

EWA ORCHID SOCIETY JUNE NEWSLETTER



Aloha! Summer is here and the orchids are blooming!! The Board of Directors is working to get our July Show on the road. Please come prepared to sign up for one or more of the task force committees that make our show the success that it is. Sign up sheets are available at the meeting.

Tours are being planned and it is imperative that we have enough people attend. Did you know that the growers hire extra help to come in on the days we schedule a tour? The hope is that you plan to buy some plants to help defray that cost. The selection is excellent and the price is always right, good deals specially set for members of the society. There were six who went to Kawamoto's and seven at Puanani and Olomana. Lunch was enjoyed at Pake's Chinese Restaurant in Kaneohe!

Please keep President Roy aware of your wishes regarding tours and activities. Any member of the Board will be glad to hear you!!!

The Pacific Orchid Society of Hawaii is planning for another Mainland Speaker, an expert on Orchid Culture, to speak. The speaker and topic will be announced shortly. I am putting this in the Newsletter now so that you can plan. The meeting will be in October 2011, held at the University Of Phoenix-Hawaii Campus. This is the same place as last time when Tom Mirenda from the Smithsonian spoke. I will keep you apprised of details as they become available. There will be no charge, free parking, courtesy of Gene Schofner, Academic Dean of UOP.

Questions and Answers: These are taken from the official AOS Journal each month.

Q. 1. The leaves of my *Dendrobium nobile* all turned yellow and fell off a few days after I purchased it. Is this problem common for this type of orchid?

A. In the natural habitat, these plants shed their foliage completely when the temperature drops below 50. In order to prevent this from happening, it is important to stop fertilizing when the pseudo bulbs reach maturity, however, you must keep the nitrogen level and be sure to prevent prolonged exposure to low temperatures.

Q. 2. Some of my phalaenopsis have their leaves split up the center. What is the possible cause and is there a remedy for this?

A. This occurs with rough handling at the nursery or store. It usually does not harm the plant unless there is a secondary infection to the fresh wound. Keep water away from the split leaves, keep the plant dry.

Q. 3. I bought a lot of cymbidiums and want to plant them in the ground. I live in Southern California. Would you be able to tell me how to plant them and care for them?

A. Drainage is important so it is probably best to plant them in a raised planter in media about a foot or more deep. You can use sandy loam or similar dirt or even orchid bark, dig some holes and place the cymbidium in the holes, back fill enough dirt to keep the plant upright. It can take as long as 3 years to get blooms. Snails and slugs are a major problem with plants in the ground. Adequate light and partial shade are the best environment for cymbidium.

Q. 4. A new orchid is losing its leaves and flowers. The leaves turn yellow and the flowers die. How can I save my plant?

A. Too much sunlight causes leaves to burn so be sure your plant is getting the proper light. Lush, rich, dark green leaves lets you know that the plant is receiving enough light. Water carefully, just before the plant dries out to keep a moist media---NOT WET! If you stick a sharpened pencil in the soil and the wood will darken if the plant has enough moisture.



Tom Mirenda, from the Smithsonian Orchid Specialist and well known Orchid judge submits at least 2 articles in each journal. Some of the articles do not directly apply to Hawaii since they address cooler climes. However, I do modify some of his material to be appropriate for us to use. The following is from an article titled:

May; the Month of Refraction.

Light is among the most precious commodity to the orchid grower. Light is energy, borne of the sun and travelling unimanagable distances through space to stimulate us, our plants and our world. The energy is harnesssed by plants to produce incredible bounty.

Unbearable Lightness: Light is crucial to orchid growing. Cattleya, dendrobium and cymbidium thrive in light that would burn up your phalaenopsis, masdevallias and miltoniopsis. The color of the leaves should be a light green, grassy color, Dark green leaves indicate too much shade, while yellowish or even red tinted leaves usually indicate excessive light.

Shady Lady: Light and shade should be evaluated in the spring months. Monitor light and move plants accordingly. Always acclimate the plant gradually, sudden changes will shock the plant.

Pottering Around: Now is the time to spend a few hours each week re-potting. It is important to report before the roots get too long to prevent damage.

We have needs: New growth will also require additional fertilizer and stepped up watering.

Epiphytic orchids require a balance fertilizer. Stick to half strength or quarter strength to prevent over fertilizing new growth. This is a good time to wander in the fields and woods to find orchids growing in the wild.

HOW TO GROW VANILLA

Vanilla grows best at moderate temperatures : 75 day time and 62 night time. Vanilla does best when grow on a trellis, allowed to run free, climbing as high as they want and then falling down when they want. When gravity forces the vanilla down, they flower. Plants usually flower twice a year, December/January and again in June/July.

Vanilla thrives during hot weather, literally growing inches in a week. A course mix of 5 parts fir bark, one part medium charcoal and a small amount of Pro-Mix which is added to keep the soil moist. The roots tend to ramble and do not stay in a pot and often grow into the gravel surrounding the benches.

In spring and summer, water twice a week and in winter every 4-5 days. Use an all purpose fertilizer most of the year, supplementing with Cal-Mag a few times in the spring and early autumn. Cuttings do well in New Zealand sphagnum moss, taking about a year to develop a good root system.

Many folks have allergic reaction to Vanilla, both varieties, and it is advisable to wear long sleeves when working with the plants.

Written by: Babs Wagner, orchid curator Missouri Botanical Garden.

The Ewa Orchid Society Library

President Roy has requested the development of a library for the members of the society. I have donated several books about general gardening along with books on Orchid Culture and the Orchid Journals. Please feel free to use these references, many have helpful hints related to general gardening: natural elements that work to get rid of slugs, ants and other nuisances in the garden.

When you take a book or journal, please sign the card with your name and date and place it in the envelope provided so that we can keep track of who has the material. There is no deadline for returning the material, however, please remember to return them at a reasonable time so that others may have access.

Two of the books that have been donated are of local historical value so I request that extreme care be taken of these documents.

NOTES:

- A. The June meeting will concentrate on our show, scheduled for the second weekend in July-the 8th, 9th and 10th. Please sign up for your volunteer time if you haven't already

done so. Many hands make light work and there is a lot to be accomplished. Committees are already hard at work to be sure things move smoothly. **This will be an important meeting, full of information because of the full schedule for July and the trip to the Big Island in early August!**

SHOW CHAIRS:

HEAD: Roy Andrade

Host/Hostesses: Erlinda Domingo

Security: Tony Tarrant

Refreshments: Gussie Hayashi

Finances: Pete Domingo, Millie Hill

- B.** There will be no meeting in July because of the show. The Mahalo celebration will be scheduled at a later date.
- C.** A second tour of the Big Island and orchid show, nurseries is scheduled for the first weekend of August so start planning now. Each individual is to arrange their own travel arrangements this includes your transportation too! President Roy will see that there are enough rooms reserved, please let him know if you need a room.

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!



Adele Mitchell, Editor