

Kalamazoo Dunes Orchid Society

April 2026 newsletter



Next Meeting Sunday, April 12th

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

Program: Growing specimen plants with Sandra Svoboda past AOS President and current AOS judge! We will explore the latest AOS awards for culture, the CCE, and view plants that have earned this highest honor! There will also be tips on what it takes to grow an orchid to specimen size!

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.

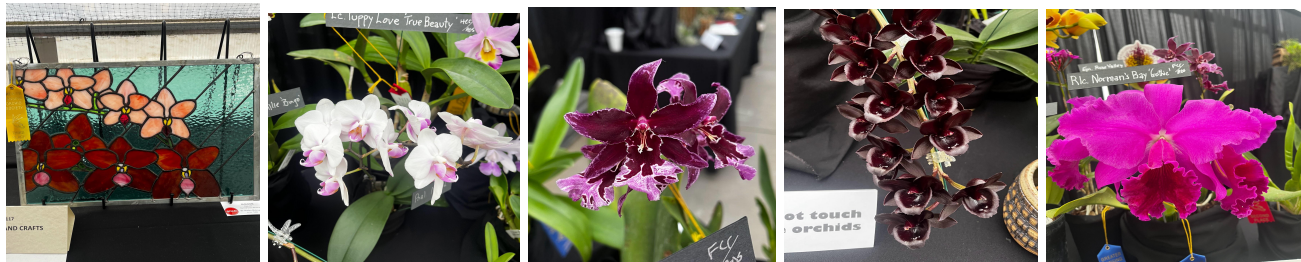
Society Business

- Our website is up and running! Go check it out at www.kdosorchids.org
- Our table at Wedel's spring show was a success, we talked to lots of people and handed out lots of pamphlets. We hope to see some new faces at future meetings!



Culture tips for April:

- Many orchids will begin to start throwing up new growths in April. This means its time for repots, increase in watering, and fertilizing. Supplementing with CalMag, epsom salts, and kelpak can help promote healthy, vigorous new growths.
- Check new growths for pests such as mealybugs, scale, and aphids.
- Cymbidium should still be in bloom, be sure to continue giving adequate water to ensure plant health and longevity of blooms.
- Many dendrobiums should be about to bloom or in full swing by now. It is okay to resume watering when you notice buds and side growths on the sides of your canes. If you are noticing more keikis than flowers, it is likely your orchid received too much water or fertilizer during its winter rest.
- Paphiopedulums can be repotted during this time regardless if they are in spike. Many will be blooming or close to it in April, with summer blooming species starting to send up their spikes.
- Phalaenopsis should be almost completely in bloom or well into their blooms. Be sure to keep an eye on water for these orchids, as lengthening days and impressive floral displays tend to increase water uptake.



Notes from March Video at Waldor Orchids from Summer Rayne

- Waldor Orchids is a 4th generation New Jersey based orchid nursery and breeder who specialize in a wide variety of genera.
- The family originally owned hotels, and the property that is now the orchid growing greenhouses were used to grow cut flowers for the hotels.
- By taking the youngest part of a new growth of a virused plant and cloning it with tissue culture, they are able to get to a part of the plant that is virus free. By cloning this part of the plant, they are able to obtain a clone of the original plant from the same tissue that is virus free. While this is not a method that is available to a hobbyist grower, it is still interesting to know that plants can be “saved” even if they have a virus.
- They do a lot of their own breeding and growing from seed as well.
 - After deflasking orchids, they will pot the seedlings into sphagnum moss in a plug tray for about a year, 2.5 inch pot for a year, and then 4 inch pot for a year before they are able to be sold at flowering size.
- The oldest plant in their collection is from 1873!
- When breeding a plant, they will grow all the seedlings, and select anywhere from 20-50 orchids from the 2.5 inch pot size, and then grow those chosen to flowering size to see which crosses are the most desirable.



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	\$ 4,335.78
Interest (Oct)	1.06
Balance in Ultimate Savings	\$ 3,669.73

Balance in savings (membership)	\$672.80
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CD 1 matures 4-13-27	\$ 668.66
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CD 2 matures 4-14-27	\$ 5,611.66
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Starting balance 2-28-26	\$ 2640.86
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Interest (Feb)	+ 0.11
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Dues paid	+ \$40.00
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Auction	+ \$93.00
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Donation	+\$6.00
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Balance in checking as of 4-7-26	\$2640.86
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