

The Kona Orchidist

Volume 24, Issue 7

July 2009

President's Message

Kathy Penwell

Aloha,

Well, it is summer in Kona again as evidenced by the welcome afternoon rains. I know some of you up mauka have been getting heavy rains while those of us at lower elevations have been lucky to get a few tenths of an inch. This is the time to check to make sure none of your orchids are sitting in water filled saucers, breeding mosquitoes or rotting root tips. The higher humidity levels also can breed fungal diseases so keep an eye out for these on your plants and provide as much air movement as possible. This can be a good time to move plants into your gardens out of shade houses to prevent overcrowding which limits air circulation. Provide them with filtered light under trees or shrubs. The afternoon sun can be very strong this time of year so make sure they

Next Meeting

Friday, July 10

6:30 PM

Hualalai Academy

Auditorium

Speaker: Fred Clarke,

Sunset Valley Orchids

Photo: Cymbidium, June's Novice Winner



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** President's Message
- 2** Fred Clarke to Speak in July
- 2** More Information on Our October Auction...
- 2** Mahalo Nui Loa to Cheeta
- 3** AOS Corner
- 3** Hilo Orchid Society's Annual Show and Sale Coming...
- 4** A New Judge in Town
- 4** AOS Selling Pins to Raise Funds
- 5** In the News
- 5** Our Newest Member
- 5** More Photos on the Web!
- 5** Email Address Changes
- 5** Our Website
- 6** June Show and Tell
- 7** Contacts

aren't being baked on the west side of your property. Remember just like people orchids can also get sunburned.

Don't forget to change your calendars for our July meeting to July 10 due to the 4th of July weekend. Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista, CA will speak on the Catasetinae family of orchids. We are sharing this renowned mainland speaker with Hilo so it should be an informative meeting. He speaks all over the country and Canada so we are fortunate to have him address our society. The darkest orchid currently known, Fredclarkeara "After Dark," was hybridized by him. He'll give a different talk in Hilo for those attending both Society's meetings. His website is www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com.

It is time to plan for our August picnic on Sunday, August 2, from 10:30 am until 1 pm or thereabout. The club will provide burgers, chicken, and beverages. Please bring the following based on the first letter of your last name: A-G, side dishes such as salads, baked beans etc.; H-O, finger foods, pupus; and P-Z, desserts. Hope this doesn't duplicate what you brought last year.

The following week is the Hilo Orchid Society Show, definitely worth the drive. Our society will have a display there. Start grooming your plants now so we have orchids for the Hilo display. Set up will be Wednesday Aug. 5th as judging is Aug. 6th. I'll be going over on Sunday to take down our display and bring back plants; one additional vehicle would be ideal. Let me know if you plan on going Sunday, Aug. 9th. The Zellers, Chuck Pikcunas, and I have tickets available for the Hilo Show. See us at the July meeting if you want one.

Also, we are sorry to hear that John Booker is back in the hospital. Please send wishes for a speedy recovery.

Happy Growing, Kathy ■

Fred Clarke to Speak in July

Catasetum, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes* are three related genera from the Tribe Cymbidieae. Individually, each has been considered an orchid oddity, or “botanical”, of interest mainly to the seriously addicted enthusiast. These plants have a brief deciduous period in winter, when the plants need a definite dry rest period bordering on neglect. These robust orchids are native to lowland tropical forests in Central and South America and are usually grown in warm or intermediate conditions.

Commercially, *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* (or ‘Swan’ orchids) and *Mormodes* (or ‘Goblin’ orchids) have occupied a small market niche on the edge of a sea of Cymbidiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Dendrobiums, Epidendrums, and so on. Until recently, they have not attracted much attention from hybridizers, but in the past several years some spectacular hybrids have been produced, receiving great acclaim and an increasingly large collection of awards from the American Orchid Society.

This talk will feature a widescreen computer slide show on some of the new hybrids and breakthroughs in the hybridization of *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes*.

Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for thirty years and has been hybridizing for twenty of those years. With over 23 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery, Sunset Valley Orchids, located in Vista, CA.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Bulbophyllum and Paphiopedilum hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out!

His pioneering work in *Catasetum* intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the **blackest** flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received five FCC’s and three AM’s on the first flowers shown for judging!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society. ■

More Information on our October Auction and Silent Auction

Are you interested in expanding your collections, orchid and otherwise? The KOS Board has voted to hold a live plant auction (live plants, live auction) in conjunction with the regular meeting on Friday, October 2. There will also be a silent auction of things beautiful, fun, or useful, donated by you, the members, and others. The items don’t need to relate to orchids.

Please make your friends aware of the event and please bring some friends along with you. As always, this meeting will be public, but we hope that more nonmembers will attend.

Start thinking about what **you** can do to help make this a successful fundraiser for our society. This is important because the May Show and Sale profits were down. If you’re a crafter, please donate an item you’ve made. If you have a business, can you donate an item from there? Ask friends and relatives to donate something. Talk to businessmen with whom you regularly do business. Even classy “white elephant” items would be good. A tax deduction letter will be given for all donated items.

Food and sparkling cider (we’ll pretend it is wine) will also be a part of the evening. We will ask our members to furnish “heavy” pupus so that we will have enough food for all our members and guests.

The meeting will focus on this event. There will be no speaker or Show and Tell competition in October.

We look forward to each of you taking part in the evening. It does take lots of hands to make an event happen so please offer yours. More details will be coming each month. ■

Mahalo Nui Loa to Cheeta

Many thanks to Cheeta Wilson for putting together a great bus tour with the Kona Daikufuji Orchid Society on Saturday, June 13. The tour went to four nurseries: Orchid Eros in Mountain View, Kalapana Tropicals in Kurtistown, Gerrit Takasaki’s nursery in Hilo, and Akatsuka Orchid Gardens in Volcano (as a final rest stop on the way back).

We had a delicious lunch at the Skygarden Restaurant at the Imiloa Astronomy Center at UH Hilo in between nurseries. The orchids were awesome and I believe all of us exceeded our orchid budgets that day! ■

AOS Corner

Carol Holdren, AOS Affiliated Society Chair

Let's talk about FREE!

If you are looking for orchid information - try the American Orchid Society web site at www.AOS.org. Much of the web site, including the forum, is open to everyone. There is a "Member's Only" section that has great information and we do want you to join the AOS and get our great magazine, *Orchids*, as well as access to that part of the web site, but if you aren't ready for that right now don't hesitate to visit the web site.

At the web site under "Orchid Information" there is a place to sign up for a FREE Beginner's Newsletter. And there are also culture sheets. If you give an orchid as a gift it is nice to include a culture sheet with it. You can download those at no charge - FREE. Also your society can download them to give away at shows or at meetings.

The AOS web site lists upcoming shows which is great to check out when you are traveling. Wouldn't you hate to go to a city and find out you could have gone to an orchid show – if you had only known it was on? The web site also has all of the AOS Affiliated Societies listed along with when they meet and their contact information. Our society recently had a guest who was from New Jersey and visiting their mother in Delray Beach, FL. She went to 3 different orchid societies while in the area and had a great time. If you are an orchid grower you have instant friends all over the world. FREE! Under "Shop" you will find the "Orchid Source Directory" which lists vendors according to area. Now that might cost you something!

One event in particular you might want to plan a trip around are the AOS Members Meetings. The AOS Fall Meeting will be held at the Huntington Botanical Garden outside Los Angeles, CA along with the Southland Orchid Show. The dates are October 15 – 19, 2009. The Spring Meeting is in Oklahoma City, OK on April 28 – May 2, 2010. These meetings are orchid conferences with a lot going on, tours and lectures as well as the show. If you come to a meeting please join us at the Affiliated Society Breakfast. The registration is not FREE but the hotels are discounted for the meetings and the hosting clubs go to a lot of effort to hold the costs down while having a great event.

So there are some FREE things in the orchid world along with a lot of FUN. ■

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 July meeting, by phone at 557-0313, 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? ■

A New Judge in Town

On June 12th, our Treasurer, Chuck Pikcunas, owner of Tsunami Tropicals, Ltd., was nominated by the Hilo Supplemental Judging Center to be its newest student judge. Chuck now goes to Maui in July to meet with the Regional Judges from all over Hawaii to seek their endorsement. Provided he is approved there, his application and personal recommendations are then submitted at the American Orchid Society Annual Meeting in October for a final approval.

But it doesn't stop there. If ultimately approved by the AOS as a Student Judge, Chuck will be expected to attend both the monthly judges' training session and the monthly judging at the University of Hawaii - Hilo, while doing research projects for his mentors, Graham Wood of Lehua Orchids and Glen Barfield of Okika Orchids. These projects, if deemed worthy, are then delivered orally at various judging functions for criticism and comment.

AOS judge training takes between five and six years and a significant time and monetary investment by the student to secure a position, which by its own rules must be undertaken unpaid. Congratulations to Chuck on this achievement and good luck in your future studies along the way to become an AOS Certified Judge. ■

AOS Selling Pins to Raise Funds

The American Orchid Society announced that they are selling AOS pins. These pins are 1 ½-inches wide and come with a piece that converts them into a necklace (see the photo below). So, you can wear them either way. You can order them through the AOS website or by contacting Susan Wayman. The cost is \$25 which includes shipping and handling. (The chain is not included.)

Carol Holdren, the AOS Affiliated Society Chair, stated it would be great if AOS Reps could order one to show to everyone. The pin was designed by an award winning orchid jeweler, Dawn Vertrees. All proceeds go to the AOS general fund. Order yours today! ■



Pauline Amarino's beautiful Oncidium ("popcorn" orchid) border. Pauline brought many cuttings of her popcorn orchids to the April meeting. Note how well they grow in full sun.

In the News

AOS reverses decision, will keep Delray Beach gardens open

Jennifer Shapiro - SunSentinel.com
(June 21, 2009)

Residents can continue visiting the American Orchid Society's gardens in Delray Beach after a recent decision to keep the botanical gardens open year-round despite the weakening economy.

With the help of the South Florida Leadership Council, made up of representatives from local orchid societies, they were able to collect more than 10,000 signatures in support of keeping the gardens open and raised more than \$40,000 for the organization, said Jim Jordan, AOS' executive director.

"The [organization] owes a debt of gratitude to the way that the local orchid societies rallied around this cause," Jordan said. "We are only as good as the volunteers and the members who stepped up to save the garden. Their leadership and commitment helped make our survival a reality."

One of those volunteers, Lynn Lee, has helped at AOS once a week for the last year and a half. Lee helps with thousands of plants — cleaning them, refreshing them, categorizing them according to species, pulling any weeds and repotting them if necessary.

"It was such a disappointment when they were going to be closing down, so everyone got on board ... and the response was overwhelming," she said. "There are thousands of plants there, and it's so nice the rest of the world gets to see them."

"It is great for South Florida," Jordan said. "We have a unique venue that allows us to blend the exotic allure of the orchid species in one of their native habitats. Now we can continue to educate both young and old about how special the AOS botanical garden is."

To help raise money and reverse the February decision to close the gardens, the AOS had a Wine and Jazz in the Gardens fundraiser in April which raised about \$8,000 and drew 370 people, the largest attendance they've ever had, Jordan said.

"What it demonstrated to the board is that given the right promotion and given the right type of event, there is interest, and that interest was certainly demonstrated with the wine and jazz [fundraiser], and we're very pleased with the result," Jordan said.

During the summer up until early October, the group's slow season, Jordan said they'll be considering a lot of new activities to attract more visitors.

Some programs they're considering are a Fourth of July-themed party, teacher appreciation month in September, and a student program in which children learn about the environment as well as orchids, Jordan said.

The AOS gardens are 3.5 acres, with more than 1,000 rare flowering trees, palms and orchids, and are adjacent to the Morikami Museum.

For more information, call 561-404-2000. ■

Our Newest Member

Please welcome our newest member, Janice Beeson, who jumped right in and joined us on the bus tour. It was great seeing her. Please make all our new members feel welcome! ■

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 the web)
- The password is: (removed for the web) ■

Email Address Changes

If your email address is changing, please send a note to Linda at ibaseman@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. ■

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. ■

June Show and Tell

Mahalo to Ben Dysart
for photographs

Novice:

- 1st: Cymbidium- Nancy Sallee
- 2nd: Odbrs. Fangtastic Bob Henley- Pauline Johnston
- 3rd: Bl. Morning Glory- Suz Allen

Open:

- 1st: Mtssa. Olmec 'Kanno'- Linda Baseman
- 2nd: Dtps. (Cyanus x Orihime) x Phal. Frozen Polaris- Joel Gimpel
- 3rd: Onc. Dancing Ladies- Christopher Allen

Advanced:

- 1st: Odcdm. Tiger Crow Golden Girl- Jan Rae
- 2nd: Phal. Golden Peoker Ching Her Spot Golden Sun x Brother Spring Moonlight Sugar- Kathy Penwell
- 3rd: Den. Silver Wings- Matt Sylva

Commercial:

- 1st: Paph. chamberlanum L.L. x Paph. stonoi 'Jen'- Phoenicia Zeller
- 2nd: Paph. Blushing Princess- Chuck Piccunas



A2



A3



C1



C2



A1



O1



N1



O2



O3



N2



N3

Board, Officers, and Subcommittee Information

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August Picnic

Open

December Banquet

Hildi Vieira

Nancy Sallee

Conservation

Linda Nelson

Elections

Open

Greeter

Lianne Shiroma

Housekeeping

Open

Hualalai Academy

Kathy Penwell

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Joel Gimpel

Refreshments

Open

Show and Tell

Matthew Sylva

Stefan Folkendt

Tours

Cheeta Wilson

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