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# Windward Orchid News

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## Windward Orchid Society will not have a General Membership Meeting for Wednesday, December 7, 2005

✂ The AOS Judges will still have their monthly judging at Benjamin Parker Elementary School. Anyone entering a plant for AOS judging should have it on the cafeteria's stage by 7:15 p.m. **No culture awards will be awarded this month.**

### Ever wonder what the AOS judges do at our monthly meetings??

The American Orchid Society judges will be having a panel of judges to answer questions on judging, how to become a judge, what judges do, and why they do it in place of our General Membership meeting on **Wednesday, December 7, 2005**. In addition, an auction will be held with some choice plants and a slide show presentation of recently awarded plants. The judges pay for their own expenses and the money raised from the auction will help defray some of the expenses like photography and rent. This event will be held in place of our General Membership meeting, so please come out and support the AOS judges.



AOS Judges (L-R) Roy Tokunaga, Patrick O'Day, Wilbur Chang & Ruth Chun



AOS Judges Debi Soutar, Kurtis Iwata, Randy Tajima and Dale Miyasaki judge a Cycnoches plant.

Let's welcome a new member to our Society, her name is **Ellen Yamamura**.

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Anyone who has ideas for our **2006 Windward Orchid Society's Annual Spring Show - "Orchids - A Splash of Color"**, please see one of the board members at the General Membership meetings or call Susan at 247-7391. We are going to start signing up members to help with cashiering, host/hostess, admissions, security, corsage making, tee-shirt sales and membership sign-up. Please help the Society by volunteering and helping us make our show a big success! Tickets to the show will be available for purchase next month - it's going to be a real bargain - instead of \$2.00, members can purchase them for 1/2 price - only \$1.00!! The WOS member who purchases the most tickets will win a beautiful blooming orchid plant.

Don't forget the **WOS Christmas Party** at Bay View Restaurant is on December 4, 2005. The dinner starts at 5:30 pm so don't be late! And don't forget to bring your \$5.00 grab bag. There will be lots of orchid plants for raffle, some really ono food, Christmas music and a visit from Santa Claus!



*Wishing you all the joys of  
Christmas and a year filled  
with happiness.*

*Merry Christmas  
from the WOS officers*

### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ December 4, 2005  
WOS Christmas Party  
Bay View Restaurant
- ◆ January 4, 2006  
General Membership Meeting
- ◆ January 14, 2006  
Orchid Safari to Waimanalo

## Orchid Safari to Waimanalo

An **Orchid Safari** to Waimanalo has been scheduled for *Saturday, January 14, 2006*. We will visit two nurseries - H & R Nursery and Hawaiian Orchid Source. You will be able to see the operations of a commercial nursery as well as be able to purchase plants. We will meet at the Windward City Shopping Center (where Foodland is located) behind the Goodwill Shack at 7:45 am and work out a carpool. We would like to leave at 8:00 am, so please try to be on time - we would hate to leave you behind! We are scheduled to spend two hours at each nursery and should be done by 12 noon. There will be a sign-up sheet at the January 2006 general membership meeting or you may call Dorothy Sakamoto at 236-4104 for more information or if you have any questions. If you've never been to a commercial nursery, join us and we're sure you'll learn a lot.



## Auction Nite was a Great Success!!

What a great Auction it was!! We had so many plants to bid on! We would like to thank all those members who came to the meeting and spent their money. We even had a few people who saw our sign, walked in and purchased plants.

The Society would like to thank the following for their most generous donations: **Orchid Center, Kodama Orchids, Hawaiian Orchid Source, H & R Nurseries, Lee Totten, George Ota and Scot Mitamura**. Through their generosity, we were able to have such a wonderful variety of orchid plants. Thank you to all the members who helped set-up and to those who also generously donated plants, homemade goodies, etc... And a big thank you to Scot and Dot for organizing the Auction Nite - Scot worked hard in getting all the plants!



# What's in a Name???

(This article is from the Exotic Orchids of Maui's website - [www.mauiorchids.com](http://www.mauiorchids.com))

Plenty of information! Orchid labels tell us about the "family tree" ...it's parentage. Just as humans carry dominant characteristics or genes from either side of your family, so it is with our orchids. The labels help us to understand what kind of orchid it is and specific traits. Such information is helpful when learning cultural pointers.

The act of naming orchids is a complex system based on families, tribes, subtribes, genera, etc. Taxonomists and botanists are the specialists in this field. Latin is the language of scientists. My discussion this month is of a more basic level - to provide you with a general understanding of what your orchid labels mean.

Generally, an orchid label consists of two names or words. The first, is the name of the **genus**. Genus is a grouping of similar type orchids with common characteristics. The first word is usually printed in italics (because it is a foreign language, Latin) and begins with a capital letter.

**Example:** *Phalaenopsis* or *Cattleya*

The second name is the specific name or species. A genus is divided into species. Species names are also in italics and are in lower case point. The species name can denote specific characteristics: where a plant originates, a specific color, or appearance.

**Example:** *Maxillaria tenuifolia* or *Brassavola nodosa* or *Sophrinitis coccinea* or *Laelia purpurata*

Quite often, orchids in a species share certain traits that sets them apart from the other species. However, this difference is not significant enough to warrant categorizing them with a different species name. These particular plants are called varieties. (I warned you - it gets much more complex!). Varietal species are designated by var. on the label.

**Example:** *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *alba*  
*Laelia purpurata* var. *carnea*

The flower of the *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *alba* looks like other *Miltonia spectabilis* flowers, however, this is a predominantly white flower. Others may be white with pink or a dark rose color, which are also varietals. Growers will use certain outstanding varietal forms and cultivate them, which means propagating these specific orchids to keep this strain ongoing. Thus, the characteristic that caught the attention of the grower will continue through propagation. This clone is a cultivar variety and the grower will name these plants accordingly.

**Example:** *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *alba* 'Snow'

Hybridized plants are labeled differently. The names of the orchids generally are not latinized. Hybrids are given a name by the grower and applies to all the hybrid seedlings. This group name begins with a capital letter and is not italicized. For a hybrid to be official, it must be registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). If the plant is a special plant, it will have a cultivar name as well. This part of the name is in single quotation marks and is always capitalized.

**Example:** Phal. Bamboo Baby 'Coqui'

Orchid labels also indicate whether plants are crossed with plants in other genera. Knowing this kind of information will assist you in determining the proper growing conditions for your plant. Your tag may indicate: BLC. Orange Nugget. The label tells you it is a hybrid and crossed with several genera.

**Example:** Blc. = *Brassolaeliacattleya* (*Brassavola* x *Laelia* x *Cattleya*)  
Ascda. = *Ascocenda* (*Ascocentrum* x *Vanda*)  
Lc. = *Laeliacattleya* (*Laelia* x *Cattleya*)

Some of these intergeneric crosses are given completely new and separate names than the examples above.

**Example:** Potinera = (*Brassavola* x *Cattleya* x *Laelia* x *Sophrinitis*)  
Christieara = (*Aerides* x *Ascocentrum* x *Vanda*)

Plant tags may display the names of two hybrid crosses.

**Example:** Phal. Kaala Moon x Phal. Taisuco Kochdian

Growers frequently list the parentage of a hybrid.

**Example:** Bl. Yellow Bird (Richard Mueller x *Brassavola nodosa*). This plant takes a hybrid and is crossed with the species.

Lastly, your plant name may end with a series of letters ( AM/AOS, HCC/HOS).

**Example:** Ascda. Princess Mikasa 'Indigo' AM/AOS.

This example indicates it is a hybrid, a cultivar, and an awarded plant. The letters designate an awarded plant (AM, HCC) and by which orchid society awarded the plant (AOS, HOS). Awards are based on a point system.

**Examples:** AOS = American Orchid Society  
HOS = Hawaiian Orchid Society  
RHS = Royal Horticultural Society  
FCC = First Class Certificate ( Highest Award)  
AM = Award of Merit ( Next Highest)  
HCC = Highly Commended Certificate

Much information is gleaned from your plant labels. Labels tell us what kind of orchid it is (which genus), whether it is a species or a hybrid. This in turn provides clues to basic growing habits. This information allows us to choose genera that are suitable to our environment. You will learn which genus is best for you. Some like more sun, more shade, drier conditions, cooler temperatures, etc. The genus is your first clue. Orchid names also tell us its parentage. Catalogs, books and printed material can utilize italics. It is difficult to print (manually) in italics, so the plant labels in your pots will not be italicized. However, using your new knowledge, you will decipher if it is a hybrid or a species.

Yes, it does take time to learn the intricacies of naming orchids, but you already learned the basics! The rest will follow. So take note of your orchid labels and soon you will be "speaking in Latin tongues!"



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