



Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

May
2023

In-Person Meeting

Note: the meeting scheduled for Sat., May 20, 2023 will be in-person. There will be no Zoom meeting.

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023
Time: **1:30** Informal “talk story”
2:00 Meeting starts
Place: Kamana Senior Center,
127 Kamana St., Hilo
Speaker: Larry Kuekes
Topic: Variations on a Theme:
Orchid Hybrid Variation

Some kinds of flowers have very little variation. If you’ve seen one, you’ve seen them all. With orchids, especially orchid hybrids, there’s tremendous variation in shape, size, and color. This month, Larry Kuekes will talk about why orchid hybrids have so much variation, more than any other kind of plant.

Larry graduated from Yale University and had a career in computers in Connecticut, where he grew orchids on his windowsills, mostly cool and intermediate growing types. In 2010 he retired and moved to Hilo, where he started 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 was President of the Hilo Orchid Society in 2014-2015 and is currently our newsletter editor and webmaster.

The presentation is done in Larry’s distinctive audio-visual style, including some “variations on a theme” music. Don’t miss it!

Please Pick Up Your Show Tickets

We’re asking all HOS members to buy 15 tickets for the orchid show for \$3 each, and to sell or give them to friends and neighbors. Of course, you’re not obligated to purchase tickets, but if you can, it’s a great way to help your Society. The \$3 price is a bargain compared with \$5 at the door.

You can pick up your tickets at the May meeting. It saves us the cost of mailing them to you.

You don’t have to pay for the tickets when you pick them up. We trust you. Mail your payment (\$45 if you use all 15 tickets) to

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

Lost & Found



Somebody left this cooler at the April meeting. You can pick it up at the May meeting, or if you can’t be there, contact us to make arrangements.

Reminder

Please bring your orchids in bloom to show off on our show table, and if you wish, bring some food for our potluck refreshment table. Mahalo!



Peter Wiggin



Justene Deubel

Scholarship Awards

Our Board of Trustees approved the Scholarship Committee's recommendation to award our Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year to two students, Peter Wiggin and Justine Deubel. Each student will receive \$3000.

Peter Wiggin is a PhD candidate at UH Manoa, where his dissertation is focused on the evolution and phylogenetics of Hawaii's native orchids. Peter has a collection of orchids here on the Big Island.

Justene Deubel is completing a Master's in Tropical Plant and Soil Science at UH Manoa. She grows orchids and was active in the Spokane Orchid Society. As an undergraduate at Washington State University, she studied tissue culture of Vanilla orchids.

Our scholarships are named in honor of Yasuji Takasaki, one of the pioneers of orchid culture and commercial orchid growing on the island of Hawaii, work that is carried on today by his sons Sheldon and Gerrit. Unable to go to school beyond 8th grade, Yasuji made a promise that each of his children would go to college to have the opportunities that he never had. By working multiple jobs, he kept that promise. Eventually he founded Carmela Orchids and grew it into an internationally recognized orchid business. He passed away in 2011 at the age of 95.

Yasuji Takasaki believed in the power of education to help young people achieve their dreams.

Conservation Grant

Each year, Hilo Orchid Society makes a donation to support orchid conservation. We view supporting conservation as one of our primary goals. This year, our Board approved a Conservation Grant of \$3000 to Julia Douglas. Julia is a PhD candidate at UH Manoa. Her conservation work involves restoring an endemic orchid species in Oaxaca, Mexico.



Julia Douglas

Please Donate to the Silent Auction

Please consider being a donor to our annual Scholarship Fundraiser, the Silent Auction at the Annual Hilo Orchid Show and Sale in July. 100% of the profits from the SILENT AUCTION go to our HOS-Yasuji Takasaki Memorial Scholarship fund. Mr. Takasaki, founder of Carmela Orchids, was one of the pioneers in the orchid industry, from Hawaii Island, and believed in the power of education. Scholarships, named in his honor, go to students studying at the University of Hawaii. Just last month, the Board awarded scholarships of \$3000 each to two UH students.

HOS has raised as much as \$7,500 in past Silent Auctions. Donations to this year's silent auction will help us to reach that amount or more. If you are an artist please consider donating one of your works of art. If you provide a service, please consider donating that service (e.g. certificates for massages, acupuncture, hair styling, or other services.)

If you own, or often patronize, a particular business please consider giving, or asking that business to donate (e.g. juice bars, restaurants, plant nurseries, other.) Sheryl Rawson, who is leading the silent auction effort this year will happily send you, via email, as many letters to accompany your requests as you might want. Also, if Sheryl sends a letter to you to use we can be sure not to contact the same possible donor more than once as she will keep track of that. For a letter please contact Sheryl at sherylhilo@gmail.com. When you do receive or give a donation, please contact Sheryl so pick up can be arranged. THANK YOU!

AOS Special Annual Awards

Every year, the American Orchid Society gives special annual awards to the growers of the best orchids in various categories. The awards for 2021 were announced in the April 2023 issue of Orchids magazine. (Don't ask me why it takes them over a year to figure out the awards.) Of these 22 national awards, five of them were won by our local orchid growers! Ben Oliveros, owner of the Orchid Eros nursery, won the following special awards:

- Masatoshi Miyamoto Award for the most outstanding Cattleya for *Cattleya percivaliana* 'Dave Off' FCC/AOS.
- Mario and Conni Ferrusi Award for the most outstanding Masdevallia, Dracula or Dracuvallia

for *Dracula gorgona* (*Xanthina*) 'Pride & Joy' FCC/AOS.

- Martin Motes Orchid Breeder's Award for the breeder and exhibitor of the best Award of Aquality (AQ) or Award of Distinction (AD) for *Cycnoches cooperi* AQ/AOS
- Renee and Marvin Gerber Award for the most outstanding hybrid with Brassavola as a parent, for *Brassocattleya* Hamlyn's Magic 'Rowan's Return' AM/AOS.

Glen Barfield, owner of the Okika nursery, won the following award:

- Robert B. Dugger Award for the best orchid with the former genus *Odontoglossum* in its background, for *Oncostele* Eye Candy 'Penny Candy' AM/AOS.

Congratulations, Ben and Glen, for winning these national awards!

Glen was also the award photographer for all of these orchids. Since the photographs play a vital role in the AOS' determination of which orchids to award, Glen should be also be congratulated for doing a great job in illustrating the high quality of the orchids grown right here on the Orchid Isle.

Photo Contest Reminder

Please send in photos of orchids for our 2023 HOS photo contest. The only rule is: you must be the photographer. You don't have to be the grower of the orchid. You can send in photos until October 1.

So, please send your orchid photos to Lkuekes@gmail.com. Photos will be shared in a photo album on our website, but anonymously, so as not to bias the judging.

Below is a photo that one of our members took recently.



April Members Choice

Photos by Larry Kuekes



Left: 1st place: *Dendrobium finisterrae*, grown by Jeff Fendenz
Right: 2nd place: *Ludisia discolor*, grown by Kathy Gollaher



Left: 3rd place (tie): *Lycaste cruenta*, grown by Sherry Partlow
Right: 3rd place (tie): *Miltoniopsis* Morris Chestnut 'H171', grown by Jeff Fendenz

Judging Time Change

The time for AOS judging on the second Saturday of the month has changed from 4:00 pm to 9:00 am. Judging on the 4th Friday of the month is still at 4:00 pm. Both judging sessions are at the same location, the Komohana Ag Extension center in room 203.

April AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: *Cattleya violacea* h.f. *flammea* 'Fantasia' FCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Cattleya violacea* h.f. *flammea* 'Trifle' FCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: Paph (In-Charm Pride x *gigantifolium*) 'Slipper Zone Is It Really' FCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids
Right: *Bulbophyllum graveolens* 'Dale' AM/AOS, grown by Island Sun Orchids



Left: *Aspasiium* Gloria Barfield 'Gay Barfield' AM/AOS, AD/AOS, grown by Okika
 Right: *Cattleya aclandiae* h.f. *nigrescens* 'Alice Cooper' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Cattleya schilleriana* 'Mu'u Mu'u' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
 Center: *Cattleya schilleriana* 'Too Much' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
 Right: *Cattleya schilleriana* h.f. *coerulea* 'Tab Benoit' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros



Left: *Cattleya rex* 'Tepal Flares' HCC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
 Center: *Cattleya warszewiczii* 'Nutibara' JC/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
 Right: *Thecopus maingayi* 'Shogun Hawaii' HCC/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii



Left: *Cattleya violacea* h.f. *coerulea* 'Gabriel Amaru' AM/AOS, grown by Orchid Eros
Right: *Paph.* Wossner Black Wings 'No F-ccing Way' FCC/AOS, grown by Leslie Hayes-Cullins



Left: *Paph.* Chiu Hua Dancer 'Okika' AM/AOS, grown by Okika
Right: *Rlc.* Thaksina Gold '#3' AM/AOS, grown by Shogun Hawaii

Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Karl Mendonca

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371
oliveros@orchideros.com

Treasurer – Rick Kelley

Recording Secretary – Lise Dowd lisedowd@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary – Larry Kuekes

President-Elect – Ellen Train

Past President – Tom Miranda biophiliak@gmail.com

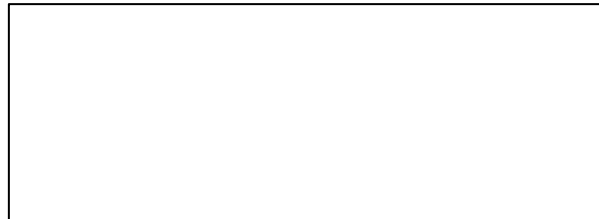
Trustee 2022-2023 – Kevin Evans

Trustee 2022-2023 – Sandra Dixon

Trustee 2023-2024 – Rusty Gorton

Trustee 2023-2024 – Natalie Hebden

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www.hiloorchidsociety.org