



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

June 2024

<http://www.kuniaorchidsociety.org/> or www.facebook.com/KuniaOrchidSociety

Edited by Denise Stewart

A Message from Our President

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

A special welcome to our new members who have joined the Kunia Orchid Society since our KOS Show & Plant Sale. We hope we can learn together in appreciating and growing better orchids. Orchid names like Grammatophyllum, Bulbophyllum, Vandas, Paphiopedilum, staking, sphagnum moss, dolomite, Dendrobium, perlite may seem like a foreign language but these are orchid names and terms that you will get familiar with as we learn more together. We are not all orchid experts but please ask any of our members if you have any questions or need an explanation of an orchid term or plant, we will try our best to help you. We normally invite one of our members to speak on an orchid topic each month or invite a knowledgeable orchid enthusiast from here on Oahu. The officers and board members work toward having an interesting general meeting every month. In order to benefit from our programs, we invite you to join us the first Tuesday of each month at the Mililani Ike Elementary School's cafeteria near the top of Mililani Mauka. The address is 95-1330 Lehiwa Drive, just across the street from the Mililani Town Association's Recreation Center #7. If you need additional directions to our meeting place, you can call me on my cell phone. I look forward to meeting you all.

The Aiea Orchid Club Show and Plant Sale is fast approaching on Friday June 14, and Saturday June 15. An orchid show here on Oahu is a great place to see some beautiful and exceptional orchids you may not have seen before. While seeing the successful blooms of the orchids displayed in the show, you can appreciate the knowledge learned and practiced by the various owners of these orchid plants. Some of the exhibitors have been growing orchids for years and have some impressive collections. Don't be frustrated that perhaps you can never reach that degree of success, remember that they weren't born with this talent for growing beautiful orchids and they all started learning and collecting orchids at a certain period of their lives.

Helping to prepare our exhibit for the Aiea Orchid Club Show is available to all our members. You don't have to exhibit an orchid or be a long time member to join us there. Any one of our members and friends are always welcome to join us and be a part of the setting up process. We will meet on Thursday June 13, at 9:00 am at the Aiea Elementary School cafeteria at 99-370 Moanalua Road in Aiea. We are normally completed with our setup by 12:30. pm. We will have some of our veteran members there to guide you. Besides helping with the creation of our KOS exhibit at a show, another great benefit is getting to bond with our own members and also meet members from other orchid societies during this time. If you would like to be one of our helpers on this day, please contact Suzanne Yamada (808) 206-4758 so we can include you as a helper and get a count for lunch that day.

Repotting of orchids is very important in raising healthy orchid plants and beautiful blooms. I am remembered of this fact when I often kill one of my orchid plants. We will have Doug DeMoss as our speaker at our June 4, meeting. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn from Doug about repotting of orchids. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Ken Ching

Cell: (808) 228-2800

Your Help is Needed at the Aiea Orchid Club Show

Our Kunia Orchid Society show display set up time is from 9:00AM to 1:00PM on Thursday, June 13, 2024 at Aiea Elementary School, 99-370 Moanalua Road, Aiea, HI.

We need members to bring their blooming plants, greens for the display, and helpers to put up the display.

No prior experience necessary. Lunch will be provided.

Display take down is on June 15th at 4:00PM.

If you can help, please contact Suzanne Yamada at (808) 206 – 4758.



Grammatophyllum Orchids

May KOS General Meeting

We were fortunate enough to have speaker Matthew McKnight III share his experience in growing Grammatophyllum orchids. Matt grew up on a green onion farm in Waianae Valley. His love for orchids started almost 12 years ago when he purchased a Dendrobium hybrid at a hardware store.

Grammatophyllum, sometimes abbreviated in the horticultural trade as Gram. Research has indicated that these orchids came from Eurasia and also the Philippines. They vary in size, mostly medium size to large size plants, some recent hybrids have created some miniature size plants. If you like big plants, large multi-flowered, long-lasting sprays, they may be a good orchid to add to your collection. They need abundant, though not intense light in order to grow and flower well.

Matt demonstrated his method of growing Grammatophyllums, he doesn't use any media in his pots. When he repots his plants, he just wedges net pots to hold and stabilize the plant in the new larger container. He gets his net pots on the internet, i.e. Amazon. I think I am going to try this method when I repot some of my future Grammatophyllum orchids.



Matt demonstrating how to repot a small Grammatophyllum orchid to a bigger pot.



Matt demonstrating how to care and grow Grammatophyllum orchids.

Grammatophyllum speciosum



Considered the World's Largest Orchid

This is a baby size Grammatophyllum speciosum that is growing in the back of my house. I tried bringing it to our May meeting, but it was too heavy for me to carry and I would have a hard time fitting it in our Toyota van. It pretty much gets full sun and the water that it gets is from the rain. Aileen bought a cane from Ken Ibara at one of the orchid shows for \$25. We've had this plant for about 10 years and it was divided once. Stems can grow up to 9 to 10 feet long. This one is only about 6 feet long. It bloomed just once for us and it was small enough at that time to haul it to the HOS Show about 5 years ago. I think I need to give it some fertilizer.

I think I have to divide it too. It is getting too big and I want to be able to display a division of it at a show if it blooms at just the right time. The biggest plant that I saw locally was Ted Sumida's that was growing in Kahalu'u. When Ted and Stella Sumida passed, I understand the plant was donated to the Foster Botanical Garden in Honolulu, and according to Amy Teves, a part of it was donated to the Wahiawa Botanical Garden. You can also see a lot of these giant orchids growing at the Kawamoto Orchid Nursery.

Kunia Orchid Society Plant Culture Winners!

Master Division



Onc. Aka Baby 'Raspberry Chocolate' - Ken and Aileen Ching

Also winning, Den. Frosty Dawn - Henry and Penny Hattal

Novice Division



Den. Tanii Linda Kurihara

Also winning, Max. tenuifolia Jane Ching

KOS General Membership Meeting

June 4, 2024, 7:00PM

Mililani Ike Elementary School Cafeteria



GUEST SPEAKER: DOUG DEMOSS

What happens if I don't repot my orchid? Do orchids want to be root bound? Should I repot my orchid when I bring it home? Should I repot an orchid even though it is flowering? How often do orchids need to be repotted? Should I water the plant after repotting or should I let roots heal from trimming or breaking before I water the plant? Should I fertilize my plants after repotting?

If you want to get the answers to these questions, or have your own repotting questions, have them ready for Doug DeMoss at our June KOS meeting.



Kunia Orchid Society – 2024 Membership Application

\$20 New Membership (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Tax Deductible Donation, if any:

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Complete and mail to: \$ _____ Amount Enclosed

Please make Check Payable to: Kunia Orchid Society. Your Cancelled Check will be your receipt. Mail to P.O. Box 893956, Mililani, HI 96789

Check if your address has not changed.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____