat. This started 20 years of traveling to Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.



In 1981 Louis moved to his current location in rural Tampa where he and his wife Bonnie have more than 13,000 square feet of greenhouses open to the public. He uses his extensive contacts to continue importing species orchids from their native countries.

If you'd like to find out what it's like to collect orchids growing in the wild, without leaving Hilo, don't miss this meeting!

Fall Nursery Tour

Our fall nursery tour is selling out fast. We still have 7 spaces left, so if you're interested, don't delay in signing up. The next 7 people whose payments are received will get on the tour.

The tour will visit three commercial orchid nurseries on Sat., October 29: Carmela Orchids, The OrchidWorks, and Hawaii Hybrids.

To go on the tour, you must sign up in advance. The price is \$38 per person, which just covers the cost of the bus and the driver. We'll provide water, but plan to bring your own lunch and wear comfortable shoes. We'll leave downtown Hilo at 8:00 a.m.

You can sign up at the next meeting or by sending a check to:

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



Sign Up for Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party and plant auction will be held Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11:00 a.m. at Nani Mau Gardens in Hilo. Following a social hour and a delicious buffet lunch, we will have an auction of donated orchids – your chance to get some great plants at bargain prices.

The cost is only \$25 per person. Sign up at the next meeting or send a check to:

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September Members Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Left: Hobbyist 1st place: *Blc. Hausermann's Holiday 'Christmas'*, grown by Vivian Ueoka



Right: Hobbyist 3rd place: *Dendrochilum magnum*, grown by Dana Culleney



Left: Hobbyist 2nd place: *Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry'*, grown by Dana Culleney



Right: Commercial 1st place: *Paphiopedilum* (Hawaiian Shamrock x Mukuli), grown by Malika Orchids



Left: Commercial 2nd place: *Renanthera bella*, grown by Malika Orchids



Right: Commercial 3rd place: *Dendrobium oligophyllum*, grown by Malika Orchids

September AOS Awards

Photo by Charlene Asato



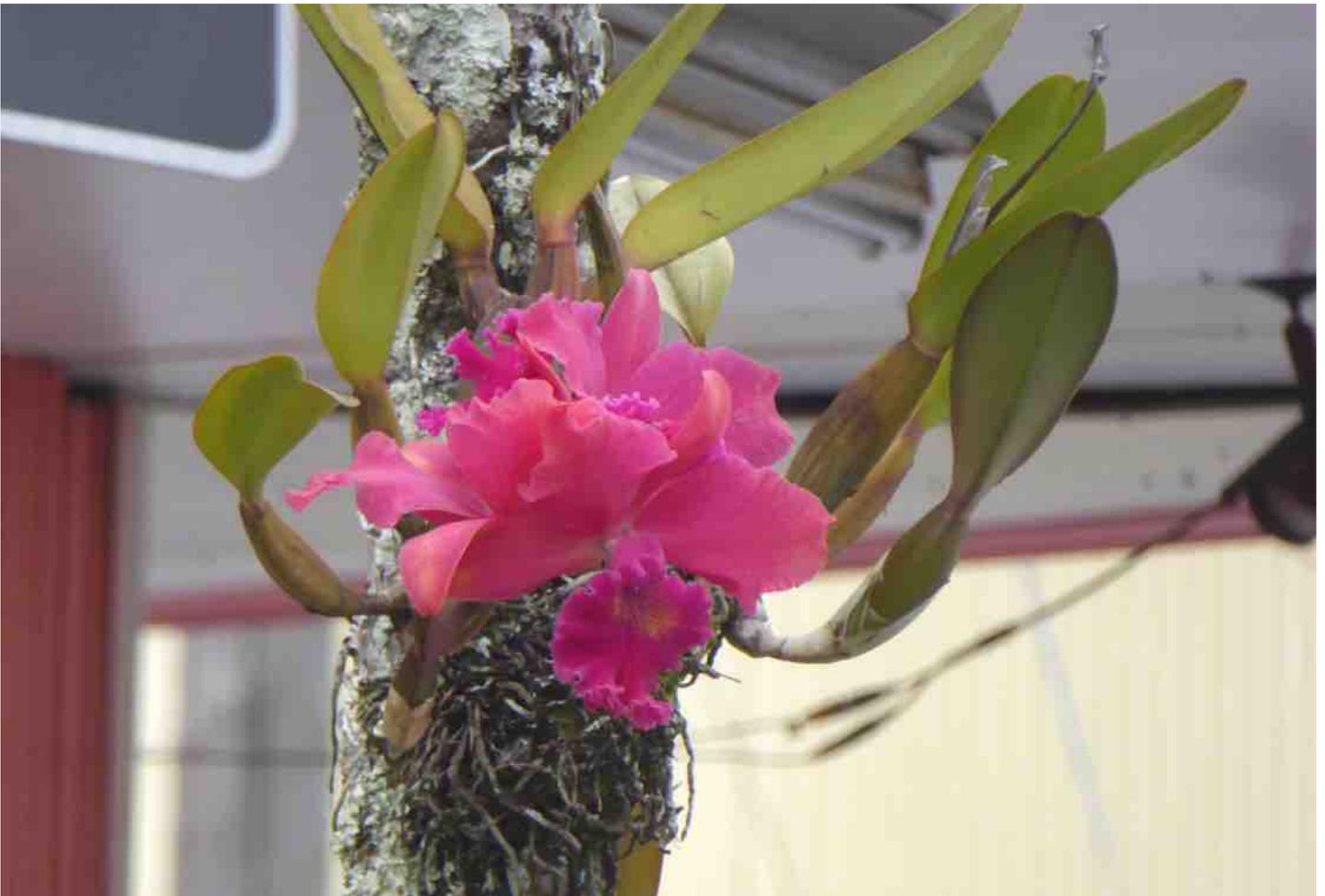
Paphiopedilum Petula's Jewel 'Lehua's Boldness' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids

American Orchid Society judging is conducted at several locations around the United States. We're lucky to have a judging center right here in Hilo.

Becoming an AOS judge involves acquiring a lot of knowledge about orchids, and it takes a minimum of 7 years, so it's a real commitment.

In Hilo, judging takes place right after our monthly meeting in another nearby room. If you're interested in observing the judging process, please see Karen Kimmerle. Observers are welcome, but please be respectful and don't talk or disrupt the judging process.

Seen Around Town



In 2014, our Orchid Isle project volunteers mounted orchids in the trees in front of the Hilo bayfront shops. Rick Kelley recently spotted this one in bloom across the street from the Tsunami Museum. If you'd like to help our ongoing effort to beautify our island, talk to Orchid Isle project chair Julie Goettsch.

Orchid Show Income & Expenses

The 2016 Hilo Orchid Show was a financial success, though less profitable than the past few years because of rising expenses. The success was largely due to the amazing fund-raising abilities of two people. Sheryl Rawson solicited Silent Auction donations that netted \$7500 after expenses, and Julie Goetsch solicited donations of nearly \$12000. Our profound thanks go to both of them. Note that Silent Auction proceeds were reserved for our scholarship fund, leaving only a small amount to fund the Society's general expenses.

We can't count on such extraordinary fund-raising every year, so the Board may be looking at more flexible ways to use the Silent Auction proceeds, as well as containing expenses, while still providing the best orchid show in the state of Hawaii.

Income

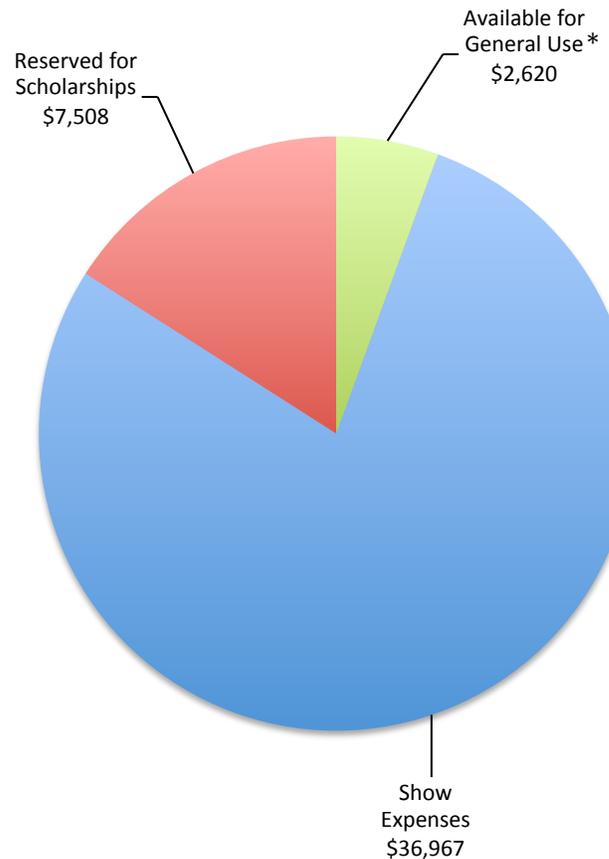
Program advertising	\$850.00
Product Sales	\$6,555.22
Silent Auction	\$7,761.94
Donations	\$11,800.00
Ticket Sales	
Presale	\$5,728.75
Gate sales	\$9,281.00
Booth Rentals	\$5,118.25
Total Income	\$47,095.16

Expenses

Advertising	\$4,815.92
Displays	\$6,674.93
Facilities	\$8,200.83
Judging & Awards	\$3,462.42
Entertainment	\$600.00
Misc.	\$2,996.26
Printing & Copying	\$4,486.08
Products for Sale	\$5,113.55
Taxes	\$616.68
Total Expenses	\$36,966.67

Net Income	\$10,128.49
Reserved for Scholarships	\$7,508.31
Available for General Use*	\$2,620.18

Where Did the Show Income Go?



* An additional \$1730.42 was made available for general use by transfer of money from the Trophy Fund for payment of Judging and Awards expenses.

Calendar of Orchid Events

All events are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo unless specified otherwise

Oct. 8	1:30	HOS Meeting
Oct. 15	9:00-12:00	Orchid Workshop at Volcano Art Center
Oct. 22		New Members Group Tour
Oct. 29	8:00 a.m.	Fall Nursery Tour
Nov. 12	1:30	HOS Meeting
Dec. 10	11:00-3:00	Holiday lunch and auction at Nani Mau Gardens

Orchid Stories

Going to Pot, Part 5 The Joy of Potting

All right, so I exaggerated the title a little to get your attention. I still consider repotting to be a chore, but afterwards I do have the satisfaction of a job well done.

How to repot. People of independent means repair to the "potting shed"; the rest of us use the kitchen table. Gather the materials you will need, namely: a pot (if the plant needs a larger one); some potting mix such as bark; newspaper, some Styrofoam peanuts (optional); a sharp knife; and, if you're going to divide the plant, some extra pots and plant labels. To avoid spreading virus, the knife and the pots should be sterilized if they have been used on other orchids.

The first step is to get the orchid out of the old pot. For plastic pots, this is usually not too hard. Be patient and try to break as few roots as possible. With a clay pot, the orchid roots stick to the pot. Soaking the pot helps, but you may have to use the knife to cut around the rim of the pot, and in any case many roots may get broken. This is a factor against using clay pots.

Getting at the root of things.

After unpotting the plant, you now usually see a mass of roots covering the entire outer surface of the root ball (top photo). The problem is to remove the broken-down medium from inside without damaging these healthy roots too much. Commercial growers don't have the time to carefully pick apart the roots when repotting their thousands of plants, but as a hobbyist, you do. Remember that careless potting can set a plant back a whole year. I spread newspaper on the table to contain the mess. Eventually you'll get to the inside, where there will be very few roots and it is easy to remove the medium, leaving just roots (bottom photo). You're supposed to leave the live white roots and cut off the dead brown ones. Sometimes it's hard to tell which is which by the color. Another



test is to pinch the root between your fingers. If it's firm, it's alive; if it's mushy, it's dead. Despite what you may have read, it doesn't actually hurt anything to leave some dead roots if you're in doubt.

After removing the old medium and dead roots, you may decide to divide the plant, as discussed last time.

If you have a problem with scale, this is the ideal time to spray, dip, scrub, or swab the plant, since even the "underground" parts are exposed.

Filling in the blanks.

Next, select a pot that's big enough to allow two years of growth, and put some Styrofoam peanuts or gravel in the bottom for drainage. This step isn't really needed as long as you repot again before the mix breaks down, but it can't hurt. Then insert the plant, holding it in the air in the position where it's going to

go, with the rhizome at the level of what will be the surface after you fill in the medium. If the plant has a single chain of pseudobulbs, put the old (non-growing) end against one edge of the pot, to give maximum room for growth. Fill the pot with mix,

stuffing it into all the cavities as you go. It helps to push it in firmly with your fingers, but you don't have to pack it with great force. If the plant is very wobbly you can insert a stake and tie the plant to it, or use special clips that grip the rim of the pot, but I seldom find these necessary. Finally, re-insert the plant label, or make new ones for

your divisions. If you don't label your plants, you soon won't know what's what. I follow the practice of writing the repotting date on the back of the label. This helps you figure out when it's time to repot again.

Done. You can now replace the plant on its shelf. Keep it dry and don't water for a while. This lets any broken or cut roots heal without rotting. Savor the true joy of potting – knowing you won't have to do it again for two whole years!

Larry Kuekes

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Hilo Orchid Society

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