



Windward Orchid News

Published monthly by the Windward Orchid Society, Inc., a non-profit organization
www.windwardorchidsociety.org

Windward Orchid Society's September 2020 Events Are Canceled.

A Message From Our President

Hi All You Orchid Lovers!

Hang in there! We can all be grateful that we have our plants to nurture during these trying times, especially when they reward us with pretty blooms!

Nothing is normal right now. We have no meeting times and no meeting venue. But, we will all get together again, as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

We do have a member who is interested in becoming a trustee for our club. That's great news. We still need others to step up to fill current vacancies, as well as soon-to-be vacancies. Email us at ([email address available on hard copy only](#)) to volunteer.

Aloha for now,
Karen Kim, WOS President

Our Intrepid Recording Secretary, Dawn Bonak



Dawn Bonak - our intrepid, curtsying Recording Secretary is moving to the mainland!

Anyone who has been to a WOS Membership meeting (remember those?) could not help but smile as Dawn read the minutes and "respectfully submitted" them to us, then finished with her signature posture-correct curtsy.

Those of us on the Board can remember a wonderful Board meeting when the notes she passed out for review were garbled with lots of numbers because for some reason, her printer did not print certain letters and numbers. It was very interesting trying to interpret what the notes were really supposed to say. Several of us could not stop laughing. Needless to say, the decorum that evening was the worst it had ever been, thanks to that errant printer! For years, Dawn professionally read us the Board Minutes at our monthly meetings. Well, except one other meeting where she read the minutes with an Oxford educated British accent, but I digress.

I have had the pleasure of working with Dawn professionally for many years and have always admired her work ethic. When the opening came up for the Recording Secretary position, Dawn graciously let me talk her into doing the job! The WOS could not have picked up a better volunteer. Over the years, Dawn has volunteered for many different projects and committees. Dawn has helped greatly during the Spring Show as our Donation Chairperson, writing letters and asking for donations from various businesses in and around Kaneohe, to help offset the Show's expenses. Her efforts earned her the well-deserved designation of Orchidist of the Year in 2019.

Dawn is quick to bring humor into situations; which helped us to step back at times and rethink something. We have been blessed and are grateful that she has been a part of our great organization. And, I DO have a promise from her that she will try to come back each year to help volunteer at our annual show – when we have shows again.

Dawn is now off on her next adventure, starting with a drive across the country from California to her destination in Illinois. Let's all wish her well, wish her safe travels and we look forward to seeing her in the years to come at our Spring Shows. Personally, I will miss her smile, her humor and her speaking up and volunteering wherever needed. She leaves tough shoes to be filled, that's for sure!

Everyone Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, and Stay Sane during this interesting time.

MAHALO DAWN!!!

Sheron Harwood, Director WOS

Orchid Tip of the Month by Scot Mitamura

September puts us in the second half of our hurricane season. So far this season we have been lucky again. As I am writing this, the tropics are exploding with potential storms, in fact the mainland U.S. may possibly be hit with two hurricanes at the same time! I am always concerned about the weather and want to be ready for any potential storm situation. I do not like to rely on the local news weather reporters. You notice that they often have different forecasts. The best information is found online at the NOAA website. Look for Hawaii Satellite Products. Here you will find the most reliable weather reports; they are surprisingly accurate.

This obsession with weather is because my Waianae farm was ravaged by Hurricane Iniki: metal street lamp greenhouse posts were bent, shade cloth was torn, and the orchids went airborne. Imagine orchids and their labels strewn about everywhere and the pots all at the end of the greenhouse. From this I learned an important lesson: affix your orchid label to your orchids, especially your good ones. I now use a hole punch and tie wire, and affix the label to the stake which I tie my orchids to--this way the label stays with the orchid at all times. This also prevents grandchildren from "helping" with your orchids by pulling out the labels.

Other storm preparations include securing loose items in your yard, especially the orchids. No one wants to get hit by a flying orchid plant! Maybe putting your plants in the lanai or garage would be a good solution. Definitely take down hanging orchids, as they will be the first to go. I would do this before the heavy rains, but if the plants are already sopping wet, bringing them indoors can encourage fungal infections.

Many orchid growers make their greenhouses so that the shade cloth is removable; this way they can remove the cloth right before the strong winds and reattach it right after. This will often save their greenhouse structure. I know of one grower who attached his shade cloth with #12-14 copper wire. Because of its softness, when the winds go strong enough the twisted wires unravel, saving the shade cloth from tearing or damaging the greenhouse.

I hope we make it through November and another hurricane season. Like the coronavirus, it too will eventually pass. Until then, let's practice safe habits for ourselves and our orchids.

Aloha,
Scot

Because we have long serving Board Members stepping down, the search is on for members to step up.

Due to changes in the lives of some of our Board Members, the following positions are now open:

President, one Trustee, and Recording Secretary. Then, at our next election, we will need someone to produce our newsletters. Please contact us at [\(email address available on hard copy only\)](#). for more information on how you might fill one of these vacancies.

Windward Orchid Society Cookbook, 2nd Edition needs your recipes.

Please help us create a 2nd Edition of our popular cookbook.

Email your favorite recipes to [\(email address available on hard copy only\)](#).

**WOS
Corner**

The Honolulu Orchid Society Show that was scheduled for October 9-11, 2020 has been canceled.

Please Remember to Renew Your Membership

Membership dues for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 were due on July 1st.

For those of you that have already sent in your renewals: **THANK YOU!**

If you haven't yet, you can download a Membership Application from the bottom of the Home Page on our website and mail it in with your check.

Or, you may now pay your membership dues online.

New Membership & Membership Renewals are now being accepted online through our Square website:

<https://windward-orchid-society.square.site/> A small convenience fee will apply.

If there are any comments or concerns, please contact Ariel Harwood at 808-679-1227.

To continue receiving your WOS newsletter, your membership will need to be renewed by September 15, 2020.

We really appreciate your support, especially in these unusual times.

Sincerely,

The Windward Orchid Society

Thank you for Sharing Your Beautiful Orchids and Orchid Questions

Thanks to our members, the **Orchids Unmasked** and **Orchid E.R.** pages on our WOS website are getting better by the week. Please visit www.windwardorchidsociety.org to see what's going on.

Mahalo Nui Loa to the following members who took the time this past month to send in their contributions:

Steve Canham, Wanda Chang, Deborah & Fred Collins, Walter Hiraishi, Bianca Kam, Patti Kawahakui, Arthur Nakagawa, Diane Robello, Wendy Saito, and our Orchid Doctor: Scot Mitamura.

Members, please email pictures of your orchids for **Orchids Unmasked** and pictures and questions for **Orchid E.R.** to ([email address available on hard copy only](#)) along with your orchid's name, if known. We'll get your information up on our WOS website and then you can tell your friends and family to take a look at your latest blooming orchids.

It is so pleasant to spend time on our website just to enjoy each others' orchids. Granted, it is not quite the same as in person, but at least you don't have to drive anywhere to see them, or have separation anxiety when you leave your orchids at a show for a few days in order to share your orchids with others.

Do your orchids a favor and take a lesson from some of our members' questions, and informative answers and advice by Scot at the **Orchid E.R.**

Wanda Chang asked a question and Scot gave a really good tip on how to stabilize dendrobiums. This is something that I personally struggled with. Unfortunately for me, I read the story in the Orchid E.R. one day after I wrestled with a tall dendrobium trying to get it into a new pot and have it not fall over.

So don't delay, send in your orchid questions for our Orchid Doctor, stat. You never know when your question will help another orchid grower from working too hard to get the best from their orchid.

Aloha, Deborah Collins

You can find this orchid and many others at **Orchids Unmasked**



Eplc. Volcano Trick
'Orange Fire'
Owner: Walter Hiraishi

WOS Officers 2019-2020: Interim President *Karen Kim* Vice-President *Karen Kim* Recording Secretary (Vacancy)
Treasurer *Ariel Harwood* Corresponding Secretary *Deborah Collins* Trustees: (2019-2022) (Vacancy) *Toni Walker*
Fred Collins (2018-2021) *Duncan Chun* *Wendy Saito* *Dot Sakamoto* (2017-2020) *Steve Canham* *C.J. Kalopodes*
Scot Mitamura Director *Sheron Harwood* Membership *Grace Nishigaya* Hospitality/Refreshments (Vacancy)

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The WOS meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the King Intermediate School Cafeteria (except in June & December), unless otherwise rescheduled by a pandemic.