



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

February 2022

<http://www.kuniaorchidsociety.org/> or www.facebook.com/KuniaOrchidSociety

Edited by Denise Stewart

A Message from Our President

Happy New Year Again!

This repeated greeting is now for the Chinese New Year!

For several years about this time, I would go to Callman Au's house to purchase some blooming Narcissus plants. Not his fancy carved ones, just the straight upright ones. That would be followed by a visit to China Town to enjoy the Au's Narcissus plant booth at the Chinese Cultural Plaza, to also enjoy the food booths and the lion dances. Some things are no longer here but we can still look forward to those things that can occur again.



COVID-19 has been a challenging and frustrating situation for everyone. It has directly affected KOS as we have had to cancel several of our annual orchid shows, monthly general meetings at Mililani Ike Elementary School and other club related activities. Through the wonders of technology, we have been able to salvage our in-person meetings by having virtual meetings. This year we are adjusting our monthly virtual meetings by having them every other month. We started with our first meeting of the year in January so our next virtual meeting will be in March, then May, and so forth for the remainder of this year. I hope you will take advantage of learning more about orchids from these wonderful presentations. Our Monthly KOS Newsletter will continue as usual. We invite you to contribute pictures of your blooming orchids to share with all our members as part of our newsletter. Also in the newsletters, we always enjoy the uniquely local orchid articles from Brad Lau, member of our Education Committee.

Despite not being able to meet normally, we still need funds for operating costs such as for speakers, insurance coverage and other expenses. We appreciate all those who have renewed their KOS membership dues, we still need these funds to carry on our orchid education goals. To also supplement our society funds, we are grateful to all of you who have made generous monetary and other donations these past years.

Our KOS Annual Orchid Show has always provided the bulk of the funds needed to meet our orchid education goals. No orchid show for us again this year. To temporarily replace this major source of income, we are considering having some type of orchid and plant sale event when the COVID-19 pandemic improves sufficiently. Please consider plants that you have in your yard that might be donated to such an event. Preparation of such plants could now be divided, cuttings made, and plants groomed for such an event.

We welcome your suggestions for fund raising ideas and activities for the future. It will take some time, but there will be better conditions we can look forward to.

Mahalo!
Ken Ching

Growing Leafless Orchids

By Brad Lau

It seems so strange that there could be orchids that grow without leaves. Not only is it possible, but they can grow well with the right approach. How do these plants photosynthesize and grow? They use their roots to perform the job of leaves which is revealed by a slight silvery green color similar to many Vanda roots.

This plant strategy has benefits, this orchid can tolerate fairly bright indirect light, is compact and conserves energy but still has flower spikes with showy unique white flowers several times a year. They will produce keiki off of the spikes and grow into a large, tangled specimen plant over time.

The most famous of these often fragrant orchids is the “Ghost orchid” or rare *Dendrophylax lindenii* found in humid marshy areas of Cuba, the Bahamas and Florida. They are

also known as white frog orchids from their flower shape. They are difficult to find, and their natural locations are often guarded secrets. Poachers try to snag them, but they are also threatened by loss of their moth pollinator, pesticides and environment change.



While home growers have difficulty growing the Ghost orchid outside of its natural conditions, I have grown a similar orchid, *Dendrophylax funalis* which I bought from H&R Nurseries some years ago. The plant itself is very similar to other leafless orchids and has delicate green, white flowers. *Dendrophylax funalis* are native to Jamaica and grow well hanging from bare wire or mounted on cork slabs. They are not fussy and will grow attached to anything as long as they have plenty of air circulation and daily moisture.

Since they are mostly roots, they can't hold much moisture, so I water daily. They grow year-round but have flower spikes when conditions are right in early spring through summer. The spike has a thin green appearance and can grow quite long with multiple flowers.

New roots are a good sign of plant health while old roots dry and shrivel up. If a keiki grows it can be removed once roots are 2” or longer. Weak fertilizer during their growing months along with a regular source of rain or RO water help growth. Salt buildup from tap water or heavy fertilizing may be harsh for the roots. I sometimes will dunk or soak the whole plant in a bucket of rainwater every few days.

If you get a chance, be sure to give one of these unique orchids a try but keep an eye out of their flowers which can be a very pleasant surprise.



Pic 1: *Dendrophylax lindenii* (Credit: American Orchid Society)

Pic 2: *Dendrophylax funalis* mounted (Credit: Orchids Limited)

Pic 3: *Dendrophylax funalis* with new thin flower spikes (Credit: Brad Lau)

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of KOS member Hilda Takamatsu.



Den. Airy White



Pha LastChoice

The Blooms of Hilda & Bill Takamatsu

Hilda Takamatsu - Hosoi Mortuary, February 16, 2022. Visitation: 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Service at 6:00 pm. Hosoi Mortuary requires proof of full vaccination completed at least 2 weeks prior to the service or proof of a Negative COVID test by an authorized tester taken within 48 hours. Bring an ID. Masks required to attend.
Keith Higuchi - Private Service

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of KOS member Keith Higuchi.



The Blooms of Keith Higuchi



Left: I.V. JVB 'Hang Sen x V Southeast Beauty
Right: Bllra Patricia McCully 'Pacific Matriach'

FREE USED CEMENT POTS

A friend dropped off about 70 used cement pots to the Ken Ching's House this week. It's currently sitting on his front wall. Anybody want some? First come first serve! Call Ken at Cell (808) 228 -2800.



KOS YouTube Channel

This is a private YouTube channel to share recorded presentations of our zoom meetings . The beauty of YouTube is that there is no time limit, so you may access the video any time, even months after the event. You should be able to access the video just by clicking on the link .

Bradley Lau presents: It's a New Year to Grow Orchids

<https://youtu.be/Yn5IGtwx-14>

"It's a New Year to Grow Orchids!"



Learn about growing orchids to enjoy at home, bring to Judging events or Shows in 2022. It's not too early to start now as the year begins. Get some tips on growing healthy plants, learn about Orchid Merit Judging criteria and judging at Shows. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

Brad Lau has been growing orchids for more than 15 years and has a wide collection of about 1000 orchids. He has been the President of the Honolulu Orchid Society since 2017 and is an accredited HOS Judge. He lives in Mililani with wife Linda Inouye, has three children and two grandchildren

KUNIA MEMBERS SHARE



Blc. Dick Smith "Paradise" – Dale Mahi



Fredelarkeara After Dark
Ken & Aileen Ching



Robiquetia cerina 'Waterfield'
Ken & Aileen Ching

Share pictures of your beautiful blooms with your KOS Family. Send to Denise Stewart at denityler@sbcglobal.net with your name and plant name. You can also be anonymous if you

