



# *Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter*

## *April 2021*

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*Edited by Denise Stewart*

### **A Message from Our President**

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

I am glad that hundreds, maybe thousands, are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine each new day here in Hawaii. Please take advantage of the opportunity to receive your vaccination as soon as available to you. I am seeing a brighter light at the end of the tunnel.

We continue to await notification from the Department of Education regarding the use of Mililani Ike Elementary School for our monthly meetings and Leilehua High School for our next Kunia Orchid Show.

Due to his time constraints, we reluctantly received the resignation of Dennis Bunda as one of our Board of Directors. In his place, the Board of Directors have approved Keith Higuchi as his replacement for the remainder of this year. Despite health challenges, we look forward to Keith's contribution to KOS. We are still looking for a treasurer to replace Sherry Hunt. Sherry has faithfully served as our treasurer for a long time but must spend some time away from Hawaii due to family requirements. Please contact me or Sherry to see if you might be able to help out as our treasurer or assistant treasurer. You can also contact me if you are willing to help KOS in any way.

Since a part of this newsletter will be a tribute to a few of the many contributions that Callman & Frances Au have made over the many years to KOS, I would like to just make a short comment. After Callman introduced me to KOS, he continued to share his knowledge of plants with me. Callman & Frances have always been great friends to all of us. Please share the benefits of being a member of the Kunia Orchid Society with your friends. It may someday turn out that we could be a Callman & Frances to them.

Thank you Education Committee for a great experience at our last virtual meeting by taking us to a safari to Africa. We appreciate Brad's regular articles in our newsletter that is applicable to our location and conditions. We all love the blooming orchid pictures that all of you have been sending in to be shared as part of our newsletter and culture table at our monthly meetings. Take care and stay healthy.

Aloha, Ken Ching

**Upcoming  
General Membership Meeting  
via Zoom Video Conference  
7:00 pm April 6, 2021**

**NOTE: Input for May  
Newsletter is due by  
April 20, 2021  
to Denise Stewart**



**Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries**, will be the special guest at our April 6, 2021 General Membership Meeting. He will be talking about the culture and breeding of Latouria Orchids. His breeding program produced hybrids such as Den Roy Tokunaga, Den Micro Chip and Den Royal Chip among many others. Latourias are very long lasting Dendrobiums that have garnered countless awards in Hawaii, throughout the nation and the world. Be sure to join us to learn all about these Dendrobiums, from the man who hybridized them!

# Do Orchid Pots Matter?

by Brad Lau

Ever wonder what's the difference with using a particular container for growing orchids? Do some orchids prefer a certain pot? Are there differences with using a clay or plastic pot?

The simple answer is there are various ways to grow an orchid but there are some benefits with choosing one container over another.



Let start with getting used or free pots. This can be from someone who used to grow many more plants than they currently grow. A surplus of clay, cement, or plastic pots in various sizes may be available for anyone who has the energy and space to haul them away. As long as the pots are in good shape and not covered with salts from fertilizing, they can be scrubbed and cleaned up (remove old roots) or even painted. Soaking in dilute bleach water helps disinfect. Virus can be spread from old root tissue on the pots.

Another option is to drop the old pot into a nice ceramic outer pot to look nicer or catch water that drains at the bottom. Some net or even clear pots can be dropped into other pots to create a small air zone for the roots and media to breathe and dry out.

Clay pots have been around for many years, they come in a variety of diameters and some are tall and deep while others are shallow. For any orchid it is important not to overpot, use only a pot that will take the existing roots and give a little space towards the pot center for the growing new shoots to extend. When using a pot that is too large you can delay the drying of the media and promote rot. A possible alternative strategy is to only partially fill the pot with media, use much less so that the media doesn't hold water as long and can dry out within 2-3 days.

Clay pots breathe allowing media to dry out faster. Using sphagnum moss holds more moisture to reduce drying out. Check the media to see how wet or dry it is before watering. Orchid roots need air, so air pockets are key at preventing problems. Coconut husk, perlite, Styrofoam or lava rock can help media trap more air pockets.

Plastic pots are inexpensive and available in several shapes and sizes. You can punch or cut extra holes into pots to create more air flow. You can add extra holes for wire hangers very easily and you can add as much or as little media in various sizes to get air gaps for roots.

Cymbidiums typically prefer taller pots in any given diameter as their roots quickly grow downward and will fill a pot till it bursts. Dendrobiums like a very tight fit on small pots until their roots grow well outside the pot. Shallow plastic pots are good for Bulbophyllum or other smaller orchids that tend to grow sideways.

Clear plastic pots cost more but allow viewing of the roots as they grow and fill the pot. You can watch the roots when watering to monitor wetness. Clear pots tend to be durable and can be cleaned and reused. They are most often used with Phalaenopsis. I usually drop them into a ceramic outer pot and just pull up the plant to water and check the roots.

Cement pots are very durable and heavy to offset a tall or heavy plant that wants to tip over. If roots adhere to the pot they can be difficult to clean up for repotting. If this is the case you can decide if you want to just drop the small pot into a matching larger one and avoid disturbing the roots. Sometimes you can use broken foam blocks to add some air gaps and avoid media that can hold too much water or tend to rot over time.

Wooden baskets used to be more plentiful but now seem more expensive. Some aren't meant to last with metal hardware that rusts or wood that rots after a few years. However if well made it is possible to drop a plant growing in a wood basket into a larger basket when it is time to repot. Orchids in baskets often roots onto the wood. Remember that orchids like to be secure so you can use telephone or green wire to tied the main plant to the pot or basket. Some orchids prefer to hang in baskets, spreading out long canes or growing pendulous flower spikes. Encyclia, Cattleya, Vanda, and bulbophyllum often grow well in baskets.

Be extra creative with containers and use lava rock (with a flat bottom) with an opening for the plant. Or you can use a hand shaped ceramic piece large enough for a plant to grow in. You can use sphagnum moss around the roots to trap moisture then poke into the opening.

Finally you can mount an orchid which is not a pot or container at all but mimics how many orchids naturally grow in the wind. The plant can be tied to a vertical or horizontal surface of wood shingle or to other natural material such as cork, coconut husk, drift wood or grape vine. A heavy wire can be inserted into the material so it can be hung. Air flow can be maximized and plants can hang sideways or downward with relatively little media. Since they tend to dry out quickly, daily watering is a good strategy.

Try some of these methods of potting next time you get new plants. Experiment with new ideas and note your results. Write on your plant tags a few notes to yourself and the date. As you gain experience you will get a feel for what works for a given orchid or for your growing area and you can share your successes with others.

(Caption for picture)

Selection of containers, clockwise from bottom middle: cork mount, wood mount, 4" cement, 3" plastic, 5" shallow plastic, 4" square plastic, 4" tall plastic, 5" clay, 4" clear plastic, 3" wood basket, 8" wood basket, 6" plastic basket, 4" plastic basket, 4" lava rock, 4" net basket.

**KOS April General Meeting  
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:00pm**

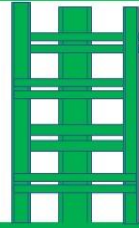
**Click link to join meeting: [April General Meeting](#)**

**Meeting ID: 823 2223 4284  
Passcode: 842063**

**If you are still having issues with Zoom and would like personal attention, please leave Adam a message at 808-295-4842 or email him at [adam.almeida@gmail.com](mailto:adam.almeida@gmail.com).**



# Kunia Orchid Society Member's Corner



## Callman & Frances Au



**Show Chairs  
for 15 YEARS!**

**New venue  
At LHS**

Den anosmum  
'A Touch of Class'  
CCM HOS  
March 2010

**Callman and Frances Au created many  
traditions for Kunia:**

- Designed KOS Logo
- Palaka theme shirts, aprons
- Started Lifetime Membership
- Kick off night with judges
- Honohono workshops at their home
- Appreciation lunches, show prep work days and meetings hosted at their home
- Memorial Display
- Membership photo, and contacts lists
- Storage containers at LHS

## *Grand Vandas by Leland Nakai*



*V. sanderiana*



*Asctm  
christensonianum*



*V. sanderiana alba*



**Bc Mt. Hood 'Orchidglade'**

## **Captivating Catalayas**

**By Jocelyn  
Mokulehua**



**Blc Donna Kimura 'Asa'**



On the left  
**Rvm. Pixie  
Delight Just  
Dandy**

***Orchid  
Share by  
Bernard  
Cabilao***

On the right  
**Phyn  
Gigantea  
Purple x SIB**



The Blooms of Hilda &  
Bill  
Takamatsu



Den. Airy White



Pha LastChoice



Mtsa. Dark Star 'The Orchidworks' (above)

Max. Endresii (on the right)

*Beautiful Blooms*  
by  
*Aileen & Ken Ching*

