

The Kona Orchidist

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February 2009

President's Message

Kathy Penwell

Aloha All,

It was nice to start the new year with such a good turnout at our January meeting. Our speaker was very generous and kept adding plants to the raffle table as numbers were called. I know we all were given something to think about as we learned how to plan orchid show displays. Hopefully we now have a few members who will be willing to help with the society display at our upcoming show.

We had a good response from our members in filling the open volunteer positions although two important jobs still need to be filled. Two members could job share which will make it easier and provide coverage when someone can't make the meeting. We still need someone to organize refreshments at the meetings and a chairperson for the August picnic. Your society is

Next Meeting

Friday, February 6

6:30 PM

Hualalai Academy
Auditorium

Speaker: Graham Wood, Lehua Orchids

Photo: Dtps. Minho Princess "S.J"

January's Open Winner



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only as strong as our member's willingness to work together on our meetings and yearly events. I know I personally enjoy getting to know people better by working with them and I always find the hours spent at the show to be invigorating.

The Kona Orchid Society lost one of our founding members on January 12th when Bob McLean passed away after many years of battling health issues. Services will be Saturday, Jan. 31, at 10 am at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Kailua-Kona.

To our newer members, he was our beloved Maggie's husband. He was the night guard at our show in its early years, along with serving on the set up crew, and someone who always kept us laughing at meetings. He and Maggie were the reason I joined the club after meeting them at a show at Lanihau 16 years ago. He held many board positions and was our Mr. Aloha. What a kind and generous spirit he had along with being a bit of a rascal. I'll tell you that story in person at our February meeting; it would lose something in writing.

The society also says good bye to another member, Florence Champagne, mother of members Brenda Kuessner and Jan Murray. We all remember how lucky she always was at the raffle and her daughters say she was always excited about winning. Florence was 91 years young and would have celebrated her 67th anniversary March 2nd. Maggie mentioned what she'll always remember was Florence's lovely smile. Aloha Florence.

Let's all work together and have a successful year learning about orchids.

Aloha, Kathy ■

Graham Wood Speaks on Complex Hybrid Paphs

February's speaker will be Graham Wood, the owner of Lehua Orchids in Mountain View, HI. Graham will be talking about complex hybrid paphiopedilums and why their "hard" reputation is undeserved for the hobby growers. Also, Graham says that you cannot invite him to talk about orchids without his saying something about masdevallias.

Lehua Orchids is entering its 20th year and focuses on the breeding, hybridizing, and growing of paphiopedilums and masdevallias. The nursery is currently adding angræcums to that list, and also grows miltonia (the warm tolerant Brazilian type), miltoniopsis (the cool growing Columbian miltonia – also known as the pansy orchid), zygopetalums, and nobile-style dendrobiums.

Graham is also an accredited American Orchid Society judge. Lehua Orchids holds approximately 50 merit and cultural awards from the AOS. He has judged the Tokyo Dome show and large mainland shows, in addition to local and in-state judging

While it will be obvious that he is not from this island when he speaks, he has been here long enough to understand that an invited guest brings omiyagi. Hopefully there will be enough of something for everyone. ■

Second Chance to Renew Your Membership

Thanks to the many members who renewed their membership at January's meeting. If you are one of the few who haven't yet renewed, it is time to do so.

Please note that the board approved an increase in the dues at its October meeting. The new fee structure is as follows: A family membership-- that is, 2 people living at the same address-- will cost \$33 when initially joining. Family renewals will cost \$25. A single membership will cost \$23 when initially joining and \$15 for renewal.

The previous dues structure had been in place for many years. As you all know, everything has gotten more expensive. If you take part in the picnic and holiday party, you will get a very fine return on your investment! If you only attend the monthly meetings—it's cheap entertainment!

You may pay your dues at the next monthly meeting or send a check payable to KOS, %Linda Baseman, [removed for web]. Please make a note if any of your information has changed—name, address, phone, or email. ■

Our Newest Members

Please welcome our newest members, Charlot Bryant and Connie Ellefson. Please make all our new members feel welcome! ■

AOS Corner

April 23-26, 2009 will be a special time for the Houston Orchid Society!

Several years ago, Houston OS voted to invite (to host) the American Orchid Society and Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association to Houston for their spring members' meetings. Along the way, others were also invited -- the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, Orchid Digest Corporation, Slipper Orchid Alliance, Odontoglossum Alliance and the Pleurothallid Alliance -- they all accepted!

Why will this be such a special time and why does HOS want to go to all the trouble and work for an event of this magnitude? We think it is almost the same as inviting two guests to your home – you have a bond or an attraction to those invited guests and you want to entertain them, make them feel welcome in your home. And, there is also the thought that if you invite two guests, why not invite more because all you have to do is increase the amount of whatever you had already planned. So, why not?

The Houston OS was the second domestic orchid society to become affiliated with the AOS. We have a bond with the AOS and we also have a lot in common with the other orchid organizations that will join us in April. We have hosted the AOS three times previously and each time has been a very rewarding experience for not only HOS but the membership. Not often will we have the opportunity to have so many people who love orchids together in Houston. This is the HOS' opportunity to show how much we love orchids and to be hospitable to fellow orchid lovers.

Go to the HOS Web site www.houstonorchidsociety.org and/or the AOS Web site www.aos.org to find the latest information. It will be *Orchids, Texas Style!* ■

In the News

December Floods Cost Orchid Farm Millions of Dollars

Roger Mari- KHNL, Waianae, HI
(January 12, 2009)

During the island's rainy season, flooding from future storms is a concern for many. Leeward Oahu residents and businesses are still struggling from December's storms.

For one farmer it's time to start all over from the ground up.

Owners of Hawaiian Orchid Nursery in Waianae are calling their business a complete loss. They say it could take more than two years to fully recover. Even then, there's no guarantee the state can prevent it from happening again.

More than 2 acres of orchids in his hot house can no longer be sold. Heavy rains carved deep gully's burying most of them in mud.

"We know that 3/4 of them are in mud and so we know they're going to die," said Hawaiian Orchid Nursery President Mordecai Hudson.

Farmers say a state owned ranch overflowed sending countless gallons of water rushing through. It was a costly catastrophe.

"Just in plant loss alone, probably about a million dollars," says Ron Hudson of Hawaiian Orchid Nursery.

Mordecai Hudson owns this orchid farm and says these are the worst rains he had experienced in 29 years of operation.

"We don't want someone to just give us money, we want them to fix it and fix up there so it won't happen again," said Mordecai Hudson.

In a few years this business will be handed down to Ron Hudson. He hopes by then his hard work restoring the farm won't be washed away.

"If they don't do anything, I'm stuck, and that's all there is to it because I don't know where that water is going to come through," said Ron Hudson.

With customers to serve, he and his son Ron are buying orchids from the Big Island to fulfill their



Mordecai Hudson



Ron Hudson



obligations. One of their biggest accounts is the Sheraton Waikiki.

"They want orchids back in there and we don't have the orchids to put back in, so we have to go buy them to keep up our end of the contract," said Mordecai Hudson.

For now they take things day-by-day and hope the next heavy rains won't leave them stuck in the mud.

Mordecai says the Department of Agriculture came by to assess the damage, but hasn't yet told him if it'll compensate him for the losses. ■

Help with the Website

We have purchased the domain konaorchidsociety.org through Google Apps and are looking for volunteers to help out. We need volunteers to help with:

- Deciding what features and content we would like on the site;
- Designing and laying out the web site elements.

If you are interested in helping out, please let one of the officers know. ■

Save These Dates in May!

Please mark your calendars now so that you don't forget that the Annual Mother's Day Show and Sale is on May 8 and 9! Plans for the event are already in the works and, as always, the success of the Show and Sale is dependent upon the efforts of all of our members. This year we hope to expand on the show and the educational parts of the event, so we will be relying even more on our volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer to help out with the planning phases, we would be very happy to have your help. Please contact Chuck Pikcunas, who will be serving as the show chairman this year. Also, if you have any ideas that you think would improve the show, now is the time to let Chuck or one of the other Board members know.

At a minimum, please consider how you will be able to help out on May 8 and 9. As usual, we will be putting together a work schedule over the next few months. It is always a great opportunity to get to know the other members better and to learn more about the many varieties of orchids. ■

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]■

Email Address Changes

If your email address has changed, please send a note to Linda at lbaseman@konaorchidsociety.org so she can update the membership list. Also, if you are not receiving the newsletter, let her know so she can check it out for you. ■

Bring a Guest, Get a Raffle Ticket

The Society is always looking for new members and guests are always welcome. Often, guests become members once they attend one of our meetings. Therefore, to encourage members to bring along guests, the Board has decided that each guest will receive a blue raffle ticket. Even more, if your guest becomes a member, you will receive a red raffle ticket. So, if you would like a better chance to get one of our raffle plants, consider asking a friend to the next meeting. ■

January Show and Tell

Mahalo to Ben Dysart
for photographs

Novice:

1st: Odn. Mem. Martin Orenstein 'Lulu' HCC/AOS- Susan Allen

2nd: Den. Burana Fancy 'Hawaii'- Marion Newton

3rd: Den. Roy Tokunaga- Stefan Folkendt

Open:

1st: Dtps. Minho Princess 'S.J.'- Linda Baseman

2nd: Brassia gireodiana- Christopher Allen

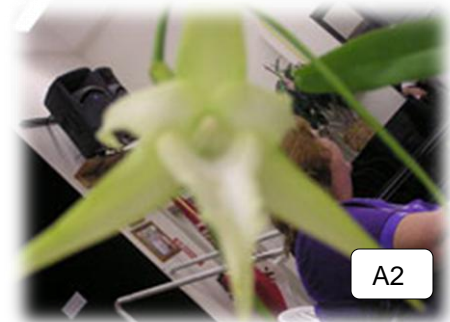
3rd: Lc. Gold Digger- Alice Goo

Advanced:

1st: Paph. Warmest Regards- Chuck Pikcunas

2nd: Angraecum basserian- Kathy Penwell

3rd: Den. Wonder Nishii- Jan Rae



Board, Officers, and Subcommittee Information

[Some personal information has been removed from the web version]

Board of Directors

Bob Zeller
Joel Gimpel
Jill Spanheimer
Judy Schuman
Linda Baseman

lbaseman@konaorchidsociety.org

Officers

President Kathy Penwell
Vice President Jan Rae
Treasurer Charles Pikcunas
Secretary Pauline Johnston

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Subcommittee Chairpersons

AOS Contact Charles Pikcunas

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Audit Committee **Open**

Bob Zeller

Charles Pikcunas

cpikcunas@konaorchidsociety.org

August Picnic **Open**

December Banquet Hildi Vieira

Nancy Sallee

Conservation Linda Nelson

Elections **Open**

Greeter Lianne Shiroma

Housekeeping **Open**

Hualalai Academy Kathy Penwell

Membership Linda Baseman

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Mother's Day Event Charles Pikcunas

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Raffle Plants Charles Pikcunas

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Ticket Sales Jan Rae

Joel Gimpel

Refreshments **Open**

Show and Tell Matthew Sylva

Stefan Folkendt

Tours Cheeta Wilson

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