

The Kona Orchidist

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August 2009

President's Message

Kathy Penwell

Aloha,

Well if you missed the July meeting you missed one of our best speakers ever. Fred Clarke, an orchid judge and nursery owner from California had an amazing presentation. The new screen allowed us to see his great pictures displayed large and clearly. The way he was able to show us the parents of an orchid alongside the hybridized orchid made it so much easier to see which characteristics came from each parent. A great number of his orchids have received awards from the AOS. We were very fortunate to be able to share this speaker with the Hilo Society. His next speaking engagement is in Durbin, South Africa, so he is a world class speaker. Many of us were lucky to win one of his award winning crosses in the raffle. Christopher purchased Fred's most famous cross, Fredclarkeara "After Dark" the darkest orchid ever bred, which we hope we'll see in a future Show & Tell event.

WE NEED HELP. Matt has agreed to help set up our display in at the Hilo Show and Sale on Wednesday,

Next Meeting

The Annual Picnic!

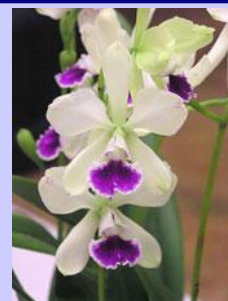
Sunday, August 2

11:00 AM to pau

Kahalu'u Beach Park

Photo: Epc. El Hatillo

'Pinta,' July's Commercial Winner



August 5th. We need at least one more person and vehicle to take plants over to Hilo. Also, if you have a nice plant in bloom, please bring it to the picnic; bring it into the pavilion, don't leave it in a hot car. If you cannot bring them to the picnic, please call Linda Baseman at (removed for web) to make arrangements to take them to her house by Tuesday evening, August 4th. Finally, please call me at (removed for web) if you can help with setup.

Our picnic is fast approaching, Sunday, August 2nd, at Kahalu'u Beach Park, at 11 AM. The society is providing the meat, veggie burgers, water, and all the paper goods. Please bring the following based on the letter of your last name: A-G: side dishes like salads; H-O: finger foods, pupus, chips etc.; and P-Z: desserts. We look forward to this social event. I understand that many of you don't feel that we have enough time to socialize at our meetings as we have so much to cover. I know people don't like to get home too late, plus we have some members with long drives, so that is why we sometimes feel rushed. I don't think anyone wants fewer plants in the raffle to speed things up, so we have two events a year that are purely social.

We do need some help before meetings to set up the room, put up the tables and chairs, and set up the refreshment table. The board has been doing this; we were spoiled as Paul and Anne used to do the setup. If you can get to the room by 6 PM, your help would be greatly appreciated. Everyone is pretty helpful putting things away when the meeting is over.

Some good news: John Booker is home from the hospital and slowly getting stronger.

Happy Growing, Kathy ■

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AOS Corner

Carol Holdren, AOS Affiliated Society Chair

As a member of an AOS Affiliated Society your society receives a monthly copy of *Orchids* magazine. If you are not an AOS member, in which case you get your own *Orchids* magazine at home, then checking out the club copy is a good way to see what you're missing. July's issue has a great article by Ken Slump about orchid viruses as well as several other articles, information on orchid shows and ads for orchid related items. The information is for beginners as well as more advanced orchid growers. Think of it as a meeting that is in addition to your monthly club meeting – your local orchid society does the best job of helping you grow orchids in your particular area and the AOS is the organization that can help with orchid growing on a national level. To join go to www.aos.org

The AOS web site also has information on the upcoming AOS Members Meeting which is open to everyone – it is an orchid conference and they are always great fun as well as full of new and exciting orchids. The next meeting is outside Los Angeles, CA in October 2009 at the beautiful Huntington Botanical Gardens. <http://www.orchidshow.org/> Check that out too! ■

Donations Needed for Our Silent Auction in October

Just a reminder that the club will be holding a silent auction as part of the October meeting plant auction. Your donations for the silent auction will be greatly appreciated. If you are a crafter, consider donating an item you make. If you have a business, how about an item or gift certificate? Also consider asking business owners for a donation. Assure them that they will receive a tax donation letter after the event. If you have a useful, quality “white elephant” item, that may also be donated.

Silent auction items may be brought to the August picnic. Otherwise, all items should be brought to the September meeting or arrangements can be made to drop them at Linda Baseman's house by calling (removed for web). It would not be possible for all items to be processed on the night of the auction so make plans to deliver them ahead of time.

Since the May Show and Sale did not generate as much profit as in the past, we are hoping the plant/silent auction will be well attended with lots of buyers. Please help support the Kona Orchid Society. ■

Hilo Orchid Society's Annual Show and Sale Coming in August

The Hilo Orchid Society plans to show off some of the most beautiful and rare orchids to be found or propagated at their 57th Annual Orchid Show and Sale in August. “Hawaiian Orchids Past, Present and Future” is the theme of their upcoming Show and Sale which will take place on:

**Friday, August 7 from 9 am until 8 pm,
Saturday, August 8 from 9 am until 5 pm, and on
Sunday, August 9 from 10 am until 3 pm**

at the Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium in Hilo.

Admission at the door is a \$4.00 donation each day but KOS members can contact Chuck Pikcunas for \$2.00 pre-sale tickets at the picnic, by phone at (removed for web), or at KOS@konaorchidsociety.org.

This colorful event promises to be more outstanding than ever as exhibitors and vendors from Hawaii and the U.S. mainland celebrate the history, current state, and future of the growing of orchids as both hobbyists or commercially in Hawaii. Young and old are involved as members of the society and will be displaying at the show.

To get the best and most intimate sneak peek at the stars of the show, plan to attend:

Hilo Orchid Society's Members and Guests Preview Party at the stadium on Thursday, August 6 at 6 pm.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available through members of the society for \$25 (again, you can contact Chuck Pikcunas). Guests at the party will enjoy food and beverages while listening to Hawaiian music and delighting in the magnificent exhibits and displays.

For more information visit www.hiloorchidsociety.org or contact Sheryl Rawson at (808) 934-0552. This show is partially sponsored by the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

What better place would there be than the Orchid Isle to experience “Hawaiian Orchids Past, Present and Future,” a place where orchids have long been and still are an integral part of the scenery and lifestyle, and where seasoned orchid aficionados bring out their best? ■

In the News

PHOTOS: Ghost orchid again drawing crowds to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Whitney Bryan – naplesnews.com
(July 20, 2009)

Becky Garland came from Bradenton on her birthday to see it.

George Bodmer and his family made sure not to miss it on their annual vacation from Chicago.

The rare and elusive ghost orchid, which is in bloom for the third straight year at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, is drawing visitors from all over the country.

"We have been coming to Southwest Florida for vacation for the last 20 years," Bodmer said. "We make sure to come to Corkscrew Sanctuary every time now hoping to see the orchid. We missed it last year so we've seen it two out of three years. That's pretty good."

Sally Stein, director of public programs for Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, said the ghost orchid has been a blessing for business since the summer months are slow and the blooms appear between the end of June and can last through September.

The boardwalk's visitors have increased 51 percent in the month of July since the discovery of the ghost orchid in 2007, according to staff at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

"This is a unique opportunity for people," Stein said. "Usually you have to wade through waist-high swamp water to see it. The boardwalk and telescopes make it easy for people of all ages and abilities to see the rare flower."

A telescope is needed because the bloom is about 150 feet from the boardwalk.

Garland and her husband Mick peered through two telescopes at the edge of the boardwalk, pointed directly at the rare blooms about 50 feet high on a bald cypress tree.

Nine blooms appeared in the telescopes on Saturday. Corkscrew staff members said this week it looks like it will be the peak of this year's blooms.

"We have heard about them for the last few years but I work and it's just hard to get out here," Becky Garland said. "I'm really glad we came, it has been the perfect way to celebrate."

The couple said they hope to return next year if the orchid blooms again. But there are no guarantees with this orchid, which rarely blooms more than two years in a row.

R.J. Wyley, a photographer from Bonita Springs, has been taking pictures of the ghost orchid since its first bloom in 2007. He said the orchid gets its name from the illusion that it is floating in mid air, due to the camouflaged routes the vine takes as it wraps around a tree.

Local businesses are making it easier for visitors to take advantage of the orchid blooms with special pricing and packages offered at more than 10 Naples hotels.

Many Floridians don't need special pricing to entice them to visit the orchid. For some it is worth a short glance through a telescope. Others hope for a picture souvenir.

Larry Kuhs of North Fort Myers said he was hoping for a photo to take home to his wife, Susan, who collects orchids.

"She has about 40 species of orchids at home," Kuhs said, "but I've never seen anything like this one." Kuhs said he is new at the photography game and this was too great an opportunity to pass up.

"It's very difficult to photograph," Kuhs said. "It's really a challenge but it was definitely worth the trip to come and see it if I don't get any good pictures." ■



Bring Orchids and Silent Auction Items to the Picnic

Please help make our orchid display at the Hilo Show and Sale spectacular. If you have any orchids in bloom, or if you just want to purchase some to add to the display, please bring them to the picnic on August 2. If you don't plan to attend the picnic, please call Linda Baseman at (removed for web) and make arrangements to bring them to her house by Tuesday evening, August 4th.

Please remember to label your plants with your name near the bottom of the pot.

Also, if you have items for the silent auction, please bring them to the picnic, if possible. We would like to have items as far in advance of the October meeting as possible so that everything can be recorded and set up in advance. If you cannot send bring them to the picnic, please bring them to the September meeting or, again, call Linda Baseman to arrange for delivery to her house.

A form to be filled out with each donated item will be sent by email along with this newsletter. Please fill in the form and submit it with your donation. ■

Email Address Changes

If your email address is changing, please send a note to Linda at baseman@konaorchidsociety.org so she

can update the membership list. Also, if you do not receive the newsletter, let her know so she can check it out for you. ■

More Photos on the Web!

A Shutterfly account was set up to share KOS photos! You can upload an unlimited number of photos and share them by emailing the link to KOS members and other friends. This helps to avoid email restrictions (such as file size) when sending photos by email. Anyone you email the link will be able to view, copy, and order photos.

- The website address is: <http://www.shutterfly.com/>
- The login is (removed for web)
- The password is: (removed for web) ■

Our Website

Remember that we have a Society website at www.konaorchidsociety.org. If you have any ideas to make the site better and more useful to both members and the public, let our Board know or send us a message to the new KOS email address at KOS@konaorchidsociety.org. ■



July Show and Tell

Mahalo to Ben Dysart
for photographs

Novice

- 1st: *Chiloschista usneoids*- Elizabeth Folkendt
- 2nd: Not recorded
- 3rd: Not recorded

Open

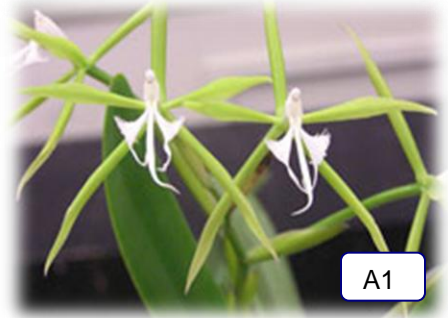
- 1st: *Paph. toppei* x *Paph. hongmallerinum* - Christopher Allen
- 2nd: *Stelis* sp.- Linda Baseman
- 3rd: *Blc. Goldenzelle Passion*- Joel Gimpel

Advanced

- 1st: *Epidendrum ciliare*- Kathy Penwell
- 2nd: *Blc. Everything Nice*- Cheeta Wilson
- 3rd: *Den. Burana Fancy* x *Thongchai Gold*- Jan Rae

Commercial

- 1st: *Epc. El Hatillo 'Pinta'*- Phoenicia Zeller
- 2nd: *Paph. Booth's Strap Leaf*- Chuck Piccunas
- 3rd: *Zygolum Louisendorf*- Walter Scheeren



Board, Officers, and Subcommittee Information

Board of Directors

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Joel Gimpel

Graham Wood

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August Picnic

Jan Rae

Joel Gimpel

December Banquet

Hildi Vieira

Nancy Sallee

Conservation

Linda Nelson

Elections

Open

Greeter

Lianne Shiroma

Housekeeping

Open

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Open

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Jan Rae

Joel Gimpel

Refreshments

Open

Show and Tell

Stefan Folkendt

Tours

Cheeta Wilson

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