

# The ORCHIDIAN



**Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – January 2025**



## **EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas**

- **North Jersey Orchid Society Show** is being held **January 17 - 19, 2025** at the Rutgers University, Cook Student Center, 59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.
- **The Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society Orchid Show** is being held **January 18 - 19, 2025** at the State College Friends School, 1900 University Drive, State College, PA 16801.
- **The Grand Valley Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show** is being held **January 25 - 26, 2025** at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, 1000 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.
- **Orchid Society of Minnesota's "Winter Carnival 50th Anniversary Orchid Show"** is being held **January 25 - 26, 2025** at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul, MN 55122.
- **Cape and Islands Orchid Society's "Seaside Orchids"** is being held **January 25 - 26, 2025** at The Resort and Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA 02601.
- **Susquehanna Orchid Society's "For the Love of Orchids"** is being held **January 31-February 2, 2025** at the **Milton and Catherine Hershey Conservatory** at Hershey Gardens, 170 Hotel Road, Hershey, PA 17033.
- **Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show and Sale** is being held **January 31 - February 2, 2025** at the Gautier Convention Center, 2012 Library Lane, Gautier, MS 39553.
- **Orchid Growers Guild's "Orchid Quest"** is being held **February 1 - 2, 2025** at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, 1 John Nolen Dr, Madison, WI 53703.
- **The Three Rivers Orchid Society Show** is being held **February 1 - 2, 2025** at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 S Calhaun St, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.
- **Orchid Society of Greater St Louis Orchid Show** is being held **February 1 - 2, 2025** at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63110.



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**15 & 16**

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**SPRING SHOW**

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## Letter from the Co-Presidents

OSWP Co-Presidents Letter for January 2025 Newsletter

On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania held its annual Holiday Party at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with approximately 100 members attending. It was a very special afternoon thanks to the huge effort of Carolyn Bolton, for the party, speaker and plant favors, plus Janet Greenberg, our OSWP Treasurer, who takes care of all the numbers.

Jack Zhu, our speaker, from Los Angeles, did a great job of introducing us to the world of Asian cymbidiums, plus gave us a repotting demonstration. We all learned so much!

Ben Dunigan, Phipps Director of Horticulture, thanked the OSWP for all we do to help grow the Phipps Orchid Collection. Attending with him, representing Phipps, were Giovanni Giraldo, Thathmini Kularatna and Everett Chronowski. What a wonderful symbiotic relationship the OSWP has with Phipps!

Kathy McCafferty, Lawrence Neel and Mary Ann Pike, our show chairs for our March Orchid Show, are doing a great job organizing all the show committee chairs and establishing a game plan. Now they are helping organize and get members to be part of the various committees that make the show happen.

A very special event occurred at the Party, Kathy Collins, our OSWP Secretary plus Membership Chairperson, and Carolyn Bolton, our 1<sup>st</sup> Co-VP plus the party organizer, exhibit builder (here and on the road) and the meeting hospitality person for many years, were given AOS Certificates of Appreciation, to acknowledge and thank them for all they have contributed and continue to contribute to the OSWP. Thank you both very much and thanks to Nancy Kline, our AOS representative, who arranged for the Certificates.

We hope to see you at our January meeting, 1/19, at the Spartan Center in Hazelwood! Edgar Stehli of Windswept in Time Orchids in Ohio, will speak on Miniatures.

May your new year be filled with much happiness and good growth.

Think orchids,

Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh

## OSWP OFFICERS – leaderships council and board of directors

- **Co-Presidents: Demetria Marsh and Gary VanGelder**
- **First Vice President: Carolyn Bolton and Brian Powell**
- **Second Vice President: Zander Morrison**
- **Secretary: Kathy Collins**      • **Treasurer: Janet Greenberg**
- **Board of Directors: Mike Lysy, Carol Panza, Mona Rice, Giovanni Giraldo, Bob Lusnak**



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**January Speaker:** Edgar Stehli, Windswept in Time Orchids

**Topic:** Miniature Orchids

As the collection of orchids becomes larger than the space where we grow them some of us look for smaller plants. Miniature orchids fit that bill!

At Windswept in Time Orchids, they have been growing orchids for many years. He has had an Open House twice a year but now will be once a year. At Windswept in Time Orchids, they have been growing and selling orchids for over 20 years. Their love for these beautiful flowers began when they received an orchid as a gift and realized how easy it was to care for. Since then, they have been dedicated to providing the highest quality orchids and custom. Edgar and Kim specialize in growing a wide variety of orchids, including Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, and Dendrobium. All their orchids are grown in their greenhouse in optimal conditions and are carefully selected for their quality and beauty. They offer both potted orchids and cut flower service.

In addition to selling orchids, they also offer services such as orchid repotting, fertilizing, and pest control in their area, near Cleveland. Their knowledgeable staff can answer any questions you may have about caring for your orchids and help you choose the right products for your needs.

I am excited he will be coming to the January meeting. If the weather does not cooperate we can do it by Zoom. Members are **NOT** permitted to sell plants at this meeting unless it ends up a Zoom meeting.

**MEETING MINUTES – December**

There was NO December Meeting.

## ORCHID GEMS – Zander Morrison

Orchid Gems – Strong Starts -- Zander Morrison

By Pamela Jean Horter-Moore



In February 2020, Norma Raiff interviewed 11-year-old Zander Morrison as our featured “Orchid Gems” member. As one of the youngest in the history of OSWP, he impressed everyone with his enthusiasm, curiosity, penetrating questions, and eager mind.

Five years later, we thought it would be appropriate to feature Zander again, especially because he has been recently appointed the Society’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and will serve as co-advisor for the repotting table at the Annual OSWP Orchid Show in March.

Taking a leadership role in a 50-year-old organization is quite an accomplishment for a 16-year-old, but this is only one facet in the life of this amazing young man.

Zander has many interests, but three passions -- Music, botany, and ancient languages are ones of note. Of

these three, music takes precedence. In the 2020 interview, we discovered that Zander played the clarinet and piano. Now, inspired by his private teachers, friends, and mother, he has taken up the bassoon and plays the instrument in two youth orchestras.

Since the seventh grade, Zander has been a member of the Three Rivers Young People’s Orchestra (TRYPO), an organization founded 50 years ago by Pittsburgh musicians who wanted to give young people who were serious about music the opportunity to grow under the guidance of professional musicians.

“In TRYPO, I played clarinet for two years before moving onto the bassoon.”



More recently, he has become a member of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO), an organization whose mission is to cultivate an interest in classical music and inspire young people with opportunities to perform in premier venues.

“I got my musical drive from my mother who is also a musician,” Zander says. “She was my clarinet teacher.

“The Three Rivers Youth Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra are not high school bands. The young people are there because they are serious about their music.”

On its website, the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra states: “Through their demanding tours in the U.S. and internationally, they have become outstanding cultural ambassadors of the Pittsburgh Region, Pennsylvania, and the United States.”

Zander’s participation in the youth orchestras has given him a chance to go on tour to Germany and the Czech Republic, performing for enthusiastic European audiences.

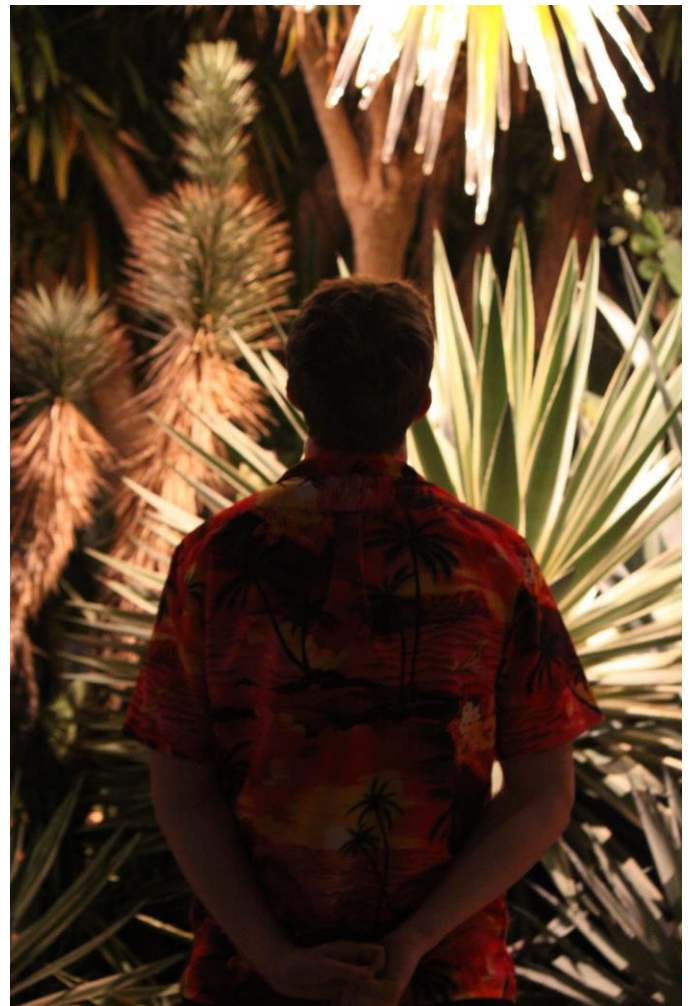
Performing in both orchestras in tandem demands dedication, so Zander practices about an hour a day while attending PA Cyber School and keeping up with other activities. Interestingly enough, he was recording an audition when I telephoned him for this interview. (Auditions are important since they determine a musician’s placement in the orchestra (First Chair, Second Chair, etc.).)



“I like to keep myself balanced,” Zander explains.

Zander describes himself as “very active in the music scene,” but his enthusiasm for botany hasn’t dimmed. In fact, his love of science sparked an interest in learning Latin.

Since I am a Boomer kid whose first experience in the study of foreign languages was Latin 1 and Latin 2, I had wrongly assumed that Latin was no longer taught in schools. However, I am delighted to understand that Latin, the foundation of science as its Lingua Franca, is still part of the academic tradition.



Zander is going further in his exploration of ancient languages with the study of ancient Greek. “Ancient languages opened up a lot of literature for me,” Zander comments. “I studied The Odyssey as an eighth grade reading project.”

Zander’s classical education has progressed with his enrollment in PA Cyber school this year. When Zander was last interviewed for “Orchid Gems” in 2020, his family lived in Mt. Lebanon. Since then, they have moved to the North Hills. With the move, Zander went to the local district but then had a chance to try a nontraditional approach to learning. The flexibility of the program gives Zander the freedom of independent study in addition to a traditional classroom setting with instructors who have had decades of experience teaching online.

“Since attending cyber school, I’m progressing in music, and my plants are doing better than ever,” Zander says. “The teachers are flexible, and lenient. They know you are there for a reason. You make friends with people who are like you, and you are socially interacting through music and through other interests -- The Orchid Society, for instance.” OSWP has had an influx of new

members, and new leaders like Zander are welcomed to guide the Society forward. His youth, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas make him a natural for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

In his 2020 interview, Zander said “You might as well make a good garden so you know all your food is locally sourced.” He continues to be a strong advocate for food justice, and was a founder and board member of The West View Urban Farm. Established in 2022, The West View Urban Farm is led by a group of community volunteers to “create a healthy environment through food and land stewardship, to ensure a healthy present and thriving future.”

<https://www.westviewurbanfarm.org/about>

Always keen on botany, Zander grows succulents and African violets, but orchids are his specialty. He has learned a lot since 2020. “When I was younger, I would

take any orchid I could get my hands on and killed a lot of them. Now I’m more aware of my environment and more selective about what I grow.” Cattleyas are his favorite orchid for many reasons, but especially because he is successful at growing them. He also has Paphiopedilums and Phalaenopsis in his collection.

The plants summer outside, hanging on trees or sitting on the porch, and they winter on racks under grow lights in his finished basement.

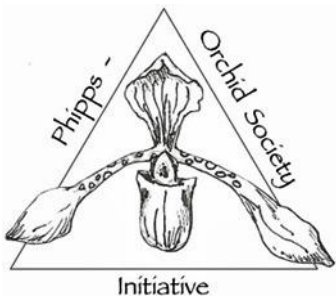
Zander encourages students of all ages not to give up, no matter what field of endeavor they try. “There is nothing that can stop you. Road blocks are there but you can do it. Help yourself and don’t be afraid to accept help from others. Put the effort into it and lay the foundation, and things will fall in line

## PHIPPS CONSERVATORY ORCHID SOCIETY INITIATIVE – Pfun volunteer work

# 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

January, 2025



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 is needed. **We usually go to Phipps some Tuesdays, Wednesdays or 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 continued growth of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, a living museum of slipper orchids.

**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.** We usually set up the month’s schedule the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the preceding month with 2-6 Pfunsters each day. Contact me and sign up. We’ll add you to our Pfunster team!

While you’re having Pfun, be sure to see Phipps Orchid and Bonsai Show, “A Moment of Beauty,” opening on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Looking forward to working and learning together. . . and having Pfun!

Happy New Year!

Demetria Marsh

[Demetria117@gmail.com](mailto:Demetria117@gmail.com)



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# January 19, 2025 Public OSWP Meeting

**Date: Sunday 01/19/2025**

**Location:** Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood  
134 E Elizabeth St, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

**12:30 Spartan Center opens**

**12:45 Windswept in Time, Edgar Stehli orchid sales**

This month's speaker will be selling plants, so members are NOT permitted to sell plants. If the speaker is via Zoom, members will be able to sell plants. Notification will be via Eblast from Jim Yamber.

PLEASE NOTE: Our agreement with the Spartan Center requires us to cover the tables. Please wait until the tables get covered before putting anything on them.

**1PM Mini-Class in the classroom**

**Topic: Catasetums**

**Speaker: Carol Panza**

**1:45 Break**

**2:00 OSWP Business Meeting, Show and Tell, Raffle**

**2:45 Break**

**3:00 Speaker Presentation**

**Edgar Stehli of Windswept in Time Orchids in Ohio**

**Topic: Miniature Orchids**

**If the weather is bad, Edgar will present via Zoom.**

**4:00 Meeting Over and Clean-up**

**4:30 Spartan Center closes**



These are photos from our Holiday Party. Encounter the meetings IN PERSON and find out what you are missing!

Mini classes, feature speakers, raffles, show & tell, snacks and friendly faces to share your orchid stories and personal experiences!



**The Orchid Society  
of Western Pennsylvania**

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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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*Affiliated Society*



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