

Kalamazoo Dunes Orchid Society

February 2026 newsletter



Next Meeting Sunday, February 1st

Join us at Portage, United Church of Christ, 2731 West Milham, Portage. Enter through the door by the office sign.

Program: Time for potting! This month's meeting we will have hands-on demos for repotting orchids as well as quality repotting supplies to purchase! Mix your very own orchid medium to suit your plants and your growing conditions. If you have an orchid that is suffering, bring it in! Fellow members will help to diagnose and suggest new culture habits.

Auction: Yes, feel free to bring in any orchids that are ready to send to a new home.

Show+Tell: Definitely! Bring in any of your orchids that are in bloom to show off. Feel free to tell us any fun facts such as where you got them, how you grow them, along with any tips you might have for successfully growing them.

Society Business

- Our website is up and running! Go check it out at www.kdosorchids.org
- We will be participating in the Lansing show on Feb 28th - Mar 1st at VanAttas greenhouse. Start cleaning any plants you are thinking of submitting (removing dead leaves, ensuring they are pest free, etc.).
- The show is 12-5pm on Saturday February 28th and 11a-4p on Sunday, March 1st.
- Any help with setup and teardown is greatly appreciated, there will be a sign up sheet at the upcoming meeting. There will be separate communications concerning setup and teardown times closer to the show.
- Plants can be dropped off with Larry Galdes for transportation to the show. Please ensure you label your plant and include a container of some sort to transport them in.

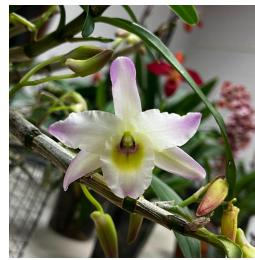
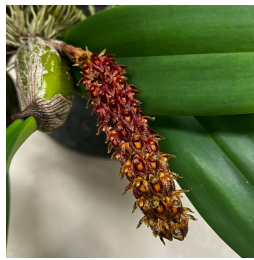
**Culture tips for February:**

- Careful removal of dying cattleya sheathes on your Winter to Spring bloomers will help allow your buds to develop without the risk of rot. Carefully cutting open sheathes can also help new buds emerge without damage or rot.
- Make sure to stake inflorescences on in spike plants like phalaenopsis and cymbidium to ensure good display of their blooms
- Keeping cymbidiums on the cooler side will help prevent bud drop, aim for 50-60F.
- Paphiopedilums are typically coming into bloom or blooming at this time. If required, these can be repotted now, as they are not sensitive to repotting even when in bud.
- Check many of your dendrobiums for flower buds this time of year.
- If your setup has cooler temperatures, be sure to reduce watering and fertilizer accordingly if you notice growth slowing.

Notes from January Presentation on AOS Judging

- Our talk was presented by Jill Wood, a member of the Grand Valley Orchid Society, and Greater Lansing Orchid society, and an American Orchid Society student.
- The American Orchid Society was founded in 1921 in Boston, Massachusetts at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.
- In the 1930s, the point system used for judging orchids was established, and in 1949 the first official handbook for judging and exhibition was released.
- In 1972, the American Orchid society added a judging center in Ann Arbor.
- AOS judging comes in two forms, "ribbon" judging and AOS award judging.

- Ribbon judging is selecting the best of orchids in a specific class. The ribbons are awarded based on a comparison amongst those entered into a specific show. Ribbons are awarded for 1st through 3rd place.
- AOS awards are more standardized, and are based on national, objective standards. This is typically done by a group of 3 judges, and are usually removed from the display in order to get a closer look.
- AOS awards are on a scale of 100 points requiring a 75 point minimum. HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) is for orchids receiving 75–79 points, AM (Award of Merit) is for orchids that have received 80-89 points, and FCC (First Class Certificate) is for orchids that have received 90-100 points.
- Certificates of Cultural Merit and Certificates of Cultural Excellence are awarded to growers who have grown exceptionally healthy plants, evaluating plant size, bloom count, and overall health. To receive this, growers must have owned the plant for at least 12 months.
- Other awards:
 - Award of Quality (AQ): granted to a cross, represented by at least 12 distinct, high-quality clones or inflorescences from that cross, exhibited by a single individual. It must also show an improvement over its predecessors.
 - Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR): Given to rare and unusual species, and is not a score, but used as a reference. The award is provisional until it is reviewed by the AOS Species Identification Task Force.
 - Judges' Commendation (JC): Given for distinctive characteristics that at least 75% of the judges on a team feel should be recognized but cannot be scored in the customary ways.
 - Award of Distinction (AD): Awarded once to a cross representing a worthy new direction in Breeding. The award is granted unanimously without scoring by the judging team assigned and is also granted to the hybridizer.



KDOS Officers

President: Charles McGowan *(thru 2027)*
VP: N/A
Secretary: Jackson Distelrath *(thru 2027)*
Treasurer: Brian Snyder *(thru 2026)*
Trustees: Peggy Flickinger *(thru 2027)*
 Debra Allwine *(thru 2026)*
 Dea Bishop *(thru 2028)*
 Monique Carpenter *(thru 2026)*

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

Treasurer's Report

Previous balance in savings	\$ 4,333.20
Interest (Oct)	1.29
Balance in Ultimate Savings	\$ 4,334.49
Balance in savings (membership)	\$ 5.69
CD 1 matures 1-25-26	\$ 662.70
CD 2 matures 4-14-27	\$ 5,557.64
Starting balance 11-20-25	\$ 3040.73
Interest (Jan)	+ 0.13
Dues paid	+ \$40.00
Auction	+ \$65.00
Check to Jill Wood (Speaker)	- \$200.00
Check to Dea Bishop for AOS	- \$176.00
Membership	
Balance in checking as of 12-29-25	\$2769.86

2025 Year End Treasurer's Report

Income

Donations	+\$60.00
Dues	+\$500.00
Interest	+\$271.55
Plant Sales	+\$924.00

Total Income for 2025	\$1755.55
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Expenses

AOS Membership	-\$176.00
Brochures	-\$306.93
Computer/Equipment	-\$761.57
Paper Products	\$75.83
Non-profit Renewal	-\$20.00
Speakers	- \$638.77
Rent	-\$360.00

Total Expenses for 2025	-\$2341.10
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December 31, 2025 Total Assets	\$13,622.41
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