



# Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

May 2019

[www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org)

## Upcoming Events

2019 May 19  
Thomas Sampliner  
**The Orchids of  
Malaysian Borneo**

## Looking Ahead

2019 – June	Carri Raven- Riemann.
2019 – July	Picnic
2019 – August	No meeting No newsletter
2019 – Sept	Sam Tsui (Orchid Inn) Paphiopedilum

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](http://www.oswp.org)

### OSWP Officers

**President:** Demetria Marsh

**First Vice President:** Lori McDermott & Tim Choltco

**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



The girls of OSWP at the West Shore Show setting up the society exhibit and it got **Best Society Exhibit**.

## OSWP at Strongville's Orchid Show 2019 Pictures



Photo by Jim Yamber

## President's Letter May 2019

It's May!

Welcome new OSWP members. We hope you can attend our meeting this month, May 19th, and the special new member gathering beforehand, organized by our new member chair, Val Robey. It will be a great chance to learn about orchids, the society and each other.

Culture Corner will start at our May meeting. The idea, presented by Nancy Kline, will have a table at each meeting where members may bring in an orchid they have a question about and get some orchid advice. If you are bringing a plant with a pest or disease, please bring it in a bag, so it is contained. Pictures are also helpful if you don't want to carry plants.

Carolyn Bolton and Carol Panza headed a team that took an OSWP exhibit to the West Shore Orchid Show in Strongsville, Ohio, the last weekend of April. It's a lot of work (and some fun), helps the WSOS create a beautiful show, gives us a chance to show off our orchids and perhaps get ribbons and awards, and may encourage other societies to bring an exhibit to our show as well. Wonderful work and idea! Thank you!

It does take a village. Our orchid society is a great place to learn about orchids and people. Best way to do that is get involved. Let us know if you would like to become an active member as opportunities open.

Demetria  
Demetria Marsh,  
OSWP President  
412-848-4349  
demetria117@gmail.com



# 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.

The Cypripedium Survey has been sent to Cyp experts all over the world. Several have responded and in the next month, we hope to collect data for the most important Cyp hybrids and species for the Cypripedium Wish List for the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, Phipps' Living Museum of Slipper Orchids.

Bill and Lynne Goldner of Woodstream Orchids are donating a large number of plants to Phipps. We really appreciate their thoughtfulness and generosity as we work to improve and build the Phipps orchid collection as a whole.

To that end, once the Phipps summer show has opened, 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.

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

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

## **May speaker, Thomas Sampliner**

Our January scheduled speaker, Thomas Sampliner has kindly agreed to be rescheduled to speak with us at our May meeting ( as you may recall our January meeting was cancelled due to weather issues). Thomas Sampliner plans to discuss "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.



### **SPECIAL INVITATION**

**New Member Reception – Please RSVP by May 15**

May 19, 2019 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Phipps Garden Center, 1059 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

(Please Note: Not at the Phipps Conservatory)

If you have joined the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania in the past 12 months or would like to join on or before May 19, you are invited to our New Member Reception at 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. right before our May 19 meeting at the Phipps Garden Center in Shadyside. It's a fun time of food and fellowship, some introductions to our programs and activities and, of course, you'll get to meet a number of our dedicated leaders/orchid growers. OSWP is full of warm, friendly folks who love sharing their knowledge and sources. We all learn so much from each other!

If you have not already made your membership official, check out the Membership Link on our website, [www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org) or email either [vrobey71@gmail.com](mailto:vrobey71@gmail.com) or [janetg150@verizon.net](mailto:janetg150@verizon.net). We accept PayPal online, or cash and check at the meeting that day.

Whether you are officially a new member or are joining us that day, please RSVP by May 15 to Val Robey whether you plan to be at the New Member Reception so that we are prepared with enough seating and refreshments. You are also welcome to bring a friend, a family member or a fellow orchid lover!

Val Robey  
Membership Chair  
[vrobey71@gmail.com](mailto:vrobey71@gmail.com)

## **Orchid Gems; Jinghua Ou,**

By: Cristina Eyler

Have you seen the OSWP webpage lately? If you haven't, you should! This month's Orchid Gem is the Society's new website manager, Jinghua Ou, and she has done an incredible job updating and revamping the webpage, so make sure to check it out. Jinghua is a relatively new member, having joined at the Orchid Show in March 2018. Despite having only been growing orchids for about three years, she has accumulated eighteen orchids of various genera and has jumped right in to the Orchid Society with volunteer work.

### **Jinghua's orchid growing journey began with a trip to Sam's Club on Valentine's Day 2016.**

She wanted to buy flowers and saw that Phalaenopsis plants were cheaper than the bouquets. A few months later at the May Market at the Phipps Conservatory for Mother's Day, Jinghua saw many orchids that looked nothing like the plant she bought at Sam's Club and thought, "Are these ALL orchids?" At two for \$8, she purchased an Oncidium and a Dendrobium. A gentleman there gave her a few pointers on orchid care and directed her to several culture sheets: "He gave me some helpful advice. He told me to soak the pot from the bottom. I still do that once a week for 10-15 minutes."

In the fall, the Oncidium bloomed! "Wow!" she thought, "This is not too hard. The Sam's Club one re-bloomed too. Maybe I can do this."

**The orchid bug got her.** Over the course of the next year, Jinghua bought two more Oncidiums and three Lady Slipper orchids. Finally, in 2018, she stumbled across the OSWP webpage and came fully into the orchid growing community in Pittsburgh. After attending several meetings and learning more about the orchid hobby, Jinghua contemplated volunteering to manage the Society's website. She works full time as a software engineer at medCPU, so she has the skill set to offer. "Okay, I'll do it," says Jinghua, "It will be good for me because it will get me more involved. I will not be likely to skip meetings and I'll know what's going on!"

**Already, Jinghua has big plans.** Come summer, she will do an overhaul of the website. "The website says a lot about the Society. If the website looks old fashioned, young people might think the Society is old fashioned as well and not want to join. We need more people!"

She has also been taking more pictures of show-and-tell plants to post on the webpage: "I found that interesting and I was learning and becoming more familiar with the different orchid types."

**All of this learning at the meetings has paid off.** Jinghua's technique is simple and she has seen much success with her plants, growing them in the garden window in her dining room. "It has lots of sunlight. I don't do much with them." Her success even prompted a friend to give Jinghua a cymbidium she had been growing for ten years without it ever blooming. She seems to have quite the "green thumb"; Jinghua also grows succulents ("But they don't do well") and has a vegetable garden.

**"I like to plant vegetables in the summer;** tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, eggplants, peppers and many other things. I also have many flowers in my front yard too; peonies, irises, daffodils, roses, hellebores, etc. I like to plan some new things each year. I enjoy seeing things grow, from seeds to fruits. For example, the only way to see the flowers of different beans, we buy in the store, is to grow them."

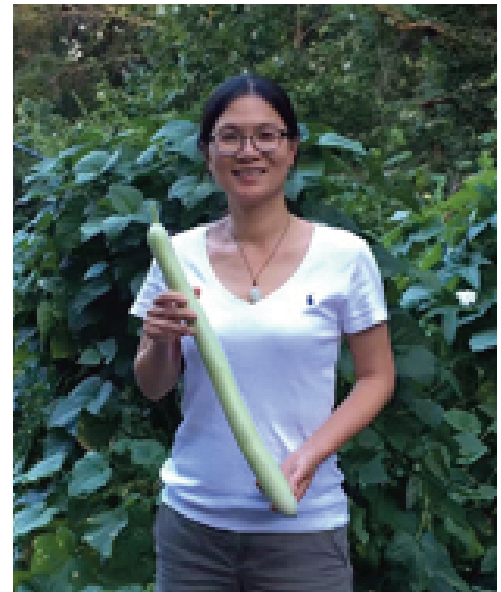
**This journey started in Guangzhou, China where Jinghua was born and raised.** There, she attended college at South China University of Technology and received a degree in Architecture. "My first degree was in Architecture. I got a second bachelor degree in Computer Science after we moved to the States. I like to draw and paint probably since I was 3, which was the reason why I chose Architecture in

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the first place. I still paint when I find time, mostly in watercolor and acrylic. Maybe I'll paint some orchids some time."

**She moved to Singapore after graduating, where Jinghua met her husband Jun.** They lived there for about eighteen months before her husband found a job in Pittsburgh. He is currently working for UPMC as a software architect. They have been here for twenty years. Jinghua received a second bachelor degree in Computer Science from James Madison University and has been working as a software engineer for fourteen years. Jinghua and her husband have two daughters; Serena (14) and Iris (12).

**Jinghua's advice to other newcomers:** "Membership is totally worth it. I learn a lot and really enjoy it. The people are very nice."



#### **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

#### **New Members Corner**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members to OSWP:  
Bill Burnett Kyle Ethan Fischer

Reminder to New members – SAVE THE DATE: Please note that we will be having a new member reception at Phipps Garden Center just before our regular OSWP meeting on May 19. See page 3 for more details.

Val Robey Membership Chair

#### **Mini-Classes**

Raj Popat has rescheduled his mini-class to this month and will be giving a mini class on *Dendrobium nobile* and *Callista*

. Mini-class begins at 1:30

#### **3 Shelf GROW-CART**

3 SHELF GROW-CART constructed of 1-1/4" round aluminum. Approximate size: 74" H (Includes top bar for hanging plants) x 53" L x 20". Includes 3 large 20" x 49" fiberglass trays with drain holes. Rolls on 3" wheels. Can be disassembled for moving. Price is for stand and trays only. Old original hanging lighting fixtures are available FREE but new lighting fixtures are STRONGLY recommended (required!). "Popular for Growers of Orchids and Large Plants" Price: Best offer over \$50. Contact Chuck VanDyke at 412-963-9790 or [cvandyke@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:cvandyke@andrew.cmu.edu). Picture available.

## **Chris Moore: a Tribute**

By Pam Horter-Moore

On March 29, I lost my best friend. I only knew Chris for less than fourteen-and-a-half years and we were only married for less than twelve-and-a-half years, but he is a part of my life that I don't want to surrender. Although he was in Somerset, England, and I was in Beaver, Pennsylvania, we met through mutual friends and began an email correspondence that blossomed quickly into something more. We talked about marriage at a table at Quaker Steak and Lube in Cranberry three months after we met. For the next two years, we filled out the necessary paperwork and made the necessary trips to London to bring Chris over to the States on a fiance visa. In September 2006, he came to the States to stay and we were married a month later. We had some early turbulence, as both of us were accustomed to single life and had to adapt to living as a couple, but we both wanted it to work. That really wasn't hard to do because we were so compatible in the ways that really count. We were Ying and Yang: What one lacked, the other could supply. It was a partnership that had almost been honed to perfection when he was taken from me. He was very proud of his apprenticeship in the Engineering Department of the British Ministry of Defence. He had a universal knowledge of physical science and admired men like Isaac Newton and John Harrison, whose sea clocks gave us a way to measure longitude. He was curious about everything and never stopped seeking answers to his questions. He had practical knowledge as well, held twelve welding certificates, and worked as a toolmaker. He was a supervisor in a county-run production workshop employing the disabled. He loved the outdoors, nature, and animals. He was proud of his Liberty Runner green beans and liked to garden. He was a man of many interests who was consumed with a new idea and project, whether it was photography or orchids. Orchids were a passion that came late in our marriage, but it was his last consuming interest. I'm glad that he had the opportunity to achieve some success in growing these exquisite plants. Moreover, I am glad and grateful for the part the Society played, not only in his success but in his life and mine as we came to know so many of you as friends.



## **AOS Guide to Orchids and their Culture**

*We have an opportunity to purchase a new book from AOS at a serious discount:*

- The AOS Guide to Orchids and their Culture This book is crammed with nearly 250 pages of valuable information on orchid culture, paired with stunning, full-color images from cover to cover. Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons have delivered a quintessential guidebook for facilitating a blossoming interest in orchids! These handy books are now available in our web store at \$24.95 retail price, but with your 10% Membership discount, your copy will be \$22.46!\* For the next 90 days only we will be offering a 50% discount off of retail price on bulk purchases of one or more sealed boxes, which contain 24 books each. Please make sure you are logged in before making any purchases on our web store to ensure that your discount on all AOS Publications is automatically applied. The book can also be purchased by calling our offices at (305) 740-2010. We are available from 9AM to 5:30PM EDT, Monday through Friday. Get yours now!
- \*Price does not include that of shipping and insurance, which will vary depending on your location or amount of copies ordered.

At the April 28th meeting we had 27 members sign up for the book. The cost with shipping and insurance will total \$14. This would be a great gift for an orchid-growing friend. We are hoping for sufficient orders to achieve a 2nd box of 24. Therefore, if you are interested, please contact me with your order. I am also collecting money from those who ordered at the meeting. This can be a check mailed to me at: Nancy Kline, 1118 Bay Hill Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044

Or, PayPal: OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com and choose "Friends and Family"

Also, can bring the cash to the May meeting.

We are all looking forward to the new publication.

Any questions, email me at nancyk412@gmail.com or phone: 412.367.1556.

### **Pfun at Phipps in May**

We are getting into peak repotting season. Join us to help during the 2 days we have scheduled for May. Tuesday May 14 and Thursday May 23. 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@phipps.conservatory.org](mailto:kschuller@phipps.conservatory.org) If you have any questions, email me at [nancyk412@gmail.com](mailto:nancyk412@gmail.com) or call 412-367-1556. Thanks for your



### **Dues Renewal**

The OSWP fiscal year is July 1st-June 30. All new members joining in March have membership coverage thru 06/30/20. All others will owe dues, effective 07/01/19.

If you choose to pay via PayPal: For Payment via PayPal, thru the OSWP website, the Friends and Family-no fee for OSWP- is not available. To save OSWP the 4% fee, use PayPal direct, link to [OSWPTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:OSWPTreasurer@gmail.com), AND click on "Friends and Family". Checks may be mailed, per the instructions on the application form in newsletter and on website.



## **Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Membership Information DUES: 07/01/19-06/30/20**

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](http://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, using email address: [OSWPTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:OSWPTreasurer@gmail.com)

PayPal-Please click on "Friends and Family" (no fee assessed OSWP)

Or PayPal, via [OSWP.org](http://OSWP.org), Dues link,

(OSWP pays fee-Friends & Family discount not available)

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

May 19, 2019

**The Orchids of  
Malaysian Borneo**

More to come for the future programs for 2019

