



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

November
2020

Online Meeting

Note: the normal meeting scheduled for Sat., November 14, 2020 has been replaced by an online Zoom meeting.

Date: Sat., November 14, 2020
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: On your computer or phone
Topic: Everything You Always
Wanted to Know About
~~Sex~~ Orchids
(but were afraid to ask)

This month's meeting is just for you. Whatever it is that you've been dying to ask about your orchids, this is your chance. What are these spots on my orchid's leaves? Where can I buy orchid bark? Why won't my orchid bloom? How can I grow orchids on trees? I lost the tag for my orchid – what is its name? (caution – we may or may not be able to answer that one). What can I do about those @#%* little fire ants? And anything else that you can think of.

Don't be afraid to ask. There are no stupid questions. Remember, nobody was born knowing this stuff. A big part of what an orchid society is for is for members to help each other.

To provide the answers, we have a group of expert growers, including Karen Kimmerle, Glen Barfield, Matthias Seelis, and Rick Kelley. If they don't know the answers, chances are nobody does.

You'll also have an opportunity to show off your orchids in bloom. For those of you who haven't joined our Zoom meetings before, we always have a "show and tell" session where members can show off their orchids, and everyone else can see them.



So join us, ask questions, learn from other people's questions and answers, and show off your orchids. See you on Zoom!

Orchid Isle Calendar

Our Orchid Isle Calendar for 2021 is now ready for pre-ordering. As always, the calendar contains twelve months of stunning orchid photos, all grown here on the Orchid Isle and photographed by HOS members.

This year, we're asking members to pre-order calendars. Because there was no orchid show, we're only going to get enough calendars printed for our members. We'll send you a separate email with all the details. You won't have to pay until later. The calendars will be ready to pick up in early December, in time to send them to friends and relatives. They make nice holiday gifts!



Honolulu Orchid Society Zoom Meeting on Nov. 11

The Honolulu Orchid Society is hosting a meeting via Zoom on Nov. 11 at 7:00 pm. Harry Akagi and Roy Tokunaga will present "A Visit to H&R Nurseries". Harry and Roy are the H and R in H&R, which has been a famous orchid nursery on Oahu for 40 years.

To attend via Zoom, you have to pre-register by Nov. 10. Go to this address to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclc-6przsoEtRYUvdEyhsBkz3qjvBduSV1>

Election of Officers and Trustees

The election of officers and trustees for 2021 will take place at the November meeting. Board members serve two-year terms, with half the members up for election each year. For 2021, our Nominating Committee has produced the following slate of officers and trustees:

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

Lise Dowd has served on the Board as Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Trained as a marine biologist, she is a retired professor of biology. Lise grew orchids in Miami for 25 years before moving to Hawaii.



Corresponding Secretary

Dorothy Imagire has served on the Board as Trustee and Recording Secretary and has supervised the Silent Auction and Keiki Corner at the orchid show. Dorothy is a photographer and mixed-media artist.



Trustee

Ellen Train moved to the Big Island in 2016 with her partner, Bill Merrill. For the previous 15 years, Ellen grew mostly Phalaenopsis orchids in a garden window in California. Now she grows intermediate varieties in her Mountain View home. Ellen is our Membership Chairperson.



Trustee

Matthias Seelis grew up in Germany and moved to the U.S. in 1993. He owns the Shogun Hawaii orchid nursery, where he is known for breeding and growing spectacular Cattleyas, for which he has won many AOS awards.



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

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|---------|---------|--|
| Nov. 11 | 7:00 pm | Honolulu Orchid Society Zoom meeting (requires pre-registration) |
| Nov. 14 | 2:00 pm | Online HOS Meeting via Zoom |

President's Message

Dear Hilo Orchid Society Ohana

As we approach an astonishing full year, unable to meet in person, I look upon this monthly newsletter column as perhaps the biggest tool we have to communicate with you all. I never imagined that we would be unable to gather, talk story, and share our love of all things ORCHID for this long. It seems like it might be many more months before things ever get back to a semblance of normal. Through it all, my goal has been to keep us engaged and to be of service to our members. Many of you participated in the pop up sales we've been having with our incredible orchid nursery community, as well as group orders on plants from our recent speakers, and orchid bark which has been in short supply on the island.



If we can't be physically together, we hope that we can show our Aloha for each other in alternative ways. As we are spending so much time at home with our plants, many of you have expressed the need for the guidance we usually get from friends at Hilo Orchid society meetings. So we decided that it was time to have an open forum with some of our wonderful local experts here on the Orchid Island. So, this meeting is your chance! If you have had burning questions about your orchids, this is your big chance to get answers! I hope all of you will take some time to ponder this and come up with questions that will likely solve mysteries for all of us! If you have some really tough ones, you can send them to us in advance so the experts might have some time to research the answers. I for one, am genuinely looking forward to learning from this fantastic panel of accomplished orchidists!

Tom

Photo Contest

116 photos were submitted for this year's HOS Photo Contest. Mahalo to everyone who submitted photos! A panel of judges has narrowed those down to 13 finalists, a baker's dozen. Next, you, our members, get to select the winner.

Members who attend our Zoom meeting on Nov. 14, will get a sneak preview of the 13 gorgeous

finalist photos. Afterwards, all members will get an email with a link to the finalist photos and instructions on how to vote for your favorite.

AOS T-Shirt Offer



The American Orchid Society is offering a sale price on their "Orchids of the Americas" T-shirt. You don't have to be an AOS member to order, but the order must be made through the Hilo Orchid Society. The T-shirt(s) will be shipped directly to you.

The sale price is **\$21** each (regularly \$25) for sizes S, M, L, XL and **\$24** each (regularly \$28) for sizes 2XL and 3XL. Prices include shipping.

To order, send us a note with the following information: your name, mailing address to ship the T-shirt(s) to, phone number, email address, and how many T-shirts of each size (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL) and style (adult or ladies), along with your check for the total amount, **payable to Hilo Orchid Society** (not payable to AOS). Send the info and check to:

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

We must receive your order and check by **Nov. 15** in order to meet the AOS deadline for the sale order, so don't delay!

Missouri Botanical Garden Job Opportunity

The Missouri Botanical Garden's orchid collection is known as one of the finest in the country. They recently posted a job opening for Horticulturalist II – Indoor Nursery (Orchid Collection). If you're interested, check out the job posting here:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/583514200?fbclid=IwAR0t6CD7P4CD81yLFZbaVCLqQzHINoaDQCzE0rDLvSMrKFYfku5nqvzmRiQ>

Orchid Stories

Brassavola Hits the Spot



Left: *Brassavola nodosa*

Right: Closeup of the throat of the lip of *Brassavola nodosa*. Photos by Larry Kuekes.



Left: *Cattleya (Laelia) milleri* 'Fissure 8' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros. Photo by Glen Barfield.

Right: *Bc. Richard Mueller (B. nodosa x C. milleri)*

*Everyone is ticklish. You just
gotta find the right spots.*
– Derek Jeter

Look at the photos of *Brassavola nodosa* (upper left) and *Cattleya* (formerly *Laelia*) *milleri* (lower left). What would you expect to get if you crossed them? Probably something star-shaped like *B. nodosa*, but red or pink colored. What do you actually get? Surprise! *Bc. Richard Mueller* (lower right) is yellow, and it has spots on the lip.

Where did the spots come from? If you look at the closeup photo of *B. nodosa* (upper right), there are some tiny purple spots deep inside the throat of the lip. They're on the inside surface, so you can barely

see them from the outside.

These spots are incredibly dominant in hybridizing. Almost all *B. nodosa* hybrids have spots (or sometimes stripes), and these can carry through generation after generation. If you cross *Bc. Richard Mueller* with *Cattleya Tangerine Jewel*, an orange *Cattleya* hybrid with no spots, you get *Bc. Hoku Gem* (top left on the next page). The spots have multiplied! Now they cover every surface of the flower. Or cross *Richard Mueller* with *Laelia rubescens*, a pink/lavender flower with a dark throat (but no spots). Result: *Blc. Petite Stars* (top right on the next page). The color has come from from *L. rubescens*, but the spots are from the *B. nodosa* grandparent.

I first found out about *Brassavola nodosa* hybrids



Left: *Bc.* Hoku Gem 'Precious' (*C.* Tangerine Jewel x *Bc.* Richard Mueller). Photo from Orchids by Hausermann on Flickr.com.
 Right: *Bc.* Petite Stars (*Bc.* Richard Mueller x *Laelia rubescens*). Photo from orchidsforum.com.



Left: *Bc.* Keowee 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS. Grown and photographed by Rick Kelley.
 Right: *Bc.* Green Bird 'Green With Envy' AM/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids. Photo by Glen Barfield.

when I was a beginning grower in the Connecticut Orchid Society. I loved them because of their spots. So I was surprised that the late Ben Berliner, who was an AOS judge in Connecticut who seemed to know everything about orchids, said that he didn't like them. AOS judging standards say that Cattleya-alliance hybrid flowers should be round-shaped, ideally with very wide, overlapping petals and sepals. Ben loved those full, round Cattleya hybrids.

But *B. nodosa* hybrids inherit its narrow petals and sepals, making the flowers star-shaped, not round. Also, *B. nodosa* flowers are small, which tends to reduce the size of the flowers in its hybrids, and in AOS awards, the bigger, the better.

Luckily, some AOS judges like *B. nodosa* hybrids. Who doesn't love *Bc.* Keowee 'Mendenhall' AM/AOS (*B. nodosa* x *Bc.* Lorraine Shirai), (bottom left photo) with its outrageous spotted and striped lip?

And our local AOS judging center in Hilo awarded an AM/AOS to *Bc.* Green Bird 'Green With Envy' (bottom right photo), a cross of *Bc.* Binosa x *B.* Little Stars made by Karen Kimmerle. It has *B. nodosa* as a grandparent on both sides. Spots? Of course!

I love orchids with spots. You want to tickle my fancy? Like Derek Jeter said, you just gotta find the right spots.

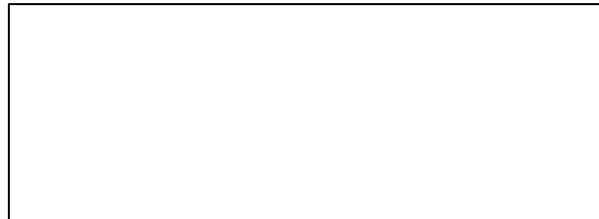
Larry Kuekes

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hiloorchidsociety.org