

# Hilo Orchid Society Newsletter

July 2015

## Next Meeting

Date: Sat., July 11, 2015  
Time: **1:30** Informal "talk story"  
**2:00** Meeting starts  
Place: Kamana Senior Center,  
127 Kamana St., Hilo  
Speaker: Larry Kuekes  
Topic: Orchid Photography Tips and  
Tricks

You don't have to be a professional photographer or have a fancy camera to take great pictures of your orchids. This month, HOS president Larry Kuekes will share some tips and tricks to make your orchid photos better, whether your camera is an expensive SLR, a point-and-shoot type, or a cell phone.

Larry is an orchid hobbyist, not a commercial grower. He first started growing orchids in 1984, concentrating on cool- and intermediate-growing types and serving as President of the Connecticut Orchid Society. In 2010 he retired and moved to Hilo. He now has 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 is currently our President and newsletter editor.

You can see some of Larry's orchid photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/lkuekes/sets/72157633844203646](http://www.flickr.com/photos/lkuekes/sets/72157633844203646)

If you're interested in how to make better orchid photos, from avoiding distracting backgrounds to using Photoshop to salvage bad photos (is that cheating? Larry will discuss), be sure not to miss this meeting!



## Sandra Song



Sandy Song at the presentation of a donation from HOS to Ku'ikahi Mediation Center, two organizations she loved.

Longtime HOS member Sandra Song passed away last month. She was a prominent local attorney, a retired Hilo District Court judge, and a board member of Ku'ikahi Mediation Center.

Sandy was an avid orchid grower, running a small private nursery called Alawaena Orchids that specialized in Paphiopedilums, her favorite orchid. Sandy was an American Orchid Society judge and was very active in AOS judging, having chaired the AOS Hawaii judging center.

For several years, Sandy was Show Chairperson for our orchid shows, working to make the show possible. She was extremely knowledgeable and always willing to fight for what she thought was right.

Our orchid show this year will be dedicated to honor the memory of Sandy and of Aimee Takamoto.

Sandy will be missed by all those who knew her.

## Aimee Takamoto



Aimee Takamoto photographing orchids at the orchid show.

Longtime HOS member Aimee Takamoto passed away last month. Aimee was a quiet and private person, very generous and unselfish, always volunteering to help but not wanting to take any credit.

Most HOS members will remember Aimee as the person who sold tickets for our opportunity plant drawings. But Aimee served our Society in every capacity from the highest to the lowest, from serving on our Board of Trustees to sweeping the floor after meetings.

She was also a talented artist – your editor saw her work exhibited at the Wailoa Art Center.

Our orchid show this year will be dedicated to honor the memory of Aimee and of Sandy Song.

Aimee will be missed by all those who knew her.

## What's Avant-Garde?

This year our show is called “Orchids Avant-Garde”. Avant-garde is a term for people or things that are new, unusual, and trend-setting. In French, it literally means the vanguard – the ones who go out in front of everyone else.

How can orchids be avant-garde? Our hybridizers are always working to provide new, better orchids – ones with sizes, shapes, and colors not seen before. And species growers are always looking for new, exotic species.

We're hoping the term “avant-garde” will inspire our exhibitors to give us something new, fresh, even startling, in this year's exhibits.

With all that going for us, how can the show be anything but avant-garde?

## The Show is Almost Here

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Hilo Orchid Society Show and Sale, “Orchids Avant-Garde”, is coming on August 7-9 at Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium.

There are three things that we're counting on members for:

First, we're hoping you can sell the 15 show tickets you received to friends and neighbors for \$3 each, a bargain price (admission is \$5 at the door), or buy them yourself and give them away. Of course you're not obligated to buy or sell the tickets, but if you can, it's a great way to help the Society.

Second, we're counting on you to lend us your blooming orchids for our Society exhibit, which will be front-and-center at the show (see article on page 5).

And third, we're counting on volunteers to help out at the show. If you have already volunteered, thank you.

Here's what we have planned:

- AOS Judging on Thursday morning, August 6.
- Ribbon judging on Thursday afternoon.
- The Preview Party on Thursday night (see article on page 5).
- Friday through Sunday the show is open to the public (Fri. 9am–6pm, Sat. 9am–5pm, Sun. 10am–2pm.), featuring dazzling displays of orchids and aisles of vendor booths tempting you to buy just one more orchid.
- Entertainment featuring a variety of local musicians.
- A fashion show featuring the creations of famous Hawaii designer Nita Pilago, owner of Wahine Toa Designs.
- Refreshments so you can quell those hunger pangs without leaving the premises.
- A series of speakers and demos to be given throughout the three days of the show.
- A silent auction to raise money for our scholarship fund, featuring a fantastic array of items.
- Membership, Sales, and Orchid Society tables, where visitors can buy T-shirts, ask questions, and join our Society.

Our show can only succeed because Society members volunteer to help. If you're asked to help out, please say yes. It will only take a couple of hours of your time, and it'll make you feel good!



## June Members Choice Awards

Photos by Glory Garner



Hobbyist 1<sup>st</sup> place: *Cattleya dowiana v. rosita*, grown by Fred Levine



Commercial 1<sup>st</sup> place: Phal. Nobby's, grown by Karen Kimmerle



Hobbyist 2<sup>nd</sup> place: *Cirrhopetalum curtisii*, grown by Bill Rawson



Commercial 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Bulb. (rothschildianum x echinolabium), grown by Malika Orchids



Hobbyist 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Mini display by Leslie Hayes-Cullins



Commercial 3<sup>rd</sup> place: *Oncidium Pau*, grown by Karen Kimmerle





*Cattleya dowiana* var. *Rosita* 'B. Posey' AM/AOS, exhibited by Fred Levine



Left: *Cattleya jongheana* f. *alba* 'Ko'ae' AM/AOS, exhibited by Orchid Eros



Right: *Laelia purpurata* f. *atropurpurea* 'B. Posey' HCC/AOS, exhibited by Fred Levine

## Gala Preview Party is August 6



Preview party guests enjoying the food, drink and company amid thousands of orchids.

The 2015 benefit Preview Party kicks off HOS's 63rd Orchid Show and Sale at the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium. Held Aug. 6 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., the gala event features drinks, food, music, and orchid pre-sales.

Libations include a selection of fine wines, plus beer from Kona Brewing Co. Delectable food will be catered by Island Naturals and AJ & Sons Catering. Party-goers will have the first chance to purchase orchids and orchid-related products in the sales area, before the general public.

Proceeds of the Preview Party benefit both the HOS scholarship fund and Ku'ikahi Mediation Center. The non-profit community mediation center empowers people to come together—to talk and to listen, to explore options, and to find their own best solutions. To achieve this mission, Ku'ikahi offers mediation, facilitation, and training to strengthen the ability of diverse individuals and groups to resolve interpersonal conflicts and community issues.

Tickets are \$65, of which \$25 is tax deductible, and can be purchased at: The Most Irresistible Shop (256 Kamehameha Ave.), Hilo Coffee Mill (17-995 Volcano Hwy.), and Ku'ikahi Mediation Center (The Hilo Lagoon Centre, 101 Aupuni St, Suite PH 1014 B-2). Or contact Julie Mitchell at 935-7844 x 5 or [julie@hawaiimediation.org](mailto:julie@hawaiimediation.org).

## Rayna Needs You

Rayna Armour is looking for volunteers to help with serving delicious food at the show (everyone likes food – it's fun) and to be part of the fashion show on Saturday (you don't have to be a slinky model – all ages and body types are welcome). Call her at 963-6233 or email [rayna@theorchidworks.com](mailto:rayna@theorchidworks.com).

## How to Prepare Your Orchids For the Show

We want your orchids for the HOS exhibit! Don't think that somebody else will provide them. The big growers can't lend us orchids because they have their own displays. So we're counting on the little growers. If everyone can lend us one or two nice orchids, our display will be gorgeous. If nobody does, it will be bare and ugly.

Now is the time to start thinking about it. Here's how:

- Look at what's in bud and estimate what's likely to be in bloom for the show.
- Continue watering and feeding to encourage best blooming. Now is not the time to let a drought ruin your flowers.
- Consider staking the flowers for best viewing if they aren't naturally held upright. Staking needs to be done *before* the flowers open. After they open, staking them will put them into unnatural-looking positions.
- We can only use healthy plants, so they must have no scale or other insects and no little fire ants. If you have little fire ants on your property, isolate any plants you're lending us. Try rapping the pot on a tabletop. If ants come out the bottom, it's infested. Even if the plants look clean, you may want to drench them with an insecticide containing Sevin a few days before the show, just to be sure.
- Prepare a list of the orchids you're lending us and give us the list along with the plants. This helps us keep track of them and makes sure you get back the plants you lent us.

Mahalo!

## CALENDAR OF ORCHID EVENTS

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

- July 11 1:30 HOS Meeting  
4:00 AOS Judging
- July 19 8:00 am – 2:00 pm Daifukuji Orchid Club Show,  
Daifukuji Soto Mission, Kealakekua

*The following Hilo Orchid Society Orchid Show events are held at the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium*

- Aug. 5 Noon: Bring plants for HOS exhibit
- Aug. 6 Morning: AOS Judging  
Afternoon: ribbon judging  
6:00 – 9:00 pm: Preview Party
- Aug. 7 9:00 am – 6:00 pm: Show open to the public
- Aug. 8 9:00 am – 5:00 pm: Show open to the public
- Aug. 9 10:00 am – 2:00 pm: Show open to the public

## Hilo Orchid Society Officers and Trustees

President – Larry Kuekes 860-380-7964  
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President Elect – Rick Kelley 756-8145  
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Vice President – Ben Oliveros 345-1371  
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Treasurer – Bill Rawson 934-0552

Recording Secretary – Lisa Steinmeyer 769-4245  
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Corresponding Secretary – Joe Bush

Past President – Julie Goettsch 333-5989  
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Trustee 2014-2015 – Vivian Ueoka

Trustee 2014-2015 – Shelby Smith 408-966-5924  
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Trustee 2015-2016 – Lillian Paiva

Trustee 2015-2016 – Barry Yamada

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