

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

September 2015

Note change in meeting date and place

Next Meeting

Date: Sun., Sept. 13, 2015

Note this is one day later than usual

Time: 1:30-4:00

Place: Wailoa River Park
Piilani St., Hilo

Program: Potluck Picnic and Auction

September won't be a regular meeting. Instead, we're having a picnic, and you're all invited! We have reserved the large pavilion at the Wailoa River Park in Hilo for Sunday, September 13 (note this is a day after the usual meeting date). There's no official

program – just eating and having fun in the park! Feel free to bring your kids, family, and friends.

Everyone is asked to bring a favorite pupu or potluck dish to share. We'll have some soda and water to drink, but you are also welcome to bring wine or beer.

Because it's a picnic, we're not having a regular meeting. There won't be any show table or sales table, so please don't bring any orchids.

But there will be orchids there! We're having a silent auction of some beautiful orchids donated by our generous show vendors.

Directions: From Manono St. turn onto Piilani St. At the end of Piilani, turn right and go past the first parking lot to the second parking lot. We are in the large pavilion.



Two Schools Win A Year of Orchids

This year we distributed special free student/parent tickets to our orchid show at Hilo and Puna schools. The two schools with the highest percentage of show attendance won a free orchid a month for the school year. The winning school was Volcano School of Arts and Sciences. Dorothea Fendetz, who organized this outreach initiative, presented the first basket of cool-growing blooming orchids, provided by Orchid Eros, to Principal Ardith Renetria (left). Coming in a close second was Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences in Pahoa. Dorothea presented Principal Steve Hiramaki with a Grammatophyllum provided by Island Sun Orchids (right). Hiramaki plans to have his students mount this and future orchids on trees on the HAAS campus.

August AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya* Hot Spot 'Punatic' AM/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros

Center: *Dracula lotax* 'Jungle Mist' AM/AOS, exhibited by Jungle Mist Orchids

Right: (*Bc. Binososa* x *B. Little Stars*) 'Green With Envy' AM/AOS, exhibited by Island Sun Orchids



Left: *Paph.* Puppentanz 'Jungle Mist' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Jungle Mist Orchids

Right: *Phalaenopsis* Tzu Chiong Sapphire 'Big Mini' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Hawaiian Hybrids



Left: *Oncidium* Sweet Sugar 'Lemon Drop' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Hilo Orchid Farm

Right: *Wilsonara* Rising Sun 'Red Sun' AM/AOS, exhibited by James McCully

August AOS Awards (continued)

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Paph.* Stella Scope 'Blazing Yellow Lehua' AM/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Paph.* charlesworthii 'Lehua No Reflexing' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids



Left: *Paph.* Chiara 'Green Joy Lehua' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Paph.* Chiara 'Green Glory Lehua' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids



Left: *Paph.* Chiara AQ, exhibited by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Paph.* Fred's Aura 'Lehua's Pleasant Surprise' AM/AOS, exhibited by Lehua Orchids



Orchid show attendees clustering around the spectacular Hilo Orchid Society exhibit, designed and built by Shelby Smith.

Some Like It Hot

Well, maybe not all that many. The most frequently heard complaint about the recent HOS show at the Civic auditorium was that the building was hot and stuffy. Other than the temperature, the show was another fantastic showcase of what an ideal place Hawaii is to grow spectacular orchids and what a bunch of orchid-crazy folks can achieve.

Attendance this year broke records with over 4700 visitors. The key to that turnout was a new initiative to invite families with young children to the show for free. Ken Armour has urged us to try some way to reach out to young families for several years. This year former schoolteacher Dorothea Fendenz took charge of distributing 16,000 free tickets to local school children in Hilo and Puna. That resulted in over 950 visitors taking advantage of the free tickets. If you thought there were a lot of keiki at this year's show, you're right. We had over 600 children attend. Introducing the next generation to the wonders of orchids is a key reason we present the show each year and is a core mission for HOS. See the accompanying story on the schools that won blooming orchids for the rest of the school year.

There would be no reason to bring all those people to the show unless we had a spectacular collection of orchid exhibits to wow visitors. A huge Thank-you goes out to Shelby Smith for another eye-popping HOS display. He took the *Orchids Avant-Garde* theme to heart and produced an incredible abstract flower that provided the perfect vehicle to show off hundreds of member plants. Not only did it win the AOS trophy for best exhibit in the show, but it was also responsible for many jaws hitting the floor as people encountered it first as they entered the hall. People loved how they could get up close to each flower at eye level to enjoy the fragrance, the tiny details of the blooms, and capture the perfect photo to remember the show. HOS members who loaned plants should be proud of the outstanding quality of the orchids the public was treated to. Bill Rawson's amazing Psychopsis made a return appearance not only repeating as Best Oncidium, but also taking home the Reserve Champion trophy.

All the exhibitors did a great job of squeezing a huge amount of fabulousness into a compact space this year due to the smaller venue. Carmela Orchids always go all out, but this year they caused a serious

traffic jam as the crowds stopped to enjoy the beautiful exhibit featuring the Grand Champion, Vanda Pat's Delight 'Dark Blue' FCC. Island Sun Orchids entered *Avant-Garde* hyperspace with an otherworldly human-orchid hybrid figure enjoying a universe filled with brilliantly colored vandas. Perhaps this is a cautionary tale for those hybridizers who are careless with toothpicks while pollinating. Winning Orchids pulled in some serious design talent by recruiting Matthias Seelis to create their spectacular cloud of phalaenopsis that would have been right at home at the Tokyo Dome show.

Speaking of the Tokyo Dome show, this year Karen Kimmerle and Leslie Hayes-Cullins decided we needed to borrow one of Japan's ideas and initiate a new exhibit category for miniatures. The exhibits could be no more than 16" square, but of any height. Blooms on plants or cut flowers could be used. We had nine members enter miniature displays and these gems were a clear favorite with both the public and HOS members. Donna Barr won the trophy for her *Sunrise Over Spring Garden*, while Karen Kimmerle's miniature exhibit was recognized for a special AOS artistic certificate.

People come to our show to enjoy the over-the-top exhibits... and to shop. Our orchid and arts vendors did a great job making sure everyone found something they absolutely had to have. An informal survey of vendors found most enjoyed very strong sales despite the smaller venue. All the vendors send their gratitude to Shelby Smith for coming up with the integrated floor plan that brought exhibits and sales booths together. Lillian Paiva made sure all those customers went back for more shopping by taking great care of their new babies in the Plant Hotel.

Our show could not happen without the hard work of over a hundred volunteers. Our attendance was as strong as it was because of the great job Joe Bush did with preshow ticket sales and the prolific stream of newspaper stories written by Ruth Robison. Once we got the people to come, we had to get them through the front gate efficiently and Dana Culleney's crew did a great job. Then we wanted to welcome as many new members as possible. That fell to Victoria Azuolas, Vivian Ueoka, and Larry Kuekes staffing the HOS table. Pauline Brault assembled another great slate of demonstrations and Rayna Armour created a refreshment oasis out front to keep people well fed, hydrated, and entertained.

Karen Kimmerle, John Juszczak, and Leonard Gines made sure AOS and ribbon judging operated smoothly Thursday. Mary Beth Cohen did another super job producing a beautiful program as well as showing off her carpentry skills helping Shelby assemble the HOS exhibit. Shelby Smith and Lisa Steinmeyer teamed up to produce a bold t-shirt design that was a hit.

What most people don't see is all the work that goes on before the doors open to the public. Bob Ferazzi, Larry Kuekes, Greg Kobayashi, and Thane Pratt got up early Monday morning to chalk off the floor so when Normand Goupil and his crew from New Hope Church arrived with tables and chairs the auditorium could be set up in record time. Big thanks go out to Gail & George Crosthwaite and Ruth Robison who performed a loaves and fishes miracle assembling the black curtains screening adjacent exhibits.

We won't have final financial results for a while, but all HOS members should understand that our annual show is our major fundraiser. We rely on it to support much of our operation the rest of the year. Our treasurer, Bill Rawson, is key to setting realistic targets and then helping us achieve them. I want to especially thank two members who took on particularly demanding jobs. Two-time former show chair Sheryl Rawson stepped in at the last minute to save the advertiser and sponsorship program. She did an incredible job with this vital component of the show. Another big thank-you goes out to Leslie Hayes-Cullins for taking on the vital job of silent auction chair. This is our primary means of funding HOS's Yasuji Takasaki Scholarship for U of H students, a key component of our educational mission. Only those who have done this job understand what above & beyond service Leslie provided to HOS and future scholarship recipients. And of course a big Thank-you goes out to Julie Mitchell and Cody Frenz at Ku'ikahi Mediation Center for putting on a great Preview Party with record attendance.

For all those who participated in any way with the 2015 show, I want to extend my sincere thanks for all your hard work. For all the new members who don't know anyone yet, volunteer to help with next year's show. You will have a great time and get to know lot of your fellow orchid addicts.

Rick Kelley

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 – Joe Bush

Past President – Julie Goettsch 333-5989
juliegoettsch@gmail.com

Trustee 2014-2015 – Vivian Ueoka

Trustee 2014-2015 – Shelby Smith 408-966-5924
skelatenphish@yahoo.com

Trustee 2015-2016 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2015-2016 – Barry Yamada

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



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Visit us on the web at
hiloorchidsociety.org