



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

July 2019

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

2019 July 21

Picnic

Looking Ahead

2019 – August

2019 – Sept

No meeting No newsletter

Sam Tsui

(Orchid Inn) Paphiopedilum

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

OSWP Officers

President: Demetria Marsh

First Vice President: Lori McDermott & Tim Choltco

Second Vice President: Sheila Nathanson

Directors: Don Ammon, Mike Lysy, Kim McClelland, John Whiting and Cristina Eyler

Secretary : Lance Cheuvront

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now at Phipps

Mexipedium xerophyticum is a monotypic species that stands by itself. First discovered in 1985 and described in 1990 as *Phragmipedium xerophyticum*, it was given its own genus in 1992 after DNA analysis determined it was truly a new species. Only 7 plant clusters (clones) were originally found growing on steep to vertical limestone outcrops in an area of less than one hectare. The single known site is located in the region of Los Chimalapas on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, southern Mexico. It is found at 320 meter elevation and the region gets an average of 98 inches of rain per year.

In 1998 a severe fire swept the area and it was not until 2009 that one damaged plant of the original 7 was found. In further searching, 6 new clusters (clones) were found in an area close by but not previously known. These were found on vertical limestone outcrops. All known clusters have been found growing facing north and protected by the most intense sunlight of the day. Some are on rock, some are found with roots in the cracks of rocks covered in rotting debris of plant material.

Survival in the wild is tenuous at best, but in cultivation they do well and should be assured of survival. Grow warm, bright light, but not full sun, pot in shallow pots and allow an area for the rhizomes to grow out and peg down to root. Mix must be well drained and have some sort of calcium such as ground oyster shell or bits of limestone. From midwinter to early spring, keep dryer, moderate water in the spring and heavy watering allowing to dry somewhat between episodes in the summer and start tapering off in the fall. (from Keith Davis Orchids)

Mexipedium xerophyticum



Photo by Jim Yamber

President's Letter July 2019

Happy July!

Summer is the prime growing time for our orchids. They enjoy our warmer weather and longer, stronger sunlight. Not many usually bloom during the summer, but this is the time of new growth.

Speaking of new growth . . . several new members volunteered for Pfun at Phipps and P-OSI and that is just terrific. Hopefully it is a sign that the OSWP is in a time of growth as well. If you haven't already done so, let me or other members know how you'd like to volunteer to help at Phipps or with various other projects for the OSWP.

Speaking of projects. So many people this past year have helped the OSWP continue to blossom and grow. Most recently: all the officers and directors who are willing to serve the OSWP this coming year: thank you. The audit committee: thank you. The election committee: thank you. Our three show chairs and all the show committee chairs: thank you. The working committees of the OSWP whom you hear from at every meeting: thank you very, very much!

And, of course, much thanks to Tim Choltco, for once again offering to host our summer picnic at his house on July 21st. He makes it a super special occasion for all of us.

We are so lucky to have an active orchid society with strong, older growth for sustenance plus newer growth to blossom into something very exciting.
It takes all of us working together to grow a vital, active orchid society.

Happy Summer and hope to see you at Tim's on the 21st.

Demetria

Demetria Marsh

412-848-4349

demetria117@gmail.com

Pfun at Phipps in July and August

There will be no newsletter in August so, check your calendars and find what date works for you.

July dates are Thursday the 18th and Wednesday the 24th.

August dates are Thursday the 8th and Wednesday the 14th.

There are name tags in a box in the beige cabinet in GreenHouse 1. Please take one and add your name. These can be taken home and used when you return. They are also helpful in the cafe or the gift shop when you request your 20% discount.

We also have some of our orange 'Volunteer Parking Permits' in that same box in that cabinet. Take one if you need one. If you find no parking in the areas where we are supposed to park, please park out front, around the statue. If you park there, do NOT put your parking permit on your dashboard.

As always, contact me if you are available. We begin typical Pfun work at 9:30 and finish around 12:30. Lunch at the Cafe is always an option.

If you are working at any other time than Pfun, please let me know your hours.

These figures are reported to Phipps' volunteer coordinator and they help both OSWP and Phipps.

If you have begun working with Katie in the greenhouses, you can contact her with your availability. Katie would love to hear from you if you have the time, she may have an opportunity for you: kschuller@hipps.conservatory.org





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.

July, 2019

A Cyripedium Survey reminder was sent to Cyp experts all over the world who haven't replied as of yet. We have seven and hope to have one or two more reply. Then we will compile the data to know the most important Cyp hybrids and species for our Cyripedium Wish List for the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, Phipps' Living Museum of Slipper Orchids.

Beginning on June 23rd, the P-OSI teams are studying the new Phipps orchid collection inventory to see how we can help Phipps update and grow their orchid collection in all ways, to continue to be one of special note.

If you'd like to be a part of this phenomenal team effort, contact us! We'd love to have you for Pfun and P-OSI! It's a wonderful learning experience for all of us, a great way to give back to the community and to help make Pittsburgh someplace even more special.

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

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

Updates for Membership Directory

Work is underway on the 2019/20 directory. Please consult your existing directory, and check to make sure that your important contact information is correct and up-to-date. If you have an email address, please include it, as well as cell phone #.

We never share directory info with non-members, and all information is used only to ensure that you will be kept informed of important OSWP events.

Adaptations to the Epiphytic Lifestyle

If you are an AOS member and missed this article in your April issue, check it again. This is another of the excellent articles written by Sue Bottom. While it is listed as 'for the novice', there is information in these 3 pages for every orchid grower. Another reason to join the AOS.

Chairpersons

AOS Nancy Kline
Facebook Lance Cheuvront
Holiday Party Carolyn Bolton

Hospitality Carolyn Bolton
Library Rosa Graudin
Membership Val Robey
Orchid Show Sheila Nathanson, Gary Van Gelder

Pfun Nancy Kline
P-OSI Demetria Marsh
Website Jinghua Ou
Newsletter Jim Yamber

Orchid Gems: Valerie Robey

By: Cristina Eyler

Our newest members to this Society will recognize this month's Orchid Gem, Valerie Robey (Val). She was probably the first person from the Society to greet them when they walked into the Phipps Garden Center and she is the OSWP Membership Chair. Val is herself a relatively new member, having been in the Society about three years. Still, like most of us, she has dived right in to the community.

Val first dipped her toe into orchid growing about 3 ½ years ago. She had been involved in a lot of volunteer work with her church, but her husband, Bryant, thought she should do something more. "You need to find a hobby," he suggested, and so, Val started taking flower arranging classes online. That's when she first noticed orchids. Within several bridal arrangements were beautiful orchids and Valerie decided to purchase one. Her first orchid was a phalaenopsis from Walmart. It bloomed all on its own with minimal attention from her. After it had lasted three months, Val thought, "Maybe I can do this. I can handle neglected orchids!"

Around this time, Valerie met our current OSWP president, Demetria Marsh, at Phipps who told her about an OSWP meeting happening the following day. Val went to that meeting and not only became a member, but joined the AOS as well! She was hooked. "You know it is a hobby you love when you find a way to do it even when you don't have the time." Sometime later, Demetria approached Val and asked if she would be the next Membership Chair. Since she has an administration background, she said yes, and boom! Five minutes later the position was hers.

From there, she started collecting orchids and now has 100-125 that she nurtures under grow-lights. Her favorite orchids are the phalaenopsis, followed by the lady slippers (paphiopedilums and phragmipediums). Regarding the phals, "My favorites? From the elegant Phalaenopsis amabilis and the larger white hybrids to the whimsical P. lowii and the diminutive P. bellina, I love them all!" She continues to state, "They are very dramatic looking. I love them even if they aren't very popular among Society members." She grows her orchids in a grow room in the garage and on her new south-facing wrap around porch in a home they are renovating, as discussed below. Val is also in the process of setting up an outdoor lattice wall so the orchids can have a healthy summer break outside.

There have been challenges along the way, however. Learning about the different pests, fungicides, and other things that attack orchids has been one of those challenges. "It is a hard thing to learn when growing living things, but to nurture a plant back to health is wonderful!" She's had an especially difficult time with the dreaded mealy bugs. "Growing mostly indoors, I had unknowingly brought home some mealy bugs. Over the winter, in crowded conditions, I had a sudden eruption that required persistent action to get them under control. Between dipping them in Enstar AQ and some extra attention with insecticidal soap, I was able to get them under control. The orchids are now outside where natural predators help to control them. Mealy bugs love orchids – especially phals. It takes some work to keep them apart." Joining the OSWP has helped broaden her knowledge. "The mini-classes are wonderful. To see how more experienced growers do things is fascinating and helpful." One useful piece of information Val has picked up from her time with the Society is how to decode orchid labels. "I thought, 'I'll never understand this language', but you eventually pick things up."

Besides being the Membership Chair, Val loves participating in Phun at Phipps. "I learn a lot. It is a neat experience especially for new members." The first time she took a tour of the grow houses at Phipps she was awestruck by the enormous collection and getting to see all the different types of plants. "It was just so fascinating!" She truly enjoys seeing Phipps behind the scenes having visited the conservatory as a child off and on over the years and later as a young adult.

On a personal note, Valerie is originally from the tristate area of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Her father was a master mechanic for an interstate highway company, which meant her family had to move

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every 2-3 years. "I returned [to Pittsburgh] after I married my high-school sweetheart who had grown up in the Pittsburgh area." She worked in accounting for twenty years before retiring. "I was happy to leave it behind. I was not a happy accountant."

She and Bryant lived in Sewickley, but with such high taxes they decided to look for a home in the country with a wooden hillside, but still close to Pittsburgh. They found one in the form of a 1840s farmhouse built by the Mennonites and have been remodeling it for about twenty years! Many parts of the house have been updated with orchid growing in mind. There is a grow room in the garage and a year ago they finished their south-facing, enclosed, and heated wrap around porch which is perfect for growing their orchids year-round. To finish it off, they will add a greenhouse. All of this remodeling has been made possible because Bryant is an architect and knows what needs to be done and when.

Valerie's advice: As with any organization, get involved! "It is easy to skip meetings otherwise. Everyone is a cheerleader and it gives you an opportunity to see how people do different things. It's a good group of people and a fun place to learn and grow. Not just the plant side of things either, but the interpersonal relationships as well." Val is thankful the OSWP is here and available for people. "It is a wonderful legacy that has been passed down."



Tom Sampliner FACEBOOK pages

Remember the speaker that entertained us in May, Tom Sampliner? He wanted me to share with our society that he created and manages the below FACEBOOK pages -

No site has any obligation or restriction other than the titled subject/themes

Facebook Pages that Tom Sampliner created:

"Photogenic and favorite orchids of North America"

"Photogenic orchids around the globe"

"The Bee Orchids the genus Ophrys, masters of sexual deception"

ENJOY !!!

O.S.W.P Summer Pic-A-Nic

2019 – July 21

Bring Yogi, Boo-boo, your pic-a-nic baskets, and maybe that pesky ranger. It's time for the annual O.S.W.P. summer picnic. This event is B.Y.O.B (self-explanatory) and B.Y.O.C. (Bring Your Own Chair). This year will once again feature longtime fan favorites Mortimer and Morticia, in their summer best, still together after their short breakup in 2016.

Bring an appetizer, salad, dessert, etc.. Brats, hotdogs, and cold drinks will be provided by the O.S.W.P. Shade and parking are also free. Please R.S.V.P before 2019 – July 19. PLEASE... PLEASE...

PLEASE... I need an accurate count of hotdogs / Brats to buy.

A short garden tour will start the festivities at (approximately) 2:00 pm. I will show you highlights and lowlights of the property, as well as the constantly evolving basement orchid grow room. Hopefully the disgraceful front corner bed will be dealt with by this time. If not... lowlight. I said that the last 3 years as well. It was a lowlight then. The Pic-a-nic proper will begin at (approximately) 2:30 pm.

Last year was a bit of a nightmare with bloody RAIN. BUT... we still had a great time inside. We had ample space between the front porch, 1st floor, and basement growing area for about 55.

Directions: From route 28. Take exit 14 (Tarentum / New Kensington). When exiting, the exit splits. Please veer left, this will take you straight down the hill, paralleling Rte. 28. If you veer right you will end up in Tarentum, fall off the edge of the flat Earth, never to be seen or heard from again. At the stop sign, turn left. This is Bull Creek Road. Follow B.C. for about ½ mile. On the left is the now feral Wood-lawn Golf Course. On the right is Toured Mine. You will come to a very sharp right curve. Turn on your right turn signal. As you make the turn, on the left, you will see the green Iron Bridge, over... you guessed it... Bull Creek. On the right are 3 houses relatively close together. The middle house has a hedge and 2 large Yew trees in the yard. My driveway is directly after the hedge. Parking is in the back of the property, behind the garage, against the large Norway spruce. Mortimer and Morticia will be there to direct you for parking.

PLEASE... PLEASE... PLEASE... R.S.V.P by 2019 – July 19. If I do not answer the phone (likely) please leave a message of how many will be joining us and what you will be bringing.

Timothy C. Choltco
1866 Bull Creek Road
Tarentum, PA 15084-3018
harbingerorchids@yahoo.com
814-574-2551



I'll have two pic-a-nic baskets please.

New Members Corner

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members to OSWP:

Joann VanAtta

Val Robey Membership Chair

Mini-Classes

Watch this space for up coming Mini-classes

Next in September 2019

Equipment for sale:

Pam Horter-Moore has the following equipment for sale:

2 - 4'x4' white plastic trays, 4 inches deep

4-foot lights and fixtures

T5 Grow Light 4.2

Agromax F54T5/HO

Agromax Pure 100 Reverse Osmosis (RO) Watering system

5-gallon portable pneumatic tank

Bags of bark and potting media

Please call 724-774-2970 or email me at pjhorter@hotmail.com if interested or for more information.

Thanks!

Warm regards,

Pamela Jean Horter-Moore

Dues Renewal

The OSWP fiscal year is July 1st-June 30. All new members joining in March have membership coverage thru 06/30/20. All others will owe dues, effective 07/01/19.

If you choose to pay via PayPal: For Payment via PayPal, thru the OSWP website, the Friends and Family-no fee for OSWP- is not available. To save OSWP the 4% fee, use PayPal direct, link to OSWPtrasurer@gmail.com, AND click on "Friends and Family". Checks may be mailed, per the instructions on the application form in newsletter and on website.



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Membership Information DUES: 07/01/19-06/30/20

The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving orchid enthusiasts. Our purpose is to stimulate interest in the exchange of information about the culture, conservation, and exhibition of orchids. Membership is open to everyone, whether they grow orchids or just want to learn more. Visit us at www.oswp.org

OSWP Membership Application Form

Name _____

Name of spouse/other family member _____

Your Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____ cell# _____

Date: _____

Annual Dues calculation: (check all that apply)

☐ Individual Membership \$20

☐ Household Membership \$25

☐ Additional fee for paper newsletter: \$15

Total dues \$ _____ Check payable to OSWP

Or PayPal, using email address: OSWPtrasurer@gmail.com

PayPal-Please click on "Friends and Family" (no fee assessed OSWP)

Or PayPal, via OSWP.org, Dues link,

(OSWP pays fee-Friends & Family discount not available)

Mail your completed form/check to:

Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr., McMurray, PA 15317



First Class Mail

James Yamber
380 Western Ave.
Oakdale, Pa. 15071

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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Upcoming 2019 speakers

FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 21, 2019

PICNIC

More to come for the future programs for 2019

