

# The ORCHIDIAN



Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – December 2023



## OSWP MONTHLY MEETING – Members Christmas Gathering (RSVP is Closed)

- Location: Crowne Plaza Suites, 164 Fort Couch Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241 by Reservation ONLY!
- Sunday, December 10th 2pm-6pm, Dinner 3pm, cash bar until end of dinner
- Speaker: Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids, California – Today's mini and compact Cattleyas
  - NO MEMBER SALES – Sunset Valley Orchids will have plants available for sale.

## EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

- **"Orchids for Everyone" 6-Class Master Series:** AOS 6 part series with Pennsylvania Master Gardener's Program : Each Class is online \$10 pre registration required. Visit the website: <https://extension.psu.edu/campaigns/orchids-for-everyone-workshops-webinars>
- **Cape and Islands Orchid Society's "Orchid Impressions"** - January 20 - 21, 2024 at The Resort and Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA 02601.  
For more info: <https://www.aos.org/news-and-events/event-calendar/2024/2024-01/cape-and-islands-orchid-society-s-orchid-impressio.aspx?d=20240120>



## OSWP OFFICERS – leaderships council and board of directors

- Co-Presidents: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk
- Co-First Vice Presidents: Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton
- Second Vice President: Zander Morrison; Mentors: Tim Choltco and Katie Schuller
- Secretary: Kathy Collins      • Treasurer: Janet Greenberg
- Directors: Tim Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak. Chuck Oldenburg, Brian Powell

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## December Monthly Meeting Speaker

### OUR GUEST: Fred Clarke



#### “Today’s Mini and Compact Cattleya’s”

A detailed look at the species and latest developments in the breeding and growing of these colorful flowers.

Today Mini and Compact growing Cattleya’s come in many colors and shapes. Learn about the small growing Cattleya species, the important breeding plants and what hybrids are available for the orchid enthusiast. In conclusion we cover the ‘best growing practices’ for cultivations these little gems.

The presenter will be Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids in Vista. Fred Clarke has been growing orchids for 42 years and has been hybridizing for 38 of those years. With over 34 years as a professional grower and manager in the horticultural industry, Fred applies these skills at his orchid nursery; Sunset Valley Orchids, located in San Diego, California.

He is a passionate orchid grower whose curiosity in orchids is broad and varied. Although developing Cattleya hybrids has been his sustaining interest, he is also actively creating new Paphiopedilum and Aussie Dendrobium hybrids plus some others to be named if they work out! His pioneering work in Catasetum intergeneric hybrids led to the development of several notable hybrids, most recently the grex, Fredclarkeara After Dark, which produced “the blackest flower ever witnessed”. This grex has received over 100 awards worldwide with nine FCC’s and thirty AM’s from the AOS judges!

Fred is an Accredited Judge in the Pacific South Judging Region. His plants have received hundreds of quality awards from the American Orchid Society.



### COMMITTEE CHAIRS – Volunteer Leaders

**AOS/Culture Corner** - Nancy Kline

**Facebook** - Lance Cheuvront

**Garden Club/Library Liaison/Hospitality** - Carolyn Bolton

**Library** – Lori Beth Bloom

**Membership** Kathy Collins

**Mini-class** Zander Morrison, Tim Choltco, Katie Schuller

**Newsletter** Dave Panasiuk

**Orchid Gems** Norma Raiff & Pam Horter-Moore

**Pfun/P-OSI** Demetria Marsh

**Raffle** Natalie Turicik

**Show** Sheila Nathanson, Norma Raiff & Janet Greenberg

**Speaker** Carolyn Bolton & Natalie Turicik

**Website** Jinghua Ou

## ORCHID GEMS – ABBY WARHOLA

*Abby Warhola: Seeing beauty and bringing it to the world*

By Norma Raiff

“Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.” —  
Confucius



Abby Warhola, this month’s highly gifted Gem, only recently joined the OSWP, however, her artistic contributions and generosity of spirit will definitely have a long impact. For one thing, she voluntarily designed our upcoming 2024 OSWP Show Poster which is so lovely that the Show Chairs and OSWP Board have agreed to reprint it on t- shirts that will be available for general purchase. “Abby is a caring and diligent worker and a charming, dedicated new member, who has been an immense help to me,” says show co-chair Janet Greenberg. “Abby was willing to share her knowledge and I am so grateful.”

Abby’s the owner of AW Studio, a modern portrait studio located on Camp Horne Road that showcases highly compelling portraits that can be used for commercial branding as well personal and family pictures (<https://www.theawstudio.com>). And we should not be surprised by this career choice: Abby comes a “super artistic” family going back generations.

Art is deeply embedded in the family. Her grandfather Paul Warhola, the oldest of three brothers, was in the scrap metal and recycling business. His eye for beauty, however, prompted him to collect some items. After his retirement, Paul also began to do abstract paintings (rather remarkably using chicken’s feet rather than a paint brush). Paul’s son, James Warhola, is a well-recognized painter and illustrator of science fiction and children’s books. And then there’s the family giant, Paul’s younger brother: famed Pop artist, silkscreen painter of soup cans and other objects of everyday life and photographer, Andy Warhol, who is Abby’s great-uncle.

“I grew up surrounded by art, portraits and films” recalls Abby, “I really didn’t know anything else.” She recalls being captivated by Andy’s black and white photos, and began to seriously pursue photography at the age of 13.

“I really loved photography. I thought it was great.” Her



early supporters included her grandfather and her uncle James who not only offered encouragement but also gifted her with darkroom equipment. Abby also participated in a free





afterschool program on photography offered by the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild. “They would lend us cameras, give us film, and I had complete access to their wonderful darkroom.”

Abby characterizes herself as self-taught.” I was always told that I

had good art instincts, but I really wasn’t thinking of it as a career and so I started out by studying interior design as my college major.” However, her parallel interests also included photography and ballet.

Abby’s early career took her to New York where she made a name for herself photographing some of the most highly recognized names in the fashion industry. However, it was Covid and the need to settle into an established work environment that prompted her to return to Pittsburgh. She and her daughter, who studies ballet at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, live in Upper Schenley Heights.



*And now for the orchids.* Abby began to collect orchids just a few years ago. She started collecting orchids in a casual manner, picking up a few “rehab” from Aldi at first. “The orchid that started my current orchid collection

was broken and was on clearance for \$3.25, and that one orchid has bloomed so many times for me. The grocery store Phals are low maintenance and add much

life and beauty, especially in the dark days of the Pittsburgh winter.”

So Abby’s collection is small, spontaneous and based on a hunger to add to her home’s beauty. She has about 35 plants including several phalaenopsis, a phragmipedium and some paphs, a miniature Vanda (Acineta densa), and a Dendrobium, but the largest number are oncidiums, among them many Twinkles. “They smell wonderful and can fill the room with fragrance, like vanilla. I like the Twinkles because they are tiny little things. I don’t stake my orchids as I love how they fall naturally, the long sprays droop with so many blooms.” She is now considering that she might concentrate on acquiring fragrant plants.



Abby joined OSWP

at our March 2022 spring show. “I went to the show with that specific Aldi Orchid and purposely brought it in for repotting.” And what prompted her to join? “I was member of the mushroom club and really enjoyed their lectures. I had quite a few orchids at the time and I just figured that I should start learning more about them. The OSWP membership price was so reasonable, how could I not?”

And although she has only gone to a few meetings, she has spent numerous hours volunteering with us by designing and modifying the new, absolutely gorgeous show poster.

So why do we grow orchids? Abby's answers reveal that there many reasons. For some, it's the challenge of growing orchids with different cultural requirements. For others, it's the obsessive feeding of an acute orchid addiction. For Abby, it's the incalculable fact of having another form of beauty in her space. However, her spatial limitations and time constraints have imposed limits. "I need my houseplants to live within my space with me, I don't want anything that needs special lights or humidifiers. They live where the natural light is, on window sills and counter tops, and they have taken over the dining room table. I'm pretty much maxed out."

So orchids can be for everyone, and there is no "one" way or a single path. But for this creator and lover of all things that can be considered art, the answer is self-

explanatory: beauty and joy.



**PRE-ORDER FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY NOW!**

## Sunset Valley Orchids Pre-Order Program

All pre-orders receive a 10% discount and free shipping.

### For website pre-orders:

Once the Shopping cart is populated with your selections:

- click **Go to Payments**

In the Shipping Address section:

- Full name: **indicate the Orchid Society's name,**
- Address: **the meeting date.**

In the Billing address section:

- **fill out the fields indicate with an asterisk\***
- then click **Continue**

On the checkout page indicate:

- **Cash on Delivery** to pay at the meeting.

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## OSWP MEETING MINUTES – December, 2023

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)  
 General Meeting  
 Nov. 12, 2023

The meeting was held at The Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood. There was no mini-class at the November meeting.

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:00 pm by Vice President Carolyn Bolton.

The meeting began with an update from the Spring Show Committee (Sheila Nathanson, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg) regarding the preparations for the 2024 Spring Show.

- Demetria Marsh has agreed to Chair the Publicity Committee, thus relinquishing her role as Chair of the Helpers. A new Chair for the Helpers is now needed.
- The role of Hospitality Chair(s) has been filled by new members Aaron Goldman and Sherri Kinoshita (thank you to Mike Lysy for his many years of serving as Hospitality Chair!).
- Brian Powell is working on branding handouts that will include the new OSWP logo which can be used when seeking out new Sponsors for the Show. Members are encouraged to consider who they might be able to contact for sponsorship opportunities.
- Dave Motak is headlining the preparation of a Selfie backdrop that can be used by Show attendees.
- The Committee is moving forward with the design and ordering of Polo Shirts that will be provided to the Show Committee Chairs for wearing at the Show. These will be given both as a Thank You for all their work on the Show as well as to easily identify them as Show Committee Chairs. Tshirts are also being designed and ordered that will feature the new logo and be available as merchandise for Show attendees. Tshirts will be available in both short and long sleeve styles with the long sleeve being black and featuring the Orchid Show Poster. Polo Shirts will also be available as merchandise, but in different colors so as to differentiate them from those worn by the Show Committee Chairs.
- Logo Contest – There were 13 contestants who submitted 50 logos for consideration. Voting is currently being done with a deadline to get votes in by November 16<sup>th</sup>. Mona Rice designed a powerpoint presentation of the various logo submissions that is being used by the voting members.

The next order of business was a discussion of the Holiday Party.

- Carolyn noted the date and time as December 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. The location will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel.
- There will be a Pasta Buffet.
- Attendees are encouraged to bring cookies to contribute to the Cookie Table.
- Fred Clarke of Sunset Valley Orchids will be the speaker and will bring plants for sale. Preorders are encouraged and will receive a 10% discount.
- OSWP is looking for a host with whom Fred can stay while in Pittsburgh. He is scheduled to arrive at the Pittsburgh airport at 8:30 pm Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and will depart Monday afternoon. Please let Carolyn know if you are able to host Fred.
- The cost for attending the Holiday Party is \$20 per person. Payment can be made via the OSWP website. RSVPs are needed by Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additional details will be sent via email.

#### Reports:

- Newsletter: It was noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month. Submissions should be sent to Dave Panasiuk at: Letsgroworchids@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Janet Greenberg presented the Treasurer's report.

- c. Pfun and POSI: Demetria noted that OSWP continues to volunteer at Phipps. OSWP volunteers on Wednesday and Thursday.
- d. Hospitality: Carolyn noted that contributions of snacks for OSWP meetings at the Spartan Center are always welcome.
- e. AOS: Nancy Kline continues to encourage members to join the AOS. AOS is currently presenting Master Gardener webinars on various subjects related to orchids. The webinars are free to AOS members.
- f. Orchid Gems: Norma indicated the next interviewee will be Abby Warhola who is responsible for the design of the 2024 Spring Show Poster.
- g. Raffle: Three plants were raffled off at the meeting courtesy of donations from Nancy Kline, Carol Panza and the afternoon's speaker, Bill Goldner. The lucky winners were Mary Ann Pike, Michael Bloom and Bob Lusak. Raffle proceeds were \$75.
- h. Library Liaison: Lori Beth Bloom brought a large selection of the OSWP library books to the meeting. She indicated a complete list of the OSWP books has been completed and she hopes to have that list available for review on the OSWP website soon.

**Miscellaneous:**

A number of members presented orchids they had brought to the meeting for the purpose of Show & Tell.

2024 OSWP meeting dates at the Spartan Center:

Jan. 21, 2024, Feb. 18, 2024, April 21, 2024, May 19, 2024, June 9, 2024, Sept. 15, 2024, Oct. 20, 2024, Nov. 10, 2024

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. and was followed by the guest speaker, Dr. Bill Goldner of Woodstream Orchids, who gave a presentation entitled "Epidendrums: Amazingly Diverse... Wonderfully Worthwhile."

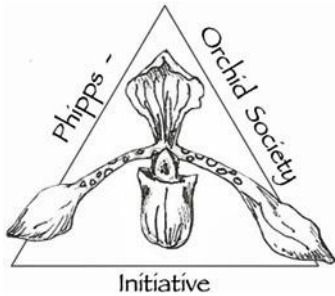
Submitted by: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary

# 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.

December, 2023



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 Giovanni needs. **We are now going to Phipps most Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:45AM - 12:45PM.** It's a great learning experience for all of us.

### IMPORTANT NEWS FROM PHIPPS:

**Ben Dunigan**, Phipps current Collections Manager, is being promoted to Director of Horticulture. Ben has been a vital partner with the OSWP as far back as the Super Slipper Celebration in 2013. More recently he helped Giovanni set up Phipps exhibit at our March show and drove the miniature orchid to DC for judging where it was awarded the CCE/AOS. Congratulations, Ben! We look forward to working together with you in your new position to continue to build an Orchid Collection of Note and a Living Museum of Slipper Orchids, The Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection.

Also don't miss **Holiday Magic** now, Phipps' Winter Flower Show and Light Garden!

**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.

Demetria Marsh

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The propagation, horticulture and preservation of  
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Education and scientific endeavors.

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American Orchid Society  
*Education. Conservation. Research.*  
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## SAVE THE DATE:


**THE ORCHID SOCIETY  
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
*presents*  
**THE SPRING ORCHID SHOW & sale**  
*Orchid*  
**Obsession**  
**March 16 & 17, 2024**  
**CROWNE PLAZA SUITES**  
**164 FORT COUCH RD. PITTSBURGH PA 15241**  
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