

# Garden Island Orchid Society Newsletter

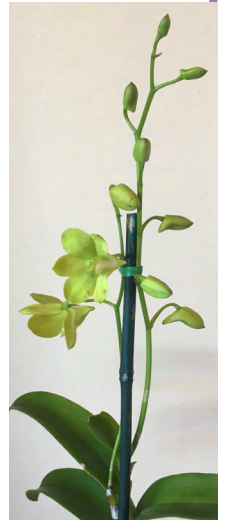
September - October 2020

## President's Message

Aloha! I want to tell you all that I miss seeing everyone at our meetings. The pandemic has made me aware of how easy it is to underestimate the importance of social interaction. Meeting face to face, hearing success stories, and looking at the orchids brought in for display is so uplifting. I especially enjoy the display of orchids at our meetings since some of them do not bloom during shows. So, I hope you will continue to submit photos for inclusion in our newsletters as a substitute for the orchid displays at the meetings.



During our last Board meeting, the suggestion of implementing General Meetings on Zoom was discussed. During this time, when we are not able to meet, it would allow us to continue to be involved in the club and hopefully we would be able to provide interesting information. We could have experienced members provide orchid culture, take advantage of webinars provided by AOS, or even host a live speaker. In order to get an idea of how many members might be interested in a Zoom meeting, please respond by e-mail to [president@gardenislandorchidsociety.org](mailto:president@gardenislandorchidsociety.org) with your interest in participating in a Zoom meeting. Please also include any ideas or suggestions you have for staying involved during this time of social distancing.



I hope to hear from you.

Elizabeth



*Orchids on this page courtesy of Michelle Fastenau*

## Upcoming Events

**General Meeting** ~ The Board is considering a possible Zoom meeting in December. Please see the information above about indicating your interest in participating.

**2020 General Meeting Schedule:** Possible Zoom meeting December 5

**2020 Events:** Orchids In Paradise Show at the Farm Bureau Fair ~ cancelled

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

## AOS FAQs

Following are a few Frequently Asked Questions found at the American Orchid Society website.

### Where in my house should I grow my orchid?



South and east-facing windows work best for orchids. West windows can be too hot in the afternoon and north-facing ones are usually too dark. A sheer curtain will cast light shade. Too much direct light causes leaves to sunburn - so it may be necessary to re-position plants as the seasons change. Move plants away from or toward the window to manipulate the amount of light. Make sure the leaves are not touching the glass.

Leaf color indicates if the amount of light is adequate. The lush, rich, dark green of most houseplants is not desirable in orchid leaves. A grassy green color (light or medium green with yellowish tones) means the plant is receiving sufficient light to bloom.

### Why are my orchid's leaves wrinkled and leathery?



Shriveled leaves indicate a lack of water to plant tissue. The next step is to determine why the plant is not getting sufficient water. First, look at the roots. If they appear a healthy white or green and are plump, and the medium is in good shape, suspect under-watering, especially if the roots are white and the pot is very light. If, on the other hand,

the roots are in poor condition, suspect root loss. If the plant has no roots, it cannot take up any water, no matter how much you give it. In this case, the cause may be root loss owing to over-watering or medium deterioration, or a recently re-potted and poorly established plant. The immediate solution is to raise humidity in the plants' vicinity to reduce stress on whatever roots there may be, and then deal with whether to re-pot or to simply wait until the plant establishes in the fresh medium.

### How do I feed my orchid?

Orchids need to be fed regularly. Growers suggest using a "balanced" fertilizer such as 20-20-20 that includes all "necessary trace elements." If you are unsure of what fertilizer to use, you can generally use any fertilizer you would for your other container plants. Orchids will do

far better with too little fertilizer than with too much. Many growers recommend the "weakly, weekly" approach, applying a dilute (1/4 strength) fertilizer each time they water, rather than applying a full dose once a month. Also, it is best not to fertilize a completely dry plant as the fertilizer can burn the dry roots. Water first then follow with fertilizer solution.



## 2020 - 2021 Officers

President:  
Elizabeth Borchelt  
Vice-President:  
Bob Barkevich  
Secretary:  
Kimberlee Kain  
Treasurer:  
Walt Weiss  
Ex-Officio:  
Bobbie Agena

## 2020 Membership Dues

Stay current with your dues to stay current with what GIOS is doing. If you have not yet paid your 2020 GIOS dues of \$20, please contact Bobbie Agena or mail it to the return address on this newsletter.

## Blooming Orchids

Kimberlee Kain has generously shared with us the following beautiful orchids from her collection.



*Miltassia Shelob 'Tolkien'*



*Stanhopea insignis 'dark jungle x self'*



Please submit photos of your orchids to [Newsletter@gardenislandorchidsociety.org](mailto:Newsletter@gardenislandorchidsociety.org) for inclusion in future newsletters.



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Novice Cymbidium Culture Sheet, learn more at:  
<https://www.aos.org/orchids/culture-sheets/novice-cymbidium.aspx>



## GIOS T-Shirts Still Available

Our GIOS T-shirt is still available for purchase. These are wonderful, high quality crew neck T-shirts with the GIOS logo on the front and are available in a variety of sizes.

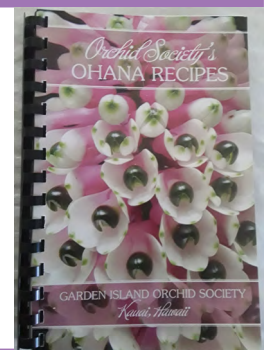
The T-shirts are available for only \$15 and are great for members and to give as gifts. They also provide funding that supports the operation of the club.

To purchase a shirt, please send an email to [President@gardenislandorchidsociety.org](mailto:President@gardenislandorchidsociety.org).

## 2020 GIOS Cookbook For Sale

The 2020 GIOS Cookbook is now available for sale. One of the Society's biggest fund raisers, for only \$10 you can purchase this beautiful cookbook filled with favorite recipes from many of our members and pictures of beautiful orchids. You have probably eaten some of these delicious dishes at one of our pot luck dinners.

Buy one for yourself and give others as a thoughtful gifts!



Newsletter photos courtesy of Kimberlee Kain & David Fastenau