

The Kona Orchidist

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May 2009

President's Message

Kathy Penwell

Happy Spring to all our members. This is the time of year our collections start bursting forth with flowers. And what could be better than the chance to show off your blooms by bringing them down to Hale Halawai for our show, May 8 & 9th. All members should bring their plants for the display to Hale Halawai between 9 and 10 PM Thursday evening, May 7th, or between 7 and 8 AM on Friday morning, May 8th. If you can't make either time, please contact another member in your area that could bring your plants in for you. Remember to put your name somewhere low on the pot, either with marking pen or an address label.

At the April meeting, we all enjoyed Neal's excellent talk on how to pick good orchids for our collections. I even overheard Maggie saying "oh, I never knew that;" she was surprised herself that she learned something new. That shows how useful his information was. Not only did Neal provide the plants for our raffle but he generously provided 3 flats of beautiful miltassias and beallaras so all of us got to take some home. Pauline Amarino also brought in many cuttings of oncidiums (popcorn orchids) to share with all the members. Thanks also to Shirley and Maggie who showed

Next Meeting

Friday, May 8

6:30 PM

**Hale Halawai
(after Friday's
Show and Sale)**



Photo: Cattleya, April's Novice Winner

how to mount Honohono orchids; a few bundles of these also got donated to the raffle.

The May meeting will take place at the show Friday night May 8th. It will be a chance to ask professional growers any of those questions you've had but never had the chance to get answered. If you didn't already have a chance to see the show, you'll be able to see the displays and buy a few more orchids for your collection. I know in these tough economic times it might be hard to think about spending money on something that only looks pretty, but that might just be the pick me up you need. For the cost of about two fancy coffee drinks a week, or one lunch at a fast food restaurant, you can buy a nice orchid. So, brown bag it a few times in the next few weeks, make coffee at home, or figure out something else to cut back on so you can indulge your passion for a beautiful flower. (I'll be doing both, so I can buy even more!)

This is the time to keep an eye on your vanilla vines as they should start blooming soon. Remember you only have a few hours every morning to pollinate your orchid so you'll have vanilla beans in about seven months. We don't have the special bee here in Hawaii that pollinates the vanilla flowers. With our long cool winter they seem to be blooming later this year.

Finally, please send wishes for a speedy recovery to John Booker. He was recently released from a trip to the hospital and is recovering at home.

Happy growing, see you at the show May 8 & 9. ■

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Mark Your Calendars!

**Our Annual Show and Sale
at Hale Halawai
Friday, May 8th and
Saturday, May 9th**

Your Orchid Society Needs You (and Your Plants)!

We really want to make this year's Show and Sale something special and we are relying on your help! As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, we are expanding the "Show" portion of the Show and Sale, and we need all of you to help out in providing us with your beautiful orchids for our display. We plan to have ribbon judging for the event and both the Daikufuji and Hilo Orchid Societies plan to set up their own displays at the show. Let's not be outdone by our sister societies; let's go home with some of those ribbons!

You can provide any orchid plants to our show. In fact, they don't even have to be bloomed by you; you could buy them at the store and bring them along to us. Please try your best to stake and trim the plants well, and clean up the pots, however. Remember to label your plants in case you aren't there when we break down the display. Address labels placed low on the side of the pots adhere well and don't show when on the display (or use a marking pen).

Plans have changed a bit from last month; we plan to start setting up the show on Thursday evening. So, try to bring them along to Hale Halawai between 9 and 10 PM Thursday evening, May 7th, or between 7 and 8 AM on Friday morning, May 8th. If you can't make either time, please contact another member in your area that could bring your plants in for you.

Also, if you haven't already done so, please volunteer for one of the slots on the work schedule for the show, which takes place on May 8 and 9! If you haven't signed up, but find you have some available time, just stop in at the show. We can always use more help! As always, the success of the Show and Sale is dependent upon the efforts of all of our members. It is always a great opportunity to get to know the other members better and to learn more about the many varieties of orchids. ■

Honor Your Mother or Wife This Mother's Day

This Mother's Day, give your mother and/or wife a unique gift—name a new hybrid orchid after her! The National Parkinson Foundation is partnering with Soroa Orchids, one of the premier orchid growers in the world, to auction off the naming rights of a new hybrid orchid. While you honor your mother and/or

wife with this gift, you also honor the lives of people living with Parkinson's disease. Place your bid online at www.parkinson.org during the month of April—Parkinson's Awareness Month. The online auction closes on May 9, 2009. For more information, call 1-800-327-4545. ■



*Hybrid
(phalaenopsis)
Orchid grown by
Soroa Orchids*

www.soroa.com

Excitement Coming in October

Are you interested in expanding your collections? 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. Start thinking about what **you** can do to help make this a successful fundraiser for our society. If you're a crafter, perhaps you can 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. 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 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. ■

Our New and Returning Members

Please welcome back Mary Dahlager and Vivian Ontai, who have recently rejoined KOS, and welcome our newest members, Mary Lou Moss and John and Hai Ping Heath. Hai Ping was the grower of the beautiful cattleya, pictured on the cover page, which won Novice Show and Tell for April. Please make all our new and returning members feel welcome! ■

THE KONA ORCHID SOCIETY
ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND
ORCHID SHOW & SALE



Friday, May 8
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 9
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

At Hale Halawai, Ali'i Drive
located on the waterfront in downtown Kailua-Kona

- Wide array of orchid varieties from top island growers
- Exotic & rare orchid specimens on display
- Free orchid culture classes
- Orchid arts & crafts



Admission Free!

In the News

A Sarasota orchid expert and filmmaker are teaming up for a different kind of nature show

Cooper Levey-Baker- Creativeloafing.com/the941 (Sarasota)(April 13, 2009)

"Plants are not big sellers compared to tigers or whales," Stig Dalström says with a laugh. The Sweden-born orchid curator at [Selby Gardens](#) realizes that while he may love the quiet, contemplative joy of examining flowers, when it comes to nature on-screen, audiences reared on the gonzo routines of Animal Planet hosts have a hard time getting psyched about flora.

That poses a challenge for Dalström and filmmaker Darryl Saffer, who have teamed up to create *Wild Orchid Man*, an ongoing nature documentary series the two hope to land on the Discovery Channel or even National Geographic. Even the style of the show challenges the standards of the contemporary nature show. While popular programs feature quick-hitting, often staged wildlife encounters chopped into five-second cuts, *Wild Orchid Man* unspools its story with patience and grace. (Watch a trailer [here](#).)

While Dalström and Saffer haven't gotten any bites from the cable channels so far, Sarasotans can get a glimpse of the show-in-progress at a pair of free screenings this week, one at [Burns Court](#), the second at [Word of Mouth](#).

The pairing of Dalström and Saffer is a natural one. For years, Dalström has funded private research on orchids by working as a botanical illustrator, while Saffer has worked on any number of local film projects, many of them documenting the natural world. When they began floating ideas for a collaboration, coming up with a winner didn't take long: They headed to South Florida's Fakahatchee Strand swamp on a hunt for the ghost orchid, with Dalström playing host and guide. (Ironically, although plants may be a tough sell on TV, you've probably heard of the flower via Hollywood: It was the elusive core of the Spike Jonze film *Adaptation*.) But the ghost orchid is only the starting point for the show. Once in the swamp, the show delves into the world of insects, wildlife and more.

The two have an explicit mission: to educate viewers about the richness of botanical life, to connect us emotionally to the natural world, to get us to rethink what we value. Both want to change our attitude toward our planet. "It has to be a financial [change] but it also has to be an emotional one, but most importantly it has to be a cultural one," Saffer says.

That explains the long, loving shots of the Fakahatchee wild, the lingering pace of the show, the meandering narrative. There may not be any crocodile hunting going on, but *Wild Orchid Man* is rapturous entertainment nevertheless. ■



AOS Corner

Carol Holdren, AOS Affiliated Society Chair

Check out the AOS.ORG website. If you haven't been there lately you'll find lots of new stuff. There is a great new forum where you can ask orchid questions, show photos of your blooming beauties, read other orchid society newsletters or just chat about orchids. There is a blog for orchid societies as well as one for judges - anyone can participate, you do not have to be an AOS member to be on the forum. You only have to register which makes it a little more civil than some web forums.

Greg Allikas is working on the web site and he keeps it full of exciting orchid information as well as beautiful photos. If you don't see the link to the forum on the home page then go to the "Orchid Information" link and you'll see it. The web site still has the latest information on orchid shows as well as AOS Member's Meetings. There are new "How-To" videos showing everything from how to pot a keiki to what a virused plant looks like. You can also purchase AOS books at the site and pay for your AOS awards. At the bottom of the Home Page is a link to the Affiliated Societies Page where you can find out all there is to know about AOS Affiliated Orchid Societies such as what the benefits are and how to use them.

So if you haven't been to the AOS web site at www.aos.org, give it a look; I think you may be pleasantly surprised. And if you want to join AOS, for those who are not members, you can do that too. If you join for 2 years, the best deal, you get a special bonus. So check it out! ■

Check Out Our Website!

We continue to add content to our website at www.konaorchidsociety.org 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. ■

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. ■



Neal Okimoto discusses how to select healthy plants at the April meeting.

April Show and Tell

Mahalo to Ben Dysart
for photographs

Novice:

- 1st: Cattleya – Hai Ping Heath
- 2nd: Phal. violacea – Linda Nelson
- 3rd : Renanthera Mem. Marie Killian 'Volcano Queen' – Pauline Johnston

Open:

- 1st: Nobile dendrobium – Jack Bovee
- 2nd: Phalaenopsis – Linda Baseman
- 3rd: Honohono dendrobium – Shirley Kauhahao

Advanced:

- 1st: Brassia Rex Fu Man Chu – Jan Rae
- 2nd: Maxillaria tenuifolia – Matt Sylva
- 3rd: Den. Dream Ace – Cheeta Wilson

Commercial:

- 1st: Phrag. caudatum var. sunderae – Chuck Pikcunas



Board, Officers, and Subcommittee Information

Board of Directors

Bob Zeller
Joel Gimpel
Jill Spanheimer

Open

Linda Baseman

lbaseman@konaorchidsociety.org

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President Kathy Penwell
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Treasurer Charles Pikcunas
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Audit Committee Linda Baseman
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Charles Pikcunas

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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

Membership Linda Baseman

Mother's Day Event Charles Pikcunas

Newsletter/Web Editor Pauline Johnston

Raffle Plants Charles Pikcunas

Ticket Sales Jan Rae

Joel Gimpel

Refreshments **Open**

Show and Tell Matthew Sylva

Stefan Folkendt

Tours Cheeta Wilson

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