



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Dec. 2020

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

December 6 2020

Dr. Lawrence Zettler

Conservation of North American Orchids

Looking Ahead

January 19: Peter Lin of Sunset Orchids
speaking on mini vandas and related species.

" UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES "

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

HOWEVER, we are on Zoom for meetings , and those interested non members could use the 'contact us ' section of the website to get a Zoom invitation

OSWP Officers

Co-President: Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse

Co-First Vice President: Kathleen Arria and David Springer

Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco

Directors: Brooke Decker, Peg Kalupanov, Jinghua Ou, Aaron Vitron, Tamara Wurst.

Secretary : Lance Chevront

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Cypripedium calceolus var. pubescens

C. parviflorum var. pubescens: Greater yellow lady's slipper (Syn: Cypripedium calceolus var. pubescens, Cypripedium pubescens)

The species occurs from the eastern United States and Canada west to the Rocky Mountains north to Yukon and Alaska. Occurrence is infrequent in far western and southwestern US.

Cypripedium parviflorum grows in a variety of habitats from shady, damp forest understory of mixed deciduous and coniferous forests to open meadows and along streams in acidic soils.

Both varieties of Cypripedium parviflorum grow in multi-stemmed clumps. Plants at maturity bear 1 to 2 flowers and 3 to 6 leaves on each stem. The petals and sepals range from pale to deep magenta-brown and the lip is intense yellow with reddish spotty venation in its interior. Cypripedium parviflorum variety parviflorum tends to be smaller and less hairy than variety pubescens.



Photo by Jim Yamber

Co-President's Letter December 2020

Whew! Here we are, almost ready to usher out this monumentally difficult year. Better times are on the horizon - the news of several very effective vaccines as a realistic possibility is very positive. This time next year we may be back to normal.

In the meantime, we continue to meet via Zoom. For those who have yet to try a Zoom meeting, I urge you to give it a try. Our meeting on November 15 was just great. We had a mini class on growing *Cattleya*, Show and Tell, socializing, and an absolutely wonderful talk on growing *Catasetum* by the renowned grower, Fred Clarke. If you have not tried *Catasetum* yet, check out Sunset Valley Orchids and pick up a few. They require nothing all winter, and are very rewarding to grow.

The OSWP board met via Zoom, and decided unanimously to cancel our Spring Show. We are not alone in our decision- most societies have cancelled recent shows, and those planned for the spring. We will continue to monitor the situation, and try to have some kind of in person event this summer or fall.

Our next event will be a Zoom Holiday Party on Sunday, December 6. Time will be the same as a regular meeting, around 2pm to 4pm. We are encouraging participants to don their "Holiday Best". So, if you have a festive dress, ugly sweater, beard lights, or antlers, this is your chance to show them off.

Party entertainment is T.B.A, we will have Show and Tell and socializing.

Please continue to send your beautiful orchid photos to Jim Yamber quail1@verizon.net and Jinghua Ou, and Lance Chevront. And, if you have cultural concerns, we are starting a Virtual Culture Corner with Nancy Kline (nancy412@gmail.com) Please send pictures of the problem, the entire plant, the name, and a history of the plant. All questions and photos will be featured in the newsletter each month.

We wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving and Holiday season.

Sheila N. and Mike L., co -presidents

Take care, be well and continue to think orchids.



Goodyera pubescens

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania
Board Meeting
11/08/2020

Board Meeting

Attendees

- Co-Presidents: Sheila Nathanson & Mike Lysy
 - Co-First Vice President: David Springer
 - Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco
 - Treasurer: Janet Greenberg
 - Secretary : Lance Chevront
 - Directors: Jinghua Ou & Brooke Decker
-
- The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Co President Mike Lysy. Meeting began with an update on the Garden Center construction.

 - 2:05pm Co-First Vice President David Springer updated the board on currently scheduled meeting guest speakers through April of 2021.

 - 2:10pm Discussion was held about giving OSWP member Circe Curley a lifetime membership in recognition of her past contributions to the betterment of the Society as a whole and in light of her recent relocation to California. A motion was made by Director Brooke Decker to grant the lifetime membership and was seconded by Secretary Lance Chevront. The motion passed unanimously.

 - 2:15pm The board discussed the possibility of holding the annual OSWP Orchid Show in March of 2021 and in light of the pandemic and the fact that most if not all other societies have canceled their shows, the decision was made to cancel the show. Brooke Decker motioned to cancel, and the motion was seconded by Lance Chevront and passed unanimously.

 - 2:25pm The board discussed possibly having a smaller scale show or gathering in autumn (September or October) of 2021. The discussion was tabled until more information becomes available in the future. Treasurer Janet Greenberg offered to check with the hotel to see the availability for the third weekend in March of 2022 for a possible show then.

 - 2:30pm Treasurer Janet Greenberg gave the board a rundown of the budget. The board discussed the budget as it stood and called for a vote to approve it. Lance Chevront motioned to approve the budget, Sheila Nathanson seconded, the budget passed unanimously.

 - 2:35pm The board discussed budget amounts for upcoming speakers and the need to add a speaker for a meeting in March in light of canceling the show. It was decided to make an additional \$1,000.00 available for the speaker budget. Lance Chevront made a motion to make the addition. Sheila Nathanson seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

 - 2:40pm A motion was made by Sheila Nathanson to approve the amended budget, the motion was seconded by Mike Lysy and was passed unanimously.

Submitted by Lance Chevront Secretary

General Meeting

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October 20, 2019

2:14 Demetria Marsh starts the meeting having new guests and members introduce themselves to the group, followed by one minute of meet and greet.

2:20 Demetria thanked all those who participated in the Q&A and mini-class earlier.

2:21 BUSINESS

Janet Greenberg gives the financial report.

Demetria secretary announces Cristina Eyler as acting secretary for this meeting.

Lori McDermott and Tim Choltco announce the November speaker will be Pat Conrad.

Valerie Robey asked if anyone did not have the new directory yet and stated she had more available.

Nancy Kline informed the group that AOS members can now access the Orchid Pro program. She also wanted everyone to know Pfun has two upcoming dates available for people to volunteer to report orchids.

Demetria updated everyone that the cypripedium wish list will soon be out for Phipps. There is a cymbidium team leader needed.

Nancy Kline is always available at meetings for culture corner. Please bring in your orchid questions.

Rosa Graudins encourages the group to use the library and that AOS magazines are also available.

Norma Raiff thanked Pam Horter-Moore and Cristina Eyler for their work with the Orchid Gems articles.

Jim Yamber reminded everyone that articles are due to him for the newsletter by the 20th of each month. He thanked Pam for her early submission this month.

Jinghua Ou echoed Jim's reminder about sending her articles so she can put them up on the website.

Carolyn Bolton reminded all to bring treats for the November meeting. The Holiday Party is on the second Sunday in December. Please see the newsletter for more information.

Sheila Nathanson and Norma informed the group the Spring Show will be March 14-15, 2020. They announced the sponsorship program book for the Show and would like ideas for how to advertise the Show. Someone suggested putting out announcements in community newsletters. Norma also needs help with contacting vendors.

Demetria thanked the show co-chairs and encouraged all the chairs to find an apprentice.

Karen Gibson, the library and garden club liaison, was absent, but wanted to request volunteers to speak at libraries located near the new location for the Spring Show.

Natalie reminded everyone of the raffle happening during the meeting and to buy a ticket.

Demetria pointed out pictures from the past open for all to view on the Show and Tell table and requested one volunteer for the late morning for the Highmark Expo happening on the 28th of October.

2:45 Show and Tell

3:03 Raffle time!

3:05 Lori introduces the speaker, Daryl Venables of Tezula Plants, who spoke about Tolumnia orchids.

4:24 Meeting ended.

Submitted by Lance Chevront Secretary

Judges Viewpoint by Dave Miller

Picking a plant is always a daunting task but I will share a few easy guidelines to help you make a quality selection. Orchid flowers are judged on Form, Color and Presentation so let us put those three things on the table and look at how to use that information.

Form

All orchid flowers have bilateral symmetry known scientifically as “zygomorphic”. Hah, now that we know it, we will never use this term again. Instead, just understand that it means the left half and right half of each flower exactly match. So, when looking at a potential add to your collection, take a quick look at one or several flowers to see if they are balanced. That means you should be able to fold left over right and they are equal. If they do, then you are on the right track to picking the right orchid.

Be advised there are some orchid flowers, Gongora and Stanhopea for example, that try to confuse the issue by having extra flower parts and some normal parts that are twisted out of position. It happens but this guideline is still a solid.

Color

There are several parts to color but the essence of this is get a flower with dense color. This guideline applies to whites and yellows as much to reds and blacks. Make sure the color is evenly distributed across the plant tissue. We call this characteristic “saturation”.

As we all know, many orchid flowers have patterns and multiple colors. Pick the flower that has clean boundaries between the colors or patterns. You can see in this Phalaenopsis flower the crisp definition between the color and that’s what makes it a great add to your collection. It can get confusing but let your eyes decide for you. Here is a Paphiopedilum with great patterning. Notice how crisp all the color boundaries are.

Elements of Form also include flatness and fullness. These elements are more variable due to differences in various kinds of orchid flowers but try to obtain flowers that open all the way.



Form and Color

Part of form and color is consistency. Obviously, this does not matter in a plant with only one flower. Make sure multifloral plants have flowers that match each other in form and coloration. Along with those two elements, flower spacing is extremely important to a good-looking plant. Flowers should either align consistently or spiral evenly around the flower spike. It makes for a very pleasing display and will win over any viewer even if it is only you.

Presentation

Those of you who know me well know that I preach about “presentation”. Although this does not contribute much to an AOS quality award or a blue ribbon, it does make a difference. Take a few minutes to properly stake



your plants. Make sure your flowers are making their best look to the potential viewer by staking them. Over the years I have learned from many excellent orchid exhibitors that presentation will win over an onlooker every time.

Last minute staking does not always work, so a good rule of thumb is to stake as soon as the spike emerges. Since my Phalaenopsis plants have received their Fall cooldown, they are starting new flower spikes. You can see in this picture that I have already placed stakes in the plants as soon as the first spike emerges. Two spikes, two stakes. As they grow, I can begin staking them even if the flowers will not open for months. Here is a cute little miniature Phragmipedium. You can see this one is subtly staked with a wire but does not detract from the flower. The left and right petals are well-balanced and the overall flower tends toward “roundness”, something hard to obtain in

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most slipper orchids. The rose-pink blush in the center evenly transitions to the soft pink of the petal body and the deep saturation of the pouch color adds to the effect. Finally, notice how upright the dorsal sepal displays and how that impacts the overall quality of the flower presentation.



Dave’s Rule

If you walk past the sales table and have to back up because a plant caught the corner of your eye, back up and buy that plant immediately as you will regret that you did not when you contact the seller days later only to find out it has gone to another buyer.

Coming Next: Presenting Your Orchid

Contact Dave at dcmjpsmil@aol.com or call /text to 330-307-7189.

December speaker

We are very pleased that Larry Zettler, the Hitchick Professor of Biology at Illinois College will be our speaker at the OSWP Zoom meeting on December 6th. In 1996, two years after graduating with his Ph.D. from Clemson, he established Illinois College’s Orchid Recovery Program that enlists the help of undergraduate college students to conserve rare species throughout the world. He has worked with 100+ undergraduate students studying rare orchids in the Midwest, Florida, Hawaii, Cuba, and Ecuador. During 2012-2017, he collaborated with researchers from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to conserve rare orchids of Madagascar. He is currently studying rare orchids in the Western Pacific (Republic of Palau) with researchers at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

He will be speaking to us about “Orchid Conservation in North America during the past 25 years, with emphasis on south Florida's rich diversity”. His talk will provide an overview of the orchid life cycle and highlight some of the projects carried out in North America during the past 25 years aimed at conserving our rarest orchids including the highly coveted Ghost Orchid of south Florida.

This is a great chance to learn about some of approximately 300 orchids that are native to the USA and Canada and the very important work of conserving orchid species. Half of our species are now regarded as vulnerable to extinction due to loss of habitat, poaching and climate change, among other factors. Orchids are often the first plants to disappear from the landscape because of their sensitivity to acute environmental changes that are thought to disrupt the biotic agents needed or their survival (insect pollinators, mycorrhizal fungi).

David

Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore, Cristina Eyler
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Chevront	P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Garden Club/Library Liaison	Karen Gibson	Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton	Show	Sheila Nathanson, Tammy Wurst, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Library	Rosa Graudins	Speaker	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Membership	Kathy Collins	Website	Jinghua Ou
Mini-class	Tim Cholte		
Newsletter	Jim Yamber		

Cultural Questions Answered Here

Remember when we could bring a problem plant (in a paper bag,please) to a regular OSWP meeting for a consultation with Nancy Kline, staff of The Cultural Corner ? We can't meet in person right now, but we can access the orchid wisdom and practical advice of veteran orchid grower, Nancy Kline, virtually .

If you have a specific question about something you are growing, please send it, along with clear photographs of the entire plant, and a close up of the problem area. The more photos, the better. Please include the entire name of the plant, how long you have been growing it, and under which conditions. All this information will make a diagnosis and recommendation easier and more accurate.

These questions, photos and answers will be a regular feature in our newsletter, and be archived on the OSWP website.

Please send questions and photos to Nancy Kline at nancy412@gmail.com ,
Subject line : Cultural Corner

Pfun at Phipps Still Watching and Waiting

I thought we would be back by now but Phipps is opening slowly for volunteers. Things should open up soon and I will let everyone know when we can return to our favorite place. Stay well and in touch.

Nancy Kline

nancyk412@gmail.com 412-367-1556



*May this Holiday Season
be a joyous time and may
you and your family have
a wonderful time. What-
ever holiday you celebrate,
may it be meaningful and
a blessing to you.*



*And to all a
good night*



First Class Mail

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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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Upcoming 2020 speaker

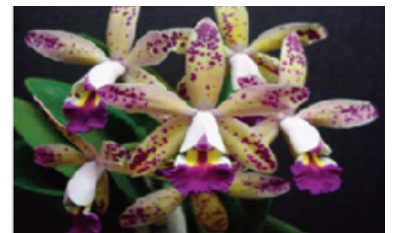
FUTURE PROGRAMS

December 6, 2020

Dr. Lawrence Zettler

Conservation of North American Orchids

More to come for the future programs for 2020



WANTED

The American Orchid Society Judging Program is seeking highly motivated orchid enthusiasts to join the judging ranks.

Work with other such people and help maintain our awards programs and educational efforts.

For more information contact Dave Miller at: 330-307-7189 or demjpsmil@aol