



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Sept 2020

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

September 20 2020

Kim Fedderman of Fair Orchids,
who will be remote.
' Yes, You Can Grow
Vandaceous Orchids'

Looking Ahead

2020 – October 18

TBA

2020 – November 15

TBA

2020 – December 13

Christmas Party

2021 – January

TBA

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

Co-President: Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse

Secretary : Lance Cheuvront

Co-First Vice President: Kathleen Arria and David Springer

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco

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

What's Blooming Now

Rossioglossum grande

Temp: Winter 50 to 55F night, 72 to 78F day Summer 55 to 60F night, to 75 to 80F day.

Light: Bright shade (1800 to 2000 foot-candles).

Water: Under ideal conditions the plants should never totally dry out, but should not be allowed to remain sodden

Fertilizer: balanced fertilizer with an N-P-K ratio of 3-1-2 that also contains micronutrients.

Potting: Always under pot! Use pots and media that promote rapid drainage and avoid stale or soggy conditions at the roots. Repot annually or biannually if you must to avoid stale conditions. Best results may be achieved by planting in hanging wooden baskets or "rafts" which allows for rapid drainage and maximum air movement around the plant. Choice of potting media is wide and includes bark, perlite, charcoal, lava rock, coarse peat and rockwool.

This plant usually blooms in the fall Sept, Oct. but can bloom other times of the year.



Information from the American Orchid Society web site

photo by Jim Yamber

Co-President's Letter Sept 2020

Hello from Mike Lysy and Sheila Nathanson. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy some fine summer weather, even wearing a mask and social distancing. Everyone's plants that have been able to summer outdoors with lots of watering should be rewarding their keepers with robust health and potential blooms. And I do mean lots of watering.

We are booked for a meeting at Botany Hall at Phipp's Conservatory on September 20. We will also ZOOM our speaker, Kim Fedderman of FairOrchids, who will be remote. His talk is titled 'Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids' an overview of the primary genera and their cultural requirements, suggestions for the easier groups for the home grower. I'm very much looking forward to it, and seeing some members in person. We will be watching the contagion numbers for our area, and consulting with Brook Decker, who is an epidemiologist (lucky for us) , to ensure we can meet in person,safely. In any event, the presentation will be available on ZOOM, and we will make a firm decision about an in person meeting by Sept. 15. I hope everyone is looking at their collection and making wish lists since we will be having an outdoor Sale and Swap on Saturday, September 12 from 10am to 2pm at BABCOCK shelter, Sesqui Drive, South Park. There are maps of South Park on their website for those who are not familiar with South Park. You may send photos of plants you wish to sell to quail1@verizon.net . Please include the plant's name, your name and the price. You may accept offers prior to the sale date, and just use the shelter as a safe drop off. We hope everyone continues to be safe and busy during these challenging times. We have to be more flexible in our plans than we like. But at least now we all know about ZOOM.

Sheila and Mike, co-presidents OSWP



We encourage any one interested in orchids and their culture to join the American Orchid Society. The members receive a monthly magazine and access to the AOS web site filled with everything orchids. You have access to orchid growers around the world and vendors as well. To join contact Nancy Kline (OSWP) member who is our AOS rep. Or you can go to the AOS web site and join there.

We encourage use of the AOS website by all members. <http://www.aos.org>

Orchid Gems

Commitment and Passion: an interview with Brooke Decker

by Pam Horter-Moore

I think the surge of the Covid-19 virus has given many of us time to consider the sacrifice and dedication of our healthcare professionals, many of whom have worked tirelessly over the last six months to heal the sick and stop the advance of the pandemic.

Since March, I've been wanting to interview Brooke Decker for an Orchid Gems article, since she is a recent member of the OSWP who quickly made an impact upon the Society with her involvement and contributions, and with her recent appointment to the OSWP Board of Directors. However, not surprisingly, Brooke has had other, more pressing matters to consider, and she has been extraordinarily busy: She is the Director of Infection Prevention at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, which has campuses in Oakland and Aspinwall.

I was therefore very pleased to get a chance to talk with Brooke about her career, her family, and her love of orchids.

Brooke attended the University of Maryland in Baltimore County, where she attained two Bachelor's degrees in four years: a B.S. in Biology, and a B.A. in Psychology. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland in 2007.

"I have a special interest in waterborne infections, but am now into Covid-19, especially with this latest outbreak that is spreading among healthy individuals, requiring contact tracing," says Brooke.

"It was especially busy in early March, with preparation to deal with the pandemic. Early in my career, I studied waterborne infections like *Legionella*. Later, I worked on the Ebola outbreak, and then, the unusual pneumonia outbreak reported in China in December. Covid-19 was particularly bad until mid-May, when we experienced a brief let-up, but this latest surge came at the end of June."

Brooke was in medical school in 2004, when a friend of hers who grew *Phalaenopsis* induced her to accompany her to an orchid show at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. Her interest was piqued, and she purchased her first orchid, a yellow delicately spotted *Phalaenopsis* with an orange lip. "I managed to keep that orchid alive for 10 years," she says. Her second purchase was a *Dendrobium* from Trader Joe's.

When she went to Hawaii to celebrate her parents' renewal of their wedding vows, Brooke's orchid collecting began in earnest. "On Hawaii's largest island, I discovered a grower with an amazing shop, Akatsuka Orchids. The variety of orchids was staggering, and featured exotic and rare orchids as well as common ones. I purchased five orchids there, and four are still alive: *Cattleya* "Chocolate Drop," which has been a reliable bloomer; a *Coelogyne* which is large, green, and leafy, but doesn't produce blooms for me; a *Dendrobium* microchip, *Bulbophyllum* "Kathy's Gold," and a (now deceased) *Miltoniopsis* who was much less tolerant of my sometimes low-humidity situation."

Perhaps Brooke's love of orchids was in her blood to begin with, and Cleveland certainly holds a place in that story. Her Aunt Helen and Uncle Don lived outside Cleveland and had been growing orchids since the 1970s. Uncle Don has long passed away, but Brooke only recently lost her Aunt Helen.

She was pleased to inherit the slipper orchids from her aunt's collection. "There is a lot of sentiment around these orchids," says Brooke. "I still have a part of my aunt to enjoy and appreciate every time her orchids come into bloom."

When Brooke moved from Cleveland to Washington, D.C., she was able to keep most of her plants alive, although her work as a Critical Care and ID Fellow at the NIH under Dr. Anthony Fauci kept her busy as she

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participated in the protocols developed to combat Ebola before coming to Pittsburgh in 2014. Here, she purchased her first house, which gave her more room for more orchids.

Brooke married, and had her daughter Willow in 2016. As other priorities claimed her attention, Brooke lost a lot of orchids. She remained very interested in the hobby, and considered reaching out to the OSWP, but wondered whether she would fit in.

When Willow was two years old, Brooke felt comfortable enough to leave her daughter in the care of her husband while she spent more time exploring her interest in orchids and in the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania. She joined with a family membership at the March 2019 Orchid Show. “Willow must be one of the Society’s youngest members,” she jokes.

Brooke’s doubts dissolved upon joining OSWP. “I discovered that the Society has members of all ages, and that they are a friendly, good-humored group of people who are wonderful to be around.” She appreciates the playfulness, camaraderie, and fellowship that make the Society an especially warm organization.

Brooke has been active in the Society from the beginning, sharing her successes during the Show and Tell segments of our meetings, making suggestions, and getting involved. “Sheila and I are trying to determine a way to safely continue member orchid sales in the midst of this pandemic,” she reports.

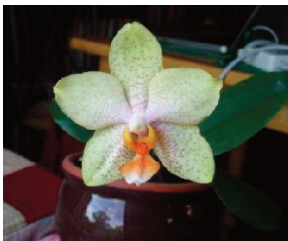
Brooke’s enthusiasm makes her a natural for a chair on the OSWP Board of Directors, where her contributions are greatly appreciated. She helps whenever she can, and graciously let us use her Zoom account for the OSWP Virtual Picnic on July 26.

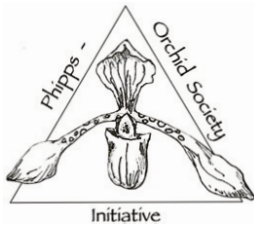
Currently, Brooke has about 55 orchids. “I’m particularly fond of cats – the furry kind as well as the kind that bloom. I have around 24 *Catasetum* and nine *Cattleyas*.” She also has *Dendrobium*, and *Bulbophyllum*. “I’ve recently developed an interest in slipper orchids,” Brooke adds. She has eight.

Work naturally occupies much of Brooke’s time right now. She works steady Monday through Friday, but even on the weekends, she must make reports, follow tracing, and guarantee that medical protocols are followed. Because she is the clinical resource for the hospital, she is always taking phone calls, counseling RNs, training and educating staff, and writing policies, regardless of the day of the week.

“I like working with infectious diseases. Medicine and science are a calling that requires commitment and passion. Medicine is not too distinct from the growing of orchids: you put in the training and the hours, you do what is required to help others and to make orchids thrive.

If you love to do it, it isn’t a burden.”





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 2020

Our team leaders are studying the Phipps inventory provided by Katie Schuller, Phipps Orchid Manager, to suggest what might be “de-accessed” and provide ideas of other orchids in their respective groups that might improve the Phipps orchid collection. This is all being done digitally. We still cannot volunteer in person, as we usually do, for infection safety reasons.

Also, two articles on the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection (a Living Museum of Slipper Orchids) are being worked on with Katie’s help, for the winter issues of Slipper Orchids and also The Orchid Digest. The results of the cypripedium survey will be published as well.

Building and maintaining the BTSOC is an ongoing process, as it is for the entire Phipps orchid collection. It’s a great opportunity for us to help and also learn and an opportunity for Phipps to develop an orchid collection of “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.

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Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

General Meeting

06/28/20

Zoom Meeting, held at 2:00pm with 33 OSWP members attending.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Demetria Marsh, President

2:05pm New member introductions.

2:10pm Janet Greenberg presents Treasurer’s report.

2:25pm Tim Choltco gives a report on upcoming mini-classes in flux because of coronavirus.

2:30pm Lance Cheuvront presents the Secretary’s report. Informs the membership about his ongoing effort to digitalize and organize the meeting notes from OSWP history.

2:42pm President Demetria Marsh informs the membership that there is to be a vote to amend the bylaws to allow the Secretary to remain past the allotted two years of the standard service. A vote is called by Janet Greenberg, Seconded by Lance Cheuvront and passed unanimously.

2:47pm President Demetria Marsh informs the membership that the new slate of officers nominated for the next 2 years are:

Co-Presidents

Sheila Nathanson

Mike Lysy

Co-First Vice Presidents

Kathleen Arria

David Springer

Second Vice-President

Timothy Choltco

Secretary

Lance Cheuvront

Treasurer

Janet Greenberg

Directors

Brooke Decker

Peg Kalupanov

Jinghua Ou

Aaron Vitron

Tamara Wurst.

- President Demetria Marsh called for a vote on the slate of officers and the vote passed unanimously.
- 2:55pm President Demetria Marsh Informed the membership that the board had selected two members to receive the distinction of lifetime memberships with the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania. The members receiving this honor for 2020 are Nancy Kline and Mike Lysy.
- 3:00pm President Demetria Marsh adjourned the business meeting and our speaker Eric Sauer, presented his talk on Phragmipediums.

**GRACE PERIOD EXPIRING SOON FOR
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Fiscal Year 07/01/20-06/30/21.**

The grace period, for membership renewal, expires 09/30/21.

This date is approaching quickly! Please do not delay to renew.

(Does not apply to those who joined at Spring Show or libraries in 2020)

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

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.

DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1. PayPal -HIGHLY recommended for Ease of Use.

o **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".

o **OR WITH OWN PAYPAL ACCOUNT:**

Use email address OSWPTreasurer@gmail.com and choose "Friends and Family"

(no fee assessed OSWP).

2. Send check payable to "OSWP" to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr. McMurray, PA 15317-3212.
3. Submit "OSWP" check at a regular monthly meeting to Treasurer, Janet Greenberg

If you are unsure if your dues are up to date, please email Janet at janetg150@verizon.net

Pfun at Phipps Still Watching and Waiting

I thought we would be back by now but Phipps is opening slowly for volunteers. Things should open up soon and I will let everyone know when we can return to our favorite place. Stay well and in touch.

Nancy Kline

nancyk412@gmail.com 412-367-1556



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	Val Robey		Norma Raiff
Mini-class	Tim Choltc	Speaker	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Newsletter	Jim Yamber	Website	Jinghua Ou

Mini-class 2020 – September 20
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 the September 2020 meeting. The class will be a short PowerPoint presentation with questions and answers. The topic *Habenaria* some of its related genera. The presentation begins with a survey of many beautifully colored species and hybrids. It is then followed by 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.

If we are doing this via Zoom, a handout will be attached / sent which is an outline of the presentation. This will permit you to make notes and as a permanent culture sheet for these plants.

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.



New Members Corner

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member(s) to OSWP:

Andrew Romanchik and Tianyin Chen

Val Robey and Kathy Collins

Membership Co-Chairs



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 2020 speaker

FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 20 2020

Kim Fedderman of Fair Orchids,
who will be remote.

' Yes, You Can Grow Vandaceous Orchids'

More to come for the future programs for 2020

