



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

May 2021

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

May 16 ,2021
Ronald Midgett
Intergeneric Oncidiinae
New Earth Orchids, Santa Fe NM
(Ron was an OSWP member in the 70's)

Looking Ahead

Meetings will continue on Zoom for now
June 27: David Haelterman, Cali Columbia (Photographer and Nature Guide): Orchids of Colombia in their native habitats. A huge richness to conserve in an incredibly biodiverse country

" 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: Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse

Co-First Vice President: Kathleen Arria and David Springer

Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco

Directors: Brooke Decker, Peg Kalupanov, Jinghua Ou, Aaron Vitron, Tamara Wurst.

Secretary : Lance Cheuvront

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Index of Native Species

If you google Orchids Species of Pennsylvania you will be taken to a website that lists the orchids of Penn'a and a map showing the area in which each is located.

Below is identification information and species specific distribution maps for each of the 55 species native to Pennsylvania. The species are organized alphabetically by genus name, then species within that genus. An index of the genus (bold) and species (bullets) can be seen on the website.

Aplectrum hyemale (Puttyroot) **Arethusa** bulbosa (Dragon's-Mouth) **Calopogon** tuberosus (Grass-pink) **Corallorhiza** maculata (Spotted or Large Coralroot) **Cypripedium** acaule (Pink Lady's-Slipper or Moccasin Flower) **Cypripedium** parviflorum (Yellow Lady's Slipper or Moccasin Flower) **Cypripedium** reginae (Large White or Showy Lady's Slipper)

Cypripedium parviflorum



This is in my yard Cypripedium parviflorum. All of the plants in my yard I bought. Photo by Jim Yamber

Co-President's Letter May 2021

Here we are, in one of the most glorious times of the year- spring in full regalia ! The flowering trees are absolutely luscious, the birds songs demand attention and the road crews are everywhere.

Traditionally, here in Western Pennsylvania , we are safe from frost after Mother's Day. That might be a date to plan to bring some of your hardier orchids outside for some light, rain, and soft breezes. Just

remember to shade them from full sun for the first few weeks, even cattleya and dendrobiums, or you will get sunburned leaves that will be a permanent reminder of your mistake. Also, do not place pots directly on the ground outside. Doing so is an invitation for all sorts of critters to invade your pots. Low tables, especially ones that drain, are exactly what you need. Plants that tend to collect water in their leaves such as phalaenopsis, are better off under cover from rain, but do benefit from the humidity and temperature differential provided by being outdoors.

I am so looking forward to our Member Sales Event on June 6, time to see below. We have the Montour Shelter, which is right off Corrigan Road, which is the main road into South Park from Rte. 88.

Robert's Flower Supply will be joining us, so contact them at rfs@orchidmix.com. or 440-236-5571. for any orchid supplies you may need and he will deliver them to us.

Happy Spring and continue to Think Orchids !

Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lysey

*** MEMBER SWAP AND SALE ***

Where : Montour Shelter, South Park. (Corrigan Drive to Hundred Acre Drive to Montour Shelter. Follow signs for 'Skating Rink ') **When :** Sunday, June 6 from 11am until 3pm **What :** A chance to find new homes for your extras, while acquiring some new treasures. An opportunity to have your orchid supplies delivered free of shipping charges. **Supplies** may be pre-ordered from Robert's Flower Supply, 1-440-236-5571 or rfs@orchidmix.com

We will be outdoors with a roof in case of rain or hot sun, but masks are required.

Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore,
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline		Cristina Eyler
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Garden Club/Library Liaison	Karen Gibson	P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton	Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Library	Rosa Graudins	Show	Sheila Nathanson, Tammy Wurst,
Membership	Kathy Collins		Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Mini-class	Tim Cholte	Speaker	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Newsletter	Jim Yamber	Website	Jinghua Ou

Orchid Gems

It's Not Hawaii, but It's Like Paradise: John Tyler
by Pam Horter-Moore

Family, tropical plants, and ham radio play an important part in John Tyler's life. A retired locomotive designer with 37 years at General Electric, the Erie native and his wife Patti celebrated their 50th anniversary last August, a week after his second grandson was born, and the day after their older daughter's birthday.

John's interest in tropical plants took new meaning when he and Patti went to Hawaii to visit their older daughter in 2005. "The trip was certainly worth it. The hotel staff upgraded our reservation to an ocean-front suite when they learned that it was our 35th wedding anniversary.

"I was impressed to see orchids everywhere – the hotels, the restaurants, the lobbies, the shopping malls. The people just took them for granted."

John and Patti returned to Hawaii a few times to visit their daughter and to see the island. On their third trip, they discovered an orchid nursery, where John purchased and shipped home some orchids. Since he was given little instruction regarding their care, they didn't last long.

On their next trip, they discovered another nursery further up in the mountains, and saw how cooler temperatures affected the types of orchids that were displayed. The owners were award-winning growers, and John had greater success with the orchids he ordered from there.

"I've read many books about orchid care, but I've had much more success talking with people. You can't ask a book questions, and you can beat your head against a wall looking for answers. The tweaks you get from other people add to your success," John says. There were few opportunities to connect with orchid enthusiasts in Erie.

In the meantime, John's and Patti's daughter was offered a good job opportunity and moved to Mt. Lebanon, where she attended the March 2019 OSWP Orchid Show at Artsmith and purchased some orchids. When she couldn't maintain them, she gave them to John, but it was too late to save them.

Remembering that experience, John attended the next OSWP Orchid Show at the Crown Plaza in Mt. Lebanon right before the 2020 Covid-19 shutdown. While there, he talked with other orchid enthusiasts and vendors like Edgar of Windswept in Time Orchids. He found that talking face-to-face with those who also had a passion for growing was much more productive than trying to find answers in books. John became a member just as the Covid pandemic forced face-to-face meetings towards online alternatives. "I learned a lot from the members I talked with, and I got a free orchid," he jokes when asked about his inducement to join OSWP.

The Zoom meetings have been a boon to John, since he has the opportunity to interact personally and visually with orchid enthusiasts from the tri-state area. By getting involved with the Society online, he finds it easy to ask questions directly from people with a common interest.

John doesn't have a greenhouse, and most of his orchids are indoors. When he has put orchids outside, even a fence didn't stop the dogs from destroying them, but he's had more success with the vandas hanging in his dogwood trees.

He has around thirty orchids that share space with poinsettias and other tropical plants on plant stands with adjustable shelves, and hanging from the dining-room curtain rods. Most are Dendrobiums, but he also has a few Cattleyas and Cymbidiums.

He uses humidity trays to retain moisture, and full-spectrum grow-lights, and he is beginning to see success. Getting advice about supplies for orchid care is another advantage to talking with other orchid enthusiasts.

Orchids are a passion. "You don't want them to fail; you want to see them bloom," John says. "It's like a child growing; you want to see it succeed."

He was most recently interested in Cymbidiums, but Peter Lin's presentation in January spurred his interest in mini-orchids. Windswept in Time Orchids has been very helpful in making suggestions. "There is so much trust here," John remarks. "Everyone is so friendly and helpful."

His participation in the OSWP has helped him to evolve as a collector. He wants to upgrade from white Dendrobiums and is looking for color. Mostly, though, he's looking for results.

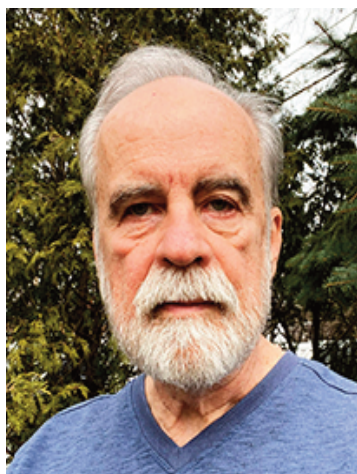
"You don't know the impact these Zoom meetings have had on my collection," John says.

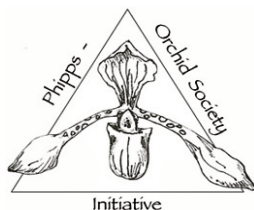
"In Hawaii, there is less trouble growing orchids, but having tropical plants around here in Erie is much cheaper than moving to Hawaii," John jokes. It's too far away from his 3-year-old and 7-month-old grandsons. Both daughters now live in the Greater Pittsburgh area, which is good for this close-knit family.

"Having been to Hawaii, I can say that it's an unbelievable experience to hike to a waterfall and see the orchids in the wild. You can grow tropical plants successfully in your home; you just have to provide the climate to meet their needs."

John affirms his continued love for tropical plants. "I have Birds of Paradise, and I get a flower every year. I also collect and grow Plumerias, the flowers that are associated with Hawaiian leis. I've had success with difficult flowers for my growing conditions in Erie, so I think I can conquer these orchids.

My advice to novices is to join an organization where orchids are a passion. You learn much more from people than from books, and you find that they are willing to share their experiences – the good and the bad."





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 2021

While we are not permitted to continue our work helping with the Phipps orchid collection due to the pandemic precautions, Margie Radebaugh promises the orchids are being well taken care of. We can still visit Phipps Conservatory's Summer Flower Show, The Hidden Life of Trolls, starting May 1st and visit the blooming orchids in the Orchid Exhibition Room in the Conservatory.

In the Spring edition of the Slipper Orchid Alliance Journal, Slipper Orchids, there is a wonderful article by Barbara Tisherman, a long time OSWP member, and AOS Judge Emeritus, about the history of the Slipper Orchid Alliance. Barbara, the founder of the SOA in 1999 here in Pittsburgh, has just passed the presidency on to Roddy Gabel, to continue her fine work. At the end of the article there is a short history about Barbara. Included in that is our Super Slipper Celebration in Pittsburgh in 2013, celebrating the beginning of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Collection at Phipps Conservatory. The BTSOC is part of our P-OSI mission, to develop a living museum of Slipper Orchids for enjoyment, education, research and preservation of historic Slipper Orchids.

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Mini-class 2021 – May 16 1:15pm prior to the O.S.W.P. business meeting.

Mini-class 2021 – May 16
1:15pm prior to the O.S.W.P. business meeting.

Habenaria and Related Genera - Timothy Choltco

Please join myself and the O.S.W.P. for the mini-class for May. The topic Habenaria and some of its related genera. The presentation will be a discussion of culture. Habenaria is a wonderful genus of about 880 species found in tropical and subtropical areas of every continent. Related genera that grow similarly are Bonatea (13 species), Cynorkis (60-70 species), Pecteilis (8-9 species), Stenoglottis (8 species), and others. Cynorkis, Habenaria, and Stenoglottis species and hybrids have become increasingly popular for their colorful flowers produced in late summer through early winter. While the first Habenaria hybrid was registered in 1910, the majority of hybrids were produced after 2010. Recently hybrids between Cynorkis, Habenaria, and Pecteilis have added additional colors, shapes, and sizes. The future of this group is NOW. Work is being done by several growers and breeders, including myself, to bring more to the orchid buffet. These plants, unlike the majority of other orchids REQUIRE a warm (or sometimes cool to cold) dry dormancy. Not a rest period. These plants lose their leaves and become completely dormant like spring Narcissus and Tulipa or summer Dahlia. Failure with these plants is often with the misunderstanding of the dormancy period. Some species are forgiving of watering at the "wrong time". For some species it is a death sentence. But, in the end it is a matter of listening to your plants and being patient. Though I did a similar presentation in 2020, over the past 2 months I have received many emails, texts, etc. concerning what, when, and how to treat these orchids now that they are waking up from their 3-5 month dormancy. This will be a truncated culture only presentation.

Please join myself and the rest of the O.S.W.P. for this presentation prior to the regular O.S.W.P. meeting.

Timothy Choltco
2nd Vice President and all around decent sentient being.



Judges Viewpoint by Dave Miller, Great Lakes Judging Center

AOS Seeking Orchid Judges

As many of you have already seen in American Orchid Society publications and email blasts, we are looking for enthusiasts for the AOS Judging Program. Beginning in January, we created ads and sent them to societies as well as the AOS, attempting to contact as many orchidists as possible. In this edition, I thought it might be interesting to talk about the AOS Judging Program. I joined the judging program in 2012 and it has been a wondrous journey where I have made a lot of new live-long friends and learned a number of things about myself as well as orchids.

What Do Judges Do?

The primary responsibility of AOS judges is to support the AOS

Judging Program by providing judging support at monthly AOS

sponsored regional judging centers and providing judging support at AOS sanctioned orchid shows.

AOS Monthly Judging

AOS Judging is geographically divided into regional judging centers in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Each month, a judging center hosts “monthly judging” on

a consistent day of the week, time, and location. The monthly sessions provide a place for any person to bring their orchids and have them judged by AOS judges. These sessions are open to the public not only to have plants judged but also just to observe the judging process.

Most judging centers also use this time to offer education hours in the form of talks on aspects of orchids and their development. In COVID times, this has been much easier for others to attend the talks as most of us are still using online meetings for our sessions.

All monthly sessions are published in the AOS Calendar of Events located at aos.org. Sometimes circumstances force the center to move or even cancel a monthly judging. COVID restrictions and guidelines has wreaked havoc on monthly judging and shows over the last year. Most sessions have been strictly internet meetings with no live plant judging.

Regional Judging Centers can be found on the AOS website under Orchid Awards and Judging or use this link [AOS Judging Centers](#) to find information about monthly judging dates, times, location and who to contact. At present there are twenty-seven AOS judging centers but several, like in California, Hawaii, and Florida, have multiple locations.



DID YOU KNOW? Any person can ask to have their orchid judged by an AOS judging team. True for monthly judging and as well as sanctioned orchid shows. It is the responsibility of the owner to have the plant delivered and picked up from judging. Obviously much easier to do so at an orchid show.

AOS Orchids magazine has been publishing photos of awarded orchids in their monthly issues for some time now. It is a great opportunity to see photos of extremely well-grown orchids.

If you are unsure of the quality of your orchid, take a few minutes to consult with a local judge that you know or is affiliated with your society. Most of us don't bite, so don't be fearful of asking. We are accustomed to the process of helping people with their plants.

AOS Sanctioned Shows

All orchid shows where AOS judges are providing services must be registered with the AOS. That is the

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meaning of the “sanctioned” part. In general, judges host an official AOS judging session right at the show. In smaller judging centers, the usual monthly judging session might be moved to that show to provide enough judges for the show.

Judges select plants from the exhibits and sometimes owners submit their plants for the judges to review. If you plan to submit your own plant then talk to a participating judge that you know or present yourself to the assigned “Head Judge” for the session. If you are simply “Observing”, find the Head Judge and introduce yourself and the Head Judge will give you a little guidance.

At AOS sanctioned shows, judges usually assist and perhaps even manage the ribbon judging tasks. Although ribbon judging is listed as a society responsibility, most ribbon judging is managed by AOS judging teams. If you have participated on a ribbon judging team, you already know that each team is comprised of judges and other society members as clerks and lay judges. “Lay Judges” are society members who are not judges but have good orchid knowledge and are used to fill-in in the judging teams when there are not enough AOS judges to have enough judges. It’s a lot of fun and you are likely to learn quite a bit about orchids.

Other Activities

You are likely to see judges holding society offices, publishing newsletters or maintaining websites and social media, giving the monthly program talk, working at plant registration at a show or teaching a public class on repotting or orchid culture. We take that part of judging quite seriously and like to take those opportunities for increasing general knowledge of orchid care with anyone who will listen. Contact Dave at dcmjpasmil@aol.com or call or text to 330-307-7189.

May speaker Ronald Midgett

For our May meeting we are welcoming back a member from long ago. Ron Midgett was a member of the OSWP from 1974 to 1976 and served as one of our VPs in 1975 and 1976. He will be speaking to us about *Intrgeneric Oncidiinae*, which is a wonderful group of colorful orchids that are fun to grow. Ron began growing orchids in 1969 in the orchid-rich environment of Southern California. Since then, he has grown orchids in many different regions of the US and in the Caribbean. Ron currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico and is the owner of New Earth Orchids. He is a breeder with an emphasis on *Cattleyas*, *Paphiopedilums*, and *Oncidinae*. Several cultivars from his crosses have received AOS awards. Ron is an accredited AOS judge currently serving in the Rocky Mountain Region. He has served as chairperson for AOS judging for the 2011 and 2012 New Mexico Orchid Guild Shows. In 2011, Ron was invited to participate in judging at the Taiwan International Orchid Show. Ron has authored articles published in *Orchids* and most recently in the *Orchid Digest*. He was given the prestigious Ernest Heatherington award from the *Orchid Digest* for his article, “Beyond Sc. Beaufort—A 25 Year Odyssey in *Cattleya* Breeding”. Ron feels a special honor in receiving this award because Ernest was one of his first mentors.

Ron has spoken in many venues across the country. He has twice been an invited speaker to the prestigious *Cattleya* Symposium held each summer in Florida. He has done speaking tours in New England, Central Florida, Mid’ Florida, California, and The Texas Circuit. We are pleased to have Ron joining us for our Zoom meeting and continuing our run of great speakers that are not to be missed.

Following Orchids out of the Darkness

By Lance Cheuvront

This is a bittersweet thing to be writing and I beg your indulgence in it.

This March marked five years since I was seduced into the OSWP. I remember it clearly and I can even tell you the orchid that did it. Kim and I had come to the OSWP Spring Show in 2016 and had spent several hours wandering the vendors and the exhibits. And more than that, we talked to the members and were blown away by the kindness, the humor and the knowledge that seemed to run through all of them.

But there was an orchid. I know now that it was in Wade Hollenbach's display. Brassia 'Memoria Fritz Boedecker.' It stopped me in my tracks and Kim and I decided that it was an alien life form, pretending to be an orchid and you all were in on it, and I wanted to be too!

That night I emailed the society and told them how much we had enjoyed ourselves and how wonderful everything had been. Then President Carolyn Bolton emailed me back and told me all about the society and suggested we come to a meeting or two. But we did one better and went back to the show for the Sunday as well.

As we entered, I asked if Carolyn was available and introduced myself and she suddenly lit up and told all the members in earshot that I had been the one who sent "the email." the night before.

We were welcomed and treated like family.

I needed that.

Between 2010 and 2015 I spent over thirty months in hospitals. I was sick and there was no name for what was wrong with me and there were no answers. I had become depressed and felt pretty much hopeless.

But then and there, the Orchid Society gave me something that I genuinely needed. A way to bring beauty, life and challenge into my life and I grabbed it with both hands.

We joined the Society right after that and when the membership found out that I only had two orchids, both of them big box store Phals, they decided that wasn't enough and by the time we left that first meeting, I had three more.

Dave Miller had given a wonderful mini-class on repotting and gifted me the orchid he demonstrated with. A Banfieldara Gilded Tower 'Mystic Maze' that I still have and has bloomed for me many times since then. Carolyn Bolton gifted me a beautiful Sophrolaeliocattleya Hsiang Yu Red Pearl 'Red Dragonfly' that I promptly murdered.

Dave told me later, with a laugh that you aren't a real grower until you have killed fifty of them. Well, I am now a real grower I suspect.

I jumped into this with both feet and the Society welcomed that. I began volunteering at Phipps within a month and Sheila, Nancy and Tim made that fun, funny and a wonderful learning experience and suddenly, I had something to think about other than being sick.

I don't think you folks realize how kind and embracing you are. I fumbled hard and am fumbling still and there is no mockery, there is no derision, there is only joy, a nod, a wink and a look that says, "I've been



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there.” You might not know how rare that is, but you have to trust me. Not every social group is even close to being as magical and brilliant as you folks are.

Kim and I found a place among you. Kim began to help with the photography for the AOS and then took it over and we both served on the board and it was my honor to serve under three presidents. The amazing Demetria Marsh and the equally awesome Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lysy.

We have enjoyed our time with you one thousand percent. I have developed friendships that I hope with endure the rest of my life and no matter what my future with orchids is, I know that I will never meet a greater group of growers and people than I have found with all of you.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Katie Schuller for the opportunity to volunteer hundreds of hours and for giving me knowledge, guidance and purpose. I could very easily run off every name in the society and tell you all how amazing you are, but I do want to say that Janet, it has been amazing working alongside of you on the board and you are a powerhouse of a human being. Norma, you are one of the most fun, kind and wonderful people. Hossein my friend, thank you for your knowledge and your friendship. Lori, I love your laugh and your spirit and I am honored to have worked alongside of you in Phipps and beyond. And last but not least, Tim. You have become like a brother to me. You have answered my forty billion questions, gotten in trouble at Phipps with me for being too rambunctious and you have been a shoulder to lean on more times than I can count. You guys simply are the best.

And I really mean it. I followed orchids out of the darkness. If you let it, you will discover that their mystery, their challenge and ultimately their beauty are infinitely rewarding and will give you a light when all else seems dim. I will be attending the meeting at least through June through Zoom and will make sure that anyone who wants it has my email address and my slow cooker mushrooms recipe. Cheers, and thank you all!

Kim & Lance



2nd ANNUAL ORCHID RAFFLE HELD 07/04/21

ALL PAID MEMBERS for FISCAL YEAR 07/01/21-06/30/22 are AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED IN THE RAFFLE-VALUE \$50

The winner will receive the orchid prize, per direct shipment from the vendor.

OSWP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Fiscal Year 07/01/21-06/30/22

Individual: \$20; Family \$25; Add \$15 for mailed newsletter.

Emailed newsletter option is appreciated

We are trying to make renewal as easy as possible for everyone.

Using PayPal to pay via a debit or credit card is very simple.

DID YOU KNOW: You do not need to have a PayPal account.

If your contact info for address, phone or email, has not changed, there is no need to complete the membership form.

DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS:

PayPal -HIGHLY recommended for Ease of Use.

DON'T HAVE A PAYPAL ACCOUNT?

Just sign into OSWP.org. Go to memberships

and Use the buttons to pay via PayPal.

No need to sign in to PayPal. Select "Pay with Debit or Credit Card".

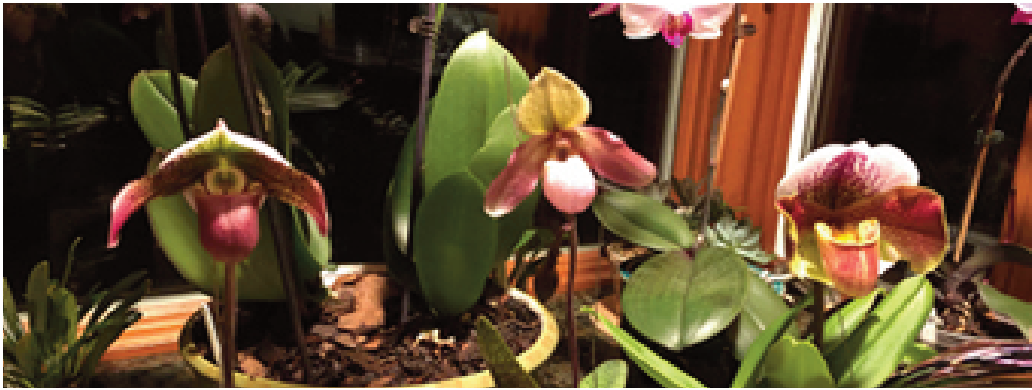
OR WITH OWN PAYPAL ACCOUNT:

Use email address OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com and choose "Friends and Family" (no fee assessed OSWP).

Send check payable to "OSWP" and mail to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr. McMurray, PA 15317-3212.

If you are not sure if your dues are paid up for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1st, please email my personal account: Janetg150@verizon.net

WELCOME **NEW MEMBERS**



We hope this communication finds you well - and maybe even vaccinated! As you are likely aware, our 2021 Orchid Show has been cancelled due to COVID. Following our Spring Orchid Show, we normally host new members at a special reception in their honor. During this time we introduce you to the many activities available to members of The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP). But again, due to COVID, we have been unable to meet in person or host our New Member Reception. Hopefully you are already receiving our EBlasts containing the photos of orchids currently blooming for OSWP members as well as OSWP newsletters and invitations to our monthly meetings - currently being held via Zoom.

Because no new members who joined at the 2020 Show or since have been able to participate in our annual New Member Reception, we would like to invite you to participate in a special time set aside for new members prior to our May 16th Zoom meeting. We will open the Zoom link at 12:30 to allow new members to have an opportunity to hear from OSWP leadership. During this time we will answer your questions about OSWP and also provide information regarding volunteer activities at Phipps Conservatory. If time allows, we will try to answer any specific questions you may have about growing orchids.

We look forward to meeting you during this special time on May 16th.

Kathy Collins OSWP Membership Chair



First Class Mail

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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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Upcoming 2021 speaker

FUTURE PROGRAMS

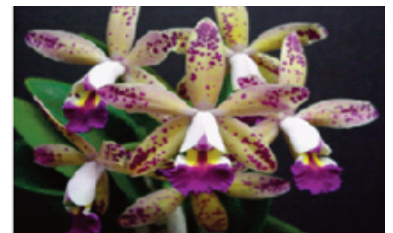
May 16, 2021

Ronald Midgett

Intrergeneric Oncidiinae

New Earth Orchids, Santa Fe NM

More to come for the future programs for 2021



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
dcnjpsmil@aol*