

Kalamazoo Dunes Orchid Society

March 2026 newsletter



Next Meeting Sunday, March 8th

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

Program: We will be watching a video with Summer Rayne Oaks touring Waldor Orchids in New Jersey. In this video they talk about many topics including how virused plants can be cloned without transmitting viruses!

Lou Wilson will also be doing a short presentation on how he grows semi hydroponically in his set up at home!

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 have a table at the Wedel's 31st Annual Spring Garden show to help promote the club and teach people about orchids! The show is two days at Wedel's, on March 20th-21st (March 20th: 10-7pm and March 21st 9-4). We will have a demo showing how to repot phalaenopsis orchids. More information about volunteering for the tabling will be available at this month's meeting. This event is a great way for us to be able to reach a large amount of people and gain new members.
- We had over 25 submissions to the Lansing Orchid show, and our display won 2nd place! Thank you to all who submitted plants as well as those who setup/broke down our display!



Culture tips for March:

- March is a great time of year to start repotting. Longer, warmer days will start waking up your plants, causing them to send out new roots and new growths. This is also a good time to check on any plants that have just finished blooming, and to repot them as well, if needed.
- Cymbidiums should be into their blooming season now, or be have nice sized spikes at this time. Staking their spikes upwards at this time is good for presentation and to prevent damage.
- Many paphiopedulum are starting to show signs of flowerbuds from the center of the crown of their leaves. Paphiopedulum do not mind being repotted while in bud, so this is a great time to repot to check on roots, clean up dead foliage, and check for pests.
- Pay attention to watering needs of plants. Longer days and more growth means that you will need to start watering some plants more often.
- March is often the peak bloom season for phalaenopsis. Enjoy any blooms you have and be sure to stake flower spikes with a stick or pliable aluminum wire for the best display. Phalaenopsis can also be grown as a pendant, and can hang.

Notes from February Presentation on Repotting

- Here are some things that are good to have on hand before and when you repot plants.
 - Pencils for rewriting tags
 - Stakes for keeping newly repotted plants from moving around



- Clippers for dividing plants and removing dead foliage
- Alcohol and hydrogen peroxide for sanitizing trimmers
- Cinnamon for putting on any broken/sheared roots
- Gloves to avoid splinters
- A bucket to put debris in
- Orchid Bark: Orchid bark is a special pine bark that does not have harmful resins. It is best to buy wholesale. There is less of a need to repot often with orchid bark as it breaks down slower than most orchid barks.
- When you repot, gently pull apart roots and remove any old substrate, unless the roots are attached to it.
- Inspect your roots and remove any mushy or dead roots.
- Set your orchid at your desired height within the pot with one hand, and fill in the pot with fresh medium around the roots. Tap the pot to settle the medium around the roots to ensure that there are not massive air pockets, and the orchid is able to sit snugly in the pot without flopping around.
- Write the date of your repot on the tag of the orchid. If your old label is not legible, rewrite the tag.

Misc Notes

- Roots adapt to the medium that they grow into. This is why it's best to try and match the medium that the plant was growing in, and repot mainly when you see new root tips on roots.
- Wait about a week or so to water after repotting. This ensures that any wounds caused by repotting are fully calloused over to help prevent infections.



- Cattleya are usually repotted more compactly, whereas phalaenopsis are repotted loosely.
- The finer the root, the finer the medium that is required. (water paphs immediately)
- When repotted catasetum, cut old roots and media into a cone, and replace with new fresh medium.
 - Larry pots in cedar mulch, but sphagnum moss can be used too.
 - Broken bulbs can be used to grow more plants.
 - Repotting catasetum is not necessary every year if your medium is not broken down.
 - Repotting is more for making sure your roots have space, or replacing rotting medium.

Specific Mixes for Certain Species

- Cattleya
 - Cattleya like lots of air flow, and their mixes tend to be on the chunkier side.
 - A mix of large bark, large perlite, and charcoal is suggested.
 - Only repot and divide cattleyas with 3 or more growths.
- Paphiopedulum
 - Paphiopedulum are moisture loving terrestrial orchids that like a mix that holds a lot of water while still having good airflow.
 - As long as they hold water, mixes can often include fine grade bark, perlite, and charcoal

- Phagmedium mix
 - Phragmapedium often like wet feet, and Dea will often only poke holes in the sides about an inch above the bottom of a deli container to allow a small reservoir of water to exist
 - Mixes usually contain sphagnum moss, medium size orchid bark, charcoal, and tiny perlite
- Phalaenopsis mix
 - Phalaenopsis orchids are very adaptable, and can be grown in a variety of mixes as long as they are allowed to slightly dry between waterings.
 - If you tend to overwater/water frequently, a chunkier mix of mainly bark and charcoal or large perlite would best suit you.
 - If you tend to underwater, a mix heavier in sphagnum moss would be best.

Pictures from Lansing Show

- Many close up pictures from our show can be seen throughout the newsletter.
- Here is the picture of our table!



KDOS Officers

President: Charles McGowen *(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	\$ 4,334.49
Interest (Oct)	1.29
Balance in Ultimate Savings	\$ 4,335.78
Balance in savings (membership)	\$672.80
CD 1 matures 1-25-26	\$ 0
CD 2 matures 4-14-27	\$ 5,594.80
Starting balance 11-20-25	\$ 2769.86
Interest (Jan)	+ 0.13
Dues paid	+ \$20.00
Auction	+ \$120.00
Donation	+\$60.00
Orchid Mix Sales	+\$163.00
Check to Charles (Bark and Website)	-\$492.00
Balance in checking as of 12-29-25	\$2640.86

Lansing Orchid Show Awards

Larry Galdes

3rd	Slc. Bella del Caribe
3rd	Slc. Tangerine Fire
2nd	Slc. Cosmic Angel
1st	Epi. Rose Valley

Martha Larsen

1st	V. Jairak Brightful 'Orange'
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Mary Louise

Two Trophies Two 1st	Onc. Sherry Baby
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Lou Wilson

1st	C. Walkerinter
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Dea Bishop

1st	Rlc. Norman's Bay 'Gothic' FCC/AOS
2nd	L. Puppy Love 'True Beauty' HCC/AOS

Julie Renner

3rd	Bl. Yellow Bird
1st	Calanthe vestige
2nd	Fdk. After Dark
3rd	Phaius Dan Rosenberg 'Tropical Ice'

Charles McGowen

2nd	Vuyl. Melissa Brianns 'Dark'
1st	Den. Little Norman

Charles McGowen

1st & 2nd	L. (Jongheana x lucasiana)
2nd	Phrag. Joan Tyler
1st	Paph. Thundercat x Paph. New World 'Grand Slam' AM/AOS
3rd	Pyp. papilio v.alba 'Cove's Canary'
2nd	Cym. (Coraki Glowing x Barrita Unsung)