



# HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL



*Page 1*  
**YEAR OF  
 THE RAT**  
 with  
**Vicki Lai**

**2020**

*Pages 2 & 3*  
**HIBISCUS  
 CALENDAR**



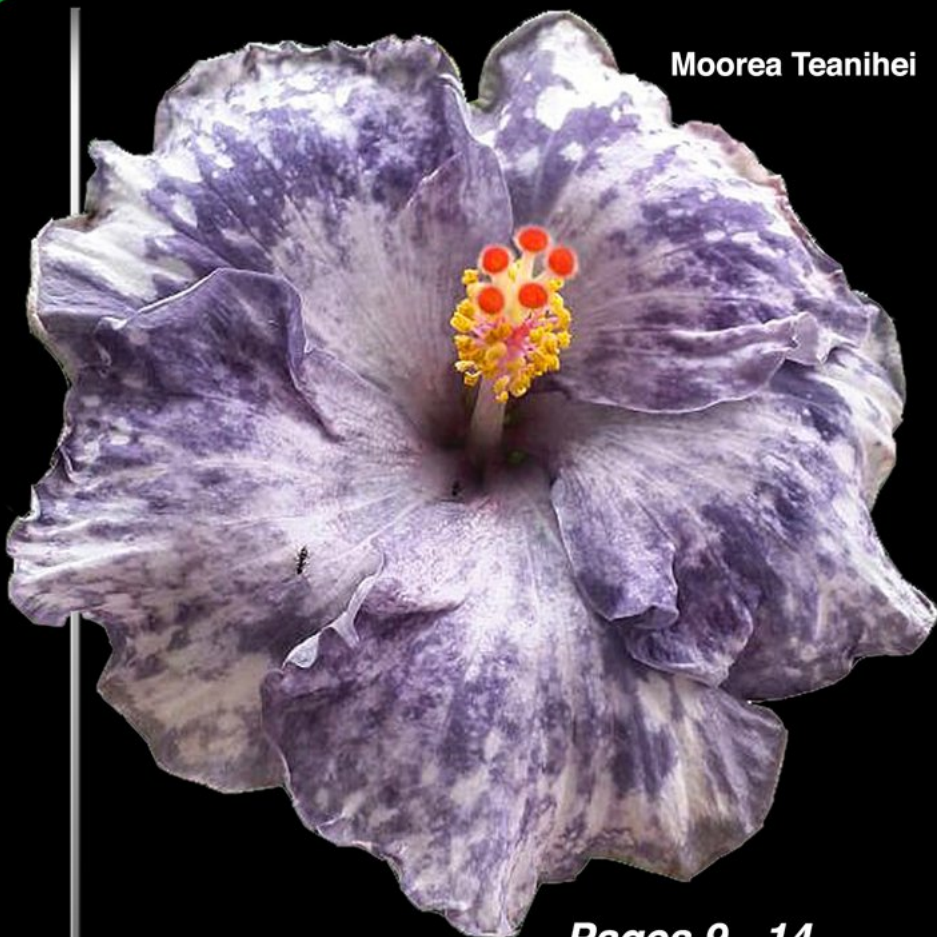
*Page 8*  
**H. punaluuensis**



*Pages 15 - 20*  
**CELEBRATION  
 OF BEAUTY**  
 A selection of  
 members' photos



Moorea Teanihei



*Pages 9 - 14*  
**CHARLES ATIU'S  
 HIBISCUS OF MOOREA**

*Page 4 - 6*  
**GROWING  
 FROM SEED**  
 with Vera Nechvolod



**and  
 more!**





**IHS member Vicki Lai posted this lovely assemblage to wish everyone a Happy New Year of the Rat!**

The Rat is the first of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Rat tricked the Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived at the finish line, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox, becoming first.

In Chinese culture, rats were seen as a sign of wealth and surplus. Because of their reproduction rate, married couples also prayed to them for children.

Optimistic and energetic, people born in the Rat year are likable by all. They are sensitive to other's emotions but are stubborn with your opinion. Their personality is kind, but due to weak communication skills, their words may seem impolite and rude.

On the financial side, they like saving and can be stingy. However, their love for hoarding will sometimes cause them to waste money on unnecessary things.

HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL







TAIWAN EAGLE CREEK [Not Registered]

Parentage not declared  
 Hybridized by Linda Lee  
 Photo by Anne R Mustaqim

# 2020

	January					February					March					April					May					June						
	1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	14	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
<b>Mo</b>		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
<b>Tu</b>		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
<b>We</b>	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		
<b>Th</b>	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		
<b>Fri</b>	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26			
<b>Sa</b>	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27				
<b>Su</b>	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28					





ASIA QUEEN ANNA SUI [Not Registered]

Parentage not declared  
 Hybridized by Vicki Lai  
 Photo by Petar Tiholov

# 2020

	July					August					September					October					November					December						
	27	28	29	30	31	31	32	33	34	35	36	36	37	38	39	40	40	41	42	43	44	44	45	46	47	48	49	49	50	51	52	53
<b>Mo</b>		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
<b>Tu</b>		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29
<b>We</b>	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30
<b>Th</b>	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31	
<b>Fri</b>	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		
<b>Sa</b>	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26			
<b>Su</b>	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27			



# GROWING HIBISCUS FROM SEED

Vera Nechvolod shares her method



*The junction of the Lopan and Kharkov rivers in Kharkov City*



©Dmitry Sleduk

Vera lives in Kharkov (also known as Kharkiv) which is the 2nd largest city in Ukraine. It is a major cultural, scientific, educational, transport and industrial centre with numerous museums, theatres and libraries. Kharkov's climate is described as humid continental with long, cold and snowy winters and dry, hot summers. Average yearly rainfall is 513mm (20 inches), with the wettest months being June and July.



Vera has a beautiful collection of hibiscus (see left) including such gems as Tahitian Midnight Magic, Roz Merritt, Thunderhead, Midnight Frolic, Jolanda Gommer and Sea of Tranquility as well as several Mooreas.

She grafts and she now also hybridizes, although she has not yet registered any of her seedlings.





Left: Vera's seeds. The two in the foreground have been 'nicked'. Removing a tiny bit of the hard seed coating allows water to penetrate and, if the seed is fresh, the embryo inside will quickly begin to germinate. Click here for a video on how to nick seeds.



Above: Vera has used a mixture of sharp sand and perlite in which to germinate her seeds. She has placed them on top of the mixture and will then cover them lightly with more of the mixture.

Left: After sprinkling with a little water (the sand and perlite should be moist, not wet), Vera puts the covered pot on a well lit (not sunny) shelf .. and waits, checking every day for signs of life...





Left: After just 4 days the first tiny baby has popped up and started to turn green.

Right: Another couple of days and the rest of the babies have germinated. At this stage Vera carefully scoops them up and transfers them from the sand and perlite into a light compost which will nourish them.

Below: After about 10 days the seedlings are growing fast and looking strong. The seed leaves have opened out and now need plenty of bright light in order to thrive.

[Click here for a great article on growing from seed on the Southern California Hibiscus Society's website.](#)





## Deficiency Chart of Micronutrients

**Boron:** Discoloration of leaf buds. Breaking and dropping of buds

**Sulphur:** Leaves light green. Veins pale green. No spots.

**Manganese:** Leaves pale in color. Veins and venules dark green and reticulated

**Zinc:** Leaves pale, narrow and short. Veins dark green. Dark spots on leaves and edges.

**Magnesium:** Paleness from leaf edges. No spots. Edges have cup shaped folds. Leaves die and drop in extreme deficiency.

**Phosphorus:** Plant short and dark green. In extreme deficiencies turn brown or black. Bronze colour under the leaf.

**Calcium:** Plant dark green. Tender leaves pale. Drying starts from the tips. Eventually leaf buds die.

**Iron:** Leaves pale. No spots. Major veins green.

**Copper:** Pale pink between the veins. Wilt and drop.

**Molybdenum:** Leaves light green/ lemon yellow/orange. Spots on whole leaf except veins. Sticky secretions from under the leaf.

**Potassium:** Small spots on the tips, edges of pale leaves. Spots turn rusty. Folds at tips.

**Nitrogen:** Stunted growth. Extremely pale color. Upright leaves with light green/yellowish. Appear burnt in extreme deficiency.



**THE COLOUR REPRESENTED ARE INDICATIVE.  
THEY MAY VARY FROM PLANT TO PLANT**



## **H. arnottianus subsp. punaluuensis**

A native of Hawaii from the Ko'olau Range on O'ahu. a large simple white flower and showy red pistil and stamen, lightly fragrant. Robust, with large leaves up to 10" long.

Photo by Joey Carlson



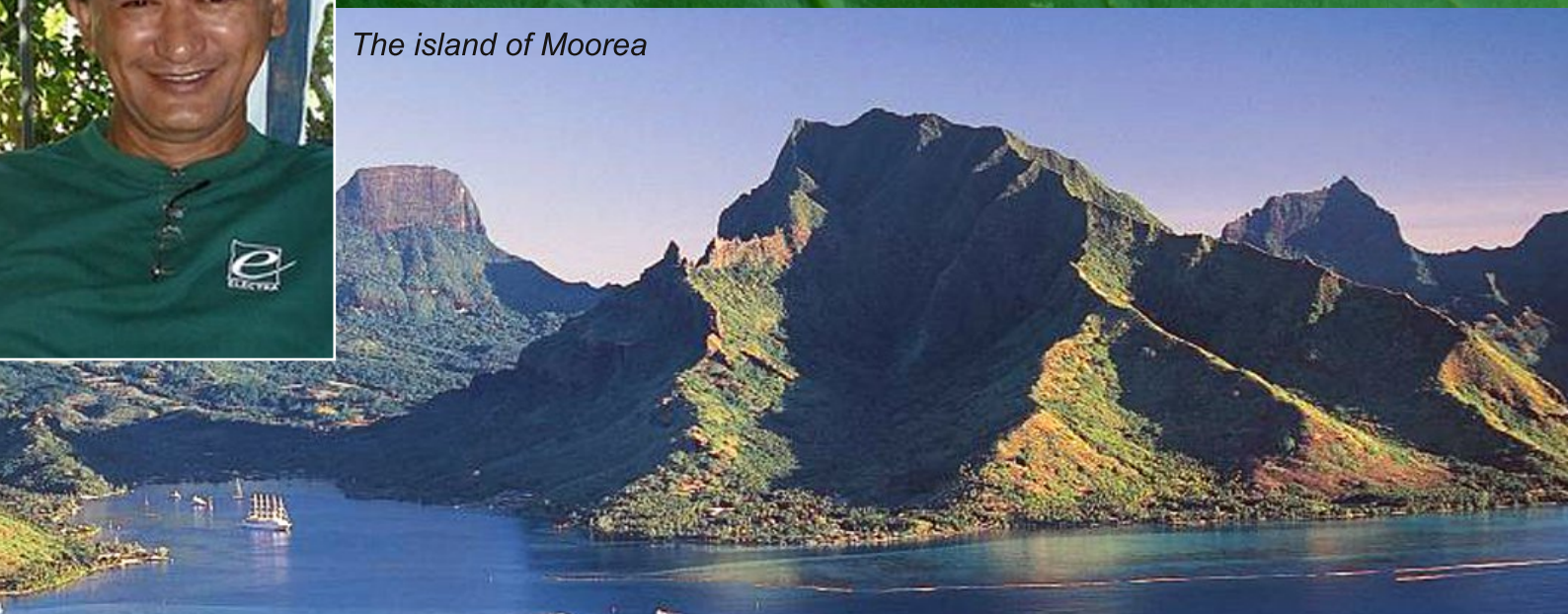


# THE HIBISCUS OF MOOREA

We take a look at the work of  
**CHARLES ATIU**



*The island of Moorea*



Moorea is a beautiful volcanic island 11 miles northwest of Tahiti. Its name comes from the Tahitian Mo'ore'a, meaning 'yellow lizard'. This heart-shaped island covers just 80 sq. miles and is very mountainous. Located almost entirely within the tropics, the climate of the French Polynesian islands is tropical. The average temperatures are around 28°C to 32°C during the day and still well above 20°C at night.



Charles Atiu's home in Moorea is surrounded by rows of Hibiscus.



Charles Atiu was originally from Raiatea, an island known as the sacred island because that is where it all started for the Polynesians. He has lived in Moorea since childhood on a large tract of land inherited from his mother which was shared into ten equal parts, because he is one of a family of ten brothers and sisters. He is a state certified professional horticulturist and says his passion for agriculture came from his grandfather who introduced him to the subject when he was thirteen years old. For over twenty years Charles worked both as a commercial fisherman and a landscaper. His company operated in Tahiti and

Moorea. He first began to take an interest in hibiscus about thirty years ago and began to experiment with hybridizing. The original intention was to have a greater range of varieties of hibiscus to meet the demand of the local population, but in the years since then he has made great progress with hybridizing and now has a global following. He says he produces between 1,000 and 5,000 new varieties each year, the numbers depending on the focus of his research. For many years now he has been affiliated with the IHS on Richard Johnson's invitation. Richard, of course, lives in nearby Tahiti.

## RMMA New Year's Painting



**(Moorea Pacific Pearl Star x Moorea Merveille Chocolat)**

© Charles Atiu



## **ABOUT COLORS AND THEIR VARIATION by Charles ATIU**

"It is difficult to find two identical colors. In fact, each flower has its own colors. I have noticed that some flowers concentrate the colors, while others disperse them. And it also occurs that strong colors disappear to give birth to an almost different new one.

In genetics two things must be clearly distinguished: theory and practice. As we do not know the genetic background of the hibiscus, it often happens that we suddenly obtain colors different from what we are looking for. To avoid these kinds of deviations, it is a good idea to first cross similar colors, to increase the chances of finding the desired color amongst the young new plants. In the search for colors, it is convenient that these are tested in the same way, to save time. Then it is possible to combine them at will.

One thing is true: In hybridization we work only with probability. By taking into consideration the genetic potential of each flower, we judge in our spirit and our mind if a cross could be favorable or not. Each hybridizer has its own judgment and way of doing things. As with colors, it is impossible to see two identical hybridizers in terms of their quest, direction, and above all, results. Let's take the case of maroon color. If we cross maroon colors very often, the possibilities of obtaining maroon flowers will be increased, but there's no certainty that the results in this direction will be satisfactory within what we look for. In all case, the more experiments one does with the flowers, the easier it will be to find the direction one is looking for.

It must be stated however, that orientation in this field is not easy, given the lack of information on the genetics of hibiscus. Most hybridizers often work at random, though it is also frequent that some new marvels are obtained this way."

### **NMMA DRACULA'S FIANCEE**



**(Moorea Moana Storm x Moorea Miti)  
Photo by TengTeng**





**MOOREA  
ROAD TO INFERNO**  
(Moorea Orlando Sunrise x  
Moorea PentruTine)

*Copyright Charles Atiu*



**MOOREA DARK KISS**  
(Moorea Mamie Blue x Moorea Cerena)  
Photo by Chris Chang

### **THE ELUSIVE BLUE**

Charles Atiu's first triumph in attempts to produce a strong blue was Moorea Dark Kiss (see left).

"With time, I learned to dominate this color, incorporating it into most of my hybrids. And so, by crossing two completely different colors, I managed to get the blue color again.

In my home I became used to see blue hibiscuses. After a few years, Moorea Dark Kiss had become a common flower, until her picture was posted to the Internet for the first time. That was the moment when I realized that I am the creator of an unique flower. Realizing it was me, the first one to get the most intense blue color seen on any hibiscus. But to be understood, for me it is nothing more than a flower with a beautiful color. Exceptional, of course, but nothing more than that. For me, all flowers are beautiful and all colors are exceptional, and I say this because only

time and experience have turned me into a hybridizer .

The next step was to try all possible combinations for obtaining the darkest blue. As I often say, my motto is to imagine the unthinkable. Once I've got it, I'm sure that a new challenge is waiting for me.

So many episodes, and all so fascinating. It remains to be seen if the unthinkable will become reality someday!"

(Excerpts from Charles Atiu – HIBISCUS -A passion dedicated life)



# MOOREA TEANIHEI



(Moorea Hot Charley x Moorea Bibop)  
Photo by Nico Onesymus



## MASTER OF THE MOOREA BLUES

Left: **MOOREA MY BLUE PEARL**  
(Moorea Moana Storm x Moorea Anastasya)  
Photo by Filiz Mehmed



Right: **MOOREA BOONDAH BOO**  
(Moorea Abyss x Moorea Imperial Blossom)  
Photo by Pushpa Suresh



(Moorea Dreamcatcher x Moorea Aroha Belle Fille)

© Charles Atiu



*BMMA Stand By Me*



There is a wonderful online blog by Gabriela Biclea which is a tribute to Charles Atiu's work and well worth browsing. We are delighted to note that Gabriela is a member of the IHS! You can access her blog by clicking on the above logo.



Click here for Charles Atiu's Facebook page - **moorea's hibiscus**.

You can also access Charles Atiu's registered CVs on the IHS online database, click here.





# A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY

A selection of fabulous photos shared by members of the  
International Hibiscus Society



**CHRIS' DRACULA**  
[Not registered]

(Midnight Sharp Light [not registered] x Pleiades [not registered])  
Hybridized by Chris Chan and photographed by Tatyana Sokolova



# CARIBBEAN MOONSHINE

[Not registered]  
Parentage unknown  
Photo by Adil Demirboga



# BO DEN MYSTERIOUS LAKE LEGEND



(Bo Den Gentle and Staunch  
x Moorea Princess Mona)  
Hybridized by Wu Kun Zhu  
Photo by Aneela Lee







## **DIVINE GRACE**

((Plum Pizzazz x Black Jack (Dupont)  
[Not Registered]) x White Diamonds)  
Hybridized by Shyamala Madappa  
Photo by Kes Winwood

## **STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER**



(Morgan Alyssa x Rebellious Spirit)  
Hybridized by Charles Black  
Photo by Anjali Blakely





**CHI'S GARDEN FOREST  
RHAPSODY**  
[Not Registered]

(Parentage Unknown)  
Hybridized by  
Chi's Garden and  
Hibiscus Wonderland  
Photo by Vicki Lai



**TENG'S AMAZING  
GRACE**

(Fifth Dimension x Moorea Vatina)  
Hybridized by Huang Yuan Teng      Photo by Teng Teng



**SALLY'S HAWAIIAN  
DANCE**

(Parentage unknown)  
Hybridized by Sally Chen  
Photo by Aneela Lee



**POSOG MARC CHAGALL**



Not registered (Parentage unknown)  
Hybridized by Alex Huang Pohan & Peter Tang. Photographed by Alex Huang Pohan





**CHI'S GARDEN  
MOONLIGHT  
SECRET REALM**

[Not registered]  
(Parentage unknown)  
Hybridized by Chi's Garden  
and Hibiscus Wonderland  
Photo by Aneela Lee



**NAILCAT'S SWEET  
STARRY NIGHT**

[Not registered]  
(Parentage unknown)  
Photo by Chunyu Chen



**The Weird  
& the Wonderful  
THE GIANT  
SEQUOIA**

The most massive  
tree on earth.  
The oldest known  
specimen is 3,200-  
3,266 years old

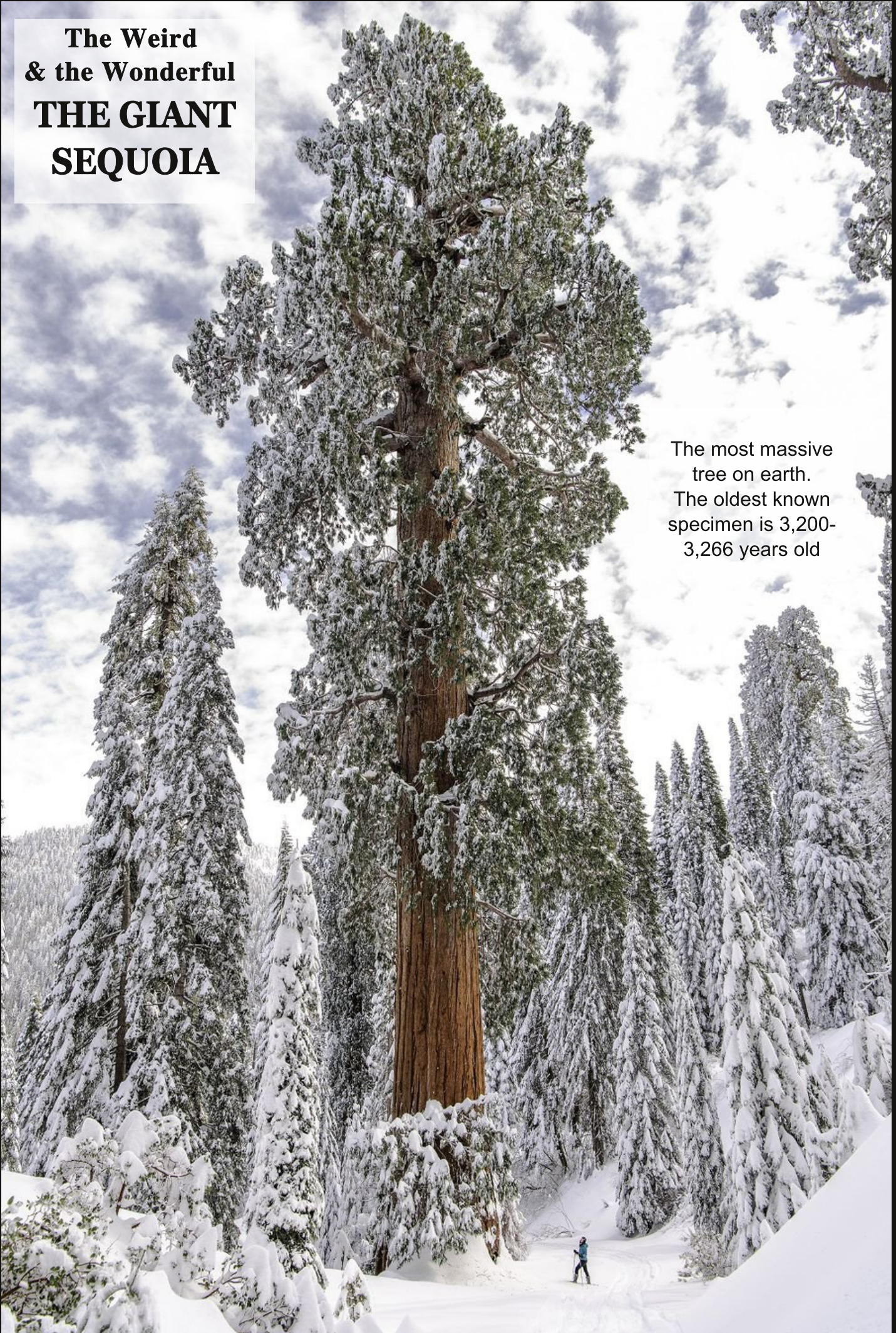


Image ©Victoria Reeder/Save the Redwoods League



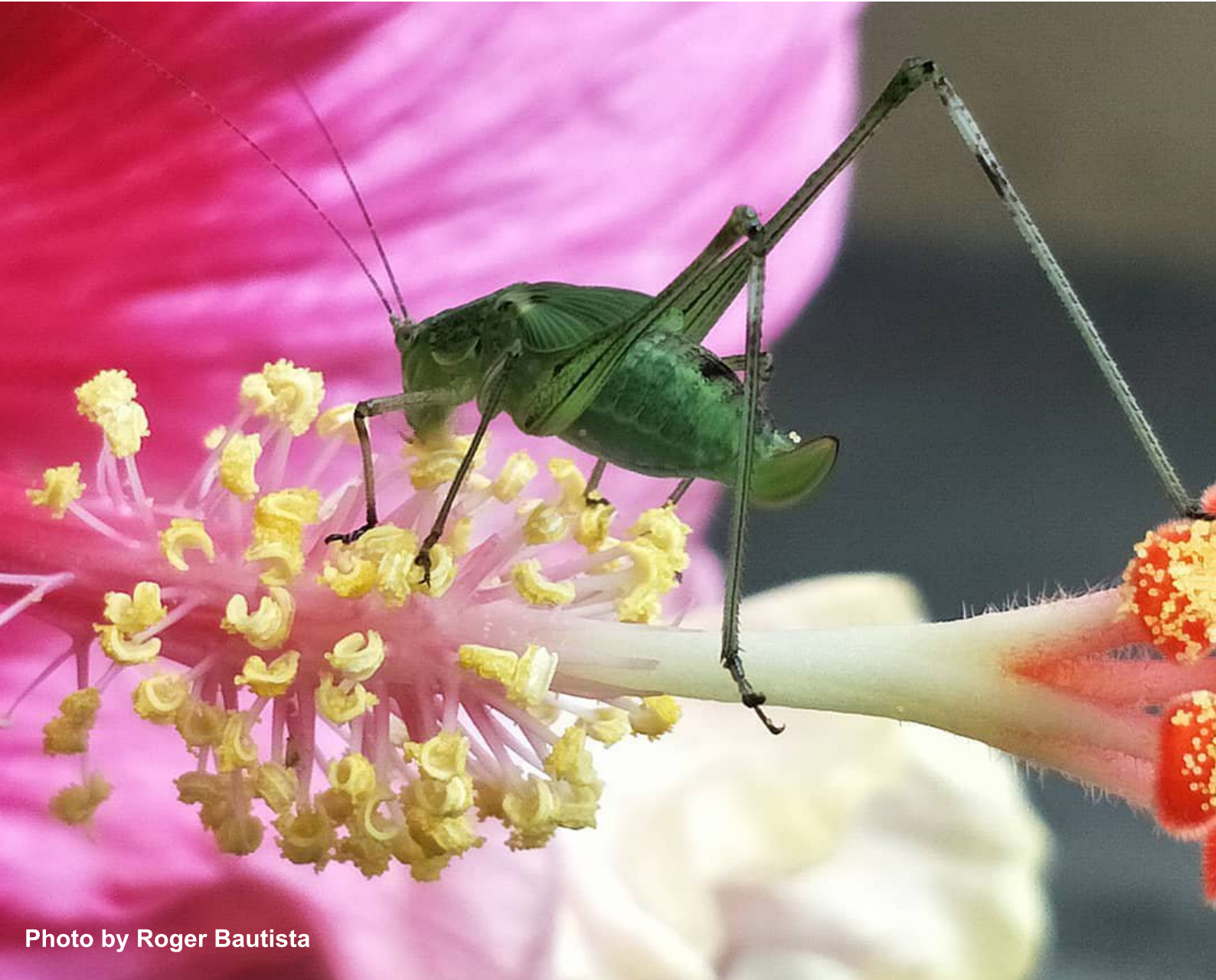


Photo by Roger Bautista

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

**OFFICE BEARERS**

President: **Darren Eminian** : Vice-President: **Wendy Williams** : Sec./Treasurer: **Dick Johnson**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Eurasia (EU): **Taner Turt** : **Petar Tiholov** : Eurasia (Russia): **Elena Tabuntsova**

Indian Subcontinent: **Pushpa Suresh** : Oceania: **Joseph Bautista**

Africa: **Waldi van Rensburg** : Orient: **Bi Yu Jin**

N. America: **Damon Veach** : S. America: **Elizabeth Jordan** : Australia: **Chris Noble**

Wild Card Reps: **Sue Lansdown** : **Doyle Williams**

ICRAR: **Kes Winwood**

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS** : **Richard Johnson** **PAST PRESIDENT** : **Kes Winwood**

Web Address - [www.internationalhibiscussociety.org](http://www.internationalhibiscussociety.org)  
E-mail Address - [InternationalHibiscusSociety@yahoo.com](mailto:InternationalHibiscusSociety@yahoo.com)

**I.H.S. PATRON - DAVID FRANZMAN**