

# Garden Island Orchid Society Newsletter

March - April 2025

## President's Message

Aloha,

And mahalo to all those members who joined us for your first meeting in 2025. It was a good one. We had a little bit of everything. Mark Edlund walked us through the display plants with cultural input and many complementary comments on all of the wonderful orchids. Then Al Sugano spoke about re-potting our keiki door prizes, showing us how and telling us why. We ended the evening with a re-potting session. I must admit we could have used a few more experienced members to help some of our newer orchid enthusiasts! Also a heads up, we will be getting a new collar microphone so that you won't miss any details during the presentations.



*Lots of supplies for re-potting*



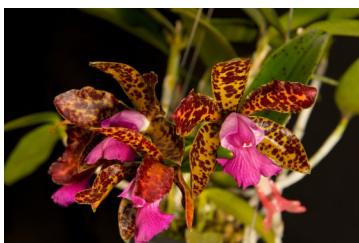
Now on to our April meeting, we have an off-island speaker Nicholas Rust from [Rusty Exotics](#). Additional information can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

We will also be talking about our upcoming Spring Show & Sale on April 11th and 12th. We will have sign-ups for volunteers at the meeting during refreshments and after the speaker if needed. Show set up is Thursday, April 10th. A heads up for our bakers, baked goods donations for the Show can be dropped off at the Church hall on Friday, April 11, at 10:00am. The goodies will be packaged and priced at that time. Containers will be provided if needed.

The meeting is a week early, Friday April 4th, same time and place!

See you there,

Elizabeth



*A great turnout at the February meeting!*



## Upcoming Events

**Next General Meeting:** Friday, April 4, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the [Hanapepe United Church of Christ](#).

**2025 General Meeting Schedule:** April 4, June 13, August 8, October 10, and December 6 at the [Hanapepe United Church of Christ](#)

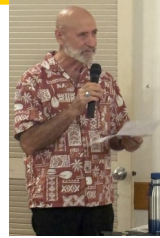
**2025 Events:** Spring Orchid Show & Sale – April 11 & 12 at the [Hanapepe United Church of Christ](#)  
Fall Orchid Show & Sale – August 15 & 16 at the [Hanapepe United Church of Christ](#)

The Garden Island Orchid Society is affiliated with the [American Orchid Society](#).



## February 2025 General Meeting

Elizabeth called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She reviewed last meeting's minutes. Walt presented the Treasurer's Report which was approved.



## 2025 - 2026 Officers

President:

Elizabeth Borchelt

Vice-President:

Michelle Fastenau

Secretary:

Kim Schafer

Treasurer:

Walt Weiss

Ex-Officio:

Kimberlee Kain

### New Business:

The GIOS Spring Show is scheduled for April 11 & 12 at the church with set up on April 10. Volunteer sign ups will be done at the April 4 General Meeting so please plan on attending.

The GIOS Fall Show is scheduled for August 15 & 16. Please mark you calendars with these dates as well.



### Display Table Show & Tell

Mark Edlund took a walk around the Display Table and talked about many of the blooming orchids that members had brought in. There was a large selection of beautiful orchids on display as shown here.



### 2025 Membership Dues

2025 membership dues of \$30 are now due and can be paid at the April 4 meeting. Please renew for 2025 and tell any friends who might be interested in joining us! If you cannot make it, fill out the [Membership Form](#) and send it in with your payment.



## Learning Center with Al Sugano: Keiki Care



We are all very happy when we receive a keiki orchid as a door prize at the GIOS meetings, thanks so much to Nancy for getting us such nice ones! However, these keiki will need to grow for several years before blooming, and that is the challenge, keeping them happy and healthy. I will admit to having some of my keiki orchids die before they reached blooming size.

In this Learning Center, Al gave us some instructions to follow in order to provide better keiki care, and a better chance for these small plants to develop into fully blooming orchids. Here is his advice:



When you receive your keiki, plan to repot it into a slight larger pot right away. Don't leave the keiki as is for very long because the roots may begin to rot quickly.



Remove the keiki from its pot and remove the existing medium from the roots.

Wet the roots so they are pliable and wrap them in sphagnum moss.



Insert the wrapped roots into the new pot, use enough sphagnum moss to ensure a snug fit.

A 2" wide slotted pot works very well and allows the water to drain while the moss holds moisture for the roots. You can set the 2" slotted pot into a larger pot or dish to capture the draining water if needed.



Place the re-potted keiki in a good spot for the light and humidity it needs in order to thrive.

Leave the keiki in this pot until it blooms, watering and fertilizing appropriately for the type of orchid you have.



Congratulations! Your keiki has finally bloomed. Pat yourself on the back for taking good care of it.

After your keiki blooms for the first time, and the blossoms are spent, remove the spike and repot it into a 4" pot with orchid bark.

Continue to enjoy your happy and healthy orchid!

Thank You Al for this great tutorial on keiki care.  
I need to do some keiki re-potting soon! How about you?

## Re-Potting Session

Re-potting is essential to the overall health of orchids. It provides the appropriate room and media needed for healthy growth and future blooming. Here are some indicators to help determine when it's time for re-potting:

- Re-pot after an orchid has blooms, and the blooms have faded, not when the orchid is spiking or in bloom
- Newly purchased plants are candidates for re-potting, especially if it is not in an ideal mix/media for that specific orchid or if the pot is too small
- New roots are emerging from the plant
- There are signs of "soft" deteriorating potting mix/media
- The plant is too big for the pot; it needs to be either divided or put in a larger sized pot

Here are some photos from last meeting's re-potting session. Fun was had by all, and the orchids were much happier in their new medium.





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

David Fastenau, Editor

Garden Island Orchid Society

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Scan this QR code to go  
to the GIOS website:



Stay connected with GIOS on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/gardenislandorchidsociety/>

American Orchid Society Article:

[Orchid Troubleshooter - Leaf Problems](#)



### Next GIOS General Meeting: April 4



Plan on attending our next GIOS meeting on April 4. We will discuss the plans for our Spring Orchid Show, which is the following weekend, and have volunteer signups.

Our guest speaker is Nicholas Rust from [Rusty Exotics](#). Nicholas is an up-and-coming hybridizer in the orchid community. His orchid passion began in 2015 when a mini-*Phalaenopsis* was gifted to him, which quickly pulled him into the diverse world of orchids.

### Thank You!

Thanks to a private donation, we offered for sale both clay pots and plastic pots in a variety of sizes at the last general meeting. We hope you got some!



### GIOS T-Shirts & Cookbook For Sale



The GIOS Cookbook is available for only \$10. This cookbook is filled with favorite recipes from many of our members along with photos of beautiful orchids.

GIOS T-Shirts are also available for \$15 each. Wear yours proudly when volunteering at our Shows or attending other Shows.

