



The Honolulu Orchid Society

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DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



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HONOLULU ORCHID SOCIETY DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Time/Place: 6:30 PM (doors open at 6:00 PM), Lanakila Elementary School Cafeteria

Program: *Family Fun Night and Holiday Potluck Dinner*

Mele Kalikimaka and Hau`oli Makahiki Hou! The months of 2025 have zoomed in and is now coming to a “close”. We invite our members, families and friends to our ***Family Fun Night and Holiday Potluck Dinner*** at the Lanakila Elementary School Cafeteria. It’s a good time to reflect on all the wonders and events we have experienced during 2025 and share with one another the spirit of the holiday season. Besides the food, there will be plant give-aways and bingo and other fun games that will be part of the ***Family Fun Night*** festivities.

Bring your favorite food to share – be it appetizers, side dishes, main entrees, casseroles, soups, and desserts. If you cannot cook or are too busy or stressed out to prepare a dish, that’s okay – just bring yourself and enjoy the evening with the rest of the orchid family. Paper goods and drinks will be provided by the HOS Refreshment Committee. Label your utensils and serving dishes with your name so that they can be returned to you at the end of the evening.

Bring food items between 6:15-6:30 PM. A note card will be given to you to write your name and the name of your entrée which will be placed with your entrée on the serving table. **We plan to start eating by 6:45 PM.**

Those arriving early should be aware that the school’s After School Care Program may still be in session and the parking stalls in front of the cafeteria may be coned off. Please be respectful of the safety of the children and folks picking up the children.

Guests are more than welcome to attend. The festivities will end by 9:00 PM.

There will be no plant commentary and culture table judging for this evening.



Mahalo Nui Loa

Mahalo to all who attended last month's general membership meeting. Thank you, **Roy Tokunaga**, for your very informative Power Point presentation on orchid growing for beginners. We appreciated your sharing of your observations for the best environment for orchids: pure water, lower temperatures, high humidity, high air movement, shielding roots and media from evaporation and very little fertilizer (1 teaspoon per month). We are always impressed by your collection of blooming plants. They are great examples of well grown plants and serve to inspire us to do our best with our own plants. We also really appreciated the plants that you brought for our plant giveaways and for the cut flowers in containers with a holiday theme.



Mahalo to the following members and friends who brought in a large assortment of food and desserts to share with those in attendance at the meeting: **Walter & Ruby Hiraishi** – banana bread; **Jackie Lai** – Dorothy Nakama's fresh apple cake; **JoAnn & Bob Higuchi** – assorted bagged chips; **Charlotte Yamamoto** – sweet and sour frankfurters; **Elaine Higa** – Shelly senbei; **Lynda Takara** – hot dogs; **Shelley Miyahara** – eggplant; **Josie Gesteuyala** – pumpkin pie; **Ruby Chan** – Voodoo potato chips and sour dough rings; **Debbi Putnam** – pumpkin mochi; **Ron Falter & Lynda Miyata** – dessert bar variety; **Karen Nagamine** – granola bars; **Sandie & Karen Torigoe** – green beans and pork; **Jim & Janice Reisch** – fried saimin noodles; **Shu Nalo** – mini custard eclairs; **Jed Smith** – funeral potatoes; **Mimi Bornhorst, Barbara Paahao & So Young Lee** – baklava and fresh fruit; **Chris & Doug Meller** – pot stickers; **Jodie Domina** – macaroni and cheese and shrimp grits; **Colette Young** – fresh mandarin oranges; **Tessie Miller** – fried rice and Mongolian beef; **June Yokomoto** – pasta salad; and **Kathy Sakuda** – beef broccoli with Hong Kong style fried noodles.

HOS Membership

Membership renewals for 2026 are now being accepted. **New members** who join now will have their membership good until December 31, 2026. You may renew or join online from the Honolulu Orchid Society [website](#). The portal accepts credit card payment for membership dues. Click [HERE](#) to go to the HOS membership join/renew portal. If you prefer to mail in your membership dues, you may do so using the application form at this [LINK](#). Complete the application form and mail with your check made payable to the Honolulu Orchid Society to HOS Membership Committee, P.O. Box 558, Honolulu HI 96809-0558.

Annual Installaton Banquet

The Honolulu Orchid Society will be holding its **Annual Installation Banquet** at the **Natsunoya Tea House** beginning at 11:00 AM on **Sunday, January 18, 2026**.

The cost will be **\$30.00 for HOS members and \$40.00 for non-members**.

Valet parking at the Natsunoya Tea House is \$8.00 (pay the parking attendant). There is very limited on-street parking. Car pooling is highly recommended.

The banquet will be a lunch buffet with the following menu:

- Bara Sushi and White Rice
- Oriental Salad
- Agedashi Tofu
- Shrimp & Vegetable Tempura
- Hibachi Chicken
- Shoyu Pork
- Steamed Fish
- Nishime
- Potato Salad
- Hot Green Tea and Water

There is an option to purchase a Vegetarian Bento for the same price. The bento consist of broccoli with sesame ponzu, nishime, kabocha pumpkin, tofu patties (2 pieces), spicy nasubi, namasu, kimpira gobo, sushi (kappa and cone) and fruits. Contact Carol De Witt if interested. She can be reached at (808) 597-4087 or by email at seabreeze808@outlook.com.

The **deadline for reservations is Saturday, January 3, 2026**. Complete and submit the Banquet Registration Form (see next page) with check payment payable to Honolulu Orchid Society or HOS. Mail to HOS Banquet Committee, P O Box 558, Honolulu HI 96809-0558. Reservations will be limited to 100 so people are encouraged to submit their reservations as early as possible. A printable pdf version of the Banquet Registration Form is also available [HERE](#).

We can bring in our own pupus and desserts. This is strictly optional but if anyone is interested in bringing pupus or desserts to the banquet, please let Carol know.





Honolulu Orchid Society Banquet Registration Form

Natsunoya Tea House
Sunday, January 18, 2026, 11:00 AM

Names of People Attending

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Primary Contact

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email Address: _____

Payment

Number of HOS Members _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

Number of Guests _____ x \$40 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to the Honolulu Orchid Society and mail to:

Honolulu Orchid Society
 P.O. Box 558
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0558

Call or text Carol DeWitt at (808) 597-4087 if you have any questions.

Deadline for Signup is Saturday, January 3, 2026

HOS OFFICE USE ONLY

Datte Rec'd: _____ Order # _____ Transaction # _____

Bank: _____ Check # _____ Dated _____

Cash Payment _____ Total Amount Rec'd: \$ _____

Comments: _____

Plant Culture Table at the November Meeting

At the November 12, 2025 General Membership meeting, 18 plants were brought in by members for the Plant Culture Table. 6 plants were in the **Novice Category** (up to 4 years of growing orchids) and 12 plants were in the **Master's Category** (more than 4 years of growing orchids). During the refreshment break, the audience was given the opportunity to vote for the best in each category. Their choices based on flower appearance, fragrance, uniqueness or overall plant growth are shown below. The plants for the plant culture winners were provided by the **Honolulu Orchid Society**.

Novice Category



1st Place: Onc. Sherry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'
Grown by **Jackie Lai**

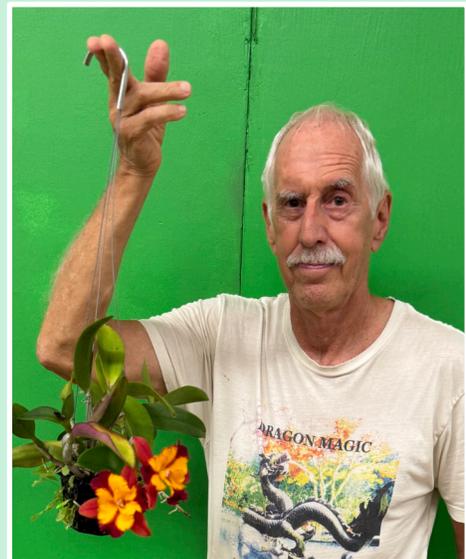
Masters Category



1st Place: Den. gouldii
Grown by **Dale Miyasaki**



2nd Place: Bsn. Maikai 'Miyumi'
Grown by **Shu Nalo**



2nd Place: Rth. Burana Fire 'Momilani'
Grown by **Doug Meller**

Honolulu Orchid Society Judging in November 2025

Saturday, November 8, 2025, Honolulu Orchid Society Judging, Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center. 6 plants were registered for judging. Two of the plants were judged and awarded. The awarded plants are shown below as Award Nos. 2025-36 and 2025-37.

Monday, November 24, 2025, Aiea Orchid Club Meeting, Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria. 10 plants were registered at the meeting. One of the plants was judged and awarded. The awarded plant is shown on the next page as Award Nos. 2025-38.

The **next HOS Judging session will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025**, at the **Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center** located at 1640 Lanakila Avenue. Registration is from 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM. All plants registered will be eligible for judging. You do not have to be a member of HOS to have your plants judged.

Photos and descriptions of the HOS Awards for 2025 and prior years are available in the [Award Gallery](#) of the HOS Website.



Award No. 2025-36

Rlc. Chia Lin 'New City'

AM HOS (84.0 Pts.)

Owners: **Scot & Karen Mitamura**

Photo by Jan Takamiya



Award No. 2025-37

Rlc. Jana Miki 'Masa'

CR HOS (78.3 Pts.)

Owners: **Scot & Karen Mitamura**

Photo by Jan Takamiya



Award No. 2025-38
Bsn. Maikai 'Miyumi'
AM HOS (83.8 Pts.)
Owners: **Mel & Pam Waki**

Welcome New Members

- **Bob Laguens, Honolulu** (Associate Member of Debbie Putnam)
- **Christina Wayton, Honolulu** (Associate Member of Debbie Putnam)

Welcome to the Society. We look forward to meeting you at our meetings.

Monetary Donations

- **Robert & JoAnn Higuchi, Honolulu**
- **Thomas and Jacqueline Lai, Honolulu**
- **Christine Katayama, Federal Way, WA** (Cousin of Charlotte Yamamoto)

Thank you for your generous monetary donation.

Calendar of Events for December 2025

Tuesday, December 9 (7:00 PM to 9:00 PM)

HOS Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom Video Conference

Wednesday, December 10 (6:30 PM to 9:00 PM) (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

HOS General Membership Meeting at Lanakila Elementary School Cafeteria, 717 North Kuakini Street, Honolulu, *Family Fun Night & Holiday Potluck Dinner*

Saturday, December 13 (9:30 AM to 10:00 AM Plant Registration)

HOS Orchid Judging at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, 1640 Lanakila Avenue, Honolulu

December 2025 Catasetinae Growing Tips

from Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, Inc.

Now that winter has really set in, your Catasetums and Cycnoches will have matured their growths and for the most part finished flowering, there are always a few late bloomers that should be on their way to dormancy soon. Mormodes will be finishing up their bloom season, and now it's time for many of the Clowesia hybrids to flower.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors: the maturity of the pseudobulb, shortening day length, cooler day/night temperatures and a reduction of root zone moisture. The yellowing and dropping of leaves signal the beginning of dormancy. By now you should have stopped fertilizing and cut back on watering frequency, simulating the end of the wet season in nature. This change in culture will cause the pseudobulbs to harden off in preparation for the upcoming months of dormancy. When most leaves are yellow/brown and have fallen off, cease watering altogether. This marks the start of the dormant period.

Those of you in Florida and the southern states will have dormant plants now, and it's possible that some of you may start to see the first beginnings of new growth. If this is the case, watering resumes once the new growth has new roots 4-6" long, which will take a couple months...



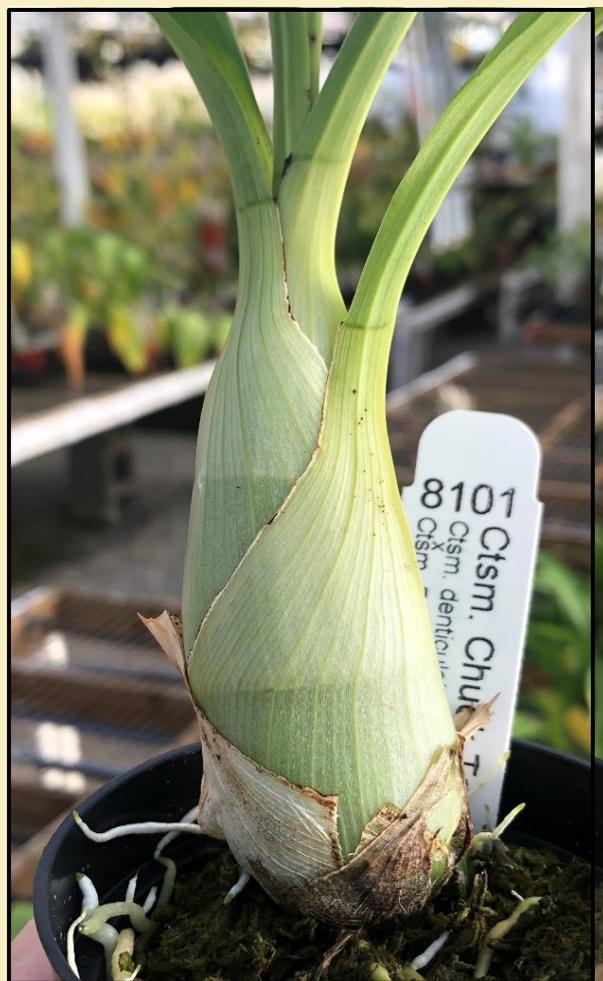
These six plants illustrate the progression of Catasetinae into dormancy, from left to right: 1) leaf tip yellowing, 2) leaf yellowing, browning and abscission, 3) more yellow leaves, tip die back and leaf drop, 4) obvious missing leaves at base, 5) two leaves remaining, 6) leafless plant.

Some *Catasetums*, *Cycnoches*, *Clowesia* and most *Mormodes* begin their flowering season at the end of the growing season, coinciding with the changing environmental conditions, and the onset of leaf yellowing and in dormancy. In these cases, it is natural for the flower inflorescences and blooms to begin while you are reducing irrigation frequency. Some plants don't even start to develop inflorescence until well after all water is stopped and the plant is totally leafless!

The gradual backing off of watering frequency and an increasing longer dry interval is accepted by the plants without complaint, of course there is the exception. If your plant pseudobulb shows signs of shriveling during late season usually one or two watering's will quickly plump it back up.



A shriveled pseudobulb.



After one watering and a day later, it's plumped back up.

Not all plants lose all of their green leaves when dormant, and it's not uncommon for some to hold a few leaves well past the point when irrigation has stopped.

By late December, it's important to get your *Catasetinae* into the dormant stage and provide them with an adequate rest period so that they will "wake up" early in the spring to a long growing season that will help them to develop big bulbs and lots of flowers!

The onset of dormancy generally occurs naturally; however, when plants are cultivated in consistently warm growing areas, such as in the home or under lights, dormancy sometimes needs to be encouraged.

I have found that managing irrigation is one of the best tools to trigger dormancy. If you still have plants in December with a full complement of green leaves, it's time take a more aggressive approach. Allow the media to become dry, regardless of the number of green leaves. Let the media stay dry for 5-6 days then water sparingly, about one or two ounces of water. The water may flow right through the media, and that's okay. Then let media to dry and wait 8-9 days before following the same stingy irrigation procedure. Repeat this process, increasing the dry interval between waterings. This will trigger dormancy in plants that are resisting the transition.

It is best to keep the plants in nearly the same light levels as in the growing season: target 2000-2500 foot candles. When the plants are cultivated in the home or under lights do your best to give at least a 10-15 degree day night differential.

If you're growing under lights, you do need to adjust the day length throughout the year, as all Catasetinae experience seasonal changes in the daylight hours per day. This adjustment is important for all your orchids.

Light level management Indoors

Growing under lights for optimal results:

April – October: day length should be set at 15 hrs.

November: reduce light schedule hour to = 14 hrs.

December: reduce one more hour = 13 hrs.

January: and reduce one more hour = 12 hrs.

February: add one hour = 13 hrs.

March: add one more hour = 14 hrs.

April – October: back to a day length schedule of 15 hrs.

I shared this idea in the past; it's worth sharing again!

If you've had challenges overwintering your Catasetinae plants, due to excessive dehydration, perhaps caused by long periods of low humidity, here is a solution being used successfully by some ingenious growers in locations with low winter humidity.



Set the pot in a jar with water, making a snug-fitting seal with the rim of the jar. The water should not touch the bottom of the pot, for best results it should be 2-3" away. The water reservoir will maintain high humidity around the roots, while the plant remains dry during dormancy. This innovative technique produces great results! We have had lots of positive feedback from growers using this method.

As my *Catasetinae* go to "sleep" for the winter I am reminded of the words of Shelley: "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

Good growing and Happy Holidays!

Fred Clarke & Carlos Lopez
Sunset Valley Orchids, Inc.
(760) 310-0778
svorchids@outlook.com

Note: This article was sent to Brad Lau by Fred Clarke for distribution to members.

Recipe of the Month

Butter Pecan Snack Mix

by **Melissa Williams** of persnicketyplates.com

Make this sweet and salty, perfectly crunchy butter pecan snack mix with salty pecans, real butter, and a caramel coating the next time you need an easy snack for the holidays, a party, or just because!

We all need a crunchy little snack sometimes. You know the kind that you reach into once, and before you know it, the bowl is empty? Yeah, that kind. Whether it's sweet, savory, salty, or spicy, snack mixes are an easy way to satisfy a hankering for a little somethin' somethin'.

This butter pecan snack mix is incredibly easy to prepare, requiring just a handful of ingredients. We love it for movie nights, and special occasions, and to pack it up to give as edible gifts to friends and family.



Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 1 hour Total Time: 1 hour 15 minutes Serving: 12

Ingredients

- 9.6 ounces Crispix cereal
- 2 cups pecan halves
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- ½ cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon baking soda

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 250°F and line a lipped baking sheet with parchment paper and lightly spray with non-stick spray. Set aside.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine the Crispix and pecans; set aside. 9.6 ounces Crispix cereal, 2 cups pecan halves.
3. In a medium saucepan, add the brown sugar, corn syrup, and butter. Heat over medium heat until the mixture comes to a boil, stirring often. ½ cup light brown sugar, ½ cup light corn syrup, ½ cup butter.

4. Remove the sugar mixture from the heat and add the vanilla extract, then stir in the baking soda until fluffy. 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, ½ teaspoon baking soda.
5. Pour the mixture over the Crispix mix and gently toss to fully coat.
6. Spread the mixture into an even layer onto the prepared baking sheet and bake, stirring every 20 minutes, for 1 hour.
7. Once the hour is up, remove the pan from the oven. Let sit at room temperature for about an hour to cool and then break up any large pieces, if necessary.

Notes

- Store the snack mix in an airtight food storage container at room temperature for up to 1 week.
- I like to use salted pecans & salted butter because I like a strong salty to sweet contrast, but you can use unsalted for either or both.

Nutrition

Serving: 1g | Calories: 342kcal | Carbohydrates: 42g | Protein: 3g | Fat: 20g | Saturated Fat: 6g | Polyunsaturated Fat: 4g | Monounsaturated Fat: 9g | Trans Fat: 0.3g | Cholesterol: 20mg | Sodium: 281mg | Potassium: 127mg | Fiber: 3g | Sugar: 23g | Vitamin A: 977IU | Vitamin C: 5mg | Calcium: 97mg | Iron: 6mg

Orchid Tip of the Month by Scot Mitamura

December 21st is the start of winter, so it is the shortest day of our year. Many of our orchids slow in their growth during the winter due to less sunlight. It is important for us to remember that we need to adjust our watering schedule, allowing most of our orchids to dry between waterings. Hand watering is especially important now, so that we target water and that we only water the orchids that are dry. Fungal and bacterial infections can be problematic at this time. Keep your growing areas clean of dead leaves and flowers, and maintaining good air circulation, will also help in deterring these winter problems.

Just a reminder for the Hono Hono or Dendrobium anosmum growers that live in lower elevations. Hono Hono are triggered to flower by shortened daylengths, cooler temperatures, and dryness. So I always remind myself that after Thanksgiving, we want to starve our Hono Hono. So cut back on the watering, no need to fertilize, and hopefully we get some cooler nights and we will have all our Hono Hono leaves, naturally falling. We want to continue this through January, and hopefully buds will be initiated in February. This will give us excellent flowering in March, just like the higher elevation growers.!

- Aloha, Scot

This article appeared in the December 2025 issue of the Windward Orchid Society newsletter and is reprinted with the approval of Scot Mitamura and the Windward Orchid Society.