



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Feb 2023

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

Feb 19, 2023
Getting your plants ready for the show! Setting up an exhibit.

Looking Ahead

March 16-19 2023
Spring OSWP Show
Crowne Plaza-Pgh South

" UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES "

OSWP meetings are held at the Phipps Garden Center on Shady Avenue and are open to members, their guests and the general public. Program Calendar is also available at www.oswp.org

HOWEVER, we are on Zoom for meetings , and those interested non members could use the 'contact us ' section of the website to get a Zoom invitation

OSWP Officers

Co-President: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

Secretary: Kathy Collins

Co-First Vice President: Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

Second Vice President: Katie Schuller Mentor: Tim Choltco

Directors: Tim Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak. Chuck Oldenburg, Brian Powell

What's Blooming Now



Past Show Exhibits



Consider doing an Exhibit and show your Orchid Obsession

Co-President's Letter February 2023

Hi Everyone,

The holidays have passed and that can only mean one thing... it's show time! On March 18th and 19th we'll return the Crown Plaza Suites for the OSWP's show, "Orchid Obsession". It will feature two days full of dazzling displays, live plant vendors, and classes sure to interest everyone from beginners to experts. So mark your calendars and join us for the fun. You just might develop an "Orchid Obsession" of your very own.

If you have attended OSWP spring shows of the past, you may have shopped at the member sales table, tested your luck on a raffle or even had your our favorite orchid repotted by a knowledgeable volunteer. You surely marveled at the many displays of orchids and maybe even attended a class lead by an experienced member. All of this is thanks to countless hours of work done by OSWP volunteers. Planning starts months in advance with ideas and meetings and phone calls but all the work is worthwhile on show day. Will you join us this year as a volunteer? There are many different jobs to be done. This year we have a convenient sign-up sheet on our website, oswp.org. We also need help advertising the event. There will be copies of the poster available at our next meeting to hang in your favorite neighborhood spots and please spread the word on your social media as well.

Thanks to everyone who was able to join is for the January meeting and to our speakers and OSWP members, Lori McDermott and Tim Choltco for sharing their knowledge and love of orchids.

Thank you all,

Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

Co-Presidents, OSWP

Membership Table at this year's Show

Would you like to be an integral part of growing, not just orchids, but OSWP's membership base? It's fun and easy at the 2023 OSWP Orchid Show. Join me in manning the Membership Table at this year's Show. I've found it to be quite fun to talk with people who have come to the Show for the orchids and now they are excited about their new orchids as well as meeting new Orchid Buddies. There are plenty of available time slots for the Membership Table – Sign up now and be part of growing OSWP! Thank you.

February 19, 2023 Speaker

Getting your plants ready for the show! Setting up an exhibit.

I will be talking and demonstrating how to get your plant/plants ready for this year's show. John, Carol, Chuck and I will be designing and constructing the society exhibit and it does take a village. You only need a few plants to do a small tabletop exhibit. Ask Don Ammon! He has done his small exhibit for the past years and started with only a couple of plants. The 2 pictures of Don's are his first exhibit in 2014, and another in 2020. You can offer your plant to the society exhibit but do not be offended if we rule it out. We rule out many of our own plants if they don't fit or have insects or have damage.

There will be a list in the newsletter you can print or just refer to. It will help you get started.

Thanks, Natalie



Getting Plants Ready for the Show

1. Start early to stake Stem Wire 20, 18 and 16 gauge work the best or green wood plant stakes 12" up to 24"
 - a. Hobby/craft stores
 - b. Amazon.com
2. Wire cutters
3. Cotton swabs
4. Alcohol, sprayer and bottle
5. Baby wipes or a mixture of milk and mayonnaise
6. Last minute take off any bad leaves or leaf parts with scissors
 - a. Use scissors cleaned between each plant with a solution of TSP or flaming
7. Attempt to find the parents or the name of the cross
 - a. Orchidroots (bluenanta.com) for parents of the named plant
 - b. International Orchid Registry of the RHS, parents or new name (<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>)
 - c. OrchidWiz purchased program \$295 License for 2 computers
 - d. Awards Plus (AOS program) \$58.50 License for 2 computers
8. Masking tape to put your name and plant name on the pot if you are giving to another exhibit
9. You are responsible to register your own plant if donating for another exhibit.
10. Other considerations
 - a. Make sure there are no insects (scale and mealy bugs etc.)
 - b. For your exhibit
 - i. Card table
 - ii. Covering for table
 - iii. Straight pins, regular (to close the back drapes) heavier boutonniere pins
 - iv. Extension cords, Power strip
 - v. Spot light
 - vi. Pot covering, black fabric, moss

Show Committee Chairs 2023

AOS Photography.....	Kim McClelland
Clerks.....	Carol Panza
Education.....	Tim Choltco
Exhibits.....	Jim Yamber
Financial.....	Janet Greenberg
ospitality.....	Mike Lysy
Helpers.....	Demetria Marsh
Judging	Dave Miller
Membership.....	Kathy Collins
OSWP Craft Table.....	Brian Powell
Plant Parking.....	Susan Levish & Cindy Weiland
Publicity.....	Dave Motak
Raffle and Silent Auction.....	Michelle and Dave Panasiuk
Registration.....	Tim Choltco
Repotting.....	Katie Schuller and Cam Schmidt
Social Media.....	Lance Chevrount
Society Exhibit.....	Carolyn Bolton and John Whiting
Society Member Sales.....	Leslie Kaplan and Holly Schrum
Trophies.....	Joyce Turkaly
Vendors.....	Norma Raiff
Web Mistress.....	Jinghua Ou
Welcome Table.....	Mary Ann Pike

Mini-Class- February 19,2023

Growing Show Quality Cattleyas, presented by Chuck Oldenburg

Please join us prior to the meeting at 1pm for an orchid mini-class. These half hour classes are for new or experienced orchid growers, and they are taught by your fellow orchid society members. An overall great way to learn and get to know your fellow orchidophiles. In this talk, Chuck Oldenburg will uncover the secrets to growing show quality cattleyas. Chuck has won AOS awards for his cattleyas and has valuable information to share with us. Hope to see you there!

Orchid Show Repotting Table call for volunteers!

Calling all those with some experience repotting orchids. The orchid repotting table is a fun way to interact with the public and answer orchid questions. Do not fret if you only have some experience, at least one "expert" will be present during each volunteer period. Please sign up for a 2-hour time slot at the OSWP sign up online (follow link to sign up). I need at least 3-4 people for each time slot. Please contact me, Katie Schuller, if you have any questions or have trouble signing up at kschuller311@gmail.com. Thanks!

Orchid Gems – Dave Miller Revisited

By: Norma Raiff

If you've been an OSWP member for a while, you already know Dave Miller. Even though he lives in Ohio, he's a member of our society. Dave is approachable, humorous and always ready to pitch in when needed. In his words, "I'm focused, friendly, and I try to treat people the way I want to be treated."

Dave's not just orchid savvy. He's also an accredited orchid judge and spends a humongous amount of time traveling around the multistate area visiting judging centers and society shows.

One of Dave's most vital contributions is that he serves as OSWP's Judging Chair and arranges for other regional judges to be on our judging teams. This means that our Spring Show is "an AOS sanctioned orchid show" and that locally awarded plants become nationally recognized measures of quality and benchmarks for determining plant excellence.

Some background facts: A longtime resident of Ohio, Dave is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University, worked at General Motors, and is a now retired engineer and computer aficionado. After being introduced by one of Dave's fraternity brothers, he and his wife Mary Jo have been married for 50 years. As long time Ohio residents, the Millers live in Niles, Ohio in a house built by her cousin. And you can meet Mary Jo as she often attends meeting with Dave.

"Niles a nice small community," Dave says, "and it's exactly halfway between Pittsburgh and Cleveland." This fact is especially salient since Dave belongs to four Orchid Societies: The Greater Akron Orchid Society (about an hour away), the Ohio-based West Shore and Greater Cleveland Orchid Societies, and then OSWP (2011). He's a real road warrior: in addition to his society meetings, Dave spends a lot of time commuting to his regional judging center in Ann Arbor, Michigan and also typically judges about a dozen orchid shows in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and New York.

Our friend Dave has been enamored with plants for a long time. He credits his love of plants to a "horticultural gene" inherited from his mom and grandfather who were avid house and garden plant growers. His houseplant collection populated not only his home but also overran his office at work.

The notorious Orchid Bug bit Dave in 2004. That's when bought his first named orchid plant -- Paph. King Arthur -- from Lowe's and began to catalog his growing collection. And although he is now aware that it is an historic cross, "I chose it because it had a named label and was in bud." That's a good purchase rule for all OSWP members to follow.

Dave's collection rapidly grew from 5 to 10 to 50 and upward. "So around 2005, I was struggling to find if I was growing my plants correctly and I went to AOS's web site to identify some local societies that I could visit." His first stop-off was nearby Akron: a fortuitous choice which resulted in many new friendships, including Barbara Ford (who is also a good friend of OSWP Treasurer Jan Greenberg) and others. "They treated me so well and were so welcoming...It didn't take long for me to become an officer."

And while Dave also reads articles and researched the web, he eventually concluded that these resources, while informative, were not necessary fully relevant to his specific needs. "The problem is that ar-



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ticles and blogs don't always reflect your geographical area or cultural limits. They don't necessarily tell you what you need to successfully grow."

That's why society membership and friend making is so very important. "It's all about relationships and finding people who can help you." Another bit of advice is that "You can't grow everything. Although we all try, if you can't grow it, discard it or get it to someone who can and would like to have it."

As OSWP member, Rich Sipko, counseled him several years ago: "You are stupid to grow so many different kinds of orchids in such a small growing area. Concentrate on the ones that are happy with your space and find homes for the others. It will significantly cut down on frustration."

The drive to learn from trusted peers also motivated Dave to join other societies "You know it's an obsession, but eventually you find people who are equally possessed." By expanding his society memberships, Dave not only increased his informal network of trusted advisors, but he also learned more from the talks and perspectives offered by invited Society speakers.

Dave advises OSWP members to carefully consider the awarded plants that fill our show displays.

"When you look at ribbon judging, your sense of what is outstanding is defined. It offers you comparative feedback...And for me, when I finally started getting blue ribbons and even best in classes awards, that feedback takes on new meaning because it lets you know how you stand in terms of other growers and provides precise information on your personal growing skills."

In other words, don't be shy about exhibiting your plants – either in the OSWP society display or an exhibit you might do by yourself or with friends. You might not only take home some ribbons or awards, but you'll be on the path to becoming a more sophisticated collector.

Dave also sees entering the judging system as a path to lifelong learning. "When I was a student judge, I was sometimes intimidated and petrified. However, other judges such as OSWP's Barbara Tisherman, John Dunkelberger (National Capital Judging Center) and Bill Goldner (owner of Windstream Orchids) took me under their wings and shared their knowledge with me. Confidence grows with exposure and proper training, then after judging 500, then 1,000 and then 10,000 orchids, a new judge reaches a more comfortable understanding of the judging world."

Dave also recommends that OSWP members use Orchid Pro as a valued resource. This data base can be found on the AOS website and is available to all AOS members. It includes photos, descriptions and measurements of over 100,000 AOS awards plus awards from several other international judging organizations. It's a tremendous encyclopedia that you can consult when considering your next purchase. "I always check a new plant with OPro to see how it stacks up in its current form but I also use that to verify the exact name on the label. There are many plants sold with incomplete or inaccurate plant name spelling."

Dave's bottom line: "I tell people not to be afraid to ask questions. When you're comfortable with others, you won't be afraid to confess your uncertainties and mistakes. I tell others that I've been there."

To quote Edgar Stehli's (Windswept in Time) adage. "You have to kill orchids in order to know how to grow them. If you kill 100 orchids, you're an expert. if you kill 1,000, you're a guru."

Final words: "Despite all the things I have to do, my responsibility is not just to judge shows, but to help

people understand what is a good orchid and why it's a good orchid."

Happy Orchid'ing.



It Is Show Time.

If you are considering putting in an exhibit for our spring show please send me an email requesting the space. We have table top (9sq.ft.) 25 sq.ft. 50 sq.ft spaces available. it is a first come first served situation. So if you know you wish 25 sq.ft. space please send me your request ASAP.

Jim Yamber quail1@verizon.net

The OSWP Spring Orchid Show Needs You

Ahh- late winter in Pittsburgh- the birds are singing, the ground is thawing, little green shoots are appearing everywhere- or we could have snow. If you anticipate needing a glimpse of spring, please plan to join the fun at the annual OSWP spring orchid show, Orchid Obsession.

Show dates are : Initial Set Up- Thursday 3/16 from 4pm until approximately 7pm, Major Set Up, Friday,3/17 (wear green) from 8am until 6pm, Open to the Public Saturday 3/18 from 9am to 5pm, and Sunday 3/19 from 9am to 4pm. Moving it all out: Sunday 3/19 from 4pm until done. Last year we were finished before 6pm.

Jinghua Ou has done a wonderful job setting up our online sign up tool, Sign Up Genius. It can be accessed through our website, OSWP.org . Look for the "What's New?" box on the first page, then click on ' Volunteer for the Spring Show'. You will arrive at the sign up sheet- scroll down until you find the jobs you wish to volunteer for and enter your name and email address. You will then be on the schedule, and you will receive an email confirmation.

If you wish to sponsor a Trophy (\$25.) go back to "What's New?" and click " Donate to OSWP". That will show you the list of available trophy categories.

The show is a large and important undertaking for the OSWP. It is our largest fundraising event, and also where we have the greatest exposure to the public, and therefore where we attract new members. New members are how we continue to flourish as a volunteer organization. If you are new to the OSWP, please find an opportunity to get involved in the show- we have jobs for everyone! And, don't forget Hospitality. Mike Lysy has been making sure we get fed for the three days alot of us live at the show. He would like help in the form of a volunteer to help him get the meals out, and also to bring a contribution of food if possible. We do not have cooking facilities or dishwashing at the hotel, so any food should be in a crockpot or similar plug in warmer, or food that can be kept at room temperature, such as salads.

The most valuable result of volunteering at the show is the opportunity to get to know others who share a common interest in growing orchids. Deep and lasting friendships can be made by having an obsession with these truly fascinating plants, and being able to share that with fellow orchid growers.

That's really the best part .

See you at the show!

Sheila, Janet and Norma

Membership

“ALL member dues are paid thru the end of the current fiscal year 07/01/22-06/30/23. This includes all those who joined at the spring show 2022.”

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)
General Meeting
January 15, 2023

The meeting was held at Phipps Garden Center.

A mini-class presented by Lori McDermott re “The Dangerous and Highly Competitive World of Orchid Hunting” began at 1:00 pm. The business portion of the meeting was called to order at approx. 1:45 pm by Co-Presidents Michelle and Dave Panasiuk.

1 new member (Mona Rice) was welcomed to her first meeting.

Old Business:

a. Crawford Estate Donations: Items remain in temporary storage in Pitcairn. Coordination with Phipps seems to be progressing as Ben Dunnigan has been designated as the Phipps representative. OSWP will require the services of 1 or 2 volunteers to assist in choosing items from the estate once the details with Phipps can be worked out. An E-Blast for volunteers will be sent once a time can be set.

b. OSWP Meeting Location: The Phipps Garden Center will be renovated in 2023. Phipps has only guaranteed our use of the location for January and February, 2023. A new location has been identified in Hazelwood at the old St. Stephens School. The rent is reasonable, the site is handicap accessible and parking lots are available. Our first meeting at this location will be April 16th. More details and the specific address will be provided.

c. Raj Popat Orchid Collection – Raj is ready to donate a portion of his orchid collection to OSWP. OSWP is looking for members who can “foster” the orchids until the Show in March or until such other appropriate time. If you can assist, please contact Sheila Nathanson.

Reports:

a. Newsletter: Jim Yamber noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month to allow for editing and distribution.

b. Orchid Gems: Norma Raiff thanked all the OSWP members who are willing to be interviewed for Orchid Gems. If you would like to be interviewed or have a suggestion for a member who should be interviewed, please contact Norma or Pam.

c. Treasurer: Janet Greenburg presented the Treasurer’s report.

Orchid Show:

- The Spring Show dates will be March 18 and 19, 2023. Setup will be Thursday and Friday, March 16 and 17. Volunteers will be needed each day for a variety of tasks.
- Clipboards containing signup sheets were passed around during the meeting. Emails will be sent out for signing up via an online tool.

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- Preorders for plants (25 days in advance of the show) will be accepted by many of the vendors. Information on making preorders will be provided.
- As part of our Show hospitality, we provide a number of meals for the vendors as well as OSWP volunteers. Donations of either food or cash to purchase food are welcome. There is no ability to cook on-site, although there will be access to microwaves and plugs for crockpots.
- Ad sponsorships for the programs are encouraged. Forms for the sponsorships were provided at the meeting as well as the Show posters for members to distribute.
- Donations of orchid-related items for the silent action will be welcomed.

Miscellaneous meeting minutes:

A number of members presented orchids they had brought to the meeting for the purpose of Show & Tell.

A plant raffle was held. Bob Lusnak won this month's plant raffle.

A suggestion was made that future OSWP meeting dates be listed on the OSWP website. The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m. and was followed by the guest speaker and OSWP member, Tim Choltco who gave a presentation on "Sex, Lies and Orchids."

Submitted: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary

Vendors for the Spring 2023 Show

If you are considering pre-ordering plants from any of the vendors who will be at the OSWP Spring Orchid show. You need to contact the vendor ASAP so they have time to get those plants included in the shipment they will be bring to our show.

Windswept in Time Orchids	440-838-5757 Edgar & Kim Stehli	https://windsweptorchids.com/
Wade's Orchids	570-837-9157 Wade Hollenbach	www.wadesorchids.com
Woodstream Orchids	410-610-6697 Bill Goldner	www.woodstreamorchids.com
Ecuagenera USA Corp.	1 (941) 960 6950 Betsy Portilla	www.ecuagenera.com
Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies	844-672-4432 PK Dennis	
Mayfield Village Orchids	440-463-5986 (cell) Dr. William Shumann (Bill)	
Ten Shin Gardens	Phone number is +886 910 157 470 Matthew Wei-Yi Chen Matt)	https://tenshinorchids.com/



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.

February 2023

Pfun at Phipps, a vital part of the OSWP's volunteer work at Phipps, is repotting orchids as well as doing the inventory of the Phipps orchid collection. The Pfunsters are also helping as the Clean-up Crew. We usually have Pfun on several Mondays and Thursdays from 9:45AM – 12:45PM. If you don't think you have the expertise to repot orchids or work on the inventory, you can help with orchid greenhouse clean-up. It's all a great learning experience for all of us.

If you would like to join our Pfun/P-OSI efforts and haven't previously signed up with us, please let us know at the email addresses below. We are using at least 4 members each date, with at least one being a more experienced grower.

(If it's your first visit, you must stop in at the Volunteer Office with proof of vaccination and ID and sign a photo release. At the moment, all of the volunteers are required to wear masks at Phipps.)

Don't miss the Orchid and Tropical Bonsai Show: Origin Stories! It's on display until March 5th. It's an amazing display of orchids and bonsai.

Looking forward to working and learning together and having Pfun!

Happy New Year!

Nancy Kline
nancyk412@gmail.com
412-367-1556

Demetria Marsh
demetria117@gmail.com
412-848-4349

November was the last meeting raffle!

At our Jan 15 meeting Bob Lusnak won a beautiful Paph. primulinum in our raffle!

We are looking for a plant for our raffle. Anyone who is interested in donating a plant, please contact Natalie Turicik" natalie.rozum@gmail.com

Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore,
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Chevront	P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Garden Club/Library Liaison		Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton	Show	Sheila Nathanson, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Library	open	Speaker	Carolyn Boltin and Natalie. Turicik
Membership	Kathy Collins	Website	Jinghua Ou
Mini-class	Tim Choltc and Katie Schuller		
Newsletter	Jim Yamber		



First Class Mail

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James Yamber (editor)
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quail1@verizon.net

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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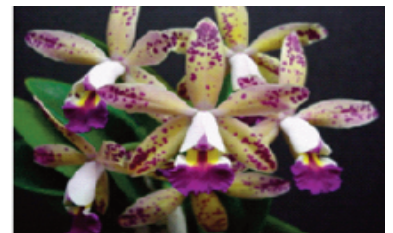
American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research,
Affiliated Society

Upcoming 2023 speaker

Feb. 19, 2023

**Getting your plants ready for
the show!
Setting up an exhibit.**

More to come for the future programs for 2023



WANTED

***The American Orchid
Society Judging Program
is seeking highly
motivated orchid
enthusiasts to join the
judging ranks.***

*Work with other such people and
help maintain our awards
programs and educational efforts.*

*For more information contact Dave
Miller at: 330-307-7189 or
demjpasml@aol*