

The Kona Orchidist

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March 2009

President's Message

Kathy Penwell

Aloha to all,

We had a great turnout again for our February meeting. For the second month in a row, the speaker gave out plants to the members aside from the raffle. If you have been missing meetings you have missed out on some nice orchids.

Graham Wood was a very interesting and knowledgeable speaker. We were lucky as this was the first time he had shared his more than 20 years of orchid-growing experience with any audience. His tips on growing paphs will hopefully work, as I know I have had trouble even keeping these beautiful orchids alive.

We look forward to having our own Matt Sylva speak in March as he shows us how to track our orchid

Next Meeting

Friday, March 6

6:30 PM

Hualalai Academy

Auditorium

Speaker: Matt Sylva, Kona Orchid Society

Photo: Cymbidium

'Forgotten Fruits', February's Novice Winner



collections using a computer. He has developed a good system for recording information on your collections. By cataloging your collection, you will be able to avoid duplicating plants as your collection grows. (I know that I have forgotten I owned a certain plant and bought another of the same kind.) Matt will be speaking to us a week before he turns 18. His passion for orchids continues to grow along with his knowledge.

Don't forget to keep up your fertilization schedule so that you will have blooms for the May Show. All members should provide at least one blooming orchid for the show.

Mahalo, Kathy ■

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Last Chance to Renew Your Membership

The March meeting is your last chance to renew your membership. 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 and, as you know, everything has gotten more expensive.

If you haven't already done so, you may pay your dues at the March meeting or send a check payable to [removed for web version]. Please make a note if any of your information has changed—name, address, phone, or email. ■

AOS Corner

Melba Butler, AOS Affiliated Societies Committee

Orchid Trivia: "You should begin preparing an orchid for exhibition before the blooms are actually open. By doing so the flowers are encouraged to open to their fullest potential and present themselves in the best way possible." This "timely" orchid trivia is from the Orchid Photo Page Web site of Greg Allikas at www.orchidworks.com; from there, click on "The Online Guide to Exhibiting Orchids."

Exhibiting Orchids:

Just in time for orchid show season, a step-by-step illustrated guide at www.orchidworks.com is just the thing for orchid hobbyists. All orchid hobbyists could be categorized as either of these: 1) needing a refresher course, or; 2) needing a beginner's course -- on how to groom orchids and get them in tip top shape for the upcoming show(s). We are right at the beginning of the orchid show season, so tune in to this free course. It will take only minutes to browse through. If something seems obvious, you will only need to read it but if you need notes, I suggest you print the page or paragraph.

Information is there that couldn't possibly be known if you haven't exhibited previously. After reading and seeing all the information that is offered, readers will feel more confident about creating an exhibit. Greg talks about such things as

- AOS point scale for judging exhibits
- Master Class with Woody Robbins - This is a photo guide that illustrates building an exhibit, from a sketch to the finished exhibit. A sketch is not necessary but some would find it helpful.
- How many plants are needed
- Exhibit materials checklist (this is definitely a necessity and items can be added)
- Grooming Your Orchids (Reading this is a must)
- Color Flow (exhibits should be arranged so color flows? – Who knew?)
- Idea Book I and/or Idea Book II -- Be warned. These are photos of actual exhibits. Some use large numbers of orchids. They are very beautiful. Large numbers of orchids make fine exhibits. Also, exhibits using 5 orchids or less can also be very good.

Again, all of the above information is from Greg Allikas' Web site www.orchidworks.com.

All I can add is that building an exhibit is rewarding because orchid lovers want to show their orchids off to the best advantage. Exhibiting is fun and even those

who don't consider themselves "creative" will be surprised at what they can do. One thing that is most helpful to some is to set the exhibit up at home and take a photo. Using the photo when setting up the exhibit is much easier because the idea was created at home and it just requires putting it together again.

Show time will be here before we know it. Start now to get plants ready and to plan the exhibit!! ■

Matt Sylva to Speak in March

Our own Matt Sylva will be March's speaker. Most of us know Matt as the person to beat in our monthly Show and Tell competitions. Matt, our youngest member, has already rocketed to the Advanced category, having won Novice in 2007 and Open in 2008.

Matt will be helping us organize our collections. He has developed a system to help keep track of information on our collections. We will be looking forward to hearing about what he has invented. ■

Kona Orchids: Good to the Last Drop!

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! The theme for this year's show is "Kona Orchids: Good to the Last Drop!" which combines our orchids with a Kona coffee theme.

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 two 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. ■

AOS Corner II

President's Communication from Carlos Fighetti

(Orchids, February 2009)

Back to Basics

Economic uncertainty is forcing us to look into our operations and determine which are the most important services to our membership and hence come up with a new strategy to weather the storm. For this to happen, we need to set priorities.

To the majority of our members, *Orchids* magazine is the most important reward of being members of this organization. So, our top priority is to publish a quality magazine, and we intend to continue to do this. As I explained in last month's column, in order to reduce the cost of production, we made some changes. The width has been slightly reduced to get better use of the paper at the printer, and the number of pages has decreased. Also, the cover finish has been changed and the binding replaced by the original saddle-stitch type that the *AOS Bulletin* had. All of this provides us with enough savings to allow us to continue with a monthly publication.

Our second priority is AOS judging. Again, this is an aspect of high importance to a great number of our members as they exhibit orchid plants everywhere. Many of you may not be aware that orchid flower and plant judging occurs every month at 35 different sites in the United States and Canada and routinely more than 700 AOS judges and student judges participate. In addition, AOS judging occurs at orchid shows throughout the United States as well as all over the world. We are committed to support all of these activities as usual by quarterly upgrading our AQ *Plus* computer program that contains all awards statistics and images since judging was started in 1932, and by providing the necessary paperwork support and processing of all awards on a timely basis.

Third, our Web site will continue to receive our attention as many of our members and orchid growers in general worldwide use electronic media to access information on all aspects of orchidology. Through the Web site we will be able to disseminate information on how to grow plants, provide articles of interest in all orchid aspects and provide news about the organization. Also, articles that we cannot place

in our magazine for lack of available space will appear on www.aos.org.

This does not mean that we are going to forget about education, conservation and research. On the contrary, this is our mission, and we are committed to continuing to foster the passion for orchids. It means only that for the time being we will not be able to provide additional grant funding for these activities.

What we are facing today is extraordinary economic times with no clear end in sight. After a year of holding a steady membership level, we are starting to see a decline again. Also, contributions to our general fund for operations have substantially decreased. All of this has forced us now to do what we are doing. It is our Board's responsibility as leaders of this organization to preserve our resources so that the organization continues to exist as it has done for 88 years. Consequently, we have decided to concentrate on the activities listed above. We have significantly reduced our staff at the Delray Beach facilities and have put on hold or cancelled some of the activities at the headquarters.

However, I must reiterate what I said in last month's column. The AOS is debt free, and we will continue that way. We have more than \$1.7 million dollars in restricted funds for programs such as the construction of a library, for research, for annual awards and other projects and we will continue to safeguard these funds as required by law. It is also our intention to remain in our headquarters facility and to maintain our gardens — so much of which have been donated by our membership — so that when we come out of this recession, we can continue to grow as our predecessors originally intended.

The volunteer leadership and staff cannot do this alone. We need your help. We need you to help us reduce our expenses by, for example, renewing your membership immediately when it is due. Do you know that it costs us \$9 for every renewal that is not done when the first renewal notice is sent? We also need your help in securing new members. This can be done by promoting our organization at your local and regional meetings or at shows and judging. Sometimes, all you have to do is bring a copy of *Orchids* magazine and show it to your friends. And, most certainly you can help us by making a fully tax deductible, unrestricted contribution to the AOS. Dues alone are not enough to provide all of the services listed above. ■

In the News

American Orchid Society West of Delray Beach Closing to Public

**Maria Herrera- South Florida Sun-Sentinel
(February 13, 2009)**

Orchids are rare, flowering plants of extraordinary beauty that randomly bloom — which only adds to their mystique. Soon South Florida orchid lovers, collectors and the plain curious will have one less place to admire them.

The American Orchid Society, with headquarters west of Delray Beach, confirmed Thursday it will be closing to the public.

The 3.5 acres — with a gift shop, greenhouses and gardens — will close to the public at the end of May, said Executive Director Jim Jordan.

"We're still dedicated to education, conservation and research," Jordan said. "We feel we'll be able to do that more effectively than by having to subsidize activities that touch so few people."

Declining membership and endowments hit by the financial crisis are to blame for the closure, Jordan said.

"Those members who are local are facing a pretty big void," he said.

The society has more than 17,000 members worldwide and serves as an umbrella organization to societies across the country. Founded in 1921, the society has had several homes, including Harvard University and an estate in West Palm Beach. It has been at its current location since 2001.

"The economy got another victim," said Annette Jackson, an orchid enthusiast and former president of the Delray Beach Orchid Society.

Jackson said that each local society puts on at least one annual show, but there will be no central place where all the societies can gather.

"Going to shows will be more important than it was before," said Sandy Brockinton, second vice president of the Delray Beach society. "As far as the general public is concerned ... you won't have a place where to see all the varieties and talk to people who can give you good advice."

The society's greenhouses and gardens contain about 15,000 varieties of orchids. There are also native plants, walks and open spaces that have been the scenes of memorials and countless events.

Victor Congrains, a planner for the Miami-based Americaters, said the closure is a loss to the wedding planning business.

"There are very few places like it," he said.

Jordan said the society will honor all contracts for special events that already have been booked. He said the society will continue to maintain the grounds and that an upswing in the economy could mean the gardens will reopen someday.

Meanwhile, visitors can still visit the grounds, including art exhibits and special events such as Wine and Jazz in the Garden.

"It's a place of tranquillity," Jackson said, "a destination to be transported to another world." ■



Graham Wood, February's speaker and one of our newest members, shows us two of his stunning complex paphiopedilums.

KOS Website Goes Live!

Our website, www.konaorchidsociety.org, went live in early February. We continue to add content to the site so, if you haven't been there recently, check out what's there.

Also, please let your friends, and anyone else interested in orchids, know about our site. Not only do we have information on what is happening at KOS and links to other great information on orchids from across the web, but we even have a membership application for them to fill out!

In addition, 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.

We also continue to look for artists that could help with developing a better banner for the top of the site pages, coordinating site colors and textures, and selecting graphics or photos. If you can help us with the site, in any way, let us know. ■

Our Newest Members

Please welcome our newest members: Peter Honeyman, Michael and Toni Flaherty, Karen and Dale Kimmerle, and Graham Wood. Please make all our new members feel welcome! ■

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. ■

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 version]
- The password is: [removed for web version]

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. ■



Matt looks for another plant to add to his orchid collection chart at the February orchid sale.

February Show and Tell

Photos by
Pauline Johnston

Novice:

- 1st: Cymbidium 'Forgotten Fruits'- Marion Newton
- 2nd: Sogo Doll Little Angel- Susan Allen
- 3rd (tie): Dtps. (Tom Boy x Mt. Beauty Hamalip)- Pauline Johnston & Slc. Fire Magic 'Solar Flare'- Lianne Shiroma (not shown)

Open:

- 1st: Pot. (His Light x Sunstate's Ted and Alice) 'Carmela'- Linda Baseman
- 2nd: Den. Green Lantern- Rae Jean Gossett
- 3rd: Angraecum sesquipedale- Alice Goo

Advanced:

- 1st: Rothchildianum cross #7292 unregistered- Chuck Pikcunas
- 2nd: Blc. Hawaiian Treasure King's Crown- Kathy Penwell
- 3rd: Dtps. (Cygnus x Orihime)- Jan Rae



Board, Officers, and Subcommittee Information

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Open

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Nancy Sallee

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Joel Gimpel

Refreshments

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Show and Tell

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Stefan Folkendt

Tours

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