



Newsletter of the

# The Garden Island Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

July - August 2010

## Coming Events

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.

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### General Meetings 2010:

August 13, 2010  
August 26, 27, 28 & 29 - Orchids in  
Paradise  
October 8, 2010  
December 4, 2010 - Christmas Party

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**August 13, 2010 - General Meeting** This will be a hands on meeting with Neill Sams. We will be mounting young oncidiums on wood. The meeting will be held at the United Church of Christ in Hanapepe and will start at 7:00. p.m.

We will be offering prizes for the best plants that we mounted a year ago so please bring them in for judging. We will also be discussing the Kauai Farm Bureau Fair and our orchid show.

**July 24, 2010 Orchid Workshop.** There will be another workshop on July 24th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Gwen's Green House in Numila Mill camp.

If you coming from the east side turn onto Road #54 after Kalaheo and drive towards the Kauai Coffee Visitor Center until you get to Mile Marker 2. Turn left onto a dirt road and continue until you see the greenhouse on the left. If you are coming from the west side then pass the Kauai Coffee Visitor Center till you get to Mile Marker 2, turn right onto the dirt road.

**August 26, 27, 28 & 29 - Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair** (see Page 2 for details.)

**December 4, 2010 - Annual Christmas Party**

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## President's Message

The GIOS Orchid Show is just a month away. Bobbie Agena will have sign-up sheets for volunteers at our August 13, General Meeting. Let us all prep our plants for a great show.

Members: Please give us your input as to what items you would like to purchase with your Makana points at our annual Christmas Party.

Carol Kanna

# Orchids in Paradise 2010

It is time again to get ready for our Orchids in Paradise Show at the Kauai Farm Bureau Fair 2010. It will be held from August 26 through August 29. The theme this year will be Orchid Falls (featuring a cascade of orchids).



**Winner of 2009 Best in Show: Neill Sams' Ascda. Susan Ong Ah Mooi 'Orchid Alley's Little Heaven'**

Set-up will be Wednesday, August 25. Most of you will know the routine. Plants are to be delivered between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. We will need volunteers to come by 4:00 p.m. to help place the plants.

We will also need volunteers for security and for orchid sales so please sign up at the August General meeting. Since dinner will be provided, Makana points will not be credited for the setup.

Judging will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will last until about 12:00 noon on Thursday, August 26.

Show times are as follows:

Thursday, August 26 - 6:00 p.m. until midnight

Friday, August 27 - 6:00 p.m. until midnight

Saturday, August 28 - 12:00 noon until midnight

Sunday, August 29 - 12:00 noon until about 3:30 p.m. when we will break down. This time is subject to change. (The rides are open until 11:00 p.m.)

We will have more information by the next General Meeting. The names of the plants to be submitted for judging should be in the hands of Stella Shimatsu, 3733 Elau Rd., Kalaheo, HI 96741 or [skshima@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:skshima@hawaiiantel.net) by August 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are sending by snail mail, give her a call at 651-2692. For last minute submittals, we are prepared to write the names by hand.

## We will need Volunteers for:

**Set-up  
Plant Sales  
Security**

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## Sale!

We will selling out our stock of club tee shirts. We have tees, tank tops and beach tops on Sale. Ask about them at our next General Meeting

## Mangoes needed

For the past three years I have been making mango jams and churneys to sell at our Spring Fantasy show. If you any of you have mangoes to donate, please let me know at the next general meeting or e-mail me at [thekoenes@cs.com](mailto:thekoenes@cs.com).

Ada Koene

# May Orchid Tour enjoyed by all

**Photos and Text by Linda Gerwick**

I was excited to learn I was able to attend the Spring Orchid tour. I met Gwen and Nancy at Kukui Grove to caravan onward. We picked up Suzie and several riders at Kapaa High School. Mahalo to Gwen, Nancy and Suzie for playing “chauffeur” so those of us riding could sit back and enjoy our tour. I thought



“BUYING SPREE”!! LOL....I began to worry, did I bring enough money?

Our first stop was to Makai Farm, with Robert Wolaver in Kilauea. We had a few other cars waiting to join us there, for a total of 18 people on this tour. It was like walking into an orchid candy store. There were so many orchids, ferns and tillandsias, it was breathtaking. We all started looking around, asking questions and enjoying all that we saw. Robert and his crew were very patient and helpful. Several of us bought vandas in bloom, while others went for the tillandsias and ferns. I had to pare down to 2 small orchids (and I’m proud to say, one has bloomed already).



Thank you so much to Robert for your kind hospitality and wonderful nursery. The next stop was Kauai Orchids, with Sachi and Noel. Sachi explained that they had decided to focus more on Hawaiian Native plants and less on orchids, so they did not have as many orchids as they had in the past. Some of us joined Sachi for a tour of their gardens while others went with Noel. It was wonderful to see everything. Sachi showed us a kukui tree that grew only on Kauai. I was impressed with a blue jade vine that grew on huge shade tree. Sachi and Noel were so generous too, we went home with papaya, basil, ground cover cuttings and two starts off their beautiful “myrmecophila tibicinis” or schamburgkia orchid plant. You noticed this orchid growing on a tree as you drove into the nursery. It was about 15 feet high, had multiple bloom spikes and Sachi said it was about 14 years old. Thank you Sachi and Noel for your generosity! If you have a chance, stop by and visit at 4643 Waiakulua St, Kilauea. They are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00am – 4:00pm, phone is 808-828-0904.

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thing you noticed when you walked in was the white lotus in bloom, very beautiful. The next thing we noticed was a huge sign advertising a photo contest. If you have purchased anything from Garden Ponds and used it to decorate your yard, you just might be a winner. Take a photo and enter on their



website -- [www.gardenpond-skauai.com](http://www.gardenpond-skauai.com). It was hard to know where to go first, the huge koi tanks, many small water gardens with beautiful water lilies in full bloom, not to mention all the containers to make your own wonderful water

gardens. Many of us added to our water gardens at this stop. They are open Wed-Sun 12:00-5:00pm, phone is 808-824-6400.

Next we visited Ricehill Water Gardens. While they were not officially open due to remodeling, we were still given a grand tour of all the garden and water plants. We were able to get some wonderful ideas on ways to add to our outdoor gardens. Then it was time for a quick lunch at the local Burger King. Two more HUGE stops after that!



We drove the back roads behind Kapaa to find David Neifert at Hanalei Orchids (which isn't in Hanalei!!) David was so kind to take time out of his busy day to show us his huge nurseries and talk about how he grows and readies the plants for sale. The greenhouses were immense, with all different kinds of orchids in all stages of growth. We also saw the "staging area" where he holds orchids that are ready to go out for sale. You can find his beautiful orchids at WalMart and Home Depot.

Our last stop was with Neil Sams from Orchid Alley. His nursery was unbelievable (well, some of you have seen it before). It just seems to go on and on forever, and when you get to one end, you walk out & up the hill a few steps into another. It was orchids everywhere! Of course, Neil is so patient and willing to talk to us about orchids, even setting aside orchids he thought we would like, and taking cuttings from one that we wanted to go home with. You can see more of his plants at Orchid Alley, 4-1383 Kuhio Highway, Kapaa, ph 808-822-0486. Orchid Alley is also on FaceBook or [www.orchidalleykauai.com](http://www.orchidalleykauai.com)

**More Orchid Tour Photos - Thanks to Ryan Metzger for sharing his photos with us.**

**Makai Farms**



**Kauai Orchids**







### Hanalei Orchids







*More Hanalei Orchids*



*Orchid Alley, above and right.*



## Robert Wolaver talks about Orchid Species from his collection

*By Linda Gerwick*

Robert Wolaver from Makai Farms in Kilauea presented us with a lovely talk and slide show about Species Orchids.



Robert said “Species are my favorite as opposed to hybrids”. Species are “survival of the fittest” and are the orchids you will find growing in the jungle. They are the basics, and compose the building blocks you will find of any plant or animal kingdom. Hybrids result from crossing two different species together.

Most of the dendrobiums (given to club members that night) are all hybrids, meaning they’ve been crossed with other dendrobiums over the years. If you have any of the Saunders books or the programs that list the genealogy, you can research back through the “family tree” and find out what the original species were. Dendrobiums are Robert’s favorite species.

Orchids in general grow just about everywhere in the world. There’s about 25,000 different species, growing everywhere from the tips of South America up to the Arctic Circle. More species grow above the Arctic Circle naturally than grow naturally in Hawaii. There are some species that live totally underground. The only time anything comes above the ground is when it flowers.

Most species come from a particular habitat and they are sensitive when you take them out of the environment. If you try to grow them in a warmer or dryer climate, they don’t always respond very well, so when you hybridize you typically get a more vigorous type plant. If you are interested in growing species, it’s best to do a little bit of research and find out which ones will grow best in your climate. The North Shore is a little cooler and damp, so a lot of the species grown there won’t do as well grown elsewhere on the Island.

Robert presented a wonderful slide show with many species orchids, including *Rhyncholaelia Digbyana* (formerly known as *Brassavola Digbyana*). This is the parent species used to produce those beautifully frilly lips in almost all *Cattleya* hybrids.



*Rhyncholaelia Digbyana*

# Orchid Workshop

*Photos & Text by Linda Gerwick*

Alan Yamada and Gwen Teragawa once again hosted an Orchid Care Workshop at Gwen's Greenhouse. Several GIOS members showed up to help along with 4 of us needing help. Gwen and Alan mixed some orchid bark chunks and some Perlite together to create a potting mix for the orchids to help us get started.

First orchid presented to Alan for help was in a small terra cotta pot. It seemed to be hard to remove from the pot, but as Alan said, "They're orchids", he gave it a tug and it came right out (he made it look so easy!). We were all

amazed at how root-bound the plant was. Alan explained that when an orchid is that root-bound, you need to loosen the roots to allow them to stretch out and grow. He also said not to worry about "old roots" but "new roots" are a bit more fragile. New roots tend to be whiter or greener. This orchid had also been potted in sphagnum moss.

When you have an orchid potted in moss, all the old moss needs to be removed. Bark and moss do not make a good combination. Alan spent some time working the roots apart and removing the old moss. When he repotted the orchid, he explained that you need to look for the front and the back of the bulbs and plant it with the back of the plant towards the back of the pot, giving the front room to grow outwards. If you are using a deeper pot, you can fill it up part way with packing peanuts first so you don't have to use as much bark. The plant and the planting material should be 1" below the top of the pot. Once you fill it with bark, tap it down lightly so there will be no airspace around the roots. I'm sure this orchid "Thank you so much for my new home..now I can spread out my roots.



**Root bound plant before repotting, above, and, after. below.**



The next tip is not to water your plant for about a week. The roots have been damaged (no matter how careful you are) and need time to recover. If you water too soon, there is a higher risk of rot.

At this point, a question came up about using crushed rock as planting material. Alan explained that in using rock, it does provide excellent drainage and keeps the roots from rotting. It also provides stability, but it doesn't hold nutrients, so if your orchids are growing in rocks, fertilize heavily.

Someone brought a wonderful orchid that had produced a seed pod. Alan said if you are not going to use the seed pod, cut it off. It does drain energy from the plant. Also, we learned not to transplant any orchids while they are blooming.

More orchids were brought out for repotting. After being removed from the old pot, the routine was to loosen the roots, cut off all dead growth and roots, keeping only the healthy growth. Then it was packing peanuts, bark chips, tamp and fertilize. Everyone had a wonderful time, learned so much about repotting and caring for their own orchids. Gwen has a beautiful greenhouse with many wonderful orchids.

Not all orchids needed to be repotted. One dendrobium appeared to be root-bound, but Alan explained that it didn't need to be repotted until the plant itself outgrew the pot

Everyone had a wonderful time. If you want to learn more about repotting, attend one of these workshops! Gwen and Alan are so generous, patient and knowledgeable.

MAHALO!



**Plant, above, not needing repotting, plant, below, close to needing repotting**

