

October 2013 Newsletter

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1st Place in Honolulu Orchid Society's Orchid Show

At the 2013 HOS orchid show we received the 1st Place award for our orchid display. This was exciting news, it felt like we won the lottery. Ewa Orchid Society has participated in other orchid shows over the past 2 years and we never took home a grand prize. It has been rewarding to know we can prevail. Again without your support and help we could not have done it. All the orchid displays were judged by Beretania Florist. How awesome is that? Congratulations Ewa Orchid Society, the "fanta-sea" theme worked in our favor!

Our display lacked a variety of orchids but we managed to make do with what we had. Please do not hesitate to enter your orchids, you'll never know it may be awarded.

Thank You for supporting the HOS 2013 orchid show and their vendors.

"Orchids in Fanta-Sea"



Our only ribbon winner was awarded to

Garry Moniz, Congratulations!

"Best White Dendrobium"

Den. equitans
CCM/HOS Award

EOS GENERAL INFORMATION

Our general membership meeting for **November** will be held on **Thursday, the 21st at 7pm**. Ewa Elementary Cafeteria. This is due to Thanksgiving. Our society continues to grow by 1-2 new members. Please encourage and mentor our new members. They have joined to also learn about orchids as well as make new friends. Thank You for supporting your society and your president as well.

I apologize to those who have contributed to our dessert & refreshment table. I haven't acknowledged you by name but you are greatly appreciated by our members. Every time you bring something please let membership know. This way I can properly thank you. mahalo

"We do not have the privilege of assistance from tripod because our website is all free!"

Newsletters and Website

As your editor I apologize for missing several newsletters. The newsletters should be sent out quarterly, the last one was dated March 2013. I had June completed and ready but as luck would have it my computer crashed. I didn't save it to a thumb drive and lost it all. I almost bought a new computer but Roy would not allow it. I got it fixed and the document wasn't there.

I thought my computer technician fixed all the bugs but I still had some problems. This left me frustrated and I just let it slide by. Well, the weeks

passed, then months and before I knew it was sometime since the last newsletter. Sorry, I'll be more diligent regarding the newsletters.

As for our website I am unable to upload any pictures at this time. My guess is the website has reached its max capacity. I will have to delete the old newsletters to make room for the new ones. We do not have the privilege of assistance from tripod because our website is all FREE!

At the top of the EOS web page you'll find a bulletin board tab, I was able to

provide a link to our facebook page. There you will find the most up to date information and pictures.

Please click "LIKE" this will automatically show updates in your news feeds.



Visit our facebook page.

If you would like to submit a short story; orchid related or even tips, I will gladly publish in our newsletter and give credit to you.

Events & Information

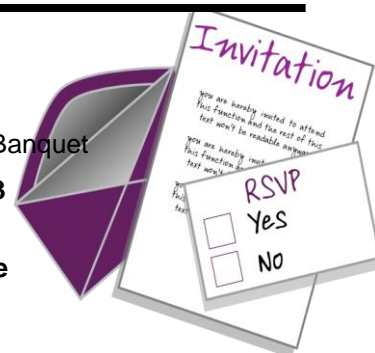
Annual Business Meeting & Installation Banquet

When: Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013

**Where: Schofield Barracks
Nehelani Banquet & Conference
1249 Kolekole Ave
6pm – 10pm**

\$24.00 per paid member and if you are bringing a guest it will be \$34.00 per person.

Raffle tickets in \$1.00 & \$5.00 denominations will be sold at the door.



A Dessert Contest

The rules are it has to be **homemade** and not store bought. Not sure of the details, please see Norma Valdez. Get your secret recipes out and your baking caps on. Bring your desserts dressed to impress, I can't wait to see what treats we're in for.

Did I mention we will be eating your desserts? If you would kindly estimate at least 20 people per dessert you are submitting. Mahalo in advance



Orchid Nutrition for Winter

Planning for the optimum health and blooms of your orchids through winter and into spring is as important as their day-to-day care. Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can boost their resistance to damage from pests, disease and winter temperatures in the coming months

Overall Health

Orchids will fare better in encounters with pests, diseases and temperature extremes if they are in a good state of overall health. A plant suffering from under or over-fertilizing, or stressed from lack of water is much more likely to be injured by any additional strain.

Orchids grown under less than ideal conditions are more likely to be a target for infection or infestation. Make an extra effort now to get plants and their greenhouse or growing area in good shape for the shorter, darker days ahead by removing old foliage, weeds and dying flowers. An autumn cleanup can minimize or prevent the pest and disease problems that can crop up in the darker and more crowded conditions that often characterize the winter growing area.

General Nutrition

Light levels and temperatures begin to fall at this time of year, and your orchids' nutritional needs change accordingly. Orchid growers can take the following steps now to help prepare their collection for optimal health through the months ahead.

If your orchids will winter outdoors, fertilizing properly can help them resist cold, insect and disease damage, as well as give them two to three additional degrees of cold resistance. This can mean the difference between a dead orchid and an unscathed plant or one that just loses a few leaves.

Use a fertilizer low in nitrogen (which should be nitrate nitrogen, not urea nitrogen) and high in potassium; the numbers on the label should read something like 10-5-20. Watering and fertilizing should be reduced in frequency for the cooler autumn season, and orchids that bloom during the winter and into spring should be given a couple of doses of blossom booster in October and November; bloom boosters should have a higher middle number, such as 10-50-10.

Ideally, this change in fertilizer should start by mid-November and continue through the end of January. This regime will sacrifice plant growth in December and January in favor of plant protection, but it can help keep the plant healthier overall.

Some growers recommend using Dyna-Gro Pro-TeKt (0-0-3), a liquid nutritional potassium-silicon supplement for plants. The product is supposed to improve heat and drought tolerance in orchids, as well as boosting their resistance to pests, disease and environmental stress.

Specific Genera

Seasonal nutritional needs differ among various orchid genera, and may diverge still further depending on local climatic conditions in disparate geographic regions. The following guidelines may require modification to accommodate individual growing conditions.

Cattleya Watering and fertilizing frequency should be reduced, as the plants dry out more slowly in the cooler temperatures and shorter days.

Bud sheaths may yellow at this time of year as temperature fluctuations can cause water to condense inside the sheath. Should you notice condensation in the sheath, it should be opened or removed to allow the developing buds adequate air circulation and prevent bud blast caused by rots. Simply slit open the sheath and carefully peel it down toward the pseudobulb, exercising caution so as not to damage the delicate bud primordia within.

Dendrobium Autumn and winter needs vary according to the species or hybrid parentage in this diverse genus. *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *Dendrobium canaliculatum* hybrids will benefit from a fertilizer with a low nitrogen formula for optimal flowering.

The leaves of *Dendrobium nobile* types and their hybrids begin to yellow and drop at this time of year in preparation for their winter dormancy. Plants should be given plenty of light and good air circulation and kept dry from November through February. Mist occasionally if their canes become overly shriveled.

Paphiopedilum Generally, these do not require a great deal of fertilizer. This is especially important with the cooler-growing bulldog types to reduce nitrogen levels at this time of year for best flowering. (Bulldog Paphiopedilums have plain green leaves as opposed to the mottled-leaf types. One of the best-known bulldog-type hybrids is *Paphiopedilum* Winston Churchill.) Watch for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath or for late-season warm spells, as either can rot the sheath and destroy the developing inflorescence. While Paphiopedilums should not be allowed to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced in the cooler days. Overwatering can cause root rot or Erwinia problems.

Phalaenopsis Growth slows and inflorescences begin to appear. Reduce watering and fertilizing frequency, and apply a bloom-boosting fertilizer. Many growers also recommend applications of epsom salts (magnesium sulfate) to Phalaenopsis at this time of year to prevent yellowing and loss of lower leaves and to enhance blooming. Once buds are evident on the inflorescences, keep temperatures and humidity consistent to prevent bud drop. Phalaenopsis grown in the greenhouse are especially prone to bud blast in February and early March, when the heat is still coming on at night and the greenhouse temperatures rise during the day.

Vanda Aside from *Neofinetia falcata*, vandaceous orchids generally do not tolerate autumn and winter's cooler temperatures (below 60° F [16° C]) well and need to be carefully protected from chills. Vandaceous orchids still need as much light as possible as the days become shorter and light levels fall. Reduce the frequency of fertilizing and watering to accommodate the slower growth period they are entering.

Starting the first week of October, Julie Rosenberg at R.F. Orchids in Homestead, Florida, recommends feeding vandaceous genera a blossom booster fertilizer exclusively, once a week for four to six weeks, at 1 teaspoon per gallon of water (15 ml to 3.8 l), with normal watering between. In November, begin fertilizing every other week, using a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer at 1 teaspoon per gallon (15 ml to 3.8 l), substituting bloom booster every fourth feeding.

Preparing now for orchids' seasonal nutritional needs can mean happier, healthier and more productive plants year round.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446

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The Ewa Orchid Society was chartered in 1950. The mission of this organization is to promote Orchid Culture among the citizens of Hawaii. This is accomplished by providing informational speakers at monthly meetings and encouraging members to grow and care for orchids successfully.

The purpose of the organization is similar to the mission, by providing young plants to the members and having tours done throughout the year to Professional Orchid Nurseries. We provide general information regarding orchid culture via a monthly Newsletter to the members and continue to encourage all members to be successful.



**We're on the Web &
Facebook!**
ewaorchidsociety
.tripod.com

Orchids and Answers

Got Orchids and you want answers. This is where you want to be! Or just interested about orchids, come join us in fellowship. New members are always welcomed.

Monthly General Meetings held at the Ewa Elementary School Cafeteria on Thursday's at 7pm.

We are a group of people offering orchid culture for those who find it difficult to care for and grow your orchids.

No we do not have all the answers but we can learn together.

We have guest speakers who share their expertise in orchid culture. Some orchids are complex and require special needs. Orchids are like children each one is different.

