



# Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Sept 2022

[www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 18, 2022**

Wade Hollenbach of  
Wade's Orchids in Middleburg, PA  
Meetings Phipps Garden Center

## Looking Ahead

Oct 18 2022 TBA Meetings Phipps Garden Center  
Nov 20 2022 TBA Meetings Phipps Garden Center  
Dec 11 2022 Christmas party Crowne Plaza-Pgh South 2 to 5  
Jan 15 2023 TBA  
Feb 19 2023 TBA  
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](http://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

### **Paphiopedilum Winston Churchill 'Indomitable' FCC/AOS**

**Paphiopedilum Winston Churchill**, registered by Stuart Low Co. of England in 1951 Named for Prime Minister Winston Churchill from a crossing of Paph. Eridge and Paph. Hampton. Both of which are registered hybrids, but none where as good as their offspring Winston Churchill.

Many orchid stud stock was moved to the USA because of German bombing in World War II so the great crosses would not be lost. How many things must be moves out of harms way because of some mad person wanting world power.

These two crosses, ( the spotted "Indomitable" FCC/AOS and the red "Redoubtable" FCC/AOS) were most influential of this cross which changed the breeding of today's paphiopedilum hybrids.

The first Paphiopedilum hybrid was registered back in 1869. It was P. Harrisianum – a crossing of P. barbatum and P. villosum. Which is a primary hybrid and is still available today. However, Paph. Winston Churchill is a complex hybrid with many different paphs in the background parentage.



Photo by Jim Yamber

## **Ex-Co-President's Letter September 2022**

Hi Everyone,

Hard to believe it's nearly fall. I hope all of your orchids are thriving in the beautiful weather and rewarding you with many blooms. Yet, as I sit here listening to the crickets chirp, I'm reminded that summer will soon be ending. It's time to think about transitioning all of the orchids back inside. I always wonder how it's even possible. Have the plants grown that much? Maybe the shelves have shrunk or could it be because I splurged on a few new additions to my collection? Fortunately, we still have some time before the cold weather arrives.

This has been a wonderful summer. One of my favorite memories was getting to talk with so many of you at the OSWP picnic. It was the perfect July afternoon with food, friends, and even ping pong! We especially would like to thank the Oldenburgs for being such wonderful hosts and welcoming everyone to enjoy their beautiful home and orchid collection.

Looking to the future, planning has begun for the OSWP holiday party as well as the spring orchid show. We'll be sharing all the details soon and hope that many of you will find time to share in the fun!

Thank you all so much for being members of the OSWP!

Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

Co-Presidents OSWP

### **Mini-Class- September 18,2022**

Managing the pests on your plants coming inside for the winter by Jim Yamber

Please join us prior to the meeting at 1pm for a 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. September's mini-class will be about how to manage the pests on your orchids that have been outside before moving them back inside your home. This valuable information will be presented by Jim Yamber. He has been growing orchids for over 65 years. Grows in a greenhouse and under lights. As everyone has fought slug and bugs and pests for years. BUT there is a way to fight. With chemicals and organics. We will discuss most of the ways to identify the little critters and what to do about them.



Sept 2022

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.

September, 2022

Pfun at Phipps is part of P-OSI (the Phipps-Orchid Society Initiative) whose mission is to develop and maintain a Signature Orchid Collection at Phipps, as well as the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, a living museum of Slipper Orchids. Ben Dunigan, Phipps Collections Manager, and Giovanni Giraldo, Phipps Orchid Display Horticulturist, shared some great news. Phipps is part of a four conservatory alliance to preserve important orchid hybrids and species. The other three are: Smithsonian/U.S. Botanical Gardens, Atlanta Botanical and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. Pfun and P-OSI are working hard with Phipps to help make all that happen here in Pittsburgh.

We are repotting with Pfun at Phipps as well as doing the inventory of the Phipps orchid collection. We are also helping as the Clean-up Crew too. We are going to Phipps most Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30AM – 12:30PM. If you don't think you have the expertise to repot orchids, you can help with greenhouse maintenance. It's all a great learning experience for all of us.

(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.)

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.

Thanks and looking forward to working and learning together.

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

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

### **September Speaker Wade Hollenbach**

The OSWP is excited to have one of our orchid friends from our shows come and speak at our September Meeting...Wade Hollenbach of Wade's Orchids in Middleburg, PA

Wade started growing orchids in 1978 when he saw a *Dendrobium nobile* var. *pendulum* for sale in a local nursery. Despite all attempts to kill it, it flowered. This sent him on a quest. If it won't die, maybe others will! His endeavor continued with the construction of greenhouses and the emptying of pockets. To his consternation, the majority of them refused to die! Little did he know that the magical power of these plants turned him to a supporter. It is now 40+ years and he is growing in his 4th greenhouse. He says he is enslaved to their whims and dedicate his retirement life to heating them in winter, cooling them in summer, and buying more and more fans to keep a buoyant, tropical breeze blowing across their leaves.

Orchids To Grow Your Collections On; Within this presentation we will look at approximately 50 species (and a few hybrids) of orchids that I have selected which will improve any collection. Many of these can easily be grown to specimen size and become very impressive. All the plants are those that I have had over a year of experience growing and most are plants that I am currently growing. Cultural comments are presented throughout.

Wade will bring plants for sale and has given permission for members to also sell plants.

## **Orchid Gems – Life is Good on the Farm – Andrea Cocco**

by Pam Horter-Moore

My telephone conversation with Andrea Cocco began with her telling me that she was in the middle of canning corn. Preserving this year's garden harvest for the winter months is just one of the many things that crowd Andrea's busy life with her husband Joe and their 14-year-old twin sons on their 70-acre farm near Johnstown in Cambria County.

Andrea and Joe will use whatever the earth produces. Of course, there will be canned tomatoes, as this is a staple of Joe's Italian-American heritage. Both were fortunate to have mothers who were gardeners, so a desire to work with the soil just comes naturally.

A curious mind seeks challenges, so Andrea has taken an interest in perennial vegetables. As most vegetables are annual, it is much more unusual to find and grow perennials – edible plants that come back the next season.

Andrea describes the farm as a "homestead," one of modest size. It holds a great deal of nostalgia, because it was once owned by a family that still lives next door. Although the farm hasn't been worked since 1984, Andrea, Joe, and their sons moved in seven years ago with the dream of making the farm active and productive again. They plan to return some of the acreage to forest.

This bucolic setting is just one facet in the lives of the Cocco family. Andrea's husband Joe is a fishery biologist with the Department of Environmental Protection, and Andrea is the Environmental Coordinator for Penelec (Pennsylvania Electric Company), which is more familiar to us western Pennsylvanians as Penn and West Penn Power. If an incident having an environmental impact is ever associated with electrical service, such as an osprey's nest on a power line, or a PCB leak from an aging overhead transformer, Andrea is the person who becomes involved.

"I'm the only one in this position, and I cover territory from Maryland and Somerset, up through Erie and Towanda. I'm available 24/7, 365 days a week," Andrea comments. Unpredictability is the nature of her work; she shadowed her predecessor for seven years to gain experience handling whatever might occur. Always on call to cover this large territory, Andrea is often on the road, which means that the constraints on her time are tight.

Andrea received her bachelor degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Pittsburgh- Johnstown and her Masters in Sustainable Systems from Slippery Rock University. Her thesis was on ecological foot-printing -- the science of measuring the acres of land needed to support an economy or even just a household.

Although Andrea grew up in Indiana County, she considers Cambria County her home. An eldest child, she and Joe come from large extended families, with nine children on one side, and thirteen on the other. Her father grew up in Kittanning, but her parents are still in Indiana, while other family members are nearby or scattered throughout Pennsylvania, including a brother who worked for the British air force as a contractor and now lives in Ebensburg.

There is an exception. "My sister lives in Florida," says Andrea. "She's not an orchid hobbyist, but she is lucky enough to be able to leave the two she owns outside."

For a while, the family lived in Twisp, Washington state. Affectionately known as "the Heart of the Methow Valley," Twisp is north of Spokane and forty-five minutes from the Canadian border, a popular out-of-town destination for Seattle urbanites.

Andrea's interest began when she moved to the farm seven years ago and had the space to consider growing orchids.

"There are five bedrooms in the farmhouse, and room enough for me to take one side of the house, while the boys take the other," she says.

It wouldn't be hard for anyone to tell the two sides apart; hers would be the side with the orchids and aquariums.

"We had 26 fish tanks when I was growing up," Andrea comments. "It was my mother's obsession. I have two, but eventually I would like to reduce that to one."

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Andrea has 114 orchids. “Phalaenopsis is the gateway drug,” Andrea jokes.

Now she grows her phalaenopses in her office where she has a northeast-facing window and a brisk environment that has her orchids growing as if it were autumn.

Most of Andrea’s orchids are grown on shelves and under light in her orchid room at home. Her collection includes Cattleya and Oncidium, but her favorite is Maxillaria.

“I’m attracted to pseudobulbs, their variety and shapes,” Andrea comments. “The flower is secondary. I prefer Cattleya with smaller flowers, and I am careful about scented flowers, because the odor from some of them is not pleasant.”

One of Andrea’s first purchases was a variety pack from Amazon, sold by Angels Orchids. As all novice orchid growers learn, some plants will die, despite what a gardener does, and you finally just have to give up. “All orchid growers sooner or later discover what works for them and what doesn’t, and they restrict their collection accordingly. I have learned that vandas and cool growers don’t work with my environment, so I prefer intermediate growers.”

“My busy life makes it impossible to water daily,” said Andrea. She has found that a hydroponic environment works for her. Most of her orchids are grown in clay pellets and Bonsai Jack, a pre-mixed fast-draining potting medium. Microfiber wicking systems almost make the pots self-watering, so she only has to water once or twice a week, using well water and water from the dehumidifier. Some orchids are still in moss, as Andrea works to transition them to the new environment.

“My tip to the orchid novice is don’t be afraid to let it die. Decide which problem plants you want to fight to live and don’t beat yourself up if they die. Before coming to a meeting I didn’t know any other growers; it was down to just me. The hobby is not to add stress; decide which plant stays or goes.”

It’s never good to fight with Mother Nature.

Andrea joined OSWP in March. She was one of the new members who kindly volunteered to be interviewed for “Orchid Gems” at the May OSWP meeting. We are very pleased to have the input of our new members, and will be featuring them throughout the year.

Here is a link to a Facebook video that about pollinators that Andrea made for Penelec:

[https://m.facebook.com/PenelecElectric/videos/701382903763672/?locale2=ps\\_AF](https://m.facebook.com/PenelecElectric/videos/701382903763672/?locale2=ps_AF)



### **Current Committees Chairs,**

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



# CENTRAL OHIO ORCHID SOCIETY



## **A n n u a l   O r c h i d S h o w   +   S a l e**

Saturday, October 22nd

11 AM to 8 PM

+

Sunday, October 23rd

Noon to 6 PM

**Center Court - Polaris Mall**

**1500 Polaris Parkway**

**Columbus, OH**

*learn. grow. share.*



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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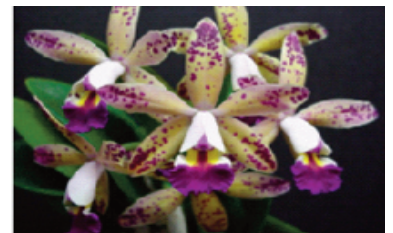
**Upcoming 2022 speaker**

**Sept 18, 2022**

**Wade Hollenbach  
of**

**Wade's Orchids in Middleburg, PA**

More to come for the future programs for 2022



**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  
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