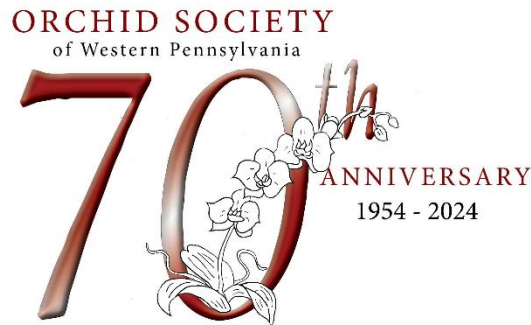


# The ORCHIDIAN



**Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – December 2024**



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

- **Holiday Party 2024 is being held December 8<sup>th</sup>. See details below.**

## **November 2024 Public Meeting**

- **There is NO December 2024 Public Meeting. See Holiday Party Info.**

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## YOU ARE INVITED!

### *Holiday Party 2024*

**Where:** Crowne Plaza Hotel **When:** December 8, 2024 **Time:** 2pm-6pm  
Reservations are now closed.



Members cost: \$20 Please make payments through the link on [www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org) to pay with a credit card or mail a check to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr. McMurray, PA 15317-3212. Note there is a second guest slot (which is the third person coming with the member/members) on the website for entrée. This is for a member who is bringing a dependent child. First entry is member, second entry is first who should be partner or guest of the member. Please **ALSO** use this link to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/FxJ8z4XwTH1wGacp6>

Meal is plated not buffet and these are the choices:

1. Grilled Salmon, Lemon Buerre Blanc Sauce,  
Served with Petite Green Beans & Whipped Potatoes
2. Pan Roasted Chicken Breast Served with Wild Mushroom-Marsala Sauce,  
Served with Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes & Asparagus Spears.
3. Trip Colored Tortellini  
Seasonal Vegetables and Alfredo Sauce, Served with Garlic Bread

If you have dietary restrictions, please let me know. The hotel said they could accommodate.

Please bring cookies for the dessert table/tables

Your blooming orchids are appreciated for center pieces.

### **Speaker is Jack Zhu**

Jack Zhu is an orchid hobbyist from the Los Angeles area in California. He grows many varieties of orchids, focusing on Asian cymbidiums. Jack is also very interested in the culture and history of Asia cymbidium. Jack is currently an Associate Judge in AOS Pacific South Judging Region and has more than thirty AOS awards for Asia cymbidium.

### **Title: The Colors and Forms of Asian Cymbidiums**

With more than one thousand years of cultivation history, the Asian cymbidium community has developed some unique appreciation criteria for Asian cymbidiums, including several major flower forms and various colors. During the talk, Jack will go over the main flower form and color of various Asian cymbidiums. Within each category, he will present multiple examples, especially with plants from his own backyard. In the end, Jack will briefly go over the leaf variegations of Asian cymbidiums, which is another important aspect of Asian cymbidiums.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** Edgar Stehli from Windswept in Time Orchids will be the speaker in January! Planning on him being in person but if the weather is bad he will do zoom.

**OSWP OFFICERS – leaderships council and board of directors**

- **Co-Presidents: Demetria Marsh and Gary VanGelder**
- **First Vice President: Carolyn Bolton and Brian Powell**
- **Second Vice President: Zander Morrison**
- **Secretary: Kathy Collins**      • **Treasurer: Janet Greenberg**
- **Board of Directors: Mike Lysy, Carol Panza, Mona Rice, Giovanni Giraldo, Bob Lusnak**



**Letter from the Co-Presidents**

OSWP Co-Presidents Letter for December 2024 Newsletter

On Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania held its regular monthly meeting at the Spartan Events Center in Hazelwood with approximately 55 members attending. It was a great attendance for a rainy day. Some of our members traveled well over an hour to attend.

Bill Goldner, our speaker, began to sell his orchids while Sheila Nathanson shared her amazing knowledge of nobile dendrobiums and how to grow and bloom them at the Mini-Class. Our OSWP business meeting started at 2PM. Zander Morrison volunteered to help the OSWP move into more social media platforms. Lance Cheuvront guides our Facebook platform. We still are looking for one or two members to be Ambassadors to welcome people to our meetings so no one feels like a stranger.

Bill Goldner presented his talk on miniature phragmipediums and then continued to sell more of his great orchids.

Kathy McCafferty, Lawrene Neel and Mary Ann Pike, our show chairs for our March Orchid Show, are doing a great job organizing all the show committee chairs and establishing a game plan. They introduced themselves again at the meeting. They also introduced all the Show Committee Chairs in attendance and then briefly explained some important timing aspects.

We send out a huge thanks to Kim O’Toole for stepping in to take minutes and Everett Chronowski for helping at the Welcome Table.

We hope to see you at our OSWP Holiday Party on Sunday, 12/8, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, across from South Hills Village. See the OSWP website for more details and how to sign up.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and may your new year be filled with much happiness and good growth.

Think orchids,

Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh

## ORCHID GEMS – Kathy McCafferty

**Orchid Gems: Kathy McCafferty: Enter Stage Right as a 2025 Spring Show Co-Chair**

**By: Norma Raiff**



Every local orchid society relies on a steady flow of volunteers. These worker bees get things done and provide lots of energy. Whether it is arranging for speakers or for treats to be served at monthly meetings or managing our Show's huge logistical needs, we could not remain viable without them.

And the reality is that we always need people to step up to the plate. So, when Sheila Nathanson, Janet Greenberg and I decided to pass the Spring Show Leadership to others, we were thrilled to welcome Kathy McCafferty, Mary Anne Pike, and Lawrence Neel as the new Show Chair cohort.

I first approached Kathy McCafferty because I wanted to know more about her and why she had agreed to take on the Co-Chair's responsibilities. Imagine my surprise when I learned that Kathy is relatively new to orchid growing, that she's only been an OSWP member for the past 3.5 years, and that family obligations and travel had previously prevented her

from attending our Show on show days. While she was often out of town during our Show dates, she had volunteered as a Helper and was able to spend targeted time observing the orchid exhibits going up. "I came in on a Friday and was relying on people to point me in the right direction. I did meet quite a few members there as we worked together on the setup."

Although Kathy is in the early stages of her orchid/OSWP journey, she does find orchids intriguing and is steadily adding to her collection. Kathy is also flexible and brings a sense of humor and project management skills to her newest assignment.

As for the introduction:

Kathy is a long-time resident of Forest Hills where she raised her two sons, Keith and Patrick, who are now adults; reside in nearby neighborhoods, and have careers in art and music. But her household composition has recently expanded to include her mom, Rosemary Gasior, who moved in after the death of Kathy's sister who had been living in her mom's house with her mother as her primary caregiver during her illness.

So, Kathy is now a member of the growing number of adults who have some responsibilities for an older parent while also trying to expand her own retirement choices and interests. Prior to that, Kathy had worked in software development, and as often occurs with talented people, she eventually attained an MBA and moved into software team management. However, her recently changed household structure combined with Covid-induced work requirements (i.e., working by Zoom all day/all week) prompted Kathy to retire on February 28, 2022, and to start thinking hard about "What should I do now?"

Kathy already had several related interests that predated her orchid journey. She grows many different house plants which gave her confidence about expanding into orchids. When possible, she enjoys travel and considers planning enjoyable trips a must. She also plays pickleball three times a week, is active with her local Democratic Committee (canvassing, postcard writing, and election day polling place duties), and drives her mom to meetings at the Forest Hills Garden Club and to Senior meetings at the library. And for 6 months of our warm weather, she loves tooling around and attending car shows in her vintage Miata convertible.



Enter the Orchids!

Kathy joined OSWP on 2/20/21 but does not remember how she learned about us. “I had 2 or 3 orchids that had been given to me, but which had never bloomed. And I wanted to learn more. They kept growing but they never flowered.”

She also began participating in OSWP’s volunteer program, PFun at Phipps, where she learned more about orchid repotting, culture, and growth habits. “That’s how I met many members; It’s nice socially.” Attending the OSWP Picnic as well as our monthly meetings also offered opportunities to get to know others and to purchase plants.

Her current collection consists of approximately 20 plants that she carefully adds to because of her space limitations and her desire to travel without needing a plant “nanny” during her holiday absences. All her plants are grown outside from mid-May to October. “Otherwise, I use 5 ‘spaces’ in my house where I can grow plants without a need for artificial lights, so all my plants are grown in southeast to southwest facing windows. I use kitchen and living room windowsills, a rack in the basement ‘office,’ and shelves in a spare bedroom. Plants requiring high light grow in the basement and bedroom with humidifiers. My Phalaenopsis and plants that can be cooler are in the kitchen and living room.”

“Orchids are unique and different. They are so pretty, the blooms last quite a long time compared to house plants, and what I have learned is that you should not give up.” Case in point: Kathy had an orchid that was rescued from an alley on garbage day. It finally bloomed and while discussing it at a recent Show and Tell meeting segment, OSWP member Giovanni Giraldo (who also the Phipps Horticultural Collection Manager) was able to identify it as *Odontocidium Catatante* ‘Sunny Kalapana,’ a beautiful floriferous yellow orange hybrid. He also thought that it might be a small piece of an orchid sold as part of a Phipps overflow sale.

And how did she get to be one of the new Show Co Chairs? “I approached Demetria at this past September’s meeting and said, ‘Let’s give this a try’.”

And what are the Show Co-Chairs doing now?

“We meet as a team every week. We are also connecting with committee chairs and are periodically joining with the previous years’ Show Chairs for mentoring and feedback. So, it is a continuous process. We are all learning right now. I take notes and organize documents so that we can get our heads wrapped around this important task.”

And they are right on track. Here’s how OSWP Co-President Demetria Marsh sums things up: “Gary and I are very happy that Kathy accepted the challenge enthusiastically. Kathy provided the basis for building the team with Lawrene Neel, another new member, as well as Mary Ann Pike, an experienced member. The trio are now our 2025 Show Team!”



*Odontocidium Catatante* ‘Sunny Kalapana’

Kathy’s final words of advice to newer members:

“OSWP is a great group of people of all ages and provides wonderful support for new members.”

And as for those orchids” “Get over your trepidation. Give it a try, keep trying and if at first you don’t succeed, then try again.”

And my own last thoughts:

“Hopefully, Kathy’s story will function as a call to action to the 200+ new OSWP who joined within the last two years. Step up and become the next generation of leaders and helpers. We need you.”

## MEETING MINUTES – September

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)

Nov.10, 2024

### Regular Meeting of OSWP

Sheila Nathanson presented a mini-class on How to Bloom Nobile Dendrobium. Proper light, temperature, and fertilizer.

#### Business

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:11 pm by Co-Presidents Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh.

New members in attendance were introduced. Many traveled over 1 hour from Mercer City, New Castle, and WVA to attend.

Reminder to return name tags at the end of meeting.

#### OSWP positions to fill:

Social media: A volunteer is needed to build OSWP's social media outreach.  
Zander Morrison volunteered.

#### Reports:

- a. Treasurer: Janet Greenberg reported the cash balances.
- b. Speakers:
  - Jack Zhu will provide a presentation on Chinese Cymbidiums: History and Culture for the Holiday Party, at the Crown Plaza December 8th.
  - Windswept in Time Orchids will be the January speaker.
- c. AOS: Webinars will continue through the month of November. A subscription to AOS is a great Christmas gift.
- d. Culture Corner: Nancy is willing to answer questions on specific plants. Send your questions and/or pictures. Central PA. Orchid Society show is scheduled on January 17-18. If you would like to display, contact Nancy.
- e. Pfun: Demetria noted that OSWP continues to volunteer at Phipps weekly Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. If you'd like to join the Pfun, contact Demetria.
- f. Library: Contact Lori Beth.
- g. Newsletter: Submissions should be sent to Dave Panasiuk OSWPnewsletter@gmail.com by the 20th of the month.
- h. Hospitality: Lawrence appreciates the generous contributions for the OSWP meetings.
- i. Holiday Party: The holiday party will be at the Crowne Plaza on Dec. 8, 2024 from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. It will be a plated dinner, \$20 per person. Please use the OSWP website to pay and select your meal before December 2. Plant favors will be given, one per family.

j. Spring Show Committee: Mary Ann Pike identified the co-chairs and their specific areas. Repotting needs a co-chair. In January there will be open volunteer sheets for all to sign up. Each shift is 2 hour time slots.

**Old Business:** Zander thanked Sheila for her mini class presentation today. All speakers are now scheduled for 2025.

**New Business:** Nothing to discuss.

**Show and Tell:** Six members displayed their beautiful orchid plants for show and tell.

**Raffle:** Two orchids, donated by Sheila Nathanson and Carol Panza were included in the raffle. A total of \$110 was raised.

**Miscellaneous:** The next meeting of OSWP will be January 19, 2025. (December is the holiday party) Carol Panza will speak about Cattasetum Orchids for the January mini class.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m. and was followed by our November speaker, Bill Goldner, of Woodstream Orchids. Bill spoke to Next Generation Miniature Phragmipediums and other New Lines of Breeding.

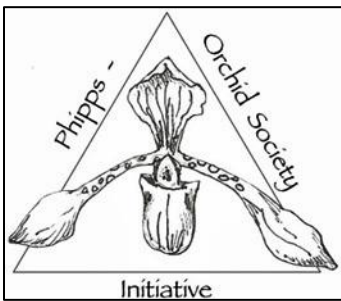
Submitted by: Kim O'Toole

**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, 2024



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 is needed. **We usually go to Phipps some Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 9:45AM - 12:45PM.** It's a great learning experience for all of us.

Our goal is to help Phipps grow their orchid collection to one of national note, as well as the continued growth of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, a living museum of slipper orchids.

**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.** We usually set up the month's schedule the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the preceding month with 2-6 Pfunsters each day. Contact me and sign up. We'll add you to our Pfunster team!

While you're having Pfun, be sure to see Phipps Winter Flower Show, "Holiday Magic."

Thank you and I'm looking forward to working and learning together. . . and having Pfun!

Demetria Marsh

[Demetria117@gmail.com](mailto:Demetria117@gmail.com)

412-848-4349



# OSWP



Encounter the meetings **IN PERSON** and find out what you are missing!

Mini classes, feature speakers, raffles, show & tell, snacks and friendly faces to share your orchid stories and personal experiences!



Save The Date

March 15 & 16  
2025



*Orchid*  
**SPRING SHOW**

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS

*Orchid obsession*

SATURDAY MARCH 15  
EXHIBITS NOON TO 5 P.M.  
VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

SUNDAY MARCH 16  
EXHIBITS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.  
VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

CROWNE PLAZA SUITES  
PITTSBURGH SOUTH EXHIBITS  
164 FORT COUCH RD.  
PITTSBURGH PA 15241  
(ACROSS FROM SOUTH HILLS VILLAGE)

ORCHID DISPLAYS  
EXPERT PRESENTATIONS  
ORCHID REPOTTING  
ORCHID VENDOR SALES  
OSWP SALES

Free Parking with easy access to all events

[WWW.OSWP.ORG](http://WWW.OSWP.ORG)



**The Orchid Society  
of Western Pennsylvania**

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