

# Kona Orchid Society

E-Newsletter

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New Orchids Discovered



Whitney Steel- *Dendrobium Dawn Maree x Feng Seng*

*“Educating our members and the public about the collection, culture and appreciation of orchids.”*

### A Message from our president

Happy New Year everyone. I hope this finds you all doing well and looking forward to 2022. While the year has not started out as we had hoped the board continues to work and plan so that once it is safe to meet again the club will be ready. We are also coming up with plans to be able to meet in smaller groups to have some connection and activity. While there have been some changes to the board the enthusiasm for the club and moving forward is very high and we look forward to sharing it with all of you.

We all greatly look forward to seeing you, but until then stay safe.

–Whitney

# Club happenings

## January Board Meeting

- New Google Membership Survey to be emailed by end of month
  - Vote to confirm new slate of 2022 Board Officers and Members
  - Vote on addendum to KOS Bylaws reducing Board membership from nine to seven
  - Contribute your ideas for speaker topics and activities
- Cancellation of Mother's Day Sale possibly having a scaled down August Sale "Orchid Summer Sale"

We welcome any and all ideas for speaker topics and activities

Mahalo to Brenda Ford for all of her years of service on the board. Her insightfulness and dedication will be greatly missed. Her passion and commitment to the club has made positive and significant impact.

## Slate of New Board members

**President-** Whitney Steele

**Co Vice President-** Jan Rae and Anita Kelleher

**Secretary** – Geri Allison

**Treasurer-** Susan Elliott

**At Large-** Elaine Lomax and Kathy Penwell

## Dennis Bensen retires after 5 years as the Club Treasurer

Meet Dennis in his own words

*I joined the Kona Orchid Society, KOS, at the beginning of 2016. I think a little back story at this point will help. I guess I have always had a love for gardening and flowers. On a scuba diving trip to Fiji in 2001 I had the opportunity to visit Raymond Burr's Orchid collection. While I was not yet an orchardist one might say the seed was sown. I lived most of my life on Long Island NY in Levittown a suburb of New York City, by and large it is very hard to grow orchids in NY the winters are too harsh. The next step in my orchid journey also involved Scuba diving. While diving in Honduras a couple*

*from South Florida was in the group. We met on several other dive trips and soon I got to spend time with them at their home. The wife, Luanne is an avid orchid grower and when I retired from my job in NY after 22 years and moved to the Big Island of Hawaii it was, she who told me to follow my passion and grow orchids. I told her I know nothing about growing orchids she told me to go online and find the local Orchid Society and join. I did.*

*Soon after attending my first meeting, I heard about a popup Orchid sale of several growers up in Waimea so I went. Once there I met Phoenicia Zeller one of the best people on the Big Island to meet if you want to get started in Orchid growing. I told her I was there to buy my first Orchid and that I knew nothing about growing orchids and she should sell me something that was hard to kill so that it would not die on me, and I would not get discouraged and give up. She sold me a dendrobium known as "little green apples."*

*After joining in 2016, I was elected the following year to the KOS Board of Directors as the Society's Treasurer and have served in that position ever since. Joining KOS and learning to grow and maintain orchids has been one of the happiest and wisest decisions I made and besides you make lots of good friends with at least one common interest you and them have, our beloved Orchids.*



Mahalo Dennis for all of your years of service!

## Member Plant Show and Tell

Mahalo to all the members that shared their blooming orchids.

Please email your photos of blooming plants to [kos@konaorchidsociety.org](mailto:kos@konaorchidsociety.org) to be included.

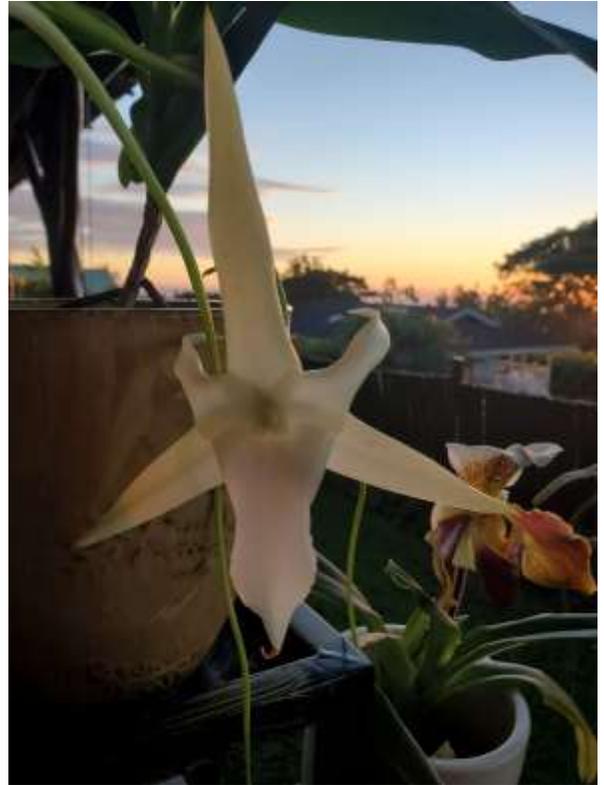
*Feel free to send photos of problem orchids so we can help.*



*No Name, Anita Kelleher*



*Epi. Paradise, Whitney Steele*



*Angraecum sesquipedale, Travis Burgeson*



*Dendrobium hybrid, Zachary Langridge*

# Member Plant Show and Tell



*Paph. Worthy Fred*, Whitney Steele



*Complex Paphiopedilum*, Travis Burgeson



*Complex Paphiopedilum*, Anita Kellher



*Paph. Odette's Infatuation*  
Whitney Steele

## Member Plant Show and Tell



*Dendrobium hybrid*, Zachary Langridge



*Bulb. Longissium*, Anita Kelleher



*Orchid memorial Garden*, Whitney Steele (I planted and care for the garden for a client)

# THREE NEW ORCHID SPECIES DISCOVERED IN ECUADOR

August 16, 2021 by Natali Anderson

An international team of botanists has discovered three new endemic species of the orchid genus *Lepanthes* in the highlands of Ecuador. *Lepanthes oro-lojaensis* growing in its natural habitat. Image credit: Francisco Tobar Suarez. *Lepanthes* is a large genus of orchids with up to 1,000 species distributed in the Neotropics. The genus ranges from the Antilles and southern Mexico through the Andes south to Bolivia, with a few species known from Brazil.

The largest number of species is concentrated in the Andes of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, but an important number is also distributed in Costa Rica and Panama. In Ecuador, *Lepanthes* includes about 350 species, of which 240 are considered endemic to the country. Nevertheless, their richness is far from being fully inventoried, as new species are continuously being discovered and described as the country's forests continue to be explored. The three new species of *Lepanthes* were discovered by Dr. Francisco Tobar Suarez from the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad and his colleagues from Ecuador and Switzerland.



Named *Lepanthes oro-lojaensis*, *Lepanthes microprosartima* and *Lepanthes caranqui*, they were recorded in evergreen montane forest and páramo as part of three different research projects conducted during the last five years.

“*Lepanthes oro-lojaensis* was discovered in the southwest of El Oro province and is similar to *Lepanthes jimburae*, differing mainly in the much smaller plants, inflorescences and floral parts,” the researchers said.

“*Lepanthes microprosartima* from the western slopes of Pichincha volcano in northern Ecuador resembles *Lepanthes obandoi* but differs in the coloration of the leaves, the inflorescence that are shorter than the leaves and the smaller floral appendix.”

“*Lepanthes caranqui*, found in eastern Pichincha and Imbabura, is most similar to *Lepanthes pachychila* but differs from it in its much larger plants and different shape of the petals and the floral appendix.”

The scientists suggest that *Lepanthes oro-lojaensis* and *Lepanthes microprosartima* are Critically Endangered and that *Lepanthes caranqui* is Least Concern species following the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.

“They are proof that Ecuador — one of the world's megadiverse countries — hides much more biodiversity waiting to be explored,” the authors said.

Their paper was published in the journal *PhytoKeys*.

F.T. Suarez et al. 2021. Three new endemic species of *Lepanthes* (Orchidaceae, Pleurothallidinae) from the highlands of Ecuador. *PhytoKeys* 180: 111-132; doi: 10.3897/phytokeys.180.62671