



# Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

July 2023

[www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org)

## Upcoming Events

July, 2023

### OSWP Picnic

## Looking Ahead

August No meeting or newsletter.  
See you all in September  
when the summer is through

OSWP meetings are held at the **Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood** at 134 E Elizabeth St in Pittsburgh. are open to members, their guests and the general public. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.  
Program Calendar is also available at [www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org)

### OSWP Officers

**Co-President:** Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

**Secretary:** Kathy Collins

**Co-First Vice President:** Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton

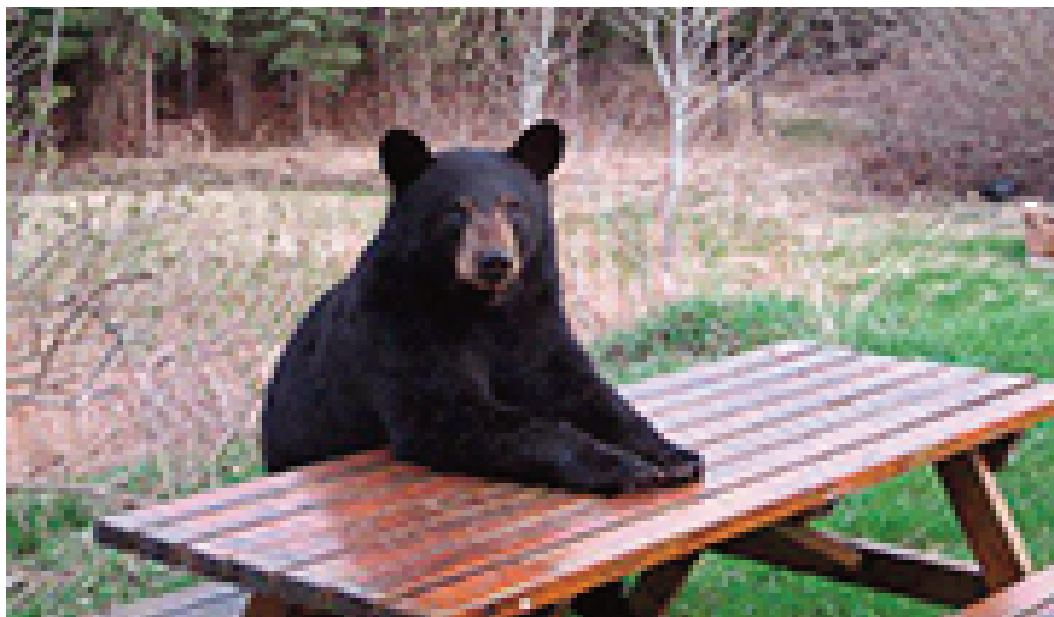
**Treasurer:** Janet Greenberg

**Second Vice President:** Katie Schuller Mentor: Tim Choltco

**Directors:** Tim Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak. Chuck Oldenburg, Brian Powell

### What's Blooming Now

### OSWP Picnic



I'll have two picnic baskets please.

## Co-President's Letter July 2023

Hi Everyone,

Hard to believe it's the end of June already! In place a July meeting, I would like to invite everyone to attend the OSWP summer picnic at the Oldenburg's residence on July 22nd (rain date July 23rd ). The picnic is a wonderful opportunity relax, socialize, and enjoy a truly lovely display of orchids. Please visit our website at OSWP.org to RSVP and select a dish to bring and share. We'll send more information in the days to come but be sure to mark your calendars.

I'm pleased to say the Spartan Center is working out wonderfully for our meetings! I hope everyone is enjoying the new location and look forward to another great year. Can you believe we've have already begun planning the Holiday Party! Nothing to report just yet, but we will be sure to share the details as soon as they are finalized. As always, we love to hear from you! So feel free to email at [letsgroworchids@gmail.com](mailto:letsgroworchids@gmail.com).

See you at the picnic!  
Michelle and Dave Panasiuk  
Co-Presidents, OSWP



## **Job Training - Apprenticeships and Immediate Openings**

The annual show will take place on March 15,16, and 17, with some late day set up on March 14. Norma, Janet and Sheila would like to teach some members how to plan a show, with the thought that someday we will relax on the sidelines. Please contact me, Sheila Nathanson, [msnsan@gmail.com](mailto:msnsan@gmail.com) , if you are among the willing for this job. Having three compatible show chairs, each with different focus, has worked out very well- many hands make light work applies here.

We also need someone or a team to take over Hospitality. Our dear friend Mike Lysy has decided it's about time he had the opportunity to try some other jobs at the show, and has given ample notice that he is done in the dining room. Since the show is a three day endeavor, we have always provided nourishment to those working the show, and someone has to put the food out on the buffet, etc., etc. Contact [msnsan@gmail.com](mailto:msnsan@gmail.com) if you are interested in taking over this vital job.

[Here's to hoping my inbox will be crammed with candidates!](#)

Sheila Nathanson, Janet Greenberg and Norma Raiff, OSWP Show Chairs

## American Orchid Society awards

### **OSWP Member Award Highlights**

Dave Miller, OSWP member and AOS Judge  
AOS Certificate of Cultural Excellence Award

The American Orchid Society has numerous awards which focus on flower quality, plant form, artistic arrangement, new species, distinctive hybrids, and simply high excellence in growing orchids. One of the most prestigious awards is the CCE/AOS distinction which highlights superb growing of a particular orchid species or hybrid.

The reason this is such a cherished award is simply, they are quite rare. In an environment where the AOS gives thousands of awards in a year, there are only a little over sixty CCE awards given.

With so few growers being bestowed with this honor, we welcome Carol Panza to this group of outstanding growers. In a little over a year, OSWP members have received four of these coveted awards, that's right, four of sixty in the entire AOS.

The Certificates of Cultural Merit/Excellence awards are given to the grower, not the plant which is unlike the other AOS awards which are awarded to the exhibit or plant for which the award was given. A minimum score of 90 out of 100 points is required.

AOS cultural awards focus on overall plant quality, floriferousness, and flower quality.



### **Oncidium naevium 'Snow Sprite' CCE/AOS**

In May at the Great Lakes Judging Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Carol Panza sent her stunning orchid for evaluation by the AOS judges in attendance. During this judging review, her plant was compared to all others of this species as well as other *Oncidiums* of like growth. There were other cultural awards registered for this plant so the competition was already a dogfight. Her award of CCE 93 points out of 100 is something every serious orchid grower seeks and the highest award given so far to *Oncidium naevium*.

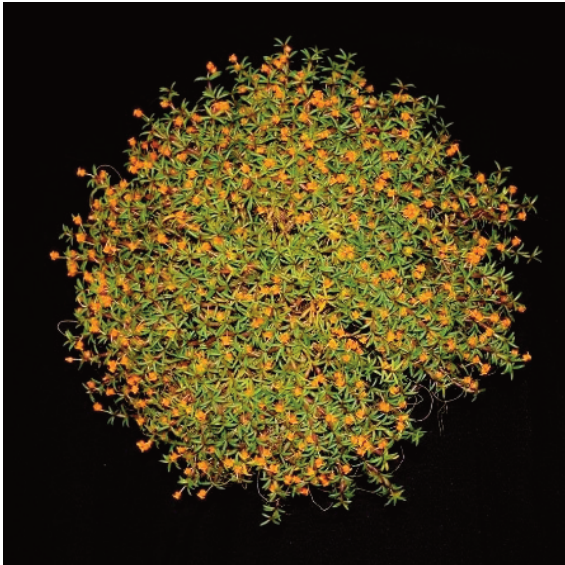
Carol's plant was commended for pristine foliage, robust flowers distributed evenly around the entire plant, fully flowered inflorescences, and clean & crisp flowers. Each of these characteristics is further enhanced when considering the grower's focus for years to produce such a high-quality orchid plant. With almost twenty flowered and immature flower spikes holding nearly two hundred flowers, one can see the challenges she faced through the years. However, the judges did wonder about the glass fragments Carol was using for top dressing but you will need to ask Carol for the details as it's not a cultural method used often.

CONGRATULATIONS to Carol for achieving this huge milestone and joining our other three CCE winners.

# OSWP members ROCK.



*Paphiopedilum gratixianum* 'Phipps Best' CCE/AOS  
(91 points)  
Geraldo Giovanny & Phipps Conservatory



*Mediocalcar decoratum* 'Windswept's Candy Corn Mountain' CCE/AOS (92 points)  
Edgar Stehli, Windswept In Time Orchids



*Brassavola nodosa* 'Wesley Rayen' CCE/AOS  
(90 points)  
Hossein Noorbakhsh

## **Orchid Gems – A Personal Journey to Becoming a Knowledgeable Orchid Grower: Simon Schutzman**

By: Norma Raiff

Many of us became involved with orchids in a variety of ways: after attending a show, or following in the footsteps of an admired relative, or even being moved to “rescue” a discarded plant from a trash heap.

Simon Schutzman’s orchid journey is different. Its marked by a persistent love of plants, assertively seeking out advanced information by exploring local contacts and books, and using his retirement to nurture his thriving collection.

Simon calls himself a “local kid,” having grown up in Penn Hills where he now lives with Pam, his wife of 42 years. Their son is an accomplished classical artist who eschewed conventional university-centered art programs and trained under several master artists in Italy. Jason’s art has been displayed in various galleries, and at music festivals in the woods and even in a Buddhist temple in Nepal. (See <https://rawartists.com/schutzman>.)

And before we get into the orchid backstory, you might be interested to know that Simon is also the proud owner of two restored automobiles, a 1967 MGB convertible and a 1948 Nash that he renovated himself. He credits these successful restorations to the fact that one of his long-time friends worked along with him...and also to what he had earlier learned about autos from his dad who was a skilled “backyard mechanic”.

However, once his wife became pregnant, Simon’s backyard car hobby was put on hold. His cars were banished to the garage and hibernated under coverings for some 20 years until his child was older. Today, Simon is again involved with antique cars, and he makes a point of attending talks and events at the Nash Car Club of America (NCAA) meetings.

Simon’s employment history helped lay his pathway to successful orchid growing. He was originally a navy corpsman, which included both direct patient care and inspecting chow halls to assess for cleanliness and compliance with sanitation requirements. These experiences helped to strengthen his attention to close details and helped to prepare him for his subsequent 24-year career as a Pennsylvania State food inspector.

Simon is enjoying his retirement where he directs his energy to growing a variety of orchids and other house plants and outdoor plants. “I like growing plants because they don’t talk back to you,” he says humorously, “they either do good or die...and when they do good, they make you happy.

Simon previously raised African violets, which he initially chose for their color and because they were easy to grow. However, most of these grew quite leggy, so he started to look for other plant options. And this is how he came to eventually purchase a yellow orchid that he finally got to bloom.

Because he’s inquisitive, Simon also undertook other steps to broaden his knowledge base. First, he connected with OSWP’s long time, well-respected and now-deceased member, Jack Stakel, and volunteered to help repot Jack’s huge collection of over 1,000 plants. Needless to say, these experiences substantially increased Simon’s knowledge of good cultural practices and the diversity and scope of the orchid universe. It was Jack who signed Simon up for the AOS, and this, plus a selective collection of orchid books, continued Simon’s knowledge journey.

Simon has purchased many plants from Carter & Holmes and other vendors listed in Orchids



magazine. He has also expanded his collection by such ventures as visiting commercial growers in South Carolina, California, Hawaii, and other places while on vacation. "And I'm proud to report that over the years, I've had quite a few that bloomed." Note: Check out the pictures that accompany this column to see for yourself!

Simon grows orchids and various air plants throughout his home. "They're in the basement and on the first and second floors." One reason for his success is that Pam regularly helps to take care of the plants: "I couldn't do it without her."

And as so many have done, although Simon started with Phals, his collections now includes an assortment of Phrags, Oncidiums, Cattleyas, and others. His current collection totals over 300.

When asked to recall some challenges, I was treated to a humorous recounting of early attempts to divide orchids. While under Jack's tutelage, he eventually learned how to split orchids. "First I would watch him take a garden shears and cut around the plant to divide it. It was my job to re-pot the pieces. It was challenging to try. And it took me a long time to learn how to do it successfully and to slice it neatly down the middle."

And while basement growing poses some challenges (e.g. taking them one by one to a sink to be watered), his biggest trial has been dealing with those annoying mealy bugs.

The following is Simon's recommended solution for the mealy bug issue: 2 teaspoons of insecticidal soap and 2 teaspoons of insecticidal spray for roses and other flowers (both can be purchased at local garden centers, e.g. Lowes). Mix the above in 32 ounces of water and spray as needed.

Although Simon is a long time AOS member, he's only been an OSWP member for a little over two years. He joined after attending our Spring Show in South Hills Village and recounts that what he values the most is the chance for informational conversations. "I like to yak and to talk and to question people. And I like the programming. Further, there's a lot of potential there to increase my knowledge and desire for more plants."

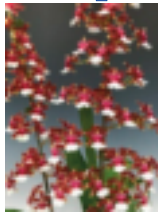
Words of advice to new members: "Be sure to ask lots of questions. New members, especially have a lot of questions, so don't be embarrassed to ask them."



OSWP  
4<sup>rd</sup> Annual Orchid Raffle for Member Dues Renewal  
Held 07/01/23  
Winner need not be present

All renewed ONLY, paid members for fiscal year 07/01/23-06/30/24 are  
AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED IN THE RAFFLE  
(Note: New members in 2023 are not up for renewal)

Raffle orchid plant: Mature Oncidium Sharry Baby 'Sweet Fragrance'  
Sample



Plant info: 4 spikes -July bloom  
from Edgar Stiehl - Windswept in Time Orchids

**Dues: Individual: \$20; Family \$25**

(For those without email, add \$15: not encouraged for those with email)

**No need to complete the membership form, if your contact info for address,  
phone or email has not changed.**

**DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

**EASY** to Pay per website link.

**Just sign into OSWP.org**

**Go to memberships and use the buttons to pay**

**Click on "Buy with PayPal" to get 2 options. (one of which is not PayPal!)**

**Click Option for PayPal payment (OSWP pays fee).**

**OR**

**Pay with Debit or Credit Card.**

**Or, Via own PayPal, Use email address OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com and select "Friends and Family" (no fee assessed OSWP).**

**Or, Send check payable to "OSWP" and mail to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr.  
McMurray, PA 15317-3212.**

**Give check to Janet at meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)**  
**General Meeting**  
**June 11, 2023**

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

A mini-class presented by Demetria Marsh entitled "Orchids 10" began at 1:00 pm. Simultaneously, a meeting of the Board was held at 1:00 pm (see separate minutes).

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:15 pm by Co-Presidents Michelle and Dave Panasiuk.

The membership was advised of the outcome of the election of Board Officers and Directors for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (see Board minutes).

The membership was also advised that: (i) Michelle and Dave Panasiuk will assume publication of the newsletter beginning in Sept. 2023, (ii) there is a need for Show Chair apprentices, and (iii) OSWP requires a new Hospitality Chair for the 2024 Show as Mike Lysy desires to step aside from this role.

**Reports:**

- a. Newsletter: Jim Yamber noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month.
- b. Treasurer: Janet Greenburg presented the Treasurer's report, including the re-investment of certain OSWP funds.
- c. Pfun and POSI: Demetria noted that OSWP continues to volunteer at Phipps on both Monday and Thursday. The repotting schedule at Phipps will be slightly reduced in July and August as this is a high growth season for the orchids and not an optimal time for repotting.
- d. Hospitality: Carolyn noted that the next meeting at the Spartan Community Center will be in September and that contributions of snacks for the meetings are always welcome.
- e. AOS / Culture Corner: Nancy Kline continues to encourage members to join the AOS. Should any members have questions about the growth of their orchids, Nancy is available to answer questions at each meeting.
- f. Orchid Gems: Norma and Pam will soon be contacting those new members who signed up for interviews so their stories can be included in the OSWP newsletter.
- g. Summer Picnic: The picnic will be on July 22nd and will be hosted by the Oldenburgs. (Alternate rain date: July 23rd) Sign-ups for potluck dishes are online (oswp.org).
- h. Raffle: May Ann Pike and Nancy Kline each took home a raffle plant. OSWP raised \$77 thru the raffle at this meeting.

**Miscellaneous:**

A number of members presented orchids they had brought to the meeting for the purpose of Show & Tell.

Future OSWP meeting dates: Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 10 (Holiday Party at the Crowne Plaza Hotel). (There is no OSWP meeting in August.)

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. and was followed by the guest speaker, Dennis Steinbeck of Flask & Flora from Columbus, OH. Dennis gave a presentation on "Deflasking."

Submitted by: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary.



**Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)**  
**Board Meeting**  
**June 11, 2023**

A meeting of the OSWP Board was called to order at 12:50 pm on June 11, 2023 by Co-Presidents Michelle and Dave Panasiuk. The meeting was held at the Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood.

In attendance at the meeting were: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk, Natalie Turicik, Carolyn Bolton, Katie Schuller, Janet Greenberg, Kathy Collins, Sheila Nathanson and Brian Powell.

The first item of business was the election of Board Officers and Directors for the upcoming fiscal year (July 2023 – June 2024). All existing Board Officers and Directors have agreed to continue to serve in the new year, except for Katie Schuller in her role as 2nd Vice President (this position fills the roll of mini-class organizer). The Board approved the election of the following for the July 2023-June 2024 fiscal year:

Co-Presidents: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

Co-First Vice Presidents: Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton

Second Vice President: Vacant (until filled)

Secretary: Kathy Collins

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

Directors: Tim. Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak, Chuck Oldenburg and Brian Powell.

The next item of business was the approval of the Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Treasurer Janet Greenburg presented the Budget and, after limited discussion, it was approved as drafted with the following exceptions:

The Board will initiate a survey of the OSWP membership to determine whether an increase in the fee to attend the OSWP Annual Orchid Show to \$8.00 (from \$5.00) is acceptable.

The Board will also reconsider the pricing for the Show Sponsorships / Ads, particularly the ½ page Ad cost.

The next item of business was to confirm the location of the Holiday Party. After discussion, it was agreed to once again host the Holiday Party at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bethel Park. The date of the party was set for December 10, 2023 (after confirmation with the Hotel) and the event will once again be a Buffet with OSWP membership participating in a Cookie Table.

The next item of business was the approval of confirming a lifetime membership to Raj Popat in recognition of his contributions to OSWP. This was approved by unanimous consent.

The next item of business was a discussion of utilizing OSWP funds to make charitable contributions. It was agreed that OSWP would once again provide funding for the provision of virus tests for the Phipps Conservatory orchid collection. Sheila Nathanson will check pricing with the Board agreeing to fund the purchase of 50 tests with a maximum outlay of \$500. Once the pricing has been obtained, OSWP members will be given an opportunity to purchase tests as well so that any quantity discounts may be passed on to the membership.

The Board also discussed other charitable uses for OSWP funds. Specifically, the Board would like to participate in funding for programs to encourage young people to develop an interest in orchids. This idea will be explored further.

The next item of business was a discussion of the Member Sales rules for OSWP meetings. It was agreed and confirmed that:

- a. There are to be no member sales at meetings where the speaker is a vendor who is selling plants;
- b. At meetings where a speaker/vendor is not selling plants, OSWP members are allowed to sell plants and plant supplies;
- c. As a one-time experiment, and to gauge the interest and participation of the OSWP membership, the November 2023 meeting (during which no mini-class is otherwise scheduled to be held), members will be given an opportunity to sell orchid/plant related items. In addition to the sales of member plants and supplies, OSWP members will be given an opportunity to sell craft items such as art work, wood work, decorated coffee mugs, etc. All such sales must be in some way related to orchids or other horticulture. Depending on the outcome of this one-time event, the Board will consider making this an annual event and will determine if additional limitations are warranted.

Miscellaneous discussion items:

The OSWP Board encourages all officers, directors and committee chairs to recruit “apprentices” to mentor their positions. In particular, Sheila and Janet would like others to apprentice as Show Chairs so that they can step aside. Bob Lesnek will be taking over from Jim Yamber in his role of laying out the vendor/exhibit areas for the Annual Orchid Show. Michelle and Dave Panasiuk will be taking over the preparation of the monthly newsletter beginning with the September newsletter. Jim will continue to handle the eblasts.

Brian Powell suggested OSWP develop a Media Guide to assist in soliciting ads and sponsorships for the Annual Orchid Show. Brian will take the lead on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm

Submitted by: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary



## OSWP Summer Picnic

2:00pm – 6:00pm, Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Rain date: Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>



### **Location:**

597 McCombs Road  
Venetia, PA 15367

**Food:** We will provide burgers (real meat and synthetic too), chicken and hot dogs and have some sides to pass. It is requested that everyone bring either a side or a dessert to share with the crew. An electronic sign-up sheet is being created to streamline the dish to share process. We will have soft drinks, coffee, water, and a few types of beer. If anyone has anything special they like to drink, please bring it with you.

Please RSVP by July 8<sup>th</sup> with the number attending:

Email: [the\\_olderburgs@comcast.net](mailto:the_olderburgs@comcast.net)

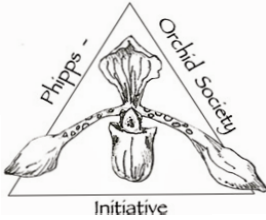
Call or Text: 412-953-1536

**Parking:** We live in a residential area on a somewhat busy two-lane road so on-street parking blocks one lane of traffic. We have room in the driveway/yard to park about 8 vehicles and we would like to reserve those spaces for persons with mobility issues. Overflow parking will be at the **Bower Hill Elementary School** which is a couple blocks from the house. We will have a shuttle to bring people back and forth.

- To request the shuttle, call or text Samantha at 412-925-1449 when you arrive for a pick-up

**Entertainment:** We have ping-pong, corn-hole, bocci, frisbee, trac-ball and a few other yard games. Greenhouse tours also.

**Plant sales:** Member plant sales are allowed. We have a table under shade reserved for plant sales.



## 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.

### July 2023

Pfun at Phipps is part of P-OSI (the Phipps-Orchid Society Initiative, to grow the Phipps orchid collection well). Repotting, updating the inventory and cleaning up is our main work, while learning, having some Pfun and cookies, too.

We are going to Phipps some Mondays and Thursdays from 9:45AM – 12:45PM. (If it's your first visit, you must stop in at the Volunteer Office with proof of vaccination and ID and sign a photo release and other documents.)

During the summer, dress in layers and bring a hat if you are doing clean-up in the greenhouses. It can get very warm. Shoes with closed toes are mandated, no sandals, for safety.

If you would like to join our Pfun efforts and haven't previously signed up with us, please let us know at the email addresses below. We are normally using 3 - 6 members each date, with at least one being a more experienced grower.

Thanks and looking forward to working and learning together.

PS: Phipps Summer Flower Show: Flowers Meet Fashion. Don't miss it!

Nancy Kline  
nancyk412@gmail.com  
412-367-1556

Demetria Marsh  
demetria117@gmail.com  
412-848-4349

### Newsletter Editor

Hi All

I have been creating the OSWP newsletter for over 35 years and things have changed greatly over the years. When I took over this job most of the newsletters were paper and was sent out via snail mail. It had to be first created, printed, addressed, folded, sealed, stamped, and mailed. Now all but three are sent electronically. Because I produced this newsletter, I was able to get college credit for one class of my bachelor's degree. I have enjoyed doing this for the orchid society and thank to all who contributed to the creation of this meaningful paper. I am turning it over to Dave Panasiuk who will do a great job. Thanks again to all that made the newsletter a success and an informative paper.

James Yamber

### Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore,
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Chevront	P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Garden Club/Library Liaison		Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton	Show	Sheila Nathanson, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Library	open	Speaker	Carolyn Boltin and Natalie. Turicik
Membership	Kathy Collins	Website	Jinghua Ou
Mini-class	Tim Choltc and Katie Schuller		
Newsletter	Dave Panasiuk		



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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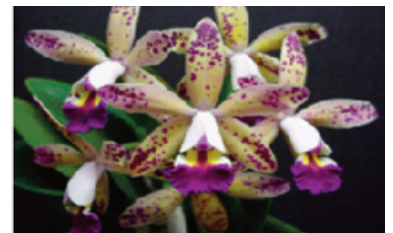


American Orchid Society  
*Education, Conservation, Research,*  
*Affiliated Society*

**Upcoming 2023 speaker**

July 22 , 2023  
OSWP annual Picnic

More to come for the future programs for 2023



**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*