



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

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

January 2021

Zoom link is embedded in email

President's Message

Dear Kunia Orchid Society Members and Friends,

I am writing my monthly message to you on Sunday, December 20, so I can submit it in time for our next monthly newsletter. By the time you receive this message, Christmas will be over, we will probably be counting the days till the end of 2020 and the beginning of the new year 2021.

Towards the end of this very challenging year, the thing that keeps coming to all of our minds is the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of it, we had to cancel our annual KOS Show and we stopped having our monthly meetings at Mililani Ike Elementary School. It was disappointing not being able to share our blooming orchids at the various annual shows and our plant sharing/commentaries at our monthly meetings. We are getting better at habitually wearing a face mask wherever we go, constantly washing our hands, remembering to exercise social distancing but never knowing if that is even sufficient protection against the dreaded virus.

Thanks to improved technology and our "techy members" of our Education Committee, we were able to conduct virtual general meetings in September, October and December by Zoom. We were grateful to have members, and other orchid society members join us at these meetings. We enjoyed having Brad's innovative "spinning wheel" produce many lucky number winners of donated orchid plants.

We have experienced challenges this past year and some have been affected in different ways, but we must not forget the many blessings that we and our families have received. In spite of our own personal differences, we must always be mindful to treat everyone with empathy and respect.

With an effective vaccine that will soon be made available to everyone, we can look forward to getting back to what we thought was once normal. I look forward to the day when we can greet each other without fear of any COVID-19 consequences, to again meet at our monthly meetings and special events like our annual orchid shows. Until then, I wish you good health and safety for you and your family. "Hauoli Makahiki Hou!" (Happy New Year)

Ken Ching

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday 7 p.m.
January 5, 2021

Zoom Meeting ID: 847 2119 0880

Passcode: 722883

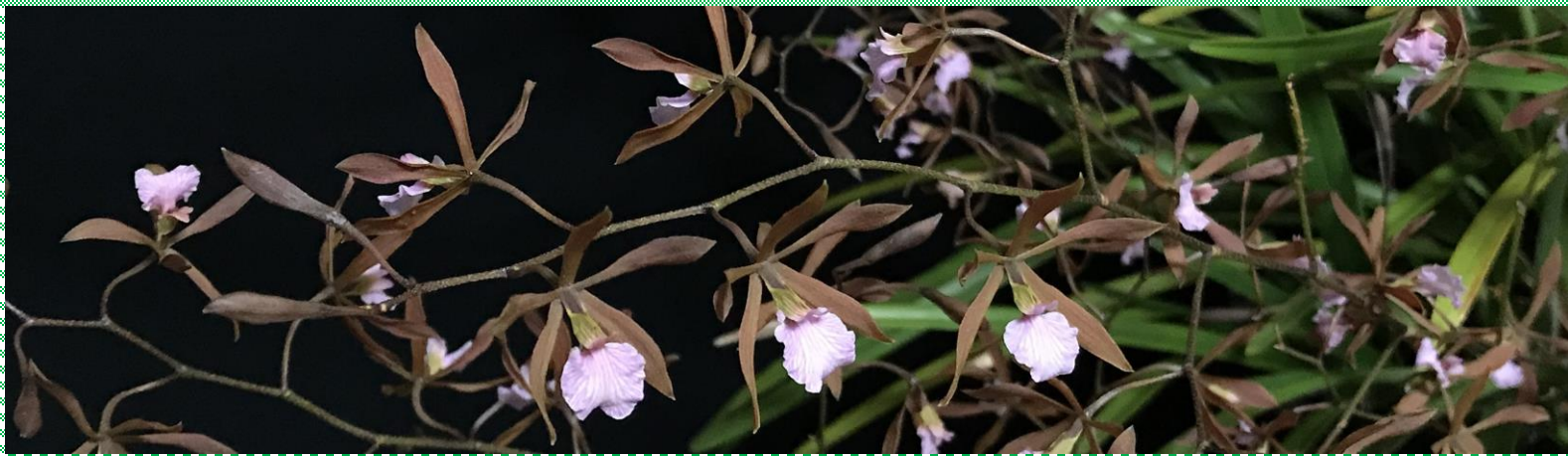


John Sharp

Nature photography

Our first speaker for 2021 will be John Sharp, who will teach us how to take nature photos, including plant and blossom shots. You will also learn how to label your photo files in order to organize and share them. John has volunteered and worked part time as a Program Aide at the Wahiawa Botanical Garden, where he learned about plants and conducted research for classes and displays.

John and his photography talk will be an important first step to instruct the membership to photograph and share their orchid photos. Member photos will be shared in February and in subsequent meetings to support the **Kunia Online Culture Table**. Sharing photos is a great way to document the bloom, facilitate people connections and a beautifully rewarding way to learn about your orchids!



How Are My Plants Doing?

by Brad Lau

It always pays to check on your plants; in January some plants will be resting while others are still in active growth. As mentioned in a previous article if your orchid has dropped its leaves that means it is likely in rest phase and dormant. Just be patient and hold back any fertilizing and cut back on watering. Plump canes or pseudobulbs will supply the energy for new growth when ready.

So how can you tell if your plants are healthy and doing well?

Leaves

How do the leaves look? Are they uniformly green and thick without wrinkles? Brown leaf tips can be normal and small brown spots may occur on older leaves. Leaves should be free of pests like scale, white fly, and aphids. Sunburn will look like large yellow-brown to black ovals. Leaf color should be a light apple green not dark green. This is a function of how much light the plant is getting. You want the most light the plant can tolerate without burning. Dark green leaves are OK for plants to grow but may lack the light to promote blooming. A good strategy is to find locations that support bright indirect light. Filter from a tree or palm or from shade cloth helps to cut direct light especially midday. An eave or patio covering may also provide shade. Sometimes I hang hooks from an eave to grow orchids in baskets for partial shade. East or morning facing sun is milder and shorter lasting than afternoon sun. Are the leaves bigger with each new growth? A larger new shoot often develops a large leaf. A new Vanda or Phalaenopsis leaf should be as large or larger than the previous leaf. A new small leaf is a sign of stress and remedy should be sought. A shoot or eye swelling indicates

the plant is ready for a new season. Each year healthy plants will try to grow shoots sometimes in more than one direction so examine the plant and allow the new shoot to get enough light as it develops. A new shoot facing a darker area will seek more light and may twist to follow it. The new shoot can be covered by a brown sheath. Tear and pull away the sheath to expose the base of the pseudobulb; this helps reduce pests that hide under the sheath and may help the new shoot to grow.

Roots

Are the roots thick, colored silver or white with green or red tips? Roots should be plentiful and not mushy, brown or dried out which are signs of root rot or old dead roots. Healthy roots are essential for the plant. If the roots die, moisture cannot be taken up by the plant and wrinkled leaves are often the result. Roots that hang outside the pot are OK. New roots from new shoot growth signal the time to repot; repotting when roots are short avoids breakage. Are there aerial roots? This is common in Vandas; tall stems will have roots coming out above the main roots. This is a sign of healthy growth. Does the plant adhere securely to its pot or container? Usually the roots will grow and attach to the inside of the pot and the media. If you pick up the orchid by its stem or canes it will not separate from the pot and media. If you repot you can tie by wire the plant to the holes in the bottom of the pot then fill it with media. Orchids like to be secure and fastened to their container. Even with an empty basket and no media I will tie the plant securely with wire so it doesn't move.

Bloom

If there are blooms, are the flowers vibrant and well formed? Regular flowering is a good sign the plant is getting enough sunlight to grow well. Plants that don't flower can be moved into more or less light. continued



Lau continued

Move plants in the winter to early spring when seasonal sun is weaker and less likely to burn leaves from moving. Moving plants a short distance can alter sun exposure for good or bad.

Media

Is the potting media fresh and offer enough air space? Orchids are air plants so old mushy broken down media needs to be replaced. Old media holds too much moisture and leads to rotten roots and disease. Media should dry out completely between watering in 2-3 days. There should be some air spaces to allow room for roots to grow. Does the orchid look dried out? If so, it is not getting enough water to the canes or leaves which can be a sign of damage to the root system so pull the plant out of the pot. It's even OK to take off all the media and let the plant dry out completely and grow with no media while treating it for bacteria and fungus. If you see new roots growing that is a good sign. Repot in fresh media before the roots get longer than 1".

Fertilizer

Is your fertilizing plan keeping up? Are your crystal fertilizers dry and kept in air tight containers? Are pellet fertilizers replaced every 6 months. If you use pellets just plan for a swap out every January and June. You can use small plastic baskets or old tea bags to hold pellets. Using both pellets which are time released and water soluble fertilizers will give the best results.

OK, that's enough to get your started. You can make early corrections that will allow a strong beginning to the new year for your plants. Hopefully you can avoid problems by early detection of trouble areas and it will be easier to keep your plants healthy.

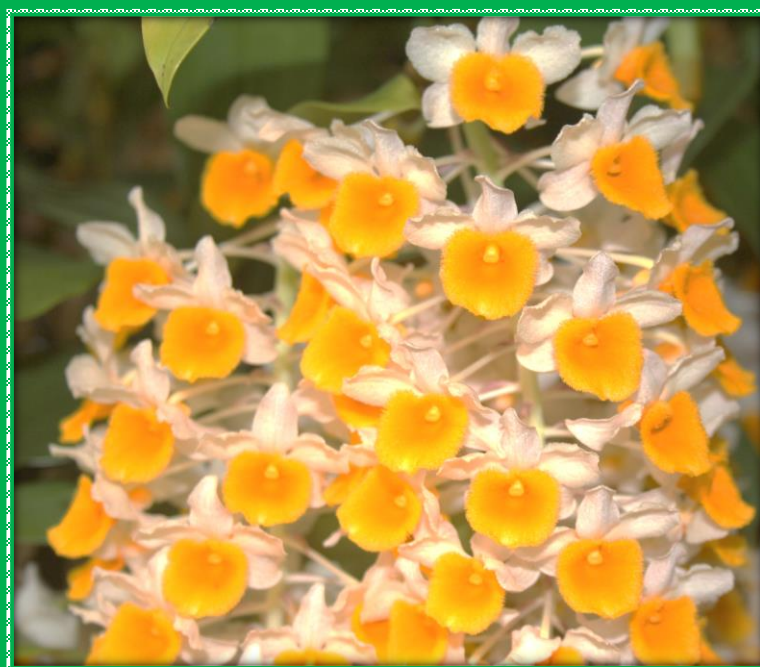
KUNIA MEMBER CORNER

A new column in our newsletter will highlight past and present Kunia members to celebrate their awarded plants and/or special contributions made to the society. If you would like to submit articles or a photo for this column, please email it to: Kuniaorchidsociety808@gmail.com

Our first featured member is **Andrew Okada**. The selection of this member will be evident on the next page of this newsletter.

Andy lives in Makawao on the island of Maui. He was gifted a one year membership in the Kunia Orchid Society, in appreciation for his collaboration with Leland Nakai to plan and host our Maui Safari back in 2018. Andy has kindly renewed his membership with KOS ever since! Thank you Andy!

Although he says he is a beginning grower, it is evident that his experience and appreciation with orchids is a life long passion. His parents were avid growers and collectors. Growing orchids became full time for Andy, since retiring from the Board of Water Supply.



We hope that Andy's win will inspire you to photograph your plants and submit them every month for the Kunia Online Culture Table

Submit labeled photos to kuniaorchidsociety808@gmail.com

2020 American Orchid Society Benjamin Kodama Award

Congratulations to Winner

Andy Okada



Dendrobium thrysiflorum 'Wailele' CCE AOS 92 points
(Wailele in Hawaiian is waterfall)

We are pleased to announce that Kunia member **Andy Okada**, who lives in Makawao Maui, won the **2020 American Orchid Society Benjamin Kodama Specialty Award** for his Dendrobium thrysiflorum 'Wailele'. This plant was awarded on Maui in May 2019. The plant photo, taken by Michael Blietz, was voted by AOS Hawaii Region Judges and submitted for consideration of the most outstanding in the Dendrobium Alliance. National Specialty Awards are the highest level awarded by the American Orchid Society.

This award is just as much an honor for the photographer, Michael Blietz (Exotic Orchids of Maui), since his photography skills captured the magnificence of the bloom.

There were 44 inflorescence and approximately 1640 flowers and 28 buds. The plant was approximately 37 inches wide, growing in a 13 inch plastic pot. The natural spread of one flower was 3.5 centimeters.

**BENJAMIN KODAMA
SPECIALTY AWARD**

This award is given by the AOS trustees to the grower of the most outstanding member of the Dendrobium Alliance. Established in 1996, it was endowed by donations to honor Benjamin Kodama. One of the orchid pioneers of Hawaii, Kodama is respected worldwide as a first-class hybridizer and grower of different genera.

Membership Renewal & Voluntary Donations

Please continue your support as a member of KOS by renewing your membership for 2021.

We ask that you complete a separate application form for each person.

We are adding a new item to our membership renewal form this year – an area where members can indicate a voluntary donation. Although optional, we welcome any donations.

Donations are tax deductible since Kunia Orchid Society is a non-profit organization.

To save on postage expense, your cancelled check will be your receipt

Kunia Orchid Society – 2021 Membership Application

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

_____ \$15 Regular Membership Renewal for 2021 (by 12/31/20)

_____ \$20 New Membership & late renewals (after January 1)

Optional Tax-Deductible Donation:

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

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make Check Payable to: Kunia Orchid Society

Your cancelled check will be your receipt

Mail to: **Kunia Orchid Society**

P.O. Box 893956,

Mililani, HI 96789

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____