

Kalamazoo Dunes Orchid Society

May 2026 newsletter



Next Meeting Sunday, May 3rd

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

Program: Our May program will be a guide on growing miniature species and hybrids of orchids by Rob Halgren of LittleFrog Farms. Rob will also be bringing some plants for sale!

Auction: No, as Rob will have plants for sale.

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 June meeting will be our orchid society picnic! We are currently looking for a location to hold it. If anyone knows of a public park or is willing to host at their home, let us know!

**Culture tips for May:**

- Many orchids will begin to start throwing up new growths in May, just like 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 growth.
- Check new growths for pests such as mealybugs, scale, and aphids.
- Orchids can start to go outside once the risk of frost has passed. Usually May 15th is our last predicted frost date, but this can change from year to year. It is the best practice to keep an eye on the weather to be sure so you can bring plants back inside in case of late frosts.
- Spring blooming cattleyas should be finishing up, while summer blooming cattleya will be starting to show their flower buds on their new bulbs.
- Many paphiopedulums will be showing signs of spiking soon, or may be in bloom now. Stake spikes to ensure that they are presented well, with the exception of those with fairieanum in their lineage, as this can tend to make the bloom point in unwanted directions.
- Now is a great time to start repotting any cymbidiums that may be busting out of their pots.
- Phalaenopsis that have stopped blooming can be repotted.



Notes from April Presentation on Growing Specimen Plants

- The American Orchid Society (AOS) Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM) is a prestigious award recognizing the grower, not just the plant, for outstanding cultivation. It is awarded to exceptionally well-flowered, healthy, large specimen plants that score between 80 and 89 points on a 100-point scale.
- These plants must have a lack of insect damage, health problems, and must have been in the care of the exhibitor for at least 12 months.
 - Size and condition of the plant accounts for 50 points, floriferousness accounts for 30 points, and the conditions of the flowers count for 20 points.
 - A plant that is awarded 90 and above is awarded a Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE)
- The top most awarded genera are
 - Dendrobium (208 CCE & 1100 CCM)
 - Paphiopedilum (108 CCE & 766 CCM)
 - Phalaenopsis (81 CCE & 700 CCM)
 - Cattleya (57 CCE & 447 CCM)
 - Epidendrum (38 CCE & 253 CCM)
 - Cymbidium (34 CCE & 276 CCM)
 - Masdevallia (33 CCE & 403 CCM)
 - Oncidium (20 CCE & 289 CCM)
- What should you think about if you want a cultural award?
 - Not every plant you have will be good choice for a specimen



- It should have lots of bright flowers that are slightly arching and set above the leaves (if pendulous, below the leaves), vigorous growths and healthy leaves.
- Do you have room for a specimen plant?
- What should you know if you want a cultural award?
 - A specimen plant is not just an old plant, or a plant left to grow. It is meticulously planned, repotted at the correct time, fertilized, and pampered.
 - Growing area must be kept clean to avoid disease
 - Dead leaves and faded flowers should be removed diligently
 - Ventilation helps with combatting fungal problems.

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 (March)	1.09
Balance in Ultimate Savings	\$ 3,670.82
Balance in savings (membership)	\$672.80
CD 1 matures 4-13-27	\$ 670.28
CD 2 matures 4-14-27	\$ 5,630.39
Starting balance 3-31-26	\$ 2760.20
Interest (March)	+ 0.11
Auction	+ \$58.00
Donation	+\$2.00
Balance in checking as of 4-27-26	\$2820.31