

The ORCHIDIAN



Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – January 2025



EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

- **Southern Ontario Orchid Society's "60 Years of Enchantment" Annual Show and Sale is being held February 8 - 9, 2025** at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1P2, Canada.
- **National Capital Orchid Society's "45th Annual Paphiopedilum Forum" is being held February 8, 2025** at the North Chevy Chase Christian Church, 8814 Kensington Parkway, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.
- **The Deep Cut Orchid Society Show is being held February 14 - 16, 2025** at the Dearborn Market, 2170 State Route 35, Holmdel, NJ 07733.
- **St. Croix Orchid Society's "Orchids Thrive in '25" is being held February 21 - 23, 2025** at the St. George Village Botanical Gardens, 127 George Rd, Frederiksted, VI 00840.
- **Greater Lansing Orchid Society Orchid Show is being held February 22 - 23, 2025** at the Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett, MI, 48840.
- **Amherst Orchid Society Show is being held February 22 - 23, 2025** at the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, 80 Locust St, Northampton, MA 01060.
- **The Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens "42nd Annual Orchid Show" is being held February 22 - 23, 2025** at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, ON, L7T 4H4, Canada.
- **Virginia Orchid Society Show is being held February 28 - March 2, 2025** at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Ave, Richmand, VA 23228.
- **2025 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show – Gardens of Tomorrow**
- **The 2025 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show – Gardens of Tomorrow is being held March 1 - 9, 2025** at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19107.



MARCH

15 & 16

2025

Orchid

SPRING SHOW

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS

Orchid obsession

SATURDAY MARCH 15
EXHIBITS NOON TO 5 P.M.
VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

SUNDAY MARCH 16
EXHIBITS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

CROWNE PLAZA SUITES
PITTSBURGH SOUTH EXHIBITS
164 FORT COUCH RD.
PITTSBURGH PA 15241
(ACROSS FROM SOUTH HILLS VILLAGE)

ORCHID DISPLAYS
ORCHID TALKS
ORCHID REPOTTING
ORCHID VENDOR SALES
OSWP SALES

Free Parking with easy access to all events

ADMISSION \$ 5 (MEMBERS & UNDER 18 FREE)

WWW.OSWP.ORG

Letter from the Co-Presidents

OSWP Co-Presidents Letter for February 2025 Newsletter

On Sunday, January 19th, the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania held its regular monthly meeting at the Spartan Events Center in Hazelwood with approximately 40 members attending in spite of the snowy weather.

For the mini-class, Carol Panza shared her knowledge of *Catasetums* with the group. Our featured speaker was Edgar Stehli from Windswept in Time Orchids in Ohio. His talk on Miniatures was very informative and he sold many miniature and full-sized orchids.

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. The show committee chairs are ready to go. Please be on the lookout for our Sign Up Genius information and sign up to help in many ways for the March show. We feel our show is one of the best in the East/Midwest. This is in large part due to the magnificent effort of many volunteers to pull it off. We trust this tradition of helping will continue.

We hope to see you at our February meeting, 2/16, at the Spartan Center in Hazelwood! Chuck Oldenburg, one of our own members, will talk on *Cattleyas*, which he grows beautifully in the South Hills. Chuck and Julia have been the hosts of our summer picnic for the past several years, so many of you have seen his wonderful growing areas and orchids.

In the Sunday, 1/19, Post-Gazette there was a story on Phipps Orchid and Bonsai Show and it featured Thathmini Kularatna, Phipps Orchid Manager. Also, in the recent Winter Issue of THRIVE, Phipps magazine, there was an article on Thathmini as well. Thathmini stated in that article that, "I am thoroughly grateful for volunteers, both from Phipps and the Orchid Society of Western PA, for the support they provide to take care of the vast collection at Phipps." What a wonderful tribute to the OSWP, the Pfunsters and P-OSI people.

Our thanks go out to all of you who brought in such wonderful plants for our Show and Tell. We are restarting the system to use Post-it notes to write the plant names on so members do not need to remove the tags from the pots to know their name. It would be great if you would create a temporary label before you bring them in, but we will have blank Post-its and a marker available.

We know our focus needs to be on the Spring Show for now, but we will need to jump right into the 25/26 Budget Plan and Officer Nominations as soon as the show is over.

We want to thank John Jennings for his great meeting photos and a special thanks, too, to Dave Panasiuk for his work each month on our newsletter, *The Orchidian*. Thank you both

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

Think orchids,

Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh

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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
-

OSWP 2025 Meeting Schedule

- **January 19, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **February 16, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **March 15 & 16, 2025 - Spring Show, Crown Plaza Suites**
 - **April 13, 2025 - Spartan Center**
 - **May 18, 2025 - Spartan Center**
 - **June 8, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **July, 2025 - Picnic, Date and Time TBD**
 - **August, 2025 - No Meeting**
- **September 21, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **October 19, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **November 16, 2025 - Spartan Center**
- **December, 2025 - Holiday Party, Date and Time TBD**

FEBRUARY FEATURED SPEAKER

February Speaker: Chuck Oldenburg

Topic: ‘Cattleya Culture, How I Grow My Cattleya’

Get ready to learn about all things Cattleya that you need to know but were afraid to ask. Chuck will provide this focused discussion and presentation in PowerPoint format.

Sales: *Chuck is NOT bringing plants for sale. Members ARE invited to sell plants.*

Bio: Chuck Oldenburg is a veteran orchid grower of 25 years with an astounding 1000 plants in his collection. He is an OSWP member since 2009 who lives in Venetia, PA. His plants are housed in a 600 square foot green house and are supplemented by another 128 square foot of LED light tables. Although his primary focus is Cattleya he also dabbles with other genera to a lesser extent

MEETING MINUTES – January

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)

Jan. 19, 2025

Regular Meeting of OSWP

Carol Panza presented a mini-class on Catasetum orchids.

Business

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:00 pm by Co-Presidents Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh.

Demetria thanked John Jennings who has acted as the OSWP photographer for many events and activities – including both the Holiday Party and Pfun at Phipps.

Gary noted that members should be on guard against any phishing emails. OSWP leadership will never request money from members for payments to vendors or for any other purpose via email.

Reports:

- a. Treasurer: In Janet Greenberg's absence, Demetria presented the Treasurer's report.
- b. Spring Show:
 - a. Mary Ann Pike discussed a number of outstanding issues with regard to the Show. The Committee Chairs were given an opportunity to share their needs for volunteers during the Show and to pass around sign-up sheets for volunteer slots. The online Sign-Up Genius should be active in early February to allow additional sign-ups by volunteers.
 - b. Although no Program Brochure will be printed this year, members are encouraged to seek out sponsors for the Show. Sponsors will be recognized in a variety of ways throughout the duration of the Show.
 - c. Exhibit plants for the OSWP Exhibit need to arrive at the Hotel by noon on Friday. OSWP members who want to have their plants included should email Carolyn Bolton with the plant names prior to Friday so that labels can be made. OSWP members who wish to have their plants included in the judging will need to register their own plants
 - d. Repotting – Zander indicated that potting supplies are needed, including orchid pots, disposable gloves, spray bottles, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, clay pots or simply cash donations so these items can be purchased.
 - e. Education Speaks – Michele Burton noted that at least one (and perhaps two) slots remain open for presentations from OSWP members. These presentations are well received by Show attendees

looking for information on orchids – from growing conditions to lighting to information on repotting.

- f. Gary noted that individuals are needed to create Table Top exhibits.
 - g. Gary also noted the need for helpers to get the exhibit room open after the judging is complete (10:30 – noon on Saturday).
 - h. Silent Auction / Raffle – Donations are needed from both the Silent Auction and the raffles. Orchid related items are requested. Contact Dave or Michele Panasiuk with donations.
 - i. Plant Parking / Member Sales – boxes, particularly small ones (which can be broken down and reassembled at the Show) as well as bags are requested.
 - j. Kelly's Korner – OSWP members are requested to preorder any large quantities of supplies prior to the Show. A 10% discount is provided on preorders and no shipping fees. This will allow for better inventory for the Show attendees which did become an issue last year as the supply inventory dwindled.
 - k. Hospitality – Demetria and Mike Lysy will organize the food for vendors and OSWP volunteers. Volunteers are needed to staff the room each day and there are no kitchen facilities. Food will need to be in crockpots or on trays.
 - l. Publicity – Kathy McCafferty noted that publicity efforts are ongoing. OSWP members who know of local newspapers or other media outlets that would be interested in providing publicity for the Show are encouraged to share that information with one of the Show Chairs.
 - m. Miscellaneous – Committee Chairs charges are encouraged to contact volunteers from prior years to help in assuring sufficient coverage for the Show. The Show Book is complete and available for review by any Chairs who have questions about their responsibilities. Bookmarks with information about Show details are available for distribution at Library talks. There are also Show Posters available for OSWP members to place in local businesses, etc.
- c. Pfun: Demetria noted that she would like assistance from an OSWP member to organize and manage staffing for Pfun and POSI at Phipps.
 - d. Orchid Gems: Norma noted that Everett Chronoski will be featured in the February newsletter.
 - e. Newsletter: It was noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month. Submissions should be sent to Dave Panasiuk at: OSWPnewsletter@gmail.com
 - f. Hospitality: Lawrene encourages members to bring snacks to share during OSWP meetings.
 - g. Social Media: Zander noted that in order to expand OSWP's media presence to reach a new and perhaps younger audience that an Instagram page has been created. It does not yet have any content. Content can consist of Show & Tell photos as well as event details.

New Business:

The Board is looking for a new location for the summer picnic. Any suggestions for a location should be provided (with details as to pricing, kitchen facilities, parking and the number of people the facility will support) within the next couple of weeks.

Show and Tell:

A number of members presented orchids they had brought to the meeting for the purpose of Show & Tell. Gary noted that it is helpful to write the name of each plant on a sticky note next to the plant.

Raffle

Two plants were donated (by OSWP and Demetria) to raffle at no cost as a “Thank You” to the OSWP members who attended the meeting on such a wintry, cold, snowy day. Raffle winners were Mona Rice and Rich Raife.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. and was followed by our speaker, Edgar Stehli. Edgar gave a presentation on miniature orchids and had plants available for sale.

Submitted by: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary

OSWP

ORCHID GEMS – Everett Chronowski

Everett Chronowski: A Peek into the beauty of Neofinetia Japanese Orchids

By: Norma Raiff



This past October I happily went to a well-attended OSWP miniclass on *Neofinetia falcata*, which is one of my favorite orchids. Presented by Everett Chronowski, the Phipps’ Tropical Forest Display Horticulturalist, the talk was intriguingly titled *Neofinetia falcata: the Bonsai of the Orchid World*. Even better, Jim Yamber subsequently e-blasted Everett’s slides to the members for everyone to have as a resource. So naturally I wanted to pick Everett’s brain about *Neofinetia* growing tips, his orchid collection, and his Phipps’ responsibilities.

Everett’s a long-term Pittsburgher whose family moved to McKeesport when he was a child. His education and work history are intriguing. His early background included seasonal summer employment at the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, followed by a BA in biology from the University of Pittsburgh. He also has a Masters in Museum Studies with a Post Graduate Certification in Digital Curation from John Hopkins University that focused on Curation and Living Collections. He chose this unusual major at one of his professor’s recommendations who suggested it by noting that Everett had shown great interest in zoos, aquariums, and botanical gardens throughout his undergraduate studies.

Curation represents a milestone shift in display presentation. In a botanical garden setting, it can incorporate an integrated educational approach, including information related to plant-specific environments, the role of the area’s indigenous culture, historical and political factors, and sustainability threats and emerging botanical reparative thrusts.

Phipps' recent exhibit, Tropical Forest Hawai'i offers a good example. Described as "an inviting, immersive journey through the rich history, nature and culture of the Hawaiian archipelago," the setting included a model canoe signifying the original Polynesian voyages to Hawaii and an educational video from the Hawai'i's National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) featuring its research on plants with the potential to end world hunger.

Everett has been employed by Phipps for 2.5 years, having been promoted to his current title in 2023. His duties include displaying and caring for the Tropical plants, an extremely diverse area that includes Thailand, Amazon Rainforest, South India, Kongo, Cuba, Hawaii, and Panama. The upcoming Tropical Forest Panama exhibit will feature many native orchids including *Maxillaria tenuifolia* (the Coconut Pie Orchid) and *Brassavola nodosa* (Lady of the Night Orchid).



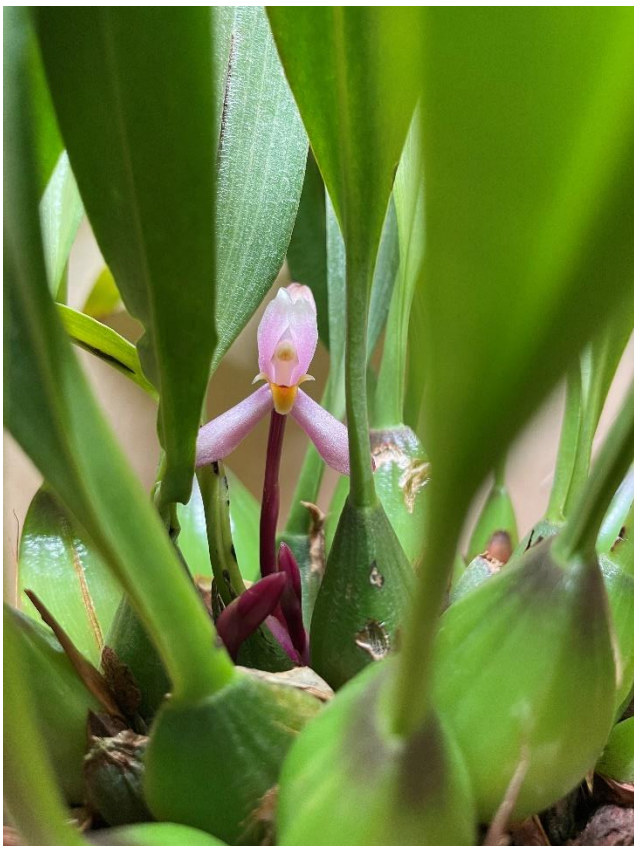
(where they are found in five specific parts of forests) and, to a lesser extent, in China and Korea. Their prestigious association with Japanese nobility goes back 400 years. And while the flowers are beautiful, most often white, and fragrant, the plants are enjoyed in a way that is comparable to how bonsai are viewed – e.g., using a broader set of criteria such as the plant's foliage and overall presentation rather than just focusing on the flowers.

Some of the dimensions by which individual plants are judged and priced include plant shape (e.g., plain, bean shaped, pine needle and twisted), leaf pattern (e.g., plain, or white edged, red variegated, "burning tiger") and root tip color (which include bright green, brown, pink, and ruby red -- one of the most expensive.) And depending on the configuration of the above, rarity, and size, *Neofinetia* can be comparable to "other orchids" in pricing – e.g., an affordable \$320 – yet can also be as high as hundreds of dollars and beyond.



And how about those *Neofinetias*? *Neofinetia falcata* (a.k.a. *vanda falcata*) are highly popular miniature orchids mostly associated with Japan

And, as in the case of bonsai, the curation of a *Neofinetia* plant, its growth, media (moss or, less often, bark), and whether it is displayed in an



ordinary pot or in a splendid ceramic Japanese Fukiran pot, are also evaluated.

Everett's journey to Orchid Enthusiast started as a minor hobby growing phalaenopsis 10 years ago. His private collection now includes 19 Neofinetia, as well as Paphs, Cattleyas, Psychopsis, Oncidiums, Asian Cymbidiums, and some Maxillarias/Mormolycas. His favorite Neos include Neofinetia falcata 'Shutenou' and Neofinetia falcata 'Yellow Dragon.' His other top picks include Mormolyca richii, and Rhyncholaeliocattleya (Rlc) Chief Glory 'Red Ant.'

"Neofinetias are enjoyable in so many aspects. Their leaves and roots can be just as fun and beautiful as the flowers. The flowers are such a beautiful and delicate display of white (sometimes other colored) flowers. The flowers also can make an evening magical since they only become fragrant in the evenings/nights."

Some cultural advice on Neofinetias: "Make sure you read about the form of neofinetia you have. Some can require very slightly different care than others. I also advise that everyone try to do the

traditional moss mound method. It can be an extremely rewarding experience, and it allows you to really see the roots grow. In the summer make sure not to let them dry out and, in the winter, let the moss get crispy on the outside and lightly damp on the inside. The moss mound method should be repotted once every six months."



'One of my favorite stores to purchase Neofinetias from is New World Orchids (<https://newworldorchids.com/>). There is also a neofinetia buy/sell group on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1015077369434266>). Peter T. Lin and Jack Zhu, both of whom have spoken to us during OSWP meetings, are there too!"

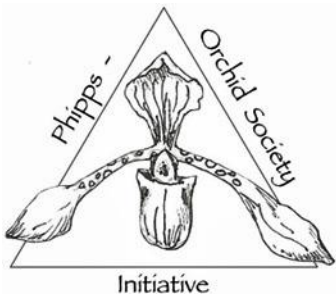
And so, fellow OSWPer, please consider introducing yourself to Everett when you attend one of our meetings. He is enthusiastic, excited about his job, and more than willing to share knowledge.

Final words: "I tell any Phipps volunteers who expresses interest in orchids to consider joining OSWP. And I mention it again and again, Because the more you learn, the better you get."

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



February, 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 3rd 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," there all month.

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

Happy New Year!

Demetria Marsh

Demetria117@gmail.com



MARCH

15 & 16

2025

Orchid

SPRING SHOW

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS

Orchid obsession

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ADMISSION \$ 5 (MEMBERS & UNDER 18 FREE)

WWW.OSWP.ORG

Vendors of OSWP 2025 Spring Show – Orchid Obsession

Note: We are attempting to add one more vendor. We will update this list as soon as things change.

<p>Ecuagenera USA Corp., Apopka, FL www.ecuagenera.com <i>Orchids, Tropical Plants</i></p>	<p>Wade's Orchids, Middleburg, PA Wade Hollenbach http://www.wadesorchids.com/ <i>Orchids</i></p>
<p>Kelley's Korner Orchid Supplies, Etters, PA PK Dennis https://www.kkorchid.com/ <i>Orchid Supplies</i> Deadline for preorder: Order before March 11, 2025 10% discount code is OSWP25</p> <p>Note: At check out, select "Deliver to Orchid Event" – Please add Comment so they know where to bring your order as the shipping method for the coupon to work.</p>	<p>Windswept in Time Orchids, Broadview Heights, OH Edgar & Kim Stehli https://windsweptorchids.com/ 440-838-5757 edgarstehli@sbcglobal.net <i>Orchids</i> Deadline for preorder: March 10, 2025</p> <p>Note: If you are looking for something not on the website or 'sold out', please call or e-mail Edgar. He has lots of things not listed on the website.</p>
<p>Mayfield Village Orchids, Mayfield Village, OH Dr. William Schumann <i>Orchids</i></p>	<p>Flask and Flora, Columbus, OH Dennis Steinbeck https://flaskandflora.com/ <i>Orchids</i></p>
<p>Ten Shin Gardens, Taiwan Matthew Wei-Yi Chen (Matt) https://tenshinorchids.com/</p> <p>To view plant list see www.tenshinorchids.com/list <i>Orchids</i> Deadline for preorder: February 21, 2025</p>	<p>HC Orchids, Columbus, OH Himchor Ho https://hcorchids.com/ <i>Orchids</i> Deadline for preorder: March 10, 2025 10% discount code is OSWP (Code valid through all orchids.)</p> <p>Note: If you want to pick up the plants, use code "PickUp" at check out, and it'll waive the shipping fee.</p>



ANNUAL SPRING ORCHID SHOW

March 15 & 16 2025

Crowne Plaza Suites Pittsburgh South

164 Ft. Couch Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

The Orchid Society of Western PA's mission is to educate the public about the pleasures of orchid growing. Over a thousand show visitors experience orchids blooming in profusion and learn about orchid growing and conservation.

Sponsorship Levels

- Platinum (\$1000) - Welcome Table Sponsor: large logo and words "Platinum Sponsor" on banner and web site, ad on 55" monitor and displayed at Welcome table.
- Gold (\$750) - Exhibit Room Sponsor: large logo and words "Gold Sponsor" on banner and web site, ad on 55" monitor and displayed in Exhibit Room.
- Silver (\$400) __Repotting Table or __Society Sales (select one) Sponsor: small logo and words "Silver Sponsor" on banner and web site, ad on monitor and displayed at selected table.
- Bronze (\$100) – small logo on monitor and attendee handout.

Sponsor Information

Company _____

Contact _____

Signature _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Amount Remitted _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to **OSWP**
 Mail to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr., McMurray, PA 15317
 or remit PayPal to oswptreasurer@gmail.com
 The OSWP is a 501(c)(3) organization

Logos and ads should be emailed in electronic PDF format to: Mary Ann Pike, mapike@earthlink.net. Contact Mary Ann for questions, 412.855.8239

Sponsorship Due Date (including logo submission) 03/01/25

The 2025 OWSP Spring Orchid Show Needs You

As we look with hope that we might finally see some green grass and maybe a few new shoots of growth, we want to ask our membership to plan to join in on the fun at our annual spring orchid show, Orchid Obsession. The show is brought to the Western Pennsylvania public through the hard work of many OSWP Volunteers.

Show dates are: Initial Set Up - Thursday, 3.13 from 4pm until approximately 7pm

Major Set Up- Friday, 3.14 from 8am until 6pm

Open to the Public - Saturday 3.15 from 9am to 5pm

Sunday 3.16 from 9am to 4pm

Tear Down and moving it all out - Sunday 3.16 starting at 4pm until done
(the more hands on deck, the faster we are out of there!)

Jinghua Ou is doing a wonderful job setting up our online sign up tool using SignUp Genius. It can be accessed via our website, www.oswp.org. Find the signup in "What's New". Click on "Member Guide for the Spring Show". Please read this page and find embedded links to the Volunteer sign up page, to the Trophy Award Sponsorship page, to the corporate sponsorship form, and to an individual donations option. In addition, you will find an inventory sheet you will need if you are participating in plant sales and other information regarding the exhibits and vendors.

Trophy awards start at \$25. General donations and donations for hospitality are open to any amounts. Select the award(s) you would like to sponsor and enter the amount you will pay. Please remember to then use the payment via PayPal button. Members do not need a PayPal account to pay online. Payers will be an automatic PayPal guest and will use their debit or credit card to complete the donation payment.

This show is our largest fundraising event of the year, and also provides our greatest exposure to the general public, garden clubs and other orchid societies. This is our best opportunity each year to attract new members. New members are how we will continue to flourish as a volunteer organization.

If you are new to the OSWP, please take time to understand the scope of the show. See the All Stars Page to understand all the activities. Take this opportunity to get involved in the show's success. We have so many activities that have to occur to make the show happen; there are opportunities for everyone to be involved - for a couple of hours or for a day or more! And don't forget about the food! Hospitality needs offerings of money but more importantly FOOD! Volunteers, judges, and the vendors will be fed for the three days of the show - Friday all day setup plus Saturday and Sunday showtime! Please, please volunteer to bring food by signing up on the Volunteer webpage. Or contact the chairs directly.

The hotel we are using does have a dedicated hospitality room but it is limited to electric outlets, no cooking facilities and no refrigeration. We are limited to food that can be brought in on warmers or in crock pots or that can be kept safely at room temperature. If you do have a contribution that must stay cool until served, please bring the dish with your own ice and/or cooler.

In closing, the most valuable result of volunteering at our show is the opportunity to get to know others who share a common interest in growing orchids. Deep and lasting friendships are often made during this show as we share a mutual obsession with fascinating and diverse orchids.

Come join us and have fun! - See you all at the show! ~Kathy McCafferty, Lawrene Neel and Mary Ann Pike~

Join Our All-Star Team!!

As we get closer to March, the All Star Team for show activities is getting ready to take the field.

Below



is our phenomenal line up of Committee Chairs, Aka - **The All Stars**. We are so grateful for their willingness to help make this year's Show a truly outstanding success.

And

you could be one of them! Contact one of us to volunteer

-- The

All Star Supporters: Show co-chairs Kathy McCafferty (kgmccafferty@gmail.com), Lawrene Neel (corgiteapot@gmail.com), and Mary Ann Pike (mapike@earthlink.net)¹

OWSP SHOW COMMITTEES

Arts & Crafts: Brian Powell

Education: Michelle Burton

Exhibit, Vendor and Lobby Layouts: Bob Lusnak

Garden Society Liaison: Lori McDermott

General Helpers: Beverly Dodson and Lori Beth Bloom

Hospitality: Demetria Marsh and Mike Lysy

Judging Clerks: Carol Panza

Library Liaison: Kathy McCafferty

Membership: Kathy Collins

Plant Parking: Susan Levish, Cindy Weiland

Publicity: Kathy McCafferty

Raffle: Dave, Michelle & Rosalie Panasiuk

Registration Exhibitors: Gary Van Gelder and Mona Rice

Repotting: Katie Schuller and Zander Morrison

Security: Jim Morrison

Sponsorship: Mary Ann Pike

Silent Auction: Dave, Michelle & Rosalie Panasiuk

Society Exhibit: Carolyn Bolton, Carol Panza

Society Sales: Leslie Kaplan, Holly Schrum

Exhibit, Vendor, Lobby Setup: Bob Lusnak

Storage: Bob Lusnak

Tear Down: Bob Lusnak

Trophy Awards & Judges Thank You's: Lori Beth Bloom

Vendors: Kaoru Kawasaki

Welcome Table: Charlotte Momich

¹ If you would like to help during the show, please contact one of the Committee Chairs.

Hotel information for the Orchid Society of Western PA 2025 Show, March 13-16, Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites Pittsburgh South, 164 Fort Couch Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241.

RATE AND ROOM BLOCK

Thu 03/13/2025, Fri 03/14/2025, Sat 03/15/2025: \$129 per night plus tax.

Above rates apply to 3-days prior, 3-days post based upon availability.

CHECK IN/CHECK OUT

Check-in time is 4:00pm, check-out time is 11:00am. All guests arriving before 4:00pm will be accommodated as rooms become available. There may be a charge for late check-out. Our Guest Services Department can arrange to check baggage for those arriving early when rooms are unavailable and for guests attending functions on departure day.

Individual Cancellation Policy

Any cancellations less than 24 hours prior to arrival date will result in a charge equal to one night's room and tax. No cancellation penalty for cancellations made more than 24 hours before the arrival date.

RESERVATION CUT-OFF

The guest room block will be held until 2/13/25 at 12:00am. Requests and name changes received after the cut-off date will be accepted on a rate and space-available basis at the group rate or best available rate.

Guests can book their rooms in two ways:

- Call the Reservations Line: Dial (412) 833-5300 and select option 1 for reservations.
 - Guests will be prompted with a series of automated questions, and then they'll be transferred to a live agent where they can provide the block code **ORC** to complete the booking.
- Book Online: Guests can also use the following booking link to make their reservations directly: [The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Booking Link](#)
 - The website will automatically open with all available block dates. Guests can adjust their dates-of-stay at the top of the webpage, by clicking on the calendar in the "Search" bar below the burgundy banner.

Please note that the cutoff date for booking is **midnight on February 13, 2025**. After this time, any unreserved rooms will be released back into general inventory.

Feb. 16, 2025 - Public OSWP Meeting

Date: Sunday 02/16/2025

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

12:30 Spartan Center opens

This month’s speaker will NOT be selling plants, so members are permitted to sell plants.
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

Katie Schuller

Topic: Believe it or not, you can actually grow orchids in your yard! There are several perennial orchids that can grow and thrive in your yard with minimal care. This mini class will explore which orchids you can grow in Pittsburgh, which soil conditions are ideal, and where to buy them.

1:45 Break

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

2:45 Break

3:00 Speaker Presentation

Chuck Oldenburg

Topic: Cattleya Culture, How I Grow My Cattleya

Get ready to learn about all things Cattleya that you need to know but were afraid to ask. Chuck will provide this focused discussion and presentation in PowerPoint format.

4:00 Meeting Over and Clean-up

4:30 Spartan Center closes

SPECIAL ATTENTION: NOTICE TO NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

It is vital to the continued success of the OSWP Orchidian newsletter magazine that we follow some rules for contributions. I appreciate all the effort everyone of you puts into the work and I want to be certain none of it is missed because of a technicality.

- All submissions are due on the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month’s newsletter.
- Everything **MUST** be sent to OSWPnewsletter@gmail.com anywhere else and it will sadly be missed.
- Submit everything in Microsoft WORD format. This is the program in which the newsletter is written. I do not have Adobe Acrobat so I cannot combine .pdf files into the newsletter. If anyone would like to purchase an Adobe Acrobat license for the society, that would be **WONDERFUL!**
- If you are responsible for scheduling a guest or any other reoccurring newsletter event and cannot obtain said guest or information, please let me know so I’m not trying to find what doesn’t exist.

This is Sooooo important as the newsletter is not done by a publishing house but by an individual with a hefty work and family schedule. That said, thank you all for everything you do!!! – Dave Panasiuk



OH DEER, It is just not the same without you here... 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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