

The ORCHIDIAN



Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – May 2024



OSWP MONTHLY MEETING – open to members, guests and the general public

- Location: Spartan Community Center, 134 E. Elizabeth St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207
- Sunday, May 19th - Doors open at 12:45pm; New Member Reception Begins at 1pm
with our speaker to follow, approximately 3pm.
- SPECIAL EVENT THIS MEETING: The New Member Reception
- MEMBER SALES ALLOWED at this meeting!

OSWP OFFICERS – leaderships council and board of directors

- Co-Presidents: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk
- Co-First Vice Presidents: Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton
- Second Vice President: Zander Morrison; Mentors: Tim Choltco and Katie Schuller
- Secretary: Kathy Collins • Treasurer: Janet Greenberg
- Directors: Tim Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak. Chuck Oldenburg, Brian Powell

In This Issue:

Pg.1.....Meeting Info & Officer Directory
Pg.2.....Upcoming Events & Guest Speaker
Pg.3..... Phipps Orchid Society Initiative

Pg.4.....Orchid Gems
Pg.5.....Meeting Minutes
Pg.9..... Acknowledgements
Pg.10..... 2024 Orchid Show Thank You

EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

- **The Memphis Orchid Society Show and Sale is being held May 17 - 19, 2024** at the Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Rd, Memphis, TN 38117.
- **The New Orleans Orchid Society's Show and Sale is being held May 31 - June 2, 2024** at the Lakeside Mall, 3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Metairie, LA 70002.

May Monthly Meeting Speaker

OUR GUEST: Leon Glicenstein – Playing with Habenereas

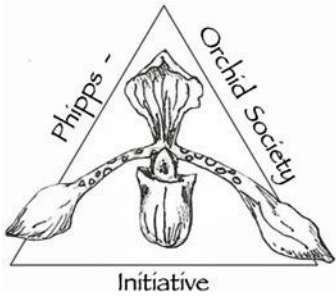


Leon Glicenstein Ph.D. began growing orchids in 1954 and became assistant to the curator of orchids at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, then Carl Withner, from 1957 to 1960. He has advanced degrees in Chemistry and Horticulture, with an emphasis on plant breeding, cytology, and cytogenetics. Working as a plant breeder for five years at Linda Vista S.A. in Costa Rica, he photographed, in the wild, approximately 80% of the then known orchid species of Costa Rica. He also found new species such as *Telipogon glicensteinii*, *Macroclinium glicensteinii*, *Pterichis leo*, *Stenorrhynchos glicensteinii*, and *Lepanthes glicensteinii*. He won the second American Orchid Society Dillon/Peterson Essay Contest using one of his Costa Rican experiences. He has photographed many of the orchids in the Northeastern United States, Florida, and all of the orchids in California, where he located some taxa not formerly known to exist there. As a respected lecturer, has given numerous conservation-oriented programs both nationally and internationally, showing orchids growing in their native habitats. Leon has been an invited guest speaker at both the Vancouver and Miami World Orchid Conferences. He has published numerous articles in the American Orchid Society magazine [including a 10-part series on Jewel and Painted-leaf Orchids with a supplement] and some in the Orchid Digest. Leon joined Hoosier Orchid Company in September 1998. As a breeder, as well as a grower, of orchids at Hoosier Orchid Company Leon specialized in working with members of the Pteruothalidae, Zygopetalinae, Gongorinae, Angraecoid, Jewel and Painted-leaf orchids, as well as other groups. He has created numerous novel and new combination not before known, thereby extended our knowledge of generic relationships within the orchid family. Since the demise of Hoosier Orchid Company Leon has been consulting with other orchid companies on growing orchids from seed. A strong conservationist, Leon was a past chairperson of the American Orchid Societies Conservation Committee, and had been a member of this committee for decades. He represented the AOS at the international conservation meeting in Costa Rica in 2007. In 2013 Leon was elected to the position of "Fellow of the American Orchid Society" for "... outstanding contributions to conservation, hybridizing, and the educational advancement of the Orchidaceae" [AOS's words], an honor given to only nine other people since the inception of the American Orchid Society. Before coming to Hoosier Orchid Company, he worked for an internationally known plant breeding company breeding crops such as Chrysanthemum, Carnation, Azalea and Roses.

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, 2024



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 Giovanni needs. **We are now going to Phipps most Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:45AM - 12:45PM.** 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, "Under the Sea." It will be a wonderful way to welcome summer! It opens May 4th.

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

412-848-4349

ORCHID GEMS – Bob Lusnak

Bob Lusnak: Building On His Accomplishments by Pam Horter-Moore



OSWP is pleased to welcome Bob Lusnak to the board of directors and to congratulate him on his first blue ribbon at the recent OSWP 2024 Orchid Show. A retired member of Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 12, Bob is proof that an eager mind and manual aptitude can prevail even when hard times put obstacles on the path.

Bob spent 37 years in the building construction industry as a sheet metal draftsman, working through the union for a variety of clients and helping to change the skyline of Pittsburgh and other communities in western Pennsylvania along the way.

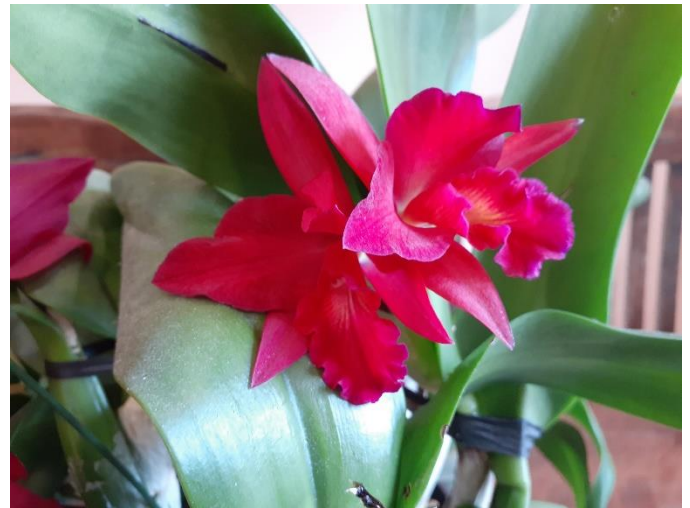
A native of Lincoln Place and a graduate of Alderdice High School, Bob was one of many young people facing limited prospects in 1982, a time of economic hardship

for Pittsburgh. Steel mills were closing and there was wide-spread unemployment. During such uncertainty, adaptability was a strong asset.

Bob's early ambition was to graduate from college with a degree in engineering, but economic factors were not in his favor. Nonetheless, he had a 4.0 grade average in physics and science while going to community college, indicating that he had the wherewithal for a technical career.

Fate stepped in when his elder brother persuaded him to take the sheet metal apprentice aptitude test. Bob faced stiff competition against 1,000 contenders, and when he passed the test, he realized that this was an opportunity he couldn't turn down.

Unions have a history that dates back to the guilds of antiquity and medieval times when tradesmen set the standards for their craft and sought to protect their interests. The dedication to standards exists today, with each union having its own apprenticeship and schools.



The Sheet Metal Workers' Union offers classes in blueprint reading, welding, safety, technical drawing, heating and air conditioning, project management, and many other disciplines. A tradesperson must still serve as an apprentice and learn the rigors of the trade before

becoming a craftsperson, and the opportunity to learn never ends.



The public seldom considers the details involved in the construction of a building, although everyone takes it for granted that buildings are safe and well-constructed.

“We make what we install,” Bob comments. “The union covers a project from drafting to installation. A person gets to see a building like PNC Tower come together.”

Although the union offers members training and support, each person is responsible for his own job and for building a reputation for himself. The union provides the construction industry with quick access to qualified help. All it takes is a phone call to be in touch with professionals who can be quickly dispatched to the scene or to a project site, such as the recent collapse of the bridge in Baltimore.

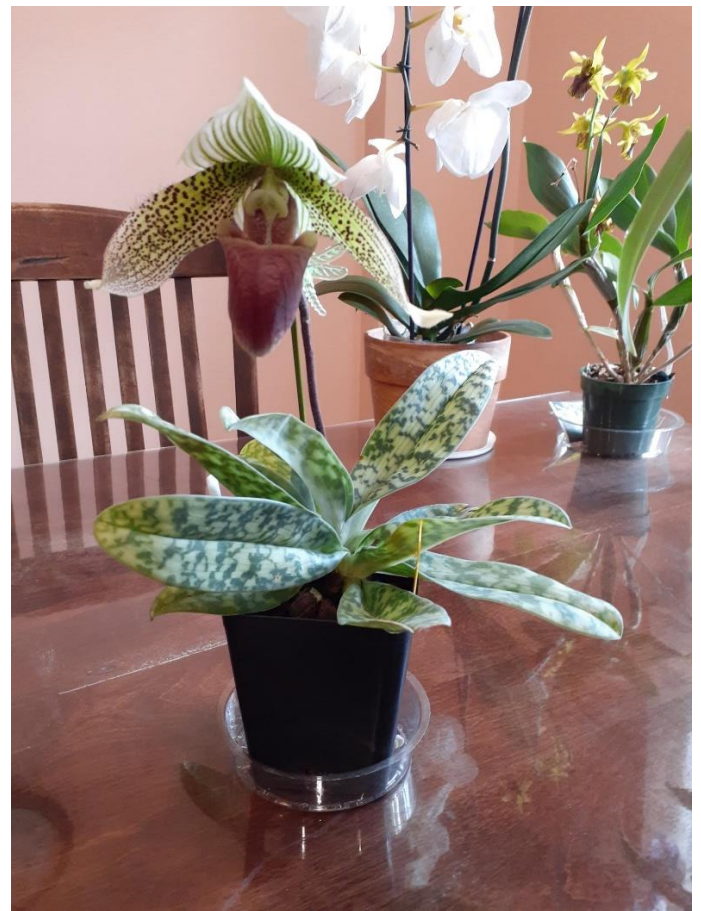
While sheet-metal drafting wasn’t the first choice of many apprentices, Bob grabbed the opportunity early and made a career of it. Not only is he well-versed in traditional mechanical drafting methods, which continue to be favored by many, but he is familiar with computer software design applications like CAD and Navisworks, and Trimble, a GPS system that tells construction workers where to place joist hangers between floors.

Because each project is different, a sheet metal draftsman must be prepared to respond to all situations. Bob has stepped into many roles, even acting as purchasing agent, ordering equipment to meet specifications. It is an all-encompassing job where attention to detail is vital and where documentation is a necessary discipline. For those who find satisfaction in

building something from the ground up, the work is never tedious, and each project is a new experience.

Bob lives in Gibsonia with his wife Patty, who was recently promoted to office manager at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Local 5. They have two adult children. Their son is a project manager who works from his home in Plum Boro, and their daughter is a paralegal in Nashville, Tennessee.

Patty is a native of Bloomfield. She and Bob met through mutual friends and have been married since 1990. “We built this house shortly after we were married, and I did the interior,” Bob comments.



Adept with his hands, Bob is a self-taught woodworker. His hobby began when he received a woodworking kit at eight years old, and his home displays his handiwork. The kitchen cabinets, end tables, night stand, and the bedroom suite are his creations. “When we looked for a house, the stipulation was that half of the basement would be my workshop,” Bob jokes.

Like many OSWP members, Bob is a gardener. He picked up the hobby by taking over his father’s garden when he became too ill to tend it. During my visit to

Bob's home for this interview, I understood how serious a vegetable gardener he was when I saw row after row of young plantings already a couple of inches high growing in the basement. "Patty doesn't garden, but she does help me with the canning," Bob comments.

Since retirement, Bob has been able to devote more time to his orchids. He has 40 plants growing throughout the house, wherever sunlight and conditions can accommodate them. His blooming orchids are sometimes on display on his kitchen table, which catches a lot of light.



Bob's interest in orchids was piqued when his aunt visited Costa Rica in the 1970s and came home

describing the orchids she saw. After some study and deliberation, Bob made his first purchase from Arcadia Gardens in 1982 – a lovely Cattlianthe Jewel Box. He has since divided it, and both plants are flowering. I was amazed to see forty-year old plants in bloom and looking beautiful.

Bob confesses, "It didn't flower for 25 years, but I kept it until I found its happy spot."

Like all orchid growers, Bob has had his disappointments, but he is proud to say that he received his first blue ribbon for Miltoniopsis Arthur Cobbleck 'Springtime' at the OSWP 2024 Orchid Show. He also won a stunning Cattleya donated by Nancy Kline for the raffle.

Bob has orchids of several varieties, but his favorites are Paphiopedilum, especially green slippers, and Oncidiinae Miltoniopsis, the pansy orchid. The orchids were delightfully fragrant during my visit.

Bob urges new growers not to give up. "Don't be discouraged by failures. Try new things, and you will find an orchid that works for you. Remember: 'Location, location, location!' You have to find the plant's happy spot by giving it the right light and medium that it needs to thrive."

Gratitude to Hospitality Team

One of the most popular and beloved features of an OSWP show is the Hospitality Room. I honestly don't know how all the volunteers, vendors and judges would be able to function without a quiet place to relax and refuel. We therefore owe an enormous amount of gratitude to the Hospitality Chairs, Aaron Goldman and Sherri Kinoshita, for their work over the long show weekend. They were rookies, but did a marvelous job keeping us fed, hydrated and fueled with their awesome coffee. Thanks also to their mentor, Mike Lysy. He is to be congratulated. Thank you also to all those who brought dishes to share. Everything was delicious, and I'm positive all the pastries and treats were calorie free. And to those who decided not to cook, but were truly generous in sending a contribution in the form of money to buy food and supplies, we are deeply appreciative of your support.

The OSWP is truly fortunate that you supported the show, and those workers who produced it.

- Sheila Nathanson, Janet Greenberg and Norma Raiff, 2024 Show Chairs

ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA General Meeting– Sunday, April 21, 2024, 1:00 pm

The April meeting of the OSWP was held at The Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood.

Nancy Kline presented a mini class on “The Ins and Outs of Taking Your Orchids in and Out”.

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:00pm by Co-President Dave Panasiuk.

The meeting began with information and a reminder about the New Member Reception to be held next month, May 19th at the Spartan Center of Hazelwood. There will be no mini class. All are welcome to attend. Kathy will reach out to officers and committee chairs to provide a short intro to each of their areas. Food will be purchased from Costco so there is no need to bring potluck items to share. Cookies and snacks are always welcome. There will be a business meeting to follow.

The OSWP annual picnic will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2024, rain date July 28th, at the home of Chuck and Julia Oldenburg. More details to follow as the date nears.

Next, the nominating committee (Sheila, Norma, Jim) initiated a vote for an amendment to the OSWP bylaws for the purpose of removing term limits for the position of Secretary. Results: 1 no, all else yes. Vote passed by overwhelming majority.

Voting for new board members will take place at the June meeting.

A report by the Spring Show Committee followed. Janet provided a detailed financial report of the OSWP spring show. Net profit was \$7,975 which was up from last year’s net profit of \$7,279.

Norma discussed preparing for future shows by creating a “book of nuts & bolts”. Each show chair would be asked to submit 2 to 3 paragraphs about their experience at the show. What went well, what didn’t and what they learned so that we can remember and improve in the future.

Sheila, Janet and Norma shared the news that they will all be stepping down as Spring Show Chairs. Beverly Dodson and Charlotte Momich have volunteered for the position.

The OSWP currently has funds available for donation. The question was raised of what the OSWP should do with the money. Some ideas are member subsidized events, donation to another organization etc. Members were asked to start thinking of ideas. Discussion will continue later.

Reports

Membership: Janet Greenberg reported that 126 new members joined at the Spring Show. We currently have 389 members of the OSWP.

New members in attendance were recognized and asked to introduce themselves.

Michelle Panasiuk volunteered to take over the vacant position of OSWP historian.

Pfun / P-OSI – Demetria invited members to volunteer at Phipps for Pfun. Always welcoming new volunteers. See Demetria for more information.

AOS / Culture Corner - Nancy Kline reported on American Orchid Society/ Culture Corner.

Newsletter - Dave Panasiuk asked for newsletter submissions as soon as they were available.

Orchid Gems - Norma Raiff discusses importance of Orchid Gems as a way of getting to know other OSWP members.

Hospitality - Carolyn Bolton reminded members about the New Member Reception in May. Cookies, snacks always welcome. Food will be provided for the reception. She also reminded that she will be stepping down from hospitality. We need a volunteer for the position.

Library - Phipps informed the OSWP that several of our orchid books had been located at the Garden Center. Lori Beth Bloom planned to pick up the books.

Raffle

Natalie Turicik held a raffle which raised \$206.00.

Miscellaneous

Several members discussed and displayed orchids they had brought in for Show and Tell.

Business meeting was adjourned at approx. 3:00 pm. The meeting was followed by Sheila Nathansan, Nancy Kline and Don Ammon, three members of the OSWP who grow orchids in different ways – in a greenhouse, in a window, and under lights. They held a panel discussion with the help of Carolyn Bolton as host.

Important dates to remember:

May 19th - New Member Reception and general meeting at the Spartan Center.

June 9th (Please note this is not the normal week due to Father's Day) General meeting at the Spartan Center.

Minutes submitted by Michelle Panasiuk.



**The Orchid Society
of Western Pennsylvania**

Dave Panasiuk, Editor
328 Ophelia St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Letsgroworchids@gmail.com

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.

Materials under copyright use or reprint by permission.

Affiliated Society



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.