



# Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

June 2023

[www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org)

## Upcoming Events

June 18, 2023  
Speaker is Dennis Steinbeck  
from Flask and Flora in  
Columbus, Ohio.

## Looking Ahead

July OSWP Picnic

August No meeting or newsletter.  
See you all in September  
when the summer is through

OSWP meetings are held at the **Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood**  
at 134 E Elizabeth St in Pittsburgh. are open to members,  
their guests and the general public. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.  
Program Calendar is also available at [www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org)

### OSWP Officers

**Co-President:** Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

**Co-First Vice President:** Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton

**Second Vice President:** Katie Schuller Mentor: Tim Choltco

**Directors:** Tim Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak. Chuck Oldenburg, Brian Powell

**Secretary:** Kathy Collins

**Treasurer:** Janet Greenberg

## What's Blooming Now

## Moltoniopsis

These striking orchids, which are also known as pansy orchids, owing to their similarity to garden pansies, are enjoying increasing popularity.

Moltoniopsis are cool-growing orchids that originate in the higher elevations of the Andes in Colombia, Panama and Ecuador. The warmer-growing species, properly miltonias, originate from the Minas Gerais area of Brazil and more closely resemble large-flowered oncidiums. Their flowers can be brilliantly patterned.

They can be grown here in Pittsburgh if you keep them cool by air movement (fans) and kept out of direct sun. They are epiphytes and grow like cattleyas. Potting media needs to be fine and never let it become completely dry. Fertilize very weakly every watering. They can bloom any time of the year.



## Co-President's Letter April 2023

Hi Everyone,

I'm going to keep this short today. I've got flats of annuals right outside the door, and I am excited to get to work! Spring is always a favorite time of year for me. However, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone on a wonderful New Member Reception. We were happy to see so many members both new and old. . Kathy Collins, our membership chair, did a fantastic job of planning the reception and setting the agenda. Thanks also to each of our speakers for taking the time to share all the OSWP has to offer.

Next month we will return to the Spartan Center for our June meeting. Then off to the Oldenburgs for the OSWP summer picnic on July 22nd. Rain date July 23rd. If you were unable to attend last year, now is your chance! Join us for great food and conversation. While you're there, be sure to take a moment to enjoy the Oldenburg's wonderful orchid collection. Watch your email for more information. This is one you won't want to miss.

Until next time, enjoy the sunshine!

Michelle and Dave Panasiuk  
OSWP Co-Presidents



*Cypripedium parviflorum pubescens*



Sadly, Larry Seigworth, a long time member of the OSWP, passed away on May 10th. Larry and his wife, Jan, grew orchids in a greenhouse in Munhall and was a great grower of vanda-ceous orchids. He worked in the education field. In 1984, when several of us joined together to produce the Phalaenopsis Phollies, a musical revue (Yes, singing and dancing!) for the OSWP's 30th anniversary at our annual banquet and the next year at the Eastern Orchid Conference in downtown Pittsburgh, Larry was a vital member and great performer. When the Phragmipedium Phollies was resurrected in 2013 for the Super Slipper Celebration, Larry, who had since moved to a retirement community in the South Hills, joined the group to rehearse and perform that October at Phipps. Larry was a great person who will be missed. He always had a smile on his face and a song in his heart.

## American Orchid Society award

Taylor Slaughter: One of our own receives national prestigious American Orchid Society award

By: Demetria Marsh, Norma Raiff

Many long-term OSWP members know Taylor and Frank Slaughter. Even a brief snapshot of their accomplishments is breathtaking. The couple served as Presidents of the OSWP and often opened their home and greenhouse to host an amazing array of fun events including Society holiday parties, picnics, Culture Study Group and Award Study Group. In a nutshell, they were more than generous with their time, effort, and willingness to share their knowledge as they spent 6 years becoming AOS judges.



Frank and Taylor moved to Philadelphia several years ago, but generally return to help with AOS judging at our March Show. It's a time for renewing friendships, catching up, and continuing to learn from their vast experience.

And so now for the News: in recognition of over 30 years of longstanding effort, Taylor has been awarded the very prestigious Thomas Sheehan Award for Outstanding Service by an AOS Volunteer (Orchids Magazine, May 2023).

This award "recognizes and applauds a member who has demonstrated sustained and exemplary volunteer service that leaves a lasting positive impact on the AOS."

And to quote: "Taylor Slaughter's contributions to the AOS span more than four decades (1980s–present) at both local and national levels. Her remarkable achievements have consistently supported and strengthened the AOS."

Here's a quick run-through of some of Taylor's important roles: Taylor chaired the National Capital Judging Center in DC (1990–2003, 2014–2018). She has also served as an AOS Trustee (2003–2004, 2007–2011), an AOS vice president (2005–2006), and was the first chairperson of the Governance Committee (2008–2012). As chair of the AOS Judging Committee (2018–2022), she instituted many innovations, even during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Taylor and her husband, Frank, who has also spearheaded many AOS projects, were previously honored (2013) with an AOS silver medal for their creative reconfiguration of the annual year-end special awards. Appointed an honorary vice president in 2014, Taylor continues to provide advice to the Board on an ongoing basis.

Wow, who knew?

## **Orchid Gems – No Grass Grows Under Their Feet: Chuck and Julia Oldenburg**

by Pam Horter-Moore

What are you doing at 5:30 in the morning? Well, if you are retired and like me, you are still in bed.

Not so for Chuck and Julia Oldenburg! These self-starters are early-morning risers. He's off to the gym, and she's off on a three-mile walk with a neighbor. And that's before the work of the day begins.

Chuck and Julia's enthusiasm for life is apparent in everything they do, and their scope of interests is wide. He's a runner, mountain climber and endurance hiker whose goal is to hike the 2,190 miles of the Appalachian Trail which stretches from northern Maine to Georgia. He has accomplished over 450 miles so far, taking the trail section by section, only recently returning from a 6-day, 103.8-mile hike through central Virginia. This is even more impressive when one considers that he is carrying everything he needs to survive with him, a 45-pound load. This is really what some might consider "roughing it". Next on the agenda is climbing Mount Elbert, the tallest mountain in Colorado in August. Naturally, physical training for the big event is always on his agenda.

Julia might not share Chuck's passion for endurance hiking, but she is no slouch, taking 45-minute walks before work, and accompanying Chuck on the rugged 10-mile hike of Maggie's Peak in California. Her interests are more home-centered, and are steeped in the traditions of her Greek heritage. Chuck and Julia have been married for over thirty years, have three adult daughters, and live in Venetia, Washington County. They met in college at Penn State. He was a chemical engineer, and she was a math teacher.

During Chuck's upbringing and career, he moved around a lot and has lived in Rhode Island, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, North Carolina, Michigan, and now Pennsylvania for the last twenty-five years. He considers this area his hometown, and his parents came to settle down in Center Township, which is in my own native Beaver County.

So, as a native Beaver Countian, I was naturally delighted to discover that Julia's hometown is Beaver Falls, about eight miles from my hometown of Rochester.

Julia grew up with a lush Greek tradition. Her mother was from Greece, and relatives still live there. Family, church, and food are an important part of the culture.

"The Greeks believe that, when somebody comes, you feed them," says Julia. "I like to make people happy, and I love to host."

Julia prepares traditional Greek dishes, such as avgolemono, a lemon chicken and rice soup, spinach pie (spanakopita), and pastitsio, a Greek lasagna. Her cookies are her specialty that always has people asking for more.

She bakes 15 different kinds of cookies and freezes them for entertaining and gifting later. She makes her lady locks from scratch, which entails letting the dough sit overnight, and, of course, she makes that universal Greek favorite, baklava.

"My mother made six kinds of Greek cookies, and my two brothers and I would go to school with big bags full of them. The teachers loved to receive them during the holiday season."

Julia is well known for her cookies. When her daughters come home for Christmas, they and their future in-laws get platters. Neighbors look forward to receiving them. Her sister-in-law requested them for her daughter's wedding. Baking is Julia's hobby, and she is glad to accommodate.

Early in their marriage, the Oldenburg's lived in North Carolina, and then in Michigan. After the birth of their first daughter, however, they returned to the Pittsburgh area so that their children could experience the joy of grandparents and a close-knit extended family.

As a chemical engineer, Chuck worked in a variety of industries and held many different positions. His business acumen pushed him towards entrepreneurial opportunities. In 2000, they ventured into real estate and started a property management business which they still operate.

In 2014, inspired by the burgeoning Marcellus Shale business, he and Julia utilized commercial space in



one of their buildings in Washington county to open a retail store offering safety products to the gas and oil industry. The retail business was a perfect fit for Julia, since the girls were older and she did not want to return to teaching. The pandemic allowed them to reduce their storefront hours to four hours a day, five days a week. Technology has made it possible to conduct much business online. After nine years, the business continues to thrive. "I always have to be doing something," Chuck comments.

Maintaining and monitoring his collection of 1,000+ orchids and other plants certainly is a large requirement of time and energy. Like many couples in the OSWP, Chuck is the orchidist while Julia is the supporter, pursuing her hobbies of cooking, baking and attending the All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Canonsburg.

Chuck had an early acquaintance with orchids; his mother had an orchid greenhouse. His own interest in plants began in his teens. He had bonsai and other small plants that he maintained through college, solicitous to the point of transporting them home during breaks.

When he first built his greenhouse in 1999, it was devoted to tropicals. He had little interest in orchids until his mother gave him an overgrown cymbidium that, to his surprise, flowered magnificently. This was enough to create an interest. Soon he was hooked and slowly converted the tropical greenhouse into an orchid greenhouse over years.

Chuck maintains his orchids in a greenhouse and summers many outside in a protected area. There are other plants in his collection, including a Navel Orange and jaborcaba (Brazilian grape tree) that are 30 years old. Chuck also grows amorphophallus and over a dozen varieties of figs for Julia which are her favorite.

Although Chuck has a wide mix of orchids, his specialty is Cattleya. He has been slowly upgrading his collection with cattleya species and rare heirloom hybrids in recent years.

In the winter, he makes orchid pots. He has a pottery wheel and four kilns for different size pots and styles of firing. "In 2010, I set a goal to have each of my plants in one of my pots," says Chuck. "I'm about forty percent finished."

A rich and busy life is a satisfying one.



**Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)**  
**General Meeting**  
**May 21, 2023**

The meeting was held at The Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood.

This meeting was the “New Member Reception” to welcome those who joined at the Annual Show or any time since the beginning of the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Therefore, no mini-class was presented.

The New Member Reception began at approximately 1:10 pm. The various Committee Chairs gave an overview of the work of their Committees and how the new members can be involved in OSWP. Following the presentations by the Committee Chairs, the new members were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and share a little about the number of orchids they are currently growing and their growing conditions. Time was then allotted for additional socializing and eating.

A short business meeting began at approximately 2:45.

- a. It was noted that the Spartan Center air conditioning is now operational.
- b. Lori Beth Bloom has volunteered to be the OSWP librarian. This will allow for the OSWP library books to once again be available to the membership during the meeting and will allow them to be borrowed.
- c. Chuck and Julia Oldenburg will be hosting the OSWP picnic on July 22. It was noted that they have requested a more organized approach to the provision of dishes at the potluck. An on-line signup sheet will be organized similar to the signup sheet for volunteers at the Show. This way those who are attending the picnic can indicate their food contributions to provide for a more varied menu.
- d. OSWP Board members are asked to arrive at the June 11th meeting at 12:40 in order to have a Board meeting prior to the regular OSWP membership meeting.
- e. Treasurer’s Report – Janet Greenberg provided a short report on the current OSWP funds.

Miscellaneous:

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

A raffle was held. 4 orchid plants and an orchid painting donated by new member, Alexis Chontos were raffled off to OSWP members.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. and was followed by the guest speaker, Sarah Hurdel of Needmore Orchids.

Submitted by: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary

## June speaker

### **Dennis Steinbeck - Flask and Flora**

**Dennis will be bringing plants for sale and will be speaking about Flasking.**

I'm a member of the Central Ohio Orchid Society and I run an orchid nursery here in Columbus. Flask and Flora is a nursery that I can't decide if it is dedicated to preservation of species or the creation of exciting new hybrids... so we do both! My nursery sells mostly online, but since a lot of my regulars are based in Pittsburgh. I grow everything from Oncidium intergenerics to Cattleya species, Paphs, Phrags, and hard-to-find oddball genera from South America and Southeast Asia.



## Dave Motak Wins the Gloria Artis Medal for Contributions to Polish Culture

by Pam Horter-Moore

Dave Motak is remarkable in many ways. As an OSWP Board Member, Dave is a wellspring of imaginative and fertile ideas. Most recently, the Society benefited from his superb publicity campaign during our last Orchid Show.

However, to the world at large, Dave is much better known for his creations in the szopka art form. This form of folk art has its origins in Cracow, Poland, where wood, cardboard, foil paper, and other media are used to create “whimsical interpretations of architectural motifs in elaborate structures... (<https://davidmotak.com/>).”

For his substantial contributions to the promotion of Polish culture and heritage over the past 50 years, Dave has been internationally recognized.

Most recently, Dave attended a ceremony at the Polish Consulate in New York City where he was awarded the highest decoration of the Republic of Poland -- the Gloria Artis Medal for Merit to Culture. This is a singular honor for an American citizen, because the Gloria Artis Medal is typically only bestowed upon Polish citizens who distinguish themselves in the field of arts and culture.

Dave has a long resume. As an undergraduate, he studied two years abroad at Jagiellonian University in Cracow. He was the first foreigner to participate in the annual Szopka Competition in Cracow, where he won an award for artistic excellence. His accolades include the prestigious Work of Art Award from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, and he was honored by the City of Pittsburgh with the proclamation of “David Motak Day” in 2011.

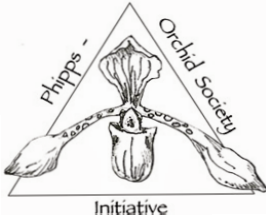
He has contributed as a writer and editor to Sokol Polski, the publication of Polish Falcons of America, and has exposed others to the szopka artform by conducting workshops. On the urging of his students, he hosted tours to Poland.

He was solicited by the prestigious Gagosian Gallery in New York to exhibit his work, and, upon another occasion, he and his partner Jack were flown to Hong Kong for an exhibition of 15 of his art pieces.

Congratulations to Dave on yet another achievement!







## 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.

### June 2023

Pfun at Phipps is part of P-OSI (the Phipps-Orchid Society Initiative, to grow the Phipps orchid collection well). Re-potting, updating the inventory and cleaning up is our main work, while learning, having some Pfun and cookies, too.

We are going to Phipps most Mondays and Thursdays from 9:45AM – 12:45PM. (If it's your first visit, you must stop in at the Volunteer Office with proof of vaccination and ID and sign a photo release and other documents.)

During the summer, dress in layers and bring a hat if you are doing clean-up in the greenhouses. It can get very warm. Shoes with closed toes are mandated, no sandals, for safety.

If you would like to join our Pfun efforts and haven't previously signed up with us, please let us know at the email addresses below. We are using 3 - 6 members each date, with at least one being a more experienced grower.

Thanks and looking forward to working and learning together.

PS: Phipps Summer Flower Show: Flowers Meet Fashion. Don't miss it!

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### **Current Committees Chairs,**

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore,
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Chevront	P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Garden Club/Library Liaison		Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton	Show	Sheila Nathanson, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Library	open	Speaker	Carolyn Boltin and Natalie. Turicik
Membership	Kathy Collins	Website	Jinghua Ou
Mini-class	Tim Choltc and Katie Schuller		
Newsletter	Jim Yamber		



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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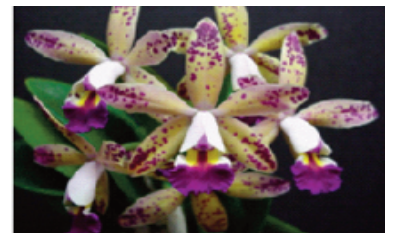
American Orchid Society  
*Education, Conservation, Research,*  
*Affiliated Society*

**Upcoming 2023 speaker**

**June 18, 2023**

**Speaker is Dennis Steinbeck  
from Flask and Flora in  
Columbus, Ohio.**

More to come for the future programs for 2023



**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*