



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Sept 2019

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

Sept. 15, 2019

Sam Tsui (Orchid Inn)

The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum
and Their Culture

Looking Ahead

October 20 Daryl Venables, Tezula Orchids

November 17 Patricia Conrad

December 8 Christmas Party

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

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

--- CULTURE ---

Temperature: Warm to cool.

Light: Warm to cool.

Water-Humidity: Keep evenly moist at all times. Maintain high humidity and constant air movement.

Fertilizer: Keep evenly moist at all times. Maintain high humidity and constant air movement.

Potting: Prefer to be grown in pots of sphagnum moss that must not be allowed to dry out.

References: 1. Schultes R.E. and Pease A.S. 1963. Generic Names of Orchids. Their Origin and Meaning. Academic Press.

2. Banks D.P. 2001. Growing Orchids. Kangaroo Press

3. Comber J. 2001. Orchids of Sumatra. Natural History Publications (Borneo).

4. Cootes J. 2001. The Orchids of the Philippines. Times Editions, Singapore

5. Wood J.J. 2001. Dendrochilum of Borneo. Natural History Publications (Borneo).

Author:

Jim Cootes

E-mail:

jecootes@ozemail.com.au

(from AOS web)

I got this plant from Shelia Nathanson and it was not in spick but came into bloom late June. It is now just going over and we enjoyed it almost all summer. The individual flowers are only an eighth inch across ,but many of them and the insert is a close-up of one flower.

Dendrochilum filiforme



Photo by Jim Yamber

President's Letter Sept 2019

Happy 65th Anniversary!

The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania was founded in 1954. We are celebrating our 65th birthday this month and will have a special segment at our September meeting to remember this special occasion in our own inimitable style

With August off, we have a lot to cover:

First, many thanks to Tim Choltco and all his helpers, who made the OSWP picnic such a great event! With a wonderful crowd of OSWPers, no real rain, shade, garden and orchid tours and amazing food, it was a wonderful afternoon to celebrate summer, orchids and our OSWP friends. Thanks, Tim, for another great Pic-A-Nic at your home.

We are at the Garden Center until June, 2020! Because Phipps has had to push back their Garden Center renovation start, we have the Garden Center thru the end of May. Yay! Our show will still be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel across from South Hills Village off Route 19. Also, our February meeting will be at Phipps Botany Hall, to give our members the opportunity to see Phipps growing houses as well as the winter Orchid and Bonsai Show.

New committee: Garden Club/Community Liaison. A new member, Karen Gibson, has volunteered to develop contacts with area garden clubs, flower societies and other organizations to share our activities, including our March Orchid Show. We hope to share our information and theirs for a truly symbiotic relationship. See Karen's piece in this newsletter as well. Thanks, Karen, for spearheading this effort.

New idea: An orchid raffle at our monthly meetings. Natalie Turicik, another new member, suggested we have an orchid plant raffle at our monthly meetings and she volunteered to organize and carry the idea through. So, at our September meeting, we will be raffling off a budding or blooming orchid plant with proceeds going to the OSWP. Cash only. Ya gotta' play to win and bring home a lovely prize to grow and enjoy.

AOS donation: The American Orchid Society will celebrate its 100th birthday in April, 2021. Plans are underway to mark this Centennial with a gala but also with a focus on orchid conservation and preservation. The AOS asked for a donation to support the Centennial endeavors. The OSWP Board voted to donate \$250.

HELP WANTED:

Karen Gibson would love to have someone with a talent for graphic design to help her create an informational flyer for her Garden Club Liaison communications. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

Also, because of her time constraints, Carolyn Bolton has had to give up being the P-OSI leader for the dendrobium collection at Phipps. If you would be willing to participate and become the P-OSI dendrobium leader, please let me know. (Duties: study the inventory of Phipps dendrobiums, make suggestions of what could be accessioned or de-accessioned based on Phipps' needs and also make cultural suggestions.)

Hope to see you at our September 15th meeting to celebrate 65 years of the OSWP!

And remember . . . Life is Good. Think Orchids!

Demetria Marsh

412-848-4349

demetria117@gmail.com

Mini-Classes

Barbara Tisherman will give a mini-class at the September meeting on "Expanding Your Orchid Horizons".

Mini classes begin at 1:30.

New Members Corner

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members to OSWP:

Joann VanAtta

Val Robey Membership Chair



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.

Sept, 2019

The Cypripedium Survey has been completed by eleven cyp experts. The data is being compiled to distribute so we know the most important Cyp hybrids and species for our Cypripedium Wish List for the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, Phipps' Living Museum of Slipper Orchids.

The P-OSI teams are studying the new Phipps orchid collection inventory to see how we can help Phipps update and grow their orchid collection in all ways, to continue to be one of special note. Looking for a dendrobium leader. Please let us know if you are willing to study the dendrobium inventory at Phipps and make your recommendations to improve the collection.

If you'd like to be a part of this phenomenal team effort, contact us! We'd love to have you for Pfun and P-OSI! It's a wonderful learning experience for all of us, a great way to give back to the community and to help make Pittsburgh someplace even more special.

Nancy Kline
nancyk412@gmail.com
412-367-1556

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

Local Garden Clubs and other Horticultural Societies list

"The OSWP is compiling a list of local garden clubs and other horticultural societies as part of a new community outreach initiative. If you have information about any local clubs or societies, please send names, contact info (if available), and any other relevant details to Karen Gibson (KarenRGibson@gmail.com). As part of this community initiative, we would also like to compile a list of talks that members are willing to give, including titles and any fees or other costs that members normally charge for such talks. We would like to make talks from this list available to the local clubs and societies that we contact, as well as local libraries and other garden centers, to help promote interest in the OSWP and especially in the annual Orchid Show. If you give talks on orchids and would like to be included in this list, please send all relevant information to Karen Gibson (KarenRGibson@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for helping to make this new effort a success!"

I've never submitted an item to the newsletter before, so I don't really know if this is along the right lines or not. If you have any suggestions for improvement, it would be greatly appreciated!

Best regards, Karen

Updates for Membership Directory

Work is underway on the 2019/20 directory. Please consult your existing directory, and check to make sure that your important contact information is correct and up-to-date. If you have an email address, please include it, as well as cell phone #. We never share directory info with non-members, and all information is used only to ensure that you will be kept informed of important OSWP events. Contact Sheila Nathanson

Chairpersons

AOS Nancy Kline
Facebook Lance Cheuvront

Holiday Party Carolyn Bolton
Hospitality Carolyn Bolton
Library Rosa Gaudin

Membership Val Robey
Orchid Show Sheila Nathanson, Gary Van Gelder
Pfun Nancy Kline

P-OSI Demetria Marsh
Website Jinghua Ou
Newsletter Jim Yamber

Orchid Gems: Janet Greenberg

By: Norma Raiff

Energetic, vibrant, service driven. Great with numbers. Studies the planets and the stars. Orchid-obsessed. That's Janet Greenburg, OSWP Treasurer.

Have you met Janet? She stands up at each meeting and updates us on our society's financial status. However, the person behind these brief statements is much more complex: she is fun, hardworking, and has many and varied interests that she relentlessly pursues. For instance, Jan is fascinated with cars and owns several, including Corvettes and a Mercedes roadster. "I just love those darn cars," she writes. She and her husband Jack are not only extremely active in the Lions Club, but they are also incredibly caring and helpful to neighbors in need. Jan is also a long-standing amateur astronomer. On the anniversary of the Moon Landing, it is nice to know that one of our member's owns three telescopes and has been involved with Astronomy since age 14. She is currently a member of the South Hills Backyard Astronomers club. Janet has a B.S in Accounting so she brings advanced skills to the highly detailed and time-consuming job of OSWP treasurer. We are so lucky to have her.

Janet, tell us about the Treasurer's job. "I agree with you that many of our members don't really understand how complex and intensive it is and how dedicated you have to be. I pay the bills and do all the deposits. I annually update required federal and state reports to help maintain OSWP's nonprofit status and I invest in certificates of deposit to maximize our earnings. However, perhaps the most hours are spent recording and reconciling transactions. I create monthly financial reports to help the Board to understand our financial status and risks and I use this information to create a projected annual budget." **Back to the orchids. How long have you been growing orchids?** Jan's pathway to the OSWP is convoluted but understandable. She credits her long friendship with Barb Ford of Akron (a long-term past president of the Akron Orchid Society and an OSWP member) as her orchid 'marriage broker'. "Jack and I have been friends with Barb (and Barb's now deceased husband) through the Corvette Car Shows. We met them about 30 years ago. We would stay at her house and she had an attached greenhouse with hundreds of orchids. I would learn, just by osmosis, by going there. Through observation, I learned things about misting, different potting soils, shade cloth and so on. Therefore, I learned stuff before I even owned an orchid. Barb had wanted to come see the OSWP show for many years. I didn't even know we had an Orchid Society here. So she came for the weekend and we went to the 2012 Spring Show. That's when I joined. I just had to have an orchid. In fact, I became obsessed!" Jan had not previously considered raising orchids because she always had bad luck growing indoor plants. "But how can you go to a show and resist buying an orchid? I was smitten when I purchased this beautiful green Paph. Maudiae. I love green flowers and it is my favorite to this day. After the bloom was gone, I learned to repot it and then there was no turning back. Within a short period, I was up to eight orchids, and then I said I was through. Then I owned 15 and said the same thing." **So tell us about your orchids** "At one time, I had up to 70 orchids. Now I am down to about 30 plants. Some of my orchids died because I was still learning about their correct growing conditions. I recently bought a three tier lighted plant stand and am in heaven. For one thing, I am not running all over the house to check on them. The stand is on my enclosed porch where I can easily move the plants outside to be watered when it rains. Besides the Maudie, I really get a kick out of an Angraecum sesquipedale that I bought from Nancy Kline. It blooms faithfully every Christmas. However, my overall favorites are my paphs." **Can you tell us about your funniest or weirdest mistake in growing orchids?** "I have done a couple of doozies. My funniest mistake was that I could never get a cattleya to bloom. And then I found out why. When the bright yellow sheath would appear, I would tear it off because I thought it was a dead leaf. I had probably been doing this for 5 years before I learned that I was actually pulling off the protective flower sheath with the bud inside." Jan your OSWP involvement is intensive.

Do you have insights to share with our members? "As I said, I joined the Society in spring 2012, joined the board in 2016, and became Treasurer in July 2017. I got involved by pure dumb luck because people asked me to work on something. For example, early on Carolyn Bolton asked me to work on the Preview Party and then the Trophy awards. That was the lead up. I think the one thing I really appreciate is my mentors, especially Barb Ford and Vicki Strod. I have had a million questions over the years. It's made such a difference to have someone looking over your shoulder and helping you. My advice to new members is to come to every meeting because even if a speaker is talking about an orchid you are not interested in you will learn general stuff and that will be invaluable. Between talking to everyone, seeing Show and Tell and making new friends, it's so worthwhile."



Program for our Sunday, September 15, 2019

Sam Tsui samtsui@orchidinnusa.com owner of The Orchid Inn USA
His talk will cover - The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum and Their Culture

LOCATION: PHIPPS GARDEN CENTER IN SHADYSIDE Meeting Start Time: 2:15PM

Great Information about our September speaker –

Sam was born in Hong Kong on November 23, 1952. He traveled to the United States at the age of 22. He attended Illinois State University graduating with a bachelor's degree in computer science and a minor in accounting. He has since completed his MBA. While still an undergraduate student, Sam was employed by Country Insurance and Financial Services based in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. He retired January, 2008 from Country Insurance and Financial Services as a Senior Software Developer in their Information Systems Division. Sam is now concentrating, full time, on his orchid growing business.

Sam met Jeanie Ting while studying at the university. Jeanie is also from Hong Kong. They were married in May, 1983. He began growing orchids in the early 1980's. After trying many types of orchids, he became a serious Paphiopedilum grower in 1985. In 1990, he began hybridizing with

Paphiopedilums and continues that work today. As he became more involved with Paphiopedilums, he started selling commercially in 1995 as the Orchid Inn. He grew orchids in his basement and greenhouses attached to his house. As the business grew, in 2004, he purchased six acres of property and built his first commercial 6,000 square foot greenhouse. Currently he makes over 300 crosses, produces 4,000 to 5,000 flasks or approximately 100,000 seedlings annually. In the past 27 years, Sam has been very active in the orchid world by traveling to shows, promoting sales, and lecturing. Sam currently fills orders from around the world and attends over 20 orchid shows/conferences a year. He also does approximately 25 Paphiopedilum programs/lectures to orchid conferences, societies and groups annually in the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and Europe. Over the past 22 years, he has judged at the Japan Grand Prix, the world's largest orchid show.

Hybridizing is Sam's passion. He emphasizes Paphiopedilum species, Brachypetalum, Parvisepalum and Multifloral hybrids. He only selects the best, most vigorous parent plants in his collection for breeding/hybridizing. He continues to improve his breeding stock by selecting plants or flasks from his fellow orchid growers that he believes are outstanding examples of their type. As a result of Sam's breeding program, his orchids have been honored with approximately three hundreds and sixteen awards (as of March 16, 2019) from the American Orchid Society, Cymbidium Society of America and European Orchid Congress. His most prestigious awards include Seventeen First Class Certificate (FCC/AOS) awards; six Cultural awards including an 93 points Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE/AOS) award; and seven breeder Award of Quality (AQ/AOS) awards. All these awards are from American Orchid Society. Two of our recent Paphiopedilum rothschildianum sibling cross have been awarded with two GM/DOG and also the Grand Champion at the Dresden International Orchid Show in Germany both in March 2017. And another our Paphiopedilum charlesworthii fma. album has been awarded GM/DOG in January, 2018. Last but not the least, we did it again at the Dresden International Orchid Show in Germany March 2018, one of our Paphiopedilum lowii fma. album have been awarded with GM/DOG and also the Grand Champion of the show again.

Great NEWS – Sam accepts pre-order and will offer our members a 10% discount for any order received at least one week prior to the meeting. Members can view our lists on our website: orchidinnusa.com. please email me the order with item #, name and size.

DINNER INVITATION: Join our speaker Sam Tsui, his wife, Tim Cholco and myself with all who decide to join us at THE PORCH RESTAURANT in Oakland/Schenley Park after the meeting. (around 5PM)

Let Lori know by Wednesday, September 11th if you would like to be part of the group, so the reservation can be made. Separate checks are provided at the Porch Restaurant.

Hope to see you on September 15th ! If you have any questions, please feel to reach me - Lori McDermott
Co-Program Chair 412-247-0397 lorimcdermott@comcast.net

Dues Renewal

The OSWP fiscal year is July 1st-June 30. All new members joining in March have membership coverage thru 06/30/20. All others will owe dues, effective 07/01/19. If you choose to pay via PayPal: For Payment via PayPal, thru the OSWP website, the Friends and Family-no fee for OSWP- is not available. To save OSWP the 4% fee, use PayPal direct, link to OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com, AND click on "Friends and Family". Checks may be mailed, per the instructions on the application form in newsletter and on website.

Passing of a Long Time Member Georgene Albrecht 1941 – 2019

It is with loving sadness and great memories that we report that long time OSWP member, Georgene Albrecht, has passed.

She was a fantastic cultivator of orchids, violets and gesneriads, and a superb gardener and floral designer. Jim Yamber's comments capture her essence perfectly: "She was a super person...with a wonderful sense of gentle humor and a zest for life and growing things."

Georgene was keen to share her knowledge. A Lifetime Member of the African Violet Society of America, she contributed dozens of articles to the national African Violet Magazine. Georgene was also the go-to person in our own society if you wanted to learn best practices for everything from violet cultivation, to how to grow orchids when you did not have a green house, to...how to tie bows on orchid corsages.

At the time she joined the OSWP, we learned that Georgene had a humongous collection of well over 400 violets (and now orchids) which she grew under fluorescent lights in her basement. "I don't get SAD (seasonal affective disorder)," the Tribune-Review quoted Georgene as laughingly saying, because of all the lights.

A gifted speaker, Georgene was highly active in the OSWP and generously contributed her time and many talents as a much-admired horticulturalist, an expert floral arranger, and an illustrator. "Georgene was one of the first people I knew growing under lights in her basement and she showed me how she did it," reports Demetria Marsh. One time the OSWP Culture Study Group (CSG) met at Georgene's house. CSG was a long-running learning alternative that featured monthly talks on orchid topics in an intimate setting. "We were an active group," recalls Vick Strod, "rather loud with enthusiasm and our questions. One month we went to Georgene's and sat in her downstairs growing area. Her topic was that you could grow orchids under lights in your basement! Wow! Really? I remember she gave us so many ideas, tips, and talked about her plants. It sounded so simple and the seed was sown. When we left, our heads were full of visions of wonderful things. I always remembered that sudden thunderbolt of knowledge." Georgene's talks often brought a crowd. "When I did Education for our orchid shows years later, Georgene was the first person I asked to lecture. Her time was the first on Saturday mornings, 10 am on the dot," continues Vicki. It was standing room only. "I did not schedule a lecture immediately after hers." While Georgene always finished right on time, she always had so many audience questions and she would stay and answer every one.

Georgene often welcomed members to her home to talk about culture, to walk through her fabulous garden, and to share her company and other goodies. "Georgene shared not only her knowledge of all her gardening passions, perennials, gesneriads and orchids, but her plants as well. She would go to the national Gesneriad Society meetings across the United States. I never left her house without at least a 1/2 dozen seedlings, cuttings, leaves from her plants. We exchanged gesneriads for many years. She started my passion for Achaemenes (gesneriad) and now Streptocarpus," recalls Carolyn Bolton, whose own garden still features some of Georgene's offerings. Georgene's accomplishments and kindnesses did not stop there. She designed OSWP's longstanding logo that was replicated for decades on Society letterheads, cards and advertising. She also taught floral design at Phipps Garden Center. And she frequently assisted OSWP members when flower arrangements and orchid corsages were much-anticipated features of our Annual Show. Besides her many articles about plants published in magazines worldwide, Georgene's "Honor Roll" of achievements includes winning an American Orchid Society award of quality, being featured in the Post-Gazette/Horticultural Society of Western Pennsylvania 2005 Great Garden's Contest, and receiving a well-earned Certificate from Phipps for outstanding service.

Georgene is survived by her husband Larry Albrecht, her two children, and her six grandchildren. A last word: This tribute is on behalf of all those OSWP members who learned from and fondly remember Georgene's extraordinary grace. To paraphrase a recent email: "We have missed Georgene at our meetings and we are grateful that she was so generous to us."



Baked Pineapple (Georgene Albrecht)

- 1 large can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 2 TBSP cornstarch_
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup maraschino cherries, chopped
- 2 TBSP butter
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Mix first four ingredients very well; making sure that cornstarch is dissolved. Turn into baking dish that has been lightly buttered. Dot with butter. Sprinkle with cherries, then cinnamon. Bake at 350 for 30 – 45 minutes. Check center for doneness. (If recipe is doubled, decrease oven temperature to 325 but extend the baking time. Check center for doneness.)

—

Pfun at Phipps in September

September Pfun dates are Thursday the 19th and Wednesday the 25th.

Hope to see all of you who RSVP'ed at the Volunteer Event on September 11th.

There are name tags in a box in the beige cabinet in GH 1. Please take one and add your name. These can be taken home and used when you return. They are also helpful in the cafe or the gift shop when you request your 20% discount.

We also have some of our orange 'Volunteer Parking Permits' in that same box in that cabinet. Take one if you need one.

If you find no parking in the areas where we are supposed to park, please park out front, around the statue. If you park there, do NOT put your parking permit on your dashboard. As always, contact me if you are available. We begin typical Pfun work at 9:30 and finish around 12:30. Lunch at the Cafe is always an option. If you are working at any other time than Pfun, please let me know your hours.

These figures are reported to Phipps' volunteer coordinator and they help both OSWP and Phipps.

Sometimes we have a need for an extra person during the month. Please let me know if you would like me to email you when this is occurring. I will have a clipboard at the September meeting and get the names of the members who would like to be on that list then. If you have begun working with Katie in the greenhouses, you can contact her with your availability. Katie would love to hear from you if you have the time, she may have an opportunity for you: kschuller@hipps.conservatory.org

If you have any questions, email me @ nancyk412@gmail.com or call 412-367-1556.

Thanks for your dedication to our friends at Phipps.



Plant Swap / Trade

Anyone interested in trading plants? As I've divided my orchids over the years, I've accumulated duplicates that are now taking up a lot of space (not to mention plants that just don't do well for me). To increase the diversity of my collection and get rid of some duplicates at the same time, I was hoping there may be other members who have a similar problem and would like to trade. I have well over 700 plants packed into a 600 square foot greenhouse. My collection is dominated by cattleya species and hybrids but I also have sizable quantities of dendrobium, oncidium, bulbophyllum, stanhopea, vanda and many other genera to a lesser degree. I'm pretty open to what I receive, just as long as it isn't something I already have! If interested please email me at: the_oldenburgs@comcast.net or call/text me at 412-953-1536. Chuck Oldenburg Venetia, PA



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: OSWPtrasurer@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

September 15, 2019

Sam Tsui (Orchid Inn)

The Brachypetalum and Parvisepalum and Their Culture

More to come for the future programs for 2019

