

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

December 2015

Note: In lieu of a December meeting, we're holding our annual Holiday Party. The deadline for reservations is past – sorry, we can't take any more!

Date: Sun., December 13, 2015
Time: **10:30** Doors open to talk story
12:00 Luncheon buffet
Place: Hilo Yacht Club
77 Laehala St., Hilo
Program: Holiday Party and Auction



Holiday Party and Auction

There will be no regular meeting in December. Instead, we're holding our annual Holiday Party and Auction on Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Hilo Yacht Club. Only those who signed up and paid in advance can be admitted. Sorry!

The event features a social hour and sumptuous buffet lunch at the scenic oceanside Hilo Yacht Club, providing a chance to get together with old friends and maybe make some new ones. Then comes the auction, an opportunity to obtain top-quality donated orchid plants at bargain prices and benefit your Society at the same time. This event is not open to the public, but is open to Hilo Orchid Society members and their guests by reservation only.

For those who signed up, doors will open at 10:30 a.m. to enjoy beverages and talk story, followed by the installation of officers at 11:45. Lunch will be served at 12:00, followed by the orchid auction at about 1:00. If you can't be there by 10:30, no problem – come later and enjoy the lunch and auction.

New Board Member

The slate proposed by the nominating committee was unanimously approved at the November meeting. We want to welcome Ken Armour to the



Board of Trustees. Ken has served us well in the past and we're happy to have him back on the Board. We also want to thank retiring Board member Vivian Ueoka for her dedication and service to the Society. Vivian has let us know that she will continue to

help in other ways, for which we are grateful. Ken and Vivian, we couldn't do it without volunteers like you!

Ticket Contest Winner

We're pleased to announce that Susan Forbes won our contest for selling the most orchid show presale tickets. Susan wins a free 2016 HOS membership, two free tickets to the Holiday Party, and a one-year subscription to Orchid Digest. Congratulations, Susan!



CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

Hilo Orchid Society meetings and AOS Judging are held at Kamana Senior Center, Hilo unless otherwise specified.

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|----------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Dec. 13 | 10:30 | Holiday Party at Hilo Yacht Club |
| Jan. 9 | 1:30 | HOS Meeting |
| | 4:00 | AOS Judging |
| Feb. 13 | 1:30 | HOS Meeting |
| | 4:00 | AOS Judging |
| Mar. 12 | 1:30 | HOS Meeting |
| | 4:00 | AOS Judging |
| June 3-5 | 1:30 | Hilo Orchid Show and Sale |

November Members Choice Awards

Photos by Shelby Smith



Left: Hobbyist 1st place – *Cattleya patinii*, grown by Shelby Smith

Right: Hobbyist 2nd place (tie) – *Cattleya percivaliana*, grown by Fred Levine



Left: Hobbyist 2nd place (tie) – *Bc. Land of Enchantment* x *Cattleya Belle of Celle*, grown by Victoria Azuloas

Right: Commercial 1st place (tie) – *Bulbophyllum vaginatum*, grown by Karen Kimmerle



Left: Commercial 1st place (tie): *Christieara Long and Lavish*, grown by Art Buckman

Right: Commercial 1st place (tie) – *Phragmipedium Acker's Royalty*, grown by Orchid Fix Nursery



Cattleya walkeriana 'Isabel Rosalia' AM/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros

Orchid Stories

Blowing In the Wind

They say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. But if all the apple seedlings grew up underneath the parent, you'd end up with a thicket of apple trees in one spot, and no apple trees anywhere else in the world. In order to spread, the apple, like all plants, needs to disperse its seeds – to send them far away. How, since plants can't move?

Some plants, like apple trees, evolved edible fruits or berries that are tempting to animals. The animals carry the fruit away and discard or excrete the seeds. Some plants, like burrs, evolved seeds that stick to animals and get carried away. Some plants, like dandelions, evolved seeds with parachutes that are blown away by the wind.

Orchids evolved a different solution for wind-dispersal. Their seeds are tiny, like dust, so the wind can blow them a long distance. But in order to be so small, the seeds contain the bare minimum – a tiny plant embryo wrapped in a thin coat of cells. An

orchid seed contains no food. This is unique in the plant kingdom. All other seeds contain food for the developing plant to grow its first roots and leaves. Then, using photosynthesis, the plant can make its own food.

So, without any food, how does the orchid seed grow its first leaves? The seed needs to land next to the right species of fungus (and different orchid species have different fungi). The fungus penetrates the orchid seed, trying to extract food, but there's no food there. Instead, with amazing chutzpah, the orchid steals nutrients from the fungus and uses them to grow its first roots and leaves. After that, the orchid no longer needs the fungus.

The chances are very small of an orchid seed landing (1) in a tree, and (2) next to the right fungus. So the orchid produces vast numbers of seeds. One seedpod of *Cycnoches chlorichilon* contained 3.7 million seeds! Will one of them land in the right spot? The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind.

Larry Kuekes

President's Annual Report to Members

Aloha, HOS Members

According to our Bylaws, the Society President must present a yearly report to members on how the Society is faring. I'm pleased to report that we're doing well. Here's what we've done in the last year to achieve our Society's goals:

Goal #1: Information: promote the culture of, knowledge about, and appreciation of orchids.

- **Monthly meetings.** Our meetings in 2015 featured interesting and informative presentations on the following subjects:

- Little Fire Ants
- Antelope Dendrobiums
- First Ladies and Their Cattleyas
- Cymbidiums for All Climates
- Stelis
- Bulbophyllums
- Orchid Photography Tips & Tricks
- Specimen Plants
- Mexican Laelias

In addition, each meeting featured a show table where you got to see the amazing things that fellow members are growing.

- **Monthly newsletters.** We try to provide a newsletter that you'll enjoy reading. In addition to photos of members' orchids and orchids awarded by the local AOS judging center, in 2015 our newsletters featured articles about Member of the Month Lisa Steinmeyer, articles on What Is a Species, Ugly Stepsisters (Paphs), *Vuylstekeara Cambria*, Leafless Orchids, and how to repot, and reports on our show and our Orchid Isle Project.

- **Outreach.** We gave many orchid presentations to different groups around the island. Shelby Smith, Ben Oliveros and I held two orchid workshops at the Volcano Art Center, I spoke to the Kamana Garden Club, and Julie Goettsch spoke to several organizations including the Puna Sunset Rotary Club

- **Orchid Show.** Our annual orchid show is by far our biggest event. Despite having to move to a smaller venue, this year's show was bigger and better than ever, giving over 4700 attendees the chance to see thousands of orchids on display as well as to buy from more than twenty vendors. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the show, but special thanks go to show chair Rick

Kelley and to Shelby Smith, who designed the spectacular HOS display.

- **AOS Judging.** By giving awards, the American Orchid Society's judging program encourages growers to keep improving the quality of orchids. Our Society supports our local AOS judging center.

Goal #2: Conservation

As tropical orchid habitat disappears, orchids are increasingly in danger of extinction in the wild. We donated \$1000 to the Orchid Conservation Alliance, one of the principal organizations that protects tropical orchid habitat from development.

Goal #3: Education

- **Scholarships.** We give scholarships named in honor of Yasuji Takasaki, a strong contributor to our Society and to orchid growing on this island, who believed in the power of education. In 2015 we awarded two \$1500 scholarships to two deserving University of Hawaii at Hilo students.

Goal #4: Community Service

- **Preview Party.** Our orchid show Preview Party benefitted the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center. This is one way that we give back to the community. Ku'ikahi helps people resolve legal disputes at little or no cost.

- **Orchid Isle Project.** In 2015 the Orchid Isle project, headed by Julie Goettsch, continued planting and donating orchids for public places all around the island, including the Outrigger Kanaloa Resort, Hulihe'e Palace, and Hawaii Veteran's Cemetery in Kona, and Hilo Hospital.

Goal #5: Membership

Our membership is at or near an all-time high, reflecting the success of our show and outreach efforts in attracting new members.

Goal #6: Financial Health

I won't go into details here, because our Treasurer will publish his report in a coming newsletter, but we've never been in better financial shape, due largely to a very successful orchid show.

Hilo Orchid Society is a volunteer organization. Our success is due to the efforts of all of you who helped us to make 2015 such a good year. I'm confident that with your help, 2016 will be even better.

Mahalo,
Larry Kuekes

Orchid Show Financial Results

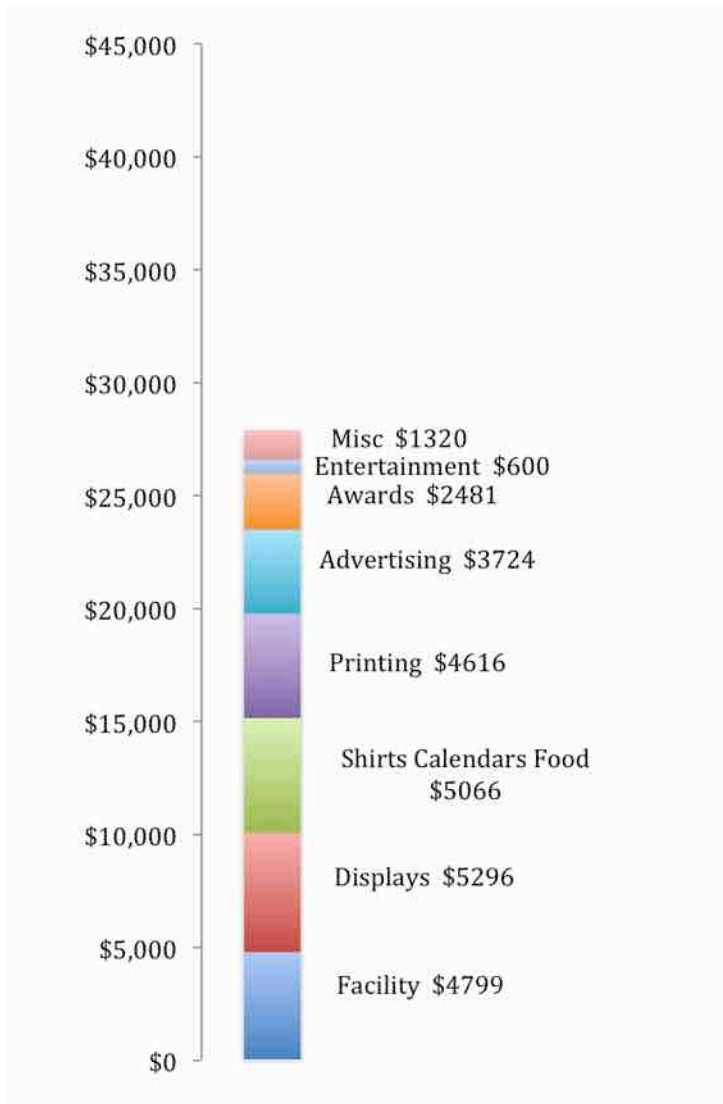
Everyone should be very proud of the society's recent show at the Civic Auditorium. In addition to the record attendance and 51 new members who joined, the show raised a significant amount of money for HOS thanks to everyone's hard work.

The charts below illustrate show expenses and income. Please note the nearly \$7000 coming from the presale tickets sold by members. Your support for this greatly contributes to our financial success. Mahalo! The two top items on the right deserve special attention. The income from the silent auction (yellow) is dedicated to the Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship fund for University of Hawaii Hilo students. Also note the significant support individuals and local businesses provide to the

society through sponsorships and donations.

Show income is the primary source of operating funds for HOS, far exceeding money raised through membership dues. This helps us pay our expenses, such as the cost of bringing in speakers from the mainland, as well as providing benefits to members, such as subsidizing the cost of the holiday party. Leslie Hayes-Cullins singlehandedly operated the silent auction this year and Sheryl Rawson was in charge of sponsorships. These two dedicated volunteers performed marvels of fundraising. Please thank them for their great work the next time you see them. A big mahalo to Treasurer Bill Rawson who keeps our finances in order and keeps everyone on target.

Show Expenses



Show Income



Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President– Rick Kelley 756-8145

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Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371

oliveros@orchideros.com

Treasurer – Bill Rawson 934-0552

Recording Secretary – Lisa Steinmeyer 769-4245

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Corresponding Secretary – Joe Bush

Past President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

lkuekes@me.com

Trustee 2015-2016 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2015-2016 – Barry Yamada

Trustee 2016-2017 – Ken Armour 808-963-6233

Trustee 2016-2017 – Shelby Smith 408-966-5924

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Hilo Orchid Society

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