



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Dec. 2019

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

December 8, 2019

Christmas Party

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

Looking Ahead

2020 - January 19 James Yamber "Off to Ecuador"

2020 - February 16 Orchid Show review at Phipps with Katie

2020 - March 14 & 15 OSWP Spring Show

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 Eyler

Secretary : Lance Cheuvront

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

THE GENUS CATTLEYA

History: - The first published account of any member of this genus to bloom in Europe appeared in Loddiges' BOTANICAL CABINET (t. 337) where it was illustrated and described as *Epidendrum violaceum* in 1819. Earlier, however, in 1818, Dr. W. T- Hooker had bloomed an allied species in his greenhouse in Suffolk, England, but he neither described it nor published any account of it at the time. The plant had been collected by Mr. William Swainson that year in the Organ Mountains about 60 miles north of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and a division of the same plant was obtained by Mr. William Cattley, a patron of horticulture and one of the first amateurs to form a collection of exotic orchids, his collection being the finest then known. When this new and beautiful orchid bloomed in November, 1823 (the exact year is not certain as dates seldom accompanied the publications issued at this period), it was forwarded to the eminent orchidologist. Dr. John Lindley. who described it as

Cattleya



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Photo by Jim Yamber

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Cattleya labiata in his COLLECTANEA BOTANICA, t. 33 (1824), establishing a new genus which he named in honor of Mr. Cattley. Recognizing at the same time the kinship of the earlier *Epidendrum violaceum* of Loddiges, he renamed this *Cattleya loddigesii*. Thus the genus from its very inception was based on the two fundamental growth forms of *Cattleya*, the *labiata* form with one leaf and the bifoliate, or two-leaved, forms. The name "labiata" was applied because the lip was so prominent a part of the flower.

After the first importation from Mr. Swainson, no more plants similar to the original *Cattleya labiata* were discovered for many decades, although many varieties of this species were found. Each variety differed in some way from the plant of Mr. Cattley, either in color, blooming season or some similar horticultural aspect. Botanically, most of these one-leaved forms were considered as varieties and sub-varieties of *Cattleya labiata*, the original being termed *C. labiata vera* or the "true *Cattleya labiata*." As the number of variants grew to enormous proportions, and as hybridization began to utilize these forms, the cumbersome botanical nomenclature was modified and the varietal names were raised, in practice, to specific rank. Thus we speak of *Cattleya mossiae*, *Cattleya dowiana*, *Cattleya trianae*, etc., rather than use the botanically correct name such as *Cattleya labiata* var. *dowiana* sub-var. *aurea*, for instance. (February 1956 (Vol. 25, No. 2 page 159) American Orchid Society)

President's Letter December 2019

The Holidays are Here!

Special Great News!

Barbara Tisherman and John Dunkelberger have received a tremendous and rare honor from our Judging Center, the National Capital Judging Center, and the American Orchid Society. They were both elevated to the status of Judge Emeritus. That is the highest honor the AOS can bestow on a judge, based on a high standard of demeanor, record of participation, years of service, offices held in connection with judging and service above and beyond. We are so proud to have them both as part of our society. Congratulations to both Barbara and John on this well-deserved honor!!!

At our November meeting, Patty Conrad of Ohio, presented a wonderful program on her favorite orchids. She shared information about her growing areas and also the mostly smaller orchids she grows and loves. It was great to have her with us.

Our Holiday Party is nigh (Sunday, December 8th at the Garden Center). Be sure to let Carolyn Bolton know that you are attending. The sooner the better! We are looking forward to a wonderful afternoon of orchids (plants and a wonderful, informative talk by Dave Miller), food, fun and friendship.

If you cannot attend, warm wishes for a Happy Holiday and good growth in the new year.

Demetria Marsh
412-848-4349
demetria117@gmail.com

Program for our meeting Sunday, December 8, 2019

OSWP PARTY

Speaker – Our Society Member and Friend; Dave Miller

Dave Miller retired from the corporate Information Technology field after thirty-two years in various capacities of software support and development. He then spent three years in the horticulture industry as a perennial plant specialist at a local regional nursery.

Dave and his wife, Mary Jo, live in Niles, Ohio USA. He is currently Trustee of the Greater Akron (Ohio) Orchid Society after having been President and Program Chair and is also a member of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh, the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society and the West Shore Orchid Society in Strongsville, Ohio. Dave is the orchid advisor for Fellows Riverside Gardens at Mill Creek Metroparks in Youngstown, Ohio. In addition, he is an accredited orchid judge with the Great Lakes Judging Center of the American Orchid Society and frequently speaks on orchid culture topics to orchid societies and garden groups.

Dave will be providing the society with his talk; "Orchid Labels and How to Read Them" .. This helpful information will look at some orchid plant labels and explain what information is on them and also how to use that information when buying a new orchid.

LOCATION: PHIPPS GARDEN CENTER IN SHADYSIDE

Party Time - 2:00 PM

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

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Orchid Plant raffle

At the October 20th OSWP meeting we raffled off a beautiful C. Persepolis 'Splendor' donated by Demetria Marsh. We raised \$121 for our spring show and Kathy Grajcar got to add a beautiful plant to her collection!

For our November 17th meeting, Jan Greenberg donated a lovely Rlc. Mitsuo Akatsuka 'Volcano Queen'. Brooke Decker was the lucky winner and we raised \$129 toward the spring show!

If you have ideas on how to make the raffle even better or are interested in donating a plant OR funds for a plant, please contact Natalie Turicik or fill out this survey here:

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

Orchid Gems: Hossein Noorbaksh

By: Norma Raiff

Hossein Noorbaksh is one of our Society's most expert growers. Friendly, with a witty charm and a self-deprecating manner, he is often seen talking about a beautifully blooming plant that he has brought in for our Show and Tell Table.

Hossein, why don't you tell us a little about yourself?

"I am 74 years old recently retired physician. Born in Iran, I came to the United States after finishing medical school. I completed a residency in Cleveland and then moved to Pittsburgh to take up an Ob-Gyn residency. That is when I met my wife, who was a nursing student. We got married about a year and a half later and we have three children, five grandkids (with one on the way), and live in Mt. Lebanon."

What was your first orchid?

"I got my very first 2-3 orchids when I lived in Cleveland. I visited New Orleans about 40-42 years ago, went to an orchid nursery, and bought 2-3 cattleyas. (Laughs) I killed them!

When I bought my first home, it had a small greenhouse, and so I started buying orchids again. I also added a small greenhouse to my current house and then about 7 years ago, I built an even larger one. I needed more room and better heating and plumbing. So my wife and my kids pushed me to build a bigger one."

Tell us about your collection and your "favorites"

"I love paphs the most, and second to that, the phragmipediums. These are my favorites but I also have oncidiums, cattleyas and other species. I do love species and have many of them. I have about 600 orchids altogether. These are mostly intermediate growers.

I grow many orchids from seedlings. I love seedlings. I enjoy the way that they grow. To me, orchids are not just the blooms, but also the whole plant. I like looking at the roots and the leaves and seeing how the plant is growing. I used to do some pollinations, but I gave it up because I was not experienced enough and they all died. As I get older I want to make sure that I get to see the results."

As for my orchid culture, I grow my paphs and phrags in plastic pop bottles. I cut off the top and make a lot of holes around the container on the sides and bottom using a small electric soldering tip. I generally use a mix of Orchidata bark, charcoal and diatomite (diatomaceous earth).

I know that some of your plants received national awards.

"In the past couple of years, I've received both a CCM (Certificate of Cultural Merit) and an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) for Paph. niveum 'Katheryn', which is named after my granddaughter and my wife. My awarded Phrag. richteri 'Maggie' AM/AOS honors my other granddaughter.

My favorite miniature mounted orchid is an Oberonia rufilabris 'Jaleh'. I actually got a CCM on it. I named it after both my sister and one of my grandkids. Jaleh means 'morning dew' in Persian."

What is your funniest/weirdest mistake or experience?

"When I was a resident, I lived in an apartment that was steam heated. I grew my plants on a radiator by a window that opened. They died very fast. It was a sad thing, but it was funny: One side of each plant froze to death and the other side fried to death."

When did you join the society & why?

"My older son and I joined the OSWP about 29-30 years ago when we visited an Orchid Show. We met Demetria and Bud Mellot, and Bud gave my son a mounted orchid plant, which we killed in about a month."

Final words:

"I enjoy the people in the OSWP. It's such an interesting group of people: they are amazing, the food is good, and everyone is very pleasant and very helpful. So I have found a lot of friends."

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New Members Corner

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member(s) to OSWP: **Christine Zanis**
Val Robey Membership Chair

Culture Corner

Have questions? We all do. If you want a 'consultation' with OSWP orchid growers, please bring your questions to a meeting. Nancy Kline will be near the Membership and Raffle tables to try to help you with your growing issues. If possible, bring the whole plant but at least several good photos. If you are able to bring the whole plant, please put it in a plastic bag to prevent any possible contamination of other orchids, assuming it may have a pest or disease. See you there.

Holiday Party Your Invited

Your Invited

WHAT: OSWP Holiday Party

WHEN: Sunday, December 8, SECOND Sunday
2-4:30 PM

WHERE: Phipps Garden Center

MENU: Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Appetizers, Desserts, Soft Drinks, Coffee, Tea

What to bring: Last name beginning A-L Dessert

Last name beginning M-Z Appetizer

If you have a blooming orchid/orchids please bring to use as center pieces.

RSVP: Carolyn Bolton, boltoncs@gmail.com or 412 714 0263

NOTE: The holiday favor picks will be determined by the order of RSVP

Set up starts at noon. If you can come early to help with set up I would really appreciate the help or stay a little late to clean up.



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
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront
Garden Club/	
Library Liaison	Karen Gibson
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton
Library	Rosa Graudins
Membership	Val Robey
Mini-class	Sheila Nathanson
Newsletter	Jim Yamber
Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore, Cristina Eyler
Pfun	Nancy Kline
P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Show	Sheila Nathanson, Tammy Wurst, Norma Raiff
Speaker	Lori McDermott, Tim Choltco
Website	Jinghua Ou

Let me know if you have questions.
Thanks very much, Demet

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/>.



Pfun at Phipps in November

With the Orchid and Bonsai Show on the horizon, Phipps will be receiving over 1500 orchids during December. These need to be unpackaged and set up ASAP.

OSWP has helped with this for many years. It is great fun to have a crew there to rip open packages and unwrap the glorious orchids that will be displayed in the conservatory in January.

We expect a large delivery the week of December 16. Exact date unknown.

Thanks to those of you who gave me your contact information at the last meeting. You will be hearing from me!

Anyone else who would like to join this effort, please let me know. We don't get a lot of advance notice: Katie gets the tracking info and lets me know when they should arrive. I send an email and assemble the workers. Usually we do not show up until around 10:30 in the morning. Always time for a break and conversation as well as a tour of the Christmas Show.

Please let me know if you want to be included in the email that I will send to those who may be able to come.

Thanks for the help you offer us at Phipps

Nancy Kline



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: OSWPtreasurer@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

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The Orchid Society of Western
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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 2019 speakers

FUTURE PROGRAMS
December 8, 2019

**OWSP
Holiday Party**

More to come for the future programs for 2020

