



Newsletter of the

The Garden Island Orchid Society

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

July-August 2009

The GIOS newsletter is published by the Garden Island Orchid Society on a bi-monthly basis. Contact them at P. O. Box 1056, Hanapepe, HI 96716.

www.gardenislandorchidsociety.org

GIOS Board 2008/2009

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 Awards: Mildred Konishi

General Meetings 2008/2009:

August 14
 October 9
 December 5 (Saturday)

Show Dates:
 Farm Bureau Fair - August 27, 28, 29 & 30

In this issue

Coming Events

President's Message

Orchids in Paradise Show

The Nominating Committee is Looking for Volunteers for 2010 & 2011

GIOS Orchid Workshop

Mounting Orchids

Coming Events

General Meeting: August 14, 2009. The topic for the evening will be the various micro-climates of Kauai. Learn which orchids are best suited for different areas of the island. Allen Yamada will be conducting a question and answer period so if you wonder why Miltonias do not do well in your garden in Koloa but are robust in cooler areas, Allen will give you an answer. We will also be discussing plans for the Kauai Farm Bureau Fair in August. The meeting will be held at the United church of Christ in Hanapepe and will start at 6:30.

Please bring your display plants. Remember, those that participate will get an extra door prize.

August 8th. Orchid Workshop. Since the previous workshop was so successful, Allen Yamada and Gwen Teragawa have agreed to hold another one. This one will again be held at Gwen's nursery from 9:30 until 11:30. The limit is eight people so reserve early. Call Gwen at 335-3890 or 482-0704.

August 18 - 20. Big Island Orchid Tour. A tour of the Orchid Growers on the Big Island is set for August 18-20. The air tickets and Hilo Seaside Hotel are already book but we may be able to squeeze in a couple more. Call Gwen.

August 27 - 30 - Kauai Farm Bureau Fair and the Orchids in Paradise Show See Page 2 for more details.

President's Message

I hope that all of you are getting the necessary information from our General Meetings to assist you in growing healthy and beautiful orchids. If there are any specific topics that we haven't covered, please let Allen Yamada or me know. We hope that the Saturday workshops will also help so you can feel confident enough to start entering your plants in our shows.

The Farm Bureau Fair Show is coming up Aug 27th - 30th and I hope we will have more plants in this year. Anne and Carol will not be able to Chair The Fall Orchids in Paradise show this year, so we are looking for a person or persons to help out in coordinating the display. Please call me and we will all help and work together. We will also need volunteers for the plant and tee shirt sales, and security at the Farm Fair. Sign-up will be at the meeting and or you can call me 335-3890 or 482-0704 or e-mail gteragawa@hawaii.rr.com

Gwen Teragawa

Orchids in Paradise 2009

Listed below is the Schedule for the Garden Island Orchid Society participation for the Kauai Farm Bureau Fair 2009:

Set-up is on Wednesday, August 26. Plants are to be delivered from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. However, we will need volunteers to come by at 4:00 p.m. to help place the orchids.

We will also need volunteers for security and orchid sales so please sign up at the August General Meeting.

As dinner will be provided for our workers there will be no extra Makana Points for this setup.

Judging will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until about noon on Thursday, August 27.

Show times:

August 27 - 6:00 p.m. to midnight

August 28 - 6:00 p.m. to midnight

August 29 - 12:00 noon to midnight

August 30 - 12:00 noon until about 3:30 p.m. when we will breakdown. This is subject to change. We will have more information by the next General Meeting. (The rides are open until 11:00 p.m.)

The names of plants to be submitted for judging should be sent to Nancy Nakama no later August 19th. She will accept them by that date via snail mail (PO Box 1116, Waimea, 96796) or e-mail nnkauai@hawaii.rr.com.

We will need Volunteers for:

Plant Sales

Security

Set-Up



Neill Sam's V. Fuch's Delight 'Hawaii Special' wins Best in Show at 2008 orchids in Paradise

The Nominating Committee is Looking for Volunteers for 2010 & 2011

Our Board and Committee Chairpersons serve for two years and the terms of our present group are up this year. If any of you are interested in any of the following positions, please approach Gwen at the next meeting. New members, this is a good way to get to know other members and become an integral part of the club.

PRESIDENT: Gwen Teragawa

VICE PRESIDENT: Allen Yamada

SECRETARY: Carol Kanna

TREASURER: Bob King

AWARDS: Mildred Konishi & Evelyn Tsubakihara

BULLETIN: Ada Koene

BY-LAWS: Nancy Nakama

CRAFTS TABLE: Ada Koene

DISPLAY TABLE & CULTURE CONTEST: Lorraine Kawane

DOOR PRIZE: Judy Matsumoto

LIBRARIAN: Ann Notley

MAKANA: Nancy Nakama & Gwen Teragawa

MEMBERSHIP: Judy Matsumoto

NURSERY TOUR: Allen Yamada

PLANT NAMETAGS: Nancy Nakama

PLANT SALE: Carol Yasutake

PUBLICITY: Ada Koene

REFRESHMENT: Susie Kaohi & Florence Honjo Rapozo

SHOW CHAIRMAN: Gwen Teragawa

SHOW DISPLAY: Carol Yasutake & Ann Notley

SHOW JUDGING: Bob King

T-SHIRT: Betty and Gail O'Donnel

GIOS Orchid Workshop

Eight enthusiastic GIOS members showed up at Gwen Teragawa's nursery on Saturday morning, the 27th of June, for a productive morning of repotting orchids. Each of us was allowed to bring up to five plants for repotting. I said productive because we brought our distressed orchids and one by one



Allen Yamada analyzed the plants and told us what they needed to become healthy plants again.



Allen did most of the potting using a media mixture of four parts medium-sized tree bark and one part perlite. He didn't snip off too many roots as he was concerned that we would cut off too many healthy roots in the process. (Incidentally, he used a solution of Chlorox and water to sterilize the cutters.) He gave the roots a generous squirt of Miracle Grow Quick Start which is all they would get in terms of moisture for another two weeks, when the normal watering would start again.

After filling the bottom of either plastic, net or clay pots with the media, he carefully placed the plants to one side of the pot with the new growth facing the middle so as to give them plenty room to grow. He then filled the rest of the pot with the media until it was about 1/2 inch from the top. With a very fancy tool resembling a pestle (as in mortar and pestle)

he tapped down the media until the plant was firmly held in place. This was a very important part of the repotting. He then sprinkled some Nutricote over the base of the plants and voila—they were ready to be taken home. Gwen uses a mixture of pearls of Nutricote (good for 6 months to a year) so that she doesn't have to feed them Nutricote so often.

Allen reminded us that in addition to the Nutricote the plants needed an extra dose of water-soluble fertilizer, such as Vigoro All Purpose Plant Food that is 10-10-10, once a week.

We picked up on a lot of hints that many of us had not heard before. When we buy orchids they are generally in green plastic pots. But according to Allen Phalaenopsis prefer to be planted in wooden baskets or attached to trees, and Cattleyas and Vandas prefer the net pots for their roots like lots of air. Of course one of the draw backs is that they then need to be



watered every day as they would dry out quickly. Cattleyas like to be attached to tree trunks as well.

The special pots, like net pots, are not available commercially on this island and are not generally used by growers because they are more expensive than the standard plastic pots. However, see Allen at the meeting for he has ordered some net pots from the Mainland. And he has access to wooden baskets.

Coffee and snacks were served and Gwen, Nancy Nakama and Judy Matsumoto were on there to lend a helping hand. A special thanks to Allen and Gwen for arranging this workshop. I would do it again.

By Ada Koene

Mounting Orchids on Driftwood

A presentation by Neill Sams from Orchid Alley

Neill Sams gave a wonderful presentation on mounting orchids. Each member was able to mount an orchid to take home that evening. The club provided a selection of Cattleya orchids for each member, along with driftwood, sphagnum moss, wire to hang and ties to mount the orchid.

According to Neill, mounting orchids is generally superior to growing orchids in pots. Orchids in their natural state grow on trees, in fact Dendrobium means growing on trees.

If you mount orchids in bloom, they will generally bloom the same time each year. If you mount *multiple* orchids, mount them all in bloom so that each year they bloom at the same time for a spectacular display. Neill says, "I am into instant gratification so I like to mount orchids that are blooming for a big wow factor". Mounting orchids looks natural and fits into the landscape. Neil also says that by putting hooks on the wood when you mount them, the display becomes portable. You can bring it out to enjoy it when the orchids are in bloom and put it back in the greenhouse after it's done blooming.

Hardwoods are best to mount your orchids, including lychee, ironwood, guava and kiawe. Softer woods will rot after several years (thus destroying all your hard work). Driftwood can be used also, but needs to be soaked in water to remove the salts. Other possibilities include root stock, cork, and coconuts.



Neill explains the basics and why coconut husks are a better choice when mounting vandas.



Neill brought a wonderful display of an orchid mounted on ironwood root stock.

To prepare the orchid for mounting, first remove it from the pot and shake off all planting medium. Neill gave us a good tip, to spray the roots with water, so they become pliable and less likely to break. Examine



the roots and plant carefully. If the roots are old, wiggly, mushy, they are dead and need to be removed. Roots that are solid and green are alive. Spray the plant to clean it and make sure there are no insects or eggs. Remember that anytime you make a cut on your plant you need to sterilize your shears. Bleach, alcohol or heat are each sterilization methods.

Various media can be used to mount orchids, but not all media work with all orchids. For example, sphagnum moss can be used on Cattleyas but on Vandas as this will cause rot. If you are mounting a Vanda, a better solution would be coconut husks.

To mount a Cattleya, take a ball of slightly damp sphagnum moss and press it into the base of the orchid around the roots. You can use green tie wire, fish line, or strips of nylons to tie the orchid tightly



Neill and Fely Sams show how to mount the orchid on driftwood using a coconut husk. The driftwood has been soaked for a month to remove all salt.

to the mount, being careful of new roots or shoots. It needs to be tight enough to allow the roots to grow into the mount and keep the orchid secure.

Cattleyas should be mounted toward the bottom of the mount as they tend to grow upward. Other types of orchids have different growing habits. Some orchids grow in a straight line and could be successful mounted horizontally.

There are several ways to hang your mount. You may take wire and simply wrap it around the top of your mount and form a hook. Also, a hole can be drilled in the mount with wire through the hole (this is probably easier to do before mounting the orchid).

Always label your orchid once it is mounted. The easiest way is to punch a hole in the tag and tie it onto the mount.



Fely with the finished product.

Water your orchid to keep the roots from drying out. Some orchids may need to be watered more than others, for example, Vandas may need to be watered twice a day in the summer. Where you are located will also affect how you water. Fertilization is easy using a water soluble fertilizer. If you prefer the pellets (such as Nutricote), use a mesh tied to the mount to hold the pellets. The fertilizer will dissolve as you water.

Members try their hand at mounting.



As Neill pointed out, orchids don't know what they are mounted on, they only know to grab on and grow. By mounting correctly, giving proper water, light and fertilizer, you will be successful at growing mounted orchids!

Once you have done all that, sit back and enjoy. Everyone had so much fun mounting their orchids. At the June 2010 meeting, please bring your orchid back for show and tell!

See you at the Fair





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