



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

January
2022

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

January 16, 2022

"If all goes as we have planned, we will be having a demonstration on how to construct a winning orchid display. If the virus rages in January we will be having a Zoom meeting. Stay tuned "

Looking Ahead

Meetings will continue on Zoom for now

Feb 20, 2022 Kristen from New World orchids

March 19 & 20 2022 OSWP Spring show

"The Joy of Orchids"

April 2022 TBA

" 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

Co-First Vice President: Kathleen Arria and David Springer

Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco

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

Secretary: open

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Paphiopedilum fairrieianum

ORIGIN: Grows in leaf litter and humus as well as on limestone outcrops in tall grass and oak forests along rivers with clear dull green leaves is found in the Indian Himalayas and Bhutan at elevations of 4265 to 7217 feet, on the edges of high river banks and forests. Like all paphs the potting media needs to be kept moist but not wet, if the plants dry out completely, they die. Temperature Range is a low of 40° F to 80° F high Light: good light but not direct sun light. Growing media: a good paph mix in small pots



Photo by Jlm Yamber

Co-President's Letter December 2021

Happy New Year ! We made it through another one. One of my resolutions is always to be more selective in what I add to my collection. Take more careful note of what does well for me, and lean more in that direction. Weed out the poor performers, the sick, the struggling. That precious growing space can be devoted to plants that are more rewarding. Easier said than done. One of the joys of orchid growing is to discover some treasure whose picture you see in Orchids Magazine, and pursue it until it is yours! Sometimes practicality has nothing to do with it. I want to thank everyone who made our Holiday Party a success, especially Janet Greenberg and Carolyn Bolton. Janet secured our party venue and dealt with most of the details, and Carolyn obtained lovely plants in spike from Hawaii as party favors. Membership chair Kathy Collins made sure we all had name tags and place cards. Also much thanks to all the partiers who brought cookies, especially whoever brought those chocolate coated peanut butter creations. I had one, and they were all gone when next I checked (thank goodness) I need the recipe! Our January 16 meeting will be at Botany Hall, where we will have some of our more experienced exhibitors present a demonstration of what is involved in creating an exhibit. We hope to inspire more members to exhibit in March.

Keep in mind our show in March- the 19th and 20th. Many hands will be needed for everything from greeting guests and collecting admission fees, set up on Thursday and Friday, repotting, etc., etc. The show is most definitely a group effort. Working closely with other members is the best way to make lasting friendships, and really get the most out of your orchid society membership.

All the best for a happy and healthy New Year

Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lysy

Mini-class 2022 – January 16

About 1:15pm prior to the Business Meeting time

It's Show Time!!! Preparing your Plants and Self for the Spring Show. With Carolyn Bolton.

It is never too early to plan for the Spring Show. Spikes need to be staked, that yellow leaf needs to be removed, and leaves need to be cleaned of spots. The society has many members with many years, or decades, of experience exhibiting orchids. Carolyn Bolton is one of our most experienced. She has volunteered as steward of the O.S.W.P. Society Exhibit at our spring show for many years. She has also been one of several who has taken the O.S.W.P. Society Exhibit to other societies. At this time it is important for some plants in spike to NOT BE moved so that their spikes and flowers develop properly. Phalaenopsis especially will form inflorescences with wonky curves or displays of flowers if their orientation to the light is significantly changed. It takes a bit of attention and a smidgen of neglect to get those beautifully shingled inflorescences of Phalaenopsis flowers. Please join myself and Carolyn at the next O.S.W.P. mini-class

Hard to believe it's 2022... hopefully it doesn't turn out to be 2020-too.

Timothy Choltco

2nd Vice President and all around decent sentient being.

Regular meeting - January 16 2022

In anticipation of our upcoming show in March we will be learning how to design and execute an exhibit. Creating an exhibit at the show is great fun. Even if you have just a few plants you can create a table top display or band together with others to create something larger. Sheila Nathanson will be leading a group of our members who will be bringing plants and supplies to the meeting (or maybe in front of their cameras if Omicron keeps us apart) so we can see how it is done.

Orchid Gems Living the Magic Joan Markert

By Pamela Jean Horter-Moore

Everybody loves the theater. We all have experienced the rapture of being taken somewhere else because of the action on stage.

What is it that fascinates? It's not merely the storyline; it's the entire performance that makes the magic – the acting, the music, the scenery, and those breath-taking costumes!

OSWP member Joan Markert has contributed in large part to that magic; she has nearly fifty years of experience in theatrical costume design.

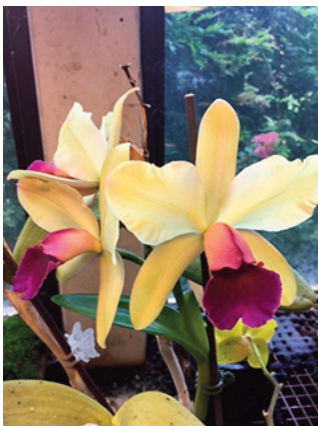
Talking with Joan is an eye-opener for me. I discovered that costume design requires a large bandwidth of skills. The designer must have a great eye for detail and fashion. She must know fabrics and textiles, and be an adroit seamstress. She also has to be flexible enough to adapt to last-minute changes, and to withstand the stress of demands and deadlines. The final product must be striking and appropriate to the production, and be sturdy enough to withstand quick changes between scenes. In short, anything pertaining to the costume that is necessary to create the appropriate mood and character is within the scope of costume design. This is not a career bound by routine, regular hours, and one employer to please. This is a glamorous and exciting field that many young people dream of.

Joan's love of theater began early. She was raised 90 miles south of Chicago, and her father was a railroad man. This presented her and her family with many opportunities to ride into the city to attend theatrical performances at the Shubert Theater.

In 1972, Joan earned a graduate degree in Costume Design from Carnegie-Mellon University. Her first job after grad school was at the Repertory Theater in St. Louis. At the same time, she maintained her Pennsylvania ties through her association with Totem Pole Playhouse in Fayetteville, which was operated by the late actor-director Bill Putch, who was born in Bellevue, and starred his better-known wife, actress Jean Stapleton.

Joan has learned that one job leads to another, as a person builds up a network of associates and experiences. "Do your first job well, and it will lead to the rest of them," she advises.

Bill Putch was instrumental in Joan's landing a job in Los Angeles working with the Costume Designer for the TV sitcoms "One Day at a Time," "All In the Family," "Good Times," "Maude," and "The Jeffersons." While in Los Angeles, she worked on several other Norman Lear productions. However, productions only shoot from August to March, so everyone must find another job during the hiatus. Joan found summer work at the L.A. Shakespeare Festival, and then at the L.A. Music Center Costume Shop which led to her being convinced to return to Pennsylvania, where she worked at Meyer's Costume Shoppe. Her connection to Carnegie-Mellon University led to an association with the Pittsburgh Playhouse, which in turn led her to PICT Classic Theater in Oakland.



After 39 years, she recently retired from Point Park University, where she was Head of Costuming for most of her tenure. However, she continues to work with Point Park University to facilitate the transition. Her name is listed as a member of the university faculty, but she is only teaching part time.

One of her accomplishments is the setup of the costume inventory system, which has been upgraded to a new software platform. The 3,000-square-foot warehouse contains the 30,000+ costumes and accessories that are included in the database, and these are not only available to Point Park University, but are available as rentals to high schools, colleges, and other theatrical organizations.

"Retirement" is hardly the word for Joan's situation. She has just finished designing "As You

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Like It” for PICT Classic Theater and is currently working on Samuel Beckett’s “End Game,” which will play at PICT in February 2022. She is currently working with PICT to create a costume inventory system for them as well. Matters are still up in the air as to where the costumes will be permanently housed, and there is the prospect that nothing will be settled until March or maybe June. In the meantime, Joan has several boxes of costumes at her home. Flexibility and adaptability are two of the many skill sets that are needed in costume design.

In recognition of her many years in the theater, Joan received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pittsburgh New Works Festival a couple of years ago. And in 2014 PICT Classic Theater honored her with their Anne D. Mullaney Inspiration Award.

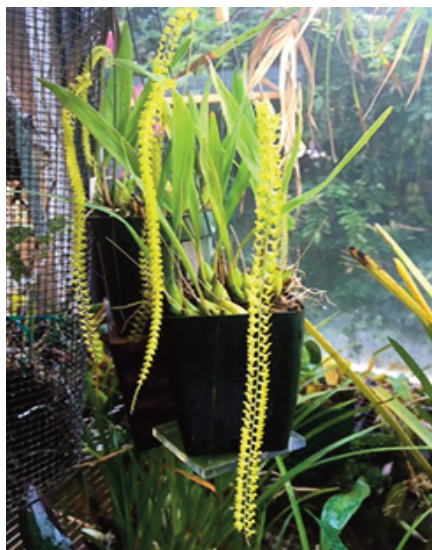
Theater has been Joan’s life, so it isn’t too surprising to learn that her interest in orchids has theatrical roots. She knew actors Demetria Marsh, her late husband Bud, and Vicki Strod through the theater, and, following the performance of “I Do, I Do,” Demetria and Bud gifted her a Phalaenopsis. She was then urged to come to the Orchid Show, where Bud suggested she buy a Dendrobium kingianum like the one he had in his exhibit that is still in her collection. This sealed her fate as an orchidist. “At first, I was traumatized,” Joan admits. “As an avid mystery reader, I had experienced orchid cultivation through the eyes of fictional detective Nero Wolfe, and I was convinced that they were difficult to grow.”

Nonetheless, Joan has collected orchids from everywhere, and still has the tags from the ones that didn’t survive. When her home was remodeled to accommodate her mother, the basement was constructed with a door that led to the backyard. The addition included a patio and a plant room to house Joan’s forty orchids, which benefit from natural light from south-, east-, and west-facing windows, and from warm and cool fluorescents. They are watered from the tap every morning.

With the inducement of Demetria, Bud, and Vicki, Joan joined the Orchid Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania in 1990, although her involvement in theater has sometimes led to schedule conflicts that limit her participation. She is also friends with OSWP member and gardener Leslie Kaplan and her husband, who sing with her in the choir at the Presbyterian Church in Squirrel Hill. Joan had previously known Leslie from her art glass jewelry.

“I am attracted to orchids that are strikingly colorful. At the open house at Windswept in Time, I recently purchased an orchid with green-yellow petals and a wine-red lip,” Joan comments.

Orchids and theater are a natural pair, just as costumes and color are. The magic and mystique that they exude fascinate us, and create friendships and associations that last a lifetime.



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania 2021 Holiday Party





January 2022

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.

Happy Holidays!

If all things stay the same, Ben Dunigan, Phipps Collections Manager, is looking forward to having the OSWP back some-time in January or February to help out with the orchid collection. Maybe only one or two members at a time, just to be very, very safe as far as COVID is concerned.

Ben has asked for three lists of members:

- 1) Workers, to help as needed, repotting, unpacking, cleaning, watering, whatever;
- 2) Team leaders, to help with inventory, etc. of the Phipps Orchid Collection. The Teams are: Minis and Misc; Vandas and oncidiums; Cymbidiums; Cattleyas and epidendrums; Dendrobiums; Slippers.
- 3) Experts, within each team we need members who are very knowledgeable and successful growing and beautifully blooming certain types of orchids, requiring specialized care.

If you are willing to volunteer for any of the above teams (or all of them 9) and haven't contacted us yet, please email or call one of us. We will be delighted to have your help, as will Phipps. We will then pass this information along to Ben to use as soon as possible.

The Orchid and Bonsai Show opens on January 15th! It's always lovely to see the orchid displays.

Looking forward to getting back to work to help Phipps with their Orchid Collection and as always, learn more about orchids and others.

Best Wishes for 2022!

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Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront
Garden Club/Library Liaison	Karen Gibson
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton
Library	open
Membership	Kathy Collins
Mini-class	Tim Choltc
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 and Janet Greenberg
Speaker	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Website	Jinghua Ou

Phipps Conservatory: Where Sustainability is Put into Practice by Emily Thiem



If you have ever taken a driving tour of Pittsburgh, it is hard to miss the Phipps Conservatory. By day or night, this striking building in Schenley Park will catch your eye with its beautiful glass greenhouses and tropical foliage. When I first visited Pittsburgh years ago, I drove by Phipps and hoped that if I got the chance to return to Pittsburgh I could go inside. Now that I am a part of the MBA-SBP program I have realized that the Phipps is not only a place filled with exotic ecosystems but is an example of how organizations can integrate sustainability into everything they do.

As a self-proclaimed plant nerd and garden enthusiast, I knew that Phipps Conservatory would be a must-see when I moved to Pittsburgh. When the MBA-SBP program hosted a green building tour, Phipps was lauded for its beauty and high environmental standards.

That night I went home and booked my ticket.



Since then, I have made multiple visits to Phipps, and each time I am in awe by the size and diversity of plant species that they have there. Each room is an adventure as you walk through the desert cacti of the southwest, the tropical rainforests of Cuba, experience exotic orchids from around the world, and more. Additionally, their use of theming (this summer it was “The Hidden Life of Trolls”), sparks imagination for all as suddenly the plants are transformed before your eyes. Even as an adult it was hard not to find delight in the ways they utilized plants for the wacky troll characters.

Outside of the beautiful exhibits though, I truly love to visit Phipps because sustainability is an integral part of who they are. In the MBA-SBP program, we discuss the promising opportunities and importance of integrating sustainability into our business decisions. Phipps Conservatory is an exciting place to visit because it represents a future that I hope to be a part of. A future where organizations incorporate sustainability and environmental considerations into the ethos of an organization, further intertwining that ethos into business decisions at every level.

Currently, this is demonstrated at Phipps in many ways. The conservatory is one of the only buildings in the world to have achieved six of the most rigorous and prestigious green building certifications. One of these certifications is the Living Building Challenge, an honor that very few buildings globally achieve, and one that demonstrates excellence in the categories of place, water, energy, health & wellness, materials, and beauty. The Living Building Challenge summarizes a key element of the beauty of Phipps saying:

“Today, this history of excellence serves as a platform to demonstrate that humans and the natural world are inextricably linked, and that sustainable action is the key to ensuring that critical interconnections are preserved for future generations.”

Phipps has also adopted other sustainability measures in the pursuit of the United Nations Sustainability Goal 13, “Climate Action”. These include adopting 100% renewable energy campus-wide, eliminating plastic disposable

service ware, offsetting all carbon produced to heat their buildings, divesting from fossil fuels, and more. Further, Phipps offers opportunities to visitors to participate in 'Green Workshops', educational programs about the environment, and learn at home tips to develop sustainable lifestyle habits. Each of these decisions and opportunities reflects an ongoing commitment to sustainability that I admire, and while I am sure there are many other ways Phipps Conservatory integrates sustainability into their business, these are just some of the things that have stood out to me.

Ultimately, Phipps Conservatory is an organization that represents the change I want to see in the world. One where the environment is considered at every decision, not just as an afterthought. As I continue through the MBA-SBP program, I look forward to gaining the skills and knowledge to make this future a reality for more businesses globally. For now, as I look outside and see the impending fall rain I think I might head to Phipps. A relaxing walk through the tropical rainforest sounds like the perfect way to spend the day.

<https://duquesnemba.com/2021/10/30/hipps-conservatory-where-sustainability-is-put-into-practice/>



MBA Sustainable Business Practices
Become a driver for change in the world.

Are you willing to help with the Phipps Orchid Collection in some capacity?

Phipps and the OSWP have partnered since the OSWP's founding in 1954. Our relationship has strengthened over the decades and while we have not been active during Phipps' strict COVID protocols, we are making some progress! After a Zoom meeting with Margie Radebaugh, Ben Dunigan, the Collections Manager, Nancy, Sheila and Demetria, Demetria was able to meet in person with Ben and take a tour of the newly renovated orchid exhibition house and then on to the orchid production/growing houses. The orchids have been well cared for by Gary Worthington, Ben and a few others. Great news! It's a huge amount of work.

Since November, the Phipps team has dismantled the Fall Flower Show and installed the Holiday Show: Holiday Magic, which goes until January 9th. Then they will be preparing for the Orchid and Bonsai Show, plus the Cuban Tropical Greenhouse will be redone to become the Hawaiian Tropical Greenhouse. The Phipps team has lots going on.

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Looking forward to getting back to work to help Phipps with their Orchid Collection and as always, learn more about orchids and others.

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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

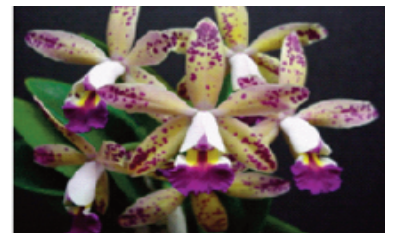
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Upcoming 2021 speaker

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Creating an exhibit for the Spring show
Sheila Nathanson will be leading a group

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
dcnjpsmil@aol*