

Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2017

Next Meeting

Date: Sat., August 12, 2017
Time: **1:30-4:00**
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Peter Tobias
Topic: Why and How to Create an
Orchid Reserve

This month's speaker, Peter Tobias, is President and one of three co-founders of the Orchid Conservation Alliance (OCA). The goal of the OCA is to mobilize the orchid growing community to preserve wild orchid habitat. Many orchids are in danger of extinction due to human created impacts on their environment, including collection, logging, agriculture, and many other forms of habitat destruction. The OCA raises funds to purchase and protect orchid rich habitat. At present the OCA supports reserves in Ecuador, Brazil, and Colombia. Peter's talk will describe the goals and methods of the OCA, focusing primarily on the Dracula Reserve in Ecuador.



Peter started growing orchids on a Chicago windowsill in the mid-1970's with a white phalaenopsis. His interest grew when a friend helped him to import some plants from India and Brazil so that he got a sense of the variety of orchids out there. Ever since then he has enjoyed collecting and trying to grow odd species. Orchid growing became a lot easier when he moved to Southern California in 1980; the majority of his collection is now grown outdoors.

The Hilo Orchid Society has donated to the OCA to support their very practical approach to protecting orchids. To find out more, don't miss this meeting!

Fall Nursery Tour

We have scheduled another of our popular tours of commercial orchid nurseries on Sunday, Sept. 24, including Hawaii Hybrids, Orchid Eros, and more nurseries to be determined.

These tours are great opportunities to buy high-quality orchids at wholesale prices from nurseries many of which aren't normally open to the public.

To go on the tour, you must sign up in advance. The price is \$35 per person, which just covers the cost of the bus and the driver – HOS does not profit from these tours. If the price seems high, the fabulous bargains you'll be able to buy will more than make up for it. We'll provide water, but plan to bring your own lunch and wear comfortable shoes.

You can sign up at the next meeting or by sending a check to:

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

Seating is limited, so don't delay!

Mahalo, Orchid Donors

Last month's orchid auction generated \$953, a record amount, to help fund our Society, thanks to the generosity of the commercial growers who donated the orchids. Mahalo nui loa to Sheldon and Pearl Takasaki of Carmela Orchids, Gerrit and Lorene Takasaki of Hawaii Hybrids, Ben Oliveros of Orchid Eros, Karen Kimmerle of Island Sun Orchids, and Ken and Rayna Armour of The OrchidWorks. We are blessed to have such generous people in our orchid society.

Scholarship Awarded

Our Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year has been awarded to Joyce 'Amamalieomahealani Lilly. Joyce is a senior at UH Hilo majoring in Agriculture with a focus on Tropical Plant Science and Agroecology. Joyce will be introduced to members at a future meeting.

June AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Aerangis* Elro 'Grace' CCE/AOS AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Center: *Laelia purpurata* (hort. var. *rubra*) 'Shogun's Fire' FCC/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

Right: *Cattleya leopoldii* v. *coerulea* 'Kingston Mines' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Cattleya loddigesii* v. *coerulea* 'House of Blues' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Center: *Dendrobium laevifolium* 'The King' AM/AOS, grown by Hilo Orchid Farm

Right: *Laelia purpurata* (hort. var. *flammea*) 'Alinea' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Paphiopedilum* Gina's Child 'Lehua Tall Elegance' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Center: *Paphiopedilum* Spring Moonbeam 'Lehua's Sandra' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

Right: *Rhyncattleanthe* Happy Happy Joy Joy 'Stimpy' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

July AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Tsubotaara* Melinda Marie 'Blue Sapphire' HCC/AOS, grown by Kalapana Tropicals
Right: *Cattleya aelandiae* 'Sebastian Ferrell' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Phragmipedium* QF Naukana Kealoha HCC/AOS, grown by Quintal Farms
Center: *Paphiopedilum tonsum* f. *alboviride* 'QF Green Gold', grown by Quintal Farms
Right: *Paphiopedilum* Saiun 'Lenua's Green Goddess' JC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: *Oncidium* Volcano Hula Halau 'Volcano Splendor' HCC/AOS, grown by Kalapana Tropicals
Center: *Cattleya violacea* v. *alba* 'Isabel Rosalia' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Prosthechea mariae* 'Gabriel Amaru' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros

Note: the June awards pictured last month were awarded at the Hilo Orchid Show in June. The June and July awards pictured this month were awarded at the regular monthly AOS judging.

2017 Orchid Isle Award



This year we gave our Orchid Isle Award to two organizations, Buddha's Cup Coffee Mill and the Kona Daifukuji Orchid Club. The annual award is given to the person or organization that has done the most to promote the island of Hawaii as the Orchid Isle by placing orchids where people can see and enjoy them. Julie Goetsch, our Orchid Isle Project chairperson, presented the award at the Hilo Orchid Show in June to Sarah Fogelstrom of Buddha's Cup (left) and to Joyce Hancock of the Daifukuji Orchid Club (right).

Contest Reminder



Above are two photos recently submitted to our HOS orchid photo contest. Submit your photos by sending them to lkuekes@me.com before October 1. The only rule is that you must be the photographer. Check out the gallery of photos submitted so far on our website www.hiloorchidsociety.org under the Galleries menu. And don't forget our other contest for the person who brings in the most orchids to the Show Table at our meetings. Winners of both contests will be announced in November, and will each receive two tickets to our annual Holiday Party.

Orchid Stories

Those @#\$\$%^&* Latin Names

Part 1: Why Latin?

Are you dismayed by the long, difficult Latin names that you encounter in the orchid world? Do you wonder why we can't just say bamboo orchid instead of *Arundina graminifolia*, or Philippine orchid instead of *Spathoglottis plicata*? Common names are good, but there's a reason scientists use Latin names, and thereby hangs a tale.

A common language. In Medieval times, even though Latin was a dead language, scholars all across Europe had to learn it, because it was the only language that they had in common. This held true up through the 1700s. So, for instance, when Isaac Newton published his famous law of gravity in the 1600s, he wrote the work in Latin so any other scientist in Europe could read it. In the 1700s French became the common language of diplomacy. If you were the ambassador to Russia, you didn't have to speak Russian, but you had better know French. Later, with the rise of Britain and then America as world powers, English became the de facto common language of commerce and diplomacy, as it remains to this day. Still, scientists continued to use Latin for certain things. In particular, official scientific descriptions of new species had to be written in Latin until 2012! Now they can be in Latin or English. But species names still have to be Latin.



Left, *Spathoglottis plicata*. Right, *Medinilla magnifica*. Both have the common name "Philippine orchid".

The story of species names. Back in the days when all scholarly work was in Latin, people gave species long names that were really more descriptions than names. For example, one botanist called the tomato "Solanum caule inermi herbaceo, foliis pinnatis incis", which means "smooth-stemmed herbaceous solanum with incised pinnate leaves". Different scholars used different descriptive names, causing much confusion. In 1753, the Swedish botanist Linnaeus published his system of binomial (two part) names in his book *Species*

Plantarum. He called the tomato *Solanum lycopersicum*. The two-part name consists of a genus name (*Solanum*) followed by a species epithet (*lycopersicum*). His system was so much simpler that it became widely adopted and it is now official.

By the way, Linnaeus' real name was Carl von Linné, but the use of Latin was so mandatory in those days that he translated *his own name* into Latin.

What's wrong with common names? Nothing, if you learned the same common name as the person you're talking to. Everything, if you didn't. Unfortunately, one species can have multiple common names, and multiple species can have the same common name. If you talk about a butterfly flower, I may picture a different plant than you do, because many different plants have been called butterfly flower. And Philippine orchid is the common name for not only *Spathoglottis plicata*, but also for *Medinilla magnifica*, another garden plant that isn't even an orchid, despite its common name!

So the point of using Latin names is to avoid confusion. And although they may seem difficult and foreign, I bet you already know a lot of them. Did you know that *Begonia* and *Hibiscus* are Latin names? And certainly most orchid growers are familiar with *Cattleya*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobium*, and many others. So hang in there! It's not that bad.

Next time: fear of pronouncing Latin names.

Larry Kuekes

CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

Aug. 4	5:00	AOS Judging, 113 Nowelo St. Hilo
Aug. 5	9:00-11:00	Akatsuka Orchid Workshop at Akatsuka Orchid Gardens
Aug. 12	1:30	HOS Meeting
Sept. 9	1:30	HOS Meeting
	4:00	AOS Judging
Sept. 24	8:00	Nursery Tour

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Rick Kelley 756-8145

rickkelley@att.net

President-Elect – Dana Culleney 430-6653

tutu.kekakona@gmail.com

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371

oliveros@orchideros.com

Treasurer – Bill Rawson 934-0552

Corresponding Secretary – Cindy Caldicott

808-498-4692

Recording Secretary Dorothy Imagire 785-8585

dorothy@imagire.org

Past President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964

lkuekes@me.com

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

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

skelatenphish@yahoo.com

Trustee 2017-2018 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2017-2018 – Joe Bush hilojoe@twc.com

Hilo Orchid Society

P.O Box 4294

Hilo, HI 96720



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