

Newsletter of the

The Garden Island Orchid Society

Kaua'i, Hawai'i

July-August 2006

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

The GIOS newsletter is published by the Garden Island Orchid Society on a bi-monthly basis. Contact them at P. O. Box 1056, Hanapepe, HI 96716.

GIOS Board 2006/2007

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Library: Ann Notley.
Refreshments: Gwen Teragawa
General: Al Sugano

General Meetings 2006:

August 11
August 24-27, Farm Bureau Fair
October 13
December - December 8th

Board Meetings 2006:

September 10
November 12



Coming Events

General Meeting - August 11, 2006. The meeting will be held in the United Church of Christ in Hanapepe. The plant doctor will be on duty at 6:30 and he will conduct Orchids 101. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00. After the speaker there will be a discussion regarding our plans for the Kauai Farm Bureau Fair show so please attend.

Bring your plants for judging and comments and bring items to share for door prizes such as produce from your gardens, canned jams and/or chutneys and white elephants.

August 24-27 - Kauai Farm Bureau Fair -The Garden Island Orchid Society salutes the Filipino Centennial in Hawaii - See Pages 2 and 3



President's Message

I would like to invite all members who can to join us in setting up the farm fair presentation on August 23. We will be there from +9 a.m. til we are finished. It will be fun, I guarantee(!) and a good way to learn about our various jobs in the club. Also, Ann Notley our manpower chair will be around at the next meeting or on the phone asking you to do a shift at the fair during its run. Another good day to come with us is Thursday around 9 a.m. when the judges from Honolulu are giving ribbons to many plants. We always need a few folks to assist with this task. On setup evening we have a catered dinner. Please join us.

Along with this we have copies of our bylaws and policies and procedures available for anyone to borrow from our library. Read them over and see if you wish to do any of the chair positions. Get involved!

Bob King

The Garden Island Orchid Society “Orchids in Paradise” Salutes the Filipino Centennial in Hawaii

The Board met on July 9, 2006 to finalize plans for the Farm Bureau Fair show. In honor of our Filipino neighbors and fellow members of the Garden Island Orchid Society, we all agreed to dedicate our show to the Filipino Centennial in Hawaii 2006.

The show this year takes place on August 24-27, 2006. Fair hours are:

Wednesday, 23 August 2006 Set-up 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, 24 August 6:00 til 12:00 p.m.

Friday, 25 August 6:00 til 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, 26 August 12:00 noon til 12:00 midnight

Sunday 27 August 12:00 noon til 11:00 p.m. The orchid show will, however, close down at 6:00 p.m.

Setup for the show will be from 9:00 a.m. til pau on Wednesday August 23rd.

Plant Registration will take place at 3 to 5 p.m. on August 23. Anyone who plans to enter flowers and has the names of their flowers in advance should get in touch with Lenora so she can begin the typing the display cards beforehand, thereby saving a lot of time during plant registration.

Judging will take place on August 24 and will last from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

We will need volunteers and are asking people to sign up for placing the plants and for security during the days of the show. As in the past, dinner will be catered by Mark's Place which is a good incentive to participate.

We will need more plants and are asking our members to come forward if they have staghorn ferns, Spanish moss, asparagus ferns, and Areca palms.

We are counting on all of you to help make it a big success as it has been in the past. If you have any questions, please call Bob King.

Orchids of the Philippines

At the beginning of 2006, the Filipino community declared this the year of the Filipino and set about celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Filipino arrivals in Hawaii. There have been Filipino Fiestas all over the islands while old timers look back and reminisce about the hardships and the good times. Known as *sakadas*, they spent long days in the cane and pineapple fields and scrimped and saved to send money back to their waiting families in the Philippines. Some started new families in Hawaii—some eventually returned home. It is to those who stayed and the Filipino members of the Garden

Island Orchid Society that we are dedicating our show at the Annual Farm Bureau Fair 2006.

We also salute the orchid culture that came to us along the same trade and shipping routes that brought the *sakadas* to Hawaii.

The Philippine Archipelago is comprised of 7,000 islands and stretches across a distance of 1,600 miles, equal to more than half the distance from Hawaii to the West Coast of the United States. Of the 30,000 species of orchids catalogued throughout the world, almost 1,000 species are found on the Philippine islands alone. Of those 74% are found nowhere else in the world. It is worth noting that these figures are subject



Dendrobium victoriae-reginea - Photo from the Orchid Gallery Forum

to change as 200 to 300 new species are still being discovered worldwide every year. These figures do not include hybrids.

For the Kauai orchid-growing hobbyist, cultivating orchids from the Philippines can be challenging for there are have four different climatic zones in the P.I. Of course, our commercial growers have already figured this out. Some of these zones have prolonged wet and dry seasons while others have short dry seasons or no dry season at all. Some orchids are found at sea level while others like the *Dendrobium victoriae-reginea* (somewhat like the Hono Hono with clusters of flowers along the stem) were originally collected in the Mount Santo Thomas vicinity near Baguio at a level of over 8,000 feet.

The *Dendrochilum cobbianum* grows on the cliff faces also in the vicinity of Baguio but at



Paphiopedilum Philippinense - Owner Mackenzie Ajimura

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4,000 to 7,000 feet while *Dendrochilum filiform* is a lowland species found in forests on the East Coast of Luzon.

The good news is that the popular slipper orchids, *Paphiopedilum philippinenses*, are low-altitude species from Mindanao where they grown in lowland nurseries in climates similar to ours. Other Philippine orchids presently popular in Hawaii are the *Vanda sanderiana* or *Waling Waling*, now on the CITES' endangered species list; *Dendrobium anosum* (Hono Hono); *Spathoglottis plicata* (Philippines Ground Orchid) and *Dendrobium crumenatuym* (Dove Orchid).



Vanda sanderiana

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To learn more about orchids, contact the Garden Island Orchid Society, P. O. Box 1056, Hanapepe, HI 96716.

For more reading: please refer to Jim Cootes' "The Orchids of the Philippines", Times Editions, Singapore 2001.

By Ada Koene

Vanda Sanderiana - Davao's very own Waling Waling - From *Tales of Orchid Hunting* <http://geocities.com>

In 1882 one of Mr. Sander's explorers by the name of Roebelin was dispatched to the Philippines to search for new species, one day, as a guest of a "savage" chieftain south east of Mindanao, he found himself accommodated in a tree house which was perched high in the canopy of one particularly large tree, so as to be "well out the way of animals".

Early in the morning whilst it was still dark he awoke to a deep throated roaring sound and found the tree swaying wildly, it became apparent that an earthquake had shaken the forest, and in particular his abode, throwing all his companions to the ground, destroying his makeshift ladder, and leaving him isolated in the ruins of the tree house.

When dawn broke, he lay back, gazing forlornly through a hole in the remnants of his roof, and he noticed some very large flowers of a lilac and cinnamon coloring growing in the very tree he had chosen as a campsite, climbing up he identified the orchid as a new species and named it *Vanda Sanderiana*.

Brassia orchids are unique and easy to grow

By Scot Mitamura

Why is it that so few orchids have mass popularity? With the profusion of diverse, alluring orchids — species and hybrids — one would think that a whole bunch of orchids would be "mainstream."

There are a few answers. For an orchid to be a staple at every nursery, it must meet several criteria — it must be unique and showy, easy to grow, and readily available to even the most casual orchid admirer at a reasonable price. Move over dendrobia, cattleya and vanda — in Hawai'i, the Brassia, or spider orchid, is on the rise.

Native to Central and South America, Brassia grows extremely well in Hawai'i's warm climate. Named after William Brass, a 19th-century British botanical illustrator, the Brassia got its spider nickname from the appearance of its flowers. The narrow flower sepals and petals resemble the long legs of an arachnid. Typical colors range from chartreuse to yellow with a degree of brown spotting on the sepals and petals. The insect disguise is part of Brassia's survival kit — in the plant's native habitat, parasitic wasps lay their eggs on unsuspecting spiders. By mimicking spiders, Brassia gets pollinated.

Easy to grow, Brassia does well in filtered sunlight in a greenhouse or outdoors under a canopy of trees. Avoid direct midday sunlight, which can burn it. At Foster Botanical Gardens, we have Brassia mounted on tree branches or tree ferns in the same conditions as our *Oncidium spacleatum* (Popcorn orchid).

Give them lots of water and fertilizer from spring through summer and during this time, they will reward you with multiple sprays of flowers. In winter, allow them to dry slightly between waterings. They are easily divided and you can make many plants, but if you resist the urge to divide them, they can grow into huge spectacular specimen plants.

Probably the most common Brassia you will find is the *Brs. Rex*. It's a favorite of Tina Kaneshiro, secretary to the mayor. She likes to call the plant "Sexy REXY." Several other varieties, including *Sakata*, *Lea* and *Christine* are available in Hawai'i.

My favorite Brassias? *Brs. gireoudiana* Maikai Farms (which is one of the parents of *Brs. Rex*), *Brs. Edvah Loo Nishida AM/AOS* (which, a few years back, won a prize on Maui with its almost 18-inch-long flowers), and *Brs. Memoria Fritz Boedeker* (it has flowers that are more than eight inches wide).

Brassias are often hybridized with *Oncidiums*, resulting in *Brsdm. Lillian Oka*, which has larger flowers with larger brown blotches. Different colors are achieved when hybridized with *Miltonias*. The result is *Mltssa. Memoria Charles M. Fitch Izumi AM/AOS*, which has a medium purple color with darker purple spots. This cultivar was named after the late George

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Izumi of Kane'ohe who was one of my early orchid-breeding mentors.

I believe Brassias will grow in popularity. Orchid experts will continue their efforts to develop new, exciting colors. All orchid growers should consider the Brassia a great starter orchid and a good addition to any collection.

I would like to thank Scot Mitamura for his permission to reprint this article which appeared in the Honolulu Advertiser on Friday, July 21, 2006.

Garden Island Orchid Society Minutes of General Meeting June 9, 2006

Plant doctor was available from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Several members were dismayed to learn their plants were infested with spider mites. Recommended treatment: Tallstar Spray which can be purchased at United.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Treasurer's report: currently have over \$6,900 in bank.

Old business: Christmas party is now set (tentatively) for December 8 as a Pot Luck using the church facilities.

New business: Farm Fair, August 23 - 27. Volunteers are urgently needed including Plant Sales chair and Show/ Display Chair. Ann Notley has volunteered to be the Manpower Chair.

T Shirts: a new supply of GIOS T-shirts is now available for purchase at the general meetings.

Program Synopsis:

Pollination and Germination of Orchid Seeds presented by Wayne Ajimura.



Orchids have both sexes in one plant. Pollination involves using a toothpick to move pollen to the pistil. There are some natural pollinators that mostly come out at night. About 4 - 5 months later, seed pods appear. It then takes about 4 - 5 months for seed pods to mature. Seed pods can then be batched (minimum of 50 seed pods) and sent to Taiwan for germination. In Taiwan, the seeds are scraped into a glass flask with medium, water and agar-agar added. After germination, you will probably average 25 new plants per flask. The flasks are mailed to you from Taiwan. Upon receipt of the flasks, break open the flasks to remove the new seedlings. Seedlings can then be wrapped in sphagnum moss and placed in 2" pots to grow or mounted on logs, trees, etc.



A hands-on workshop planting new seedlings followed the presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Lenora Sorensen, Secretary

CHRISTMAS PARTY SURVEY RESULTS: total responses - 35

Pot luck using church facilities: 26

Date: Friday night: 21

Entertainment: No paid entertainment: 17; other: CD player with background music, orchid show, etc. 8; (dancers: 5, musicians: 7)

Santa's presents: Continue: 27 Limit to \$5: 18

Games: Bingo: 25 Paper games: 15 (?)

Awards Presentations to: New board members, continuing board members, volunteers

Garden Island Orchid Society Minutes of - Board Meeting July 2006

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM. All board members (except Wayne Ajimura) were present.

Minutes of the General Meeting in June 2006 were distributed to board members and approved.

Treasurer's Report indicates we still have approximately \$7,000. in the GIOS bank account. There was discussion of purchasing another \$5,000 CD with part of the money. It was pointed out, however, that the deduction of \$5,000 from the GIOS account would result in monthly bank fees being assessed.

Final results of the Christmas party survey were discussed and the decision was made to have the pot luck on the second Friday night in December (12/08/06) using the facilities at the church.

Membership: as of now we have 93 paid members in GIOS. Methods to recruit new members from the Farm Fair attendees were discussed. Lenora is making flyers that say "Join Us at Our Next Meeting!" with a map showing the location of the meeting, date, time, topic and speaker. There will also be a new sign on the easel inside the entrance to the orchid pavilion with information on joining GIOS, including an offer of membership for \$5 for the balance of this year and \$15 for 2007.

GIOS members are also urged to "bring a friend" to the next meeting in August. Even if they are not an orchid enthusiast yet, they may be inspired to become one!

Donations: Gwen Teragawa, Sylvia Zeevat, and Jerry Sorensen donated their cash prizes from the Spring Fantasy show back to GIOS. Note: if I omitted any names in error, please contact me (Lenora Sorensen) so I can issue a correction in the next newsletter.

T-Shirts: We have a new order in for GIOS T-shirts (no collar) and three members who have volunteered to submit designs for a new logo on the shirts.

Distractions: It was noted that, at the general meeting in June, some members were talking during the speaker's presentation and distracted those seated near them who were trying to hear. Please confine the 'socializing' to the coffee breaks and the period before the meeting. After the meeting, it would be appreciated if the members would help fold the chairs and clear the meeting room.

Farm Fair Plans: Set up will be on Wednesday, August 23 with the materials being brought in and set up starting at 9:00

AM, plants for display from 3:00 to 5:30 PM, and dinner for the volunteers who helped with the set-up at 6:00 PM. Judging will be on Thursday morning, August 24 from 9:00 AM to 12 noon (approximate) with the show opening Thursday evening. Show is also open to the public on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The orchid pavilion will close Sunday at 5 PM. All those displaying plants will need to remove their orchids at that time.

Labels: Lenora Sorensen will be e-mailing the lists of display orchids from the Farm Fair last year to all those who participated. You will be asked to add the names of any additional orchids you plan to show this year. Please do NOT bring orchids to display at the show unless you have notified Lenora Sorensen (lynne_sorensen@msn.com) with the label information no later than Tuesday, August 22. No last minute 'filler' plants, please.

Plant Sales: Carol Yasutake has generously offered to work as the Plant Sales Chair.

Volunteers are needed to security guards, membership table, set-up and tear-down, etc. Contact Ann Notley, Person Power Chairman, if you are willing to help the club. Even if you are a brand new member, what better way to show your appreciation for GIOS!

Topic Survey: It was decided that a survey of all GIOS members be held to get suggestions on what speakers/topics they would most like to have at future meetings.

The Board members recognized **Wayne Ajimura** for his excellent efforts as 'Plant Doctor' preceding each meeting and for his brilliant hands-on demonstration at the general meeting in June.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Lenora Sorensen**



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