

Kalamazoo Dunes Orchid Society

June 2026 newsletter



Next Meeting Sunday, June 14th 11am-3pm. Annual Picnic!

Join us at 7275 W Main St Kalamazoo, MI 49009 for our annual picnic. The park is located in a wooded area right behind the township office and police/fire station.

Program: No program, but please bring a dish for the potluck!

Auction: Yes.

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 speaker for our September meeting will be Eric Sauer from River Valley orchids. He specializes in primarily new world orchid species from Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. He will be giving a presentation on South American orchid species, and have plants available for sale!
- We have been invited to speak at the Kalamazoo Garden Council's Chula Vista Garden Club in September! More info coming soon.

**Culture tips for June:**

- Much of June's care is similar to that of May. Keep in mind however, that May's mild temperatures have left us, and temperatures will differ greatly. Paying close attention to watering will be necessary.
- Many orchids have already thrown up new growths, and are well into growing. This means it's 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.
- While our wonderful Michigan weather can always surprise us with late frosts, we are now at a time where most of your orchids can be moved outside.
- Try to have most of your cattleya repots done this month to let them get properly acclimated to their new home.
- Now is a great time to pot up any cymbidiums that are busting out of their pots if you haven't yet.
- Cymbidium are quite hungry for both food and fertilizer and will benefit from both this summer. Using a granular slow release fertilizer such as nutricote can make feeding easier and more consistent.
- Phalaenopsis should be repotted this month once they are out of bloom. If your phal is still in bloom by the end of June, consider cutting the bloom to allow your plant to allocate more energy to vegetative growth. You can put the spike into a vase to enjoy for another week!



Notes from May Presentation on Growing Miniature Orchids

- Rob Halgren of Littlefrog (one word) Farm started out raising frogs for hobbyists, and eventually began growing plants for terrariums. This naturally led to eventually growing miniature orchids and now the rest is history.
- A miniature plant is any small plant or diminutive clone or variety or variety of a normally large species.
 - Rob once had a 20 year old pleurothallid that was the size of a silver dollar!
- It is important to realize that miniatures don't always mean more work, plenty of miniatures are lower maintenance or thrive on just as much maintenance as the rest of your collection, such as *Schoenorchis fragrans*, *Leptotes bicolor*, *Cattleya luteola*, *Paphiopedelum hellenae*, *Microterangis hariotiana*, *Ceratostylis rubra*, *Neofinetia falcata*, and many, many more.
- Mounted minis are nice, as you can put them on a grid behind your shelf, higher or lower from a light.
- Jewel orchids are wonderful miniature orchids that can easily fill up a terrarium, or do well in a pot. They can also be propagated from cuttings.

QnA:

- How do you fertilize?
 - Inaccurately. I use a 1:100 fertilizer injector, and make up a fertilizer concentrate of MSU rainwater formula at 100ppm nitrogen. For heavy feeders I will use MSU time release granular fertilizer. I also use miracid, peters, and others. Fertilizer is fertilizer!

- How often do you water?
 - I water mounted plants every day to every other day for my setup. Twenty four feet of plants will take me about a minute to spray down. Miniatures are quite hardy, and even pleurothallids can survive 3-4 days without water.
- Do you have an algae problem?
 - If you have an algae problem, you can use a diluted bleach or peroxide spray. 1:10-1:20 dilution is used for bleach.



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	\$ 2760.31
Interest (April)	+ 0.11
Balance in checking as of 5-25-26	\$2820.42

