

Newsletter of the

The Garden Island Orchid Society

March - April 2008

Affiliated with the American Orchid Society

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

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General Meetings 2007/2008:

April 11
June 13
August 8
October 10
December 5

Show Dates:

April 4 and 5 - Spring Fantasy
August 21-24 - Farm Bureau Fair

In this issue

Coming Events

President's Message

Spring Fantasy Show - Kaua'i Orchids and Art Show

Kean Matsumoto Talks About Honohonos

Schedule of Events - Kauai Orchid and Art Festival

Coming Events

April 4 and 5th. Spring Fantasy - Orchids and Art - See Pages 2 and 3.

April 11, 2008 Our General Meeting will be held at the United Church of Hanapepe and our speaker will be **Wallace Nakamoto**. He will be talking about and showing pictures of Orchid Shows in Japan. **Al Sugano** has offered to conduct our **Orchids 101** classes so please come at 6:30 if you have any questions. Al's presentations have always been extremely informative so be sure to attend. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

April 15 to 17, 2008. Group Tour to Hilo Nurseries - Those interested, please call Gwen Teragawa at 482-0704 or Allen Yamada at 822-4148 by April 8th.



Please check our Club Website at: www.gardenislandorchidsociety.org. Click on each category. Tell your friends.

President's Message

Our Spring Show is coming up soon and I hope to see all of you there with your plants to be displayed. Don't be your own judge on your plants; you'll be surprised that your plant may take a prize.

I hope you can find the time to help with baked goods, etc. We will have our crafts also and our new GIOS T-shirts will be out for sale. We are looking for help so if you can please call me at 482-0704.

We have 14 GIOS members going to Hilo on April 15 - 17 to visit lots of orchid growers. I hope the next time you will be going too.

The Garden Island Orchid Society members wish to express their condolences to Margaret Makishi over the loss of her husband and former member Yoshitaka. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Maragret.

Aloha, Gwen

Spring Fantasy Show - Kaua'i Orchids and Art Show

Plans are being finalized for the Spring Fantasy Show in April this year. The theme will again be Kaua'i Orchids and Art and will be held in conjunction with the Hanapepe Economic Alliance. The press release for this festival is included in this newsletter. Our part of the show will be held on April 4 and 5. As usual, set up for the show is on Thursday afternoon, April 3, starting at 1:00 p.m. at our usual venue, the United Church of Christ in Hanapepe. Thursday evening dinner will be provided for the volunteers who are there to help with the set up on Thursday afternoon.

Those bringing plants to display should notify Nancy Nakama via phone 338-1423, by mail at: P. O. Box 1116, Waimea, HI 96796 or by email at no later than Wednesday evening, April 2, with the complete name of the plant and the owner's name (as they wish it to appear on the label) or send it block printed by mail to arrive no later than the April 2nd date. Display plants must arrive between between 2:00 to 5:00m p.m. on Thursday afternoon to be considered for judging the next day.

Everyone, please bring at least one orchid to display. Even if you do not think it is a prize winner, it looks a lot better to the public when we amateurs and enthusiasts care enough about our organization to participate rather than leave all the work up to the commercial growers.

Judging of the display plants will take place on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. The show will open to the public at 1:00 p.m. or later, if the judging takes longer than anticipated.

We Need:

Baked Goods such as Cookies and Quick Breads and Canned Jams

Helping hands to help set-up the show.

Seamstresses and Sales Persons for the crafts table. (Call Ada at 742-0333 or e-mail thekoenes@cs.com)

Canning Jars - 8 oz or 1 pint (call Ada)

Last but not least--Orchids, Orchids, Orchids. Orchids for the show and orchids that you wish to donate to the club for the orchid sale.

Cont'd from Page 3

If the cane starts to get too long it tends to curl up toward the sun. Kean makes an S-hook out of wire and hangs a 2" pot from it to pull the cane down so it hangs straight.

When ultimately the cane is bare with no buds, transplant if the plant needs it. The cane is very crispy at this time so be careful not to snap it. To transplant, run a short wire through one of the holes in the bottom of a new pot then run it up another to make a "U". Leave enough loose wire to wrap around the plant. Add a few peanuts on the bottom of the pot then wrap the roots in sphagnum and twist the wire around the



Kean wires his Honohonos to the bottom of the pots

plant and sphagnum so that all is secure. Add a little orchid bark. Kean transplants once in three to five years.

After the cane finishes growing he snaps it and lets it hang hoping keikis will come out. If you are lucky, you get a couple—if you are not lucky you don't get any. He likes only one or two canes per pot because the plant is stronger. He reminded us that Honohono blooms but once a year.

*Kean is referring to "Michigan State University's Magic Fertilizer". There are, in fact, two formulas. The first is called RO Water Special or 13-3-15 which was designed for a pure water source like rain water or reverse osmosis (RO) purified water. Because of the well-water mineral content, the RO formula is the preferred choice for the home grower. The other is called Well Water Special or 19-4-23 which was designed to complement the well water found in Michigan State University.

by Ada Koene

Kean Matsumoto Talks About Honohonos

Kean began his talk by recognizing that our own GIOS Member David Neifert is ahead of the others in hybridizing Honohono orchids and other growers have been trying to follow his lead. As a result the other growers should have their own Honohonos coming out in fairly good numbers this year..



Kean Matsumoto

Kean explained that at the moment (March 7, 2008) the Honohono plants are at the stage where they look like they are going to die. He advised that we should not throw them out when the leaves start to yellow and fall off—that is normal.



The first ones to bloom should be the whites or commons (lavenders). He cautioned that some of the new specie whites are hard to grow but the earlier white hybrids are fairly easy. As a matter of interest, he said that almost all of the whites and commons have a strong fragrance.

When the little bumps come out on the bare cane, it is time to spray, especially if there are thrips in the area. When the lumps start to appear, the thrips bury under the white paper that covers the cane and the thrips tend to suck the cane dry. As a result, you will just have lumps that will not grow into buds. Kean said that he uses a type of insecticide that is hazardous to your health so he was reluctant to recommend it. However, when pressed, he suggested an alternative. While not as effective it will do the trick. Look for Bayer Rose and Flower Spray that comes in a blue bottle and WalMart, Ace or Home Depot most probably carry it.

At this time of the year the watering and fertilizing should be reduced. If it rains a lot and it is left out in the rain, don't expect too many flowers—expect a lot of keikis. If you have very little sunlight, the affect will be the same. Put the Honohonos under an eave someplace where they won't get too much rain but still get some sunshine. Then water the Honohono once a week. (After the plants stop growing in December—watch the cane. If they start to shrivel you should see wrinkles at the very top, Kean sticks the pot in a bucket of water, gives the plant some fertilizer and after it rehydrates in a day or two he hangs it back up again. While it is growing, the Honohono can take a lot of water.)

Kean says he does not stop fertilizing, he just reduces the fertilizing to once or twice a month whereas he normally he would fertilize once a week. He also pointed out that, in general, the larger nurseries fertilize all their orchids two to four times a week. Thus when you buy their plants, you might have a hard time growing them because you don't fertilize like they do. Ask the grower how often they fertilize. Plants need food just like humans do. He mentioned that if you are using Nutricote it only has a 100- and 180-day lifespan, not 360 and thus needs to be supplemented.



Trellis with white and lavender Honohonos in last year's Spring Fantasy Show.

He normally uses a water soluble type fertilizer that is easy to get and is made with the formula that

is close to the Michigan State formula*. For well water they recommend 19-4-23 and rain water 13-3-15. Someone in the audience asked about Miracle Grow. He said Miracle Grow is 15-30-15 and is not as effective as the Michigan Formula. Michigan State studied quite a lot of genera of orchids and this formula performed very well as it has a very low phosphorus content. Hawaii's water formula is 13-3-15. Thus Kean uses a CalMag Special which is 15-5-15 and is readily available and it does just as well. He was not sure if they carry the 19-4-23 on Kauai. In Honolulu the 15-5-15 is about \$22 for a 25-pound professional bag.

During blooming season, when it rains a lot, you might get a fungus that leaves water marks on the flowers. It takes a special fungicide to eradicate it and this fungicide is not sold in the garden shops. Thus when you have it the fungus, just pick the flower (not the cane) and throw it away for when you water the plant, the water might splash on other flowers thereby spreading the fungus.

When the growing season begins again, start watering and fertilizing heavily and again start watching for thrips. When the new leaves appear, the thrips tend to go inside the tips and suck them dry. If the new leaves are dry and not green, then you have to give it a shot of insecticide. If you catch the thrips in time, the new leaf will continue to grow. You may see a dry tip but the rest is green so you know you got it in time. If no new leaf appears, you will have a retarded plant until the following year.

The growing season is normally from March/April until November/December. Some will grow later. You can tell when they stop growing as the last leaf will either make a left turn or right turn. Reduce the watering but keep feeding until it stops growing.

Cont'd on Page 2

Schedule of Events Kaua'i Orchid and Art Festival April 4 and 5, 2008 - Hanapepe



Friday, April 4 :

- >*1:00 pm to 6:00 pm - Spring Fantasy Orchid Show, Hanapepe United Church, 4481 Kona Road
- >11:00 am to 9:00 pm - "Wild About Orchids" Juried Art Exhibit at TimeSpace Gallery 4545 Kona Road
- >1:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Children's Art Show at Storybook Theater, 3814 Hanapepe Road
- >1:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Orchid Vendors of the Garden Island Orchid Society at the Hawaiian Congregational Church grounds at 3815 Hanapepe Road
- >*Art Night/Concert 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on stage at the Hawaiian Congregational Church grounds, 3815 Hanapepe Road. Featuring:

- Hal Kinneman (6 to 7 pm)
- Michael Barretto Hula Blues Band (7 to 9 pm)

** indicates food, T-shirts, crafts and orchids available for sale at this location during these times.*

Saturday, April 5:

- >*9:00 am to 4:00 pm - Spring Fantasy Orchid Show, Hanapepe United Church, 4481 Kona Road
- >10:30 am to noon - Children's Art Show & Workshop (all ages) Storybook Theater, 3814 Hanapepe Road
- >10:30 am to 4:00 pm - Orchid Vendors of the Garden Island Orchid Society, Hawaiian Congregational Church grounds; 3815 Hanapepe Road
- >11:00 am to 7:00 pm - "Wild About Orchids" Juried Art Exhibit at TimeSpace Gallery 4545 Kona Road
- >1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Vanilla Cuisine Workshop with Chef Helen Locano at Hanapepe Cafe & Espresso 3830 Hanapepe Road (\$35 fee)
- >*Concert: noon to 4:00 pm on stage at Hawaiian Congregational Church grounds, 3815 Hanapepe Road. Featuring:

- noon to 1:00 pm - Paul Togioka's Slack Key Guitar
- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Cindy Combs & Lilia
- 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm - MAKANA

->4:00 pm to closing - Art Award Ceremony (Children and Adult) and Finale

**indicates food, T-shirts, crafts & orchids for sale at this location during these times*

ALL DAY AROUND HANAPEPE
-Plein Air (outdoor) Painting
Find and Watch Painters as they paint orchids and historical Hanapepe Town.

SATURDAY 10:30 AM TO 4 PM - outside of ROBERT'S, 3937 Hanapepe Road | SPECIAL ACTIVITY FOR THE CHILDREN: The 4-in-1 castle combo Inflatable – Dry Slide/Basketball/Rock wall climbing/Jump (Adult Supervision Provided)

For Schedule Updates: www.kauai.net/hanapepe or call 332-5739 or 651-9801

Sponsored in part by: Hawaii Tourism Authority, the County of Kauai Office of Economic Development, Garden Island Orchid Society, Hanapepe Economic Alliance, and the many business & individuals supporting Hanapepe



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