



Windward Orchid News

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www.windwardorchidsociety.org

Orchid Tip of the Month by Scot Mitamura

Here are some Hawaiian winter reminders: Hopefully, we have been drying out our Hono Hono Dendrobiums. We normally start to dry them in December and keep them dry until February. Of course, this means no fertilizing too. In February, we will start to see the early blooming Honos start to initiate their buds from their leafless canes. Once you are certain that they are buds and not keikis, you may begin watering and fertilizing again. Later bloomers will take a little longer to initiate, so be patient. If you still have leaves on, it might not be too late to begin drying the plants. They can still bloom this year, but maybe a little later. All of this rain during their dormancy will affect the flowering. Some people opt to keep them under the eaves of their houses to keep the rain off them.

Our Phalaenopsis should be spiking and starting to bloom. Don't forget to begin staking the spikes upright when the first or largest bud is the size of a pea. This tells you that the lower part of the spike is hardened and no longer elongating. If you raise the spike now, you will have a beautiful upright cascading spike as the flowers open. Just note that some of the newer Phalaenopsis are bred to have shorter upright spikes that do not cascade well. So, don't be alarmed if it does not cascade naturally. You can always insert a #16 galvanized wire (the green florist wire will also work) into the bamboo and bend the wire and spike, so that the flowers will cascade the way that you want.

Paphiopedilums, especially the complex and Maudiae types are also blooming. To avoid getting water into the pouches (which will shorten the life of the flowers), allow them to open at an angle, then stake them upright before you bring them indoors to enjoy. They will last a long time indoors and are tolerant to low light conditions.

Dendrobiums are slow at this time of year, except for the Laturea types which are coming into flower now. For both types, try to keep them on the dryer side if possible. The indication that they are getting too much water, is that they will begin to drop some of their older leaves. If they get too wet, they are known to drop all their leaves. But don't worry, if you dry them out they should recover.

Rhynchostylis are all beginning to bloom. We had given a few out over the years. They now come in all different colors and have a wonderful fragrance. If you don't have much flowering, they may be a good choice to get, as they are really dependable bloomers in January and February.

Cattleyas are at their slowest right now. The whites, semi-albas, and light lavenders are finishing, and it is still a little early for the spring Guarantes (Central American, small cluster types, i.e., aruantiaca, skinneri, and their numerous hybrids). Next month they should make their appearance and are a joy to see. Bright spring colors of yellow, orange, to red, small perky clusters of flowers will begin to bloom.

Bulbul birds are normally at their worst during the winter months. There are not many fruits to feed on, so they are very hungry and often mistakenly bite the Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, and Cattleya buds. I use a fake owl on a stick. It works if I move it daily. I also spray insecticide with some fungicide on the buds, they seem to dislike the taste. Another method is diversion. If they feed on alternate fruits, they may not feed on the orchids.

Keep vigilant on the slugs and snails. Hopefully, they have been under control, but when it is always moist, they will continuously feed and yes, make more babies. So keep applying the baits, don't slack off!

Watch for black/brown fungal/bacterial infections. Make sure that you cut off the diseased areas ASAP, treat with a fungicide, give it good air circulation and try to keep it dry. I go out daily to look for problems so that they can be treated right away. This allows me to keep the orchid alive. If unattended, the orchid will probably die and it will infect its neighboring orchids.

Even if there are not a lot of flowers, there is still a lot of time that needs to be put into your orchid collection, I'm especially thankful that I can't catch COVID-19 from my plants!.

Aloha,
Scot

A Message From Our Director

Aloha WOS Members –

We are at the start of 2021 and a LOT happened during 2020 with our Orchid Society as well as the Orchid Growing community. All the Societies are feeling the stress on the inability to have any gatherings or meetings. Every club is doing what they can to keep the membership connected.

Our newsletter, as well as our website, are the key link to our connection to each other and to orchid growing. Please continue to view our website and send pictures of your orchids so we can all see who is growing what!!

Also, Scot can do diagnosis via Orchid Doctoring on our website's Orchid E.R. It's not perfect, but it is a great way to stay connected.

Currently, personnel issues are preventing some of the board members from continuing to lead our club. We all wish them well, and our thoughts are with them, as we all work our way out of 2020 and get further into 2021. Someday, we will all be able to meet, and have a show, and all the other events that we are missing at this time.

We had a very successful Food Drive/Plant Give-Away event in December that raised over a thousand pounds of food for families on the Windward side. This need is not going to end any time soon, so I do believe we are at the beginning of developing another Food Drive/Plant Give-Away in March. We will not be able to have a Spring Show, but I feel an event that helps others in our community is a good replacement in the month of March. More info to follow on that event.

Please everyone, stay safe, stay healthy and we shall get together as soon as it is allowed.

MAHALO!

Sheron Harwood, Director

Orchids on Display at Foster Botanical Gardens

If you are tired of staying home, and if you miss walking around enjoying orchids on display, you may want to grab your masks and head into town to visit the Foster Botanical Gardens in Honolulu. The grounds there are expansive, so it is easy to avoid crowds.

There you will find three areas that are dedicated to orchids. Near the Butterfly Garden, you will find the Orchid Conservatory pictured below. Many types of orchids in varying colors are beautifully displayed along with numerous other plants.

Then if you go toward the Nuuanu street side of the botanical gardens, just past the Candle Tree, there is the Hybrid Orchids area. Hybrid orchids are made from crossing different species together to create interesting new varieties of orchids.

For the third orchid area, head mauka toward the Hawaiian Plants display and next to that are the Giant Orchids. The Giant Leopard Orchid, *Grammatophyllum scriptum*, is named for its spotted flowers. There is also the Tiger Orchid, *Grammatophyllum speciosum*, which is the largest orchid in the world.



Photo by Fred Collins

The Foster Botanical Gardens are located at 180 N. Vineyard Blvd. in Honolulu, admission for Hawaii Residents is \$3 and parking is free.

Aloha, Deborah Collins

A Sampling of the Contributions by our Members to
ORCHIDS UNMASKED and **ORCHID E.R.** at
www.WindwardOrchidSociety.Org



By
 Elaine
 Higa



By
 Pam
 Maetani



By
 Walter
 Hiraishi



By
 Patti
 Kawahakui



By
 Tom
 Stuart



By
 Arthur
 Nakagawa



By
 Sharon
 Matsuyama



By
 Diane
 Robello

Mahalo Nui Loa to the following members who sent in contributions in January.

Steve Canham, Lee Deir, Sharon Eng-Link, Elaine Higa, Walter Hiraishi, Bianca Kam, Patti Kawahakui, Pam Maetani, Sharon Mastuyama, Arthur Nakagawa, Tom Stuart, Diane Robello, and our Orchid Doctor: Scot Mitamura.

Visit our website for information on these lovely orchids. Contributions for February are welcome at : ([email address on hard copy only](#))

Orchid E.R. Recent Cases—Remedies Are Explained On Our Website



Wanda Chang
 Hono Hono leaves have not all turned brown and dropped off.



Larry Marcum
 What is this orchid disease?



Nancy and Errol Rubin
 What is this thing on 3 different orchids?



Diane Robello
 What's causing these brown spots on this orchid?

Having trouble emailing your orchid picture? Send an email without a picture to WOS808@yahoo.com for help.

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

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

President, and Recording Secretary. Then, at our next election, we will need someone to produce our newsletters. Please contact us at ([email address 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 on hard copy only](#)).

**WOS
 Corner**

**WOS Officers 2019-2021: Acting President Karen Kim Vice-President Karen Kim Recording Secretary (Vacancy)
 Treasurer Ariel Harwood Corresponding Secretary Deborah Collins Trustees: (2019-2022) Arthur Nakagawa 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.