



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

March
2025

Next Meeting

Date: Saturday, March 8, 2024
Time: 1:30 Informal "talk story"
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Caleb Houck
Topic: Miltoniopsis

Miltoniopsis has been nicknamed the "pansy orchid", but Miltoniopsis have gorgeous large blooms that outshine any pansy (see photo at right). Miltoniopsis have the reputation of requiring cool temperatures to bloom, and they do well in intermediate and cool zones, but they have been known to bloom even in warm Hilo.

This month, Caleb Houck will tell us all about Miltoniopsis – where it grows in nature, how to grow it as a hobbyist, new trends in breeding, and a little bit about what AOS judges look for in this genus.



Caleb is the owner of Jungle Mist Orchids in the town of Volcano, where he grows and hybridizes complex Paphs, Epidendrums, Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, and various orchid species. Caleb is the co-host of The Orchid Pod podcast, and he is an accredited AOS judge. And when he's not growing orchids, Caleb is an archaeologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

If you'd like to find out more about these stunning orchids that we seldom see, don't miss this meeting!

Please Pay Dues – Last Chance!

Your membership dues for 2025 are due by March 31. If you have already paid, thank you.

New members who joined in September 2024 or later are considered paid through 2025 and do not have to pay. Also, if you joined at our Orchid Show at Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium last July, your membership runs through the end of 2025 and you don't have to pay.

For the rest of you, if we don't receive your dues by March 31, we have to drop you from our membership list. Please don't make us do that!

Dues are still only \$20 for individual membership or \$25 for family membership. In return, you get a year of interesting speakers, newsletters, and activities, plus the chance to get together with folks who share your interest in these beautiful and fascinating plants. You can pay at the meeting, or fill out the form on page 5 and mail it in with your payment (address is on the form). Mahalo!



Orchid Stories

What is an Orchid? Part 2

Last month, we said if the Cowardly Lion were talking about orchids, he might have asked:

What puts the ono in monocot?

What have orchids got that I ain't got?

Ever since Linnaeus, botanists have defined flowering plant species on the basis of the structure of the parts within the flower. The leaves, stems, and roots basically don't matter. And when it comes to flower structure, there's one very basic thing that sets orchids apart.

Flowers have male and female parts. The male parts are the stamens and anthers, which contain pollen. The female part is the pistil. So in a lily, for example, you see a central pistil surrounded by anthers.

Orchids are different. In an orchid, and only in an orchid, the male and female flower parts are fused into a single cylindrical structure called the column. It's basically a pistil with anthers on top. Orchids in

the Cypripedium tribe (which includes Paphiopedilums) have two anthers; other orchids have one. If you look at any of your orchids, you can see the column in the center of the flower (see photo). It's usually a short, stubby thing, not at all like the long, thin pistil and stamens of a lily.

But from the orchid's point of view, the column is the most important part of the flower. The whole rest of the flower is only there to attract pollinators and get them to touch the column to pollinate the orchid.

So our answer to the Cowardly Lion's question is not "courage" but "column". Technically, an orchid is a monocot with a column (milkweeds also have a kind of column, but milkweeds are dicots).

Next month, we'll talk about some of the non-technical but more fascinating differences between orchids and other plants.

Larry Kuekes



Left: *The separate pistil (at center) and anthers of a lily.*

Right: *Phalaenopsis Maki Watanabe. The little stubby thing (circled) is the column.*

Orchids on the February Show Table

Photos by Larry Kuekes



Left: *Rlc.* Hawaiian Effect, grown by Karen Kimmerle, a cross made by Pauline Brault
Right: *Dendrobium* Tiny Bubbles, grown by Karen Kimmerle



Left: *Epidendrum* Sky Cloud 'Lavender Solid', grown by Lise Dowd and Steve Forman
Center: *Ionocidium* Popcorn, grown by Steve Meyer
Right: *Dendrobium* Tianmu Plain Botan, grown by Lise Dowd and Steve Forman

February AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya lueddemanniana* 'Melpomene' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Right: *Cattleya lueddemanniana* h.f. *flammea* 'Hallelujah' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii



Left: *Cattleya lueddemanniana* h.f. *coerulea-flamea* 'Blue Brazilian Flame' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii
Right: *Paph.* Pleasingly Wood 'Slipper Zone Spot Potential' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: *Paph. fairrie anum* 'Slipper Zone Harry Missed It' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Paph.* Hawaiian Spectacular 'Slipper Zone Gloriously Red' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

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
- Orchid Isle Project (mounting orchids on trees in public spaces)
- Orchids at the Zoo
- Serving as an officer

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Ellen Train pecetrain@gmail.com
Vice President – Tom Miranda biophilialk@gmail.com
President-Elect – Kathy Gollaher
Treasurer – Rick Kelley
Recording Secretary – Larry Kuekes
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Past President – Karl Mendonca
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Hilo Orchid Society
P.O Box 4294
Hilo, HI 96720



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www.hiloorchidsociety.org