

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

November 2016

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., Nov. 12, 2016

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

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

Speaker: Tom Miranda

Topic: Orchid Gardens: a 21st
Century Conservation Tool

We all believe in keeping orchids from going extinct as tropical orchid habitat disappears. But what can you, as an individual, do about it?

This month Tom Miranda of the Smithsonian Institution will speak to us about exactly that: proactive steps the orchid community can take to help preserve species.

An orchid grower himself since 1980, Tom has been the Smithsonian's orchid collection specialist for the last 16 years. In addition to maintaining and curating the Smithsonian's collection of 9000 orchids, Tom develops educational displays viewed by hundreds of thousands of Smithsonian visitors.

Originally trained as a marine biologist, Tom switched to orchids while living in Hawaii in his 20s. He has worked with orchids at the New York Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and the Greentree Estate on Long Island.

He currently writes two monthly columns for Orchids magazine. He's passionate about seeking collaboration between botanical gardens, orchid growers, and scientists toward the goal of orchid conservation. Come to the meeting – you might be surprised what you as an orchid grower can do!



Sign Up for Holiday Party and Auction

There will be no regular meeting in December. Instead, we're holding our annual Holiday Party and Auction on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Nani Mau Gardens in Hilo. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. to enjoy beverages and talk story. At 12:00 will be a delicious buffet lunch, followed by the main event, an auction of donated plants.

It's a chance to get together with old friends, perhaps make new ones, and obtain some special plants at bargain prices and benefit your Society at the same time. Guests are welcome.

The buffet menu features:

- Slow roasted carved prime rib of beef
- Stuffed chicken Marsala
- Grilled ahi
- Steamed rice & vegetables
- Mashed potatoes
- Mixed green salad
- Garden vegetable pasta
- Island Mac salad
- Coffee, tea, juice
- Dessert

There will also be a cash bar.

Nani Mau Gardens includes 22 acres of beautiful tropical flowers and plants, which as a holiday party guest you are welcome to enjoy at no extra cost. There is plenty of free parking. Directions to Nani Mau Gardens will be in the December newsletter.

You must sign up and pay in advance. The price is \$25 per person, which is less than the cost of the meal – the Society is subsidizing your ticket! If you're interested, please sign up and pay at the November meeting, or send your check to:

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

Checks **must be received by Monday, Nov. 28**, so don't delay!

Election of Officers and Trustees

The election of officers and trustees for 2016 will take place at the November meeting. Board members serve two-year terms, with half the members up for election each year. For the 2017-2018 term, our Nominating Committee has produced the following slate of officers and trustees:

President-Elect

Dana Culleney was the Orchid Show chairperson for our great 2016 show, and she has agreed to chair the show again in 2017 before she takes on the President's position in 2018. Dana grew up in Hawaii before it was a state. She lived all over the country before returning to Hawaii three years ago.



Vice President

Ben Oliveros has served as Vice President for several years, arranging for our fantastic monthly speakers. Ben owns the orchid nursery Orchid Eros. His special interest is hybridizing and growing quality Cattleyas. He is an AOS judge and has received many AOS awards for his plants.



Recording Secretary

Nichol (Niki) Robinson is a retired surgical health care provider and current artist whose orchid art was shown at the Huntington Library in Pasadena and is currently shown at The One Gallery in Hilo. She joined HOS last year and was a vendor at the orchid show.



Corresponding Secretary
Cindy Caldicott managed production and sales of our popular orchid show T-shirts and dish-towels. Originally from Coventry, England, Cindy first grew orchids 25 years ago in Illinois. A retired nurse and midwife, Cindy and her husband Jack moved to Hawaii and joined HOS in 2013.



Trustee

Lillian Paiva has served on the Board of Trustees and managed the Plant Hotel at our orchid shows. Lillian's family has been in Hawaii for 4 generations. In addition to growing orchids, Lillian has grown bonsai for 25 years.



Trustee

Joe Bush has served on the Board of Trustees and managed the Front Gate at the orchid show. Joe moved to the Big Island from Honolulu in 1986. A retiree of Hawaii Electric Light Co., Joe enjoys growing miniature orchids.



Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Any additional nominees must be present at the meeting and willing to run against the slate endorsed by the Nominating Committee.



Calendar of Orchid Events

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

Nov. 12	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Dec. 3	1:00	AOS Judging
Dec. 10	11:00-3:00	Holiday lunch and auction at Nani Mau Gardens
Jan. 14	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging

October Members Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Commercial 1st place: *Blc.* (Volcano Classic x Akaksuka Fiftieth Anniversary), grown by Akatsuka Orchid Gardens



Commercial 3rd place: *Vanda* (no plant slip), grown by Karren Kimmerle



Commercial 2nd place: *Blc.* (Volcano Classic x Akaksuka Fiftieth Anniversary), grown by Akatsuka Orchid Gardens



Left: Hobbyist 1st place: *Ornithophora radicans*, grown by Josh Black



Center: Hobbyist 2nd place: *Bulbophyllum* Elizabeth Ann 'Buckleberry' FCC/AOS, grown by Shelby Smith



Right: Hobbyist 3rd place: *Stanhopea oculata*, grown by Vivian Ueoka

October AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Paphiopedilum* Dollgoldi 'Claedr' AM/AOS, exhibited by The Orchid Fix
Right: *Cattleya perrinii* v. *coerulea* 'Sebastian' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros

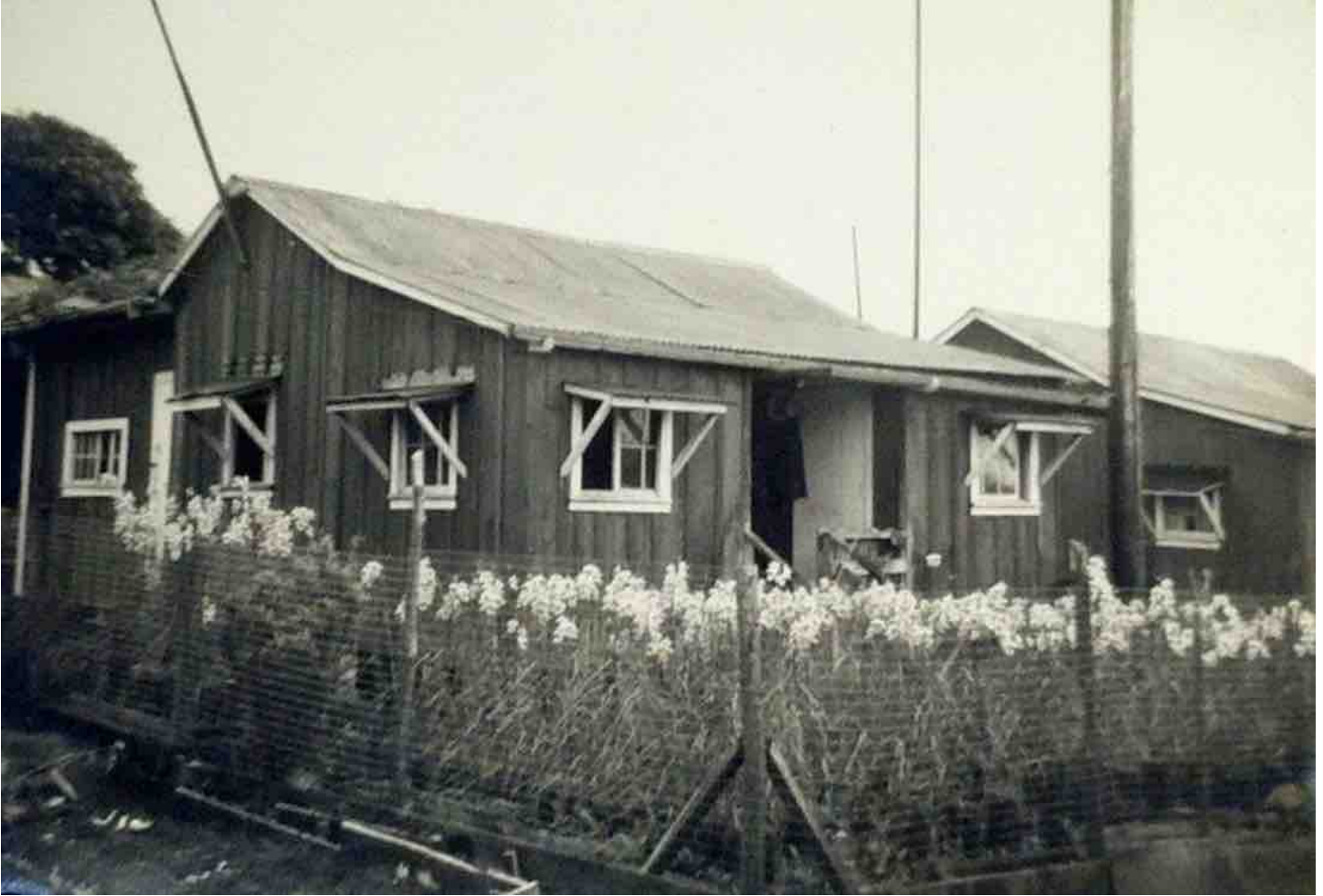


Left: *Oncostele* Hilo Firecracker AM/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm
Right: *Cattleya trianae* 'Full Moon' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros

December AOS Judging Date and Time Changed

AOS Judging in Hilo will not be held on the usual second Saturday in December. Instead, AOS judging will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 1:00 p.m. The location is the same: Room 2 in the Kamana Senior Center, Hilo.

Orchid Stories: Vanda Miss Joaquim in Hawaii



A plantation worker's house in Chin Chuck Camp, near Hakalau, in the 1950s. Note the hedge of Vanda Miss Joaquim.

Ever wonder why the Big Island is called the Orchid Isle? It's all due to one orchid: Vanda Miss Joaquim. This orchid is a primary hybrid of *Vanda teres*, a species from Burma, and *Vanda hookeriana*, a species from Malaya. It was bred in the 1890s in Singapore by local horticulturalist Agnes Joaquim, and has since been named the national flower of Singapore.

Vanda Miss Joaquim was brought to Hawaii in the 1920s by Hawaii State Forester Col. Lester William Bryan, who thought this orchid had possibilities as an agricultural product like sugar and pineapple. It was easy to grow and it tolerated full sun. It wasn't long before just about everyone had them in their yards (see photo above). It was the responsibility of the kids when they got home from school to pick them. They became popular for leis, weddings, airline meal trays, etc.

After World War II, the expansion of

commercial air flights to Hawaii created a boom in demand, making it possible to sell millions of these orchids to the mainland. Production on the Big Island went into high gear. Commercial growers grew Miss Joaquim in large open fields like a crop, with each acre holding 250,000 plants. Flowers were sold by the pound. One chartered flight carried two tons of orchids. And our island became known as the Orchid Isle.

Eventually the bottom dropped out of the market and 100 blooms sold for one cent. So commercial growers abandoned Miss Joaquim and concentrated on other kinds of orchids, growing and hybridizing ever-bigger and more colorful varieties into the big, gorgeous, colorful, showy blooms we have today. But Vanda Miss Joaquim still has a place in history because it gave us our nickname!

Julie Goettsch and Larry Kuekes

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President– Rick Kelley 756-8145

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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

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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

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

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Hilo Orchid Society

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hiloorchidsociety.org