



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Jan 2019

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

January 20, 2019
Thomas Sampliner
**The Orchids of
Malaysian Borneo**

Looking Ahead

2019 - February 17	T.B.A.
2019 - March 15-17	O.S.W.P. Spring Show
2019 - April 28	New Members Panel

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

President: Demetria Marsh

First Vice President: Lori McDermott & Tim Cholteo

Second Vice President: Sheila Nathanson

Directors: Don Ammon, Mike Lysy, Kim McClelland, John Whiting and April Arroyo

Secretary : Lance Cheuvront

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Angraecum sesquipedale

Angraecum sesquipedale /ˌsɛskwɪpɪˈdɛrliː/, also known as Darwin's orchid, Christmas orchid, Star of Bethlehem orchid, and King of the *Angraecums*, is an epiphytic orchid in the genus *Angraecum* endemic to Madagascar. The orchid was first discovered by the French botanist Louis-Marie Aubert du Petit-Thouars in 1798, but was not described until 1822.[1][2] It is noteworthy for its long spur and its association with the naturalist Charles Darwin, who surmised that the flower was pollinated by a then undiscovered moth with a proboscis whose length was unprecedented at the time. His prediction had gone unverified until 21 years after his death, when the moth was discovered and his conjecture vindicated. The story of its postulated pollinator has come to be seen as one of the celebrated predictions of the theory of evolution.[2]



Photo by Vicki Strod

President's Letter January 2019

Happy 2019!!!!

First, a big thank you to Carolyn Bolton for making our Holiday Party happen. Carolyn does the planning, the buying, the transport, the decorating and the clean-up. And she does it with wonderful holiday spirit and grace. Thanks, too, to Tim Choltco who presented his wonderful program, Sex, Lies and Orchids. . . A fun and informative presentation of how orchids develop mechanisms to attract pollinators. To all of those who helped with setting up the party and then cleaning it too, a big thank you! It was a wonderful afternoon of orchids, fun, food and friendship!

HELP WANTED: We are looking for a person to contact Garden Clubs a few times a year, but especially for our upcoming show. No orchid knowledge needed. Just a little work involving which Garden Clubs and who is the current contact, writing an email and then sending it. A personal touch can mean a lot for publicizing our show. . . Especially important in our new location.

Norma Raiff, who has resurrected the Orchid Gems feature for our newsletter, helping us learn more about our members, has found people to help with writing a few columns a year: Christina Eyler and Pamela Horton Moore. Many thanks to them for volunteering. Norma has a format that is easy to follow: pick a member, call and ask the list of questions Norma uses as a blueprint, then spend an hour or so to write the column. More help is always welcome. Please let Norma know if you are interested. normaraiff@gmail.com Be sure to look for Orchid Gems in our monthly newsletter.

A quick review of some of the events of the past year besides our regular mini-clases and speakers: several members represented the OSWP, Phipps and the BTSOC at the Paph Forum in DC, our wonderful March Orchid Show, May new members reception, trip to the Cranberry Everglades to see native orchids; Gary VanGelder receives the Orchid Digest Diamond Award for his OSWP service, OSWP Pic-A-Nic, new location found for our orchid show: Artsmiths off Banksville Road outside the Fort Pitt Tunnels; October Orchid Bazaar; Highmark Living Expo and our Holiday Party. As always, Pfun and P-OSI at Phipps continue to do their great work. Phipps also agreed to let us use Botany Hall when the Garden Center is under renovation. Phew, lots of wonderful orchid events helping us learn more about orchids and help others learn as well.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE! A new year's resolution: volunteer to help with the society, Pfun or P-OSI, and/or our show or other tasks. We need your ideas, your energy, your work. It takes all of us to continue to grow strong.

Sending good wishes for a happy, healthy new year filled with good growth.

Demetria

Demetria Marsh,

OSWP President

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Register for the 39th Annual Paphiopedilum Forum!

Registration is now open for the fast-approaching 39th Paphiopedilum Forum, to be held January 26, 2019, at the U.S. National Arboretum. This all-day event features speakers on the three major genera of slipper orchids in cultivation (Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium [including Mexipedium], and Cypripedium); a panel of experts answering questions on growing slipper orchids; several well-known vendors selling plants and supplies; an NCOS member sales area with plants from private collections; and a show table that will knock your socks off! On display and available for sale will be some of the latest in ladyslipper breeding (both species and hybrids), as well as antique hybrids, a foliage category, and--a crowd favorite--ugly slippers! Plants for sale will include not only tropical slipper orchids for indoor growing, but hardy Cypripedium species and hybrids for your garden. Sign up, bring your plants, and join in the fun! For more details and the registration form, go to <http://ncos.us/paph-forum/>--and be sure to tell your friends about it!

Chairpersons

AOS Nancy Kline
Facebook Lance Cheuvront
Holiday Party Carolyn Bolton
Hospitality Carolyn Bolton
Library Rosa Graudin
Membership Val Robey

Orchid Show Sheila Nathanson, Gary Van Gelder
Pfun Nancy Kline
P-OSI Demetria Marsh
Website Jinghua Ou
Newsletter Jim Yamber

Copied from last month **But it needs repeating**

2019 Spring Show

As you enjoy the holiday season, please think about ways you can pitch in to make our Show next March a success. Activity will kick into high gear right after the holidays.

Being at a new location will require an extra effort in publicity. We will need to put out information earlier and in more locations than the past. Although the publicity effort needs to happen all over western Pennsylvania, we will need a concentrated effort in the Mount Lebanon, Dormont, and surrounding communities to help replace some of the walk in traffic we had at the garden center. Please let us know if you can help in this aspect.

Please consider volunteering to assist a show committee chair if you are newer to the society and would like to know what is involved. This will help greatly with continuity
. Gary VanGelder

Orchid Gems – Demetria Marsh

By: Norma Raiff

Actor, Singer, Businesswoman, Orchid Lover, Friend of Phipps, President Extraordinaire. That's Demetria Marsh, who all of us know in at least one capacity or other.

Demetria's in her third term as OSWP president. That is a record that few can imagine or would be willing to do. First elected as President in the early 1990's, she was co-President with Bill Kalupanov for her second term, and accepted the office again this past June.

This gracious woman brings to her role a background in acting, running an entrepreneurial business, forging relationships, and bringing up great new ideas. Her natural excitement and curiosity are infectious. Many long-term members associate their first encounters with the OSWP as involving Demetria and her late husband Bud Mellott. Although they ran a small advertising agency, they met as actors. Their good nature and inventiveness ran the gamut from hosting informal dinners with speakers (who can forget "Souper Sunday" on a namesake weekend where they recreated an Eat 'n Park atmosphere by hanging labels over the numerous soup pots) to creating the Phalaenopsis Phollies – an original musical that celebrated orchids and orchid growing through rewritten popular songs. First enjoyed when OSWP celebrated its 30th anniversary (1984), the Phollies went through several iterations and was last mounted at the Super Slipper Celebration (2013).

Brien Marsh, Demetria's husband, supports her long-standing hobby in different ways. For example, Brien designed an innovative basement growing area for the large collection of orchids that traveled with her into the marriage. It included a pool and pump that allowed her to collect water (even though that meant watering plants in a carpeted area). Like Demetria, Brien enjoys the arts and being involved. He's served as President of the New Hazlett Theater in the North Side and is currently on their condominium Board. We all know about Phun at Phipps: a monthly group where OSWPs help to repot and to assist at Phipps Conservatory. While many members have contributed to the program's success, Demetria propelled it. Although Phipps and the OSWP enjoyed a strong relationship in our early years -- our first meetings (1954) were held at Phipps and its Director was on the OSWP board, the relationship had waned. This was partly due to the fact Phipps then operated under the City of Pittsburgh and funds and workers were limited. Eventually, the orchid collection deteriorated.

Thanks to Demetria's recognition of the symbiotic relationship that could be nurtured between OSWP and Phipps, a new era of relationship building began. Our "second time around" began in 1990 when OSWP volunteered to repot Phipps' entire collection. This intensive effort took some 3-4 years. We repotted and organized the collection, paid for and installed fans, and suggested shading in the old green house. Together, Phipps and OSWP mounted the Super Slipper Celebration that featured important speakers, a Phollies presentation, and the naming of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection

So let's turn to Demetria's collection and memories:

Current collection: Brien and Demetria are now living downtown with a gorgeous view of the Three Rivers. However, as Demetria puts it, "I'm in a new growing environment." Along with having to downsize her collection, she has now become an accomplished windowsill and terrarium grower. ("Thank you Dave Miller and Carolyn Bolton for your tutoring".) She currently has some 50 plants, six of which are in bloom (half on the windowsill; half terrarium grown). As you might have easily guessed, Demetria's favorite plants are Phrags followed by Paphs.

Funniest/weirdest mistake or important experience:

The Georgetown Inn OSWP Fiasco!

Here is what happened: One Saturday evening the Raiffs and Bud picked up well-known Paph breeder, Norito Hasegawa, at the airport. But, uh oh, when we all got out to greet our Society's honored guest, Bud inadvertently locked the key in the car. So there we were, marooned! Our bad luck continued. We then

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went to see Demetria who was acting in a show (unfortunately we missed the play's first act due to our Bud-made accident) and then went to a late dinner at the Georgetown Inn. However, it was time for an encore. The Inn's valet service also locked the keys in Demetria's car, occasioning another long wait before she could drive Norito home. These twin incidents impressed Norito so much that he always reminisced about it when speaking at meetings and like occasions. Oh those beloved, klutzy Pittsburghers!

A nice coincidence:

At our 2014 Spring Show, Carolyn Bolton overheard Marion Wike say to friends that she had previously been a long-term OSWP member and that she had just moved back to Pittsburgh and lived in a downtown condominium. "With that, Carolyn ran back to the kitchen and updated me. Someone is here who lives in your building!" Following introductions, Marion rejoined the society. It also turned out that she lives three floors above Demetria. "Today we are good friends and help each other with our orchids."

Final advice: "Get involved. The Orchid Society has been an amazing adventure of learning about orchids and people and friends, and you get the most out of this by actively participating as a member. When you think about it, some of our friends have stayed with us through all the good times and bad times. It's a time for laughing, crying, eating, sharing recipes, and sharing friendships."

Amen to that!

Our January speaker, Thomas Sampliner "The Orchids of Malaysian Borneo"

Borneo is home to a wide variety of habitats beyond the familiar steamy tropical rain forests usually associated with such a place. Orchids well known and otherwise occur throughout the island from the sides of mountains to the expected rain forest floor. In addition to orchids, we will see some of the animals, birds and scenery in this diverse but not so well known Asian island."

I retired at the millennium to pursue my lifelong hobbies as naturalist, nature guide, writer, traveler most interested in flowering plants around the globe. I teach seniors in these subjects at a local community college. i write for journals of: "The Native Orchid Conference"; "The Native Plant Soc. of N.E.Ohio" and others. I prepare from my travels Power Point Programs of my plant hunting expeditions such as the one you will see.

Thomas will not be brining plants for sale, therefore members can bring orchid related items to swap or sell.

February meeting location change

We will be meeting at Phipps Botany Hall for our Feb meeting and Katie Schuller will be the speaker and will discuss Stanhopea orchids followed by a tour of the Phipps orchid show and greenhouse.

February meeting
new location

Pfun at Phipps in January

We have our usual 2 potting dates for January and may be looking for more help with setting up for the Orchid Show. . Our set dates are Thursday the 24th and Wednesday the 30th. This should be our usual Pfun repotting session.

HOWEVER, if you are so inclined: Katie could use some help the week of January 7 through the 11th to help with show set-up. Please contact her if you have the time and inclination to help.

kschuller@hipps.conservatory.org

There are name tags in a box in the beige cabinet in GH 1. Please take one and add your name. These can be taken home and used when you return. They are also helpful in the cafe or the gift shop when you request your 20% discount.

We also have some of our orange 'Volunteer Parking Permits' in that same box in that cabinet. Take one if you need one. If you find no parking in the areas where we are supposed to park, please park out front, around the statue. If you park there, do NOT put your parking permit on your dashboard.

As always, contact me if you are available. We begin typical Pfun work at 9:30 and finish around 12:30.

Lunch at the Cafe is always an option.

If you are working at any other time than Pfun, please let me know your hours.

These figures are reported to Phipps' volunteer coordinator and they help both OSWP and Phipps.

If you have begun working with Katie in the greenhouses, you can contact her with your availability. Katie would love to hear from you if you have the time, she may have an opportunity for you: kschuller@hipps.conservatory.org

If you have any questions, email me @ nancyk412@gmail.com or call 412-367-1556. Thanks for your help



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, 2019

While the Pfun and P-OSI teammates are working with Katie and Nancy to help set up Phipps Orchid and Bonsai show, the Slipper people are hoping for decent weather for a trip to the Paph Forum in Washington, D.C. in late January, to continue to update national and international Slipper growers about our project and receive some wonderful Slipper donations. If all goes well, we will distribute the Cypridium survey to the Cyp experts, the next step in the development of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection (BTSOC).

Once the Phipps show and our own OSWP Orchid show have all happened, the teams will again see how we can help Phipps update their inventory and grow the orchid collection in all ways, to continue to be one of special note.

If you'd like to be a part of this phenomenal team effort, contact us! We'd love to have you for Pfun and P-OSI! It's a wonderful learning experience for all of us, a great way to give back to the community and to help make Pittsburgh someplace even more special.

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Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania
Board Meeting
12/09/2018

Attendees

President: Demetria Marsh

Co-First Vice Presidents: Lori McDermott & Tim Choltco

Second Vice President and 2019 Show Co-chair: Sheila Nathanson

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

Secretary: Lance Cheuvront

Directors: Kim McClellan, Mike Lysy

The meeting was called to order at [12:55pm] by Demetria Marsh, President

1:05pm Discussion about whether to include or not include flower arrangements from different garden clubs around Pittsburgh at the OSWP Spring Show ended with the decision to not include them for this year. Future years will be decided on a year by year basis.

1:08pm A decision by the board was made to in future keep two copies the OSWP bylaws and meeting minutes in both digital and paper formats. One in the possession of the Secretary and a second copy in the possession of the President. A redundancy to ensure the security and whereabouts of the information.

1:12pm The board decided that the Treasurer will keep possession of the OSWP Seal and the Society's 501-3c information.

1:15pm Discussion and thoughts were heard on the pros and cons of the OSWP making a donation to Phipps for the renovation of the garden center. No decision will be made until more information about the future of the project is made available to the Board.

1:20pm Treasurer Janet Greenburg summarized the budget.

1:23pm Secretary Lance Cheuvront suggested that the OSWP have business cards made with the Society information and logo on them so that they can be used to educate the public about the OSWP's existence and mission. The board agreed to move forward with having them made.

1:28pm First Vice President Lori McDermott moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lance. Passed unanimously.



Think Orchids

Each year we have had an orchid show since 1954 and these displays were located different places. The first displays were at the Allegheny County Fair at south park. The show later moved to the Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center. Recently Phipps Conservatory took over the garden center changing the name to Phipps Garden Center. As you know the building is in sad shape and Phipps is going to renovate the center and during that time, we the OSWP will need to relocate our show and meeting space.

The new space has 16 spaces that are five foot square. Two can be combined for 50 sq ft space as the Society exhibit is going to do and that is why there are only 16 spaces.

Each of you new and old members need to consider creating an exhibit. More than one person can go together to do a 5 foot by 5 foot display. I know this is January BUT March will be before you know it. So get together with your friends and show your orchids. If you are not sure on how to do an exhibit Carolyn Bolton is doing a mini class on this before the meeting on Jan 20, 2019.

Think Orchids and display them.

If you decide to put in an exhibit please let Jim Yamber know by email no later thnt March 4, 2019 Make sure your subject line says OSWP orchid show. Jim Yamber email quail1@verizon.net

Upcoming 2019 speakers

2019 - January 20	Thomas Sampliner	2019 – June	T.B.A.
	The Orchids of Malaysian Borneo	2019 – July	Picnic
2019 - February 17	T.B.A.	2019 – August	No Meeting
2019 – March 15-17	O.S.W.P. Spring Show	2019 – September 15	Sam Tsui
2019 - April 28	New Members Panel	(Orchid Inn) Paphiopedilum	
2019 – May	T.B.A.		

NEW LOCATION FOR 2019 OSWP ORCHID SHOW

As much as most of us do not like changes, sometimes they are handed to us. The need to find an alternative location for our annual spring show is one of those changes. We were unable to secure a firm commitment from the Garden Center for our 2019 show due to their plans to renovate that property. This required exploring alternative options.

Our thanks goes out to all the members who offered suggestions. Our thanks especially goes out to the team of diligent members who researched the suggested alternative venues, and many many more. After extensive weighing pros and cons of all options, the search team, the OSWP board, and show chairs decided Artsmiths Gallery in the South Hills made the most sense to host our 2019 spring show.

This facility is a recently renovated former hardware store, and is located at 1635 McFarland Rd, Pgh, 15216. It is approximately five minutes from the Ft Pitt Tunnels. It boasts plenty of free parking, two spacious downstairs gallery spaces, a classroom, and an upstairs cafe. There are several accessible restrooms, and an elevator. It is a lovely facility to host our show, and it will not require navigating side streets in an unfamiliar section of town.

This is a big change for the society, but if we have all hands on deck we will have a successful show. When those volunteer clipboards start getting passed around, don't be shy about getting involved. It takes us all, working together, to run a great show.

We are sure there will be unforeseen challenges to this 2019 show, but we know our members will pull together to make it a great success.

Mini-Classes

Carolyn Bolton has agreed to teach a mini-class on "Getting Your Orchids Ready to Show. Mini-class will begin at 1:30, prior to the regular meeting on January 20.



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Membership Information DUES: 07/01/18-06/30/19

The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving orchid enthusiasts. Our purpose is to stimulate interest in the exchange of information about the culture, conservation, and exhibition of orchids. Membership is open to everyone, whether they grow orchids or just want to learn more. Visit us at www.oswp.org

OSWP Membership Application Form

Name _____

Name of spouse/other family member _____

Your Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____

Date: _____

Annual Dues calculation: (check all that apply)

☐ Individual Membership \$20

☐ Household Membership \$25

☐ Additional fee for paper newsletter: \$15

Total dues \$ _____ Check payable to OSWP

Or PayPal, via OSWP.org, Dues PayPal link,
Or PayPal, using email address: OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com
PayPal-Please click on "Friends and Family" or fee assessed OSWP
Mail your completed form/check to:
Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr., McMurray, PA 15317



First Class Mail

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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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Upcoming 2019 speakers

FUTURE PROGRAMS

January 20 2019

Thomas Sampliner

The Orchids of Malaysian Borneo

More to come for the future programs for 2019

