



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

May 2021

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Edited by Denise Stewart

A Message from Our President

Aloha Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

If you are a lover of orchids, whether you grow them or just enjoy them, March-April is a special time of the year. It is the honohono season. Every time I smell the fragrant flowers, it brings back a lot of memories. This past week I stopped at two of my regular Honolulu places to visit, Kawamoto Nursery in Palolo and Ko'olau Farmers on Beretania Street. I was delighted to see many blooming honohono plants available to the public for purchase.

Callman Au was one of the most generous honohono growers I ever met. He would sell his plants with long canes full of blooms and buds to everyone, cheap. He sometimes sold them to his friends and honohono growing failures like me, even cheaper. I have fond memories of Callman and his fellow honohono disciples who would teach his style of growing to almost anyone that wanted to learn. Those of you that can grow them, keep up with that talent and knowledge that you possess.

For many folks, the blooming honohono orchids are synonymous with the annual Kunia Orchid Show. People from Wahiawa and other parts of the island would come to marvel at the winning honohono orchids in the show displays, then would check out vendors who were selling them and then happily carried their newly purchased honohono plants home for their families to enjoy. For those of you that are perpetuating the cultivation of honohono, help keep this tradition going on forever.

Our Education Committee has done a great job in bringing excellent speakers to us at our monthly virtual meetings. The past few months they brought us on an African Safari with Tom Miranda, Roy Tokunaga one of the most experienced orchid growers shared more of his growing techniques with us and this month we get to hear one of our newest KOS member, Glen Barfield share his orchid knowledge with us. If you have access to a computer, please take advantage of these wonderful offerings that you can greatly benefit from. Stay safe and be well.

Ken Ching

**Upcoming
General Membership Meeting
via Zoom Video Conference
7:00 pm May 4, 2021**

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



We are excited to announce that new member **Glen Barfield** will be the speaker at our May meeting via zoom. Glen will be talking about **Orchid Culture in Hawaii**. His first orchid passion is breeding, primarily in oncidinae intergenerics and miltonopsis, as well as some work with zygos and masdevallia. He maintained a boutique nursery in Glenwood (Mountain View), & was a partner in The OrchidWorks for 10 years on the Big Island. Glen is also an accomplished and highly awarded AOS photographer and judge, and has been active in the Hawaii orchid scene since arriving in the islands in 1995. Be sure to join us on **Tuesday May 4th at 7 nm!**



What are Lady Slipper Orchids?

Perhaps you have heard the term “Lady Slippers” when talking about orchids that have a special pouch-shaped labellum that has replaced the lip of the flower. The term applies to three orchid genera: *Cypripedium*, *Paphiopedilum*, and *Phragmipedium*. Each are different but the flowers do all resemble a slipper.

The pouch of the flower is for pollinating insects to fall into the opening which forces them to climb out and past the flower’s column picking up pollinia which are deposited on the next flower resulting in pollination. All slipper orchids have their two lateral sepals fused into a synsepal which lies behind the pouch. The dorsal sepal helps to partially cover the opening of the pouch and reduce water from falling in.

Cypripedium

These are temperate orchids growing on the ground in bogs or leaf clutter and found in the US on both coasts. They need the cold winter to do their best and grow wild quite nicely. I visited a wooded forest in Maine and found them in bloom naturally along the path much to my delight.

These orchids do best in a bog like growth media of sand and peat or sphagnum moss in equal parts. Moisture needs to be trapped at it’s roots so don’t let the roots dry out. Ideal light is a couple of hours of direct light followed by dappled shade. They typically grow in the spring, bloom in June then die back for the winter.

Paphiopedilum

Native to southeast Asia, they grow both as epiphytes and terrestrially. Light needs to be lower similar to Phals. Leaves can be solid green and tolerate a little more light/cooler temperatures or be mottled and prefer less light and warm to intermediate temperatures.

They lack thick canes or leaves to store moisture so water as their media beings to dry out. Loose media mix with cinder, some bark, perlite, and charcoal works well.

Paphs. may bloom with a single or multiple large, long lasting showy flowers. They lack fragrance and spend all their energy on looks to attract pollinators. Single flower plants are medium in size while multi-floral plants can grow large.



Phragmipedium

Native to South and Central America, they are known for being brightly colored orange to purple and bloom in the spring. Their habitats are usually very wet on the sides of streams.



They do well with daily watering or you can place them in a shallow dish of water. Warm temperatures with a night drop of 10-15°F is good. They can tolerate more light similar to Dendrobiums.

For me, I enjoy watering my plants so Phrags. are the easiest to care for. One important note is that these orchids cannot be cloned and are grown from seed. This means that each plant is only as similar as a sibling and each orchid flower can be slightly different for better or worse.

I have visited orchid nurseries and have been told that I can only purchase orchids that have bloomed once and have been screened by the owner. This also means that each flower is unique to some extent showing more or less color or pattern.

One of the best things is that the flowers tend to last a month or two. Some Phrags are sequential bloomers which means the flower spike is crowned by a flower followed by another sometimes for several months until the whole spike dries up. This is followed by a new side shoot that leads to the next growth and new flower spike.

If grown in sphagnum moss, watch for media breakdown and replace after about 12-18 months. Clay pots are good as they breathe well and allow moisture to escape. Half strength fertilizer is good during the growing season and rain water works wonders for the lower salt content.

If you don't already have any of these orchids keep an eye out and give one a try. Big Island nurseries do sell Paphs. and a few sources have Phrags. Paphs. are good companion plants to Phals.

Photos:

- 1) "Showy Lady Slipper" *Cypripedium reginae*
- 2) *Paphiopedilum venustum* (credit Kate Leonard)
- 3) *Phragmipedium* Fritz Schomburg

KOS May General Meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
7:00pm

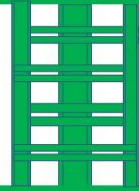
Click link to join meeting: [KOS \May General Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 831 9855 7649
Passcode: 069805

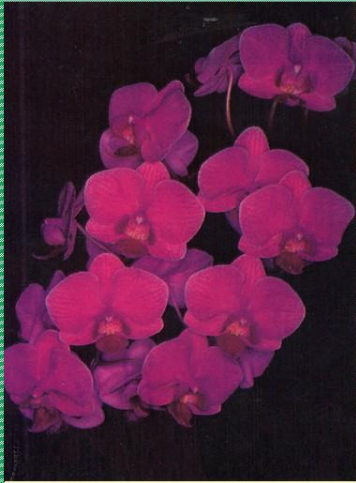
If you are still having issues with Zoom and would like personal attention, please leave Adam a message at 808-295-4842 or email him at adam.almeida@gmail.com.



Kunia Orchid Society Member's Corner



Richard & Wendel Takase



Phal Charisma 'Shelly' CR HOS



Phal Joanne Kilcup 'June' CR HOS
HCC AOS

Both Richard and Wendel were loyal vendors at the Kunia Orchid Shows. Richard was a premier hybridizer of Phaleanopsis in Hawaii and the world. He was honored in 1994 by the American Orchid Society for his lifetime achievements in phaleanopsis breeding. Wendel has expanded his interests to other genera, including this Paph, which was awarded at the Kunia show in 2016.



Paph Pacific Magic 'Vin' CR HOS



Kunia Orchid Society Members Share



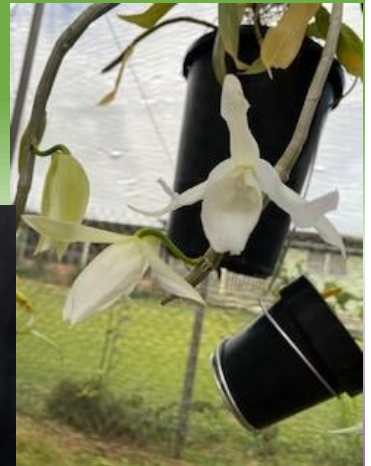
V. Amphax V. Thailand Gold
Leland Nakai



Cym. Sunshine Falls 'Butterball'
Aileen & Ken Ching



Den. Faciferum (Sulawesi species)
Bill & Hilda Takamatsu



My first honohono of the 2021 season
Jocelyn Mokulehua