

# The Calypso

Volume 48 Issue 6 Nov 2025

The Newsletter of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society

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### CALYPSO DEADLINE:

December 21 for the Jan. issue

*The purposes for which the Society is organized are to create an awareness of orchid culture; to foster the preservation of native species of orchids; to support research and development of orchid culture; and to hold meetings, lectures, and exhibitions.*

## NOVEMBER 8 MEETING: In-Person at 2:00 p.m.

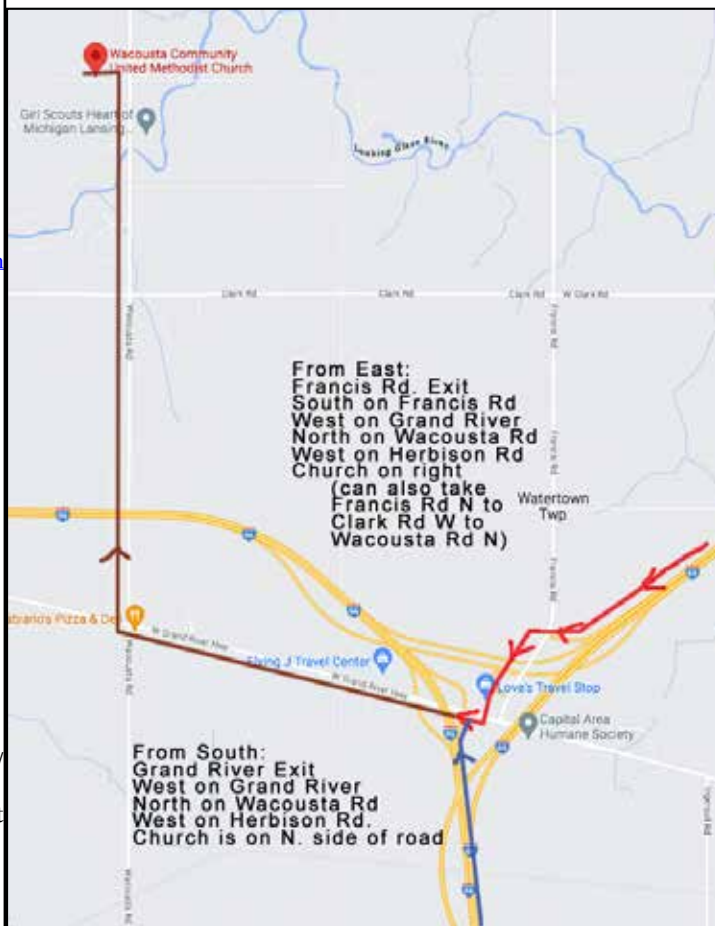
Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, at 9180 Herbison Rd., Eagle

Featured Speaker: Ron McHatton

Ron is currently the AOS's Chief Education and Science Officer. He started growing orchids in Northern California about 60 years ago at the age of eight with a cattleya purchased from a local grower. This single plant quickly became a collection occupying every window facing east or south and his fascination with orchids has never waned. Over the years his private collection has numbered in excess of 2,500 plants; a direct result of no willpower or common sense.

Ron's growing experience spans lights while a graduate student in Iowa, out-of-doors in Southern California as a postdoc at Cal Tech, a northern greenhouse in upstate New York, a temperate greenhouse in

Continued on p2



Doors open at 1:30 p.m. for:

- Plant shopping
- Experienced Society members will be available to answer questions and help problem solve orchid growing issues
- Please have refreshments in place prior to start of meeting.

*Meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm*

There will be no vendor plants for sale.

Please bring plants for our Show and Tell Table, our Silent Raffle Table and our Auction Table.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- May 2025 -- Ioana Sonea**

Well, clearly Fall has arrived... cold, wet winds pulling the leaves off the trees, and farmers' markets focusing now on pumpkins, winter squash and potatoes. I've read several articles describing how biodiversity really increases in a garden if leaf litter is left intact, so now I'll feel virtuous instead of lazy if I don't rake my leaves.

Although I've left my few hardy cypripediums outside, all my other orchids are in their winter quarters. I hope yours are safe and warm, too!

The first show of the fall season is coming up soon: the Ann Arbor Orchid Society's show is November 15 & 16, at the Matthaei Gardens in Ann Arbor. Carol Ann Stuht will be setting up the display on November 14th with David Madison's and Raechel Portelli's assistance, and will need your beautiful blooming orchids! Dot will send out more information on how, when and where to submit your plants – and please don't hesitate to do so: if you think it's pretty or interesting, others will, too!

Looking forward to seeing what you submit for Ann Arbor!

**GLOS MEMBERSHIP**

Our GLOS numbers stand now as follows: as of October 9th -- 99 members in 90 households. At this same time last year, we had 105 members in 93 households. We got a new membership from David Ash from Mt. Pleasant, and received renewals for 2025-2026 from Fermin Jimenez, Tom Remington, Marilyn Whittaker and Barb Wilcox.

Fifty-four of our 99 members are Life Members. Eighty-seven percent of our membership receive their newsletters via email at no cost to the Society.

Doris Asher, Membership Committee

**NOVEMBER MEETING ZOOM LINK:**

Our November meeting is In Person, but if you are unable to attend, our meeting will also be on Zoom. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/701683513?pwd=REQzYnpxaTZjb3p6dDNZNWxCOS8xUT09>

Meeting ID: 701 683 513

Passcode: 20-Orchids

**RON MCHATTON, continued from p1**

Atlanta and a shade house in Central Florida. He even has experience on the mass-market side of the orchid world (he calls it the dark side of the Force).

Ron is a PhD Chemist by training, receiving his degree from Iowa State University and spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Caltech in Pasadena, California. He is responsible for the editorial content and layout of the Society's monthly magazine, Orchids, and holds a monthly orchid Q&A webinar (Greenhouse Chat). Don't let that name scare you off. If you haven't registered for one, you should. In addition to the magazine, Ron represents the Society on the Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group, an international group that advises the Royal Horticultural Society on matters of hybrid registration and nomenclature. In addition to his professional position, Ron is an accredited American Orchid Society judge with 35 years under his belt. Prior to joining the AOS staff in 2007, he volunteered for over 25 years; chairing several national committees, twice holding a seat on the Society's Board of Trustees and briefly serving as a vice-president. If this weren't enough, Ron has also been a long-time supporter of the Orchid Digest. In this role, he has served (and currently serves again) on its Board of Directors and its Executive Committee for many years and as its President for three consecutive terms.

**GLOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- November 8th: Ron McHatton, Chief Education and Science Officer at the AOS, will speak via Zoom on: "Food, Sex & the Fascinating World of Orchid Pollination". There will be no vendor plant sales
- November 15-16 - Ann Arbor OS Show, Matthaei Botanical Gardens: Dot will collect plants on Nov. 12, 9am-6 pm
- January 10, 2026 – Michael Weinert from Germany will speak via Zoom on garden-ready hardy Cypripediums
- January 24-25, 2026 - Grand Valley Show
- February 7- 8, 2026 - Three Rivers Orchid Society Show
- **FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2026 - GLOS SHOW**

**GLOS MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, September 20, 2025**

President Ioana Sonea called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m. with about twenty people present and five additional members attending via Zoom.

Doris welcomed a visitor, Jen Myaard, Vice President of the Grand Valley Orchid Society and proprietor of Myaard Made, a vendor at our Show for the last couple of years.

Doris explained how our raffle and silent auction work and invited everyone to participate in both fundraising activities.

Ioana thanked the members who provided refreshments – Christine Granger, David LeMarble, and Ioana Sonea. When she asked for volunteers to provide refreshments for our next meeting on October 11th, Christine Granger, Ioana, and Diane Zoellner volunteered. Since David's plans are uncertain about the October 11th meeting, Diane agreed to take the refreshment supplies home with her and bring them to the October meeting.

***Upcoming Meetings, all at 2 pm:***

1. October 11th – Dan Greiner on Phalaenopsis culture
2. November 8th – Ron McHatton, Chief Education and Science Officer at the AOS, will speak via Zoom on "Food, Sex & Alcohol: the fascinating world of orchid pollination"
3. January 10, 2026 – Michael Weinert from Germany will speak via Zoom on garden-ready hardy Cypripediums

***Upcoming Shows:***

**Ann Arbor Orchid Society**, November 15 & 16; Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor. Carol Ann Stuht indicated that Dot will be collecting plants at her house for our exhibit in Ann Arbor. Carol will be looking for volunteers to assist with set up and take down of the display.

**Grand Valley Orchid Society**, January 24 & 25; Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids

**Three Rivers Orchid Society**, February 7 & 8; Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, IN

**Greater Lansing Orchid Society**, February 28-March 1; Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop, Haslett. Dot has designed and purchased our supply of publicity postcards and brought them to the meeting; Doris will store them and make them available to anyone who needs some. Doris invited members to take a supply to distribute. Ioana will be taking a supply to Van Atta's.

**Show and Tell Table:** Dot Barnett, Bill Cadman, and Owen Neils showed off their plants and discussed how they grow them.

**Program:** At this point, Ioana introduced our speaker, Tim Culbertson, from California, who spoke on "New Directions in Zygopetalums". His slide presentation displayed the amazing diversity of the Zygo's, many with unusual shapes and colors. An excellent program which elicited many questions from the audience. Tim very generously will allow us to post a recording of his talk online.

After the program, Ioana invited everyone to enjoy refreshments, buy raffle tickets, and bid on silent auction items. Members took advantage of the numerous plants Tim had brought for us.

The meeting concluded with Pete settling up the silent auction purchases and Doris calling out the winning raffle numbers.

The meeting adjourned at 4.05. (See Zygos p.10)

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris H. Asher, Secretary



Dot



Bill Cadman



Owen Neils

Photos by  
Pete & Dot



**GLOS BOARD MEETING MINUTES, October 6, 2025**

President Ioana Sonea called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following people present: Doris Asher, Teresa Fowle, Jerrie Nichols, Pete Ostlund, and Becky Thayer.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Pete Ostlund gave a report covering July 21 – September 30. There was income of \$2,449 including \$2,105 in donations, and \$149 in income at our meetings. There were expenses of \$1,482, which included \$589 in program expenses, \$373 for post cards for the 2026 Show, and \$350 for our annual donations (Great Lakes Judging Center, Michigan Nature Association, and the Nature Conservancy). Net income for the period: \$967. Society balance in the MSUFCU: \$18,971.

In response to Ioana's question about payment for our website, Pete stated that our new webmaster, Raechel Portelli, indicated earlier this fiscal year that she plans to pay that herself.

**Membership Committee Report:** Doris presented the Committee's report – there has been one new member since our last Board meeting – David Ash from Mt. Pleasant, and four renewals: Fermin Jimenez, Tom Remington, Marilyn Whittaker, and Barb Wilcox. Pete Ostlund was able to accept Fermin's renewal using our Square. Dot and Doris continued their work trying to get late renewers to renew, and there are now only seven who have failed to do so. Dot updated our Roster of members and sent it out to everyone.

Doris reported that long-time Life Member Gus Kienitz died on July 24, 2025. Doris will write a tribute article about him for the November Calypso.

GLOS currently has 99 members in 90 households, of which only 12 need the newsletter in paper.

**Old Business:** Review of September Membership Meeting – the consensus was that our speaker Tim Culbertson was excellent. Because of the great expense in bringing him from California for the three societies which sponsored him, Jerrie and Carol will be making donations to help offset the cost (Ioana and husband Chris have already donated).

**New Business**

*a. Archivist Concerns:* Doris raised the issue of caring for the Society's records when she is no longer able to do so. The Society has been in existence since 1977, and the volume of material is extensive. In addition to caring for our archives, Doris urged that the Society make a plan when she is no longer able to house the Society's show materials, or when she can no longer handle registration at our shows. The Board agreed that it would be helpful to consult with Lee Barnett, whose background is as an archivist – Doris will do so. No decisions were reached on the other two issues.

*b. Upcoming meetings:*

**October 11th, 2 pm:** Dan Greiner will speak on Phalaenopsis culture – his speaker's fee is \$150. There will be no vendor plant sales. Ioana will make arrangements to take Dan out to dinner. Due to health issues, David LeMarble may not be able to attend this meeting, and Diane Zoellner, one of our refreshments volunteers for the meeting will be bringing the refreshments supplies. Ioana will be in touch with David to see whether he can continue helping us with refreshments at our meetings.

**November 8th, 2 pm:** Ron McHatton, Chief Education and Science Officer of the AOS, will speak via Zoom on "Food, Sex & Alcohol: the Fascinating World of Orchid Pollination". There will be no vendor plant sales.

**January 20th, 2 pm:** Michael Frosch from Germany will speak on Cypripediums via Zoom. His speaker's fee: 290 Euros (about \$350).

**March 14th, 2 pm:** a program aimed at new orchid growers who came to us via our Show – Ioana will ask Eric Sauer if he can speak.

*c. Future Shows:*

**Ann Arbor Orchid Society, November 15-16:** Orchids collected at Dot's house; setup by Carol, Raechel Portelli, and David Madison; take down by Carol and Ioana. Future details await Carol's input.

**Grand Valley Orchid Society, January 24-25:** Pete, Dot and Carol will work on this exhibit; future details await Carol's input.

**Three Rivers Orchid Society, February 7-8:** In the past Carol and Raechel have worked on this display; future details await Carol's input.

**Greater Lansing Orchid Society, February 28-March 1:** Pete indicated that Van Atta's will likely want to begin planning with us in January, although they may also invite us to participate in their fall activities as they did last year. Becky inquired about what remains to be worked on: one major area is securing volunteers for the various activities. Doris will be working on the show schedule during December and will be in close contact with Becky at that time. Doris reported that she now has 15 judges committed to help us judge the show and that she has secured sponsors for all 19 of the trophies that we award for the ribbon judging. We discussed how best to use Square at the Show – Pete will investigate several options for Square.

**Michigan Orchid Society:** although traditionally on the third weekend of March, there is no information yet about this show.

Continued on p.5

**BOARD MEETING** Continued from p4

d. Portland Garden Club: Pete received a request via Facebook from the Portland Garden Club seeking a speaker on orchids for their November 3rd meeting at 6 pm at the VFW. Jerrie will be sending Ioana a couple of the PowerPoint presentations that she has used on such occasions, and Ioana will do the talk unless Dot or Mike Underwood is willing to do so. Ioana will contact the two of them about this.

e. Next Board Meeting: The Board's next meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, December 1st via Zoom.

**"To Do" List for Next Board Meeting:**

1. Doris will write a tribute article about Gus Kienitz for the November Calypso.
2. Doris will confer with Lee Barnett about the future of the Society's paper archives.
3. Doris will consult with Jill Wood about the possibility of her taking over from Doris as our Show registrar, when that need develops.
4. Ioana will check with Dan Greiner about our taking him out to eat on the 11th.
5. Ioana will contact Eric Sauer to see if he could be our speaker next March 14th.
6. Ioana will check with David LeMarble about his health status in so far as it may affect his role in managing refreshments for meetings and helping Teresa with hospitality at our Show.
7. Pete will investigate the best way to use Square at the Show.
8. Ioana will contact Dot and Mike Underwood about speaking to the Portland Garden Club on November 3rd.
9. Jerrie will send Ioana her two PowerPoint presentations that she has used for such talks.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris H. Asher, Secretary

**GUS KIENTITZ 1943-2025**

GLOS lost a longtime Life Member of the Society on July 24, 2025 – Gus Kienitz who lived in Mt Morris, MI. Although the exact date that Gus joined GLOS is unknown, he took out his life membership in February of 2015.

We learned of his death when I received an email from his niece, Linda Schebler, in early September. Linda helped her uncle for the 26 months he dealt with the pancreatic cancer which eventually took his life. Gus surprised me by coming to visit me in May of 2024. He told me about the pancreatic cancer – at that time, he was doing quite well using the medications his doctors prescribed. He brought me quite a few orchid books and orchid prints to be used as fundraisers for the Society. We used them in two of the following GLOS meetings in our silent auction.

Dot reports as follows: "The word "kind" was used in Gus' obituary. I think that word fits him

well. Kind and gentle. Gus started my addiction to Phrags by giving me one -- a pearcei. I had it for many years which encouraged me to try more. That was very early in my orchid growing career, and he and Jack Shumaker with their Mid-Michigan Orchids business provided me with vendor contacts that I still cherish."

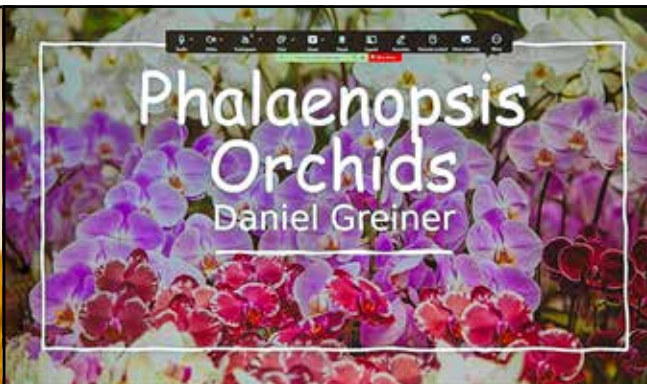
Gus, may you rest in peace.

*(Thank you, Doris, for writing this memorial.)*

**OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER, DAN GREINER,**

gave an informative, comprehensive and interesting presentation on Phalaenopsis Orchids. If you missed it, it is available on-line here:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1FnssyQWgbo6jUrL1HMouhzZ-GcB0UGpv/edit?usp=drive\\_link&ouid=111988168667801306851&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1FnssyQWgbo6jUrL1HMouhzZ-GcB0UGpv/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=111988168667801306851&rtpof=true&sd=true)



**GLOS MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, October 11, 2025**

President Ioana Sonea called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. with about twenty-three people present and four additional members attending via Zoom.

Doris introduced a visitor -- Quinton Jennings.

Doris explained how our raffle and silent auction work and invited everyone to participate in both fundraising activities.

Ioana thanked the members who provided refreshments – Michael Bukala, Christine Granger, Bill Overton, Marilyn Porter, Ioana Sonea, and Diane Zoellner. When she asked for volunteers to provide refreshments for our November 8th meeting, Marge Barkman, Michael Bukala, Bill Overton, and Becky Thayer volunteered.

**Upcoming Meetings, both at 2 pm via Zoom and in Person**

1. November 8th – Ron McHatton, Chief Education and Science Officer at the AOS, will speak on “Food, Sex & Alcohol: the fascinating world of orchid pollination”
2. January 10, 2026 – Michael Weinert from Germany will speak on garden-ready hardy Cypripediums

**Upcoming Shows:**

**Ann Arbor Orchid Society**, November 15 & 16; Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor. Dot will be collecting plants at her house for our exhibit in Ann Arbor. Carol Ann Stuht will be assisted by David Madison and Raechel Portelli with set up and by Ioana Sonea for take down of the display.

**Grand Valley Orchid Society**, January 24 & 25; Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids

**Three Rivers Orchid Society**, February 7 & 8; Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, IN

**Greater Lansing Orchid Society**, February 28-March 1; Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop, Haslett. Doris had our publicity postcards at the meeting and invited people to take a supply.

**Show and Tell Table:** Bill Cadman, Rick Chung, Evelynne Cudel, David Madison, Pete Ostlund, Ioana Sonea, and Becky Thayer showed off their plants and discussed how they grow them.

**Orchid Auction** at Grand Valley Orchid Society meeting: GLOS has received an invitation from the Grand Valley Orchid Society to join them on October 16th at 7 pm at the Frederik Meijer Gardens, in Grand Rapids for an auction of orchids received from a donor in Texas and also a group from the Maui Orchid Whisperer in Hawaii. The list of available plants was emailed to GLOS members.

**Program:** At this point, Ioana introduced our speaker, Daniel Greiner, who lives in Mulliken, west of Grand Ledge and often teaches our classes for the public at our Show. His slide presentation entitled “Phalaenopsis Orchids” was comprehensive, covering phalaenopsis species and hybrids, their history, place in the marketplace, those with variegated foliage, light requirements, preferred temperature, pests and diseases and their prevention/control, potting media, watering, fertilizing. Very well done. Dan answered numerous questions from the attendees. In addition, he had brought a table full of phals displaying many of the features he had discussed in his talk.

After the program, Ioana invited everyone to enjoy refreshments, buy raffle tickets, and bid on silent auction items.

The meeting concluded with Pete settling up the silent auction purchases and Doris calling out the winning raffle numbers.

The meeting adjourned at 4.10.

*see photos ps 5 & 8*

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris H. Asher, Secretary

**COMING SOON!** article by Becky Thayer

Show season is just around the corner and our 2026 show will be here before you know it. Please mark February 28 and March 1, 2026, on your calendar—these are the dates for our show. Past shows have achieved success due to the contributions of a large number of volunteers who provided their time, energy, and resources. This year will be no different, we will need lots of help in many areas. Contact me or the committee chairperson for your area of interest. Currently, the committee chairs are listed as follows:

GLOS exhibit	Bill Cadman
Hospitality	Teresa Fowle & David LeMarble
Art exhibits	Carol Ann Stuht
Orchids-in-use	Jolanta Piecuch
Kid's corner	Michael Bukala
Flyers & handouts	Dot Barnett
Classes for public	Mike Underwood
Judging activities & registration	Doris Asher
Publicity coordination	Jill Wood
Information table	Jerrie Nichols
Vendor & exhibits liaison	Pete Ostlund



Each of these committees will need lots of workers so please consider where you may help. There will be more information at upcoming meetings and in the Calypso.



**GREATER LANSING ORCHID SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY****REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 21 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2025****REPORT DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2025**

Opening Balance (July 21, 2025)	Expenses
Total Balance: \$18,003.17	Total Expenses: \$1,481.41
Cash-on-Hand: \$200.00	Administrative: \$20.07
Checking: \$1,496.67	Peter Ostlund: \$20.00
Savings: \$5.01	Square Fees: \$0.07
IMMA: \$3,086.74	Dot Barnett: \$372.57 (Postcards)
9 CDs: \$13,214.75	Programs: \$588.77
Income	August General Meeting Speaker Fee: \$150.00
Total Income: \$2,449.26	September General Meeting Speaker Fee: \$200.00
Membership Dues: \$48.00	Speaker Travel Costs: \$211.65
Contributions from 6 members (\$8.00 each).	Hotel Cost (covered by GVOS): \$177.12
Donations: \$2,105.82	Donations to Other Organizations: \$350.00
General Use Donations: \$2,005.00	Great Lakes Judging Center: \$150.00
Donations for September Speaker Costs: \$100.82	Michigan Nature Association: \$100.00
Programs: \$147.00	The Nature Conservancy: \$100.00
Picnic Plant Sales: \$50.00	Net Income
August General Meeting Raffle: \$19.00	Net Income: \$967.85
Silent Auction: \$18.00	Closing Balance (September 30, 2025)
September General Meeting Raffle: \$28.00	Total Balance: \$18,971.02
Silent Auction: \$32.00	Cash-on-Hand: \$200.00
Administrative Income:	Checking: \$566.08
DeWitt Twp Picnic Refund: \$50.00	Savings: \$5.01
Interest Income (3 months): \$98.44	IMMA: \$4,895.83
	9 CDs: \$13,304.10
	CD Details (as of September 30, 2025)
	CD 4: \$1,854.57 (Matures 10/03/2028, 3.78%)
	CD 5: \$512.63 (Matures 02/28/2026, 3.85%)
	CD 6: \$510.04 (Matures 11/30/2025, 0.80%)
	CD 7: \$4,024.15 (Matures 05/27/2027, 1.98%)
	CD 8: \$1,719.42 (Matures 06/25/2027, 2.47%)
	CD 9: \$2,788.31 (Matures 07/31/2029, 3.445%)
	CD A: \$512.61 (Matures 07/31/2026, 0.99%)
	CD F: \$1,382.37 (Matures 02/18/2026, 3.54%)

*This summary by Adobe AI Assistant provides a clear breakdown of the financial report for the Greater Lansing Orchid Society during the specified period. Contact Pete or Dot if you want to see the complete report.*

**REMINDER: WEAR YOUR BADGE – GET EXTRA RAFFLE TICKET**

GLOS members are responsible for holding onto their own name badges. If you cannot locate your name tag, kindly let either Dot or Doris know. Dot will make you a new one.

As an incentive to wear the name tag, which is very nice for visitors and for those of us with failing memories (!), anyone who wears the badge AND purchases even one raffle ticket at \$1.00 per ticket will get a complimentary raffle ticket.

Please wear your badge to November's meeting. Let's help everyone greet everyone by name by wearing a name tag.

Wear your Society name tag. Get an extra raffle ticket!

Doris Asher, Chair, Membership Committee

Dot Barnett



Bill Cadman



Becky Thayer



David Madison

**SHOW AND TELL  
October 2025**

Pete Ostlund



Ioana Sonea

Evelyne Cudel



Rick Chung

**GLOS MEMBERS SHOW THEIR GENEROSITY – 2026 SHOW TROPHY SPONSORS**

Once again, Society members came through, underwriting all nineteen of the trophies for our Show this February! The trophies will be prepared by Larry Galdes and Mei Ling Clemens.

Sponsors can save themselves expensive postage by paying me in person at our November or January meetings. A check or cash is equally welcome – the cost is \$25.00. Checks payable to GLOS may also be mailed to me at 277 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Thank you, donors, very much.

For this year's sponsors, please see p12.



**MONTHLY CHECKLIST FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER****AOS CORNER***Cattleya*

Growers of just about every level of expertise will have begun to notice autumn conditions by now. Days are becoming shorter, hence cooler; the sunlight has less intensity as a result of the sun's lowering angle, nights are longer and generally cooler. Plants are responding by slowing and ripening their growth in preparation for winter.

The first cultural change noticed should be a reduced frequency of watering, as the plants dry out more slowly. This is a function of both the reduced day length and lower temperatures, as well as the plants' slowing growth rate. Reduced water needs signal a reduced need for fertilization. Note that the key word is reduced, not eliminated. Feed less frequently and at lower dosage, but feed. Growths, made during summer's heat, and relatively soft and green, will be ripening -- hardening -- in preparation for a brief period of rest (in many cases).

Many of these ripening growths will have a sheath, presaging the coming winter or spring flowering season. In some cases, these sheaths will have been evident since as early as July. (Early sheath development does not mean early flowering on plants with winter-spring seasons.) You may notice that some of these sheaths are showing signs of yellowing. This is not abnormal. Autumn's more pronounced temperature fluctuation can lead to water condensation inside the sheath, hastening the normal process of senescence, so yellowing sheaths can be left on the plant only so long before they must be carefully removed to preserve the bud primordia within. Water condensation left unchecked can rot the bud primordia. The sheaths can be safely removed by slitting open and peeling down toward the pseudobulb.

*Cool-Growing Orchids*

One can almost hear a sigh of relief from all of the cool-growers, from masdevallias to odontoglossums. As day temperatures decline, one can see a noticeable improvement in these plants. Shorter days and lower light levels do not seem to bother them. Repot before winter arrives.

*Cymbidium*

Finally we begin in earnest the main cymbidium season. *Cymbidium ensifolium* can give some early and fragrant hybrids, but it is now that the bulk of the crop will be flowering. The season lasts for about seven months, adding color to any collection. Miniature varieties will peak for the next three to four months. There are three important things to do: stake inflorescences ramrod straight for best presentation, watch for slugs and snails (especially just after a rain), and fertilize with a mild balanced formula regularly.

*Paphiopedilum*

The flowering season for the "toads" or "bulldog" paphs is just getting underway. These cannot be grown everywhere, but where cooler summer nights allow their growth, there is no longer-lasting or more exotic display than these. *Paphiopedilums* are, in general, not heavy feeders, and it is especially important with this type to reduce nitrogen levels now for best flowering and spike length. Be watchful for water accumulating in the growth around the sheath, or for the late-season warm spell, either of which can lead to the sheath's rotting. As the spikes emerge, do not change the orientation of the plant toward the light, as this can lead to a crooked or twisted spike.

While *paphiopedilums* rarely like to dry out entirely, water needs are significantly reduced beginning now. Over-watering at this time of year can quickly lead to root rot or erwinia problems. Now is the time to practice good sanitary practices in your greenhouse or growing areas, as pest and disease problems have a way of multiplying rapidly in the darker and more crowded conditions that generally mark the winter growing area. With *paphiopedilums*, especially, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and if the growing area is littered with old foliage, weeds and dying flowers, keeping the plants alive and flowering will be next to impossible.

*Phalaenopsis*

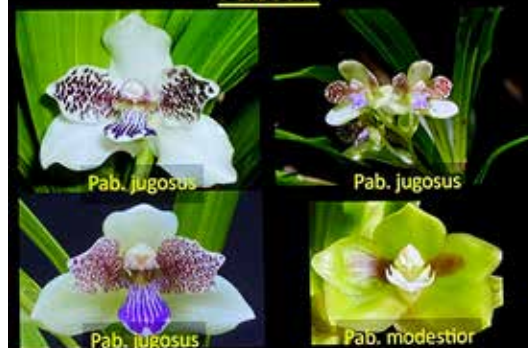
Shortening days and cooler nights are the signals for inflorescence initiation in *phalaenopsis*. In more northern climates, or on the west coast, growers have already begun to see the early inflorescences that may be ready for Christmas. In the eastern areas, nights in the greenhouse will now be in the low to mid 60s, depending on the thermostat setting, so the first of our *phalaenopsis* will not begin to bloom until Valentine's Day at the earliest.

A reduction in nitrogen levels will go a long way to giving the best possible spiking, as will a boost in potassium and phosphorus. In other words, a "bloom booster"-type fertilizer is definitely indicated in the next few months. Disease and pest problems are best dealt with now, especially as mealybugs hide in the bracts and flower buds. Once they have established themselves, they are difficult to eradicate, and flower damage or crippling results. Potential disease problems can be dealt with by the application of a copper-based compound to control/alleviate rot problems before they start. There is nothing more frustrating than to have shepherded your plants through a growing season, only to have them decline before your eyes.

*Vandaceous Genera*

Whereas the general decline in temperatures is beneficial to cool-growing orchids, it is not for vandaceous plants. The only cold-hardy member is *Vanda falcata*. Orient your plants in such a way as to take advantage of as much light as possible. This can be a problem in northern latitudes. Reduce watering and feeding schedules.

-The AOS thanks Ned Nash and James Rose for this essay.

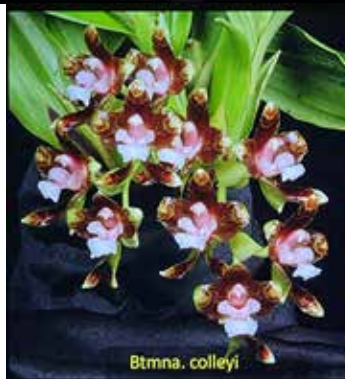
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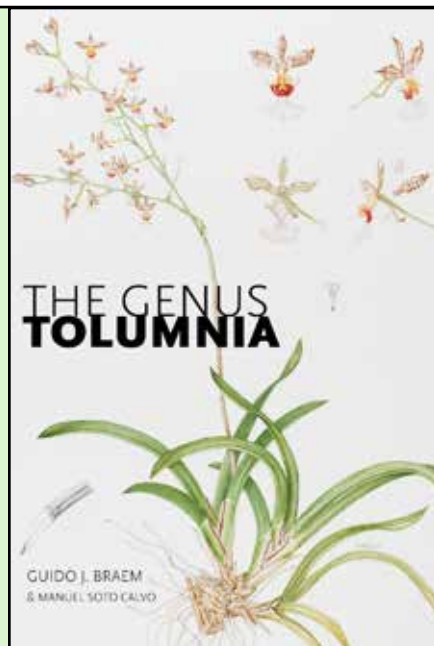
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Because this service is so popular, we would like to offer inexpensive, used orchid books again at this February's Show. Since GLOS is an IRS not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization, you may deduct the value of the books and magazines you give us. The Treasurer will be happy to provide you a receipt for your gift.

Please consider giving such items at this November meeting to Doris Asher, who will hand them on to the volunteers at our Show's Information Table.

Doris Asher

[asherdoris44@gmail.com](mailto:asherdoris44@gmail.com)

517-290-6904





*The End Page*

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Exhibits, Open	Pete Ostlund
Exhibits, Society	Pete Porciello
Exhibits, Amateur	Anonymous GLOS Members
Julie Bishop Memorial (Cattleya Alliance)	Dea Bishop
Paphiopedilum Species	Don & Jane Farrelly
Paphiopedilum Hybrids	Bill Cadman
Phragmipedium, Cypripedium	Dot Potter Barnett
Phalaenopsis	Dea Bishop
Vanda	Diane Zoellner
Brassia and Miltonia	Mary Henman
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Cymbidium Alliance	Dawn Kittle (In Memory of Sherwin Kittle; in Memory of Betty Jane Harvey)
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