

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2017

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., January 14, 2017
Time: **1:30-4:00**
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Dave Sorokowski
Topic: Multi-Floral Paphiopedilums

Paphiopedilums come in many sizes and shapes. This month, Dave Sorokowsky, owner of Paph Paradise in Modesto, CA, will tell us about multi-floral Paphs, the ones that make multiple flowers on each flower spike. They are among the largest and most spectacular of the slipper orchids. One species has flowers up to a foot across. Another has drooping, pendant petals up to 3 feet long!



After receiving his degree in biochemistry from the University of Toronto, Dave returned to school, receiving a degree in enology and viticulture from Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. While at Brock, Dave began acquiring orchids one 2" pot at a time. Before he graduated, Dave had over 100 orchids. Winemaking and a passion for orchids prompted Dave to seek a warmer climate in California about one year later. Dave has been growing Paphiopedilums for about 12 years and seriously hybridizing for the past 10 of those 12 years. His Paphiopedilums have received over 50 awards to date from the American Orchid Society. Dave and his wife Stacey started Paph Paradise in 2013, with many of his awarded plants playing a key role in their breeding program.

If you'd like to find out more about these strange and spectacular orchids, don't miss this meeting!

Dues Are Due

Your membership dues for 2017 are due. New members who joined at last year's orchid show or in September or later are considered paid through 2017. 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 on page 7 and mail it in with your payment (address is on the form), or you can pay at the meeting. Thanks!

Free Dendrobiums Round Two

For those members who did not get any of the Dendrobiums at the December 12 Murazane estate giveaway, a second load of free plants will be available at the January meeting. These plants have been a little neglected, but will perk up after they are mounted on trees. There are no name tags and no flowers, so no telling what they will look like when blooming. They may all be the same white clone grown for leis. Who knows, but they are free.



Calendar of Orchid Events

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

Jan. 14	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Feb. 11	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Mar. 11	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging

December AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Rlc.* George King 'Pink Salmon' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Cattleya wittigeana* 'Sebastian' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Habenaria* Regnieri 'Kathleen' AM/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids
Right: *Habenaria* Jiaho Yellow Bird 'Fancy Flight' AM/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids



Left: *Paph.* French Jewel 'Lehua's Green Finery' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Left: *Rlc.* Ruby Suisse 'Debbie' HCC/AOS, grown by Shogun Orchids



Above left: *Paph.* Luna Pleasure 'Lehua Again', grown by Lehua Orchids

Above center: *Paph.* Captivatingly Wood 'Lehua Hints of Pink' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Above right: *Paph.* (Petula's Ghost x Macabre Contrast) 'Lehua's Dark Mystery' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Left: *Laelia anceps* hort. v. *barkeriana* 'Ten' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

President's Annual Report to Members

It is a pleasure to report that the Hilo Orchid Society has enjoyed a banner year in 2016 thanks to all the hard work our members have contributed to our many activities. We benefit from a growing community of 250 memberships. Since many of those are couples, we have the talents of over 350 people to draw on.

Our mission is to educate our members and the wider community about the amazing world of orchids: the incredible variety of species and hybrids, how to grow them, and how to preserve the wild habitats around the world that contain these wonders of evolution. The primary way we achieve this goal is through the presentations at our monthly meetings. In 2016 we invited speakers to tell us about classic *Cattleya* hybridizing, *Brassavola nodosa* hybrids, orchids of El Salvador, Brazilian *Cattleya* alliance, *Masdevallias*, orchid collecting in the Bahamas, conservation in orchid gardens, and how to create captivating miniature orchid displays.

In April we hosted our popular annual potting demonstration with Ben Oliveros, Shelby Smith, and Leonard Gines doing the honors.

A second way we promote education to the general public is through the annual show. In addition to the extensive program of live hands-on demonstrations, the show is where we raise funds for our Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship fund to support study of commercial orchid production, conservation of tropical forests, or a related horticultural field of study at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. We all owe Sheryl Rawson and her hardworking team a big round of thanks for all their work making the silent auction a wildly successful fundraiser again in 2016. Another round of thanks goes to Ruth Robison, Barbara Heintz, and Sonia Juvik for their efforts recruiting and evaluating student applicants. This past year we were delighted to award scholarships to Miguel Bravo, Shelly Nowaki, and Jed Akao. Yet another way we introduce university students to commercial orchid production is by inviting them tour local nurseries.

The OrchidWorks opened their doors in February to Dr. Salao's U of H class so students could see what is involved in turning beautiful orchids into a profitable business.

Finally, we want to engage the next generation to the world of orchids. We specifically targeted young children by again offering free family admission to our show in June. Over 700 people were able to enjoy our show for free through our school ticket program organized by Dorothea Fendenz. EB de Silva Elementary and Malamalama Waldorf Charter Elementary had the greatest participation in the free ticket program and won beautiful blooming orchids delivered to their schools every month for the 2016-17 school year.

The show itself was a huge success. We were able to move back into the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium this year giving us plenty of room. Plus, after very close brushes with tropical storms the past three years in August, we decided to move to early June this year. Dana Culleney took on the big job of show chair and knocked the ball out of the stadium. Dana selected *Carnival of Orchids* as our theme, and the exhibitors really ran with the idea. The keiki loved the face painting, balloon animals, and popcorn that accompanied this year's theme.

Shelby Smith delivered another knockout creation with a stylized Big Top Tent and Ferris Wheel for the HOS exhibit that greeted visitors as they entered the stadium. Shelby's signature design element for the past three years has been bringing the viewer up close to each flower in the display, almost always at eye level. The public loves being able to get in close for the perfect photo or to enjoy the variety of perfumes released by each flower. A special thank you goes out to all the members who loaned their prized plants to our display. This year's display had crazy spectacular flowers, the best seen in recent memory. Maybe it was moving the show date. Maybe it was the weather. What a great way to share the magic of orchids with the public. Everyone could see the amazing variety of orchids that can be grown in Hawaii by ordinary hobbyists and the commercial growers who loaned plants.

We were fortunate to welcome Newman's Nursery back after an absence of a few years. Jeff decided to go all out in creating a jaw-dropping display that would be sure to take the top prize at the largest international orchid show. Matthias Seelis

created an overwhelming display with twenty huge platters of orchids raised high in the air reminiscent of a carnival Tilt-A-Whirl ride complete with colorful pulsating LED lights and two reflecting ponds. Many thanks to Jeff, Matthias, and all our exhibitors for coming up with such incredible displays filled with thousands of orchids, all at peak bloom.

Every year at the show HOS recognizes the organization that has done the most to promote Hawaii as the *Orchid Isle* by mounting orchids in trees in public landscapes. This year the *Orchid Isle* Award went to the Kona Daifukuji Orchid Society for all their great work at the Daifukuji Temple, Greenwell Coffee Farm, the Outrigger Kanaloa resort, and especially Kona Community Hospital.

A previous winner Orchid Isle winner is the Pana'ewa Tropical Zoo and Gardens. Member Eric Guttormsen has taken the lead on this project for many years mounting orchids, fertilizing them, and battling the invasive ferns that try to strangle the orchids. This year the zoo was fortunate to receive a generous donation from Yoshinori Nakamura. He asked HOS to find new homes for his entire collection of orchids. Eric organized teams of HOS members to divide the very large plants into manageable pieces. Some divisions were tied to trees in the zoo and others were distributed to members who will act as foster parents to trays of divisions until they are ready to be mounted next year. Mr. Nakamura's wonderful gift will ensure that visitors to the zoo can enjoy orchids blooming in the trees for many years to come. Similarly, HOS received another large donation of dendrobiums in November from the estate of Wally Murazane. Many of these plants found new homes in HOS members' landscapes. Others will go to the zoo. Additional plants will be available to members for free at the January monthly meeting.

Every year over 50 new members join HOS. We want to make sure every person is given a warm welcome and provided with all the resources necessary to make them savvy orchid growers in no time. One way we do this is by inviting newcomers to tour members' homes. The best way to get ideas on how to grow orchid in East Hawaii is to see how others are doing it successfully in the many distinct microclimates on the island. A big mahalo goes out to Gail and George Crosthwaite who have been

heading up the Newcomers Group the past two years. I also want to thank the members who open their homes to visitors. In 2016 Larry Kuekes, Bill Rawson, and Julie Goettsch were super welcoming to the Newcomers. Please consider sharing your growing tips and experiences by hosting a tour in 2017. We can arrange for a group of any size that fits your space on a date that is convenient for you.

Another important way we reach out to the wider public is by sponsoring orchid workshops at the Volcano Arts Center. Shelby Smith, Larry Kuekes, and Ben Oliveros have been taking the lead on this for the past few years and have earned an enthusiastic response from the attendees. If you have ideas for programs you would like to see at these workshops, just pass along your suggestions to one of these three.

The commercial growers organized a sale at Prince Kuhio Mall the first weekend in August, the dates HOS used to hold its show. HOS staffed two information booths to greet the public, promote orchids as a hobby, and offer simple advice on commonly encountered problems when people bring home their first orchid.

After taking an 18 month break, bus tours to commercial nurseries returned in 2016. Two dozen members who apparently cannot get enough orchids at our monthly meetings, the June show, and other settings boarded the bus early on a Saturday morning in October. The big draw was hours of walking through acres of greenhouses from some of the best orchid growers in the world. Most nurseries on the island only sell wholesale to the mainland and do not allow individuals in to their greenhouses for small sales. They make an exception for our bus groups, and on top of that we usually get great wholesale discount pricing. Many thanks to Hawaii Hybrids, The OrchidWorks, and Carmela Orchids for welcoming us again.

Local commercial growers support HOS in many ways besides opening to our bus tours. We traditionally follow up the show with an informal picnic the following month. Besides great food and friends, the main event is a silent auction of many plants donated by vendors who participated in the show. This is a significant fundraiser for HOS. An even larger group of commercial growers donate plants for our annual holiday banquet in December. At the recent party on December 10, a record total

was raised from the auction. Part of this was due to the expert skills of auctioneer Glen Barfield, but much of it had to do with the incredible quality and variety of the plants the growers provided. Many people might take this for granted, but as a recent arrival from Houston, I can tell you few, if any, other orchid societies are as fortunate as we are. The large community of commercial growers supports HOS programs all year round with plant donations. Please join me in thanking the following growers for all their generosity over many years. Hilo Orchid Farm, Orchid Plantation, Orchid Eros, Shogun Hawaii, Okika, Newman's Nursery, Gines Orchids, Lehua Orchids, Island Sun Orchids, Kalapana Tropicals, Akatsuka Orchid Gardens, and The OrchidWorks. HOS is far more active than most orchid societies in cities with 50 times Hilo's population. We couldn't do it without all the help from our commercial growers.

In addition to our focus on education, we are also committed to helping preserve the wild places around the world where orchids naturally grow. This year we donated \$1000 to the Orchid Conservation Alliance which purchases land in critical habitats. We encourage all our members to get involved in conservation in any way they can.

Finally, it is essential to appreciate that every one of our activities only happens because of the interest and hard work of members volunteering their time, energy, and fresh ideas. We need you! Don't assume someone else will do it. When a clipboard with a signup sheet circulates through the monthly meeting, please seriously consider adding your name. Super volunteer Dana Culleney will be our show chair again in 2017 after doing such a great job last year. She will need to assemble a huge team to pull off another successful show. She has jobs large and small. She can match your interests and talents to the perfect job. Dana has also agreed to become HOS president beginning in December 2017. Later this year she will be recruiting new officers and board members. She will need you. Helping out is fun and a great way to build a circle of new friends. If you recently moved to the Big Island, getting more involved with HOS is a great way to plug in to the local community. If everyone continues to work together, we are guaranteed a great 2017.

Rick Kelley

Holiday Party

Our holiday party was a good time for all. After a social hour on a lanai surrounded by scenic Nani Mau Gardens, we had a delicious buffet lunch and our official swearing in of the officers and trustees for 2017. Then we had our annual fund-raising auction of gorgeous donated orchid plants.

Mahalo to all those who helped out: Vivian Ueoka and Cindy Caldicott checked in attendees, Karen Kimmerle made the table centerpieces, Bill Rawson and Larry Kuekes recorded bids, Ben Oliveros organized orchid donations, Glen Barfield

was our skilled and knowledgeable auctioneer, and Rick Kelley organized the whole thing.

Special thanks to the commercial nurseries who provided a gorgeous collection of plants for the auction. We are so lucky to be on this island and have their generous support: Gines Orchids, Hilo Orchid Farm, Island Sun Orchids, Kalapana Tropicals, Lehua Orchids, Newman's Nursery, Okika, Orchid Eros, Orchid Plantation, The OrchidWorks, Shogun Hawaii, and Akatsuka Orchid Gardens. Mahalo nui loa!



The party was held in a beautiful outdoor setting in Nani Mau Gardens. Guests enjoyed talking story with old friends and new. Photos by Larry Kuekes.



The new 2017 Board of Trustees being sworn in. From left: Lillian Paiva, Cindy Caldicott, Bill Rawson, Ben Oliveros, Ken Armour, Niki Robinson, Dana Culleney, Joe Bush, Larry Kuekes, Rick Kelley. Photo by Gail Crosthwaite.

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

President-Elect – Dana Culleney 430-6653

tutu.kekakona@gmail.com

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371

oliveros@orchideros.com

Treasurer – Bill Rawson 934-0552

Recording Secretary – Niki Robinson 530-340-6119

nikir69@outlook.com

Corresponding Secretary – Cindy Caldicott

808-498-4692

Past President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

lkuekes@me.com

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

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

skelatenphish@yahoo.com

Trustee 2017-2018 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2017-2018 – Joe Bush hilojoe@twc.com

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