The Honolulu Orchid Society

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JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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HONOLULU ORCHID SOCIETY
JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

<u>Date</u>: Wednesday, July 8, 2026

<u>Time/Place</u>: 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM), Lanakila Elementary School Cafeteria

<u>Program</u>: "Growing Habenarias"

<u>Presented by</u>: Doug DeMoss

Habenaria (Hab.) contains nearly 900 species spread across every continent except Antarctica (with major hotspots in tropical Africa and Brazil). Two of the most highly sought-after by collectors include Hab. medusae and Hab. rhodocheila (see photographs below). In the horticultural world, Habenaria has experienced a massive boom in popularity due to modern hybridizing. However, they have a very strict growth cycle that can be intimidating for beginners. **Doug DeMoss** will discuss the growth cycle and reveal his secrets to successfully grow these plants.

Hab. rhodocheila above. Hab. medusae on the right.

The **Plant Culture Table** will be open for the July meeting. Members are encouraged to bring their blooming orchids to the meeting to share with the audience. As in the past, plants on the Culture Table will be divided into the Novice Category (up to 4 years of growing orchids) and the Master's Category (more than 4 years of growing orchids). The audience will be given the opportunity to view the plants and vote on the plant in each category they liked the best based on flower appearance, fragrance, overall plant growth or uniqueness. The top two plants receiving the most votes in each category are given special prizes. Registration of plants for the Plant Culture Table is from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

The **Mini Country Store** will open for the July meeting. We look forward to the generosity of our members who voluntarily donate for this sale to support the Society's educational programs. The **Country Store** will accept donations of baked goods, snacks, jams, jellies, fruits and fresh vegetables. Items should be individually packaged and wrapped. They may be left with the the Country Store workers before the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Only cash or checks will-be accepted for sales at the Store.

Welcome New Members

- **Jonathan Corey**, Mililani
- **Dr. Sharon Duritzo**, Baldwin Harbor, New York
- **Debra Haraguchi,** Honolulu
- **Diane Nakai,** Mililani

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

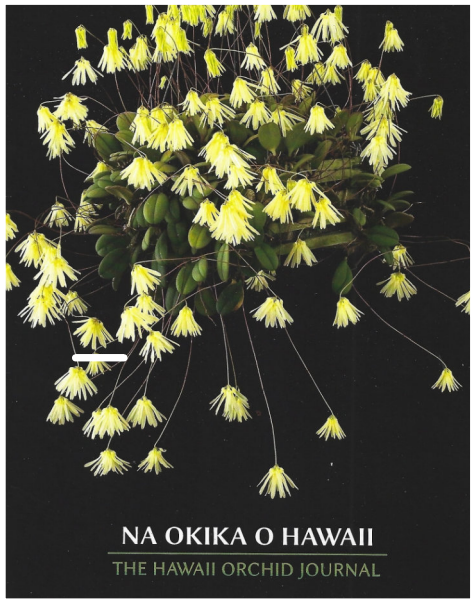
Monetary Donations

- **Leland & Diane Nakai,** Mililani

Thank you for your generous monetary donation.

2024 Na'Okika Publication Available for Purchase

The 2024 Honolulu Orchid Society Na'Okika Orchid Journal is available for purchase at $10.00 each. Postage and handling cost is $1.35 if you want it mailed to you. Contact Carol De Witt by email at seabreeze808@outlook.com or see her at the general membership meeting if you wish to purchase a copy. Cash or check made out to HOS will only be accepted for payment.



Election of 2027 Officers and Trustees

Members are encouraged to attend Wednesday's meeting to participate in the election of the 2027 Officers and Trustees. A quorum of 30 members is needed to conduct business. In the June 2026 Newsletter and during last month's membership meeting, the Nomination Committee presented the following slate of nominees :

Officers

President	**Adam Almeida**
1st Vice President	**Melvin Waki**
2nd Vice President	**Katherine Sakuda**
3rd Vice President	**Josie Gesteuyala**
Correspondence Secretary	**Carol De Witt**
Recording Secretary	**Hongwei Li**
Treasurer	**Jackie Lai**
Past President	**Bradley Lau**

Trustees

2027*	2028*	2029*
Ruby Chan	**Elaine Higa**	**Nathan Correia**
Marisa Maemori	**Karen Nagamine**	**JoAnn Higuchi**
Douglas Meller	**Karen Torigoe**	**Jackie Hurd**
Charlotte Yamamoto	**Sandie Torigoe**	**Tessie Miller**

* Trustees serve staggered three-year terms through the years shown.
Trustees for 2027 and 2028 were elected in prior years.

In accordance with the Honolulu Orchid Society By-Laws, the election of the Officers and Trustees shall be by vote of the members present at the July meeting. **Kathy Sakuda**, Election Committee Chair, will conduct the election.

Calendar of Events for July 2026

- **Wednesday, July 8, 7:00 PM, General Membership Meeting**, Lanakila Elementary School Cafeteria (doors open at 6:30 PM), Speaker: **Doug DeMoss**
- **Saturday, July 11, Plant Registration 9:30 am to 10:00 am, HOS Judging,** Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, 1640 Lanakila Avenue, Honolulu
- **Tuesday, July 14, 7:00 PM, HOS Board of Trustees Meeting**. Zoom Video Conference
- **Thursday, July 16, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Set-up of HOS display** at the Ewa Orchid Society Show, Ewa Elementary School Cafeteria
- **Friday, July 17, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Ewa Orchid Society Show**, Ewa Elementary School Cafeteria
- **Saturday, 18, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Ewa Orchid Society Show**, Ewa Elementary School Cafeteria. **Breakdown and cleanup of HOS display** to follow after Show closes.
- **Monday, July 27, 7:00 PM, HOS Judging**. Aiea Orchid Club Meeting, Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria (plant registration 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM)

Ewa Orchid Society Orchid Show and Plant Sale

The **Ewa Orchid Society Orchid Show and Plant Sal**e will be held on Friday, July 17, 2026, and Saturday, July 18, 2026 at the **Ewa Elementary School Cafeteria**. The Honolulu Orchid Society has accepted the Ewa Orchid Society's invitation to put up a 10'x10' floor display at the Show. The theme of the Show is "***Christmas in July***".

We need your blooming orchid plants for the display. **Mel Waki** is coordinating the set-up which will begin at 9:00 am on Thursday, July 16. Please bring your orchid plants to the Ewa Elementary School Cafeteria no later than 9:30 am. Leave your plants in the designated display area for HOS and register your plants with the Plant Registration Desk. Let **Mel** know if you are dropping plants off for the HOS display and are not staying for the set-up.

If you are available on Thursday, **Mel** and the set-up team can use your help to put up the HOS display. Let Mel know if you plan to be at Ewa to help or add your name to the sign-up sheet at the July 8 membership meeting. Lunch will be provided for those helping with the set-up.

The show closes on Saturday, July 18, at 4:00 pm. Breakdown of the display begins shortly after.

There will be a **Miniature Table Display** at the show. Only plants displayed on this table will be considered for the Best Miniature Orchid Display awards. To qualify as a miniature, the plant's natural height from the base to the top of the plant (excluding flowers above the leaves) must not exceed 7inches and the natural width of the leaf span must not exceed 7 inches. Exhibitors must specify at the time of registration that the plant is to be placed in the **Miniature Display**.

Mahalo Nui Loa

A Big Mahalo to **Leland Nakai** on his presentation on Vandas at last month's general membership meeting. **Leland** walked the audience through the history and botany of Vandas and discussed its cultivation. The presentation was recorded by vlogger **Kelly Dureg** of Orchids in Paradise. The recording can be viewed on You Tube at this **LINK**.

Mahalo to the following members and friends who brought a large assortment of delicious foods and desserts to share with those in attendance at the meeting: **Graydon & Doris Southard** – chocolate croissants; **Josie Gesteuyala** – mini chocolate hazelnut beignets; **Tessie Miller** – Korean kimbab (sushi); **Charlotte Yamamoto** – pasta salad; **Sandie Torigoe** – ong choy with garlic; **Elaine Higa** – pizza; **JoAnn Higuchi** – assorted bagged chips; **Kathy Sakuda** – beef broccoli with noodles; **Nathan & Jovie Correia** – rotisserie chicken; **Shelley Miyahara** – chicken and potato casserole; **Jocelyn Mokulehua** – banana loaf cake; **Karen Nagamine** – pepperoni pizza; **Lynda Takara** – pork rinds; **Ruby Chan** – mango coconut and almond cookies; **Debbi Putnam** – chocolate chip cookies; **Beaudine Ma** – skinny pops popcorn and multigrain crackers; **June Yokomoto** – red grapes; **Colette Young** – peanut butter dark chocolate granola bars; and **Jodie Domina** – salad and watermelon.

Plant Culture Table at the June Meeting

At last month's General Membership meeting, 15 plants were brought in by members for the Plant Culture Table. 8 plants were in the **Novice Category** (up to 4 years of growing orchids) and 7 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.

Novice Category

1st Place: Gram. scriptum
Grown by **Jodie Domina**

2nd Place: Ons. Hilo Firecracker 'New Year'
Grown by **Nathan Correia**

Masters Category

1st Place: Gom. Jiaho Queen 'Jiaho' FCC/AOS
Grown by **Mel Waki**

2nd Place: Den. Easter Bunny 'Lea'
Grown by **Brandon Isokane**

Aiea Orchid Club Show Wrap-Up

The **HOS Display Set-up Team**: (left to right) **Dorothy Nakama, Brad Lau, Marisa Maemori, Nathan Correia, Elaine Higa, Karen Torigoe, Sandie Torigoe, Carol De Witt** and **June Yokomoto.** Missing are **Cathy DeMoss**, **Jed Smith** and **Mel Waki**.

The Honolulu Orchid Society put up a floor display at the **Aiea Orchid Club Orchid Show and Plant Sal**e which was held on Friday, June 5, 2026, and Saturday, June 6, 2026 at the **Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria**. The theme of the Show was "***America's 250th Jubilee of Orchids***".

Nathan Correia chaired the set-up of the display. The display had a total of 59 blooming orchid plants from **Doug DeMoss, Carol De Witt, Josie Gesteuyala, Elaine Higa, Walter & Ruby Hiraishi, Kim Ilo, Brad Lau, Matthew McKnight III, Jed Smith,** and **Mel & Pam Waki**. Props for the display were brought by **Nathan Correia, Carol De Witt and June Yokomoto**. **The Honolulu Orchid Socieity** received a $50 cash prize for taking 4th place in the Guest Society Floor Display competition.

Kim Ilo's Den. Lorrie Mortimer 'Kimmi' (photo above) won the Best Lavender Dendrobium trophy and was also awarded a Certificate of Culture Merit (CCM) by the HOS Judges.

Doug DeMoss's Paph. Bernice 'Pupukea' AM/AOS HOS (photo above) won the Best Slipper Orchid trophy and his Sbk. robusta (photo to the left) received the Best Species trophy.

Honolulu Orchid Society Judging in June

Thursday, June 4, 2026. Aiea Orchid Club Show. 350 plants were registered and displayed at the Aiea Orchid Club Show in the Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria. Six plants were nominated for judging; five were judged and awarded. Two plants received Awards of Merit (AM) and three plants were given Certificates of Culture Merit (CCM). The awarded plants are shown below.

Monday, June 22, 2026, Aiea Orchid Club Meeting, Aiea Elementary School Cafeteria. 9 plants were registered at the Aiea Orchid Club meeting. None of the plants were nominated for judging.

Photographs and descriptions of the all of the plants awarded in 2026 and prior years are available in the **Award Gallery** of the HOS Website.

The **next HOS Judging session will be held at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center on Saturday, July 11, 2026**. You do not have to be a member of HOS to have your plants judged. Plant registration is between 9:30 AM and 10:00 AM

Award No. 2026-12
Den. Lorrie Mortimer 'Kimmi'
CCM HOS (87.3 Pts.)
Owner: **Kim Ilo**

Award No. 2026-13 & 2026-14
Den. Kranji Little Egret 'Riley'
CCM HOS (87.3 Pts.) & AM HOS (83.6 Pts.)
Owner: **S&W Orchids**

Award No. 2026-14
Paph. Bouilly Port 'Brennan'
AM HOS (79.7 Pts.)
Owner: **Larry Kamiya**

Award No. 2026-15
Den. Alice Noda 'Jaxavery Mililani'
CCM HOS (89.6 Pts.)
Owner: **Warren Inaba**

Tip of the Month

by Scot Mitamura

Ants in our plants! I have been getting many recent complaints about them. Normally they become problematic in older orchids that have not been repotted for a few years. These sugar ants live above the ground and will form nests in dry areas on roofs, in trees and in pots. As our orchid media gets old there can be some dry air pockets of dead roots, Styrofoam, and other drainage materials. They can even reside between pots that are sleeved. Simply repotting and clean-up will do the trick. Also, check the plant for scales, mealy bugs, and aphids. These sugar ants are attracted and feed on the honey dew that forms on the orchid's new growth, flowers and where insects are feeding. Spraying with our trusted Bayer 3 in1 should take care of the immediate problem. But these sugar ants often form many satellite nests that may take months to control. For this, use a sugar based commercial bait. These are normally a one percent boric acid solution that allows the ants to harvest the solution to take back to the ant queens which will eventually kill them. I make several bait stations out of cut 3" PVC stuffed with cotton. You may need to keep at this for several months, but you will eventually be successful. Ant control is a must for any orchid collection.

Aloha,
Scot

*This article appeared in the July 2026 issue of the Windward Orchid Society Newsletter and is reprinted here with the approval of **Scot Mitamura** and the **Windward Orchid Society**.*

Getting to Know Our Members

by Jodie Domina

I like to think I have roots in two completely different worlds: Vermont and the Big Island. When I was seven, my family traded the East Coast for the Kea'au/ Pahoa area, though I ended up moving back East at fourteen to attend high school. But my story with the islands was far from over. After high school, I went back to the Big Island for a visit and met a UH Hilo student (Josh) from Oahu. Fast forward a bit—he's now my husband! Before we finally settled down, we did some exploring, living in Vermont for a while and spending time in Washington state. In 2004, Josh realized he just couldn't live without the ocean, so he headed back home to Oahu. I followed him in early 2005, and we've been rooted here ever since. These days, I keep busy doing what I love in the local Food and Beverage industry, working with the teams at the Pacific Club and Kahala Nui, and helping bring private weddings and catered events to life. Josh and I and two teenage boys live in Kapahulu.

I grow my orchids all over my yard under trees, pop-up umbrellas, and in greenhouses from Amazon.

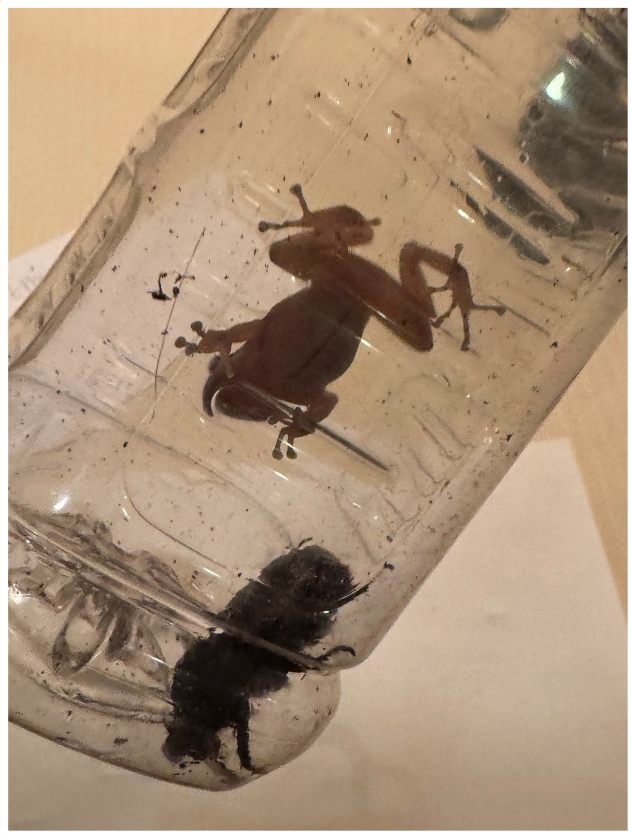
I love growing all kinds of unique, beautiful orchids. My yard is full of them! I set them up under trees, pop-up umbrellas, and budget-friendly Amazon greenhouses (swapping out the original plastic for shade cloth). I'm always moving my plants around based on the weather, the season, and their health.

My friend **Shu Nalo** encouraged me to join the Honolulu Orchid Society about three years ago. I really enjoy our meetings, especially the guest speakers, silent auctions, and great potluck food. Outside of orchids, my favorite hobbies are thrifting and checking out yard sales, estate sales, and consignment shops.

A Coquí Adventure

by ***Brad Lau***

It all began when I bought an anthurium plant at the Mililani Mother's Day Fair. A few days later I heard a loud chirping sound in my backyard at night. It had a familiar "ko-kee" sound to it. I tried to determine the location but it was not clear since it was dark and there are plants in my yard and many behind my back tile wall.



A coqui frog was captured in Brad's back yard by the State's Invasive Species workers. They also found a Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle.

I called the Hawaii Statewide Pest Hotline (808-643-7378) and left a message that I have a frog in my backyard area based on the sound. They called me back the next day and asked some questions and had my listen to some sample frog sounds. They sent out two Invasive Species workers a few days later at 7 p.m. to determine a location. They had clear tubes to catch the frog but from the sound it was determined that the frog was very high up in my Song of India tree at about 16 feet. They shook the tree but the frog remained in place. They explained the frogs are territorial and will stay put.

About a week later two more workers came out to my back yard at 7 p.m. and were able to located the frog and capture it. In addition they found a Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on my shade cloth. They said the Beetle is all over Oahu. I asked if they knew of other frogs in my area and there was a capture about 6 months ago in my area about one block away.

I was told that if the frogs travel from the Big Island in an immature state they may take 3-6 months to grow larger before they start singing to attract a mate. Once they mate the female lays eggs on a broad leaf and the male covers the eggs until they mature which takes about 2 weeks. He stops singing and doesn't want to attract trouble.

Male coquí frogs produce the famous "ko-kee" call, which can reach about 90–95 decibels at close range. In heavily infested areas, thousands of frogs calling at night can create a constant chorus that many residents find disruptive.

An interesting aspect of the coquí story is that in Puerto Rico the frog is beloved and considered a national symbol. In Hawaiʻi, however, it is generally viewed as an invasive species because of its ecological effects and loud nighttime calls.

While my adventure ended with a frog capture please be aware of the problem and report any sightings to the invasive species authorities. I was impressed how the workers were patient to locate the frog. While they brought 16% Citric acid spray with them they did not need to use it. The Citric acid irritates and damages the frog's skin leading to dehydration. However the Citric acid my also damage sensitive or young plants including orchids.

As orchid growers we may import plants from Hawaii island or purchase plants from those areas. Please be on the lookout and know that help is readily available in case you find a frog. In addition I was very surprised they found a Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle in the short time they were in my yard. I need to be more aware and observant for pests. It certainly has been an exciting month of June.

Thrips–Bah HumBUG

by Melvin Waki

While thrips are a year-round nuisance, they thrive and become far more active during the warm, dry summer months. We typically associate thrip damage with flowers—where their rasping and sucking leave silvery scars along the petal edges—but they can devastate foliage, too. They are particularly fond of tender new honohono growth, which can be fatal to the plant if left unchecked.

My honohonos seemed to be thriving under a regimen of heavy watering, slow-release fertilizer (Nutricote), and weekly liquid fertilizer. The leaves are lush, green, and growing beautifully. However, a closer look revealed a horror story: several plants had disgusting brown discoloration and drying on their newest growth (see photos below).

The thrips were having a absolute feast, and despite their tiny size, I could actually see them crawling around. I immediately hit them with horticultural oil, followed by an insecticide spray. I'll be monitoring the plants closely and will likely reapply the insecticide in 7 to 10 days. I'm crossing my fingers that the damaged stems will push out new leads; if they don't, the plants are going into the trash can.

Why Grow Cattleya Orchids

by Gemini AI

Cattleyas are often called the "Queen of Orchids," and for good reason. If you have ever seen a classic corsage, you have seen a Cattleya. They are a favorite among both beginner and advanced growers because they offer a dramatic payoff for your effort.

A classic, show-stopping Cattleya in bloom. HOS Award 2025-35 Rlc. Momilani Jewel 'OC' AM HOS grown by Calvin Kumano.

Here are the main reasons why people choose to grow them:

- Spectacular, Showy Blooms: They produce some of the largest, most vibrant flowers in the orchid world. A single bloom can reach up to 5 to 8 inches across, featuring frilly lips and intense contrasting colors.
- Incredible Fragrance: Unlike standard grocery store orchids (like Phalaenopsis), many Cattleya varieties carry powerful, intoxicating scents. Their aromas can range from sweet vanilla and citrus to complex floral perfumes that can fill an entire room.
- Forgiving Nature: Cattleyas are epiphyte (air) plants with thick, water-storing stems called pseudobulbs and leathery leaves. This design makes them highly drought-tolerant. If you forget to water them for a week, they will easily bounce back, making them much more forgiving than finicky tropicals.
- Predictable Growth Cycle: They follow a highly satisfying annual rhythm. They grow a new shoot, mature it over the summer, go dormant, and then reward you with a reliable, spectacular flush of blooms once a year (with some hybrids blooming twice).

If you can provide a bright windowsill and remember to let the potting mix dry out completely between waterings, you can successfully grow a Cattleya.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

HONOLULU DISTRICT OFFICE

May 20, 2026

Mr. Adam Almeida
President
Honolulu Orchid Society, Inc.
38-A Niolopa Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Dear Mr. Almeida:

On behalf of the Hawaii State Department of Education, I would like to thank you and the Honolulu Orchid Society, Inc., for your generous donation to Washington Middle School for $3,000.00. These funds will be used to purchase essential supplies that enhance the educational environment for students.

Your support of our students' success is truly inspirational. I am privileged to recognize your heartfelt donation. The Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Area is very fortunate to have a thoughtful benefactor.

Sincerely,

Linell Dilwith
Complex Area Superintendent
Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Area

LD:lsr
c: Sonja Samsonas, TA Principal, Washington Middle School

Please note: No consideration or promise for future consideration has been made or given in exchange for or in contemplation of the above donation. Any donation the Hawaii State Department of Education receives will be used to benefit students equitably.

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Recipe of the Month

Super Easy Grilled Ribs

by **Judy** (the woksoflife.com)

Prep Time: 10 minutes **Cook Time:** 35 minutes **Marinating Time:** 12 hours
Total Time: 12 hours 45 minutes **Servings:** 4

These super easy grilled ribs are a departure from your typical rib recipe. Why? You cut your ribs into individual pieces before marinating and grilling. The result is an extra juicy, all-around crispy, charred rib that's like getting that coveted end piece every time!

Ingredients

- 3 pounds baby back ribs
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons onion powder
- 1 teaspoon Sichuan peppercorn powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon Shaoxing wine (or dry cooking sherry)
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tablespoons oil (any neutral oil, such as canola or vegetable oil)

Instructions

1. Using a sharp chef's knife or cleaver, cut the ribs into individual pieces between each rib bone. If you hit thicker bits at the ends of the ribs, just maneuver your blade until you hit soft meat or cartilage to avoid damaging your knife on the hard bones.

2. Place the ribs In a large mixing bowl, and add the salt, sugar, garlic powder, onion powder, Sichuan peppercorn powder, cumin, Shaoxing wine, and water. Using your hands, mix the ribs together until every rib is well-coated, and there is no visible standing liquid. This will take a few minutes of mixing. Cover with an overturned plate and marinate in the refrigerator overnight.

3. 1 hour before you grill the ribs, take them out of the refrigerator and let them come up to room temperature.

4. Preheat your grill over high heat (we used gas here for convenience, so adjust cooking settings and times for your own personal grill setup). Right before grilling, pour the oil over the ribs, and mix well.

5. When the grill is hot, use tongs to space the ribs a couple inches (about 5 cm) apart (depending on whether you have the luxury of space relative to other items you may be cooking). Flip them every 3-5 minutes or so, making sure to brown each side of the rib. You know your own grill, so use visual cues to gauge the cooking times and heat levels. After about 20-30 minutes, the ribs should be crisp and golden on all sides. Serve immediately—no need for them to rest!

Nutrition Facts

Calories: 564kcal (28%); Carbohydrates: 4g(1%); Protein: 41g (82%); Fat: 42g(65%); Saturated Fat: 13g (65%); Polyunsaturated Fat: 8g; Monounsaturated Fat: 19g; Trans Fat: 03g; Cholesterol: 148mg (49%); Sodium: 1353mg (56%); Potassium: 567mg (16%); Fiber: 0.4g (2%); Sugar: 2g (2%); Vitamin A: 531U (1%); Vitamin C: 0.2mg; Calcium: 77mg (8%); Iron: 2mg (11%