



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

March 2023

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

March 16-19 2023
Spring OSWP Show
Crowne Plaza-Pgh South

Looking Ahead

April 16 Clark Riley, "My 50 Orchid Mistakes and How To Fix Them". In person.

May 21 Sarah Hurdel returns on Habinaria culture in person and habinaria sales

" 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

OSWP Officers

Co-President: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

Co-First Vice President: Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton

Second Vice President: Katie Schuller Mentor: Tim Choltco

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

Secretary: Kathy Collins

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Spring 2023 Show

Spring Show Orchid Obsession

March 16, 17, 18 & 19

Details on page 8



Co-President's Letter March 2023

It was nice to see so many orchid friends at the February meeting! I'd like to send a special thank you out to Chuck Oldenberg for his mini class on growing cattleyas and Carolyn Bolton for her talk and demonstration about how to successfully create a show exhibit. They both offered so many useful and timely tips since, as I'm sure you know, next month is show time!

This year, we are proud to share our "Orchid Obsession" at the Crown Plaza Hotel and Suites on March 18th & 19th. The show chairs have been working for months to ensure a sensational event, but we still need many volunteers. Helpers are needed in all areas. No special knowledge required. If you can spare a couple hours, we would love to have you. Please visit our website at OSWP.org to sign up or send me an email at letsgroworchids@gmail.com and I will be happy to help you find the perfect fit.

Finally, I would like to once again congratulate Demetria Marsh for being awarded the American Orchid Society Certificate of Appreciation for her work with the Slipper Orchid Collection at Phipps Conservatory! Thank you so much for all of your kindness and dedication.

See you at the show!

Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

WANTED : FRIENDS

Have you been searching for a way to express your support for the OSWP's Spring Show? Consider becoming a Friend! For just \$15, you can help support our Orchid Obsession and be recognized in the program booklet. Go to OSWP.org to sign up to be a Friend of the OSWP. All proceeds go toward having a safe and comfortable show venue, as well as the other activities offered by the OSWP

The Membership Table for this year's show is looking for a few good folks to help sign up new members. It's a great opportunity to welcome in orchid enthusiasts who are looking to join OSWP. It's fun, easy and usually busy, especially while we still have orchids to give away.

If you can assist at all on Saturday or Sunday, there are spots open in each time slot but IN PARTICULAR, I am looking for help Saturday morning from 9:00 - 11:00 and Sunday from 1:00 - 4:00. I expect the OSWP Membership Table to be especially busy at these times as folks are coming into the Show. Any and all help is appreciated (I've even recruited my non-orchid growing 23 year old son for a couple hours), and I'd like to recruit you TOO!

Let's Grow OSWP Membership!

 Kathy Membership Chair

Getting Plants Ready for the Show

1. Start early to stake Stem Wire 20, 18 and 16 gauge work the best or green wood plant stakes 12" up to 24"
 - a.Hobby/craft stores
 - b.Amazon.com
2. Wire cutters
3. Cotton swabs
4. Alcohol, sprayer and bottle
5. Baby wipes or a mixture of milk and mayonnaise
6. Last minute take off any bad leaves or leaf parts with scissors
 - a.Use scissors cleaned between each plant with a solution of TSP or flaming
7. Attempt to find the parents or the name of the cross
 - a.Orchidroots (bluenanta.com) for parents of the named plant
 - b.International Orchid Registry of the RHS, parents or new name (<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>)
 - c. OrchidWiz purchased program \$295 License for 2 computers
 - d.Awards Plus (AOS program) \$58.50 License for 2 computers
8. Masking tape to put your name and plant name on the pot if you are giving to another exhibit
9. You are responsible to register your own plant if donating for another exhibit.
10. Other considerations
 - a.Make sure there are no insects (scale and mealy bugs etc.)
 - b.For your exhibit
 - i.Card table
 - ii.Covering for table
 - iii.Straight pins, regular (to close the back drapes) heavier boutonniere pins
 - iv.Extension cords, Power strip
 - v.Spot light
 - vi.Pot covering, black fabric, moss

Orchid Obsession 2023 **March 16,17,18 and 19**

Here we are again- only a little less than a month to go until Show Time! We show chairs have been plotting,planning,scrambling, cajoling and begging for months to get what we need to have a successful show. Now this is where members come in- we have far too many empty slots on SignUp Genius- especially at Welcome, Membership, Plant Parking,Member Sales, Repotting, Helpers and Hospitality. Please take a little time to look at the sign up tool (available through the OSWP.org website) and see where you might be able to spend a little time helping at the show. We all benefit from a successful show in having a comfortable meeting space, wonderful speakers, a fun holiday party and so much more all through the year.

One of the many benefits to participation is the camaraderie of us all working together and getting to know and appreciate each other. This orchid society is filled with interesting, friendly and welcoming people- please take this chance to work together to ensure the success of Orchid Obsession 2023.

With friendship and gratitude,
Sheila Nathanson, Janet Greenberg and Norma Raiff, 2023 Show Chairs

Member Sales at the Orchid Show

Have some extra orchids?

All members are encouraged to participate in Member Sales! This is a great fundraiser for the OWSP. You will receive 80% of the sales price, the OWSP will keep 20%.

Drop Off:

Friday March 17, 1 – 3pm

Saturday and Sunday 8:30 am

There will be a table set up in the lobby for you to drop off your plants or other orchid-related items. Please bring the accompanying inventory sheet you have filled out.

Each plant should have TWO tags:

↗ Please put a name tag and a tag with your initials and the price in each plant.

↗ Also each plant should have a name tag with genus / species / cultivar , or NOID

↗ How to fill out this Inventory Sheet (see attachment)

1) Inventory ID – This is an unique identifier for each item. It should be your initials and unique number, eg. CB4, for the fourth item on Carolyn Bolton's inventory list. If you have multiples of the same plant at the same price, they should all have the same number, see point 2.

2) # of Plants: If you have multiples of the same plant at the same price, write the total number of plants in the # of Plants column, we will check them off as they are sold.

3) Description: Plant name or brief item description of other orchid related items, eg. 5" clay orchid pot

4) Price Each: Please record your desired price for each item.

We encourage everyone to fill the inventory sheets out ahead of time. You can print off as many copies as you need (see the attachment in this newsletter) . We will have blank sheets available, but you need an inventory sheet to be paid!

Options:

- email it to one of the chairs (see below)
- Print off and fill out by hand

Chairs:

Leslie Kaplan (412)400-3459, bezbeads@verizon.net

Holly Schrum (412)370-4451, holly@fore-front.com

Orchid Gems – Giving and Getting Back -- Cam and Susan Schmidt

By Pamela Jean Horter-Moore

When I spoke with Cam and Susan Schmidt, I was immediately impressed by their commitment to volunteerism, and how service to others had led to relationships that are unbroken by distance. Giving back to the community is how Cam and Susan Schmidt make a city their home, whether it's their native New York, Washington, D.C., or Pittsburgh.

Hailing from Manhattan and Brooklyn, Cam and Susan met as graduate students at the American University in Washington, D.C., where he was studying international relations and finance, and she, English literature. They found employment locally after graduation, and stayed, building a life in Bethesda, Maryland and raising a son.

Susan and Cam were brought up with a strong tradition of volunteerism, which they have passed down to their son. Cam had played youth soccer, and so it was natural for him to coach youth soccer in Bethesda, especially since his son also played the sport. Becoming more active, he eventually sat on the board of directors of a youth club.

As a girl in New York City, Susan had been a candy-striper, volunteering her time to assist the hospital staff. In Bethesda, Maryland, she poured her passion for books, art and history into The Friends of the Library and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Cam has been a self-employed investment advisor for over thirty years. Susan is a recently retired teacher. "I miss the kids, but that void is filled by the pleasure I get watching my grandchildren," Susan says.

The desire to be near their son and his family fueled the Schmidt's move from Bethesda to Pittsburgh during the pandemic. Their son had gone to the University of Pittsburgh for engineering, and had found a job, married, and settled down in Mt. Lebanon with his wife and two boys, ages six and three. Although the decision to leave Bethesda was difficult because they had so many friends, Susan and Cam decided it was more important to be near their grandchildren as they were growing up. They now are living in Upper St. Clair.

As recent arrivals in the city, Cam and Susan enjoy touring the area and involving themselves in their new community. For Cam, that's volunteering at Phipps Conservatory; for Susan, that's volunteering at the Heinz History Center.

Cam is the orchid grower; Susan considers herself a "foster mom." There are many "foster moms and dads" in OSWP – partners of orchid-growers who don't grow orchids but are nonetheless important contributors to this society. "Orchids bring people together," Susan comments. She shares Cam's pleasure in a blooming or spiking orchid.

Cam has always enjoyed gardening, but his interest in orchids was piqued when Susan received an orchid for Christmas years ago. To raise his level of enthusiasm, he was able to avail himself of the United States Botanical Garden and other orchid collections throughout the Washington area.

Orchid-rescuing is a challenge that Cam enjoys. "It's satisfying to give an orchid some care and attention and see it come back to life," Cam says. "Orchids are hardy and durable plants, but they need the right conditions."

Like all growers, Cam has killed his share of orchids. "Some make it, and some don't. I grow what works

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for me, and if it doesn't work, I don't take it personally," Cam remarks philosophically.

He has always grown his orchids in his office under artificial lights, a humidifier, and a fan. Then there is the matter of trial and error. Some people outdoor their orchids in the summer, but Cam's attempt ended in disaster in Maryland when aphids attacked and destroyed the collection. He then turned his attention to his outdoor garden which he would have loved to have moved to Pittsburgh. He had to leave that and about a dozen orchids behind when he and Susan left Bethesda.

Looking for volunteer opportunities in Pittsburgh, Cam and Susan quickly turned to Phipps and the Heinz History Center. Attending the OSWP Orchid Show last year led to their becoming members. Speaking about Phipps and OSWP's 'Pfun at Phipps' collaboration, Cam says, "The Phipps collection is extensive and varied, and Giovanni is amazing. The volunteers I work with have been so welcoming and generous, sharing their extensive knowledge."

Cam has learned a lot through his Phipps experience. "It is difficult to understand why a plant might thrive and why it might die. Beginners sometimes don't realize that different orchids require different environments." He's at the repotting table at the OSWP Orchid Show this year, more confident because of his exposure at Phipps.

The Schmidt's are happy to be at home in Pittsburgh sharing the lives of their son and his family and making new friends in the community, but the relationships they've forged with their friends and colleagues in the Washington, D.C., area haven't changed. Cam is always on hand to address business inquiries from his clients, and the road between Washington and Pittsburgh runs both ways, so they see plenty of old friends, often the parents of their son's friends or of the children whom Cam once coached. They have had a chance to showcase the Pittsburgh attractions. "We've taken the Trolley Tour with friends several times now," Susan remarks.

The physical demands of coaching make it impossible for Cam to resume that activity, but he and Susan enjoy watching their grandsons play the game. Low-impact yoga is more their style, and something they can enjoy together.

Cam and Susan demonstrate that volunteering and serving others, giving life and sharing it, is a rich and joyful way to live, so why not go out and rescue an orchid today?



Spring Show Judging Update

Among the goals of The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP) are the promotion of knowledge and appreciation of orchids by the public, as well as the education of the public relative to orchids. Judging is designed to support these goals by providing a process to its members, affiliated societies, and orchid growers everywhere (both domestic and international) by which their orchids can be evaluated and judged for AOS awards. On Saturday, March 18, 2023, a team of AOS accredited judges led by one of our own members, Dave Miller as Head Judge, will provide this service at this year's Orchid Obsession Show. This process is designed to recognize quality orchid plants and flowers, exceptional achievements in orchid cultivation, and significant advancements in breeding, hybridization, and artistic design; it also seeks to increase public awareness of the vast variety and diversity of orchid species found all over the world. All orchid growers are encouraged to participate!

More details are available on the Sponsorship page. Please click below to sponsor a trophy for just \$25.00. Thank You for your support!

Click [HERE](#) to Sponsor a Trophy

OSWP 2023 Spring Show Judging Categories

Category

Exhibit - Amateur 25 sq ft SOLD
Best Open Exhibit - 25 sq ft Available
Best Table Top Exhibit - Novice SOLD
Best Society Exhibit Available
Peoples Choice, Best Exhibit Available
Best Amateur Exhibit, over 25 sq ft Available
Best Open Exhibit, over 25 sq ft Available
Best Cattleya & Related Genera SOLD
Richard Sipko Best Cattleya & Related Genera SOLD
Best Cattleya / Guaranthe SOLD
Best Paphiopedilum SOLD
Best Phragmipedium & Related Genera SOLD
Chuck Van Dyke Memorial Best Phragmepedium Amateur SOLD
Best Phaleaenopsis SOLD
Best Vanda Alliance SOLD
Best Oncidium Alliance SOLD
Best Dendrobium Alliance SOLD
Best Specimen Plant SOLD
Best Cymbidium & Related Genera SOLD
Best Pleurothallid Available
Best Misc. Genera SOLD
Best in Show Available

It Is Show Time.

If you are considering putting in an exhibit for our spring show please send me an email requesting the space. We have table top (9sq.ft.) 25 sq.ft. 50 sq.ft spaces available. it is a first come first served situation. So if you know you wish 25 sq.ft. space please send me your request ASAP.

Jim Yamber quail1@verizon.net

The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania
Presents

Spring Orchid Show March 18 & 19, 2023

Orchid Obsession



Location

Crowne Plaza Suites
Pittsburgh South
164 Fort Couch Rd.
Pittsburgh Pa 15241
(across from
South Hills Village)

Dates & Times

Saturday, March 18, 2023

Exhibits Noon to 5 p.m.
Vendors 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday March 19, 2023

Exhibits 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Vendors 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Events

Orchid Displays
Orchid Repotting
Orchid Vendor Sales

Expert Presentations
OSWP Sales
Learn more at OSWP.org

Free Parking with easy access to all events

Admission \$5 (members & under 18 free)

OSWP.org

design by Jim Yamber

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)
General Meeting
February 19, 2023

The meeting was held at Phipps Garden Center. (The April OSWP meeting will be held at our new location, The Spartan Community Center, 134 E. Elizabeth St., Pittsburgh, PA. 15207)

A mini-class presented by Chuck Oldenberg re “Growing Show Quality Cattleyas” began at 1:00 pm. The business portion of the meeting was called to order at approx. 1:45 pm by Co-Presidents Michelle and Dave Panasiuk.

Old Business:

a. Crawford Estate Donations: OSWP and Phipps met together to take possession of the items from the Crawford Estate. No items remain in the rented storage facility. It is the intent of the OSWP officers to sell and/or raffle many of the items at the Annual Orchid Shows.

b. Raj Popat Orchid Collection – Sheila Nathanson, Michelle Burton and Mike Lysy met at Raj’s home to take possession of his donated orchid collection. They are in the process of re-potting many of the orchids and it is OSWP’s intent to offer the orchids for sale at the March Orchid Show.

c. Show Exhibit Storage – OSWP is in need of a 5’ x 7’ storage space to replace the facility that has been used for the last number of years. That space will soon be sold and will not be available to OSWP. The new space does not need to be temperature controlled, merely dry and secure. If anyone has space they can provide to OSWP (or suggestions for appropriate space), please contact Michelle and Dave Panasiuk.

New Business:

Spring Show Planning:

Many volunteers are still needed, in nearly every capacity and on nearly every day. The website is up and running, although there is a small glitch that Jingua is correcting. Show trophy sponsorships are available.

Food is needed for the Show volunteers and vendors. No cooking or cleaning facilities are available. Hot food should come in a crockpot or similar item. All utensils that are to be returned to owner need to be marked.

Dave Motak is working on advertising and has made connection with many types of media to promote the Show (including newspapers, facebook, radio and even the Home and Garden Show).

OSWP is still looking for sponsors to take ads in the Show brochures.

Reports:

a. Newsletter: Jim Yamber noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month to allow for editing and distribution.

b. Treasurer: Janet Greenburg presented the Treasurer’s report.

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c. Demetria Marsh was awarded an AOS certificate of Appreciation for her work in organizing volunteers to maintain the Phipps Orchid Collection (both Pfun and P-OSI).

Miscellaneous:

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

A plant raffle was held. Don Ammon won this month's plant raffle.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. and was followed by the guest speaker and OSWP member, Carolyn Bolton who gave a presentation on preparing plants for the Show and how to set up an exhibit. Many of the orchids that were brought in for Show & Tell were utilized in Carolyn's presentation.

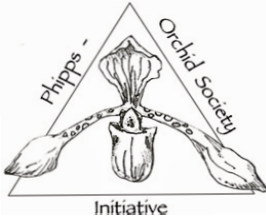
Submitted: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary

Welcome Table Volunteers Needed (Contact Mary Ann Pike)

Please consider helping at the Welcome table at the show. We greet people as they enter; collect the entry fee; distribute wristbands, people's choice tickets, and programs; and direct people to the various areas of the show. Last year was the first year that I volunteered, and this year I'm managing the Welcome table! It was a lot of fun. I'd like at least 3 people each shift, 4 if possible early in the day, and 2 would probably be enough late afternoon. Please check the online signup schedule on the OSWP web site. If you have difficulty using the online form, please feel free to email (mapike@earthlink.net) or call me (412.855.8239). People are particularly needed first shift Saturday morning, both shifts in the afternoon, first shift Sunday, and Sunday afternoon.

Membership

"ALL member dues are paid thru the end of the current fiscal year 07/01/22-06/30/23. This includes all those who joined at the spring show 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.

Marah 2023

Pfun at Phipps, a vital part of the OSWP's volunteer work at Phipps, is repotting orchids as well as doing the inventory of the Phipps orchid collection. The Pfunsters are also helping as the Clean-up Crew. We usually have Pfun on several Mondays and Thursdays from 9:45AM – 12:45PM. We will have fewer days in March, than our norm, because of our own show efforts and Phipps' show install.

If you don't think you have the expertise to repot orchids or work on the inventory, you can help with orchid greenhouse clean-up. It's all a great learning experience for all of us.

If you would like to join our Pfun/P-OSI efforts and haven't previously signed up with us, please let us know at the email addresses below. We are using at least 4 members each date, with at least one being a more experienced grower.

(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.). We are NO LONGER REQUIRED TO WEAR FACE MASKS!

Don't miss the Phipps Spring Flower Show: Five Senses of Splendor! The dates are March 18th thru April 15th.

BE SURE NOT TO MISS the PHIPPS USED ORCHID SALE on Saturday, April 1st (no fooling)! 10AM to 1PM in the outdoor garden or, if the weather is yucky, in the production head house. More information later.

Looking forward to working and learning together and having Pfun! Happy New Year!

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

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

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	Jim Yamber		



First Class Mail

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James Yamber (editor)
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The Orchid Society of Western
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corporation organized to advance
the propagation, horticulture and
preservation of orchid species and
hybrids through research, education
and scientific endeavors

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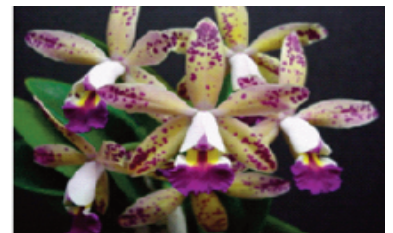
American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research,
Affiliated Society

Upcoming 2023 speaker

March 16-19 2023
Spring OSWP Show

location
Crowne Plaza-Pgh South

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
demjpasml@aol*