

GARDEN ISLAND ORCHID SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting—February 10th at the United Church of Christ in Hanapepe. **The general meeting will start at 6:00.** Al Sugano will update us on the midge status. After our break, we will talk about mounting orchids. Our door prize will be used for a hands-on mounting. Supplies for mounting will be provided **except** what you want to mount your orchid on. Look around your house to find something. Some examples (see page 6) of different mountings to give you inspiration on what to bring are included in this newsletter. Don't forget to bring any blooming orchids you want to put on the display table and you'll get an orchid to take home.



(Blc. Dan O'neil x Bouton D'or) x
Blc. Momilani Rainbow

2017 General Meetings: April 14th, June 9th, August 11th, October 13th, and December 2nd.

2017 Events: Spring Show set-up is on April 6th and the show is April 7-8. Fall Show set-up is August 23rd and the show is August 24th - 27th.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our holiday yearend celebration was full of fun, good eats, orchids and aloha. It was great seeing how much fun everyone had packing and wrapping the food donation boxes. And wow what a selection of great food from pupus to desserts we had a wonderful meal. Hopefully everyone had an orchid to take home between the Makana redemption and the door prizes. But the best part is always being able to sit down and talk to each other. Enjoying the company of fellow orchid enthusiasts is a key benefit of being a member.

We have a busy schedule for our first meeting in 2017. In addition to the Learning Center and our program we will be holding volunteer signups for the Spring Show. The reason we need to have the signups so early is the show is scheduled for April 7th and 8th which is the week before our April meeting. If you will not be able to attend the February meeting but would still like to sign up, please let Nancy Nakama the Makana Chair know your wishes. Once the first round of signups is complete, the Makana team will sign up those wishing to volunteer before the second round of signups.

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2017

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Our Show Display Chairs, Pearl and Stacie will be putting together a container that will comprise a variety of items that we always need during show set up and tear down. We are asking members to look around the house and see if they have extra items to donate. If you have extra scissors, pruners, bungee cords, rope and don't need them please bring to the February General Meeting. Elizabeth Borchelt

HOLIDAY POTLUCK

- * **President:** Elizabeth Borchelt
- * **Vice President:** Gwen Teragawa
- * **Secretary:** Kimberlee Kain
- * **Treasurer:** Karen Harlow
- * **Awards:** Mildred Konishi
- * **Ex-Officio:** Carol Kanna
- * **Membership:** Bobbie Agena
- * **By Laws/Makana:** Nancy Nakama

The two highlights of the holiday party were Makana Redemption and the creation of the beautifully decorated donation boxes. As members redeemed their Makana points, we filled and decorated the donation boxes. Our members were very generous again this year and there were over 40 packages this year. The packages were distributed to the community luncheon attendees of the United Church of Christ.

GIOS received the following thank you note:

“Dear Elizabeth and members of the Garden Island Orchid Society,

Your thoughtful and well-chosen gifts of food for our community meal participants is so appreciated ! They are truly grateful.

You must also realize how special the people feel when they receive such beautifully and carefully wrapped presents. We have been building relationships with many of these folks for over 6 1/2 years now. We know they are sincere in their gratitude.

On behalf of the families and individuals who struggle to overcome economic challenges, but want to be accepted and treated with dignity in our society, we thank you!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Nancy & the Kitchen Crew at Hanapepe United Church of Christ”

DID YOU KNOW?

The Garden Island Orchid Society would like to welcome our newest members Jim Brady, Jeff Demma and Ross Martineau.

If you haven't paid for your 2017 dues (\$20), please send them to Bobbie Agena or bring to the February meeting.

All photos for this newsletter were taken by Ryan Metzger, Elizabeth Borchelt, or Karen Harlow.

Below are some photos of members and family enjoying the evening. See more on page 3.



HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Members were very generous with their donations. It was great so many family members and the pastor and his wife were able to join us for the party! Below members and family are wrapping presents, eating dinner, and redeeming Makana points.



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS OF HONO HONO ORCHIDS BY SCOT MITAMURA

The Hono Hono Orchid or *Dendrobium anosmum*, has been a Hawaiian Favorite for many years. The Hono Hono in Hawaiian refers to the plant's growth habit of alternating leaves, very similar to the introduced and invasive weed, *Commelina diffusa*. Oddly it's the flowers and their exquisite fragrance and not the leaves that keep people excited about growing this orchid. Another interesting fact about this orchid is that its botanical name, anosmum, actually means scentless! My only guess is that some taxonomist was probably looking at a dried sample, because there is no mistaking the unique fragrance that the Hono Hono has. For this article and simplicity sake, I am including the related species and hybrids of *Dendrobium anosmum* together, since they share similar cultural requirements.

To grow the Hono Hono orchid well, we must first learn a little about it and where it comes from. Its origin is quite widespread throughout Southeast Asia. This tells us that their dry season is opposite from ours in Hawai'i, therefore we need to manipulate our culture to provide the proper environment, enabling us to flower the Hono Hono well.

The Hono Hono grow in a broad range of temperatures. In Southeast Asia, they grow from sea level to almost 5,000 ft. in elevation. Hono Honos are very herbaceous (soft stems and leaves vs. woody hard stems like cymbidiums), so their comfortable temperature range will be from the lower 60's to the low 90's. I know they can tolerate temperatures into the low 50's and possibly upper 40's for a short period of time. During their growing season, ideal temperatures would be 70's to 80's. Hono Hono's benefit from a drop in temperatures (upper 50's to 60's) between December and January (dormant season). This in conjunction with a dry period without fertilizer, will help in keeping the plants dormant so that they drop their leaves and "hold back" next year's growth from emerging too early. Often times, if the new growth emerges early, blooming will be poor, due to the fact that the energy is now going to the new growth instead of the flowers. Humidity is also very important and should be kept as high as possible. In fact in the growing season, I don't think you can over water your Hono Honos.

Dormant Cycle

This cycle runs from December to February. Dormancy begins when nighttime temperatures drop and watering is reduced. Keeping the orchids dry during our wet season could be difficult. One way is to move them under cover (polypropylene roof or under the eaves of the house). If the Hono Hono does not go into dormancy, flowering will be poor. Next season's new growth will emerge before the buds and will compete with bud formation.

December	Decrease watering to two times per week, making sure that the orchids are drying between waterings.
January	Do not fertilize, tap out any timed released fertilizer from the pots. The Hono Hono Rule: The day that you will eat the most (Thanksgiving Day), is the day that you starve your Hono Hono. It is a good sign when the leaves begin to turn yellow and fall off. The Hono Hono is actually pulling back and is storing all of its energy into plump and bare stems (pseudobulbs).
February	Buds should begin to form along bare stems. At this time they are very vulnerable to flower thrips, which will turn the small buds brown, resulting in few to no flowers. Next years' shoots will start forming from the base of the flowering cane.

Flowering Cycle

The flowering cycle normally occurs during the months of March to May. Using several different species, hybridizers are making new crosses that bloom at slightly different times. But generally most Hono Hono will flower during this time of year.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS OF HONO HONO ORCHIDS

Flowering Cycle (Continued)

March	The flower buds should become larger and begin flowering. Increase watering to once per day.
April-May	Check flowers for unusual markings or crippling. This could be symptoms of virus. These plants need to be culled as there is no cure for viruses. Try to keep water off the flowers, as it will shorten their life. Continue to watch for

Planting Cycle

This is the best time of year that the Hono Hono should be planted or repotted. As new shoots develop so will the new roots. Planting should be done when the new shoots are 4-5 inches long and the emerging roots are one to two inches long. Avoid damaging the tender root tips. The most common media used with pots is a bark mixture (approximately 3 parts medium orchid bark, 2 parts peat moss and 2 parts perlite). My favorite is New Zealand sphagnum moss. Others like to mount them on Hapu'u (Hawaiian Tree Fern), or onto cork. One caution when mounting is that you really need to water often as they tend to dry a lot quicker.

May	Continue watering every day or more if possible. Begin fertilizing with a water soluble type of fertilizer.
June-July	The new growths emerging from the base of the recently bloomed stems should be about four inches long with new roots forming, before the old stem is removed. Make sure that you sterilize your pruner between plants (a propane torch is best). Viruses are the most deadly disease of Hono Hono and are mostly spread by your pruner. Label cut stems and cut them into 4-5 inch segments. Place them in a shallow tray containing a 50-50 peat moss and #2 perlite mix. Keep them in a shady area and allow the keikis to emerge. Treat the area for slugs as they love to feed on the tender new shoots. Older plants should be repotted every two years. As the media ages, it begins to break-down. Fertilizing will lower pH levels (becoming overly acidic), and there will be an accumulation of salts. These factors will cause the media to become toxic, causing the root system to fail. Flowering on the third year and beyond, will become less and less.

Growing Cycle

During this time, the Hono Hono is in its most active growing stage. They are heavy feeders and want abundant water. Grow them in an area of filtered sunlight. Avoid direct midday sunlight, unless you are close to the mountains and have a lot of cloud cover.

June- November	Continue watering once per day or more. Fertilize twice a week with a one half strength, balanced, water soluble fertilizer. Inspect new shoots for thrip damage (browning of the new leaves in the whorl). Also caterpillars can affect the new leaves. Inspect the undersides of the leaves for spider mite damage (silvering or browning, with tiny red dots). Stop fertilizing by mid-November.
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So in a nutshell, keep Hono Honos well watered, well fed, with warm temperatures and high humidity during their growing season. This will get their canes as long as possible. In their dormancy, lower the temperature and cut back on the watering and this will induce good flowering.

By following some of these basic rules of growing the Hono Hono, you too can be successful. By collecting the different types of Hono Hono, you may be able to stretch their blooming season from February to June. Just imagine having the beautiful flowers and wonderful fragrance for one third of the year! The best thing about growing Hono Hono orchids is that everyone is able to share their extra keikis with friends. This is truly what makes orchid growing fun in Hawai'i!

Reprinted with permission from Scot Mitamura, who is an Orchid Horticulturalist for the Honolulu Botanical Gardens and has been growing and hybridizing orchids for over 38 years. He can be reached at hbg@honolulu.gov.

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FEBRUARY MEETING—MOUNTING EXAMPLES

For the February meeting we will be mounting our door prize orchids. It is up to YOU to bring what you want to mount your orchid on. Take a look around your house and yard. Almost anything can work! Rocks, wood, wreathes, wire, bamboo, broken pots, or you can just plant it in a pot — you decide. Below are some examples.

