



# The Calypso

Volume 43 Issue 6 Nov. 2020

The Newsletter of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society

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### CALYPSO DEADLINE:

Dec. 27 for the January 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 21 MEETING - via ZOOM:

Our speaker this month is Jim France of Oakwood Orchids. His topic will be breeding and growing novelty Phalaenopsis orchids.

Oakwood Orchids has been in business for 26 years. Their PinInterest Page says:

"Orchid grower & enthusiast specializing in unique, hard to find, & species orchids. Talks and plants available; please contact via [oakwoodorchids@gmail.com](mailto:oakwoodorchids@gmail.com)"

Here is their Facebook page with photos of many of the orchids they carry:

[https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodOrchids/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodOrchids/photos/?ref=page_internal)

Jim France began his interest in orchids in 1993, when after viewing an orchid collection, he bought a cymbidium. As he tells many a beginner, "Everyone kills at least one" ... and so it was promptly drowned. As it happened, an orchid show was the following week, and thus the passion began.

Jim soon joined an orchid society and learned from the experts in the group and from many of the wonderful growers that since became friends. Fueled by his interest, Jim began selling in 1996, and established Oakwood Orchids. He dabbled in hybridization, and enjoyed the things that were more different than the normal orchids found easily.

Jim has grown under lights for 23 years, and finally with the collection and business growing, two medium greenhouses are now part of the business.

Jim is past treasurer & president of the Miami Valley Orchid Society; past board member of MAOC shows, and is currently part of the AOS Orchid Judging program.

His first awarded orchid was *Catasetum Hilltop's* Dingbat 'Junior', a *Catasetum* named after his grandson. *Catasetum*s are one of his favorite genera, and a favorite for presentations. Jim has received 2 additional *Catasetum* awards: *Catasetum pileatum* 'Leeann', and more recently *Catasetum osculatum* 'The Boys'.

Another early award was for *Phragmipedium* Sergeant Eric 'Hans', which shows Jim's love of orchid variety, and which spurred another part of his collection. He has received a total of 13 AOS awards. (Now 14)

Oakwood Orchids specializes in species and harder to find orchids.

→ Congratulations to Oakwood Orchids -- they just received the Roy T. Fukumura Vandaceous Award from the AOS for their *Robiquetia cerina* 'Dona's Treasures' AM/AOS.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --** Pete Ostlund

I hope this message finds you in good health and with happy orchids. If you summered your orchids outside, you've probably brought them in by now. I still have a few cymbidiums outside (some have already developed spikes), but they'll be in soon.

Something I welcome this time of year is the orchids that go dormant or near dormant in the winter. I like not having to water or otherwise take care of them for several months (and then I eagerly await them coming back to life in the spring). I have habenarias, cynorchis and catesetums that drop their leaves and need little to no watering. I have a few other plants that want nothing but a cool, dry spot to hang out, with maybe an occasional misting or watering. It's less work for me, and more time to enjoy the orchids that put on a show in the fall and winter.

This year has certainly caused us to ponder how to reach out and keep in-touch with family and friends, and with fellow orchid growers, especially those in our society. We miss seeing friends at meetings and at orchid shows. We miss seeing the vendors that we have developed relationships with over the years, and seeing what intriguing orchids they have for sale. But all is not lost. Our Zoom meetings seem to be getting better and better. Our speakers have been top notch, and the topics are very interesting. We added a virtual plant table to our Zoom meetings a few months ago (it's always good to see what orchids others are growing and hear how they are growing them). We will be adding some time before and after the meeting for people to visit if they so choose. If you haven't joined us, please give it a try (you can join in by computer or phone). I don't think you'll be disappointed. If you have been joining in, and have an idea on how to improve the experience, please bring it up at the meeting or let one of the board members know. I hope to see you November 21 at the next Zoom meeting.

*Novelty Phalaenopsis:*

These special variants of the Phalaenopsis have a compact size; they are frequently in bloom and have versatile colors. Each species has its own characteristics. There are species characterized by their strong scent or rare color combination. These plants are produced primarily for the hobbyist and orchid breeder markets.

**GLOS GENERAL MEETING ZOOM LINK:**

Greater Lansing Orchid Society is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: GLOS General meeting

Time: 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Sat, 12 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/701683513?pwd=REQzYnpxaTZjb3p6dDNZNWxCOS8xUT09>

Meeting ID: 701 683 513

Password: 20-Orchids

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,701683513# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 701 683 513

**GLOS MEET AND GREET - from the editor**

*With this issue of the Calypso, we begin a special section which will highlight members of our society. We all miss our in-person meetings and orchid events not only because of the opportunity to learn more about orchids and perhaps enlarge our collection, but also because they are an opportunity to enjoy interacting with our fellow orchidists.*

*While this new section cannot take the place of live association, it is an opportunity to learn a little more about our fellow orchidists, and to share with them a little bit about our own orchid passion.*

*In this issue, we meet three of our society's members, two have been with us for a long time, and one is quite new. I enjoyed reading and learning about these members, and finding a little insight into who they are as people besides their love of orchids. I hope you do, too.*

*I'm looking for more volunteers for the January issue. I have one, but I need a couple more. Turn to the End Page to see the "Survey." Will you volunteer? Please contact me at dotbarnett@mac.com, text me at 517-614-0416, or snail-mail me at 9713 Looking Glass Brook Dr., Grand Ledge, 48837.*

**GLOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- **November 21** - Jim France of Oakwood Orchids - Novelty Phalaenopsis
- **January 16** - Marni Turkel of Mostly Species (orchids & flasks) - Less is More (Small Orchids)
- **February 20** - Sam Tsui of Orchid Inn - slipper talk TBD at our next Board meeting
- **March 20** - Bob Fuchs, of R. F. Orchids, and AOS President - Vandas





**GLOS BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 1, 2020** - submitted by Becky Thayer, Secretary

This meeting was held by Zoom and there were nine people in attendance:

Pete Ostlund, Ioana Sonea, Becky Thayer, Doris Asher, Bill Cadman, Dot Barnett, Abby Skinner, Dawn Kittle and Jerrie Nichols.

Pete called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Treasurer's report was given by Doris:

There was year to date income of \$1,874 and expenses of \$1,374 with a net gain of \$500.

Membership report was given by Doris

We currently have 90 members in 79 households. At this same time last year, we had 89 members in 78 households. The membership year ended June 30, 2020 – people who have not yet renewed will receive no more newsletters or other communications. Of course, as soon as a person does renew, we will reinstate him or her. As of this writing, four members have not yet renewed for 2020-2021.

Old Business:

- Review of past membership meetings  
Both past meetings were discussed and everyone agreed that the speakers were very good and the meetings were enjoyable.
- Review of last board meeting To Do list.  
There were four items not finished, the membership survey, by-laws review, membership speaker survey and permission to record All-state meeting. These Items will carry over to the October to do list.

New Business

- Future meetings and speaker topics  
GVOS is taking the lead for the November speaker.  
We decided to try adding a social time at the beginning of the meeting by changing the start time to 6:45 to allow 15 minutes for visiting, and a time after the virtual plant table for general questions.  
We also decided that before asking any more societies to join our meeting we should watch how the All-State meeting goes and see what lessons we may learn about handling a larger group on Zoom.
- All-State meeting update  
Ioana reported that everything is set to go for Saturday Oct. 10 at 1:00 pm. The speaker will be doing a trial run with her this week. She has contacted all the societies' contacts that she has. She will send out another email to remind her contacts and Dot will also send out an email to remind our members.
- 2021 Show  
After much discussion it was unanimously decided to cancel our 2021 show because of issues caused by Covid-19.
- The renewal cost for the GLOS website was unanimously approved.

The next board meeting will be by Zoom on Dec. 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

TO DO LIST: October 1, 2020 Board Meeting

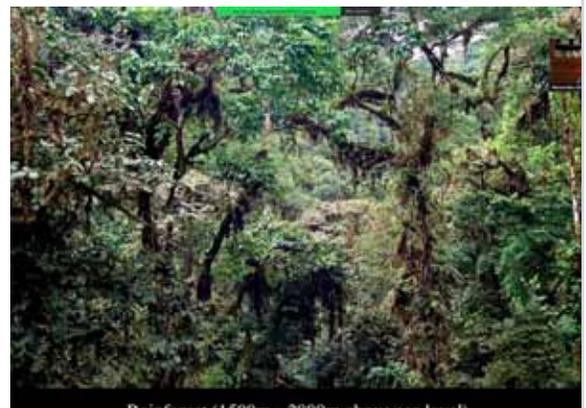
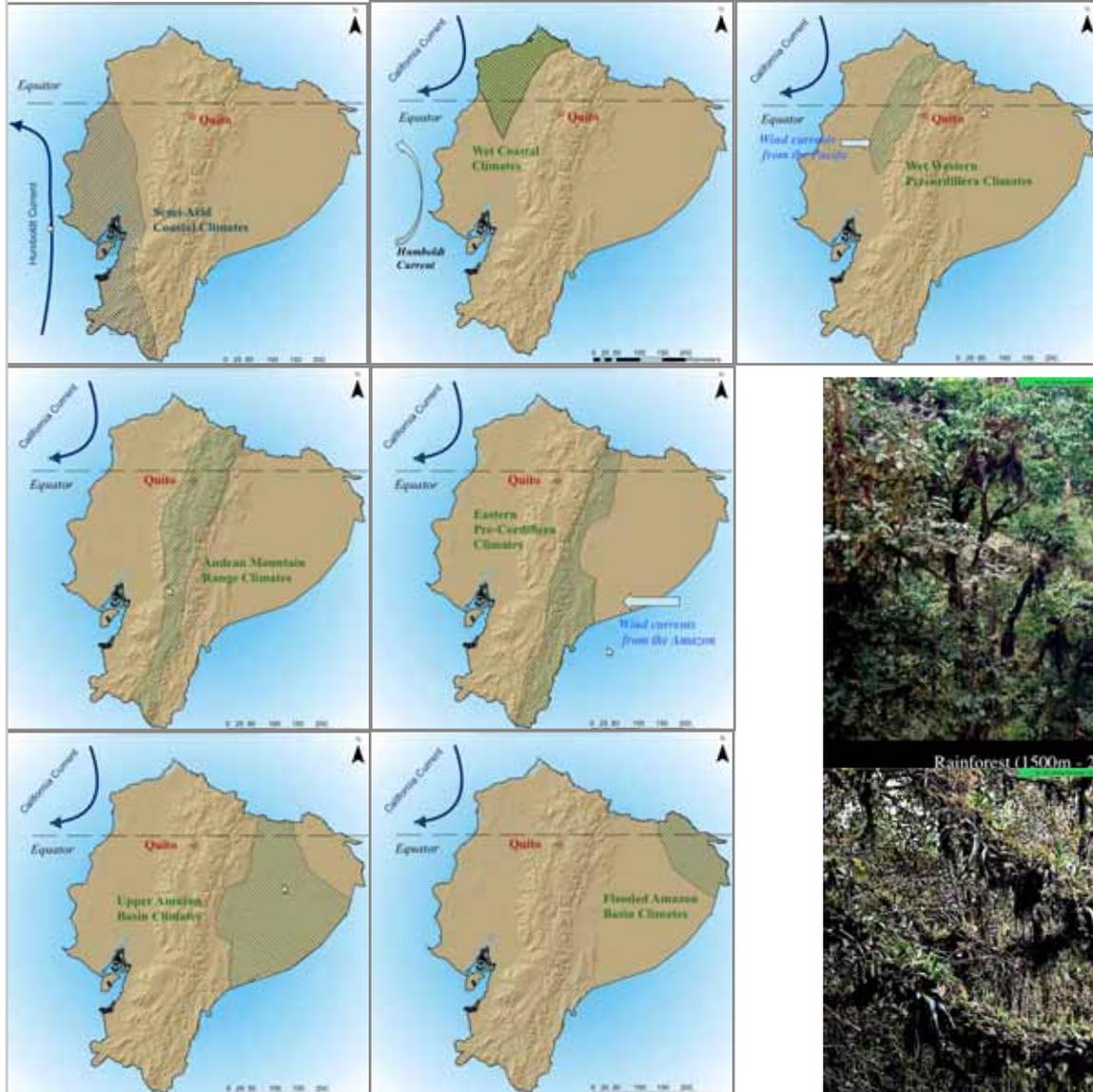
1. Ioana will provide Dot with a write up about the membership survey to be included in the Calypso.
2. Doris, Pete & Becky will review the by-laws
3. Pete will make a draft survey for the membership about speakers
4. Ioana will contact the All State speakers to ask for permission to record presentation
5. Review inviting more societies to join our meetings after experiencing the All State meeting and decide if that is the direction we want to go.
6. Dot will send an email to remind our members of the All-State meeting.

→ *During this Coronavirus "Stay Home" period, the Board will be using additional emails to keep membership involved in various orchid discussions or information.*

*Although we will continue to mail hard copies of the Calypso and meeting information to members who do not have access to email, the Board regrets we will not be able to share every GLOS email communication.*

**OCTOBER ALL-STATE ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING with ALEXANDER HIRTZ of Quito, Ecuador**

What was astonishing and interesting was the variety of orchid habitats (climate zones) based on altitude, proximity to the ocean and ruggedness of the terrain. On this page are a few photos taken as screen shots of Mr. Hirtz' presentation.



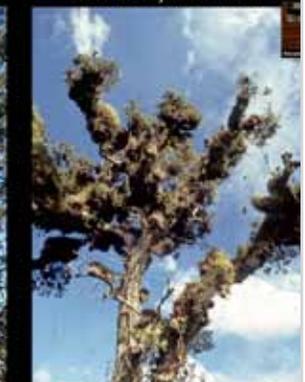
Rainforest (1500m - 2800m above sea level)



Tree in temperate climate



Tree in tropical climate



GREATER LANSING ORCHID SOCIETY  
 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT 2020-2021  
 Covering Period from 7/01/2020 – 9/25/2020  
 September 26, 2020

Balance on hand June 30, 2020	\$17,900.36			
	Checking	\$5,131.82		
	Saving	5.00		
	Subtotal 9 CD's	12,763.54		
<b>INCOME</b>		\$1,874.13		
Grand Orchid Mart – Plant Sale	1,156.00			
Dues	468.00			
Donations for Paper Calypso	186.00			
Bank Interest from 9 Savings CD's	45.13			
Donations	19.00			
<b>EXPENSES</b>		1,373.50		
Show – 2021	853.50			
Ribbons		763.50		
Trophies		90.00		
Donations	350.00			
Great Lakes Judging Center		150.00		
Michigan Nature Association		100.00		
Nature Conservancy		100.00		
Meetings	150.00			
August 2020 (F Clarke via Zoom – speaker's fee – share with AAOS)		75.00		
September 2020 (C Wilson via Zoom – speaker's fee – share with AAOS)		75.00		
Administrative Expense – File Michigan Nonprofit Report	20.00			
<b>NET INCOME</b>		\$500.63		
Balance on hand September 25, 2020				\$18,400.99
Checking		\$5,587.32		
	Saving	5.00		
	Subtotal 9 CD's	12,808.67		
CD C (matures 11/30/2020) 1.60%		\$1,587.76		
CD A (matures 7/31/2021) 1.75 %		\$1,202.94		
CD 0 (matures 06/25/2022) 2.05%		\$1,528.68		
CD 2 (matures 7/30/2022) 2.12%		\$1,434.47		
CD 3 (matures 08/28/2022) 2.12%		\$1,270.09		
CD 1 (matures 7/31/2023) 2.50%		\$1,175.72		
CD 4 (matures 10/03/2023) 3.00%		\$1,569.76		
CD E (matures 10/29/2023) 2.2%		\$1,518.93		
CD 5 (matures 08/30/2025) 0.90%		\$1,520.32		

## MEET GLOS MEMBER DORIS ASHER

I began growing orchids in about 1972 when my husband Jim bought me a Paphiopedilum King Arthur (Bingleyense x Monsieur de Curte) as a birthday gift. After growing at windowsills for several years, we built an 18' x 21' Lord & Burnham greenhouse in 1976. We replaced that one with a new, better-insulated Janco of the same dimensions in 2001. I had a mixed collection of about 1000 orchids. Then in 2013, I sold off the entire collection to Littlefrog Farm and had the greenhouse disassembled and given away. During my orchid-growing period, I earned two AOS awards:



Phragmipedium wallisii 'Hagadorn' HCC/AOS June 1990 and Slc. Circle of Life 'Accolade' AM/AOS Feb 2004, which also won the AOS Matatoshi Miyamoto Award for 2004.

I had become so active in so many orchid organizations that there was really no time left to care for my orchids and, in addition, I had lost

several people who helped with the mechanical, heating, cooling issues involved in maintaining a healthy greenhouse. Now I have two "token orchids"! A Paph named for my husband and a Phalaenopsis with no label. They grow happily at the large window wall that replaced the greenhouse.

I am an accredited judge in the American Orchid Society and judge at twelve to fifteen orchid shows each year including orchid shows at the semiannual AOS Members Meetings and orchid shows at World Orchid Conferences. I have just finished a two-year appointment as Assistant Treasurer for the AOS.

In addition, I have served as Treasurer for the Great Lakes Judging Center since 2004. I am now Treasurer for GLOS for my seventh time; in addition since I became a charter member of the Society in 1977, I have served in every capacity on the Board at least once.

I am also currently Secretary for the Mid-America Orchid Congress, a regional orchid group of about fifty orchid societies.

*(Editor's note: Doris wrote the GLOS History on the GLOS website: [https://www.greaterlansingorchidsociety.com/GLOS\\_History.html](https://www.greaterlansingorchidsociety.com/GLOS_History.html)*

*If you go to that page, you will also see that she was named GLOS Orchidist of the year in 1992, 2009 and 2019 Plus the Silver Award in 2014.*

*Doris is also currently on the Investment Task Force of the AOS Finance Committee. In addition to all that, Doris is our "Go To" person for anything/ everything GLOS. Finally, and very important to me, Doris is my proofreader for the Calypso. This newsletter would be much diminished and much less accurate without her sharp eye.*

*Did you know that Doris has wild orchids growing on her property? In the city?*



## MEET GLOS MEMBER WILLIAM (BILL) OVERTON

I have been growing orchids now for 47 years. I started out growing Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis under lights without much success. But I was hooked.

From there I moved into a free standing 100 square foot greenhouse in the summer of 1976. In it I grew Cattleyas, slippers and I branched out by adding Tolumnias and Dracula's. My experiences were expanding. My second greenhouse built in 1980 was a 300 square foot unit. My collection grew to 1,500 plants!



In early 2009, I retired to south Florida. The warm climate forced me to explore growing warmth tolerant orchids. I grew *Catasetum* and their relatives and loads of *Dendrobiums*. I was learning a great deal more about orchids and then Hurricane Irma changed all of that. It was unsettling to have it go right over my home! I moved that following spring to Michigan where my son and daughter live.

This forced yet another change in my orchid interests. I did not want to do a greenhouse again and opted for under lights. Now my collection features 150 plants. They are mostly *Paphiopedilums*, *Bulbophyllums* and mini-Catts.

Among my other passions is bird photography. I not only shoot images of birds but I print and edit them as well. I have had several images published, mostly in calendars

*(Editor's Note: Bill is an accredited orchid judge. He is now associated with the Great Lakes Judging Center.*

*Bill has received 6 AOS awards:*

*2000 - Paphiopedilum delenatii 'Catherine' AM/AOS*

*2002 - Vandachostylis Luke Thai 'Catherine' HCC/AOS*

*2003 - Bulbophyllum rubrum 'Catherine' CBR/AOS*

*2008 - Vanda Sansai Blue 'Catherine' AM/AOS*

*2016 - Dendrobium Hawaii Spectacular 'Catherine' AM/AOS*

*2020 - Paphiopedilum Mystically Contrasting 'Jack's Pride' HCC/AOS)*



**MEET GLOS MEMBER MICHAEL (MIKE) UNDERWOOD**

- *How many years have you been growing orchids?* 1976 - I was fascinated by the elegant blooms as a teenager. I was given my first cattleya by a grower who knew I had a greenhouse (even at that time) and could have a better chance to bloom it than he had indoors.
- *What type of orchid did you start with?* Cattleyas
- *What type(s) of orchids are you growing now?* Cattleyas
- *What is/are your most unusual orchid(s)?* They are all pretty much typical; I do not go for the hard stuff.
- *How and where are you growing now?* Greenhouses (Mike has three)
- *Where do you get new orchids?* GLOS show, GLOS picnic, internet sources
- *What tip would you give other orchid growers?* Find what does well for your conditions and learn to love growing that type. It is no fun struggling all the time with poor results.



*(Editor's note: I'm sure most GLOS members know that Mike is one of our auctioneers at the GLOS picnic. Mike sells many kinds of plants over the internet. He also is in the business of raising and selling pet farm animals. All the details are on his farm site at: <http://www.avi-sci.com/underwoodfarms> Mike was awarded the GLOS Certificate of Honorable Mention in 2009 and the GLOS Silver Certificate in 2018.)*



Plants in the rafters tend to get overgrown. The best way to get good root growth in a hanging basket is to run sprinklers for 20 minutes rather than use a hose for 10 seconds. Dendrobiums love to be high in the rafters with heat and light and left alone. I pot hanging baskets in shredded tire crumb so I never have to repot, at least for Cattleyas.



When you pay the heating bill, you use every square foot of growing space. I sell terrarium plants on eBay to pay for my orchid fix.



In these tubs are growing 200 moss logs that I sell to the terrarium people.



Here are cups of individual named moss species for terrarium use

An example of one of the moss logs . Most of them can be kept outside year-round but my tropical mosses I keep in a separate greenhouse.



**NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES – ORCHID SHOWS** - contributed by Doris Asher, Society Archivist

I think it is very important to preserve our history. Here are some items from the Society's Archives concerning our 37 orchid shows which you may enjoy as much as I did.

Although the Society was founded in 1977, we did not hold a show until February of 1981, which was ribbon judging only and was in the Meridian Mall. Rob Griesbach was President of the Society at that time.

The second GLOS show was in March of 1984 in Frandor and did have AOS judging. Doris Asher was President at that time. We hosted shows each winter in Frandor until February 1988 when we moved to the Meridian Mall because we had outgrown the space available to us in Frandor.

In our 1987 Show held at the Frandor Shopping Center in Lansing, Ken Lindsay won the trophy for best cattleya with his *Cattleya intermedia alba*. For many years, Ken set up the exhibit for the Northwest Michigan Orchid Society. Larry Galdes, who has made our trophies "forever", got the trophy for best cymbidium with his *Cymbidium Mimi 'Mary Bea' HCC/AOS*. Russ Jameson from the Saginaw Valley Orchid Society won the best cypripedium trophy with *Paphiopedilum Farmingdale 'Russ' AM/AOS (Farnmoore x Advancement)*.

Bill and Suzi Porter donated the trophy for best cattleya. Jim and Doris Asher donated the trophy for best cypripedium. Jack and Val Nelsen gave the trophy for best oncidium. Marilyn Lee underwrote the trophy for best of the vanda and phalaenopsis alliance – Jeff Emerson from the Inverness Greenery won that trophy with *Phalaenopsis Alice Gloria 'Aurite' (Ramona x Grace Palm)*. Jean Nicholas underwrote the trophy for best dendrobium. Bill and Suzi Porter earned an AOS award during that Show for their *Ascocentrum ampullaceum 'Suzi'*, which earned a JC (Judges' Commendation) for its brilliant fuchsia color.

Does anyone remember that we judged in Marshall's Music Store that February in 1987?!

In 1995, the Meridian Mall management informed the Society that we were no longer welcome to hold our show in the Mall, and we moved to the Lansing Center for our 12th show in 1995 when Randy Robinson was President. The Lansing Center charged us \$4,000 for space on the second floor – clearly not a good situation.

GLOS moved to its current location in the MSU Plant and Soil Science Building in February 1996 where we have held our shows ever since.

If all goes well with surviving the COVID-19 pandemic, our orchid shows should resume with #38 in February of 2022

To move to a related, but slightly different topic, I am still in search of documents, photos, memorabilia of all kinds from any year of the Greater Lansing Orchid Society for the Archives. You don't need to ask if I want it, I want it!

Let's continue to preserve our history.

**WHERE GLOS MEMBERS LIVE**

If you had to guess which area town provides the greatest number of GLOS members, what would you pick?

If you selected Lansing or Okemos, you would be correct! Lansing has 10 households and 10 individuals, and Okemos provides 7 households and 10 individuals. Each city accounts for more than 10% of our total members. Forty different hometowns are represented in our membership. The third most populous town is Williamston with 8 households and 8 individuals. Grand Ledge is home to 4 households and 5 individuals. East Lansing has 4 individuals in 4 households.

The current membership of the Society stands at 83 households comprised of 94 individuals.

Doris Asher  
Membership Committee



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 Rob Halgren, PhD  
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[rob@littlefrogfarm.com](mailto:rob@littlefrogfarm.com)

**Jump into Orchids!**



**Phalaropa**  
 Chris Steele  
[chris@phalaropa.com](mailto:chris@phalaropa.com)

**NEW**  
 DIY materials - Make your own Poly Mounts  
 20 % discount at Phalaropa.com with 'GLOS' coupon

GLOS Web Site:  
<https://greaterlansingorchidsociety.com>

Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/Greater-Lansing-Orchid-Society-202834892618/>

### **GLOS ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL FEBRUARY SHOW AND SALE IS CANCELLED**

The GLOS Board decided we could not guarantee our guests, vendors and members would be safe in the confined quarters of our regular show venue. We tried, unsuccessfully, to find another location to hold our show.

### **GLJC ORCHID HOLIDAY PARTY CANCELLED**

The personnel of the Great Lakes Judging Center are very sorry to announce that, due to COVID-19 concerns, there will be no holiday party this year.



Monthly judging is continuing, currently at the Howell Nature Center in Howell, at 1 p.m. You are welcome to bring orchids to be evaluated on both November 21st and also on December 19th. Please wear your mask and bring any food or beverage you would like as the judges no longer provide either. Contact Doris Asher ([asherdoris44@gmail.com](mailto:asherdoris44@gmail.com) or 517-332-0004) for driving directions to the Howell Nature Center. It is best to check before each judging because the location of the monthly judging may change.

We do hope that we can have a holiday party in December of 2021!

Doris Asher

### **MICHIGAN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW CANCELLED**

It with great regret, we have cancelled our 2021 Orchid Show. Our venue where our show was schedule is closed for Covid 19 and will not be reopen in time for our show. We plan on having a show in 2022 on March 26-27 in our regular location. We hope to see you there. I would appreciate if you could pass this along to your society.

Stay safe and happy growing.

Joe Peterson

### **GIVE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT**

The Greater Lansing Orchid Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. According to state and federal tax laws, this means that, if you itemize your deductions on your tax returns, you can deduct any contribution you make to the Society. As required by law, please note that you will not receive any gift or services in exchange for your contribution. I will happily prepare a receipt for you.

Although it is not going to possible to donate plants or other items to our meetings' raffles since we are not meeting in person, you can still make an end-of-the-year monetary gift to the Society.

Thanks to everyone for contributing!

Doris Asher, Treasurer

*The End Page*

**MESSAGE TO GLOS MEMBERS:**

In this time of physical and social isolation, we are looking for ways to bring our members closer at least virtually. The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania started an "Orchid Culture Connection Eblast" series, which has been very successful. We'd like to try to duplicate their success by asking members to fill out a similar survey. Every month, a few members will be chosen at random to receive the survey; we hope you will be willing to participate and let us get to know you better by publishing the returned surveys in the Calypso!



GLOS Orchid Culture Connection Survey – Or how I learned what I learned about orchids

Name

- How many years have you been growing orchids?
- What type of orchid did you start with?
- What type(s) of orchids are you growing now?
- What is/are your most unusual orchid(s)?
- How and where are you growing now?
- Where do you get new orchids?
- What tip would you give other orchid growers?

We would love to see pictures of your favorite orchids, your growing area, and yourself with them!

**Welcome to new LIFE members Denise Nash and Sally Heinlein  
and to returning member Greg Filter.**