

The ORCHIDIAN



Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – January 2024



OSWP MONTHLY MEETING – open to members, guests and the general public

- Location: Spartan Community Center, 134 E. Elizabeth St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207
- Sunday, Jan. 21st - Doors open at 12:45pm; Approximate times: Mini Class at 1pm – Speaker at 3pm
- Mini Class: The optimal time for repotting Catasetinae orchids(Fredclarkeara, catasetum, clowesetum, cynoches), discussion and demonstration by Carol Panza
- Zoom Speaker: Deb Boersma Tiny Slippers aka Miniature Paphiopedilums **MEMBER SALES ALLOWED!**



OSWP OFFICERS – leaderships council and board of directors

- Co-Presidents: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk
- Co-First Vice Presidents: Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton
- Second Vice President: Zander Morrison; Mentors: Tim Choltco and Katie Schuller
- Secretary: Kathy Collins • Treasurer: Janet Greenberg
- Directors: Tim Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak. Chuck Oldenburg, Brian Powell



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EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

- **North Jersey Orchid Society Show** is being held **January 12 - 14, 2024** at the Rutgers University, Douglass Co.....ok Student Center, 100 George St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901.
- **Cape and Islands Orchid Society's "Orchid Impressions"** is being held **January 20 - 21, 2024** at The Resort and Conference Center, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA 02601.
- **National Capital Orchid Society "44th Annual Paphiopedilum Forum"** is being held **January 20, 2024** at the North Chevy Chase Christian Church, 8814 Kensington Parkway, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.
- **The Genus Phragmipedium - An Online Live Presentation by German taxonomist, Guido Braem.** Virtual Jan. 21. - Tickets are \$30 for member Societies and \$25 for individuals. Membership pending.
- **Orchid Society of Minnesota's "Winter Carnival Orchid Show"** is being held **January 27 - 28, 2024** at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul, MN 55122.
- **The Grand Valley Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show** is being held **January 27 - 28, 2024** at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, 1000 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.
- **Orchid Society of Greater St Louis "Cheers to Orchids"** is being held **January 27 - 28, 2024** at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63110.
- **Susquehanna Orchid Society's "For the Love of Orchids"** is being held **February 2 - 4, 2024** at the Milton and Catherine Hershey Conservatory at Hershey Gardens, 170 Hotel Road, Hershey, PA 17033.
- **The Greater Cleveland Orchid Society's 2024 Orchid Show & Sale** is being held **February 2 - 4, 2024** at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, 11030 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44118.
- **Orchid Growers Guild's "Orchid Quest"** is being held **February 3 - 4, 2024** at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704.
- **The Three Rivers Orchid Society Show** is being held **February 3 - 4, 2024** at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 S Calhaun St, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.
- **Southern Ontario Orchid Society's "Be My Valentine" Annual Show/Sale** is being held **Feb. 10 - 11, 2024** at the Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1P2, Canada.



COMMITTEE CHAIRS – Volunteer Leaders

AOS/Culture Corner - Nancy Kline
Facebook - Lance Cheuvront
Garden Club/Library Liaison/Hospitality - Carolyn Bolton
Library – Lori Beth Bloom
Membership Kathy Collins
Mini-class Zander Morrison, Tim Choltco, Katie Schuller

Newsletter Dave Panasiuk
Orchid Gems Norma Raiff & Pam Horter-Moore
Pfun/P-OSI Demetria Marsh
Raffle Natalie Turicik
Show Sheila Nathanson, Norma Raiff & Janet Greenberg
Speaker Carolyn Bolton & Natalie Turicik
Website Jinghua Ou

OSWP

OUR NEW OSWP LOGO!

By Lisa McGough



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Although we had to, in the end, choose just one winning logo design, in a perfect world we would just rotate through all the beautiful designs we received. We are truly fortunate to have so many creative and talented people in the OSWP.

Many thanks to Kathy McCafferty, Jim Yamber, Mary Ann Pike, Dave Motak, Gary Van Gelder, Cindi Wu Zimmerman, Zander Morrison, Leslie Kaplan, Don Ammon, Katie Schuler, Lisa McGough, Abby Warhola and Kaoru Kawasaki

January Monthly Meeting Speaker

OUR GUEST: Deb Boersma



Info

As the new year starts, we have a new speaker to us. This presentation will be a Zoom presentation. We will open the Zoom to anyone who would like to listen to her presentation from their home. The invitation to join the meeting will be sent closer to the meeting date, January 21, 2024. Because the speaker is not in person, MEMBERS MAY SELL PLANTS!

Biography

Deb is a recently retired Chemistry teacher from St. Clair College in Windsor, Ontario. She has been growing orchids for 30 years and started by growing under lights and then in a sunroom but in 2014 she built a greenhouse to house her growing collection. She has about 500 orchids including Cattleyas, Sobralias, Paphiopedilums, Tolumnias and several other miscellaneous genera. She is the Past President of the Windsor Orchid Society and an associate judge in the AOS judging program at the Great Lakes Judging Center, Ann Arbor. She has received several AOS quality awards, Best in Class awards and was the recipient of the Orchid Digest Diamond Award in 2016.

Presentation

Tiny Slippers aka Miniature Paphiopedilums: Miniature Paphiopedilums are not only stunningly beautiful but small enough that you just might find space to fit a few in your collection. This presentation will discuss the breeding for the perfect miniature plants, what species are used by hybridizers and showcase many of the recent miniature crosses that have been created. After this talk, you may be tempted to collect a few of these beauties at the next orchid show so, I will also talk about cultural requirements.



ORCHID GEMS – Susan Mallen

Susan Mallen: Youthful Interests, Lifelong Passions by Pam Horter-Moore



I was eager to interview OSWP member Susan Mallen because she lives within walking distance of me in Zelienople. I was also curious about the moniker “Larva Lady” in her email address. After spending time with her in her home, I left knowing a lot more than I did when I came.

I discovered to my delight that Susan shares my interest in butterflies and moths, but she has gone further than I by raising these beauties, collecting larvae, and propagating their habitat. It’s a passion she inherited from her grandfather, whose specimens she still displays.

Since both parents have degrees in horticulture and the family had a long farming tradition, interest in indoor and outdoor gardening came naturally to Susan. “When my children were young, I could still work in the garden and keep my eyes on them while they were playing,” she jokes.

It doesn’t take me long to discover that Susan’s interests are not confined to butterflies and moths, or even to gardening. She has many passions and commitments that keep her plate full and her schedule busy.

Natives of upstate New York, Susan met her husband Tom at SUNY Oswego and married in 1986. Tom came to Pittsburgh to earn his PhD from Duquesne. Their first home was Monroeville, but they eventually settled in Zelienople and raised two children, Ryan and Erin, now young adults. Tom recently retired from Sherwin Williams Corporation, Packaging Coatings Division.

Talking with Susan was a learning experience for me. I have lived in the apartments next to Glade Run Lutheran Services (GRLS) for over three years, and I’ve noticed a barn, farm equipment, and horses. Sometimes I could see youngsters playing in the creek. I wondered what was going on.

Knowing that my hometown is Rochester, Pennsylvania, Susan reminds me of Rev. Dr. William Passavant, who





was born in Zelenople and who founded several homes for the disadvantaged. This included the one that was situated on the hill behind my high school. "GRLS was established by Rev. Dr. William Passavant in 1854, as the Orphans Home and Farm School," Susan explains.

She told me the history of GRLS and its mission of providing programs and resources for those with mental health issues and developmental disabilities. One of these programs is animal husbandry, which is known to have therapeutic benefits. Participants in this program learn the give-and-take of animal care, interacting with chickens, rabbits, cows, donkeys, and horses.

The equine program at GRLS Adventures drew Susan and her daughter Erin to the facility over 17 years ago. As a child, Susan been an English rider, saving her babysitting money for the stables. The activities at Glade Run Adventures reignited Susan's love for horses, and she has been volunteering ever since, spending fifty hours a month caring for horses and mentoring other people in the care of horses.

Horses are fed, and water buckets filled. The horse must be groomed and checked for injuries. The stalls and

bedding must be cleaned and freshened daily. There are other things that might demand attention.

Susan understands the full scope of horse husbandry, having volunteered, and learned from the ground up. Her time in service, as a volunteer at Glade Run Adventures is exceeded only by that of the director.



She laughs when I tell her that the last horse I rode ran away with me. "You have to remember that horses are like teenagers; they know when someone is unsure of themselves, and they will take advantage."

Understanding the horse's personality and physiology is also a vital part of horse husbandry.

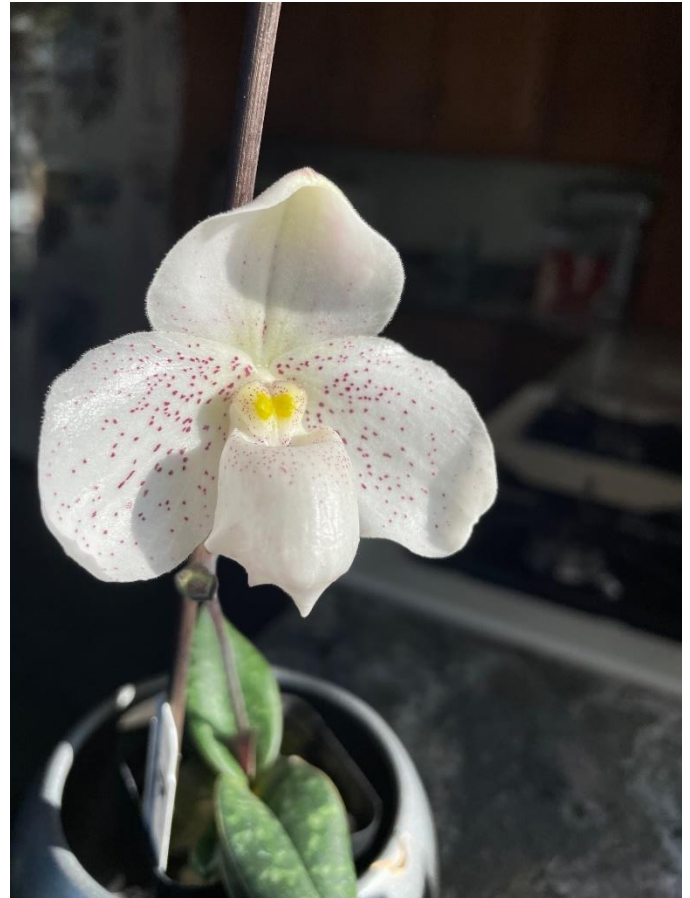
"Horses are prey animals," Susans informs me. Like most prey animals, their eyes are located at the sides of their heads to give them a broad range of vision for spotting predators. We humans, like most predators, have front-facing eyes, which limits our range of vision. We see things differently from horses, and this is a good thing to know when dealing with them.



Not surprisingly, Susan rides. She owns a horse at Culver Training Stables in Fombell. His barn name is Jimmy, but his show name is Little Jimmy Dickens. At 22, they are growing old together. Susan rides English style –Hunt Seat and has competed in Hunter Under Saddle shows. Accuracy is critical.

I was wondering how I was going to segue from Susan's work at Glade Run to her passion for sewing when she sent me a postscript in an email. "People find it funny that I create things like chicken diapers and pony booties. When the weather is very cold, the animal husbandry specialist takes the creatures up into the school. We can't have them slipping on the linoleum or

leaving little piles around!" Susan's postscript reminds me that everything is interconnected.



Sewing is a skill Susan grew up with. Her mother sewed her daughters' clothes, and, by 10, Susan was sewing her own. Later, she would sew her own children's clothing. Having discovered quilting in the 70s, Susan meets with a friend on Wednesdays, and displays her creations in her home. Her weekly trips to see her parents in upstate New York include assisting her mother with her own sewing projects.

What does Susan sew? Just about everything. Active in Calvin Presbyterian church, she sews the paraments for the church and changes them as needed. Paraments are the liturgical hangings on and around the altar, such as altar cloths, as well as the cloths hanging from the pulpit and lectern.

Susan comes from a family of gardeners, and it was her mother's gift of an Oncidium Twinkle that piqued her interest in orchids when it bloomed in 2019. Since then, she has made several purchases. She has 74 plants in her collection of Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Oncidium, and Paphiopedilum, which she

grows in the sunroom. Multiple doses of mealy bugs have her reconsidering Phalaenopsis in the future.

Susan joined OSWP in 2021. "I'm always learning," Susan says. "I'm willing to experiment. The flowers are the attraction for me, and I am just happy for the chance to get my orchids to bloom."

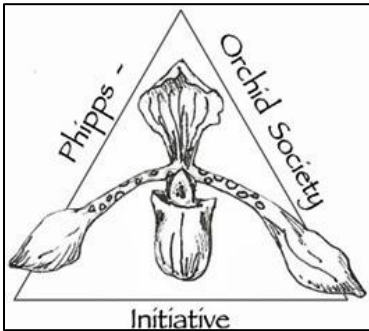


PHIPPS CONSERVATORY ORCHID SOCIETY INITIATIVE – Pfun volunteer work

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.

January, 2024



Pfun at Phipps is our OSWP repotting efforts as well as doing the inventory of the Phipps orchid collection. We are also helping as the Clean-up Crew and whatever Giovanni needs. **We are now going to Phipps most Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:45AM - 12:45PM.** It's a great learning experience for all of us.

Our goal is to help Phipps grow their orchid collection to one of national note, as well as the growth of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, a living museum of slipper orchids.

Be sure not to miss Phipps Orchid and Bonsai Show, starting January 13th, "Into The Mist." You'll see so many orchids in bloom, it's amazing!

If you would like to join our Pfun/P-OSI efforts and haven't previously signed up with us, please let me know at the email address below.

Thanks and looking forward to working and learning together. . . and having Pfun! - Happy New Year!

Demetria Marsh - Demetria117@gmail.com - 412-848-4349


 PITTSBURGH, PA
MARCH 16 & 17
OSWP ANNUAL SPRING SHOW "Orchid Obsession"
 Crowne Plaza Suites
 164 Fort Couch Rd. Pittsburgh PA 15241
ORDER NOW!
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OSWP HOLIDAY DINNER – Crowne Plaza Ballroom 2023



Holiday Party 2023 is now over. It was a wonderful event. We had more attendees this than any other year. Members, family members and guests enjoyed the company, the food, the presentation, and the cookie table.

First, let me give a big thank you to Kathy and Mike Collins for hosting Fred Clark. His plane was scheduled to land at 8:30pm. With the way flight delays happen it could have been a very late night for them. I hope they enjoyed his company. Fred is very personable.

Next a big shout out to Janet Greenberg! I couldn't not have done this without her assistance and her expert Excel skills when my spreadsheet was not doing what I wanted it to do. And keeping all the parts moving well. The shame is that on the weekend of the party she was sick and could not attend.

Thank you to everyone who brought cookies for the cookie table. It is such a treat to be able to have a selection of treats before, during and after dinner! You know some folks can't help but have a cookie or two or more as an appetizer! The variety of cookie treats were delicious.

Fred Clark is a wonderful speaker and although he changed the topic, he can certainly read the room and chose a topic, "Be an 80% Grower", that had something for the beginner and the advanced grower. His presentation was lively, humorous at times and filled with tips to be a better grower. Who was the fortunate attendee who had a thumb drive in her purse? It would be wonderful if some of us could get a copy of the information. Please contact me and I will plan to bring a thumb drive or transfer it to the computer we use for the meetings, and I can make other thumb drives for members who would want a copy. The members would have to bring their own thumb drive. The favor plants he bought for us were wonderful seedlings of his crosses and had a few other plants for sale. It was a bargain to be able to preorder without having to pay for shipping.



The staff of the Crown Plaza, especially, Lynn, was great when we discovered that they had the room set up for only 70 guests. There was a quick set up of tables and moving of the tables so that all the folks could see Fred's PowerPoint.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable time and were able to meet other members they didn't know.

-- Carolyn Bolton

Join Our All-Star Team!!



As we enter 2024, the All Star Team is getting ready to leave the station. Here is our phenomenal line up of Committee Chairs, Aka - **The All Stars**. Together we can make this year’s Show an outstanding success.

Get on board! Contact one of us -- **The All Star Rooters:** Show co-chairs Sheila Nathanson (mnsan@gmail.com), Jan Greenberg Janetg150@verizon.net, and Norma Raiff (normaraiff@gmail.com).

OWSP SHOW COMMITTEES

Arts & Crafts: Brian Powell
Education: Michelle Burton
Exhibit Setup and Layout & Vendor Room Layout: Bob Lusnak
Garden Society Liaison: Lori McDermott
General Helpers: Tammy Wurst, (*Co-chair Needed*)¹
Hospitality: Alan Goldman, Sherri Kinoshita
Judging Clerks: Carol Panza
Library Liaison: Lori Beth Bloom, Joyce Turkaly
Membership: Kathy Collins
Plant Parking: Susan Levish, Cindy Weiland
Publicity: Demetria Marsh, Dave Motak, Lisa McGough
Raffle: Dave & Michelle Panasiuk
Registration Exhibitors: Gary Van Gelder, Mona Rice

Repotting: Katie Schuller, Cam Schmidt
Security: Steve Gredzinski
Shirt Sales: Sheila Nathansan
Show Booklet: Show Booklet, Mona Rice
Sponsorship/Ad Procurement (Co-chairs needed)²
Silent Auction: Dave & Michelle Panasiuk
Society Exhibit: Carolyn Bolton
Society Sales: Leslie Kaplan, Holly Schrum
Storage: Bob Lusnak
Tear Down: Bob Lusnak
Trophy Awards & Judges Thank You's: Lori Beth Bloom
Welcome Table: Charlotte Momich, Mary Ann Pike

Essential Team Supports

AOS Photographer: Kim Frankenfield
Branding: Brian Powell, Abby Warhola
Facebook: Lance Chevrant

General Photographer: Abby Warhola
Website: Jinghua Ou

^{1, 2} Vacant Committee Positions: *General Helpers* and *Sponsorship/Ad Procurement*. It is our goal to have two co-chairs for each of these. *General Helpers:* assists where needed, e.g., helps vendors to unload, provides assistance in helping people to take their purchases to their cars. *Sponsorship/ad procurement* we need someone to coordinate and to answer questions about sponsorships and advertising asks. Mentoring available.

OSWP Spring Show 2024 Individual Room Reservations
Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites Pittsburgh South
164 Fort Couch Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15241(Upper St. Clair)

For best results, reserve by 02/13/24 12 AM

Group Rates (net of applicable taxes):

RATE AND ROOM BLOCK - The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

- Thu 03/14/2024, Fri 03/15/2024, Sat 03/16/2024
- Rate- **\$124.00** Hotel determines room available at time of check in.

- The above rates are net non-commissionable and are quoted exclusive of applicable state and local taxes, currently 14% and are subject to change without notice.
- Above rates apply to 3-days prior, 3-days post based upon availability.

CHECK IN/CHECK OUT:

Our check-in time is 4:00pm, check-out time is 11am. All guests arriving before 4:00pm will be accommodated as rooms become available. There may be a charge for late check-out. Our Guest Services Department can arrange to check baggage for those arriving early when rooms are unavailable and for guests attending functions on departure day.

Individual Cancellation Policy:

Any cancellations within Failure to cancel a guaranteed reservation 24 hours prior to arrival date will result in a charge equal to one night's room and tax. from the date of arrival will be billed for one (1) nights room and tax. It is the responsibility of "OSWP" to inform all attendees of our cancellation policy.

Standard concessions:

- Complimentary High-Speed Wi-Fi in all Sleeping Rooms and Meeting Space.
- Complimentary 24 Hour Fitness Center.

RESERVATION PROCEDURES: Individual Call-In

Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations. Please direct callers to 1-866-807-2819 or (412) 833-5300. Mention OSWP special group rate.

RESERVATION CUT-OFF: The guest room block will be held until 12 AM 2024-02-13.

Requests and name changes received after the cut-off date will be accepted on a rate and space-available basis at the group rate or best available rate.

**MARCH
16 & 17
2024**



Orchid
SPRING SHOW

**THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS**

Orchid **Obsession**

SATURDAY MARCH 16
EXHIBITS 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

SUNDAY MARCH 17
EXHIBITS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

CROWNE PLAZA SUITES
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ORCHID REPOTTING
ORCHID VENDOR SALES
OSWP SALES

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ADMISSION \$5 (MEMBERS & UNDER 18 FREE)

WWW.OSWP.ORG



**The Orchid Society
of Western Pennsylvania**

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Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Letsgroworchids@gmail.com

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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Affiliated Society



American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.



THE ORCHID SOCIETY
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

presents

THE SPRING ORCHID SHOW & sale

**Orchid
Obsession**

March 16 & 17, 2024

CROWNE PLAZA SUITES
164 FORT COUCH RD. PITTSBURGH PA 15241

LEARN MORE AT WWW.OSWP.ORG

January 21, 2024 Monthly Meeting Features

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- **Speaker: Deb Boersma - Tiny Slippers aka Miniature Paphiopedilums**