

Garden Island Orchid Society Newsletter

September – October 2025

President's Message

Aloha,

Wow, what a wonderful Show. Thanks to all of you, our members who stepped up to throw a fantastic orchid party. The display was excellent with many members submitting their orchids for the display.



The set up is always a lot of work and you guys showed up to change an empty hall into an orchid paradise. I say this every time the club puts on a show, how proud I am to be part of a group that works hard and has fun doing it. And it's always a pleasure to see our local community enjoying the show, but also visitors who can take home a little bit of paradise from the pictures they take.

There are so many members to thank for not only donating their time but also their talent. First, there are all the members who donated baked goods. Just wow! Second, we were fortunate to have original watercolor paintings of orchids donated to the Club by Grazyna Nowak, see the photo below. They not only were a treat



for the folks who purchased them, they added a wonderful dimension to the display. Third, we received a donation of succulents for the Club to sell from Steve Uyehara. And fourth, the participation of our vendors Nancy Nakama, Amy & Al Sugano, and Neill & Fely Sams, see photos

below. It's a pleasure to see the surge of folks heading to the back of the hall in search of that perfect orchid to take home.

The three orchid photos at the top are of my orchids that either withered right before the show, or opened right after the show. Maybe they'll cooperate next year. Hope to see you at the next meeting,

Elizabeth



Upcoming Events

Next General Meeting: Friday, October 10, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the [Hanapepe United Church of Christ](#)

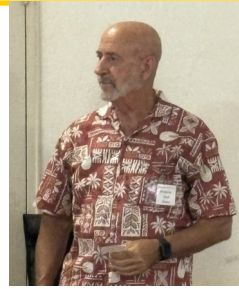
2025 General Meeting Schedule: October 10, and December 6 at the [Hanapepe United Church of Christ](#)

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



August 2025 General Meeting

Elizabeth called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Walt reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Both the June meeting's minutes and the Treasurer's Report were approved.



2025 - 2026 Officers

President:

Elizabeth Borchelt

Vice-President:

Michelle Fastenau

Secretary:

Kim Schafer

Treasurer:

Walt Weiss

Ex-Officio:

Kimberlee Kain

Old Business:

The Fall Orchid Show is coming up next week with set up on Thursday and the show running Friday and Saturday. Sign-ups to work the show are on the table for people to sign up during the break and after the speaker. Plant name tag name information is due to Joyce by end of day on Monday, and baked goods can be dropped off at the church during Thursday's set up or Friday morning.

Thanks to Nancy for the wonderful Oncidesa Gower Ramsey 'Orange Delight' keiki orchid door prizes, see photo at right.



New Business:

Michelle Fastenau purchased some beautiful orchids at the Hilo Orchid Show for the Club. These are available for sale tonight after the guest speaker.

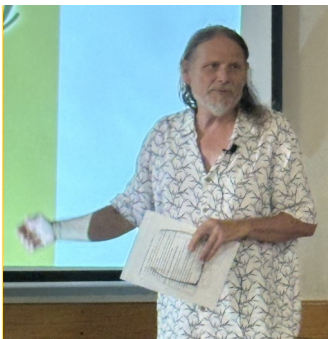


Orchid Alley has offered GIOS some nursery tour opportunities in the near future. Please see Andrea Allen to sign up if you are interested in going.

Display Table Orchids

Thanks again to all the members who brought in beautiful blooming orchids to show on the Display Table, here are some photos of them. Remember, you get one keiki door prize for bringing orchids to show on the Display Table.





The Secrets to Growing Vanilla

Roland Barker

Roland Barker from [The Vanillery of Kaua'i](#) was our guest speaker. Roland lives on a 2+ acre homestead on Kaua'i's east side where he has been growing vanilla since 2004 as a boutique crop.

Vanilla is the largest orchid plant, growing up to 60 feet in height. Most members of the vanilla genus are vines and three of these are grown specifically for their spice: vanilla planifolia (the most popular), vanilla xtahitensis, and vanilla pompona.

Vanilla was originally a rain forest plant from southeast Mexico that has now spread around the world. Today Madagascar is the primary producer of vanilla beans for spice. The vanilla vine's feeder roots grow down to the ground for nutrients. It blooms once per year in the March/April/May timeframe and is pollination by orchid bees, which are not found in Hawaii. The process of hand pollinating orchids was discovered around 1840. Europe's demand for hot chocolate fueled the initial demand for vanilla and then the creation of vanilla ice cream drove demand for the spice even higher.



Growing vanilla is an exercise in patience. From the annual flowering to the hand pollination, a mature vanilla vine takes almost a year to develop a number of vanilla beans. The process from harvest to producing useable vanilla beans takes about 18 months. Vanilla pods first cure in 150 degree water. This is the most difficult phase of the process and the key to successful production. During curing enzymes begin to convert the pectin and starches into sugar. Sugar conversion continues during the sweating process and when this is complete, the vanilla beans are put on racks to dry for six to twelve weeks. After they are dry, the beans continue to age for another three months.



Roland's sweating & drying equipment



To grow your own vanilla, simply put a cutting on top of well draining soil or compost and cover it with mulch. The roots will establish themselves along the top of the soil and the vine will begin to grow. Once the vine reaches a foot or so long, you can stake it, weave it into a trellis, or put it up against a tree. The vine will take a minimum of three years to flower. Water regularly and watch for early signs of fungus and pests such as snails, slugs and ants.



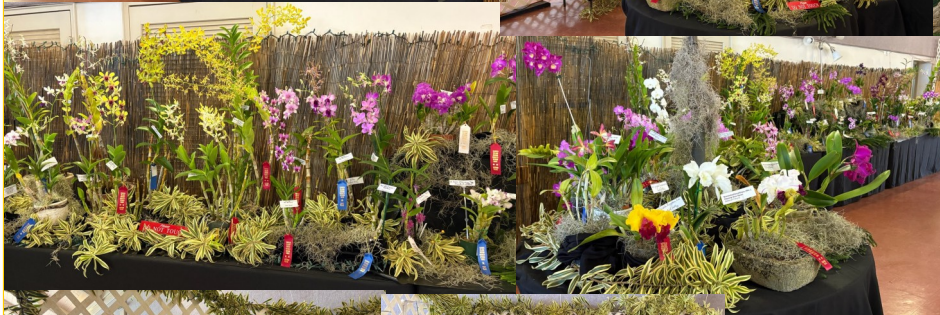
Thanks Roland for the excellent talk, tips and vanilla products.

Hopefully by using this information our vanilla will soon thrive!



2025 Fall Orchid Show & Sale

The club's Fall Orchid Show & Sale was a great success thanks to the exceptional support of our members. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help, thanks to those who brought orchids to display at the show, thanks to Mark and Dennis for their demonstrations, thanks to Grazyna for the beautiful orchid watercolors, and thanks to our vendors for their support! Here are some photos of display tables from around the Show.



2025 Fall Orchid Show & Sale continued

These photos are of other activities that took place during the show.



Orchid Resource Table



Gary Bacio and Melanie Bacio staffing the orchid supplies sales table



Mark Edlund giving a re-potting demonstration



Beautiful orchid watercolors by Grazyna Nowak



Orchid Lucky Drawing giveaways and donation box



Caryn Sakahashi getting the yummy baked goods ready and Walt Weiss preparing the change boxes



Nancy Nakama , Al Sugano and Neill & Fely Sams: orchid vendors all set up!

2025 Fall Orchid Show Prize Winning Orchids

Here are photos of some of the prize winning orchids on display at our Fall Show last August, with the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion featured at the left and right, and the Best in Show below. Congratulations to Caryn, Paula, and Paul!



Prosthechea cochleata
Grand Champion
Caryn Sakahashi



Dendrobium Palolo Sunshine
x Coralie Breadsell
Dendrobium Hybrid Yellow
Nancy Nakama



Vandopsis Lissochiloides
Best in Show
Paul Braun



Dendrobium
Reserve Grand Champion
Paula Alquiza



Dendrobium Emma Burana
Den. Phal Hybrid White
Tina Berkeley



Ascocenda Fuchs Sunglow
Vanda Red
Mark Edlund



Trichoglottis Philippinensis
var. *Brachiata*
Mark Edlund



Vanda Miss Joaquim
Vanda Species
Tina Berkeley



Vanda Sansai Blue
Orchid Alley



Phalaenopsis White
Miranda Thornhill

Fall Orchid Show
First Place Winning Orchids



Holcovanstylis Pauka'a Pearl
James Keach



Oncidium Dancing Lady
Oncidium Hybrid/Species
Paul Brun



Grammatocymbidium 'Pakkret'
Cymbidium Hybrid/Species
Orchid Alley



Vanda Hybrid Pink
Mark Edlund



Rhyncholaeliocattleya Higher Multiplier
'Diamond Orchids' AM/AOS

Cattleya Red
James Keach



Rlc. Waianae Treasure 'Neptune'
Cattleya Yellow
Steven Uyehara



Bc. Yellow Bird
Broughtonia Hybrid/Species
Steven Uyehara



Epi. Mizura Valley 'Sakura' x Epi. Wedding Valley 'Sakura Komachi'
Reed Epidendrum Hybrid Pink
Mark Edlund



Ascocenda Fuchs Sunglow 'NN'
Vanda Orange
Orchid Alley

Fall Orchid Show First Place Winning Orchids



Ctt. Minerva 'Grand Wisteria'
Cattleya Blue
Steven Uyehara



Guaricattonia Starlyn
Cattleya Pink
Caryn Sakahashi



Cattleya White Reception 'NN'
Cattleya White
Orchid Alley



Rhyncolaello Cattleya (Rlc.) Kyoko
Takahashi 'Volcano Queen'
Cattleya Lavender
Deborah Freund



Phrag. Faust's Elegance
Phragmipedium Hybrid
Orchid Alley



Reed Epidendrum Hybrid Orange
Mark Edlund



Cattleya White
with Colored Lip Hybrid
Caryn Sakahashi



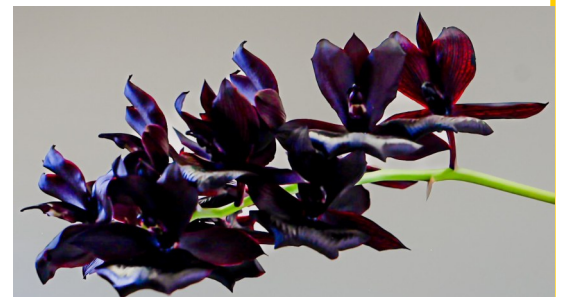
Den. Spectabile
Dendrobium Other Species
Paul Brun



Bulb. Cercanthum x Medusae
Bulbophyllum Hybrid/Species
Michelle Fastenau



Oncidium Multi-generic Hybrid
Mary Ching



Monnierara Millennium Magic 'Witchcraft'
AM/AOS
Catasetum Alliance Hybrid/Species
Rebecca Indvik

Fall Orchid Show First Place Winning Orchids



Zygopetalum Advance Australia
'HOF' AM/AOS Hybrid
Rebecca Indvik



Oncidium Spacelatum
Michelle Fastenau



Epicatanthe Don Herman
Other Cattleya Alliance Hybrid
Caryn Sakahashi



Den. Dragon Fly 'Variegated'
Orchid Alley



Den. Blue Siam Hybrid Lavender
Nancy Nakama



Phal. Sapphire's Galah
Other Color Phalaenopsis
Michelle Fastenau



Mps. Martin Orenstein 'Shirley P'
Garden Island Orchid Society



Ondotocidium Everglades Elegance
'Nancy Lee' HCC/AOS
Odontoglossum Hybrid/Species
Mark Edlund

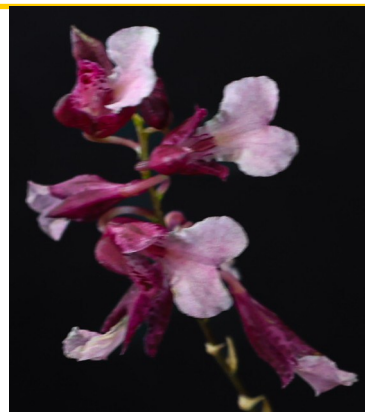
Fall Orchid Show First Place Winning Orchids



Den. Jiaho Delight (*Den. Hsinying Forstymaree* x *Tobaense*)
Dendrobium Negro-hirsute Hybrid
Michelle Fastenau



Den. Neiferts Alexpoly x *Den. Excelsa*
Dendrobium Latouria Hybrid/Species
Orchid Alley



Rodriguezia decora x *lanceolata*
Tolumnia Hybrid
Orchid Alley



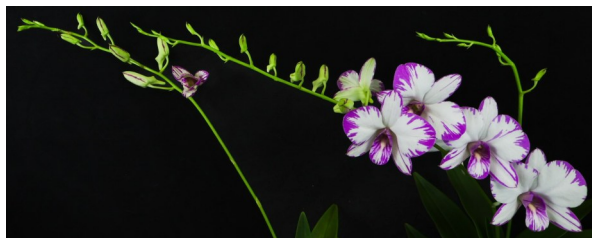
Den. Burana Charming
Nancy Nakama



Dendrobium Love Memory Fizz
Orchid Alley



Dendrobium Antelope Type Hybrid
Mark Edlund



Dendrobium Enobi Splash
Dendrobium Phalaenopsis Other Color
Caryn Sakahaski



Den. Jaquelyn Holmes
Nancy Nakama



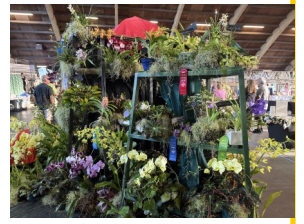
Den. Burana Lucky Pearl
Dendrobium Phalaenopsis Hybrid Lavender
Orchid Alley



Den. Hybrid Green
Nancy Nakama



Den. Jaquelyn Thomas
x *Emma Queen*
Nancy Nakama





www.gardenislandorchidsociety.org

David Fastenau, Editor

Garden Island Orchid Society

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to the GIOS website:



American Orchid Society

Education. Conservation. Research.

Affiliated Society



Stay connected with GIOS on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/gardenislandorchidsociety/>

Wikipedia Page:

[Prosthechea cochleata orchid](#)



Next GIOS General Meeting: October 10

Plan on attending our next GIOS meeting on Friday, October 10. Our guest speaker will be Michelle Fastenau, GIOS Vice President. Michelle's topic will be on mounting orchids and she will demonstrate several different techniques.

Her talk will be followed by a re-potting session, where you can repot and/or mount your orchids. So, bring an orchid in need of repotting or mounting to the meeting, including one that's ready for dividing. Bring your own pots, mounts, and tools (e.g., clippers, scissors, gloves, isopropyl alcohol, etc.). Orchid bark and mounting materials will be provided by the club.



Member Swap/Sell/Share Session at October Meeting

Many GIOS members have mentioned a desire for the opportunity to swap, sell or share their "extra" orchids with other members. "I've got an overgrown orchid that needs to be divided, and I'd like to share with others who'll appreciate it." "I've got an excess of keiki's growing, and I don't really want so many of the same kind." "I've been breeding/flasking a rare orchid and want to sell it to our members." We hear you loud and clear and we're providing a swap, sell, or share session at our October general meeting. Here's what you'll need to do to participate:

Swapping, Selling or Sharing: Label the orchid with its name, your name, a photo if its not blooming, and a price. To help pricing your orchids, please consider if its rare or common, a keiki or specimen size, bare root or potted, and lastly the ohana price for your fellow orchids lovers (maybe its free!) This is a swap or cash only opportunity; checks accepted only at the discretion of the seller.