



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

March 2022

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

March 19 & 20 2022

OSWP Spring show "The Joy of Orchids"

Looking Ahead

Meetings will continue on Zoom for now

April 24 2022 Carri Raven, *Phalaenopsis* Species:

From Mega to Micro (ZOOM)

May 15 2022 Dave Miller, Picking the Right Plant

June 19 2022 Edgar Stehli, *Bulbophyllum*

" UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES "

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

HOWEVER, we are on Zoom for meetings , and those interested non members could use the 'contact us ' section of the website to get a Zoom invitation

OSWP Officers

Co-President: Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse

Secretary: open

Co-First Vice President: Kathleen Arria and David Springer

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco

Directors: Brooke Decker, Peg Kalupanov, Jinghua Ou, Aaron Vitron, Tamara Wurst.

What's Blooming Now

The Joy of Orchids



Co-President's Letter March 2022

President's Letter For March, 2022

These mild days (for February) have us thinking ahead to the balmy days of Spring. The days are growing longer, and my cattleyas are starting to produce new growths. This is the time to start , if you don't already, to increase the frequency of fertilizer for them, preferably one with added calcium and magnesium. I'm also watching for new growths on the catasetum- they are mostly dormant and have not been watered since late fall, but look closely and you may see tiny new growth coming from the old bulb. This is the perfect time, before they have developed roots, to repot if needed. Even though they are dormant, just this once you can wet them to remove the old potting mix (usually mostly sphagnum moss) and move them to fresh medium, then, back to bed until those new roots are around 4" long. Thank you to all participants at our meeting on Sunday, 2/20, at home and at Botany Hall. Thanks especially to Jim Yamber, for making the magic of Zoom happen, to Natalie Turicik for the very informative mini-class on LED lights and orchids, and Kristen Uthus of New World Orchids, tempting us with miniature orchids. You sure can fit a lot of those on a windowsill!

Later this month we are back to SHOW TIME - March 17,18,19 and 20. We are back at the Crowne Plaza Hotel across from South Hills Village Mall, the site of our 2020 show, when the world shut down when we did. We are certainly hoping for a radically different situation this time. Volunteers are filling up the sign up schedule, ttsu.me/oswp2022, but there are still many jobs waiting for someone to step up. Working at the show is fun and rewarding, and you get free admission and lunch! Look over your plants- if you have something nice in bloom, be sure you put your name on the plant label, and bring it in on Friday to be included in the Society Exhibit. Our membership chair, Kathy Collins, brought a No Id phal in dark pink for the Society Exhibit in 2020, and won 'Best Phalaenopsis, Amateur'. Very impressive ! Be well, enjoy the mild days when we have them, think orchids and see you at the show.

Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lysy, co- presidents OSWP

Our April meeting, scheduled for 4/17, has been moved to 4/24. Please note this on your calendar.



On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!!!!

Where? Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens!

After an absence of 2 years, we are BAAACK!

Some things have changed: we welcome new orchid grower Giovanni Giraldo, PhD. Giovanni is working with Ben Dunigan to maintain and improve the orchid collection. We will be working more closely with the volunteer director, Deb Knorr.

dknorr@phipps.conservatory.org Each volunteer will meet briefly with Deb on their first day of volunteering and receive information on using Phipps' Volgistics system for logging hours. This approximates the system that other Phipps volunteers have been using for years. Each volunteer will add his/her volunteer hours on the site.

Easy, I promise!

We will have 2 days a week, Monday and Thursday, when we will be volunteering with Giovanni. Morning hours: 9:30 until 12:30.

Please, let Demetria or Nancy know if these days work for you and how available you can be. Anyone who prefers a regular assignment will happily be assigned that date.

If you can start soon, we are looking for volunteers on February 28, March 3, 24, 28 and 31. When you respond, please let us know if you are a beginner or experience grower. We pair beginners with experienced growers for the benefit of the volunteer (and the plants). We are briefly on hiatus in mid-March due to our own show preparations.

If this does not work for you, there will be other opportunities through the year. We hope to return to selling orchids on weekends and other responsibilities that will not be on our usual Monday and Thursday dates.

Let us know,

Demetria Marsh demetria117@gmail.com

Nancy Kline nancyk412@gmail.com



Orchid Gems Dave Motak

Orchid Gems – To Cracow and Beyond: Dave Motak

By Pamela Jean Horter-Moore

When people spend a little time talking with Dave Motak, they are immediately caught up by his enthusiasm, thirst for knowledge, and sense of adventure.

Dave is internationally 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... (<http://davidmotak.com/>).” However, one gets the impression that Dave could do any number of things and be successful in all of them.



A native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Dave had an opportunity to broaden his world when he attended Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania. Through this liberal arts college specializing in Polish and Slavic languages, Dave had an opportunity to study abroad for two years at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland.

Although he was accepted into the masters program at Case-Western, Dave was unable to go. Instead, he knew he'd have to reinvent himself to pursue a career outside language arts. He then entered the hospitality industry which led to a position in the Office of Special Events at the University of Pittsburgh, where he served as “Football Coordinator” to the Chancellor and also produced Pitt’s annual commencement ceremonies. He later served as Director of Alumni Relations and Publications for the Pitt School of Engineering and as Director of Alumni Relations for Point Park University.

While at Pitt, Dave enthusiastically enjoyed the banquet of learning experiences made available to him, expanding his skillset by studying graphic design, public relations, and desktop publishing.

“I am always up to the challenge of new experiences,” Dave remarks. “I have been blessed with many gifts, and it is amazing how each of my positions has tapped into one gift or more to help me reach my goals.”

Dave’s words are brilliantly illustrated by what happened while he was Executive Director at Sweetwater Art Center in Sewickley. The art school was searching for ways to expose its students to unique and extraordinary art forms. Knowing of Dave’s background in Polish culture, a staff member suggested that he run a szopka workshop.

By accepting this challenge, Dave made the transition from student and creator to teacher, and he never would have guessed that the concept would explode into an international

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wonder. Dave eventually began producing szopka workshops around the country and his art creations have been exhibited around the world.

Dave doesn't have to advertise his art, because the requests come to him. Sometimes he has to turn down commissions because of other obligations. Some of his experiences, however, stand out. He was solicited by the prestigious Gagolian Gallery in New York to exhibit his work, for example, and upon another occasion, he and his partner Jack were flown round-trip to Hong Kong for an exhibition of 15 of his art pieces including a specially commissioned work celebrating Christmas in Hong Kong. Dave also became the first American and first foreigner to enter a piece in the annual Szopka Competition in Cracow where he won a special award for artistic excellence. He has received many accolades for his cultural contributions, including the prestigious Work of Art Award from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (2009). On November 10, 2011 he was honored by the Pittsburgh City Council with the proclamation of "David Motak Day" in the City of Pittsburgh.

Dave is internationally recognized for his knowledge of Polish language, art, and culture. His association with the Polish Falcons of America was a perfect fit, and he redesigned and produced their magazine. Not surprisingly, he was induced by his workshop students to host a tour to Cracow. He has since then hosted several popular specialty tours to Poland and Central Europe, each with a different theme. It is hard to separate Dave from his Polish heritage, and, because of his renown, it is always pulling him back.

A subtle change in direction took place when Dave attended an artists' retreat in Denver and was encouraged to shift his artistic focus from his larger szopka pieces to his series of more collectible smaller landmark building façades. Using vintage photos as a reference, Dave generates architectural renderings from which he creates dozens of pattern pieces which are laser cut from illustration board, detailed and assembled. He has created the façade of the Dollar Bank Building, one of the architectural masterpieces in what was once Pittsburgh's financial district on Fourth Avenue. He also recreated the entrance to Luna Park, a turn-of-the-century amusement park in Oakland. Dave's capacity to create and to reinvent himself is just unstoppable.

Dave lives in Brookside Farms with Jack, his partner of 46 years. He only recently joined OSWP, but he was briefly a member years ago. A round of scale infected and killed his collection and he has only now become reengaged in the hobby.

His passion reignited last year, when Dave wanted to send orchids to an injured friend. When he went online to order, he was dazzled by the images. Seeing orchids for sale in color instead of the lifeless descriptions that vendors used to provide on fliers mailed out before the internet was an epiphany, and he couldn't resist getting some for himself.

His fresh introduction to orchids came around the same time as the Covid pandemic, and building his collection became a welcome distraction. His garden room, with its insulated south-facing window, is the perfect plant-friendly environment. He has full-spectrum LED lights that burn 13 hours a day, as well as a humidifier and fans. His collection

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now has 45 orchids.

There are many methods for watering. Dave prefers to place each plant in its own plastic container, and let it soak for an hour in water that has been sitting for ten days to allow chlorine and other chemicals to dissipate. He also keeps a written log on each of his plants. He enjoys *Zygopetalum* and *Cattleya*. “I like the element of surprise,” Dave says. “I love the challenge of getting an orchid to rebloom.”

Dave would like to collect the whole spectrum of *Rossioglossum Grande*, the tiger orchid. He has recently had a magnificent specimen come into bloom.



“It’s nice to be involved with an organization where everyone has a common interest,” he remarks. Dave hopes to assist the OSWP to develop a strategy for promoting and branding the organization.

It’s the common interest that draws people to OSWP, but the gifts and talents of our membership are as diverse as the plants we collect.

Zygopetalum;



Rossioglossum

Education and lectures

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania 2022 Spring Orchid Show March 19: 9am – 5pm & March 20: 9am – 4pm Crowne Plaza Hotel, 164 Fort Church Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Saturday March 19

- 11:00 am** “Expanding Your Growing Area:
Orchids on Windowsills and Under Lights.”
Timothy Choltco – Harbinger Orchids and Exotics
- 12:00 pm** **Cattleya Karma: Beginners Guide
to Growing Cattleya Orchids.”**
Sheila Nathanson – O.S.W.P.
- 1:00 pm** “Slipper Serendipity: Growing
Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium”
Demetria Marsh – O.S.W.P
- 2:00 pm** “Orchid Care 101: Your Questions
And Answered”
Nancy Klein – O.S.W.P
- 3:00 pm** “Sex, Lies, and Orchids: XXX”
Timothy Choltco – Harbinger Orchids and Exotics
- 4:00 pm** “Orchids 101: Phalaenopsis. An
Introduction to the Moth Orchids”
Timothy Choltco – Harbinger Orchids and Exotics

Sunday March 20

- 11:00 am** “Orchids 101: Phalaenopsis. An
Introduction to the Moth Orchids”
Timothy Choltco – Harbinger Orchids and Exotics
- 12:00 pm** **Cattleya Karma: Beginners Guide
to Growing Cattleya Orchids.”**
Sheila Nathanson – O.S.W.P.
- 1:00 pm** “Slipper Serendipity: Growing
Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium”
Demetria Marsh – O.S.W.P
- 2:00 pm** “Orchid Care 101: Your Questions
Answered”
Nancy Klein – O.S.W.P
- 3:00 pm** “Expanding Your Growing Area: Orchids
on Windowsills and Under Lights.”
Timothy Choltco – Harbinger Orchids and Exotics

Current Committees Chairs,

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

2022 OSWP Annual Spring Orchid Show- "Joy of Orchids"

It is hard to believe that we are at this time again- the Show is right around the corner! Specifically March 17 through March 20. Please clear your schedules to be free at that time to get involved. There are jobs for everyone and you could do a different job every day if you choose. You could help with set up on Thursday after 4pm, help create the Society Exhibit (or your own exhibit) on Friday, clerk with the judges on Saturday morning then jump to the repotting area in the afternoon. Sunday you could greet visitors, or urge interested visitors to join the society. Then help with breakdown. The point is: we need many hands to create a beautiful show. Your help will be much appreciated by all.

In the next couple of days I hope to have the online signup tool, Time To Sign Up, running like a top. To access, go to : timetosignup.com, then enter our event name : OSWPspringshow. You will be able to see all the categories of available volunteer opportunities, and sign up in the time slot that works for you.

This endeavor truly takes a village, and I look forward to working with fellow villagers to make our 2022 a great success.

2022 Show Schedule

Thursday,3/17- 4pm - ? Major Set Up

Friday , 3/18- 8am to ? Exhibit Building, Vendor Unloading, Detail Set Up, Registration

Saturday,3/19- 8am-8pm. Judging, Clerking, All Show Activities

Sunday 3/20- 9am-4pm. All Show Activities, Breakdown at 4pm

Sheila Nathanson, Janet Greenberg, Norma Raiff, Show Chairs

Hospitality

An army moves on its stomach and our orchid show army is the same. We love our food. We never go without good food for our show. I am looking for food for the following days.

Friday has breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Saturday breakfast and lunch and snacks

Sunday breakfast and lunch

We cannot cook anything there. We need food to be used without refrigeration other than a cooler. Crock pots are great for hot food.

We cannot clean anything after use so if possible bring food in throwaway containers.

Think about what you can bring and email me. I am in the OSWP membership booklet.

Thanks from your calm caring food ogre, Mike Lysy.

Sent from my Galaxy

OSWP Society Sales Table 2022 Show

Once again we will be selling items at the Society Sales Table. In order to make this run smoothly, there will be a few guidelines for those who are hoping to sell their items. As we had a year off and this is a newer venue, please bear with us to make our table the revenue producing area that it has been. There may be last minute changes, please stay tuned... Make sure items are properly priced and marked with your name or initials. I would suggest 2 stickers as they tend to fall off. If you have the time, a list of your sale items would be great for us to have. Also, if your initials are fairly common, please let us know your name so we can get the proceeds to the proper person.

- Obviously, plants are to be disease and bug-free. Anything we find to be suspect will be isolated and returned. The better your plants look, the more likely they are to sell. If they are not currently blooming, a photo of the plant is always a help. Any specific information that would be helpful can be added to a tag on the plant. People might like to know where you purchased it and any helpful cultural information.
- We are encouraging the sale of orchid items. These are things like: art- work, books, clothing, decorative items, fancy pots and whatever else you can find that has something to do with orchids. No non-orchid plants or other items, please. Again, price them with 2 stickers and don't forget your name.
- We are taking a 20% commission for OSWP. Please price your items accordingly.
- Items can be dropped off any time on Friday, Saturday or even Sunday. Obviously, the longer your plant is available on the sales table, the more opportunity it has to be sold. You MUST plan to retrieve your items by 4pm on Sunday. If you want to know if you have items to take home, call me at 412-367-1556. I will be at the show site and can find that info for you. It is your responsibility to get your items home.
- We can use bags and boxes. Both plastic and paper bags are great. Small boxes help our buyers get the plants home safely.
- There will be NO 'holds' of sale plants before they are purchased. You may pay for the plants, have them packaged and leave them with us.
- This includes plants that are seen before the table is officially open. If you want something desperately, find me and pay for the plant. I will deal with the paperwork later.
Again, NO HOLDING of any items.
- A record of sales will be submitted to Janet Greenberg, Treasurer, within a few days of the end of the show. Your check will come from the OSWP treasury.
- Some help will be needed on both Saturday and Sunday. Please contact me if you are interested in working with our sale items. It will be in your interest to work at this table if you have plants for sale. No one can describe your plants better than you. We particularly need help on Saturday morning, 9 am to noon. The vendor area will be open and many of our members are involved with judging so we need anyone who is not judging to help with sales.

With your help we can make this a profitable endeavor for members and the society alike. Nancy Kline: nancyk412@gmail.com 412-367-1556



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 2022 speaker

**OSWP Spring show
“The Joy of Orchids”
March 19&20, 2022**

More to come for the future programs for 2022



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