



# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

March  
2019

## Next Meeting

Date: Sat., March 9, 2019  
Time: **1:30-4:00**  
Place: Kamana Senior Center,  
127 Kamana St., Hilo  
Speaker: Geneva Sanger  
Topic: Hand-On Orchid Seedling  
Planting Class

Growing orchids from seed is not like growing other plants from seed. You can't just plant the seeds in dirt. In fact, raising orchid seedlings was extremely difficult until 1922, when a Cornell scientist discovered the process still used today. It involves growing the seedlings inside sterile flasks for a year or more. Only then can they be planted in pots.

This month, Geneva Sanger from Akatsuka Orchid Gardens will talk about growing orchid seedlings in flasks, and she will lead a hands-on session to show us how to "deflask" the seedlings (remove them from the flask) and plant them.

Geneva has called the Big Island home for over 30 years. Like most folks, she grew a few orchids at home. This hobby grew into a passion after she started work at Akatsuka Orchid Gardens in 2014. She now has hundreds of orchids mounted on trees plus a collection of over 750 in her orchid house. She says "no matter how large, orchid houses come in one size: too small."

Whatever the size of your collection, make room for one more. Join Geneva and plant your own baby orchid to take home!



## Last Chance to Pay Dues

If you don't renew your membership by the end of this month, we have to drop you from our membership. Please don't make us do that!

If you have already paid, thank you! Also, new members who joined at last year's orchid show or in September 2018 or later are considered paid through 2019 and don't have to pay.

For the rest of you, dues are still only \$20 for individual membership or \$25 for family membership. Please fill out the form on page 5 and mail it in with your payment (address is on the form), or you can pay at the meeting. Thanks!

## Orchid Odyssey

Show Chair Karl Mendonca announced that the theme of this year's Hilo Orchid Show is "Orchid Odyssey". The name, from Homer's epic story *The Odyssey*, suggests sea voyages, long-distance travel, adventures, and overcoming obstacles. We can't wait to see how our exhibitors use the theme for their show exhibits.

## Show Committee Meeting

The next Show Committee meeting will be held Wed. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Kamana Senior Center. If you're interested in helping with the show or have ideas on how to make it better, we hope to see you there.

## In Orchids Magazine

Did you know that our President-Elect, Tom Mirenda, is a star in the orchid world? Every issue of Orchids magazine, the publication of the American Orchid Society (AOS), features a column by Tom.

But the February issue included another Hilo orchid star. An article about orchid society speakers had a photo collage of ten "great speakers". One of them was our own Ben Oliveros. Congrats, Ben!

To join the AOS and get Orchids magazine, visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).

## Orchid Stories

### Survival of the Trickiest, Part 5 Orchid Mimics



*Stigmaphyllon lindenianum* (left), an oil-producing flower in the Malpighia family. *Trichocentrum ascendens* (center) and *Rossioglossum ampliatum* (right), are orchids in the Oncidium tribe that mimic the Malpighia flower. All photos by Papadopoulos et al. [1], by permission of Creative Commons license.

It has been estimated that one third of all orchids deceive their pollinators and provide no reward for pollination. A common trick that orchids use is to mimic other flowers that do provide a reward.

Malpighias are a group of trees, shrubs and vines in the New World tropics, noted for attracting bees by providing nutritious oils, rather than pollen or nectar. It was long thought that many *Oncidium* orchids, growing in the same regions, fool pollinators who are visiting nearby Malpighias by mimicking the Malpighia flowers in color and shape.

But this was mainly conjecture, based on the apparent similarity to human eyes. For example, the flowers pictured above are all yellow.

In 2013, a team of scientists did a more rigorous study measuring the colors of some Malpighia flowers and nearby *Oncidium*-tribe flowers, including the three pictured above. Human eyes detect red, green, and blue light (and various mixtures of the three). Bees' eyes can't see red, but they detect green, blue, and ultraviolet, so that's what the scientists measured.

Comparing the flowers in the colors that bees see, the scientists found that the *Oncidium* flowers and the

Malpighia flowers reflect almost identical amounts of green and ultraviolet, but no blue, a mixture called bee-purple. So not only do the flowers look the same color (yellow) to us, they look the same color (bee-purple) to the bees.

Other flowers growing in the vicinity of the Malpighias were found to have completely different colors in bee-vision, so bees could easily tell them apart. But bees visiting the nutritious Malpighia flowers could easily be fooled into visiting nearby *Oncidium* flowers with exactly the same color and similar shape.

And when they do, of course, the bees pollinate them in the process, without the orchids having to waste any energy producing food for the bees. Another successful orchid trick.

Larry Kuekes

Reference:

1. Convergent evolution of floral signals underlies the success of Neotropical orchids, *Proceedings of the Royal Society*. Papadopoulos et al., 2013. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242333945\\_Convergent\\_evolution\\_of\\_floral\\_signals\\_underlies\\_the\\_success\\_of\\_Neotropical\\_orchids](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242333945_Convergent_evolution_of_floral_signals_underlies_the_success_of_Neotropical_orchids)

## February Members Choice

Photos by Dorothy Imagine



Hobbyist 1<sup>st</sup> place: *Trichopilia suavis*, grown by Glen Barfield



Left: Hobbyist 2<sup>nd</sup> place (tie): *Rlc. Mrs. J. Leeman*, grown by Jeff Fendentz



Right: Hobbyist 2<sup>nd</sup> place (tie): *Dendrobium lindleyi*, grown by Dana Culleney

## February AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya Gravesiana* 'Shogun's Giant' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii  
Center: *Cattleya loddegesii* 'Izzy' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros  
Right: *Cattleya amethystoglossa* 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Cattleya Pole Star* 'Orchid Eros Flare' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros  
Right: *Cattleya lueddemanniana* 'Shogun's Classic' HCC/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii



Left: *Lycaste Fire Bird* 'Lehua Okika' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids  
Center: *Paph. Petula's Sensation* 'Slipper Zone Fifth Time' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids  
Right: *Paph. Ghostly Contrasts* 'Slipper Zone Super Stuff' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

# CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

*The following events are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo unless otherwise noted*

Mar. 9 1:30-4:00 HOS Meeting  
Mar. 9 4:00 pm AOS Judging  
Mar. 13 5:30 pm Show Committee meeting

Mar. 22 6:00 pm AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St, Hilo  
Apr. 13 1:30-4:00 HOS Meeting  
Apr. 13 4:00 pm AOS Judging  
Apr. 17 5:30 pm Show Committee meeting  
Apr. 26 6:00 pm AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St, Hilo

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## 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  
 Orchids at the Zoo  
 Serving as an officer

## Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Dana Culleney 430-6653

[hilo.okika@gmail.com](mailto:hilo.okika@gmail.com)

President-Elect Tom Mirenda

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371

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Treasurer – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

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Past President – Rick Kelley 756-8145

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Trustee 2018-2019 – Ken Armour 808-963-6233

Trustee 2018-2019 – Nathan Sherwood 808-365-5824

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Trustee 2019-2020 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2019-2020 – Dorothy Imagire

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