

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

May 2014

Date: Sat., May 10, 2014
Time: 1:30 Informal "talk story"
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo

We're in the meeting room to the right.

Speaker: Larry Kuekes
Topic: Long-Lasting Orchids

Some orchids only bloom for a single day. Other blooms can last for months. This month, Larry Kuekes will show us some orchids that are really long-lasting. One has flowers that lasted for 9 months! Others keep making new flowers so they're almost always in bloom. Larry will go beyond the common types like Phalaenopsis to explore some more unusual species, like some of the New Guinea Dendrobiums that not only last forever but that love Hilo's warm, rainy climate.



Larry has been a hobbyist orchid grower since 1984. He was President of the Connecticut Orchid Society, where he grew cool- and intermediate-growing orchids. In 2010 he retired and moved to Hilo. He has a small but diverse collection of mostly warm-growing orchids in a shade house near sea level. Although he grows some hybrids, he's a self-described "species nut". Larry is currently our President and newsletter editor.

Want to find out more about orchids that you can grow that keep blooming on and on? Don't miss this meeting!

Spring Nursery Tour

We're holding another of our ever-popular nursery tours on Sunday, June 15 (Fathers Day). We'll be visiting four nurseries (and we're working on a possible fifth) in the Hamakua and Pahoia areas. This is a great chance to see (and buy from) these nurseries, some of which are not normally open to the public.

The cost is \$30 per person, which includes transportation and a tip for the driver. We'll provide water, but plan on bringing your own lunch and wear comfortable shoes. We'll leave Hilo at 8:00 a.m., and it will be a full day.

These tours have been very popular in the past. Seating is limited (23 seats), so you must reserve in advance. If you're interested, you can sign up at the next meeting.



Casting Call

We are fortunate to have again secured famous Hawaiian designer Nita Pilago, owner of Wahine Toa Designs, for our fashion show event at our orchids show in August. We're looking for men and women to model some of Nita's stylish creations. Don't worry, you don't have to be a skinny model – Nita's designs are made for all body types. It's fun for everyone.

If you're interested in participating in this event, call Rayna Armour at 963-6233 or email her at rayna@theorchidworks.com.



Paph. Moon Stone 'Lehua's Filling' AM/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids



Left: Paph. Johanna Burkhardt 'Shogun's Pride' AM/AOS, exhibited by Matthias Seelis

Center: Paph. Adding Booth 'Bronze' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm

Right: Paph. Monsoon Temptation 'Hilo Ballerina', exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm

April Members' Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Left: Hobbyist 1st place – Blc. Hawaiian effect ‘Karen Kimmerle’ HCC/AOS, grown by Pauline Brault
Right: Hobbyist 2nd place – Dendrobium Green Lantern, grown by Jeff Fendentz



Left: Hobbyist 3rd place – Epidendrum ciliare, grown by Glory Kirkland
Right: Commercial 1st place – Paphiopedilum lowii, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: Commercial 2nd place – Paphiopedilum Kolosand, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: Commercial 3rd place – Laeliocatanthe Newberry Lava Burst, grown by Gines Orchids

Blast From the Past

Your Editor has gotten access to some old Bulletins of the Hawaii Orchid Society (which became the Hilo Orchid Society) dating from 1949 to 1955. This excerpt is from the first Bulletin, dated July 1949:

Origin of the Present Hawaii Orchid Society By Mack Odo and Takumi Kono

The Hawaii Orchid Club, as it was first known, had its start from orchid discussions held amongst early orchid fanciers back in 1935-36-37. Orchid discussions were held on various thoroughfares and especially at the corner of Kamehameha Avenue and Shipman Street. This, then, points to Mr. Herbert Shipman and Mack Odo, whose offices were at the corner of the above-mentioned streets, as being directly connected with stimulating the way to an organized Orchid Club. With the promotional impetus put in by Takumi Kono, all the known orchid fanciers in Hilo were asked to meet to discuss the possibility of establishing a club for orchid fanciers, patterned after the other orchid groups known to have existed throughout the world.

The first meeting was held in the Hilo High School agriculture room on Sept. 26, 1938. There were nine orchid fanciers present at this first meeting. An election of officers was held and Alex Anderson of Papaikou was unanimously elected President. A committee to make further study of an orchid organization and to draw up a constitution and by-laws was appointed by the President...

News of the formation of the Orchid Club spread rapidly and in a short time the membership grew into a sizeable group. From a membership of nine persons the Hawaii Orchid Club (Hawaii Orchid Society-1949) has grown to its present membership roll of 180 orchid growers and fanciers. Of special interest to the members present at all meetings have been the various demonstrations given by successful orchid growers. In each of the demonstrations, it has been found that new ideas and schemes in orchid growing have come to light, thereby, creating much of interest and learning to all present.

The Hawaii Orchid Society is now [1949] in its eleventh year of existence. It has held annual orchid shows in July and additional interim shows at business houses.

Orchid Stories

What's In a Name, Part 3 A Blc. By Any Other Name Would Smell As Sweet

Last time we looked at DNA analysis and how it has caused taxonomists to make wholesale changes to the names of some orchids. In particular, the Brazilian Laelias and all Sophronitis species are now Cattleyas, and a few Cattleyas are now Guarianthes. There's one other change that I ought to mention. Prior to the new DNA methods, some Brassavola species had been split off into a separate genus *Rhyncholaelia* (and the DNA analysis has confirmed that this was a good call), but for hybrid naming purposes, they were still considered to be Brassavolas. Not any more.

All these name changes are going to play havoc with hybrid names, as well as the names of species.

Let's look at an example. One of my orchids is *Blc.* Lois McNeil 'Ace'. I looked up the ancestry of this hybrid (a laborious process) and found that the species in its ancestry were *Brassavola digbyana*, *Laelia tenebrosa*, *Cattleya bowringiana*, and *Cattleya labiata*. Since it consisted of Brassavola x Laelia x Cattleya, its hybrid genus was *Brassolaeliocattleya*, or *Blc.*

Now consider the new name changes. *Brassavola digbyana* isn't a Brassavola any more; it's a *Rhyncholaelia*. *Laelia tenebrosa* isn't a Laelia any more; it's a *Cattleya*. *Cattleya bowringiana* isn't a *Cattleya* any more; it's a *Guarianthe*. Finally, *Cattleya labiata* is still a *Cattleya*. So this orchid is now considered to be a cross of *Rhyncholaelia* x *Cattleya* x *Guarianthe*, which is the hybrid genus *Rhyncattleanthe*. Whew!

A *Blc.* could now be any one of 15 different hybrid genera, depending on which combination of Brassavola, *Rhyncholaelia*, *Laelia*, *Cattleya* and *Guarianthe* were in its ancestry. Some more examples:

- *Blc.* Toshie Aoki is now a *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* (*Rlc.*) = *Rhyncholaelia* x *Cattleya*.
- *Blc.* Galadriel is now a *Cahuzacara* (*Chz.*) = Brassavola x *Cattleya* x *Guarianthe* x *Rhyncholaelia*.
- *Blc.* Heirloom is still a *Blc.*

Similar confusion reigns for any other hybrid genus containing *Sophronitis*, Brassavola, *Laelia* or *Cattleya*, such as *Slc.* and *Potinara*.

How can you tell what the official new genus names are for your orchids? You could look up all



This used to be *Blc.* Lois McNeil 'Ace'. Now it's *Rhyncattleanthe* Lois McNeil 'Ace'. Who knew?

the species in your orchids' ancestry, but that's not easy. Luckily, there's a short cut. Go to the International Orchid Register web site of the Royal Horticultural Society at <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>. Click on the tab for "Grex Name Search". Don't fill in Genus; leave it blank. Fill in the orchid's name in the space for Grex, but don't include any clonal name. Take my example, *Blc.* Lois McNeil 'Ace'. I filled in grex name Lois McNeil, but left out the clonal name 'Ace'. Then I clicked the Search button. The result told me the new genus name, *Rhyncattleanthe*.

By now, you're thinking, "You've got to be kidding. Who's going to do that?" Well, I suspect nobody's going to do that. I predict that most people will just continue to use the old names for years to come. After all, what's in a name? As Juliet said to Romeo, "A *Brassolaeliocattleya* by any other name would smell as sweet." (Or something like that; it's been a while since I read Shakespeare.)

Next time, we'll talk about the equally drastic name changes in *Oncidium*s.

Larry Kuekes

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

May 4	8:00 a.m. Plant Sale at Pana'ewa Zoo
May 10	1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting
	4:00 AOS Judging
May 10	9:00-6:00, May 11 8:00-5:00
	Kona Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale, Old Kona Airport
June 14	1:30 Hilo Orchid Society meeting
	4:00 AOS Judging
June 15	8:00 a.m. HOS Spring Nursery Tour

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

lkuekes@me.com

President Elect – Rick Kelley 756-8145

rickkelley@att.net

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371

oliveros@orchideros.com

Treasurer – Bill Rawson 934-0552

Recording Secretary – Lisa Steinmeyer 769-4245

lisa@happyinhilo.com

Corresponding Secretary – Aimee Takamoto

Past President – Julie Goettsch 333-5989

juliegoettsch@gmail.com

Trustee 2013-2014 – Gerrit Takasaki 981-5500

lotaka81@aol.com

Trustee 2013-2014 – John Juszczak

jjuszczak@aol.com

Trustee 2014-2015 – Vivian Ueoka

Trustee 2014-2015 – Shelby Smith 408-966-5924

skelatenphish@yahoo.com

Hilo Orchid Society

P.O Box 4294

Hilo, HI 96720



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Visit us on the web at

hiloorchidsociety.org