



# Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Jan. 2020

www.oswp.org

## Upcoming Events

January 19, 2020

**James Yamber**  
“Off to Ecuador”

## Looking Ahead

2020 - February 16 Orchid Show review at Phipps  
with Katie  
2020 - March 14 & 15 OSWP Spring Show  
“An Orchid Journey”

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](http://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 Chevront**

**Treasurer: Janet Greenberg**

### What's Blooming Now

#### Orchid Story & Origins

The name orchid is derived from the Greek word “orkhis”. This exotic flower was named by an ancient Greek botanist named Theophrastos who thought that the fleshy underground tubers resembled the male anatomy.

There are many types of orchids, with over 20,000 species in the world. One of the most popular orchids is the moth orchid, which got its name from the fact that their flowers were first mistaken as moths when they were first discovered by Swedish naturalist, Peter Osbeck.

Orchid Meanings: Due to their namesake, orchids are associated with fertility, virility, and sexuality. These associations, coupled with their exotic appearance, have given them a long history of being associated with love, fertility and elegance throughout various cultures and time periods.

- One of the major orchid genera is Paphiopedilum. The name is derived from the word “Paphos” which is the name of the temple where the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite, was worshiped.
- In Ancient Greece, it was believed that parents could choose the sex of their child by eating the orchid’s tubers. If the father ate thick, fleshier tubers, the child would turn out to be a male. If the mother ate smaller, thinner tubers, the child would turn out to be a female.
- Aztecs commonly mixed vanilla, a type of orchid, with chocolate to create an elixir that brought on power and strength.
- During the Victorian age, orchids were only found in the tropics and were extremely rare. Therefore, Victorians would collect exotic orchids as a sign of luxury and refined taste. When given as a gift, the more rare the orchid, the deeper your love and passion was for the receiver.

### Orchis morio



Photo File:Orchis morio (Green-winged Orchid) Specimen in Derby Museum herbarium.jpg

## **President's Letter January 2020**

Happy 2020!!!!

First, a big thank you to Carolyn Bolton, who once again, made our Holiday Party happen. Carolyn does the planning, the buying, the transport, the decorating and the clean-up. And she does it with wonderful holiday spirit and grace. Thanks, too, to Dave Miller who presented his program on "Orchid Labels and How to Read Them." To all of those who helped with setting up the party and then cleaning up too, a big thank you! It was a wonderful afternoon of orchids, fun, food and friendship!

HELP WANTED: The Akron Orchid Society, one of the many societies Dave and Mary Jo Miller support, is having its Orchid Show the weekend before ours, 3/6 – 3/8/20. Carolyn Bolton, Carol Panza and Val Robey have volunteered to lead a team to set up and break down an exhibit at Akron from our society. Please let them know if you would be willing to help. The more the merrier.

Speaking of shows J . . . our own show is coming up mid-March, 3/13 – 3/15/20, at the Crown Plaza Hotel by South Hills Village. Please be sure to volunteer to help make our show a success all around!

A quick review of some of the events of the past year besides our wonderful mini-classes and speakers: several members represented the OSWP, Phipps and the BTSOC at the Paph Forum in DC; our wonderful March Orchid Show at Artsmiths; May new members reception; OSWP Pic-A-Nic; another new location found for our orchid show: Crowne Plaza Hotel on Fort Couch Road across from South Hills Village; Highmark Living Expo and our Holiday Party. As always, Pfun and P-OSI at Phipps continue to do their great work. Several members implemented new ideas: Culture Corner to answer members questions at each meeting, Garden Club and Library Liaison, to reach out to let interested organizations learn about orchids, our orchid show and the OSWP, and our Monthly Raffle to help raise money as our show moves to another new location. Lots of wonderful orchid events and members helping us learn more about orchids and help others learn as well.

It is also a time to pause and remember in our hearts members who have passed this year. Most recently, David Curtis, who joined a few years ago. Our sympathy goes to his husband, Scott Jones. Others we remember: Bill Kalupanov, Autumn Colby, Georgene Albrecht and Chris Moore. We hold them and their families in our hearts. Celebrate every precious day.

And now, an idea for a new year's resolution: volunteer to help with the society, Pfun or P-OSI, and/or our show or other tasks. We need your ideas, your energy, your work. It takes all of us to continue to grow strong.

Sending good wishes for a happy, healthy new year filled with good growth.

Demetria Marsh,

OSWP President

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demetria117@gmail.com

## **Program for our meeting Sunday, January 19, 2020**

Speaker – Our Society Member and Friend; Jim Yamber  
Trip to Ecuador and the orchids in that country.

We are off to Ecuador South America, but why? It was an opportunity I could not miss. I will discuss the interesting things of the country and the many orchids that grow naturally through out this country from sea level to high in the Andes. We will talk about the conditions the orchids survive in, extreme for us but perfect for these unusual plants. I also traveled to Ecuador during the '70s and spent three weeks collecting orchids and cactuses. I edit our newsletter, have served on just about every position on the OSWP Board up to and including VP. Insatiable curiosity. Inveterate storyteller. OSWP's own Santa Claus back in the days when our Holiday Party was a big family affair. And I have been raising chickens since way before they were the "in" thing. I have been growing orchids for over 60+ years. As I recall, I used to faithfully listen to a Saturday morning television show hosted by the legendary Frank Curto, principal Horticulturalist of Phipps Conservatory. One of these shows featured orchids and I was entranced. "Well, I was really taken with that. I went downtown to Kaufmann's department store and bought Rebecca Northern's 'Home Orchid Growing' for \$10. Then bought my first orchid: a Cattleya from Rod McClellan Co. What followed was predictable. I studied Conservation Wildlife Management (SW Missouri State University) and my collection continued to grow. I even collected orchids in the wild while in the Navy (this is way before CITES and its current prohibitions) "and inspecting officers never said anything when I brought them back on ship." My growing areas encompass just about every conceivable niche and condition: "I grow in the greenhouse, grow native orchids outside in my yard, and under lights in the basement and on window sills." Greenhouse #3: I bought the Raiff's greenhouse

My collection now numbers around 300 orchids. I remained faithful to a longstanding interest in Cattleyas. My two favorites are C. Bess Truman (a large white/purple throated "corsage orchid" named after our former first lady who often wore orchids) and BLC. Norman's Bay 'Low' (a fantastic purple Cattleya awarded in 1959). I have modified my greenhouse to accommodate both warm and cool growers. "The way to do it is to have a fan blowing the warm air from the stove onto the tropicals so they have their own climate." My only mistake I have made as an orchid grower was watching Frank Curto on Saturday morning, because then I became addicted to orchids.

I joined the society after attending the 1971 OSWP show. I wanted to grow my collection and was searching for a local resource that also featured important national vendors. So we are off to Ecuador for the afternoon.

Hope you enjoy the show.

**LOCATION: PHIPPS GARDEN CENTER IN SHADYSIDE**

Meeting 2:15 p.m.

Because this speaker will not be bringing orchids to sell, members may bring items to sell during this meeting. If you have any questions, please feel to reach me -

Lori McDermott Co-Program Chair / 412-247-0397 / [lorimcdermott@comcast.net](mailto:lorimcdermott@comcast.net)\_

## **Orchid Plant raffle**

At the December holiday party we raffled off a Maudie type Paph with a bud that was just starting to open. We raised \$121 towards the spring show and Val Robey was our lucky winner!

If you have ideas on how to make the raffle even better or are interested in donating a plant OR funds for a plant, please contact Natalie Turicik or fill out this survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JW76K5L>

## **Mini-class**

Carolyn Bolton has very generously agreed to present a mini- class on exhibiting.

Bring your questions about grooming, trimming, staking, etc. to the January 19 OSWP meeting.

Mini - class begins at 1:30 .

## **Culture Corner**

Have questions? We all do. If you want a 'consultation' with OSWP orchid growers, please bring your questions to a meeting. Nancy Kline will be near the Membership and Raffle tables to try to help you with your growing issues. If possible, bring the whole plant but at least several good photos. If you are able to bring the whole plant, please put it in a plastic bag to prevent any possible contamination of other orchids, assuming it may have a pest or disease. See you there.

## Orchid Gems: Deborah Roth:

By: Cristina Eyler

This month's Orchid Gem is someone who is a very familiar person to the Phipps Conservatory; Deborah (Debbie) Roth! She has been a Master Gardener there for six years and does seeding and propagation of a variety of herbs and flowers for them once a week. This wonderful lady with the greenest of green thumbs originally grew up in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, but moved to Savannah, GA after she and her husband, Dennis, retired. It was in Savannah where Debbie first became a Master Gardener. Savannah was also the place she received her first orchids.

As with a lot of us, Debbie was gifted a few phalaenopsis and she tried to keep them alive, but several of them had died. One of her funniest mistakes happened with these first orchids. "I knew they didn't grow in soil, so I thought they just absorbed the moisture from the air and didn't need water. Plus, whenever I would water them, the water would just drain right out! Inevitably, the leaves shriveled from dehydration and they died."

Eventually, Debbie tried something a little different. "I put one of the orchids outside on the way to the garbage in Savannah because I thought it was dead, but it rebloomed! It was a Phal and loved the shade and humidity in that spot!" From that moment on, she was hooked on orchids. Upon moving back to Pittsburgh, Debbie discovered the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania and in March 2018, she joined the Society at the Orchid Show.

"I thought the orchids were so beautiful. I love coming to the meetings and learning so many new things about caring for these orchids. The members are so good about sharing their knowledge with others. Even if I'm not interested in the particular talk or mini-class topic, I still attend because other useful information always comes up." Debbie has learned a tremendous amount in a short amount of time. "I really appreciate the Orchid Society members and their knowledge. They are fantastic!" She would love to be able to come to more meetings, but she has been a dedicated Bridge player for the past two and a half years and weekend game events can sometimes conflict.

Now, Debbie's collection consists of twenty-four orchids. The collection consists of mainly phalaenopsis, but she also has three dendrobiums, two oncidiums, one cattleya ("It was a present and I don't know anything about it!"), and one brand new toolumnia. "I don't have a greenhouse, but I have windowsills. I also have a card table with a light over it so I can fit in a few more orchids. Of course, there isn't any temperature or humidity control." Her husband has expressed a desire to get her a greenhouse, but she has been resistant to that idea. "I just know if I have a greenhouse then I won't have time for anything else!"



Currently, Debbie also does a lot of outdoor gardening. She is a Master Gardener, after all! She currently has a sunny garden, a shade garden, and a sun/shade garden. "The outdoor garden has perennials everywhere, but dahlias mainly in the sunny spot." The soil was different in Savannah, so when she moved



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back to Pittsburgh and the different climate, she had to learn a few new tricks and tips which is part of what led her to start volunteering at Phipps.

Debbie is also a retired speech-language pathologist. She used to work in elementary schools helping the students. "I became interested in speech-language pathology when I took an introductory class in college. It sounded interesting to me and I wanted to help people." Eventually, Debbie came to earn her Masters Degree in this field.

Along with all this talent, Debbie can also add sailing to the list. She and Dennis had owned a thirty-seven-foot sailboat. For several years they spent five months during the winter living aboard. They would sail from Annapolis all the way to the Caribbean. "We had to know a little bit about everything because we would be out on the water all on our own." They were their own utility company providing electricity, refrigeration, making water, in charge of plumbing problems, navigating, and maintaining just about everything that went wrong! Debbie's favorite parts of sailing were sailing at night and meeting other cruisers.

Debbie and her husband also have a son and a daughter who each have children of their own. Their son has two boys and her daughter has two girls!

### **OSWP Member Passing**

We are sad to announce the passing of David Curtis, an OSWP member. His husband, Scott Jones, let us know of his passing. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Scott. Scott is donating all of David's orchids and growing equipment to the OSWP. The OSWP will be selling and auctioning David's collection at the January meeting. Scott is donating over 30 orchids, from C. Greenwich 'elmhurst' fcc/aos to phrag. Fritz schomberg to phal. Equestris var. Coerulea. We are grateful for Scott's thoughtful donation and hope to give David's orchids good homes.

### **Mid America Orchid Congress**

The Miami Valley Orchid Society will be hosting the Mid America Orchid Congress as a part of our Spring Show at Cox Arboretum in Dayton, Ohio, February 15-16, 2020- We have two great speakers lined up and a great dinner planned-

Glen Decker, formally of Piping Rock Orchids

Phragmipediums, It's Hybrids and How to Grow Them My Life with Slippers

David Haelterman, Cali Columbia Orchids of Colombia in their native habitats: a huge richness to conserve in an incredibly biodiverse country. Maxillaria of Colombia: one of the most diverse genera but yet poorly understood.

Here is a link to the website for more information and registration:

2020 Spring Mid America Orchid Congress

We would recommend registering soon because we have a limit on seating space!

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Eric

Eric Sauer

President and Newsletter Editor

Miami Valley Orchid Society

937-212-0462 [www.miamivalleyorchidsociety.com](http://www.miamivalleyorchidsociety.com)

## **OSWP show, An Orchid Journey**

The annual OSWP show, An Orchid Journey, will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, across from South Hills Village Mall, on March 13 - 15 , 2020 . Set up and registration will be on Friday, March 13 , starting at 8am. As usual, the more hands on deck, the quicker set up will be. We have the space until 10 pm.

On Saturday, March 14 , judging will begin at 8 am. Therefore, exhibits will not be open to the public until 12 noon. Vendors will be open from 9 am until 5 pm. Exhibits will be kept available until 6 pm.

On Sunday, March 15 , exhibits and vendors will be open from 9 am until 4 pm. That is another time when we need help breaking down and packing up.

Kathy Arria will be in charge of the Society Exhibit for the first time, so if you feel the need to express yourself with orchids, let her know you can help.

We are creating a program booklet this year, as a way to generate income, since our show is free to the public. If you frequent a business, especially in the South Hills, that you think might be interested in a sponsorship , we will have order forms available as well.

We will be passing clipboards at the January meeting, so think about what you'd like to do to participate in making our show a success.

If you have plants that might cooperate with the show schedule, consider exhibiting. Jim Yamber is the person you need to speak to about getting a space.

Whatever you can do to help will be much appreciated.

Sheila Nathanson , Norma Raiff , Tamara Wurst

## **Current Committees Chairs,**

AOS	Nancy Kline
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Chevront
Garden Club/	
Library Liaison	Karen Gibson
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton
Library	Rosa Graudins
Membership	Val Robey
Mini-class	Sheila Nathanson
Newsletter	Jim Yamber
Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter- Moore, Cristina Eyler
Pfun	Nancy Kline
P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Show	Sheila Nathanson, Tammy Wurst, Norma Raiff
Speaker	Lori McDermott, Tim Choltco
Website	Jinghua Ou

## **The Paphiopedilum Forum**

will be held on January 25, 2020, at the U.S. National Arboretum, in Washington D.C.

The National Capital Orchid Society Show will be held February 15-17, 2020, at Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville, MD, near Annapolis.

For more information on these two events, closer to the events, go to the National Capital Orchid Society website at <https://ncos.us/ncos-show-2020/>.



## Pfun at Phipps in January

The holidays are over and things are settling down but NOT at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. January is such a busy month with the Orchid and Bonsai Show opening and preparations for the Spring Show to follow.

Due to so much going on at Phipps, we will have NO Pfun repotting dates.

However, look for emails from me for help setting up for the show. In particular, we will need volunteers to help stake orchids for display. This probably will be the first week of January.

If you have been working individually with Katie, thanks. Do not forget to send me your hours so I can log it on the OSWP record. We have reached 500 hours this year and probably much more as some of the individual efforts are not being recorded.

Always, thank you for this commitment.

If you need me, nancyk412@gmail.com call or text 412.367.1556

Nancy Kline



OSWP members unpacking newly arrived orchids in Phipps greenhouse which will be used for the orchid display at Phipps.

### New Members Corner

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member(s) to OSWP: **Christine Zanis**  
Val Robey Membership Chair



## **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](http://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](mailto:OSWPtrasurer@gmail.com)

PayPal-Please click on "Friends and Family" (no fee assessed OSWP)

Or PayPal, via [OSWP.org](http://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



Orchid Society of Western  
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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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**Upcoming 2020 speakers**

FUTURE PROGRAMS

January 19, 2020

James Yamber  
“Off to Ecuador”

More to come for the future programs for 2020



**WANTED**

THE AMERICAN ORCHID  
SOCIETY JUDGING PROGRAM  
IS SEEKING HIGHLY  
MOTIVATED ORCHID  
ENTHUSIASTS TO JOIN THE  
JUDGING RANKS.  
TEAMWORK, WILLINGNESS  
TO LEARN AND ENTHUSIASM  
ARE PARAMOUNT  
QUALIFICATIONS. THERE ARE  
NO AGE OR GEOGRAPHIC  
RESTRICTIONS.



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