

# GIOS NEWSLETTER

GARDEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY IS AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

## GARDEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

**General Meeting**—August 8th special speaker will be Elizabeth Borchelt on “Trekking for Orchids in Thailand”. Al Sugano will be holding the Learning Center at 6 pm before the general meeting at 6:30. Meeting location is at the United Church of Christ in Hanapepe.



**2014 General Meetings:** October 10th, and the annual holiday party on December 6th.

### Other 2014 Events:

Work party at the **Lawai International Center July 26th** in Lawai (3381 Wawae Road, Kalaheo) to plant orchids from 9 am to 1 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please bring your garden gloves, pruners, and other tools. Please call Gwen (335-3890 or 482-0704) for more information.

The **Orchids in Paradise show** at the farm fair is August 21st through the 24th. See more information on page 4.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It seems like we just finished preparing and presenting our Spring Show display and now we have the opportunity to participate in creating another display for the farm fair in August. It’s always wonderful to see what’s growing in our member’s homes. Information about volunteering will be announced at our next meeting.

But what can we do now to get our plants ready? Our experts are saying fertilize, groom and stake! I looked up a great article from our May June 2012 newsletter. It provided information from one of our popular speakers Scot Mitamura. He provided excellent information on how to prepare your plants for showing at events as well as getting the best out of them in your yard or home.

To look up the article, go to our website at [gardenislandorchidsociety.org](http://gardenislandorchidsociety.org), select e-News on the top banner which will open up a list of our past newsletters by year and month. Select the May-June newsletter under the 2012 tab.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting. I’ll be presenting a slide show on

### JULY-AUGUST 2014

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the orchid trip Karen and I went on in March of this year. Some of the wonders of trekking through the north of Thailand to see native species growing in the wild.

See you soon,

Elizabeth

- \* **President:** Elizabeth Borchelt
- \* **Vice President:** Gwen Teragawa
- \* **Secretary:** Kimberlee Kain
- \* **Treasurer:** Lee Anderson
- \* **Awards:** Mildred Konishi
- \* **By Laws/Ex-Officio:** Carol Kanna
- \* **Membership:** Bobbie Agena
- \* **Newsletter:** Karen Harlow
- \* **Show Display:** Nancy Nakama

## FOUNDATION AND WATERING

Al Sugano was the featured speaker at the June meeting and again gave an excellent talk about taking care of our orchids. There are two culture practices that are necessary to grow good orchids – **Foundation** and **Watering**.

### FOUNDATION

The first is establishing a good foundation for the orchid. The foundation includes the pot/basket or some other form of vessel you will be growing your orchid in. Al has seen a lot of root rot from basic nursery pots. He modifies the pot to ensure good drainage and air exchange. Side openings in the pot allow the medium to dry expeditiously so you can re-water and fertilize. Strong winds can cause round pots to topple over. Large growers use square pots. This maximizes the square footage on the bench. There are also racks made for square pots and storing the pots in the racks also ensures they don't topple over. Holes in the bottom of the pot with the upward indentation on the bottom allows for good drainage.

The medium is also part of the foundation. One way to determine what kind of medium to use is to look at what the big growers have used and try to duplicate it. They are experienced and you can make slight modifications based on the difference in your climate (amount of rain, wind, etc.). Medium is usually based on bark, cinder, rock, or sphagnum. Pine bark is highly used because it doesn't deteriorate as quickly since it is so hard. This also means you need to soak it for a couple of days to start with. Cinders are used for miniatures and they hold more moisture but they also expeditiously drain and dry out quite rapidly.

### WATERING

Water is a task that we do either daily, twice a week, or whatever is necessary. Repotting is only done periodically. Fertilizers depend on water to transport. As soon as the water gets into the root system, it puts life into the plant. Water is one of the essential elements in photosynthesis. Loss of water by the process of transportation. Almost 90% of the water comes out thru the leaves. This is how a plant keeps itself cool on a hot day. If you don't adequately water a plant, the first thing happens it will pull moisture out of the plant cells. If you continue to dry the plant, it wilts. Beyond that, untended you have decimation and then death. How you water your plant is an art – not a science. Al prefers to water about 10:30 – 11 am because in Koloa it rains early morning or late night. Al tends to get biased by water on the ground in the early morning but if he goes later, he can see they are all dried out.

Cymbidiums need water every day because it is a terrestrial. Lady slippers' leaves tips will get black if not watered enough -- they are stressed. Dendrobiums planted in small pot you'll find the leaves are papery with wrinkled lines; but if they have been adequately watered, they are firm.

If you concentrate on these two practices -- Foundation and Watering -- you will grow much better orchids. (Cont'd on page 3).

Upper left, Al providing live demonstration of the "right" foundation concept. Left, great turn out for our June meeting. Members listening intently.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Cookbooks have been re-ordered and have started to arrive. If you want to pick some up before the next meeting, contact Karen Harlow.

Door prize plants at the June meeting were Pot. Roy's Magic 'Carmela' pictured below.



# FOUNDATION AND WATERING (CONT'D)

## Repotting and Recognizing Problems

Some symptoms to be aware of that indicate something is wrong:

- Bulbs are soft and rotten. Maybe one but not three of them in the same pot.
- Present growth is shorter than the previous growth.

Check the foundation first. Take the plant out and see how the root system looks. Al usually pulls instead of cutting bulbs/roots. If you pull, you get the roots associated with those bulbs. Otherwise, you may leave old roots that aren't contributing anymore. Use the pot size that fits the root system.

Monopodial— there is only the one main stem (like a Vanda), each season leaves stack up and along with that roots on the outside. The inner most roots are the oldest; so that is how you figure out what to trim. The Phalenopsis is very sensitive to the root system. It also has the same growth pattern of the Neostylis. This is the only orchid Al uses a round pot for because the root system tends to grow in a circle. To trim roots the older ones are in the center of the circle. Best to trim the roots and put it back into the same size pot. Look for the right pot size after you've done the trimming.

For a Cattleya, the best time to repot is just as the roots emerge. If you wait longer, it becomes a bigger job. Wiggle the plant around, untangle the roots and it will divide naturally most of the time.

How much roots do you keep? Normally a fist full.

Which pot should it go in? You don't want to repot Cattleyas every year; they don't like to be disturbed and it affects the flowering. Leave at least two years of space in the front (about 4 inches). A larger size pot is good in terms of the orchid's growth pattern. 5 inch pot is appropriate for this plant.

## Member's experiences

We have excellent growers in our society. Al asked several of our members about their orchids (editor's note-please let me know if I got some of the details wrong, it was very difficult to hear responses):

Carol Kanna – lives in Hanapepe Heights, grows in a shade cloth house with varying degrees (30-Dendrobium, 50-Cattleyas, up to 70). One end is open. Water all at once in the morning.

Judy Matsumoto— lives in Eleele, grows in green house with shade cloth, waters once every three days.

Nancy Nakama— lives in Waimea, grows in shade cloth (50% Dendrobium, seedlings 60%). Water twice a week, Monday and Friday to have a schedule. Use overhead watering but pull out flowers that are in bud so they don't get water spots on flowers. What size pots are your mature plants in? Started using 4" and rock / bark mixture. This allows her to get more plants in a limited area.

Gwen Teragawa – nursery is in McBride (by Kalaheo Coffee), uses a sprinkling system with varying times depending on the type of orchid (nursery is laid out by type).

Al's final words - No fast rule just a matter of how you visualize what you are expecting to see out of your plants. Don't get wrapped up with tight technical stuff because it will take the fun out of it. Let it go and bring it to the learning center if you have some tough questions on what to do.

## **Enjoy it.**

Al Sugano providing his expert advice to Mildred Konishi, Ray Burton, and Mary Shimogawa.



## FARM FAIR SHOW—ORCHIDS IN PARADISE

The theme for the Orchids in Paradise show this year is “4623 Paradise”. The show chair is Gwen Teragawa and the Display Chair is Nancy Nakama. Set-up will be Wednesday, **August 20th**. Plants are to be tagged and delivered between **1 and 3:45 pm** to the fair grounds at Vidinha Stadium. Judging will begin at 9 am and last until about noon on Thursday, August 21st. Those bringing plants to display and need name tags, should notify Karen Harlow via phone 346-6871, by mail PO Box 597, Kalaheo 96741, or by email harlows@hawaii.rr.com by August 18th. Provide the complete name of the plant and the owner’s name (as you wish it to appear on the tag). Breakdown of the display will be on Sunday at 3 pm. Please make sure you pick up your orchids at that time.

### Fair Display Hours:

8/21—Thursday 5 pm to 11 pm

8/22—Friday 6 pm to 11 pm

8/23—Saturday Noon to 11 pm

8/24—Sunday 9 am to 3 pm (orchid display dismantled at 3pm)

Nancy Nakama (338-1423) is looking for the following items for the display: coconut and Norfolk pine fronds, spanish moss, green potted plants, and ground cover plants. Please make sure the leaves/fronds/plants are free from any bugs or rubbish before delivering to be used in the display. These should be delivered on Wednesday for set-up.

Snacks, water, and a meal will be provided to the volunteers helping with set-up on Wednesday. We will need volunteers to come by 4 pm to help place the plants. **Sign-up sheets will be available at the August meeting for security, plant sales, and clean-up volunteers.** Water will be provided for all shift volunteers. Volunteers are asked to stay in their assigned area during the shift — for example, security volunteers should be in the display area ensuring the plants are protected from overly curious photographers or children.

## PREPPING YOUR PLANTS FOR THE SHOW

Below is an excerpt from Scot Mitamura’s excellent talk from May/June 2012 on preparing your plants for show display.

**Basics of staking and grooming.** You need to make sure when you bring an orchid a show that there are no slugs or any other bugs. Using a simple spray of rubbing alcohol will kill whatever your plant may have. Check for ants. 99% of the time if you have ants it is because your plant needs to be repotted. The medium breaks down and ants make a nest inside.

Sterilize your tools first. Cut off leaves that may be old or spotted. Take flowers off if there are spots on them because it will affect the new flowers in bud. Cut it so it is visually nice, don’t do it too close and catch the leaf by mistake. Take out any weeds; you don’t want to spread them to someone else’s orchid.

Stake the plant early. Cut the stake at the bottom at an angle to help it grab. When staking the plant put the stake against the plant. Anywhere else it will create a spoon affect. Put it right against the plant and if a root gets broken it is no big deal. Countersink stake to balance it out. We don’t want the stake poking an eye out so it shouldn’t be any higher than the leaves of the plant. It is critical for big flowers that you move the foliage away from the flowers; that way they don’t get interrupted by leaves and gives them space to open up. You’ll always want to stake the flowers to look natural. It is important for transporting the plant to keep it steady so it doesn’t bounce around during transit.

You can cut off some of the leaves if it helps to show the flowers better. Tidy things up and keep the leaves away from the flowers. Sometimes it just needs a little support. Accentuate the natural beauty. You want the flowers facing the audience.

Scot provided a very detailed description on staking. Please refer to his full presentation in the May/June 2012 newsletter.

# LAWAI INTERNATIONAL CENTER

On June 22nd, GIOS members were treated to a special tour of the Lawai International Center. This sacred place has 88 shrines replicating a thousand year old pilgrimage in Shikoku, Japan. The Lawai International Center is a non-profit community project that has pledged to restore the valley. Volunteers have been part of the center since 1990. The grounds and pathway amongst the 88 shrines is a perfect place to display beautiful orchids. In the



pictures here, you'll notice many different orchids. The Hall of Compassion is a traditional 13th century Japanese structure and serves as a symbol of peace and fellowship. More information on the center can be found at their website [www.lawaicenter.org](http://www.lawaicenter.org). GIOS will be volunteering at a work party in July to help maintain the grounds and plant additional orchids.



Members pictured: above left— Nancy Nakama and Joann Nishihara; left—Mildred Konishi; below left— Judy Matsumoto; bottom left— Elizabeth Borchelt, Mildred Konishi, Mary Shimogawa, and Judy Matsumoto; right — Judy Matsumoto, Evelyn Tsubakihara, Gwen Teragawa, Joann Nishihara, Mary Shimogawa, Elizabeth Borchelt, Lesette



VanWinden, and Kenichi Shimogawa; bottom—GIOS was joined by the Lawai International Volunteer staff for lunch. GIOS members in bottom picture not previously mentioned include Pearl Wollin and Frank Polachek. Karen Harlow (not pictured since she was taking the photos) also attended!



## GARDEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

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## JUNE POTLUCK

The potluck at the June meeting again provided a great opportunity to try out other members' recipes. Amy Sugano brought her Better Than Potato Salad (in our cookbook) and I was anxious to try it. Being from a family that has been traditionally making potato salads for eons...I was pleasantly surprised. It won't replace my potato salad but it provides a crisp tasty alternative salad for summer (or anytime for that matter!). Pictured below from left to right: Pearl Wollin, Karen Harlow, Aurora Beaver, Mary Shimogawa, Kenichi Shimogawa, Mildred Konishi, Evelyn Tsubakihara, and Sam Bukoski. In the background of the dessert table (right) is Ray Burton.

Karen Harlow, Editor

