

The ORCHIDIAN



Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – April 2025



EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

- The 2025 Spring AOS Members Meeting is being held April 9-12, 2025 at the Annapolis Crowne Plaza, Room C, 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, MD 21401.
- The 2025 Toronto Artistic Orchid Association Orchid Show is being held April 12 - 13, 2025 at the Center for Immigrant and Community Services, 2330 Midland Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M1S 5G5, Canada.
- The South Carolina Orchid Society Show is being held April 25 - 27, 2025 at the Garden Clubs of Greater Columbia, 1605 Park Circle, Columbia, SC 29201.
- The Memphis Orchid Society Show and Sale is being held April 25 - 27, 2025 at the Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Rd, Memphis, TN 38117.
- The Triad Orchid Society's "The Splendor of Orchids: A Universe of Color" is being held May 9 - 11, 2025 at The Wanek School of Natural Sciences, High Point University, 708 Montlieu Drive, High Point, NC 27262.

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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

- **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**

ORCHID OBSESSION – OSWP 2025 ORCHID SHOW

To all our members who graciously helped in so many capacities for the Spring Orchid Show, thank you very much for your time, efforts, and good spirits! As new co-chairs, we needed a great deal of assistance, and you were always willing to provide it.

Co-Presidents Demetria Marsh and Gary VanGelder and Past Co-Chairs Janet Greenberg, Sheila Nathanson, and Norma Raiff shared their experience and expertise and were invaluable as mentors. Their guidance was the blueprint for a successful show. We are grateful for their advice and accessibility.

The members who willingly accepted the position of Committee Chair or Co-Chair spent months preparing for the show, recruiting helpers, and manning their tables throughout the weekend. Some shared our first-year status in offering to be in charge. Kaoru Kawasaki did an outstanding job as Committee Chair of Vendors. She effectively communicated with an international array of sellers and ensured that the plants were delivered safely to the show, along with Sheila Nathanson and Bob Lusnak's help. Jim Morrison took on the important job of security. Our youngest member, Zander Morrison, offered to Co-Chair Repotting with Katie Schuller at this popular area.

We also had experienced Co-Chairs who offered once again to run a successful committee. Holly Schrum and Leslie Kaplan organized and sold many plants, pots, and shirts at Society Sales. Charlotte Momich cheerfully greeted guests at the Welcome Table and guided interested persons to Kathy Collins at Membership, where she encouraged them to join the OSWP and presented them with a beautiful orchid. The Just Add Ice Orchids were donated by Green Circle Growers.

Once again, Sheila Nathanson was able to obtain their generous gift. Not only did Michelle, Rosalie and Dave Panasiuk collect and display artwork and gift baskets for the Silent Auction and Raffle, but Dave also announced the day's events to inform our guests. Michele Burton procured a stellar list of Education speakers who presented a wide variety of fascinating topics. While members and guests enjoyed the speakers, exhibits, and sales, they were able to safely store their purchases at Plant Parking, where Susan Levish and Cindy Weiland efficiently tagged them for safekeeping. Brian Powell secured Arts and Crafts vendors, who displayed unique handmade items for sale.

Besides the Lobby and Vendor Room, a great deal of effort was required to set up the entire venue and to establish the Exhibit Room for viewing and judging the exquisite displays. Bob Lusnak and Gary VanGelder worked diligently to provide layouts for the rooms, revising and redesigning them when necessary. They were also instrumental in hauling displays and assembling the three rooms, along with many members' assistance. Carolyn Bolton and Carol Panza were responsible for the beautiful Society Exhibit, and Carol also headed the important committee for Judging Clerks. Both Gary VanGelder and Mona Rice registered all the orchids to be judged in the lovely displays. Lori Beth Bloom provided Trophy Awards and Judge Appreciation.

Behind the scenes, Demetria Marsh and Mike Lysy organized a delicious spread of many homemade dishes for breakfast and lunch, supplemented by Louise Predis' wizardry in the kitchen. They and our members brought a tempting array of food to nourish our helpers, vendors and judges. General Photographer John Jennings and AOS photographer Kim Frankenfield recorded the weekend's memories for us to enjoy for years to come. We are also thankful for the efforts of Beverly Dodson and Lori Beth Bloom, who gathered a large group of General Helpers who assisted wherever they were needed.

Our public and media presence was invaluable for promoting the show. Jinghua Ou developed our website, which has been important in providing current Society information. A number of our active members spoke at libraries, garden club meetings, on television, and to newspaper reporters--Demetria Marsh, Gary VanGelder, Chuck Oldenburg, Zander Morrison, Sheila Nathanson, Katie Schuller, Carolyn Bolton, Lori McDermott, Kathy Arria, and Natalie Turicik. Lance Cheuvrant maintained our Facebook presence while Zander Morrison expanded our online presence with Instagram postings. We also applaud Jim Yamber's eblasts, which kept our members informed about every aspect of show preparation.

We had excellent support from local businesses. Our members once again asked for and got sponsorships from Platinum sponsor Sarris Candies, Gold sponsor Fort Pitt Capital Group, Silver sponsors Washington Auto Mall and Houston Harbaugh Attorneys and, new this year, Bronze sponsor Wyatt Incorporated. We also asked for and received donations of food for hospitality and/or items for our auction from Pizzaz Italian Restaurant, BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, Bonefish Grill, Sarris Candies, and Crowne Plaza Suites Pittsburgh South. Our show is very appreciative of the generosity of our local businesses.

It was a wonderful, well-attended Spring Show that only succeeded due to the efforts of you, our members. Thank you to those who took on leadership roles and to the members who helped in any way they could; the gift of your presence, efforts, food, and good cheer was greatly appreciated. We are especially grateful for the newer members who stepped up this year to contribute--this is how our organization will continue to grow. To our mentors, we could not have done it without your continued support. We look forward to your ongoing assistance and involvement as the Society plans the Spring Orchid Show for 2026!

With Gratitude,
Kathy McCafferty
Lawrene Neel
Mary Ann Pike

ORCHID SHOW PHOTOS ARE HERE!



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2025 OSWP SHOW TROPHY WINNERS

AOS Show Trophy...OSWP...Carolyn Bolton, Carol Panza, Brandon Williams & Crew
Orchid Digest Trophy...CPOS...Valdimir Dmitriyev, John Whitting
People's Choice Award...CPOS...Chuck Oldenburg
Best 25 Sq. Ft. Open Exhibit...Windswept in Time Orchids...Edgar Stehli
Best 25 Sq. Ft. Amateur Exhibit...Don Ammon, Kathy Arria
Best 50 Sq. Ft. Open Exhibit...Phipps Conservatory...Giovanny Giraldo, Thathmini Kularatna
Best Society Exhibit...OSWP...Carolyn Bolton, Carol Panza, Brandon Williams & Crew
Best Cattleya & Related Genera...Epi. secundum 'Pretty Lady'...Carolyn Bolton
Best Cattleya & Guarianthe...Blc. Pamela Hetherton 'Coronation' FCC/AOS...Chuck Oldenburg
The Richard Sipko Best Amateur Cattleya & Related Genera...Chuck Oldenburg
Best Paphiopedilum...Paph. Phillip's Lady...Wade's Orchids...Wade Hollenbach
Best Phragmipedium & Related Genera...Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Gypsy' AM/AOS...Valdimir Dmitriyev
The Charles Van Dyke Best Amateur Phragmipedium...Phrag. Sorcerer's Apprentice 'Gypsy' AM/AOS...Valdimir Dmitriyev
Best Phalaenopsis & Related Genera...Phal. Bronze Maiden...Valdimir Dmitriyev
Best Vanda Alliance...Vanda divas...Windswept in Time Orchids...Edgar Stehli
Best Oncidium & Related Genera...Blira Marfitch 'Howard's Dream' AM/AOS...Chuck Oldenburg
Best Cymbidium & Related Genera...Cym. LaDonna Tabytite Harris...Phipps Conservatory...Giovanny Giraldo, Thathmini Kularatna
Best Dendrobium Alliance...Den. specio-kingianum...Phipps Conservatory...Giovanny Giraldo, Thathmini Kularatna
Best Pleurothallid...Pths. angustipetala...Carolyn Bolton
Best Miscellaneous Genera...Lyc. Spring Present...Carol Panza
Best Specimen Plant...Den. specio-kingiianum...Phipps Conservatory...Giovanny Giraldo, Thathmini Kularatna
Best in Show...Den. specio-kingianum...Phipps Conservatory...Giovanny Giraldo, Thathmini Kularatna

Prepared by C. Panza

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

2025 Spring Show Trophy Awards Sponsor List

AOS Show Trophy

sponsored by: Barbara Tisherman

The most outstanding exhibit of orchid plants in flower, arranged for effect.

Orchid Digest Corporation Show Trophy

sponsored by: Show Chairs: Kathy, Lawrene & Mary Ann

Amateur exhibit. 25 sq. feet and over, showing high plant quality and excellent culture.

People's Choice Award

sponsored by: Dr. Bill Schumann

To the exhibit judged by the visiting public as the best exhibit of the show.

Best Open Exhibit: (25 sq. feet)

sponsored by: Joan Kelley

Best Open Exhibit: (more than 25 sq. feet)

sponsored by: Carolyn Bolton

Best Society Exhibit

sponsored by: Gary Van Gelder

Best Amateur Exhibit: (25 sq. feet)

sponsored by: Jinghua Ou

Best Amateur Exhibit: (more than 25 sq. ft)

sponsored by: Jinghua Ou

Best Table Top or Novice Exhibit

sponsored by: Dave & Mary Jo Miller

Best Cattleya & Related Genera

sponsored by: Dr. Bill Schumann

Best Cattleya and Guarianthe

sponsored by: Sheila Nathanson

Best Paphiopedilum

sponsored by: Brien Marsh

Best Phragmipedium & Related Genera

sponsored by: Brien Marsh

Best Phalaenopsis & Related Genera

sponsored by: Dennis & Karen Licht

Best Vanda Alliance

sponsored by: Dave & Mary Jo Miller

Best Oncidium Alliance & Related Genera

sponsored by: John Whiting

Best Cymbidium & Related Genera

sponsored by: Susan Mallen

Best Dendrobium Alliance

sponsored by: Sheila Nathanson

Best Pleurothallid

sponsored by: Dr. Bill Schumann

Miscellaneous Genera

sponsored by: Dr. Bill Schumann

Best Specimen

sponsored by: Dennis & Karen Licht

The Richard Sipko Best Amateur Cattleya & Related Genera

sponsored by: Dennis & Karen Licht

The Charles VanDyke Best Amateur Phragmipedium

sponsored by: Joan Kelley

Best in Show: (all plant classes)

sponsored by: Dennis & Karen Licht

Letter from the Co-Presidents

OSWP Co-Presidents Letter for April 2025 Newsletter

Wow! What a great show! Thank you to all who help and made it happen, especially a huge thanks and shout-out to our phenomenal show co-chairs, Kathy McCafferty, Lawrence Neel and Mary Ann Pike. And a huge thanks to all the show committee chairs and the people who volunteered to help with their committees. Without the work of so many of our members, the show would never happen. It happened and it was beautiful, outside and in. Thank you one and all!

Welcome to our newest members! We hope to see you at our Sunday, April 13th meeting, at the Spartan Community Center in Hazelwood. Mini-class at 1PM and business meeting at 2PM with our speaker to follow. There will be a great panel discussion on how to grow your orchids. And we have cookies! Come out for our meeting. We would love to meet you.

As the days get longer our orchids start growing faster. Time to think about repotting! Watch for the new root growth. Enjoy your orchids and watching them grow and bloom. There's always something new to see and learn.

Think orchids,

Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh

April 2025 - Public OSWP Meeting – A new program format

April OSWP Program – April 13th, 2025 - 1PM (Business Meeting 2PM)

Changing the presentation for the April meeting. It will be a panel discussion about how our local members grow their orchids. WE may have new members who joined at the show wondering what is the best way to grow that/those orchid/orchids purchased. I know I am getting anxious to move things outside. The members who will participate are; Greenhouse growing and summering outside, Sheila Nathanson, under lights, Mary Ann Pike, window growing, Kim O'Toole. There will be questions about temperature, insects and their control, fertilizing, watering, repotting, and medium. For under lights what kind of lights, length they are on and change the length of time they are on.

MEMBERS MAY SELL PLANTS AT THE APRIL MEETING!

Mini-Class (1pm): Nancy Kline - Planning for Taking Your Orchids Outside for the Summer

While it is still too cold to take the orchids outside; thinking about it now can guarantee success later.

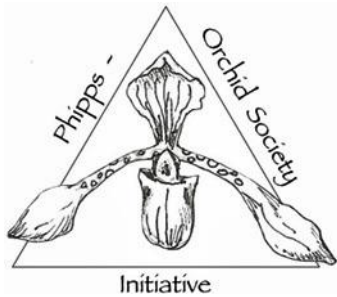
Also, The speaker for May will be Russ Vernon from New Vision Orchids. His topic will be Sex in the World of Orchids.

Orchid Walk

Many years ago, we went out east to see native orchids in bloom. We went to 3 areas, Canoe Creek, in Arnold PA, Rothrock State park and Penn State area. The members who guided up are no longer members. The one I know we can go to and that is an easy walk is the Canoe Creek Park. There are yellow lady slippers that grow there. I am willing to lead a group on Sunday, May 4th, Saturday May 10th or Saturday May 17th. I talked to Tim Choltco, a longtime member, and he doesn't think the ones at Penn State are still there because of road construction and I don't know the trail for Rothrock. At Rothrock the walk starts as a climb up a hill (no walkway or path). Walking along the ridge to see both the pink and yellow lady slippers. We also went to Monongalia park in West Virginia to see other varieties such as calanthe and goodyeara.

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.



April, 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 Thathmini needs. **We are now going to Phipps most Tuesdays and 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 growth of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, a living museum of slipper orchids.

Be sure not to miss Phipps Spring Flower Show, "A Bloom for Every Room." It will be a wonderful way to warm up to Spring! It's there until April 20th.

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.

Thanks and looking forward to working and learning together. . . and having Pfun!

Demetria Marsh

Demetria117@gmail.com

412-848-4349

MEETING MINUTES – March

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)

There was no meeting in March because of the 2025 Orchid Obsession Show



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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