



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2020

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Edited by Marilyn Inouye

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

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

On July 24, I participated in a very unusual event. It was the first home selections for the new 'surban' development of Koa Ridge in Central Oahu. As a salesperson for Castle & Cooke Homes for over 32 years, we have done many new home selections before. The significance of this lottery home selection was it was the **first virtual home selection** conducted in the history of Castle & Cooke.

Three days later, the Kunia Country Store had its **first Curbside Pick-Up Sale**. We offered all the orchid supplies from our cancelled show in March that had been in our storage container at Leilehua High School. A list of the available items was published in our last newsletter and members were asked to place their orders prior to the sale. On the pick-up day, members were instructed to stay in their cars. They simply drove up, handed their check for their ordered items, and their purchased items were loaded in their vehicles. Wearing a mask was a requirement for their pick-up. We appreciate the planning and work of Dawn Furumoto and her team that made this event possible. They included Lois Shishido, Ingrid Greene, Cindy Fuentes and Stan Fuentes. The proceeds from the sale added \$927 to our KOS funds.

I checked with Mililani Ike Elementary School to find out when the school facilities might be available to us again. It looks like we may not be able to meet there for the rest of this year. An important concern is the sanitizing of the cafeteria after each use by an outside group. To continue with our goal of orchid education and keeping in touch with our members, our Education Committee is looking into the possibility of virtual monthly meetings by Zoom starting in September. **An email is required to receive the Zoom meeting capability. Those of you that do not have an email should get one, so you will be able to participate in our Zoom meetings and get the benefit of receiving your newsletters by email.**

It appears that the Honolulu Orchid Society will not be able to have their annual orchid show this year. It is sad, because they were the last possible hope for a show on Oahu this year. This is unprecedented times for sure. For those that have some extra time, **provide** some additional care for your orchids, they will reward you with some beautiful growth and flowers. Most of all, take care of yourself and family.

Ken Ching
Mobile (808) 228-2800

Staying Healthy this Summer by Brad Lau

Since March, we all have made changes to our normal routines and activities. Despite this challenge, we can be sure to do some things to maintain our wellbeing and health, but it may take effort.

Examine this checklist and see how many you already do:

- Keep in contact with a friend or family member on a regular basis via cell phone or online – talk about what you are doing or what you are working on.
- Be on a regular schedule or routine – this gives structure to your day and usually allows you to be more productive.
- Get some regular exercise like walking or indoor workouts (while keeping distance from others). Outdoors is also good in open areas or at the beach.
- Get enough sleep – go to bed at a regular time and wake up early at the same time. Sleep helps you recover, stay strong and ready for the next day.

- Eat healthy fresh foods- with many indoor dining options limited, try new recipes and recruit help (friends or family) for cooking at home from simple to fancy.
- Enjoy your pet – do more activities together – go for a walk or set aside some time to play or interact.
- Consider writing a journal of your daily thoughts or activities.
- Take up a new interest or hobby like learning a language or doing art. Set aside time on a schedule for this.
- Have some daily quiet or meditative time. Practice deep breathing, be still and in nature, quiet your thoughts.
- Listen to music, play a musical instrument or sing (with social distancing).
- Do something challenging – puzzles, board games, crossword, or word games.
- Watch less TV and online news coverage – limit your time exposed.
- Practice gratitude – what daily little things are you thankful for. Our lives can be negative bias where we focus easily on our problems not our successes. I am always grateful to have flowers and healthy plants to enjoy.
- Find ways to help others – whether at home or when away, be kind and show aloha.
- Arrange your plants to see and enjoy your best blooming orchids easily.

You may find you are doing many of these or more. It is not too late to add one or more to your daily activities. It does not matter if you are retired or working, young or old. Everyone can benefit from being a little less stressed.



Vanda Summer Care by Brad Lau

It is summer and by now you have many blooming orchids in your garden. Our members have some of the best grown Vanda orchids in the state so growing them in Central Oahu is a good location. Vandas are easy to find at various garden shops or vendors or you can ask for them. Online vendors also have a good assortment to choose from.

Vandas include both species and hybrids which range from miniature to medium and large plants. They can be grown in large buckets with upright metal or wood stakes or in plastic or wood baskets with little to no media (bark). When growing plants with no media you can allow the roots to attach to the basket and water daily without concern of rotting the media.

Light – Vandas tolerate more light and can adapt to full sun if plants are large or of the Terete type. Strap leaf, Semi-Terete Vandas or smaller plants do better with some shade and filtered but bright light. They can also be attached to tree trunks or palms and used in the landscape with good results.

Water – If roots are exposed to air they can be watered daily. When roots hang down too far you can braid or tie them together to keep a neat appearance. Roots will tolerate clipping if needed. Old dry roots should be removed allowing thick white covered roots with green or red tips to remain. If roots are in bark then water twice a week or watch for the roots to get dry before the next watering.

Fertilizer – Vandas are heavy feeders during the growing season. Liquid based half strength foliar fertilizers can be applied every week or two. Be sure to do weekly heavy rinsing to wash off any salts that might build up on plants or pots.

Re-potting – It is normal for a small plant to outgrow its pot or basket. Just remove it and place into a larger container. You can tie down the plant securely with twist tie or wire. Sometimes a small basket can be dropped into a wider basket if the roots are tangled and difficult to remove.

Large Pot vs hanging basket – When the Vanda is very large and tall it will fit well into a large pot on the ground with tall heavy wire support for the main stem and brick weights to keep it from tipping. Hanging baskets work well in shade houses and in trees or patios. They can be moved and even enjoyed indoors.

Roots – ever notice sometimes the thick roots are light green in color? Yes, they are working like leaves to do photosynthesis. When wet, they can change greener in color. Do not be too quick with watering as it takes time to get soaked and absorb moisture. Sometimes the crown or top of a Vanda can rot and die. If the rest of the plant is large the plant may grow a keiki from the main cane and the plant can recover. A sign that the plant is very healthy is as it grows taller it keeps all its leaves healthy and green while the roots grow abundantly and very long. Keiki plants can emerge from the base of the main stem.

Vandas can grow into spectacular specimen plants over time. If you lack the space then try Vanda alliance hybrids, which grow in small pots or small baskets, and often feature brightly colored and sometimes fragrant flowers. Ascocenda and Neofinetia are popular featuring numerous smaller sized flowers.

Kunia Orchid Society



*Sharing photos
of our beautiful
blooms to
brighten your
day*

Dendochilum filiforme



Terry Yonashiro -- Mililani

*Bill & Hilda Takamatsu
Honolulu*



Snbcna. Garnet Glory



Otaara
Hidden Gold



Bc. Maikai

*Sherry Hunt
Mililani*



Blc.Mem.John Yee 'Halona'

*Dale & Paul Mahi
Wahiawa*



Bulbophyllum Othonis
Philippine Species

Ken & Aileen Ching -- Mililani



Den.
Formidable

C. Bactia 'Grape Wax'



Coel.
asperata



Karen Yamamoto -- Mililani



Dendrobium Hybrid Yellow and Green



Lc. Canhamiana
Coerulea

Julianne Puzon - Wahiawa