



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Nov. 2019

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

November 17, 2019

Patricia Conrad
“My Favorite Orchids”

Looking Ahead

December 8 Christmas Party

Dave Miller has agreed to discuss
his video on reading an orchid label...

2020 - January 19 James Yamber “Off to Ecuador”

2020 - February 16 Orchid Show review at Phipps
with Katie

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 Eyster

Secretary : Lance Cheuvront

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now in my greenhouse

An-gyoo-LOW-ah Tribe: Cymbidieae

Subtribe: Maxillariinae

Called the Tulip orchid

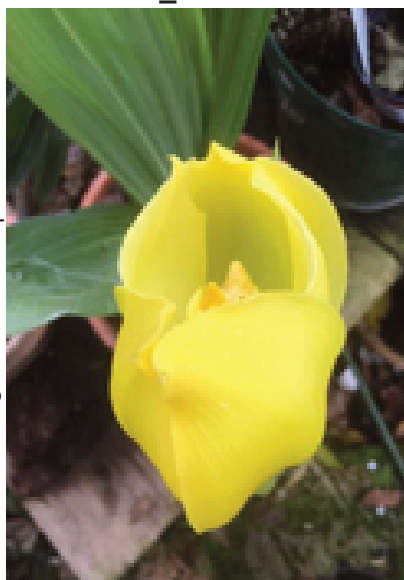
This easily grown genus is terrestrial
which losses its leaves at the start of each
season's new growth. There is usually one
cupped flower per inflorescence. The flow-
ers of all species are strongly fragrant.

Light: direct sun in summer and as much
sun as you can give it in winter, The most
appropriate **day temperature** is 70-80 ° F
night temperature should be around 50 to
60 ° F. **Humidity:** During the summer
months a very high humidity (70%) is rec-
ommended, and in winter much less.

Growing media is as for terrestrial plants.

Watering: It likes large amounts of water,
especially during active growth. It should

never allow the roots to dry completely. **Fertilizer** should be 20-10-20 Rest period: When *Anguloa clowesii*
loses leaves in the autumn, it is necessary to limit watering and stop fertilization for 6-8 weeks. This said my
plant must think it is spring because it lost its leaves and immediately grew new leaves and flower spike as you
can see in the photo. I had hoped it would be in bloom for the meeting.



Anguloa clowesii



Photo by Jim Yamber

President's Letter November 2019

Happy Thanksgiving!

We had a wonderful October meeting with a great speaker, Daryl Venables of Tezula Orchids, plus a great turnout of members. Daryl was an enthusiastic, organized, knowledgeable speaker who shared his vast knowledge of tolumnias (formerly known as equitant oncidiums). Plus he had beautiful tolumnias for sale for \$10.

We had a productive board meeting before our monthly meeting. The minutes will be printed in the newsletter. Our thanks to Cristina Eyler who stepped in this month for Lance Cheuvront, to be our secretary for both the board meeting and the monthly meeting.

Carolyn Bolton has agreed, once again, to be in charge of our Holiday Party at the Garden Center on December 8th. Save the date and keep an eye out for information from Carolyn. It's fun, informative, delicious and there are orchid plants for all attendees. Yay!

Our thanks to all our members who helped at the Highmark Expo the two dates in October: Pat and Larry Wagner, Val Robey, Nancy Kline, Carolyn Bolton and Sheila Nathanson. It was a good opportunity to spread the word about the OSWP and also our March Orchid Show in the South Hills.

Calling all SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE: Please be sure you enlist/recruit a member to be your apprentice for our March Orchid show in the next few weeks. This is to not only help you with the workload, but also involve other members, bring some new ideas and help us prepare for the future.

Hope to see you at our November 17th meeting at the Garden Center.

We have so much to be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving!

Demetria

Demetria Marsh

412-848-4349

demetria117@gmail.com

Mini-Classes

The mini-class for the November 17 meeting will be a lesson on Repotting by Nancy Kline.

Mini classes begin at 1:30.

New Members Corner

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

Lynn Coleman, Clifton Dietz (rejoin),

Annette Steen (rejoin)

Val Robey Membership Chair

Program for our meeting Sunday, November 17, 2019

Speaker – Patty Conrad

Talk Title - “My Favorite Orchids” - ... “which turns out to be basically miniatures, but I also enjoy Phrags as I have lately gotten into those. I will be talking in addition about how I grow my orchids.” Over 400 in her specially designed plant room.

LOCATION: PHIPPS GARDEN CENTER IN SHADYSIDE

Meeting Start Time: 2:15PM

Great Information about our November speaker –

I have always been interested in plants from the time I was in grade school and attempted to grow a petunia from seed inside a seashell. (I was successful!) I next moved on to planting and cultivating a flower garden for 4-H when I was in junior high. I remember that my mom almost killed me when she saw me weeding as I had uprooted most of the tiny flower sprouts thinking they were weeds. However, she stopped me in time so I had a very bountiful garden on my first attempt.

Biology was my favorite subject in high school and I went on to major in biology at The Ohio State University where most of my electives were botany courses. I also have a degree in horticulture from the University of Maryland, and a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Massachusetts. My main emphasis in botany in my advanced degree was basic cell biology research. However, along the way I maintained my interest in acquiring plants and I had quite a collection of tropical foliage plants and African Violets growing under lights in my home.

I moved to Cleveland in 2001 and finally decided it was time to build a room designed especially for my plants. As yet I did not have any orchids since I had heard they were difficult to grow. In 2004, an orchid enthusiast friend of mine from Georgia was visiting and knew of my interest in plants and decided it was high time I tried expanding my collection to include orchids. She brought me a Sharry Baby. That is when I got orchid "mania". The plant room no longer contains any tropical plants aside from ~400 orchids, and I belong to the two Cleveland orchid societies, Greater Cleveland and West Shore. I am in charge of setting up their main displays at the spring shows. My local friends, who do not share the orchid craze, have threatened an intervention for years._

Hope to see you on November 17 !

Because this speaker will not be bringing orchids to sell, members may bring items to sell during this meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel to reach me

—Lori McDermott Co-Program Chair / 412-247-0397 / lorimcdermott@comcast.net_

Orchid Plant raffle

I hope everyone enjoyed our Orchid Plant raffle at the October meeting. We will let you know the winner next meeting. The funds raised go to help with the expenses of the Spring Show!

To help us make the monthly meeting raffles as enjoyable for everyone and the best they can be. Please fill out the Survey by clicking the link below. It will take less than two minutes of your time.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JW76K5L>

Orchid Gems: Raj Popat

“A Great Learning Opportunity”

By Pam Horter-Moore

When my husband Christopher and I joined OSWP in 2013, retired physician and member Raj Popat kindly offered to be Chris’ mentor and “orchid buddy.” He then invited us to his home to see his orchid collection. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Raj and his wife Bharti again in their beautiful home in Robinson Township to interview him for this month’s newsletter.

Raj, how did you become interested in orchids?

“I attended the 2005 OSWP Orchid Show out of curiosity. Barb Tisherman and John Whiting were my mentors who encouraged me from the start by showing me their operations and providing me with my introduction to orchids. Barb had a greenhouse near Carnegie-Mellon University at the time, and John was growing orchids in his basement in Johnstown.

It was an exciting time for me. I was very enthusiastic about orchids and read many books and articles. And, of course, I learned from my friends in the Orchid Society – Demetria, Chuck, and many more.”

What was your first orchid?

“I purchased three: Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, and Slipper. It was love at first sight. However, like all novices, I had to struggle. It took me about three years to grow successfully.

2009 was a pivotal year. Bharti and I attended our first World Orchid Conference in Miami, Florida. Since then, we’ve attended nearly every World Orchid Conference. This event takes place every three years in a different location around the world.

At the 2009 World Orchid Conference, I purchased twenty orchids. Bharti and I put them in our carry-on luggage and flew back with them to our home in Uniontown. I built a greenhouse to accommodate the orchids and my collection grew from 20 to 600 specimens.

I was initially a little hesitant about investing in a greenhouse; I first wanted to know whether my interest in orchids was merely a honeymoon or a hobby I’d enjoy forever.”

What happened in 2009 to change things?

“A combination of factors came together. Before 2009, I was a champion orchid-killer, but I was never discouraged. Growing orchids is a great learning opportunity. You read and learn. You increase your mastery, but you never really achieve mastery. There are 30,000 species of orchids and a million hybrids. You discover that you have to focus on a particular species rather than trying to master them all.”

Aren’t you a little intimidated about buying orchids internationally when you attend these World Orchid Conferences? How do you handle the paperwork required to transport the orchids back home?

“When you attend the World Orchid Conference, the orchid society of the hosting country coordinates with their Department of Agriculture to expedite the necessary paperwork. They make it as easy as possible for orchidists to transport their purchases.”

Isn’t it difficult to purchase orchids from a nursery outside the United States? What do you do about the paperwork then?

“It’s not difficult; it’s just inconvenient and sometimes costly. If orchidists make purchases from a nursery in a country outside the United States, they must obtain the necessary permits by going to the Department of Agriculture of that country. Some nurseries obtain the permits for their customers, but charge them for this service. The World Orchid Conference offers orchidists the advantage and convenience of getting the required permits at the Conference itself.

Keep in mind that orchidists don’t have to go out of the United States to purchase collectible orchids. Many nurseries are offering very desirable hybrids that don’t require paperwork.”

What are your favorite orchids, Raj?

“Dendrobiums are my favorite, although I have Cattleyas as well. There are a thousand species of Dendrobium, and countless hybrids, which is one of the things I love about these particular orchids. I love the clusters. Callista, for example, can have twenty to two hundred blooms on each inflorescence. It’s a beautiful orchid.

continued from page 4

Nobile bloom from February to April, so they are often in flower in time to display at the OSWP Orchid Show. My orchids have appeared in Barb Tishermann's exhibit and in the Society's exhibit, and I have won many ribbons. It's a lot of work, but satisfying and rewarding to show."

Can you tell us something about your growing environment?

"When we moved from Uniontown to Robinson Township, I found it necessary to make some adjustments to the lighting conditions in my greenhouse. It's higher in altitude and much brighter here. I switched from using black shade cloth to aluminet shade cloth to reflect heat as well as sunlight. As a result, I have much better flower development.

During the growing season – from around mid-March through September – the increased light activates growth and the orchids require more water, fertilizer, and aeration. From mid-September through mid-October, I water every five days instead of every three.

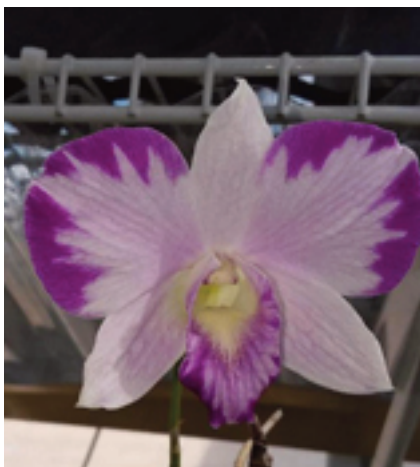
When the orchids enter dormancy, I spray every seven to ten days, making certain that the water dries before evening. I want to prevent the pseudobulbs from shriveling, but I don't want to rot the roots, which require less water during dormancy.

I use an RO (Reverse Osmosis) watering system to try to meet the requirements of orchids in their natural habitat. I also enrich the RO water with a diluted fertilizer. A high concentration of fertilizer will burn the roots and leaves of the plant."

I see that you have two sections in your greenhouse – at the front and back.

"My warm-growing orchids are at the front, and my cool-growing orchids are at the back. Some bloom in the spring, some in the fall, and others throughout the year.

I always have something beautiful coming into bloom."



Holiday Party

Our Holiday Party will be held instead of the meeting in December. It will be the SECOND Sunday in December 8. Appetizers and desserts provided by the members. I will divvy them up for the next newsletter. There will be holiday orchid favors. RSVP early and it may determine your pick of the favors..unless i think of another way to give them out. More details in the December newsletter. RSVP to Carolyn Bolton at boltoncs@gmail.com or call/text 412 638 8728



The Paphiopedilum Forum will be held on January 25, 2020, at the U.S. National Arboretum, in Washington D.C. The National Capital Orchid Society Show will be held February 15-17, 2020, at Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville, MD, near Annapolis.

For more information on these two events, closer to the events, go to the National Capital Orchid Society website at <https://ncos.us/ncos-show-2020/>.

Current Committees Chairs.

Here is the list of committees currently and the chairs, if you want to put them on the website or in the newsletter:

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore, Cristina Eyler
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, Tammy Wurst, Norma Raiff
Library	Rosa Gaudins	Speaker	Lori McDermott, Tim Choltco
Membership	Val Robey	Website	Jinghua Ou
Mini-class	Sheila Nathanson	Let me know if you have questions. Thanks very much, Demet	
Newsletter	Jim Yamber		

Pfun at Phipps in November

Only one place available this month, November 7. Two have signed up and we could use one more experienced potter.

Beyond November, we may have one work date in December but also the possibility of additional work to help unload the orchids that are coming for the Orchid Show. This is typically right around Christmas. It is great fun and totally appreciated as these orchids are flown in from Hawaii or trucked in from Ohio and need unboxing ASAP. I will be looking for helpers and it is often at short notice.

Don't forget to find the name tags in a box in the beige cabinet in GH 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.

Sometimes we have a need for an extra person during the month. Please let me know if you would like me to email you when this is occurring. I will have a clipboard at the November meeting and get the names of the members who would like to be on that list.

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@phipps.conservatory.org Any questions, email me at nancyk412@gmail.com or call 412-367-1556. Thanks for your dedication to our friends at Phipps.



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 (editor)
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

Materials under copyright
use or reprint by permission.

Upcoming 2019 speakers

FUTURE PROGRAMS
November 17, 2019

Patricia Conrad
“My Favorite Orchids”

More to come for the future programs for 2019

