Next Meeting
Date: Sat., April 8, 2017
Time: 1:30-4:00
Place: Kamana Senior Center, 127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Brian Monk
Topic: Orchid Photography

Brian Monk is a veterinarian, an orchid grower and hybridizer, and a photographer. This month he’ll be talking to us about one of his passions, orchid photography. Whether it’s lighting, focus, background, composition, framing, or digital post-processing, there’s more to great orchid photography than just snapping a picture.

Brian grew up in Charleston, West Virginia, where his passion for nature led to bird watching, orchid growing, and ultimately to a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Virginia Tech. He met his wife, Mary-Margaret, while working in Orlando, Florida. The two of them formed Blu Llama Orchids in Naples, Florida, where Brian has 4000 square feet of growing space. His hybridizing efforts focus on development of a pink Cattleya with a white lip, warmth-tolerant red Oncidinae, and multi-floral white and pink Paphiopedilums.

Brian’s orchid photos have won awards online, at the Miami International Orchid Show, and at the World Orchid Conference.

Remember – we’re looking for orchid photos from our members for our HOS Photo Contest. So don’t miss this meeting. Maybe Brian can give you some tips on shooting the winning photo!

Please Pick Up Your Show Tickets
We’re asking all HOS members to buy 15 tickets for the orchid show for $3 each, and to sell or give them to friends and neighbors. Please pick up your packet of 15 tickets from Claire Mangano at the April meeting – it saves us the cost of mailing them to you. The $3 price is a bargain compared with $5 at the door.

Sales of early discount tickets are a big part of the Show’s financial success. Of course you’re not obligated to purchase the 15 tickets, but if you can, it’s a great way to help your Society.

Amateur Show Registration
We’re encouraging non-commercial growers to create exhibits for our show. Exhibits can be mini-size (16” square), tabletop, or larger. There is no fee for exhibit space; in fact, you may be eligible for a subsidy to offset your exhibit costs. For more information, contact show chair Dana Cullaney at tutu.keakakona@gmail.com.

Newcomers Tour
We’re holding another of our popular Newcomers Tours on April 15. This time it’s to a commercial nursery near Mountain View. If you’re a newcomer – you joined HOS in the last two years – but you didn’t receive an invitation, please contact George Crosthwaite at drghc@hawaii.rr.com. Space is limited, so sign up now!

Show Committee
The Show Committee will meet on Weds. April 12 at 5:00 pm at the Kamana Senior Center. If you’d like to help out with the show, please join us.

HOS Display Help Wanted
Shelby Smith needs volunteers to help assemble the HOS display for our June show. You can help him on Sun. Apr. 9 and Sat. Apr. 15 at Shelby’s house. Please sign up at the meeting or email Shelby at skelatenphish@yahoo.com.
March Members Choice

Left: Hobbyist 1st place: *Dendrobium* Yellow Song, grown by Jane Awa
Right: Hobbyist 2nd place: *Dendrobium farmeri*, grown by Dana Culloney

Left: Hobbyist 3rd place: *Ludisia discolor* ‘Black Beauty’, grown by Mildred Winans
Right: *Cattleya skinneri* ‘Casa Luna’, grown by Bill Rawson. Unfortunately, it didn’t have a numbered plant slip on the show table, so nobody could vote for it, but we wanted to recognize this beautifully grown orchid. Photo by Larry Kuekes.

Left: Commercial 1st place: *Paphiopedilum* Erika Potent, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: Commercial 2nd place: *Paphiopedilum* Deperle, grown by Lehua Orchids
Note: only two commercial orchids were shown, so there was no commercial 3rd place this month.
March AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield

Left: *Paph.* Erika Potent ‘Lehua’s Tall Pink’ CCM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Paph.* Erika Potent ‘Lehua’s Tall Pink’ AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Left: *Cattleya loddigesii* fmm. Punctata ‘Got It All Goin’ On’ JC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Center: *Cattleya* (*neokautslyi* x *milleri*) ‘Rick ‘n Roll’ HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Paph.* (Henrietta Fujiwara x Mount Toro) ‘Lehua’s Pink Frills’ HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Left: *Paph.* Magically Wood ‘Lehua’s Pink Pleasure’ AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Center: *Paph.* Magical Fred ‘Lehua’s Pink Rapture’ AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Paph.* Odette’s Enchantment ‘Lehua’s Pink Dominance’ AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Left: *Paph.* (Doctor Toot x Pinocchio) ‘Lehua’s Pickle Pink’ AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Paph.* Puppen tanz ‘Happy Birthday Mindi’ AM/AOS, grown by The OrchidFix
Jewels of the Jungle

The 65th Annual Hilo Orchid Society Show and Sale, “Jewels of the Jungle,” is coming! It’s the biggest and best orchid show in the state of Hawai‘i. It will take place at Edith Kanaka‘ole Stadium, June 2-4. AOS and ribbon judging activities, as well as the Preview Party will kick off the event on Thursday, June 1. Then the show will open to the public, featuring dazzling displays of orchids and vendor booths. Show hours are:

- Friday, June 2, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday, June 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

June is not far away, and show preparations are already in full swing. Dana Culleney is working very hard as our Show Chair for the second year, and she has an experienced group of folks on the Show committee helping to make the show a reality. Here’s what is going on.

**Show Tickets.** Tickets will be available from any member of the Hilo Orchid Society for $3 if purchased prior to the show.

Ticket prices at the door will be:
- Adult - $5
- Child 12 or under - Free
- Super pass good for 3 days - $8

**Judging.** On Thursday, June 1, before the show is open to the public, events begin with AOS judging in the morning and ribbon judging in the afternoon. Karen Kimmerle will coordinate the AOS judging and trophies. John Jusczak will be in charge of ribbon judging by HOS members. Teams of HOS volunteers lead by an experienced AOS judge or Society member award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes (blue, red, and white ribbons) for dozens of categories as well as Best in Show trophies. This is a fun way for HOS members to learn more about orchids and the traits that make them outstanding.

**Preview Party.** Thursday night, 6 - 9 pm, the Preview Party gala will be held at the show site. Tickets are $70. This event always sells out, so buy now! Make checks payable to Ku‘ikahi Mediation Center. Tickets will be available at the April 8 meeting of the Hilo Orchid Society. See page 6 for more information about the Preview Party.

**HOS Display.** Shelby Smith has kindly agreed to design the Hilo Orchid Society display again this year, and he needs our assistance to make it a success. The design will focus on your wonderful orchids, featuring them as the “Jewels of the Jungle”. This year's display will pay homage to the great glass greenhouses of the golden age of discovery in orchids.

If you have some nice-looking, disease-free and fire ant-free orchids in bloom at show time, please lend them to our display. You will get them back, of course, and you just might win a ribbon or a beautiful etched crystal vase trophy. Start fertilizing now and as spikes come up, stake them to be their most beautiful. Let’s all help Shelby create another award-winning masterpiece for the Hilo Orchid Society!

Shelby needs help assembling/installing the display the week of the show; sign up at the next meeting(s). There are also 2 display build days in April: Sunday April the 9th, and Saturday the 15th at Shelby's house to construct the parts for the display. Sign up at the next meeting to help out; all kinds help are needed.

**T-shirts and more for sale.** This year’s beautiful show graphic was designed by popular local artist Esther Szegedy. Cindy Caldicott will have T-shirts with the Show design available at the April HOS meeting for $20 and tank tops for $15. Also available at the meeting will be dish towels with the design at $10 each, and a set of three notecards for $5. The cards sold out at the last meeting. Cindy will have more for April. Bring cash or check to the April HOS meeting to make your purchase, support our fabulous organization, and advertise the Show. And our Orchid Isle 2018 calendars will be for sale at the show for the bargain price of $5.

**Entertainment.** Rayna Armour will use her formidable creative energy to organize our entertainment this year. On Friday and Saturday at lunch time and in the late afternoon, there will be
live musical entertainment by talented Hawaiian performers.

Keiki activities. Our children’s activities had a huge, positive response last year, so – hana hou! Free face painting will be done by Jan of Jan’s Face Painting. Balloon animals will be created on the spot by Dwane Nishimori.

Speakers. Pauline Brault has arranged for an excellent series of speakers and demonstrations to be presented by our most knowledgeable HOS members throughout the three days of the show. Topics will cover various types of orchids and how to grow them.

Silent Auction. There will be a silent auction where show attendees can bid on donated items to raise money for our scholarship fund, orchid education, and orchid conservation. Quality donations are still being sought and accepted. We are looking for volunteers to watch the silent auction items in shifts of a couple of hours each day and help with checkout. Please email Dana Culleney at tutu.keakakona@gmail.com.

HOS/Membership Table. Rick Kelley and Victoria Azuolas will organize our table where visitors can get questions answered and join our Society.

Orchid Doctor. Julie Goettsch will have a fun Orchid Doctor stand, modeled after Lucy’s “Psychiatric Help 5¢” stand in the Peanuts cartoon, where attendees can get orchid questions answered.

Refreshments. There will be a variety of delicious, reasonably priced dishes from local sources for sale right inside the show.

Security. The people who traditionally spend the night on Thursday and act as volunteer security for us will not be able to do that this year. We would appreciate any members who can do that on Thursday, June 1.

Will you help? Putting on a show means taking care of a myriad of tasks, as you can tell from the descriptions of activities above. In addition, volunteers are needed for setup, take down, front gate and daytime security. Our show can only succeed because Society members have been generous enough to volunteer to help. It can be as little as a couple of hours of your time, and you will feel good that our show was a big hit because of you. Get involved and be a part of the Hilo Orchid Society’s signature event!

Ruth Robison

Silent Auction Funds

We heard that there was a nasty rumor going around that the Hilo Orchid Society was diverting money that donors gave for scholarships and using it for other purposes. That’s untrue. It would be unethical, and our Board would not allow it.

However, as President Rick Kelley explained at the March meeting, the Board has extended the possible uses of money raised in the future by the Silent Auction at our annual orchid show, and perhaps that’s what caused the confusion. Here’s what’s going on.

In the past, these Silent Auction funds have been targeted exclusively for scholarships for students at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. In the past several years, the Silent Auction at our show has been spectacularly successful. Last year we collected over $7500.

We have been giving two scholarships per year, at $3000 each, which is large compared to what other civic organizations give, for a total of $6000 per year. Recipients have to be students at UHH, have financial need, and have at least average grades, but they don’t have to be studying orchids, just something slightly related like agriculture or natural science. But our Scholarship Committee has struggled to find two students per year to receive our scholarships. Sometimes only one applicant meets our modest criteria.

The result is that we have been collecting scholarship money faster than we have been giving it away, and our scholarship fund keeps growing. We now have over $19,000 in our scholarship fund. We will honor our commitment to the donors, who gave it for scholarships, so that $19,000 will be spent only on scholarships.

But we can’t just let the fund keep growing. So the Board voted to allow money raised in the future by the show’s silent auction to be used for other worthy purposes. The scholarship fund will still fund $6000 a year of scholarships. But if the fund exceeds $18,000 (three years’ worth of scholarships), any excess money raised can be used for two other purposes: orchid education beyond the scholarships, and orchid conservation.

We look forward to continuing to provide scholarships, and if our Silent Auction continues to be as successful as in the past, to being able to fund some other worthy projects as well.
Gala Preview Party is June 1

The 2017 benefit Preview Party kicks off HOS’s 65th Orchid Show and Sale at the Edith Kanaka’ole Stadium. Held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, the gala event features refreshments, live music, and orchid viewing and pre-sales.

Each party-goer receives an etched wine or beer glass, in order to enjoy the libations and take home after the event. A wide variety of fine wines, beer on tap from Kona Brewing Co., gourmet juices, and coffee from Hilo Coffee Mill are served. Pupu, dinner, and dessert buffets feature tasty treats by Island Naturals Market & Deli and AJ & Sons Catering. Plus, party-goers will have the first chance to purchase exciting new hybrids and exotic orchid species, as well as other unusual plants and orchid-related products.

Proceeds of the Preview Party benefit the Ku’ikahi Mediation Center. The non-profit community mediation center empowers people to come together—to talk and to listen, to explore options, and to find their own best solutions. To achieve this mission, Ku’ikahi offers mediation, facilitation, and training to strengthen the ability of diverse individuals and groups to resolve interpersonal conflicts and community issues.

Tickets are $70, of which $25 is tax deductible, and can be purchased at: Hilo Coffee Mill (17-995 Volcano Hwy.), Day-Lum Rentals (2 Kamehameha Ave.), The Most Irresistible Shop (256 Kamehameha Ave.), and Ku’ikahi Mediation Center (The Hilo Lagoon Centre, 101 Aupuni St, Suite PH 1014 B-2). Or contact Jenifer at 935-7844 ext 1 or jenifer@hawaiimediation.org.

Photo Contest Gallery

Here are a couple of photos recently submitted for our Photo Contest. You’ll find all the Photo Contest photos in our new gallery on our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org (in the Galleries menu). We’re not listing the photographers’ names with the photos so the contest judging will be impartial. To submit your photos for the contest, email them to Larry Kuekes at lkuekes@me.com. The contest runs through October.

And don’t forget our other contest for the person who brings the most orchids in to our Show Table. Winners of each contest will win two tickets to the Holiday Party/Auction.

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

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<td>Apr. 8</td>
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<td>HOS Meeting</td>
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<td>Apr. 12</td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Show Committee meeting</td>
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<td>Apr. 15</td>
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<td>Newcomers Tour (contact George Crosthwaite for location)</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
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<td>HOS Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>AOS Judging</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
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<td>Show Committee meeting</td>
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The following show events will be held at the Edith Kanaka’ole Stadium, Hilo

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Orchid Stories
Going to Pot, Part 5
The Joy of Potting

Note: it’s been a while since part 4. This is the last part in the series.

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; 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 will have all stuck to the pot. You may have to use the knife to cut around the rim of the pot, and in any case the adhering roots will all 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 (upper 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. Eventually you’ll get to the inside, where there will be very few roots and it is easy to remove the medium. When you’re done, the plant will look like the lower 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.

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, prepare a pot by putting 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 label. This helps you figure out when it’s time to repot again.

Done. You can now replace the plant on its shelf. Remember to keep it dry for a week or two. 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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