



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

June
2024

Next Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024
Time: **1:30** Informal "talk story"
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Phillip Hamilton
Topic: Novelty Phalaenopsis

You all know the classic Phalaenopsis with arching stems of large white or pink flowers. Beautiful, but there's much more in the genus Phalaenopsis. Novelty Phalaenopsis are hybrids of other Phalaenopsis species. The flowers are not as large as the big white Phalaenopsis, but they have an amazing variety of colors and color patterns.

This month, Phillip Hamilton from Bredren Orchids in Apopka, Florida will tell us all about novelty Phalaenopsis. Phillip was born and raised in Jamaica where he inherited his dad's passion for orchids and worked in his parent's orchid nursery, Hamlyn Orchids. His dad's true passion is for the native Jamaican Broughtonia orchids and their hybrids, but Phillip loves Phalaenopsis, which he has been growing and hybridizing since he was 8 years old.



In 2013 Phillip formed his own orchid business, Bredren Orchids, specializing in unique Phalaenopsis and Broughtonia species and hybrids. He will be bringing a variety of plants for sale at the meeting, including novelty Phalaenopsis and a variety of Cattleya and Brassavola species and hybrids.

If you thought you knew what Phalaenopsis look like, come to this meeting and be surprised!



Scholarship Winners

HOS has awarded our Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship to two University of Hawaii students for the 2024-2025 academic year. The scholarship pays \$2000 per semester to UH students majoring in agriculture or the natural sciences.

Keleni Faanunu (left) is majoring in Biology at UH Hilo, and Sean Michael Monte (right) is majoring in Global Environmental Science at UH Manoa. Both have been involved with projects to study and promote orchid conservation in Hawaii.

The scholarship honors Yasuji Takasaki, a pioneer in orchid culture on Hawaii Island. Takasaki strongly believed in the power of a college education to help young people achieve their dreams.

June 29 is Tiger Day at the Zoo

The Hilo Zoo is holding a Tiger Day celebration on June 29. Hilo Orchid Society will have an outreach booth at the event to sign up new members and sell Hilo Orchid Show tickets, T-shirts, and tea towels.

Our booth will be open from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. If you could help staff the booth for a couple of hours, contact Ellen Train at pecetrain@gmail.com. If not, please come to the zoo anyway and see the tigers! Admission to the zoo is free.

Going to Pot, Part 1 Fear of Potting



“If you move I strike, and if you do not move I strike,” said Nagaina the cobra in Rudyard Kipling’s *Rikki Tikki Tavi*. After my first few attempts at repotting orchids, followed by the plants’ swift demise, I felt a similar dilemma. “If you repot us, we will die, and if you do not repot us, we will die,” my plants silently reproached me. Since then I have learned how to repot without fear. Let me offer a few pointers to those who are still afraid to repot.

Potting-On. This refers to repotting into a larger size pot. If the old pot is small and the plant has outgrown it, just remove the old pot, set into the new, larger pot and fill around it with new medium. This dandy technique leaves the roots completely undisturbed and will not shock the plant. But be aware that you are just postponing the inevitable. Sooner or later you will have to replace the old, broken-down medium.

When to Repot. You can’t delay indefinitely. Eventually either the plant climbs over the pot edge or the mix breaks down into compost and kills the roots. For cattleyas (and many other genera), the ideal time is when tiny new roots are just starting to grow from the leading shoot or rhizome. This is

because in your gentle way you will probably cut, break, or mangle most of the old roots during repotting, and the rest will promptly rot. But the new roots will still grow and re-establish the plant.

You can repot even if the plant isn’t starting new roots. For example, if new roots are starting when the plant is in bud or bloom, you may choose to enjoy the flowers and repot later. Just be aware that it may take a while before the plant can really re-establish itself.

Paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis don’t have a special time of year for repotting. Phalaenopsis need repotting when most of the roots are above the level of the mix, growing into thin air.

Watering. Don’t water for a couple of weeks after repotting. I know your gardener’s instinct is to flood a transplanted plant, but don’t. This gives all those broken roots a chance to heal so they won’t rot. Almost all orchids have succulent pseudobulbs or leaves and can easily survive a couple of dry weeks.

Next Month: the pros and cons of different potting mixes.

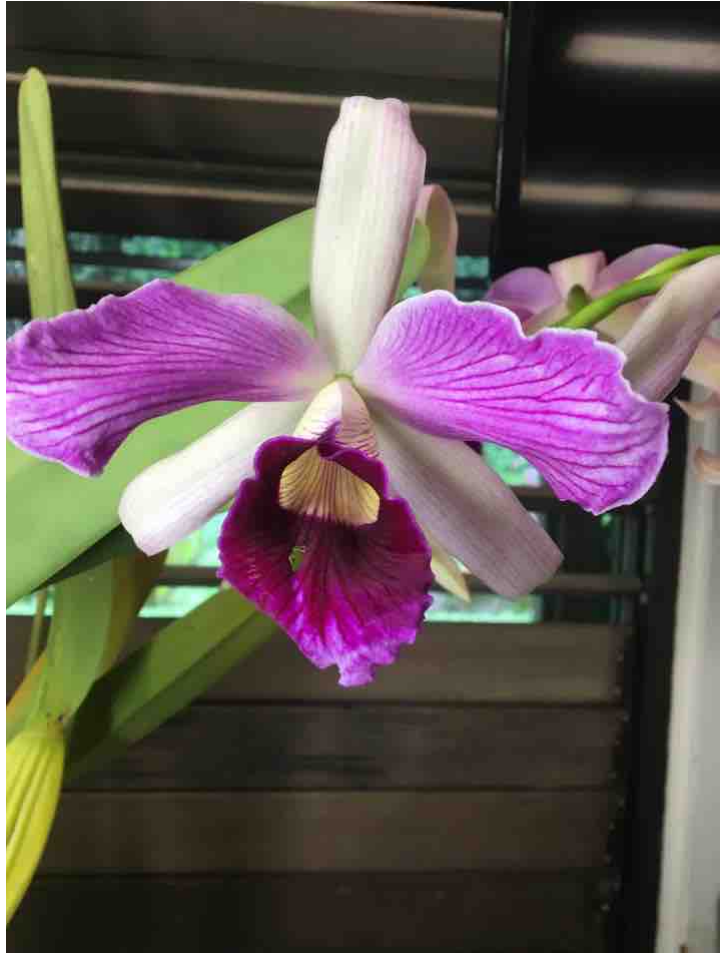
Larry Kuekes

May Show and Tell Table

Photos by Larry Kuekes



Barkeria spectabilis, grown by Glen Barfield



Laelia purpurata var. *atropurpurea*, grown by Carol Hanby



Laelia cinnabarina



Zygonisia Cynosure, grown by Glen Barfield



Cattleya aclandiae, grown by Josh

May AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya warscewiczii* h.f. *alba* 'Ten Flowers' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

Right: *Paphiopedilum* Temptation in the Hay 'Slipper Zone at Last' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: *Cattleya* Harmill 'For Mike' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Right: *Cattleya* Luminosa 'Color Magic' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Paphiopedilum* Petula Captivatingly 'Slipper Zone Almost Contrastingly' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
 Right: *Paphiopedilum argus* 'Slipper Zone Spots Rising' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: *Cattleya* Mareeba Tiger h.f. *coerulea* 'Chris Tomas King' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
 Right: *Oncidium* Pacific Passage 'Handsome' AM/AOS, grown by Okika



Left: *Cattleya warszewiczii* 'Year of the Dragon' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
 Right: *Stelis argentata* 'Jacked Up' CCM/AOS, grown by Jungle Mist Orchids

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