June 2020

www.oswp.org

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Upcoming Events

June 28 2020

Jason Fischer

watch for an eBlast on Jason's talk and if there will be plants for sale.

Looking Ahead

2020 – July 26th at Phipps Garden Center. Picnic	
2020 – August	**No Meeting**
2020 – September	**TBA**

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
Secretary : Lance Cheuvront
Treasurer: Janet Greenberg
Directors: Don Ammon, Mike Lysy, Kim McClelland, John Whiting and Cristina Eyler

What's Blooming Now **OSWP**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT OUR JUNE 28TH ANNUAL MEETING

Because of so many variables, the OSWP Board will decide about our June 28th Annual Meeting by June 14th, when we may have more information.

Please watch for an Eblast by the 14th telling about the meeting's status.

If you do not get email, please call the OSWP President on June 15th to find out about our June meeting.

photo by Jim Yamber

President's Letter June 2020

Hello, dear Orchid Friends,

As we wait a few more days to learn if we are having an in person June annual meeting or Zoom meeting, I want to thank you all for your patience and forbearance as we navigate these uncharted COVID-19 waters. Luckily we can be guided by common sense and our love of family, friends and orchids.

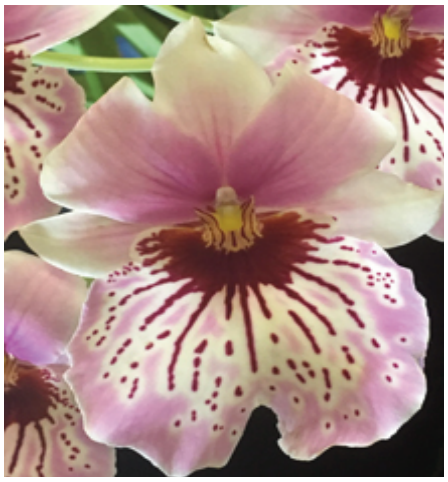
At our June annual meeting our members are needed to vote on:
The amendment to our bylaws, approved by the board, to allow our treasurer or secretary to hold office for more than two consecutive terms (Article V, Section 6 to read: "With the exception of the Treasurer or Secretary, no Officer or Director shall serve more than two consecutive terms per position.");
The slate of officers for the upcoming year (July, 2020 – June, 2021).
(The slate of officers is listed in this newsletter.); and
Confirm the selection of Nancy Kline and Mike Lysy, approved by the board, as OSWP Lifetime Members for their many years of extraordinary service to the OSWP.

In the meantime, we are trying to keep our orchid connection going thru several means:
ONLINE SHOW AND TELL:
OSWP WEBSITE:
- and -
OSWP FACEBOOK PAGE:
https://www.facebook.com/orchidsocietyofwesternpennsylvania

If you have photos of your orchids you would like to share, please send to Jinghua Ou, our webmaster :

- and - to Lance Cheuvront, our social media guru: with the name of your orchid and any other info.
- Also, Jim Yamber can Eblast your photos:

As I leave office this month, there are many people to thank for their fine service to the OSWP: our current officers and board members, our show chairs, our OSWP committee chairs and show committee chairs and many others who work behind the scenes to keep us a functioning and growing organization. A special thanks to the incoming slate of officers and board members who are willing to serve the OSWP for the next few years. If you haven't already volunteered to help the OSWP grow stronger, sign up in the next few months for a role in helping out. It's a great way to learn more about orchids and our members, two wonderful goals.



Looking forward to seeing you on June 28th in person or virtually.
Be well, celebrate every day and think orchids!
Demetria
Demetria Marsh

412-848-4349

Orchid Gems – Michelle and Dave Parasiuk

Orchid Gems – Michelle and Dave Parasiuk

Ready to Participate

by Pam Horter-Moore

While we were in Covid-19 lockdown, we had an opportunity to learn about Michelle Panasiuk's orchids and growing conditions in an OSWP Orchid Culture Connection eblast. However, we couldn't resist interviewing her and her husband Dave for the OSWP newsletter, especially in light of their contribution to the success of our recent Orchid Show and active participation in community service.

How long have you been a member of OSWP?

Three years.

Why did you join?

We joined after meeting Tim Choltco at the Orchid Plant Sale at Phipps a few years ago. We didn't know much about orchids, so he helped us pick out some plants. He had so much information to share. We bought about 15 different orchids that no beginner would ever have had the opportunity to purchase for $1, $2 and $5, and most of them are still alive today. We were overwhelmed by the variety of orchids that were available, and we developed a passion for the hobby then and there. Seeing Tim's OSWP name tag led us to inquire about the Society, and so here we are.

Can you tell us about your experiences participating in the recent OSWP Orchid Show?

Michelle: We really enjoyed participating in the orchid show. Dave and I prepared the show trophies and ran the raffle table. The portable mic and speaker that we had originally used when we were giving tours of the Pittsburgh City Parks came in handy because Dave ended up handling some of the announcements during the course of the show. We had attended previous shows but really had no idea of how much work went into them and how many people dedicated their time toward their success. Considering that the show was held on the first weekend of the Covid-19 closures, we were happy that it was so successful. We were excited to meet so many member volunteers whom we hadn't known very well before. Our new friends shared a lot of history and instruction with us. We had such a great time on the first day of the show that we decided to get a room at the Crown Plaza Hotel so we could be there early in the morning on the second day of the show!

I understand that you volunteer at Phipps. What do you do there?

Michelle: I have been volunteering at Phipps every Tuesday for the past seven years. I start my day in the Orchid Room helping to tidy up before Phipps is open to guests. Then I water the orchids in the greenhouse. The second half of my day at Phipps is spent helping in the other greenhouses. I do a variety of jobs, such as seeding, repotting, deadheading, and installing seasonal displays. There is always something that needs to be done! Dave: My dear loving wife is the Phipps volunteer. I visit occasionally to make sure she comes home.

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

Are there other organizations that you work with or other things that you enjoy doing?

Michelle: I enjoy attending plant-related lectures and classes. I've been a Master Gardener since 2014 and have recently received a certificate for Sustainable Horticulture. I am currently working to complete a certificate for Landscape and Garden Design.

Dave: I am president of the Oakcliffe Community Organization, and have served on the Board of Directors of Venture Outdoors, Oakland Business Improvement District, and the Southside Chamber of Commerce.

Michelle and I both enjoy local Pittsburgh history, and love to share it with others as we hike around town looking for traces of the past. We are the owners of Dave's Music Mine, a music store formerly on Carson Street in Pittsburgh's South Side neighborhood. We are both honored recipients of the Jefferson Award for Public Service as nominated by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

What is your philosophy of life?

There is an old Polish saying: "Nie bądź ciepłym kluski." "Don't be a warm noodle."

Are there any thoughts that you would like to share?

Don't be afraid to volunteer. You will enjoy your time with others more than you would think. And don't be afraid to approach other members with what you think might be stupid questions. You'll find that there are many different opinions within the Society, and you won't know what works for you unless you ask.

Pictures from Past OSWP Shows

Votes of the OSWP Board

Annual Budget
On April 27th and 28th the board was presented with the annual budget by our Treasurer Janet Greenberg. A motion to approve the budget was made by Sheila Nathanson and Seconded by Lance Cheuvront and passed unanimously.

June Meeting Status
On May 13th 2020 a motion was made by Mike Lysy to post in the newsletter that we will decide on the June 28th meeting by June 14th and let people know via Eblast. (Non-internet members can call Demetria. The motion was seconded by Sheila Nathanson and passed by majority board vote.

The following votes were held by the board in the last month.

Lifetime Membership
On March 20th the board was asked to nominate two members to be granted lifetime membership in the OSWP due to their support and commitment to the Society. Two members were nominated by Demetria Marsh and were unanimously approved by the board. The names will be announced and the membership will be asked to vote on the Lifetime memberships at the next general meeting.

Location for OSWP's 2021 Annual Show
On May 2nd 2020 After discussion about the viability of possibly participating in the Home & Garden Show. A motion was made by Don Ammon and Seconded by Cristina Eyler to instead sign a contract with Crowne Plaza for the OSWP 2021 Annual Orchid Show. The vote was unanimous.

It's a First and YOU are invited!!!

New Member Zoom Meeting!

* We just can't wait any longer!
* We can't meet in person, but we DO want to meet you!·
* AND we want to introduce you to some friendly faces, experienced growers, available resources, and interesting opportunities of the **Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania!**

Date: Sunday, June 14, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm +/-

Via: Zoom – RSVP to Val Robey, Membership Chairperson, at vrobey71@gmail.com by June 10 to receive your personal invitation to this special event.

New Members Corner

Val Robey, Membership Chair

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member(s) to OSWP:

Joanne Mantha and Jessica Metchell

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE
Fiscal Year 07/01/20-06/30/21.

(Does not apply to those who joined at Spring Show or libraries in 2020)
Individual: $20; Family $25; Add $15 for mailed newsletter.

We are trying to make renewal as easy as possible for everyone.
Using PayPal to pay via a debit or credit card is very simple.
DID YOU KNOW: You do not need to have a PayPal account.

DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1. **PayPal -HIGHLY recommended for Ease of Use.**
   - **DON'T HAVE A PAYPAL ACCOUNT?**
     Just sign into OSWP.org. Go to memberships and ***Use the buttons to pay via PayPal.***
     No need to sign in to PayPal. Select " Pay with Debit or Credit Card".
   - **OR WITH OWN PAYPAL ACCOUNT:**
     Use email address and choose "Friends and Family" (no fee assessed OSWP).
2. **Send check payable to "OSWP" to** Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr. McMurray, PA 15317-3212.
3. **Submit "OSWP" check at a regular monthly meeting to Treasurer, Janet Greenberg**

Election of Officers

It is time to elect new offices and members of the board. Here is the revised list of members who have agreed to serve for the next 2 years. Election is at the June meeting.

Co-Presidents	Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse
Co-First Vice Presidents	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Second Vice President	Timothy Choltco
Secretary	Lance Cheuvront
Treasurer	Janet Greenberg
Directors	Brooke Decker
	Peg Kalupanov
	Jinghua Ou
	Aaron Vitron
	Tamara Wurst.

Pfun at Phipps Still Watching and Waiting

Certainly you are all as anxious as I am to get back to the greenhouse BUT we must wait a bit longer. Things should open up soon and I will let everyone know when we can return to our favorite place.
Stay well and in touch.
Nancy Kline
nancyk412@gmail.com
412-367-1556

COMING SOON – FIRST DRAFT OF THE OSWP SPRING DIRECTORY

** VIA EMAIL!!! **

Hello again, Member!

If you have not already done so, PLEASE RESPOND BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 6.

I sent out two emails:

To New Members – requesting confirmation of your contact info along with a questionnaire to help us get to know you better. I've received about 25% response.

To Renewing Members -- asking for confirmation of your contact info.

Please check your directory info as listed in that email for accuracy. Also, if you would like to add your mobile phone number, now would be a great time to do that.

Please respond to vrobey71@gmail.com with any changes or mobile phone number additions.

Thank you!

Val Robey, Membership Chair

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Clara Ruth Gibson was born at West Penn Hospital on May 15,2020

to parents Karen Gibson(our Garden Club/Library liaison) and Ryuji Kusumoto.

She's joined at home by big brothers Harry and Jack Gibson.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront
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

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

First Class Mail

James Yamber (editor)
380 Western Ave.
Oakdale, Pa. 15071

quail1@verizon.net

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

Materials under copyright
use or reprint by permission.

Upcoming 2020 speaker

FUTURE PROGRAMS
June 28, 2020

Jason Fischer

See you in June

More to come for the future programs for 2020