



Newsletter of

# The Garden Island Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

November - December 2011

## 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. [www.gardenislandorchidsociety.org](http://www.gardenislandorchidsociety.org)

### GIOS Board 2010-2011

President: Carol Kanna  
Vice Pres. Gwen Teragawa  
Secretary: Pennie Duke  
Treasurer: Lee Anderson  
Ex Officio: Gwen Teragawa  
News/Publ: Ada Koene, 742-0333, [thekoenes@cs.com](mailto:thekoenes@cs.com)  
Membership: Bobbie Agena  
By Laws: Ryan Metzger  
Awards: Mildred Konishi  
Makana: Nancy Nakama

### General Meetings 2010/2011:

December 3 (Saturday)

#### Show Dates:

GIOS Spring Fantasy 2012 - March 30 & 31

KOS Mother's Day Show - May 6 & 7

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**December 3, 2011 - General Meeting - Christmas Party** at the United Church of Christ in Hanapepe starting at 5:30. Our Christmas Party will be held on a Saturday night again this year because of scheduling conflicts. The party will be catered and the price will be \$20.00 per person. This includes the food and game prizes. Any cancellations must be made five days prior to December 3th or you will forfeit the \$20. Please do not bring your display plants at this time.

There will be no grab bag this year as we will be handing out Makana Awards so please check the list in the following pages. If you have earned points, be sure to be there to pick up your awards, or ask a friend to pick them up. Bring your own cardboard boxes for the orchids you take home. This year you will be able to use your Makana points towards your membership dues if you wish.

Call Gwen Teragawa at 335-3890 if you can help set up for this party and take the tables down after the dinner. We need a couple of strong guys for this.

**Please RSVP to Gwen at 335-3890 by November 24, 2012 if you are coming. If she is not home, leave a message.**

Bring your check of \$15.00 for membership dues for 2012 and \$20.00 for your dinner.

## President's Message

The annual Christmas party is just couple of weeks away so please mark your calendar for Dec. 3. All who were present at last year's event had a wonderful time. This year it will be no different only better—a very festive affair. Excitement will be in the air with the redeeming of Makana points, good food, games, and greeting each other.

There will be no business meeting, however, there will be the installation of the new GIOS Board and Committee Chairs for 2012-2013. I am taking this opportunity to invite all of the new committee chairs to our January 8, Board meeting at the Hanapepe UCC Library starting at 1:00 pm.

I look forward to greeting you at the party.

Carol Kanna

# GIOS Board 2012-2013

## Board Position

President/Ex-Officio: Carol Kanna\*  
 Vice President: Gwen Teragawa\*  
 Secretary: Kimberlee Kain\*  
 Treasurer: Lee Anderson\*

## Committee/Chairpersons/Co-Chairs

Bulletin: Karen Harlow\*  
 By-Laws: Elizabeth Borchett\*  
 Librarian: Cheryl Morris  
 Membership: Bobbie Agena\*/Stella Shimatsu  
 Plant Name Tags: Lori-Anne Cash  
 Publicity/Website: Ada Koene/Hollis Dana  
 Refreshments: Karen Harlow/Elizabeth Borchett  
 Show Chair: Gwen Teragawa  
 Show Display: Nancy Nakama  
 Show Judging: Mildred Konishi\*/Evelyn Tsubakihara  
 Crafts: Sylvia Zeevat/Judy Matsumoto  
 Special Dinners: Karen Harlow/Elizabeth Borchett  
 Food Booth: Janice Nitta/Gwen Teragawa  
 Makana: Marla Shidler\*/Nancy Nakama\*  
 Photographer: Ryan Metzger

**2012/2013 Board Members: Carol Kanna, Gwen Teragawa, Kimberlee Kain, Lee Anderson, Mildred Konishi, Nancy Nakama, Karen Harlow, Elizabeth Borchett, Bobbie Agena and Maria Shidler**

# GIOS Members Tour the Kukui'ula Club and Gardens

GIOS Members would like to thank Gwen Teragawa for arranging our tour through the Kukui'ula Development and Roger Pechinpaugh for leading the tour. On November 12, 2011. Our tour consisted of the spa facilities, the Club at Kukui'uka, the swimming pool area and the flower, fruit and vegetable gardens. Management so graciously served us a Continental Breakfast consisting of coffee, juice, and some wonderful Danish pastries.



# Makana Program

The Makana Program's purpose is to promote a strong and healthy existence of GIOS. We thank all our volunteers who have stepped forward to guide and support our club's activities. Hopefully, this program will be an incentive for others to get involved in the future.

For all GIOS members, there will be lots of orchids and supplies to purchase at wholesale prices. Please double check this list. Any questions, call Nancy at 3381423.

Points: Officer (45), Board (42), Chairperson (36), Spring/Fall Show workshift (7,14)

Member	Total
Carol Kanna	145
Gwen Teragawa	324
Pennie Duke	54
Tom Duke	28
Lee Anderson	115
Ada Koene	157
Ryan Metzger	136
Mildred Konishi	179
Roberta Agena	159
Stella Shimatsu	78
Nancy Nakama	113
Evelyn Tsubakihara	74
Lorraine Kawane	155
Judy Matsumoto	85
Anne Notley	46
Carol Yasutake	25
Cheryl Morris	36
Karen Harlow	33
Elizabeth Borchett	12
Naoko Ho	7
Bob King	28
Lauren Bundschuh	7
Neill Sams	77
Al Sugano	35
Amy Sugano	14
Sylvia Zeevat	49
Hans Zeevat	14
Allen Yamada	42
Margaret Makishi	7
Marla Schidler	14
Harold Shimono	43
Linda Gerwick	14
Miyoko Mukai	14
Kimberlee Kain	7
Linda Montgomery	7
Lola Mae Bukoski	14
Sam Bukoski	14
Su Smith	14

Total 2,475

# Congratulations to Neill and Fely Sams on Orchid Alley's 15th Anniversary

Neill and Fely Sams had a wonderful celebration on the 15th anniversary of their Orchid Alley. Both and their employees and friends spent a considerable amount of time in remodeling and preparing a colorful fountain which is dedicated to their mentor, Mr. Tadao Nishio.

Mayor Bernard Carvalho and his wife Regina were there to cut the ribbon and Ed Ka'ahoa gave the traditional Hawaiian blessing. Food was served and a good time was had by all.



## Scot Mitamura on General Orchid Culture

Orchids are one of the easiest families of plants to grow. If you follow a few basic rules, you can become successful in a very rewarding hobby.



### Lighting and Shade

Ideal lighting for maximum growth is a full day of unobstructed sunlight (away from buildings or tall trees) with a shading of about 60%. Always try to give the orchids the maximum amount of sunlight without burning. This can be accomplished with shade cloth, wooden lath, polycarbonate panels (similar to fiberglass), or glass. Some orchid growers may use different combinations of both. Certain species may require more or less shade. Seedlings may also benefit from more shade.

When growing orchids indoors or on a lanai, it is really important to maximize the length of time the orchids receive light. If the light intensity is strong then it still needs to be shaded the proper amount. Remember, orchids need sunlight to photosynthesize.

### Temperature and Humidity

In Hawaii we are fortunate to have near ideal temperatures and humidity for most tropical orchids (low 60's to upper 80's in temperatures and 60 to 90% humidity). We do need to be aware of heat stress in the summer months especially if you are in the leeward areas. One way to avoid heat stress is to water your orchids in the morning. The evaporation will cool the orchids and increase the humidity. In hot and dry climates, you can place your orchids on evaporation trays (trays filled with gravel and water) and this will accomplish the same thing. Good air circulation is also very important in keeping the orchids cool.

### Watering

Watering is usually taken for granted and often misunderstood. Most orchids are killed by overwatering or by fungal and bacterial infections associated with over-watering. Being air plants, the orchid's roots need air as much as they need water. Allow the media to dry slightly, before watering again. When it is time to water, it should be done thoroughly, allowing water to flush through the pot's drainage holes. Most orchid media are very porous, so we need to thoroughly wet the whole root ball. This also has the added benefit of removing the accumulated salts from the media. Salt damage to roots can really weaken and even kill an orchid. The sign of salt build-up is the white residue around the rim and drainage holes of the pot. If you see this, repot the orchid and discard the pot.

**Watering Rule** - *When in doubt don't water it is better to err on the dry side!*

### Air Circulation

Orchids do not like stagnant air. Good air circulation will reduce fungal and insect problems. To accomplish this, stake up all orchids, keeping larger plants from covering smaller plants, and try not to overcrowd them. Keep areas around and below your growing benches plant and weed free.

### Proper Cultural Practices and Pesticide Use

Practicing good culture will reduce your need for pesticides.

1. Learn to identify physiological disorders which are caused by poor culture. Some examples of this are; sunburn; not enough sun; improper watering; salt or wind damage and temperature stress. Spraying of chemicals will not help, but may harm the orchids more.

2. Diseases in orchids: For a disease to occur the pathogen must be present in an infectious stage and come into contact with the host plant. The environmental conditions must favor the infection and the plant must be susceptible. So our goal is to break the cycle of infection. The most common diseases of orchids are Bacteria, fungus and viruses. Here are a few ways to control them.

a. Remove all dead and diseased plant materials. They are a major source of infection. Sanitation is the best defense against diseases.

b. Control weeds and pests in and around your growing area. Weeds and other plants in the collection often harbor insects that can transmit a disease.

c. Maintain good air circulation. Do not overcrowd your orchids.

d. Avoid damaging the orchids, as it provides an entry for disease.

e. Maintain proper sanitation when handling, sterilize potting utensils.

f. Quarantine new orchids and isolate diseased ones.

3. Managing Insects: It is very important that you watch your orchids carefully and take care of problems as they occur. Most insect problems occur in the warm summer months and best time to spot problems is while you are watering. If you stay on top of things, spot spraying of pesticides may be all that is needed to rectify the problem. When using pesticides, always wear protective clothing and always follow label directions. See Insect Control Chart.

4. If protective clothing is not available, there are many ready to use 'soap' products on the market today that are safer for the applicator and environment.

### Fertilizing

1. Water Soluble Types: apply "weekly weakly" (^ rate once per week).

a. 20-20-20 balanced type, good for all orchids including seedlings.

b. 15-30-15 high phosphorous type, good for root development and flowering.

c. MSU type formulas 15-5-15 (Peters Excel Cal-Mag) or 13-2-13 (Technigro).

## 2. Granular or Powdered Types:

a. Mag-amp 7-40-6 - is good for flowering plants, but needs to be supplemented with another fertilizer that supplies more nitrogen.

b. Orchid Organic 5-15.5-14.5-has been used for many years. As with other organic fertilizers, it will cause the media to breakdown a little faster.

## 3. Timed Release Types:

a. Osmocote - has several formulas and lasts for three months.

b. Nutricote -13-13-13 plus micronutrients is what I have been using for the last seven years. I use a custom blended layered formula of the 180 day release and 360 day release, so that one application will last a whole year.

4. Dolomite Lime: This helps to neutralize the acidity of the peat or sphagnum moss in the media and provide calcium and magnesium. It is very important if you are fertilizing with Nutricote which does not have any calcium in the formula.

## Repotting

Repotting is essential to the health of your orchids. Even if an inorganic media is used the orchid must still be repotted. Organic medias and old roots will decompose and start rotting, eventually killing the whole plant. Most orchids should be repotted every 2 years, or less. Timing is very important therefore a program should be implemented. Most orchids that need repotting should be done after flowering, before they go back on the growing bench, where they will probably be forgotten about.

*Repotting Rule - The best time to repot is when new roots are forming from the new growth. Even if there are flower buds forming!*

## Sanitation

Great care must be taken when the orchids are handled or transplanted. To reduce chances of the spread of bacterial, fungal, and viral diseases:

1. Avoid working on orchids that are soaking wet. Repot only when the media is slightly moist.

2. Work on a clean table top (a layer of newspapers works fine).

3. Sterilize pruning shears and other potting utensils - heat is the best method.

4. Wash hands in a 10% bleach solution and soapy water.

These tasks must always be done before the next orchid is handled. Old pots may be reused. They should be soaked a minimum of 15 minutes (I soak mine overnight), in a 10-15% bleach solution and scrubbed thoroughly, removing all white roots. Pots with salt residue should be discarded.

## Types of Media

There are many types of potting mediums for orchids and most of them work well. It is important that the media provide good support for the orchid, it should also provide good drainage, and it should be readily available in your area and at a reasonable price. It is best that each person experiment with different types to find out what works best for the type of orchid being grown, their growing conditions, and the grower's cultural habits.

1. Commercial Growers Mix - This is just the name that I have given to what many of the commercial nurseries are using. The ratio is: Approx. five parts of medium orchid bark, two parts # 3 perlite (sponge rock), and one part Pro Mix Peat Moss. This ratio can be adjusted depending on your location. The benefits of this media are its low cost, good plant growth, ease of repotting, and the least amount of root damage during repotting.

2. #3 Blue Rock - Excellent media for those who live in a high rainfall area. It is also good for tall plants in windy areas that topple easily. There is a Modified Blue Rock. Mix of five parts of #3 Blue Rock, two parts Perlite, and one part Pro Mix.

3. Hapu'u (Hawaiian Tree Fern Fiber) - Excellent stability, longest lasting organic media, excellent growth.

4. New Zealand Sphagnum Moss - Best media to establish a young plant, or to revive an old plant that has no roots. Super growth.

5. Coconut Chips (Coir) - Very good alone or as an amendment. Similar to the 'Commercial Grower's Mix'. May be difficult to obtain in certain areas.

6. Cinders (Red or Black) - Excellent growth, but hard on your hands and shears, roots are easily damaged during repotting.

## Conclusion

Orchids are a great hobby and are enjoyed by millions of people. You have taken an important step in the right direction, by coming to this workshop. I encourage everyone to join one of the many orchid clubs around the world. There are many experienced growers and hobbyists that serve as an invaluable resource of information. Get involved, you'll meet a lot of interesting people and it's the best way to increase your collection

*Scot Mitamura is an Orchid Horticulturalist for the Honolulu Botanical Gardens, City & County of Honolulu and was a garden columnist for the Honolulu Advertiser. He has been growing orchids for over 43 years, has won numerous awards, and is known for his Cattleya breeding. He can be contacted at Foster Botanical Gardens at (808)532-1250, or you can email him at [hgb@honolulu.gov](mailto:hgb@honolulu.gov)*

## Cymbidium Orchids

sym-BID-ee-um

These orchids are prized for their long-lasting sprays of flowers.

**LIGHT** is important for growing cymbidiums. They like part sun to full sun as long as they have at least one good back bulb on them (if they are very young then I keep them under 50% shade for about 6 months to a year) Leaves should be a medium to golden green in color, not dark green.

**WATER** Provide a constant supply of moisture to cymbidiums, which are semi-terrestrial plants. Water them at least twice a week. Except for the most epiphytic cymbidiums (canaliculatum, madidum, aloifolium) they like to have roots kept moist. The epiphytic ones like it dry in winter to initiate flowering.

**FERTILIZE** cymbidiums regularly. They like to be fed a lot!

**December-June = Grow Season** Use 2 teaspoons, 17-5-24, water soluble fertilizer per gallon, once a week, during the grow season. Top dress Nutricote/time release 12-4-16, 180 day, as indicated on package.

**June-November = Bloom Season** Use 1 teaspoon 17-5-24, water soluble fertilizer per gallon, and skip every other week. Do not add any Nutricote/time release during this period.

Give calcium and magnesium at least once a month. Calcium nitrate is good. For magnesium put 1 teaspoon of Epsom salt on the plant media in the spring and fall.

**MEDIA** mix a combination of 20% perlite (#3 or #4), 40% coconut husk chips (3/4 inch) and 40% bark. The bark is half regular doug fir bark (medium) and half. New Zealand 'Orchiata' pine bark #5 (Power) or 5a (Power +) for most pots. Add some Dolomite #65 fine powder and some gypsum to balance the acidic bark. For good drainage, use larger bark or styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of the pot.

**REPOT** when the pots have split, or when the bulbs have grown over the sides. Or every three years whichever comes first.

**DIVIDING** When dividing cymbidiums, keep at least 3 bulbs to a division. Back bulbs can be germinated in lightly soaked and drained bark and placed in a ziplock and sealed until they germinate, 1-6 months.

Orchidpeople ~ Specializing in Cymbidium Orchids  
Jennifer Snyder & Bob Harris  
987-3102  
orchidpeople@gmail.com



# Garden Island Orchid Society Club Calendar - 2012



2012																																
January							February							March							April											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
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30																					30	31										

- Board Meeting
- General Meeting
- Orchid Shows (Spring Fantasy and Orchids in Paradise)



**Garden Island Orchid Society**  
**Ada Koene, Editor**  
**P. O. Box 1624**  
**Koloa, HI 96756**

## **The Garden Island Orchid Society**

### **2012 Membership Form**

**Our dues for membership are \$15.00 a year and are due January 1, 2012. They should be paid by the end of February if you wish to continue to receive your newsletter. Please make checks payable to the Garden Island Orchid Society or GIOS.**

**Treasurer, Garden Island Orchid Society**  
**P. O. Box 1056**  
**Hanapepe, Kauai, HI 96716**

Member's/Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street/Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Refreshments \_\_\_\_\_, Serving on the Board \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_,

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_