

# The ORCHIDIAN



Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – November 2023



## OSWP MONTHLY MEETING – open to members, guests and the general public

- **Location:** Spartan Community Center, 134 E. Elizabeth St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207
- **Sunday, Nov 12th - Doors open at 12:45pm; Approximate times: Mini Class at 1pm – Speaker at 3pm**
- **Mini Class:** Not available at press time. Guest information will follow in an eBlast.
- **Speaker:** **Dr. Bill Goldner** - Next Generation Miniature Phragmipediums and Other New Lines of Breeding with new colors, shape and sizes.

## 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>
- **Other in person shows over the next month are more than 500 miles from our area. Happy Holidays!**



## 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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OSWP

## OUR GUEST: November Monthly Meeting Speaker



Dr. Bill, with his wife, Lynn Evans-Goldner are the owners of Woodstream Orchids, Huntingtown, Maryland. Woodstream Orchids (WSO) is a leading hybridizer and producer of Phragmipediums, Paphiopedilum species, and Epidendrums. They are well known for their innovative miniature Phrag hybrids. They are currently upping their game to include white and yellow Phrag hybrids. He is an annual vendor at our Spring Show and often wins both the best Commercial exhibit and AOS awarded plants in our show.

Bill has an updated presentation titled Next Generation Miniature Phragmipediums and Other New Lines of Breeding with new colors, shape and sizes. **He will bring plants for sale so no member sales at this meeting.** I am sure he would like preorders and no shipping cost.



### 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 Choltc & 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 Boltin and Natalie Turicik

**Website** Jinghua Ou

## ORCHID GEMS - Aaron Goldman and Sherri Kinoshita

### *Many Doors of Opportunity: Aaron Goldman and Sherri Kinoshita*

By Pam Horter-Moore



One thing I have learned by doing the “Orchid Gems” feature is that every member of OSWP whom I interview is fascinating in one respect or another, always an individual out of the ordinary.

What impressed me about Aaron Goldman was his versatility, the ease with which he has changed direction and taken a different path because the timing was right for him to do so.

A native of Penn Township in Butler County, Aaron attended Allegheny College where he graduated

with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry and psychology.

After graduation, he and a friend went to Seattle where he taught pre-school, having enjoyed a brief stint in college. “I was always good with kids because I’m a kid at heart myself. I love their boundless energy and wild imaginations.”

I understand completely. Like me, Aaron and his wife Sherri are toy enthusiasts. They enjoy scouting Ross Park Mall, Facebook Marketplace, and other venues for unusual and collectible Legos. Aaron also collects Furbies, the robotic toys that were much in demand when marketed in 1998 and continue to be highly sought-after. During the pandemic, shortages of microchips due to delayed shipments postponed the refurbishing of ailing Furbies, but now this will become Aaron’s winter project.



When his mother became ill, Aaron returned from Seattle to Butler County, and he taught pre-school at the YMCA. His reminiscences of Seattle’s coffee

scene, however, prompted him to associate himself with the local Pittsburgh specialty coffee scene, his favorite being Constellation Coffee on Penn Avenue in the Bloomfield section of Pittsburgh. It can be said that Aaron learned the coffee trade from the ground up, eventually managing a shop.

Aaron's flexible nature has given him the opportunity to work in various fields. Disparaging tedium and office politics, he eventually enrolled in Coding Bootcamp on the Northside to follow a career that would give him the freedom to work remotely. Since then, he has worked for several companies, and is currently employed by Crowe, an international public accounting, consulting, and technology firm.

In February 2019, Aaron accepted an invitation to visit Hawaii from a college friend who had joined the Navy, and was stationed at Pearl Harbor. This would be a life-changer.



It was during his vacation in Hawaii that Aaron met his wife Sherri. They took an immediate liking to each other and, when Aaron returned home, they continued to communicate by video.

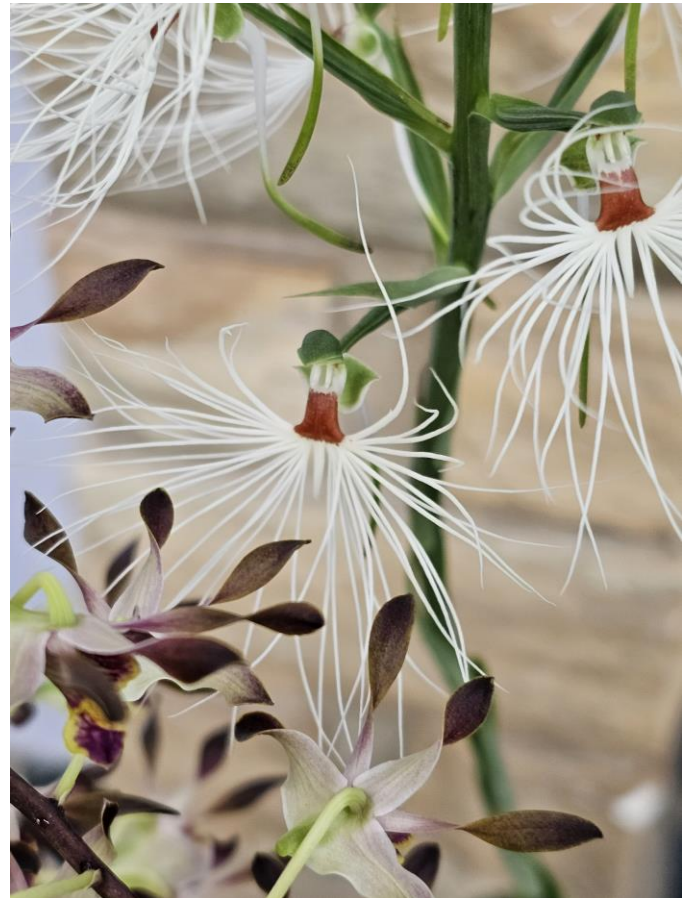
As the relationship grew serious, Aaron returned to Hawaii in August 2019 to see whether he and Sherri were truly compatible. Two weeks after returning to Pennsylvania, Aaron moved to Hawaii.

Despite Hawaii's reputation as a paradise, Aaron reflects that it's a great place to visit, but perhaps not to live. Commuters can spend hours

confronting six lanes of traffic on busy freeways. The cost of living is high, and the heat can be overbearing.

Moreover, working remotely in Hawaii necessitated Aaron's being up in the middle of the night to keep in touch with colleagues and business partners on Eastern Standard Time.

So, when he and Sherri married in February 2020, they moved to Pennsylvania just ahead of the Covid pandemic.



Although she was raised in Hawaii, many of Sherri's family members had already followed her aunt and uncle to Montana, where they had started a bed-and-breakfast. Aaron's family continue to live in the Pittsburgh area. Two years ago, Aaron and Sherri bought a house in McCandless near Ross Park Mall.

Like so many OSWP members, Aaron had an early exposure to gardening. His father flew a mail plane and was on the road, so the family spent a lot time at his grandparents'. His grandmother had

houseplants, and he often helped her in the garden.

Now with a home and yard, Aaron grows native plants, and favors fruit-bearers and pollinators. He especially recommends mountain mint as a deer deterrent and wonderful pollinator.

Orchid fever was something Aaron didn't catch right away. "I was impressed by the Orchid Room at Phipps, but I thought that too much work was involved in orchid-growing."

Then he was tempted by a "Better Grow" orchid at Lowe's and thought that he would give it a try. "When I become interested in something, I become obsessive," says Aaron.



Aaron began collecting orchids a year-and-a-half

ago, and now has approximately 50 specimens. One-third of them are rescue orchids.

Besides Phalaenopsis, his collection includes Cattleya, Dendrobium, Habenaria, Phragmipedium, and Epidendroideae.

"I like fragrant orchids, and I don't even care if they smell weird," Aaron comments. A referral from a friend connected him to an orchid greenhouse in Lancaster, Pennsylvania which carries non-hybrid Phalaenopsis. He has discovered that these are more fragrant than hybrid varieties.

"Orchids were once a rare commodity, but now people are accustomed to seeing them for sale." Aaron remarks. Phalaenopsis, with its simple beauty and long-lasting flowers, has made hobbyists of many consumers.

"While attending the OSWP Spring Orchid Show, we found out about the Society and thought it would be a fun way to connect with other people who share in this hobby. Especially as we had not been growing orchids for very long."

Aaron has advice for growers. "Don't stress the small things. It is possible to over-care orchids and kill them. They are hardier than you think."



## OSWP MEETING MINUTES – October 15, 2023

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

A mini-class presented by Zander Morrison entitled "Spooky Orchids" began at 1:00 pm.

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:00 pm by Co-Presidents Michelle and Dave Panasiuk.

### *New Business*

#### Meeting Improvements

OSWP purchased a new, portable PA system - Light weight, compact, Bluetooth that can be used in the Spartan Center as well as at the Spring Orchid Show.

### *Reports*

Treasurer - Janet Greenberg provided information on the status of the OSWP accounts.

Pfun / P-OSI - Sheila reminded the members that Pfun is now providing volunteers at Phipps on Wednesday and Thursday. During this time we continue to replot the orchids in the Phipps collection, update the inventory and do general cleanup in the orchid greenhouse. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Demetria Marsh.

American Orchid Society/ Culture Corner - Nancy Kline continues in her role as the OSWP liaison to the American Orchid Society. She is also available to answer questions regarding orchids grown by OSWP members. Orchids can either be brought to an OSWP meeting (in a bag if there are questions regarding bugs...) or via email with photos.

Membership - Kathy Collins. There were approximately 81 nonrenewals for this fiscal year. 66 of those were members who had joined at the 2022 Spring Show.

Newsletter - Dave Panasiuk noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month. Submissions should be sent to Dave at: Letsgroworchids@gmail.com

Orchid Gems - Norma Raiff noted that the 3 Orchid Gem writers rotate who is writing articles each month and that they try to highlight our many varied OSWP members (members who are new to OSWP, members who have been around a long time, etc.).

Hospitality - Carolyn Bolton noted that OSWP members are encouraged to contribute treats to the meetings.

Library - Lori Beth Bloom noted that she is bringing books from the OSWP library to each meeting. The list of books owned and available is being updated and will be placed on the OSWP website as well as available for review at the meetings.

*SHOW AND TELL.* A number of plants were viewed and identified by OSWP members as part of the "Show and Tell" portion of the meeting.

*RAFFLE.* Susan Levish took home this month's raffle prize (a Cattleya in full bud). OSWP profit from raffle was \$63. Plant was purchased and donated by Natalie.

*SPRING SHOW COMMITTEE.* The Spring Show Committee (Sheila Nathanson, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg) provided an update for the 2024 OSWP Show. New members are highly encouraged to participate in Show preparation and throughout the weekend when many volunteers are needed. The various show committee chairpersons were identified.

Still needed to fill:

- Committee Chair for Show Publicity. Form letters need to be sent out in November and January to local media outlets. OSWP can provide a list of the outlets and contacts. Dave Motak will prepare a press release. Please contact any member of the Committee if you are able to assist in this area;
- Garden Club Liaison to coordinate OSWP presentations and encourage attendance at the Spring Show.

Abby Warhola designed 3 options for the show poster. The members at the meeting were able to review the 3 options and chose the poster featuring the yellow orchids.

### *LOGO CONTEST*

OSWP has received 7 submissions thus far. The deadline for submitting a Logo is October 31st. No photographs can be accepted, must be either a graphic design or an art clip.

The 2024 Meeting Dates were provided:

January 21, 2024 - Spartan Center	February 18, 2024 - Spartan Center
March 2024, Spring Show	April 21, 2024 - Spartan Center
May 19, 2024 - Spartan Center	June 9, 2024 - Spartan Center
July 2024 - Picnic, TBD	August 2024 - no meeting
Sept. 15, 2024 - Spartan Center	October 20, 2024 - Spartan Center
November 10, 2024 - Spartan Center	December 2024 - Holiday Party, TBD

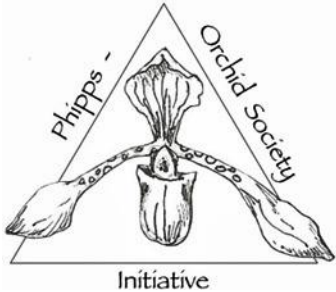
2023 Dates to Remember:

November 12, 2023 - regular OSWP meeting - Spartan Center  
December 10 (Holiday Party) - Crowne Plaza Pittsburgh

*GUEST SPEAKER* (2:30 pm) - Eric Sauer of River Valley Orchids in Dayton gave a presentation on maxillarias.

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.

November, 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 with virus-testing too. **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:** **Margie Radebaugh**, Phipps Director of Horticulture and a very important person for the Phipps Orchid Collection, P-OSI and Pfun, is retiring in mid-November. She will be greatly missed. We are grateful to Margie for all her help and wish her a Happy Retirement.

**Ben Dunigan**, Phipps current Collections Manager, is being promoted to Margie's position as 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*** opening November 17<sup>th</sup>, 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

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

412-848-4349







**The Orchid Society  
of Western Pennsylvania**

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The propagation, horticulture and preservation of  
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**March 16 & 17, 2024**  
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**LEARN MORE AT [WWW.OSWP.ORG](http://WWW.OSWP.ORG)**

11/12 MEETING SPEAKER Dr. Bill Goldner (mini Phrags)

11/12 MINI CLASS guest info will follow in an eBlast.