

Garden Island Orchid Society Newsletter

March - April 2018

President's Message

Karen and I attended the Santa Barbara Orchid Show on March 9th and 10th. We enjoyed seeing the wide variety of displays by vendors and the local orchid clubs. Of course, I took a lot of pictures and hope to be inspired by the ideas that were used to favorably display orchids. Many displays had sections that were a mass of identical orchids and were visually impressive. Others were small and subtle, but very impressive with the variety of selections. Cymbidiums were



the most prominent orchid and it was clear that everyone grows them in the Santa Barbara area. In one of the talks, the expert discussed how fortunate they were to be able to grow so many outside. She also mentioned that Florida has the correct weather, but the nights never get cold enough. I was thinking to myself they need to talk to The Orchid People from the Big Island as they shared at one of our meetings they have created hybrids that do not need the cold nights.

There are several things that I brought back with me, and no, I didn't buy any orchids. You'll need to talk to Patsy who also attended and took full advantage of the sales area. It was also great to see Dennis Olivas, our Spring Show orchid doctor, and one of our show judges in the sales area. We are indeed fortunate that we live where we can grow almost any orchid we desire. We are also beneficiaries of our local vendor growers who work to give us the best selections. We are also blessed to have so many knowledgeable members and contacts locally available to us. I still consider myself a novice orchid grower, but I realized during this trip how much I have learned from fellow members, Al's Learning Center, and our guest speakers. It gives me something to strive for in my daily gardening.

We have one more meeting before our Spring Show where we will be discussing the show and signing up volunteers. I look forward to seeing you all in April!

Upcoming Events

General Meeting ~ The next General Meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2018, at the United Church of Christ in Hanapepe beginning at 6:00 pm. Our guest speaker is Roy Andrade, an experienced AOS orchid judge from Oahu. Roy will be talking about what AOS judges look for when evaluating orchids. Sign up sheets for the Spring Fantasy Show will be available at the meeting. Please consider how you want to participate to make the Spring Show a success. Also, be sure to bring any blooming orchids to show on the display table and receive a bonus keiki orchid to take home and nurture.

2018 General Meeting Schedule: April 6, June 8, August 10, October 12, and December 1

2018 Events: Spring Show ~ April 13 - 14 with setup on April 12

The Garden Island Orchid Society is affiliated with the [American Orchid Society](#).

Learning Center with Al Sugano: Re-potting

As a preview to the hands-on re-potting session later in the meeting, Al offered the following advice and suggestions when it comes to re-potting orchids. Al first encouraged us to be a gardener to our orchids, not just an owner, being more watchful, more protective, and more caring of our orchids.



Re-potting reenergizes the orchid. The timing of re-potting is critical to the overall health of the plant. The best time to re-pot is when there is new growth and short new roots. You should avoid cutting these new roots. If you wait too long to re-pot, the plant will struggle more which may delay blooming.

The first step to re-potting is to know when to re-pot. There are two main reasons to re-pot: when the plant is too big for its pot, or when the media it is in decomposes. A key sign that a plant is too big for its pot is when the pseudobulb has grown over the edge of the pot. To determine if the media has decomposed too far, look below the top layer of media to a depth of 1 1/2 to 2 inches to see if the media is firm. If it is soft, it is time to re-pot.

Know which direction you are going with the plant. Typically orchids grow directionally with new growth coming from the more recent growth. Most orchids can be re-potted in the same container or a pot of the same size by removing the old growth. Other orchids can be divided into two plants and potted in the same size or smaller pots. The rule for dividing is to preserve a minimum of three viable pseudobulbs in each new plant.

The re-potting process itself is straight forward:

- a. Carefully remove the orchid from its pot
- b. Carefully remove the old media from the plant and its roots
- c. Keep 3 to 4 bulbs and remove the remainder of the old growth
- d. Peel off the sheath from the bulbs
- e. Put a layer of media in the bottom of the pot
- f. Place the orchid on the media centered in the pot
- g. Top off with more media so that the media hold the plant in place

Orchids will need time to acclimate and adjust to their new pot and new environment, some times they may not bloom in the coming year because of this. If you are working with species rather than hybrids, do not submerge them in bark.

2018 - 2019 Officers

President:
Elizabeth Borchelt
Vice-President:
Pearl Wollin
Secretary:
Kimberlee Kain
Treasurer:
Karen Harlow
Ex-Officio:
Bobbie Agena

News Bits

The Garden Island Orchid Society would like to welcome its newest members:

Fay Rapozo
Glenda Nogami
Streufert
Siegfried Streufert
Fay Vea

If you have not yet paid your 2018 GIOS dues of \$20, please contact Bobbie Agena or bring it to the April meeting!

Your membership must be current in order to enter blooms in the Spring Fantasy Show!



Re-potting Clinic

Many members brought orchids to re-pot at the clinic. Some were extremely overgrown, others had a large amount of dead or dying growth, and some were sorely in need of dividing. It was an exciting, interesting and fun clinic with many people working together to care for their orchids.



Getting ready to re-pot



We got the orchids out of the pots, now what?



Removing the old media from the plant and roots.

Be careful to not damage the plant!



Mark Edlund offering advice on preparing the orchid for its new pot.

Did he divide the plant or just remove old growth?



February Keiki Giveaways

The keiki giveaways for members who attended the February meeting were:

- Onc. Gower Ramsey
- Blc. Joann Yakimura Carmela
- Rlc. Mieko Araki Volcano Queen





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Spring Fantasy Show Bake Sale

We are all looking forward to another fun and successful Spring Fantasy Show in April. Just as last year, we will be selling baked goods among other refreshments at the Show. Do you bake delicious cookies, cakes, pies, manju, brownies, bread pudding, or any other tasty treat? If you are interested in baking some up and donating your favorite desserts for the Society to sell at the Show, please contact Caryn Sakahashi at 635-9066 for more information.

2013 Spring Fantasy Show Best In Show



This beautiful Dendrobium Golden Aya, raised by owner Allen Yamada, was awarded Best in Show, Best Flowering Specimen, and First Place Yellow Dendrobium in 2013.