



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Feb 2019

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

February 17, 2019
Katie Schuller
will be speaking on
Stanhopea orchids

Looking Ahead

2019 – March 15-17

2019 - April 28

2019 – May

2019 – June

2019 – July

O.S.W.P. Spring Show

New Members Panel

T.B.A.

T.B.A.

Picnic

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

At the show table we banter around the names of orchids and it is baffling to many. There is a 10 minute video now on YouTube that walks through the ins and outs of what information is found on an orchid label and how to decipher it. It is narrated by Dave Miller and can be played as many times as you desire. It is entitled "Orchid Basics - How to Read a Label" and is the first of a number of videos designed to help society members learn about orchids. It can be found most easily by searching YouTube for "Ohio Orchids" or by going to this browser link

"<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGTXUa74114>". Learning more about what is on the label will definitely help when trying to pick out your next orchid from the sales table. Questions, problems and comments should be sent to Dave.

"How to Read an Orchid Plant Label"



Photo by Jim Yamber

President's Letter February 2019

Happy February!

Because of the threat of awful weather, we cancelled the January meeting. It was sad to do that, but for everyone's safety, it was necessary. So, below are all the things I was going to mention at the meeting:

HELP WANTED:

GARDEN CLUB COORDINATOR

We are looking for a person to be the coordinator for contacting Garden Clubs a few times a year, but especially for our upcoming show. The coordinator helps with which Garden Clubs and who is the current contact, helping write an email and then sending it. A personal touch can mean a lot for publicizing our show. . . Especially important in our new location. We have several members helping with this, a coordinator would be great. No great orchid knowledge necessary, just email.

SHOW MATERIALS STORAGE!!!

Adam Purdy, who has been so kind for many years to pick up, deliver and store all of our show backdrop materials, has changed professions and is giving up his storage facilities. If you have a space to store our black cans, metal rods and a few other things, that would be great. We can rent a vehicle or ask members with vans or pickup trucks to help move things on Wednesday of our show and again on Sunday late afternoon. Please let me know asap, as our show is approaching. We will need to find storage very soon. Adam will bring our supplies, but it's best if we have a plan for their new home on Sunday, 3/17/19, when our show breaks down.

CULTURE CORNER

Nancy Kline suggested an idea: have a table near the entrance of our meeting as the Culture Corner, where members and guests can come and ask orchid culture questions. Two people willing to be cultural gurus would be great. Nancy is willing to help. Another volunteer or two would make it easier. Please let me know. It would be wonderful to have the Culture Corner start at our April meeting, when we usually have a lot of newer members from the show.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE! For a vital, growing society, we need to change and try new things. **WE NEED YOU!** Get involved and have fun learning and doing.

Hope to see you at Botany Hall at Phipps Conservatory for our February meeting.

Stay warm,

Demetria

Demetria Marsh,

OSWP President

412-848-4349

demetria117@gmail.com

OSWP Society Sales Table 2019 Show

Once again we will be selling items at the Society Sales Table. In order to make this run smoothly, there will be a few guidelines for those who are hoping to sell their items. As this will be a new venue, please bear with us to make our table the revenue producing area that it has been. There may be last minute changes, please stay tuned...

Make sure items are properly priced and marked with your name or initials. I would suggest 2 stickers as they tend to fall off. If you have the time, a list of your sale items would be great for us to have. Also, if your initials are fairly common, please let us know your name so we can get the proceeds to the proper person.

- Obviously, plants are to be disease and bug-free. Anything we find to be suspect will be isolated and returned. The better your plants look, the more likely they are to sell. If they are not currently blooming, a photo of the plant is always a help. Any specific information that would be helpful can be added to a tag on the plant. People might like to know where you purchased it and any helpful cultural information.
 - We are encouraging the sale of orchid items. These are things like: art-work, books, clothing, decorative items, fancy pots and whatever else you can find that has something to do with orchids. Again, price them with 2 stickers and don't forget your name.
 - We are taking a 20% commission for OSWP. Please price your items accordingly.
 - Items can be dropped off any time on Thursday, Friday or Saturday or even Sunday. Obviously, the longer your plant has to be on the sales table, the more opportunity it has to be sold. You MUST plan to retrieve your items by 4pm on Sunday. If you want to know if you have items to take home, call me at 412-367-1556. I will be at the show site and can find that info for you. It is your responsibility to get your items home.
 - We can use bags and boxes. Both plastic and paper bags are great. Small boxes help our buyers get the plants home safely.
 - There will be NO 'holds' of sale plants before they are purchased. You may pay for the plants, have them packaged and leave them with us.
 - This includes plants that are seen before the table is officially open. If you want something desperately, find me and pay for the plant. I will deal with the paperwork later.
- Again, NO HOLDING of any items.
- A record of sales will be submitted to Janet Greenberg, Treasurer, within a few days of the end of the show. Your check will come from the OSWP treasury.
 - Some help will be needed on both Saturday and Sunday. Please contact me if you are interested in working with our sale items.

With your help we can make this a profitable endeavor for members and the society alike.

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

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

Orchid Gems – Christopher Moore

Chris' Orchid Collection Is a Dream Come True

By Pam Horter-Moore

Because this is my first column under “Orchid Gems,” I thought that I would take the easy way out and interview my husband Christopher Moore, longtime orchid lover, novice collector.

I myself am not a collector. I have my own hobbies, and they do not include orchids. I am merely the spouse of a collector and the chauffeur who drives him to the meetings in Pittsburgh. I am, however, a person who appreciates the beauty of this ancient and elegant plant, so I enjoy the fruit of his labors.

Christopher, why did you develop an interest in orchids?

“I’ve loved flowers since I was a boy, and I had always wanted to grow orchids. However, it just didn’t seem feasible while I was living alone in England.

When I came to the States and married Pam, I didn’t give the matter much thought until I bought her a couple of ‘Just Add Ice’ orchids from Giant Eagle for her birthday in September 2013. When the blooms dropped off, she was going to throw the plants out until I told her that they could be made to bloom again. At that point, I took the plants over and got the fever.”

Can you tell us something about your collection and growing conditions?

“We live in a split-level home, and my collection is in my office on the sub-basement level. I purchased a sturdy 8-foot table, extended it, and purchased two white 4-foot square trays. My 80 plants sit on plastic egg-crate sheets placed on the bottoms of the trays, which I flood with RO water to raise the humidity level. I also mix hydrogen peroxide with the water to encourage the release of oxygen under the roots and to keep the trays spotlessly clean and free of algae. I have a number of fans that run constantly and which can be easily moved and adjusted as needed. This was done on the advice of my ‘orchid buddy,’ Raj Popat. To remove debris and excess water from the axes of my orchids, I used to use a canned computer duster. However, I now find that a woman’s makeup brush is better. Its bristles are so soft that you can gently flick out bark and medium and excess moisture without damaging the plants.

Since the health of the roots is the health of the orchid, I prefer to use clear and slotted pots that let me view the roots, telling me instantly the overall condition of the orchid and whether it needs watering.

I am always looking for an optimum light source for my plants. I recently obtained T-5 tubes and fixtures that offer full-spectrum daylight at 6400k and include the UV that is necessary for growth. These are suspended over my light-loving plants, while my phalaenopsis and other shade-loving plants on the other side of the grow-table benefit from the less direct light.

Occasionally I use a red 1000k tube over my phalaenopsis to simulate fall and encourage spiking. The light fixtures above my grow-table are designed to make it easy to adjust light as needed. I can understand why phalaenopsis is a good plant for beginners. They grow into their environment, blend into their circumstances, and stay in bloom a long time.

In spite of what books tell you about foot candles, I have learned through trial and error that less light is better for my environment than what they recommend. I was burning my plants when I followed their recommendations, and did better when I backed off the light. The moral of this is that you should always listen to the advice of experts, but with an air of caution. Everyone’s environment is unique, and what works for one orchidist might not work for another. I am using less light than recommended, but the leaves of my plants are the right color.

Orchidists have to be great mimics because they must mimic the environment in which the orchids are natively grown and in which they thrive. You have to understand the needs of each orchid.

One of the greatest benefits that I have gained from membership in the society and from Dave Miller in particular was knowledge of the importance of a good water supply. I had been poisoning my plants with

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our tap water. Now I have an RO system and I have never looked back. I just adjust the PH as needed. We drink the RO water ourselves. Thanks to my TDS meter (a water particulate gage), I discovered that our tap water has over 500 particulates per million, That's well above what the EPA considers safe. Now I know why my plants were dying. Additionally, Dave greatly helped me eradicate my mealybug problem by recommending Enstar AQ insect growth regulator at 15 drops a pint of RO water. I'm having much more success now, and I have the members of this Society to thank for it."

Why did you join OSWP, and how long have you been a member?

"I have always wanted to grow orchids, but I knew that there was more to it than meets the eye. I knew I had to connect with people who would have the knowledge to put me on the right track. I 've been a member of OSWP for three years now."

Each orchidist has his or her preferences. What are yours?

"Most of my collection consist of phalaenopsis and Papheopediums, but I also have a selection of Phragmipediums, Angraecum, oncidium, and dendrobrium.

I am partial to slipper orchids, and am a member of the Slipper Orchid Alliance, as well as a member of the OAS, but I don't want to restrict myself only to Papheopediums and Phragmipediums. I enjoy all orchids, especially those with large and colorful blooms.

I am limited on space, so I would like to stay the course. If I do well with the orchids I have, I might drift into a new family. But first, I would need to familiarize myself with it. I feel fairly confident with phalaenopsis and Papheopediums now, and I am becoming a better mimic."

Photos: Dendrobrium Mini-Snowflake (aberrans x johnsoniae)

Angraecum sesquipedale, the Darwin orchid

Papheopedium Pinocchio 'Cupping' x Papheopedium primulinum Alba 'Super'

Paph Quartet: Meon x Oriental Enchantments 'SVO' x Dire Wolf 'SVO'; Jacqueline Spring Moon (spring moonbeam 'Late Pleasure' x Jacqueline Moon 'Dorsal Flare'); Presidential Pops (magic pops 'Pink Portfolio' x President Fred 'Dreaming Pink'); Hsinying Bonjour x Hilo Super Green

Chris' Orchid Garden

Chris' and his orchid garden





More of Christopher Moore's plants

Pfun at Phipps in February

Thank you so much for all the help with show set-up. If you have not given me your hours, please get them to me.

We have our usual two (2) potting dates for February. Our Pfun dates are Wednesday the 13th and Thursday the 28th. These should be our usual Pfun repotting sessions.

Of course, plan a few minutes before or after or both to check out the Orchid and Bonsai Show. You will not be disappointed.

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.



Alternative Show Sign Up Option

Hello Everyone,

The loss of the January meeting due to bad weather put us behind on passing around clipboards to get spring show volunteer commitments. However, this gives us a great opportunity to move into the digital age. To catch up, we are going to try an online sign-up system. The link is:
<https://ttsu.me/wrw7ve>

You can easily signup for anything we normally used clipboards for with just a few clicks and then entering your name and email. Phone numbers are optional. The blocks will gray out once you make a commitment. We set it up so only your first name and last initial will be displayed for others to see who volunteered. Hopefully that will eliminate any privacy concerns. You will get an email confirmation.

We can create additional signup blocks if you are a committee chair and need additional or other help. Just let us know. This resource will allow us to automate reminders. It will also let you check later to see what you volunteered for in case you forget.

There are sign-ups for Show Trophies, Hosting and Donations, Exhibits, Show Setup, Welcome Table, Raffle Table, General Helpers, Repotting, Security, Show Clean Up, and a few others on this web page. The clerking blocks are just there in case we need a few more. There may already be enough clerks. My hope is this system works out so well that it will become the primary signup method going forward. We designed this as a one web page system as we thought multiple pages would be more confusing.

Of course, you can directly contact the committee chair or make a call to one of us (Gary 412-638-9756, or Sheila 412-343-9457) if that is easier for you. Please email us at gvangelder@verizon.net or msnsan@gmail.com if the online signup site is not clear enough. We will eliminate blocks when a committee chair lets us know someone signed up via other methods, so do not be alarmed if you see blocks starting to disappear. We will have clipboards at the February meeting for those few who are unable to use the online system.

Thanks,

Gary VanGelder and Sheila Nathanson

New Members Corner

In an effort to make our orchid society more aware of our newest members, we are adding the New Members Corner to our monthly newsletter. This month's newest members are:

Lisa and Samuel Pareso of Pittsburgh, PA

OSWP extends a warm welcome to you both!

Val Robey

Membership Chair

HELP!

This year at Artsmiths, our new show location, we are planning a smooth and fun transition. Just in case, we have a new committee, THE HELPERS. (Mr. Rogers would be so proud.)

Our job is to help with whatever is needed. Carrying things, directing people, whatever needs done to help out.

So, please contact Demetria Marsh at demetria117@gmail.com or 412-848-4349, to let her know you are willing to HELP.

2 hour segments:

Thursday, March 14, from 8AM – 10PM

Saturday, March 16, from 9AM – 5PM

Sunday, March 17, from 10AM - 4PM

Thanks very much!

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

Upcoming 2019 speakers

2019 - February 17	Katie Schuller	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.		
2019 – June	T.B.A.		
2019 – July	Picnic		

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 will give a mini-class at the February 17 meeting, from 1:15-1:45 in the auditorium at Botany Hall, on "Getting Your Plants Ready to Show". Carolyn is a great grower and exhibitor, and even if you got some tips from her at the Mini-Show in October, you may pick up some trade secrets that will help you show your beauties off to their best advantage.



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

James Yamber
380 Western Ave.
Oakdale, Pa. 15071

quail1@verizon.net

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 2019 speakers

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 17, 2019

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More to come for the future programs for 2019

