



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

May
2024

Next Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2024
Time: 1:30 Informal "talk story"
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Russell Galanti
Topic: Orchid Diseases

Orchids can be attacked by bacteria, fungi and viruses. Do you know how to tell if your orchids are infected, and what to do about it? This month, Russell Galanti will tell us all about orchid diseases.

Russell is an Extension Agent for floriculture, nursery and landscaping at the University of Hawaii's Komohana Research and Extension Center here in Hilo. He has 22 years experience in the green industry, mostly focused in production and public horticulture.



His talk will review a two-year study cataloguing orchid diseases that were submitted to the Statewide Orchid Disease Survey conducted by the ornamental extension team at UH Manoa. He will showcase the diseases encountered, with pictures of symptoms and signs of disease, and he will discuss Integrated Pest Management strategies for each disease.

Plants have no immune system to fight off diseases. If they're infected, they need your help. To find out how to help, and to recognize when you need to, don't miss this meeting!



Mini Displays

You can create an exhibit for the Hilo Orchid Show in July. Consider making a mini display. All it takes is a few orchids and some imagination. Above are some of the mini displays at last year's show.

The display can be no more than 16 inches wide and 16 inches deep, but the height is unlimited. There are three categories: Natural, Cut Flower or Artificial, and Youth 17 and Under. Awards are given out for each category. For more information or to apply to create an exhibit at this year's show, go to our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org and look at the Mini Displays page (under the Orchid Show menu).

Art Show "All About Orchids"

The Firehouse Gallery in Waimea has an exhibit "All About Orchids" running from May 2 through May 26. Three of our members have artwork in the show: *Heavenly Jewels* by Denise Queen, *Cattleyas Anue*, *Bulbophyllum Purple* and *Orchide Bulbophyllum Aloha* by Joalene Young, and *Tropical Melody* and *Mother's Joy* by Kathryn Duval.

Firehouse Gallery is open Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 to 3:00 and whenever the flags are flying. They will also have live orchids to complement the paintings in the gallery.

Beginners Corner

Let There Be Light

Ever noticed how pictures in home-decorating magazines always show lots of nice plants among the furnishings, invariably placed in dark corners where the sun never penetrates? The plants have been brought in at the last minute. After the decorators leave, the plants will of course languish and die after a few months of total shade. They never show any pictures of that.

Plants need light to grow and bloom. If your orchids are growing but not blooming, the number one suspect is insufficient light. Most people think “maybe they’ll bloom if I fertilize more.” No. Orchids need very little fertilizer. What they need to bloom is more light.

One sign of too little light is dark green leaves. Most orchids should have leaves ranging from olive green to grass-green. Yellow-green indicates too much light.

In order to flower, orchids must have made strong growths during the previous year and stored up lots of food, which they need light to manufacture via photosynthesis. What counts is the total amount of light the plants get. In nature, many orchids get partial sun all day long, but a few hours a day of full sun is just as good as long as it's not hot enough to cause leaf burn.



Dendrobium nobile growing on a tree at Hilo’s Pana’ewa Zoo

Different kinds of orchids need different amounts of light. Most orchids that grow on trees in nature, like Cattleyas, Oncidiums, and Dendrobiums, get dappled light, filtered by the tree leaves above. They are not growing in full sun, but they are not growing in total shade. In your yard, you could grow them under a tree where they would get

dappled light, or you could grow them in an east-facing window or lanai where they would get a few hours of full sun in the morning but shade for the rest of the day. In a greenhouse or shade house, they grow well under 60% shade cloth, i.e. the plants are getting about 40% of the light of full sun.

Paphiopedilums grow on the forest floor in nature, where they get more shade than an orchid growing high up in a tree. So, Paphs do well with less light than Cattleyas. Phalaenopsis also prefer a bit less light, even though they grow in trees.

Some orchids actually grow in full sun in nature. *Brassavola nodosa* grows on cacti in full sun on the island of Aruba. That should tell you something about how much light it wants. Spathoglottis, some reed-stem Epidendrums, and terete Vandas (the ones with very narrow leaves) also can grow in full sun.



Bulbophyllum lobbii growing at Hilo’s Pana’ewa Zoo

But many orchids are more adaptable than you might think. The *Bulbophyllum lobbii* in the photo above is mounted on a tree in the middle of a zoo walkway where it gets almost full sun. Bulbophyllums aren’t supposed to like full sun, but this is a happy plant, and it blooms profusely. One factor may be that even a sunny location in Hilo doesn’t get full sun all day every day, because many days here are rainy or cloudy. So, experiment with the location of your plants. If the leaves are yellowish, give them less light. Otherwise, if they’re not blooming, then “let there be light.”

By the way, when your orchids do flower, it's perfectly OK to move the plants indoors to enjoy them for a few weeks. Your living room, decorated with orchids, might put Better Homes and Gardens to shame. Just move the plants back into the light afterwards.

Larry Kuekes

April Show and Tell Table

Photos by Dana Culleney



Angulocaste Olympus 'Sun Dawn' AM/AOS



Cattleya intermedia



Paph. Prince Edward of York



Bulbophyllum vaginatum



Phalaenopsis stuartiana var. nobilis



Dendrobium (tangerinum x discolor)

April AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: (*Cattleanthe* Golden Wax x *Cattleya* Jalapa) 'Orchid Eros' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Right: *Cattleya granulosa* 'Isabel Rosalia' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Cattleya schilleriana* 'Apollo' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Right: *Cattleya schilleriana* 'Calliope' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

April AOS Awards (continued)

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya schilleriana* 'Daphne' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Right: *Cattleya* Nora's Melody 'Sweet Sound' AM/AOS, grown by GLA Orchids



Left: *Cattleya schilleriana* 'Hula Skirt' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

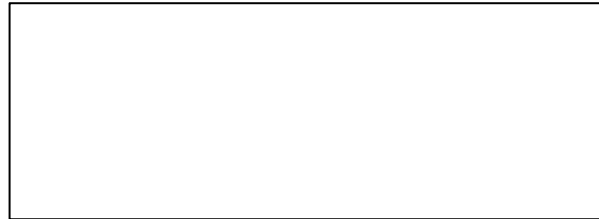
Right: *Cattleya* Sydney J 'Outrageous' AM/AOS, grown by GLA Orchids

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www.hiloorchidsociety.org