

Kalamazoo Dunes Orchid Society

May 2025 newsletter



Next meeting

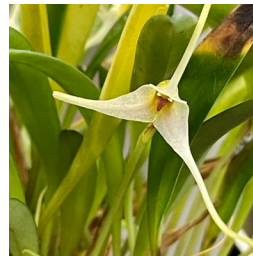
Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us at **Portage United Church of Christ**, 2731 West Milham, Portage. Enter through the door by the office sign. The automatic lock on the door is open 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Note that there will be a concert in our usual room so look for Dea to provide direction to our room for the day when you arrive at the church. Enter through the door by the Office sign.

Program: We have a video program on native orchids, courtesy of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. Pierce Cedar Creek is located in Hastings, Michigan. Learn more about all they have to offer (on many topics) at cedarcreekinstitute.org

Auction: Yes!! We are having an auction.

Show+Tell: Bring your blooming beauties and show them off.



Notes from March meeting

Society Business

- We welcomed guests Malory, Joyce, Lila, and Robert, all of whom learned about us through our table at the Wedel's Spring Garden Show. Both Joyce Glonski and Lila Haugestoffel have joined our ranks. We are so excited to have you become part of KDOS!
- It's time to repot! Make sure you have clean pots at the ready, and consider watering all your orchids with Kelpac (if you use it) twice this month to kick off the growing season. Kelpac is available through First Rays at <https://firstrays.com/product/kelpak/>. If you are interested, it may be worth asking at the meeting if any other members would want to go in together on a group order.
- Lowell has offered to host the summer picnic on June 1. Details and directions to come.
- I am still trying to get the new Google groups email list finalized so that it will be easier for me to send out newsletters. Please, please contact me directly at jrenner@me.com if you have questions.



Presentation: *Honey, I Shrunk the Orchids*

Kristen Uthus shared the following information on miniature orchids:

- There is not a standard definition for miniature orchid. Minis are not young versions of a standard sized plant from a genus+species. They are a smaller version of a versions of a standard sized plant in a specific genus+species.
- Kristen has found that orchid growers fall into two categories: flower or form.
 - Those who grow for flowers are fine with having scraggly looking plants when they aren't in bloom. Their whole focus is on the flowers.
 - Those who choose to grow plants that are interesting to look at throughout the year fall into the form category. Kristen falls into this category.
- Miniatures with interesting forms by alliance or genus:
 - Cattleyas types: Sophronitis, Cattleya luteola, and Laelia caulescens
 - Dendrobium types: moniliforme, microbulbon, and kingianum (Kristin considers this genera the most forgiving.)
 - Vanda types: Neofinitia (These small plants often grow under others so they can take a lot less light and cooler temps than standard size vandas.)
 - Bulbophyllum types: moniliforme
- Special characteristics only on miniatures
 - Color on the leaves (ex: Lepanthes, Ludisia, Macodes)
 - Leaf color/texture/shape (ex: Porroglossum portillae, Dendrobium senile, Dockrillia)
- Minis are NOT harder to grow. Know where your species come from and use that to inform your growing culture.
- Miscellaneous pearls of wisdom
 - Big, fat roots indicates the orchid has evolved to dry out.
 - Extra floral nectaries, or plans with nectar on stems and leaves, have evolved on certain orchids to attract ants to get rid of other insects.
 - If you've purchased a mini Phal and it starts to grow bigger, it could be that it is getting less light than it was originally grown in.



Treasurer's Report

Previous balance in savings	\$ 4,261.55
Interest (Mar)	\$30.91
Balance in Ultimate Savings	\$ 4,292.46
Balance in savings (membership)	\$ 5.00
CD 001	\$ 643.48
CD 002 (<i>remember that all interest is paid into Ultimate Savings</i>)	\$ 5,467.17
Previous balance in checking	\$ 4,141.64
Interest (Mar)	+0.18
Dues	+40.00
Balance in checking	\$ 4,181.82

KDOS Officers

President:	Dea Bishop	(thru 2025)
VP:	Charles McGowen	(thru 2026)
Secretary:	Julie Renner	(thru 2025)
Treasurer:	Brian Snyder	(thru 2026)
Trustees:	Peggy Flickinger	(thru 2027)
	Debra Allwine	(thru 2026)
	Larry Galdes	(thru 2025)

Activity Committees

AOS Rep:	Martha Larsen
Shows:	Larry Galdes & Deb Allwine

Useful Orchid Web Sites

American Orchid Society
www.aos.org

St. Augustine Orchid Society
www.staugorchidsociety.org