



# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

November  
2023

**Note: Meeting date changed to  
Sunday, November 5**

## Next Meeting

Date: Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023  
Time: **1:30** Informal "talk story"  
**2:00** Meeting starts  
Place: Kamana Senior Center,  
127 Kamana St., Hilo  
Speaker: Fred Clarke  
Topic: **Becoming One of the Best  
Orchid Growers**

Ever wonder what the most important requirements are for growing orchids? This month, Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in California will talk about how to become an "80th percentile grower" – better than 80 percent of other orchid growers – by explaining the underlying reasons how and why orchids grow as they do, and the fundamentals and advanced techniques of how to best grow them.

Fred has been growing orchids for over 40 years. Currently he operates Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, CA, between San Diego and Los Angeles. His interest in orchids is broad and varied. His pioneering hybridizing with *Catasetums* and related genera produced the FCC-winning black orchid *Fredclarkara After Dark* 'Black Pearl' (note the hybrid genus is named after Fred).

He also hybridizes *Cattleyas*, *Bulbophyllums*, *Paphiopedilums*, and others. His plants have received hundreds of AOS awards. Fred is an accredited AOS judge.

Fred will explain orchid plant culture as you've never heard it before. Don't miss this meeting!



## Sign Up for the Holiday Party

There will be no regular meeting in December. Instead, we're holding our annual Holiday Party and Auction on Sat., Dec. 9 at the Hilo Yacht Club.

The event includes a delicious buffet lunch, followed by an auction of donated plants, where you have the chance to obtain some special orchids and benefit your Society at the same time.

You must sign up and pay in advance. The price is \$25 per person for HOS members, and \$55 per person (the actual cost of the meal) for non-members. If you want to bring your spouse/partner and you have an individual membership, you can upgrade to a joint (family) membership for only \$5, to avoid paying the \$55 non-member cost for your spouse/partner.

You can sign up at the November meeting. If you miss the meeting, instructions for how to sign up are in the email that accompanies this newsletter.



## Orchid Isle 2024 Calendars

Every year we produce our Orchid Isle Calendar, containing photos of gorgeous orchids grown here on the Orchid Isle by members of the Hilo Orchid Society.

We will be selling calendars at the November meeting, or if you miss the meeting, instructions for how to get calendars are in the email that accompanies this newsletter.

Calendars cost only \$9, and they make great holiday gifts.

## Election of Officers and Trustees

The election of officers and trustees for 2024 will take place at the November meeting. Board members serve two-year terms, with half the members up for election each year. For 2024, our Nominating Committee has produced the following slate of officers and trustees:

### President

Ellen Train is our current President-Elect and was our Show Chair in 2023. She moved to the Big Island in 2016 with her partner, Bill Merrill. Ellen grows intermediate varieties of orchids in her Mountain View home.



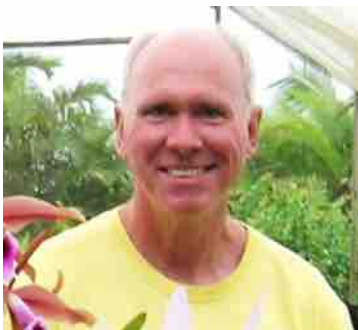
### President-Elect

Kathy Gollaher ran the Front Gate operation at this year's Hilo Orchid Show. Kathy and her husband Stan have lived in Pa'auilo Mauka for 33 years. She grows mainly cattleyas, oncidiums, and masdevallias.



### Treasurer

Rick Kelley is our current Treasurer. He was HOS President in 2016-2017 and was our Show Chair in 2015. He has mounted hundreds of orchids on trees on his three-acre lot in Orchidland Estates, creating a virtual botanical garden. He is also an avid grower of palms and is President of the Hawaii Island Palm Society.



### Trustee

Sandra Dixon is a current Trustee on the Board. Sandra has been involved with the Hilo Orchid Show, and she is active in AOS judging.



### Trustee

Cyndi Helton says, "Moving to Hawaii has allowed me to grow orchids just by tying them to a tree and patiently awaiting their next bloom. How amazing is that!"



Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Any additional nominees must be present at the meeting and willing to run against the slate endorsed by the Nominating Committee.



## Did You Know



Vanda Miss Joaquim, grown by Susan Forbes

**Terete Vandas.** Note the shape of the leaves of Vanda Miss Joaquim in the photo above. They aren't flat, like the leaves of a standard vanda or most other orchids. Instead, they're pencil-shaped.

Vandas with pencil-shaped leaves are called *terete* vandas. The terete leaf shape is an adaptation to growing in full sun, so the plant doesn't dry out as

quickly. Crossing a terete vanda with a standard vanda gives a semi-terete vanda, whose leaves are narrow and V-shaped in cross-section.

Both terete and semi-terete vandas can be grown in full sun. Standard vandas with flat leaves should be given part sun and part shade like most other orchids.

## September AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



(*Catamodes Darkonium* x *Catasetum Orchidglade*) 'Lues Midnight' HCC/AOS, grown by GLA Orchids

## October AOS Awards

Photos by Glen Barfield



Left: Paph. Charmingly Golden 'Sandy Song' HCC/AOS, grown by Okika



Right: Paph. Egret's Summer 'Slipper Zone Dark Smile' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: Paph. Egret's Summer 'Slipper Zone Flat Out' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids  
Right: Paph. Egret's Summer 'Slipper Zone Joyfully' AM/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Paph. Egret's Summer AQ/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: Paph. Green Sentinel 'Slipper Zone Green Duet' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids  
Right: Paph. Green Sentinel 'Slipper Zone Tall Green' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Paph. Green Sentinel AQ/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Left: Paph. Sighing Barbie 'Slipper Zone Green Wings' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids  
Right: Paph. Sighing Barbie 'Slipper Zone High White' HCC/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids



Paph. Sighing Barbie AD/AOS, grown by Lehua Orchids

## Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Karl Mendonca

Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371  
[oliveros@orchideros.com](mailto:oliveros@orchideros.com)

Treasurer – Rick Kelley

Recording Secretary – Lise Dowd [lisedowd@aol.com](mailto:lisedowd@aol.com)

Corresponding Secretary – Larry Kuekes

President-Elect – Ellen Train

Past President – Tom Miranda [biophiliak@gmail.com](mailto:biophiliak@gmail.com)

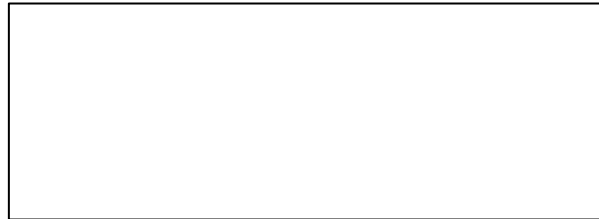
Trustee 2022-2023 – Kevin Evans

Trustee 2022-2023 – Sandra Dixon

Trustee 2023-2024 – Kathryn Duval

Trustee 2023-2024 – Greg Luetticke-Archbell

Hilo Orchid Society  
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[www.hiloorchidsociety.org](http://www.hiloorchidsociety.org)