

# The ORCHIDIAN



**Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – May 2025**



## **EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas**

- The Triad Orchid Society's "The Splendor of Orchids: A Universe of Color" is being held May 9 - 11, 2025 at The Wanek School of Natural Sciences, High Point University, 708 Montlieu Drive, High Point, NC 27262.
- **\*AOS 7th CULTURE DAY " From Seed to Success"** The AOS is proud to announce its 7th Orchid Culture Day! Join us for this Outstanding Online Event! May 18, 2025 – See American Orchid Society website for registration.

## **OSWP OFFICERS – leaderships council and board of directors**

- Co-Presidents: Demetria Marsh and Gary VanGelder
- First Vice President: Carolyn Bolton and Brian Powell
- Second Vice President: Zander Morrison
- Secretary: Kathy Collins      • Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

Board of Directors: Mike Lysy, Carol Panza, Mona Rice, Giovanni Giraldo, Bob Lusnak

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*Orchid Gems was not fully available at time of publishing.*

*We are excited to include Beverley Dodson as our June Orchid Gems feature in the Orchidian!*

## OSWP 2025 Meeting Schedule

- **May 18, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **June 8, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **July, 2025 - Picnic, Date and Time TBD**
  - **August, 2025 - No Meeting**
- **September 21, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **October 19, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **November 16, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **December, 2025 - Holiday Party, Date and Time TBD**

## Letter from the Co-Presidents

Happy Springtime! As the days get longer our orchids start growing faster. Time to think about repotting! Watch for the new root growth. Enjoy your orchids and watching them grow and bloom. There's always something new to see and learn.

Again, a warm welcome to our newest members! We hope to see you at our Sunday, May 18th meeting, at the Spartan Community Center in Hazelwood. It will be a special meeting to welcome you. A welcome party at 1PM then our business meeting at 2PM with our speaker to follow. We would love to meet you and talk with you.

There are many ways to become an active OSWP members. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer. We'll find a way to put you to work to have fun and learn about orchids and our members.

Some dates for your orchid calendar:

Our picnic will be on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Ohio Township Nature Center on Nicholson Road, off 79, 910 or 279 at Camp Horne Road. More details later. If someone would like to chair the picnic, please let us know.

Our show next year will be in April, due to the hotel's availability and other nearby orchid society's shows. The dates are: April 9 – 12, 2026. In 2027 we return to our regular March weekend.

In order to get ready for our April meeting a few members had huge tasks to accomplish and we want to thank them: Kathy and Miles Collins for making over 100 name tags and Jan Greenberg and Kathy McCafferty for entering all the new member data in our membership spreadsheet. Thank you all very much.

On a somber note, we are saddened by the passing of Arlene Ricker and also Joanne Schreiber. Arlene was very helpful with show publicity several years ago. Jo was a cheerful and hard working Pfunster. They will be missed.

Every day is a gift.

Celebrate each day and think orchids,

Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh

## May Featured Guest – Russ Vernon



**Presentation:** Sex in the World of Orchids is an orchid sex talk...orchid pollination. Russ came to our show as a vendor for many years.

The program entails the considerations a hybridizer would ponder when choosing the various aspects of each parent and how they might contribute to the ultimate end result. Cattleya, Phalaenopsis and Odontoglossum (Oncidium) will be the subjects of the talk. A little "how to" will be included as well as why do it at all? Russ will bring plants for sale so there is **NO member sales**

**Biography:** Russ grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. Early on he had an interest in plants, helping in the yard and growing cacti purchased with his allowance. His parents and grandparents were all interested in various aspects of horticulture.

When Russ was 12 years old, his uncle arrived with 6 orchids saying, "If you can grow those darned cacti, you ought to be able to grow these." And a career was launched.

Russ is a graduate of Ohio State University majoring in horticulture/floriculture. He has worked for Orchid by Hausermann, A&P Orchids, Ball State University's Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank, and Jim Davis, the creator of Garfield the Cat.

In 2004, Russ and his wife Anita started New Vision Orchids. The company specializes in Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossums and their intergenerics, Miltoniopsis, Cattleyas, and Lycastes. The biggest area of focus is hybridizing, wholesale and retail sales. Russ also lectures to various orchid societies across the country and conducts workshops on orchid culture.

Russ is a judge of the American Orchid Society and is past President of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, and Past President of the Mid-America Orchid Congress and serves on their Conservation Committee. Russ has also served on the board of trustees of the American Orchid Society. He and Anita have two daughters.

## West Shore Orchid Society 2025 Show

Carol Panza, Carolyn Bolton and Kathy Collins went to Strongsville, Ohio April 23 to create an orchid exhibit for the OSWP at the West Shore Orchid Society's Spring show. This was the last show in the area this year. Plants in the exhibit were from Carol, Carolyn, Demetria Marsh, Hossein Noorbaksh, and Sheila Nathanson. Judging was on Saturday, April 24. We received 12 blue ribbons and 3 rosettes. The AOS show trophy went to West Shore's exhibit./

### First place ribbons:

Lc. Irene Finney 'York' AM/AOS, Chuck Oldenburg  
 Milt Linda Lingle, Demetria Marsh  
 Paph. delenatii v dunkle, Carol Panza  
 Paph. C0213 x Winston Churchill, Demetria Marsh  
 C. Love Knot, Hossein Noorbaksh  
 Den. Ise Raj 'My Friend' CCM/AOS, Sheila Nathanson  
 Phrag. West Fork, Carol Panza  
 Phrag. Peruflora's Cirila Alea, Carol Panza  
 Lyc. campellii, Carol Panza

### First Place and Best of Class:

Gur. skinneri, and Best Cattleya (Rosette,) Hossein Noorbaksh  
 Cym. Vanity Fair x Dural Dream, Best Cymbidium (Rosette), Carol Panza  
 Paph. Larry Sexton, Best Paphiopedalum (Rosette), Carolyn Bolton

Carolyn's Paph. Larry Sexton 'Splendid Stripes' also received an AOS award...FCC/AOS of 90 Points.  
 Thank you to everyone who contributed plants and special thank you to Kathy Collins for making the trip to help set up!















## Donors and Sponsors - 2025 Orchid Show

*We frequently (!) mention how vital participation is to the success of our show. The following people may not have been working the show, or even members, but their generosity certainly is an essential element of our success. The Crowne Plaza is a comfortable, convenient venue, but it is pricey. The following donors and sponsors make it possible and profitable to have our show, complete with ample free parking and pleasant surroundings. We cannot express our gratitude enough.*

### Friends of OSWP

-  Demetria & Brien Marsh
-  Karen & Dennis Licht
-  Susan Mallen

-  Phipps Conservatory - *Gift Basket*
-  Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre – Aziza El Fell –  
*4 Pittsburgh Ballet tickets*
-  Bonefish Grill – *gift cards*
-  Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites – *overnight stay*
-  Alexis Chontos – *original artwork*
-  Yan Tomazin Art – *original artwork and prints*
-  Karen & Dennis Licht – *various orchid-inspired pieces for the silent auction*



### Platinum Sponsor

-  Sarris Candies - Bill Sarris

### Silver Sponsor

-  Theodore M. Bovard - Fort Pitt Capital

### Repotting - Bronze Sponsors

-  Washington Auto Mall – Gary Flannery
-  Houston Harbaugh P.C. - Jessica Ellel, Esq.

### Services, Silent Auction, Kindnesses

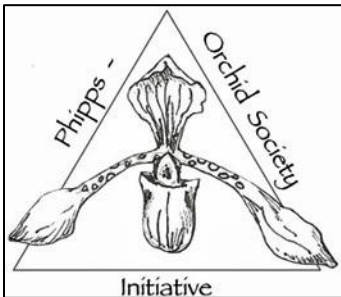
-  Rex Glass & Mirror – Marquee Ad on Rt. 19
-  BJs Restaurant & Brewhouse – pizzas
-  Green Circle Growers - *Orchid Plants*
-  Pizzaz Restaurant, Jerry Berteotti – *pasta tray*

### Trophy Donations 2025

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Carolyn Bolton         |  Joan Kelley         |
|  Karen & Dennis Licht   |  Susan Mallen        |
|  Demetria & Brien Marsh |  Kathleen McCafferty |
|  Dave & Mary Jo Miller  |  Sheila Nathanson    |
|  Lawrene Neel           |  Jinghua Ou          |
|  Mary Ann Pike          |  William Schumann    |
|  Barbara Tisherman      |  Gary VanGelder      |
|  John Whiting           |   |

## P-OSI

A joint initiative between Phipps Conservatory and the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania to create and cultivate an orchid collection of note for enjoyment, education and research.



May, 2025

Pfun at Phipps is our OSWP repotting efforts as well as doing the inventory of the Phipps orchid collection. We are also helping as the Clean-up Crew and whatever Thathmini needs. **We are now going to Phipps most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10AM – 1:00PM.** It's a great learning experience for all of us.

Our goal is to help Phipps grow their orchid collection to one of national note, as well as the growth of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, a living museum of slipper orchids.

Be sure not to miss Phipps Summer Flower Show, "Jungle Quest." A great prelude to summer!

**If you would like to join our Pfun/P-OSI efforts and haven't previously signed up with us, please let me know at the email address below.**

Thanks and looking forward to working and learning together. . . and having Pfun!

Demetria Marsh

[Demetria117@gmail.com](mailto:Demetria117@gmail.com)

412-848-4349

### MEETING MINUTES – April

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)

April 13, 2025

### Regular Meeting of OSWP

Nancy Kline presented a mini-class on preparing to move orchids outside for the summer.

#### Business

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:00 pm by Co-Presidents Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh. New members were recognized.

Demetria advised the members of the passing of Arlene Ricker.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Janet Greenburg presented the Treasurer's Report. Janet also noted the need for an Assistant Treasurer. She is looking for someone who is familiar with QuickBooks and, in particular, Excel. [Janetg150@verizon.net](mailto:Janetg150@verizon.net)

**Membership:** Kathy Collins noted that 103 members (individual and family) joined at the Show. Following the Show, a total of 128 nametags were prepared. OSWP has now reached a milestone – OSWP now has 400 members.

**Secretary:** Kathy noted that preparation of Thank You letters to vendors is in process.

**Show Chairs:** Kathy McCafferty, Mary Ann Pike and Lawrene Neel thanked all the volunteers who participated. They noted that they have requested feedback from all the Committee Chairs. They are in the process of preparing a report on the Show which they hope to have available at the May meeting.

**AOS/Culture Corner:** Nancy encouraged members to consider joining and supporting the American Orchid Society (AOS). She also remains available to members who have questions about their particular orchids.

**PFun/POSI:** Demetria noted that OSWP continues to provide assistance at Phipps in the orchid greenhouses on Tuesday and Thursday. Anyone interested in participating should contact Demetria directly. [Demetria117@gmail.com](mailto:Demetria117@gmail.com)

**Orchid Gems:** Norma noted that the intent of including member biographies in the newsletter is to aid in our knowledge of one another.

**Social Media:** Zander Morrison reviewed the results of the survey he prepared for the Show participants. He continues to grow our Instagram presence.

**Hospitality:** Lawrene thanked all those who contribute snacks and drinks for the meetings.

## **Old Business**

Stipends for those who travel and prepare exhibits at other society shows. The Board has approved a stipend of \$50 per vehicle for both setup and takedown with a maximum expenditure of \$150 per day.

Gary and Demetria noted that the summer picnic will be held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Ohio Township Nature Center. Additional details to follow.

## **New Business**

**Nominating Committee:** Brandon, Katie and Don Ammon contacted all current Board members. All have agreed to retain their positions for the next year. Elections will be held at the June meeting.

Audit Committee: This committee will be convened soon

2026 Show Date. The Show weekend will be April 9 – April 12 of 2026 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This is a later date due to scheduling conflicts at the Hotel.

OSWP Budget: Will be presented at the June meeting for approval of the membership.

Ad Hoc Committee to consider OSWP Communication methods. Gary would like to establish a committee to consider the most effective and efficient method for conveying OSWP information to the membership. See Gary if you would be interested in serving on such a committee. [gvangelder@verizon.net](mailto:gvangelder@verizon.net)

Website: Jinghua would like an assistant webmaster to assist in maintaining the OSWP.org website. [jinghua.ou@gmail.com](mailto:jinghua.ou@gmail.com)

Walks to visit orchids in nature: Carolyn Bolton discussed opportunities to see orchids growing in native habitats in Pennsylvania. Most likely this would occur in May. Canoe Creek has an easy, level walk that could be an option in May. It is approximately 2 ½ hours to drive to the location. Let Carolyn know if you would like to participate. [boltoncs@gmail.com](mailto:boltoncs@gmail.com)

Newsletter: It was noted that articles are due ***NO LATER THAN the 20th*** of the month. Submissions should be sent to Dave Panasiuk at: [OSWPnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OSWPnewsletter@gmail.com)

#### **Show and Tell:**

A number of members presented orchids they had brought to the meeting for the purpose of Show & Tell. Gary noted that it is helpful to write the name of each plant on a sticky note next to the plant.

#### **Raffle**

A number of plants were raffled from donations made by vendors at the Show as well as from Phipps. The raffle raised \$126.

#### **Plant Sales**

Many vendors also provided donated plants that were sold during the meeting. The plant sales raised an additional \$440.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. and was followed by a panel discussion of members who shared their orchid growing situations – habitat (greenhouse, window sill, under lights), water frequency, lighting, fertilizer usage, etc. While Carolyn Bolton acted as moderator, the OSWP members who served on the panel were: Kaitlyn O'Toole, Sheila Nathanson and Mary Ann Pike.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Submitted by: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary





It is just not the same without you here... Encounter the meetings **IN PERSON** and find out what YOU are missing!



Mini classes, feature speakers, raffles, show & tell, snacks and friendly faces to share your orchid stories and personal experiences!





**The Orchid Society  
of Western Pennsylvania**

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The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Inc. is a non-profit corporation organized to advance the propagation, horticulture and preservation of orchid species and hybrids through research, education and scientific endeavors.

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Affiliated Society



American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

**-If you would like to have a contribution considered for the newsletter, submissions must be received by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. Thank You!**

**THE EMAIL ADDRESS: [OSWPNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OSWPNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM)**

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