



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

August 2021

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Edited by Denise Stewart

A Message from Our President

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

We have been enjoying some rather warm sunny weather this summer. With the heat, the plant media dries faster, and more watering is needed. It is a challenge for me to find time to water my plants to keep them happy. Thanks to Aileen, she is a big help with watering and re-potting, when she is not off to Kaneohe to baby sit. If you need help with your orchid hobby, try convincing your spouse to enjoy the orchid experience with you. With the announcement that the Honolulu Orchid Society may not be possible again this year, I may have a little more time to perk up my orchid collection and still enjoy the timely blooms.

We look forward to receiving an update from Mr. Nolan Tokuda, Athletic Director at Leilehua High School, sometime late in July. If the directives are positive, with the possibility of our show location being available, we may have the opportunity to resume our orchid show in 2022.

For those seeking orchid information and enjoyment, our Education Committee has done a wonderful job by inviting some new and interesting speakers for our monthly virtual meetings. Even if I am tired from a long day at work, I cannot leave the meeting until the last lucky number plant is pulled. I find it so exciting to possibly win an orchid plant. Thanks to the orchid nurseries and individuals that have donated plants for the past months. I think the plant prizes help make our meetings fun. If you have enjoyed our meetings, please invite your fellow members and friends to enjoy this neat experience with us.

I look forward to seeing you again at our August virtual meeting. Enjoy growing your orchids and sharing them with others.

Ken

**Upcoming
General Membership Meeting
via Zoom Video Conference
August 3, 2021, at 7:00 pm**

**NOTE: Input for August
Newsletter is due by
August 20, 2021
Send to
denityler@sbcglobal.net**



Roy Tokunaga Brazil Talk

Brazil is one of the most important areas for the Cattleya Alliance. Come and join us for a delightful travel log, hosted by Roy Tokunaga of H&R Nurseries, at Kunia's August General Membership meeting.

We all know about Roy's successful orchid nursery career, but did you know that he has been an amateur photographer, (mostly on orchids) since 1974? Join us on a visit to Brazil through the eyes of an orchidist at Kunia's zoom meeting on August 3, 2021.

Growing Better Orchids

By Bradley Lau

Having a strategy to grow orchids successfully is key to getting results that make you happy and ensure healthy plants. Here are nine habits, see how many you already are doing and create a few more for your routine.

1. Keep tools clean.

Avoid rust, reduce spread of disease, make your tools work and last longer. It's good to invest in high quality tools and better if you can keep them clean and sharp. Storing them away from moisture reduces rust. A cleaning stone can help remove corrosion and refinishes the surface. Using alcohol, bleach or flame heat helps to disinfect tools between each use.

2. Water the right amount - not too much or too little.

If you have orchids in baskets or mounted with no media then you can water daily. Plants need to dry out after watering so just be sure they aren't sitting in wet media or pooling water to cause crown rot. If you have orchids in different media such as bark and sphagnum moss then put similar media plants together and water them on schedules that match the media allowing them to dry before the next watering.

3. Fertilize on a schedule

A weak solution (1/4th to 1/2 strength) every two weeks is a good approach. Choose a certain week or date of the month so it is easier to remember. Some plants need a winter pause to go into dormancy and promote spring blooming. Heavy regular fertilizing may result in salt buildup or promote vegetative growth (less blooming).



4. Avoid overcrowding plants

Give them space on a tray using every other opening or place gaps between trays on a bench. Trays at slightly different heights or even hung vertically with plants attached can help with spacing. Good air flow allows plants to dry out and cool off in hot weather. Diseases easily spread when plants are touching or too close.



5. Clean up the ground and clear out weeds

Any dead leaf or flower liter should be cleaned up to avoid disease. Tiny weeds can be pulled out using long tweezers. Look for beetles, snails and slugs or damage to buds or flowers.

6. Write on your plant tags or keep a journal

Keep notes on your tags like when you got your plant, where you purchased it or any other notes like repotting or Keiki status. You can add a colored tag if it is extra special so it is easy to spot. A journal with even more details allows you to

look back and see how each month progressed.

7. Go vertical

Make the most of limited space, hang plants and hook them one above another with shade loving plants on the lowest level. Make sure that the spacing between plants is enough for good air flow and that watering the top plants doesn't overwater the lower ones.



8. Have a quarantine area

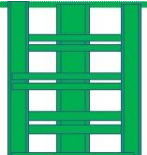
When you get new plants or if you find some that need spraying for problems it's good to have a separate area where you can keep them away from the other plants. You can easily check on them together and look for recovery.

9. Learn from mistakes

Don't give up if a plant doesn't do well or dies. Growing orchids well isn't easy when you consider the wide range of available orchids. If your microclimate isn't favorable for optimal growth, the plant may struggle. Make note of what grows in your area more easily. Try out plants that cope best with your conditions. Even the most experienced orchidist will admit not all orchids grow equally well for a given grower. Being patient, learning and adjusting is key for success.



Kunia Orchid Society Member's Corner



Gary Moniz



Dendrobium junceum
'Jules'
CCE AOS 95 pts.
Ewa show 2013

Gary Moniz was a past President of Kunia for 2 years & supported the society in many capacities. As President, he formed a task force to explore Kunia's non profit status. He also secured the donation and installation of Kunia's storage containers at Leilehua High School.



C. Memoria Robert Strait 'Islander Delights'
CCM HOS 86 pts
Kunia Show 2009



KUNIA MEMBERS SHARE



Otaara Hidden Gold.
Bill & Hilda Takamatsu



Bro. sanguinea v. aurea x sanguinea 'Star Splash'
Bill & Hilda Takamatsu



Den. Jacquelyn Thomas 'Uniwai Supreme'
Karen Yamamoto



Phal. Maki Watanabe 'Momilani' X Phal. Maki Watanabe
'Travis' Karen Yamamoto



V. Mem. Katherine McCartney
Jocelyn Mokulehua



V. Fuchs Delight 'Black'
Leland Nakai



Vanda semi-terete.Karen Yamamoto



Rrm. (Kent Dumlao x Moxy).Karen Yamamoto



L. purpurata x *L. purpurata* 'Carmencita'
Ken & Aileen Ching



Degamoara Jay Yamada 'Lillian'
Ken & Aileen Ching

Join us in sharing pictures of your beautiful blooms with our KOS Family. It's easy!
Use your cell phone or camera to capture photos of your flowers.

Send them anytime to Denise Stewart at denityler@sbcglobal.net with your name and plant name. You can also be anonymous if you like.

We appreciate your membership and support of the KUNIA ORCHID SOCIETY!

KOS May General Meeting
Tuesday, August 3, 2021
7:00pm

Click link to join meeting [KOS August General Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 831 4700 6438
Passcode: No passcode needed

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.