

GARDEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting—June 8, 2012

We'll start the June meeting with our annual potluck at 6:00 pm. Please bring something to share. At 7 pm we'll have a short meeting and then Al Sugano will be our speaker for Orchids 101. Al's theme is "Back to Basics". There will be NO orchid display table. The meeting will be held in the United Church of Christ in Hanapepe.

Other General Meetings 2012: August 10 (Nancy Nakama will be our Orchids 101 speaker), October 12, and December 1.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are looking forward to our annual June general meeting and pot luck dinner. In appreciation to our Spring Show volunteers, our membership overwhelmingly voted to extend an invitation to them to join us for the pot luck. Please show them our aloha.

It is not too early to check on your orchids and prep them for the Fall Show. Remember every orchid bloom is beautiful so let us proudly display our orchids to the public at the annual Kauai Farm Bureau Fair.

I hope to see you at our pot luck/dinner meeting.

Carol Kanna, President

MAY-JUNE 2012

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Since our last newsletter was chock full of the Spring Show pictures and award winners, there wasn't room to include all the great information Scot Mitamura provided in February. Now is a good time to review his advice on preparing our plants since the Fall show is not that far away. Look for that as well as some tidbits Dennis Olivas left us with at the April meeting.

Check out the Newcomer's Corner on page 3. Elizabeth Borchelt has agreed to write a couple special articles on the how GIOS operates and the benefits of being a member. There is also a "fun" quiz in the Did You Know column. Ada and Ryan got some great pictures at the Spring Show of some of our members, I've included a collage of those on page 2. Karen Harlow, Editor.

BOARD 2012-2013

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

We're on the web!
www.gardenislandorchidsociety.org

February Door Prize Plant
Name

Tags were missing from our door prizes from February. The plant name is Aztec Nalo (Miltonia).



Orchid quiz answers (no cheating) for matching in order of pictures: 4f, 1b, 3c, 6e, 5d, and 2a.

DENNIS OLIVAS—APRIL MEETING

Dennis Olivas, born on Kauai now living in the California Bay Area, was our guest speaker in April. Dennis has been growing orchids for over 45 years and is an American Orchid Society (AOS) judge. Besides belonging to 9 different orchid societies in the Bay Area, Dennis also belongs to our society, Arizona and several foreign orchid societies. Dennis took us on a Whirlwind Tour of the World's exotic orchids. Though we had some difficulty with the slide show, Dennis was able to share with us a wide assortment of orchids from around the world.

Orchids are on every continent except Antarctic. The higher the elevation the smaller the plants grow. In nature, they grow from sea level to 13,000 feet in elevation. They grow in the subtropics, semi-arid climates, moist high humidity jungles, and cool areas of the world.

Rules to remember - Growing season for most orchids is spring and summer. Give the plants the best watering and fertilizing to ensure strong growths and roots for the on-coming winter. Winter is cold and wet so there is a high water content in the air. Keep your plants dry and water sparingly about once every 3 to 4 weeks during a warmer winter day. It is better to underwater your orchids.

When buying a plant, Dennis buys a blooming plant. That way he'll know what it looks like. As we saw in Dennis' slide show, he has a huge collection with a large variety of orchids. One way to get a good collection without spending a lot of money is to buy twelve ready to bloom or in bud orchids. Pick the best for yourself and sell the rest of them. This is how Dennis built up his collection.



NEWCOMER'S CORNER

As a newcomer to the Garden Island Orchid Society and to the culture of orchids, I have tried to be a sponge absorbing as much of the information as I can and taking advantage of all of the GIOS benefits. One of the biggest benefits of our organization is the members who have this vast knowledge that they are willing to share.



Another way to gain knowledge is to acquire more orchids! Membership to GIOS helps with that. Have you seen the table of orchids in the corner behind the table holding the name tags? Those are door prizes for every member who attends the meeting, picks up their name tag and returns their name tag before leaving.

- Pick one up on your way out after you turn your name tag in to the membership greeters.
- As a bonus watch the newsletter for requests to bring blooming orchids to the meeting. If you have any blooming, be sure to bring one since you will receive an additional door prize orchid.

See you at the meeting and next time we'll talk about volunteering and earning Makana points. Elizabeth Borchelt



Orchids members brought in for the April display table (ABOVE).

Judy Matsumoto and Stella Shimatsu (membership volunteer) review the listing of GIOS member display plants and determine which door prizes the members will receive (LEFT).

SCOT MITAMURA—FEBRUARY MEETING

In the last newsletter, we only had room for a few tidbits from Scot's February presentation. Below is additional information he provided on how to prepare your plants for showing at events as well as in your home or yard.

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. Bamboo is good, wire is OK too. If I don't have bamboo, use galvanized wire (#12). You can get it from Home Depot about 6 foot long—used for drop ceilings. You can cut it and use it for stakes and for pot hangers.

You can use electrical wire or twist ties. Wrap the ties around two or three times and then twist it. That way it won't move up and down. Double wrap it, twist it, and try to get all the leaves together. Lift the lower leaves up, gather all together. 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. Stake the plant early, let flowers open down, and then in three to four days when they are hard stake it up.

You'll always want to stake the flowers to look natural. Make a "u" in galvanized wire. Set the flower stem inside. Squeeze bottom so it is more like a "v". Twist the stem so the flowers are straight or push into the stake. Test it first; you don't want to go too far. Measure the "u" upside down for how high you want it and then cut stake. The bottom of the stake should be close to bottom of pot. If it is high in medium, it won't hold. I re-use the stakes over and over. You can move it up and down a bit. Once the flowers are hard you might be able to move the stakes more. 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 some specific staking tips by type of orchid (see below).

Cattleya. Stake leaves, then flowers.

Phalaenopsis. It is important to stake the spikes. The best time is when the biggest bud is the size of a pea. Naturally the flower spikes will cascade. Don't turn pot because it makes the flowers turn and not look the best. Use the dragonfly clips like a hairdresser and once you have it in the right place put florist tape on it. If it is really long, you can use some wire. You need to wait for the bottom part of the spike to harden so it can support. If you don't think it will support it, use wire. Bamboo is hollow and you can put the wire in it so you have a combined stake and wire to support plant and wire. You can bend it more, make it higher, or whatever makes sense.

DID YOU KNOW?

I think we all have heard of some nicknames for different kinds of orchids. But there are quite a few—maybe some you may NOT have heard before. Check it out, can you match up the nickname with the right orchid name?

Nicknames:

1. Moth
2. Slipper
3. Dancing Ladies
4. Pansy
5. Spiders
6. Butterfly

Orchid Names:

- a. Paphiopedilum
- b. Phalaenopsis
- c. Oncidium
- d. Brassias
- e. Psychopsis
- f. Miltonia and Miltoniopsis

Now, can you match it with the picture? See answers P2.



SCOT MITAMURA (CONT'D)

Lady slippers. It will take about a week for the flower neck to harden. Right before the show you want to bring it up. If it is not ready and the show is here, you can still fix it. Normally leave alone and let it open for a week, then stake it. Put a small v under the neck. Do I break flowers? Yeah a lot. If you work on staking them early, you're less likely to break the flowers.

Brassias. The flowers like to come out at a 45 angle. Often, especially for ones that are really long, use a combination of bamboo with a piece of wire in it; bend wire and then tape it. If you have multiple stems, space them evenly for a nice arrangement.

Oncidium. It wants to grow upright. You don't want to change how it is growing. When you stake it early they are still pliable, if you wait too long you more likely to break it. Bamboo comes in all different sizes. If stem is skinner, use a skinnier bamboo. The flowers should be alternating. Still remember the direction of the sun so they all open the same direction.

Cymbidium. Stake low on stem because joints are weak and transport could loosen. They are hard to bend so stake them early. If you stake late, flowers will flop upside down. Cymbidiums take a long time to flower. Work on it when buds are fairly big. Right when the flowers open it will start to bend, especially if it rains. You don't want to force a bending down one up—keep its natural state.

Dendrobium – hono hono. Multiple stems should be staked with bamboo about six inches from the top and wire to space the spikes.

Below, Scot was demonstrating the techniques on plants members brought in.



**GARDEN ISLAND
ORCHID SOCIETY**

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2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Our dues for membership are \$15.00 a year. Please make checks payable to the Garden Island Orchid Society or GIOS.

Treasurer, Garden Island Orchid Society
PO Box 1056
Hanapepe, HI 96716

Member/Applicant Name _____

Street/Post Office Address _____

Phone/Fax Number _____ E-mail address _____

I am interested in helping out with (check any or all):

Refreshments _____ Show Set-Up _____ Show Security _____ Serving on the Board _____

Newsletter _____ Other (Please specify) _____

I'm interested in learning about _____