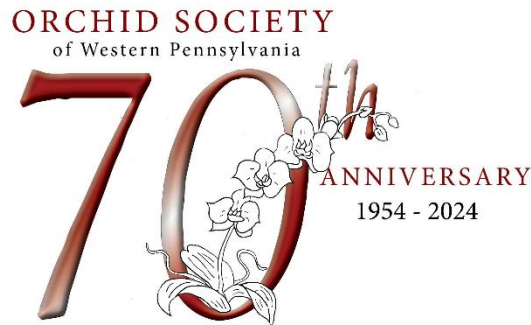


The ORCHIDIAN



Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – November 2024



EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

- **AOS 6th ORCHID CULTURE DAY - "Know more November: Orchid Culture, Conservation and You"**
The AOS is proud to announce its 6th Orchid Culture Day! Enjoy four great talks all in one day from the comfort of your home. It might be snowing in some places, but we can always learn more about Orchids. Spend a day with these delightful speakers and learn about genera, history, hybridizing and of course, CULTURE! There will be door prizes!
Event is online November 10th. **Speaker lineup:** *John Romano* - How to Grow Award-Worthy Species Orchids. *Jason Fischer (Orchids Ltd.)* - Growing Vanilla. *Lucy Matos-Lodato and Keith Clark* - Installing and Maintaining Orchids with the Flamingo Gardens Orchidteers. *Ben Oliveros (Orchid Eros)* - Hawaiian Sunrise and Greenhouse Growing.
For more details visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8048146281416824151>
- **Massachusetts Orchid Society's "World of Orchids – Old World vs. New World" is being held November 8 - 10, 2024** at Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St, Winchester, MA 01890.
- **Niagara Frontier Orchid Society's "Orchids Under Glass" is being held November 9 - 10, 2024** at the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Ave, Buffalo, NY 14218.
- **Ann Arbor Orchid Society "Ann Arbor Orchid Festival" is being held November 16-17, 2024** at Mathaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N Dixboro RD, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

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YOU ARE INVITED!

Holiday Party 2024

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel **When:** December 8, 2024 **Time:** 2pm-6pm
Reservations by **December 2.**



Members cost: \$20 Please make payments through the link on www.oswp.org to pay with a credit card or mail a check to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr. McMurray, PA 15317-3212. Note there is a second guest slot (which is the third person coming with the member/members) on the website for entrée. This is for a member who is bringing a dependent child. First entry is member, second entry is first who should be partner or guest of the member. Please **ALSO** use this link to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/FxJ8z4XwTH1wGacp6>

Meal is plated not buffet and these are the choices:

1. Grilled Salmon, Lemon Buerre Blanc Sauce,
Served with Petite Green Beans & Whipped Potatoes
2. Pan Roasted Chicken Breast Served with Wild Mushroom-Marsala Sauce,
Served with Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes & Asparagus Spears.
3. Trip Colored Tortellini
Seasonal Vegetables and Alfredo Sauce, Served with Garlic Bread

If you have dietary restrictions, please let me know. The hotel said they could accommodate.

Please bring cookies for the dessert table/tables

Your blooming orchids are appreciated for center pieces.

Speaker is Jack Zhu

Jack Zhu is an orchid hobbyist from the Los Angeles area in California. He grows many varieties of orchids, focusing on Asian cymbidiums. Jack is also very interested in the culture and history of Asia cymbidium. Jack is currently an Associate Judge in AOS Pacific South Judging Region and has more than thirty AOS awards for Asia cymbidium.

Title: The Colors and Forms of Asian Cymbidiums

With more than one thousand years of cultivation history, the Asian cymbidium community has developed some unique appreciation criteria for Asian cymbidiums, including several major flower forms and various colors. During the talk, Jack will go over the main flower form and color of various Asian cymbidiums. Within each category, he will present multiple examples, especially with plants from his own backyard. In the end, Jack will briefly go over the leaf variegations of Asian cymbidiums, which is another important aspect of Asian cymbidiums.

Jack would like to stay with a member. This is a great way to get a preview of his talk and show him the hospitality of Pittsburgh. He is coming in midafternoon on Saturday and leaving early Monday morning. If you want more information about hosting or if you would like to host him, please email Carolyn at boltoncs@gmail.com.

OSWP OFFICERS – leaderships council and board of directors

- **Co-Presidents: Demetria Marsh and Gary VanGelder**
- **First Vice President: Carolyn Bolton and Brian Powell**
- **Second Vice President: Zander Morrison**
- **Secretary: Kathy Collins** • **Treasurer: Janet Greenberg**
- **Board of Directors: Mike Lysy, Carol Panza, Mona Rice, Giovanni Giraldo, Bob Lusnak**



Letter from the Co-Presidents

The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania awarded Janet Greenberg, our Treasurer, with the Orchid Digest Diamond Award of Excellence. She has contributed wonderfully to our society in so many ways beyond managing finances since taking on the Treasurer Position and her tireless work for our March show. Please congratulate her on the next chance you get if you were not able to attend the October Meeting. We hope this was a great addition to celebrating her 80th birthday.

Thanks to Sheila Nathanson for making such a wonderful Birthday Cake. And a special thanks to Sofia Turicik, Natalie’s young daughter, who sold her spontaneous colorful artwork to meeting attendees and donated it all to the raffle. We are still looking for a few members to be our Meeting Ambassadors. This involves welcoming guests and new members. We want to be sure they do not feel like strangers at our meetings. We also could use an OSWP Historian to organize what records we have and to tap into the memory of our longer-term members before that history is gone. We are giving Dave Miller a huge thanks for filling in for our planned speaker. It was a great presentation on how to pick your orchid.

Thank you to all who attended for passing our 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget.

We want to again give our thanks to our three new OSWP 2025 Spring Show Co-Chairs: Kathy McCafferty, Lawrene Neel and Mary Ann Pike. They are off to a wonderful start. We know our more experienced members as well as newer members will step up and help them out however they can.

Happy Growing and Think Orchids,
Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh

November 2024 Public Meeting

Date: Sunday 11/10/2024

Location: Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood
134 E Elizabeth St, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Doors open at 12:30pm; Approx. Schedule: Mini Class at 1pm – Business Meeting 2pm followed by Show & Tell and Raffle -- Speaker at 3pm – Meeting Over and Clean-up at 4pm. SPARTAN CENTER CLOSES at 4:30PM.

Mini-class: TBD

Speaker: Bill Goldner, Ph. D. of Woodstream Orchids. Email: woodstream3@verizon.net

Topic: Next Generation Miniature Phragmipediums and Other New Lines of Breeding

Dr. Bill Goldner is best known in the orchid world as the owner of Woodstream Orchids with his wife Lynn Evans-Goldner.

A life-long outdoorsman, Bill's current mid-life crisis is fly fishing for trout, steelhead, smallmouth bass, and salmon, a passion he shares with Lynn and their son Zane. Many of the hybrid and cultivar names registered and used by Woodstream Orchids are names of the many places they have fished.

Now Zane (age 15) is part of the pack which includes golden retrievers Luna and Luca. In fact, at age four Zane and Bill started a jungle cactus and succulent business for Zane. Zane's Orchid Companion Plants now grow over 100 species of epiphytic cacti (or soft cactus as Zane call's them). He propagates the cacti from seed and cuttings.

Woodstream Orchids (WSO) is a leading hybridizer and producer of Phragmipediums, Paphiopedilum species, and Epidendrum. They are well known for their innovative miniature Phrag hybrids. They are currently upping their game to include white, yellow and kovachii Phrag hybrids.

Bill is an accredited American Orchid Society Judge.

NEWS FLASH!!! The American Orchid Society has just awarded Bill the prestigious 2024 Norito Hasagawa Award for Hybridizing Excellence (sort of hybridizer of the year). The award recognizes a career-long effort in orchid breeding (in Bill's case the genus Phragmipedium). Honestly it was a big surprise (Bill didn't know it was a thing). He was thrilled and humbled to join many of his orchid mentors who have previously received the award including Bill's AOS judging mentor Dr. William W. Wilson, Norito Hasegawa, Gene Crocker, HP Norton, Hadley Cash, Theresa Hill, Frank Smith, Terry Root, and Graham Wood.

Please email Bill for updated lists of Phrags, Paphs, Non-Slipper Genera, Flasks, Epiphytic Cacti. He can deliver preordered plants to the OSWP Meeting in November.

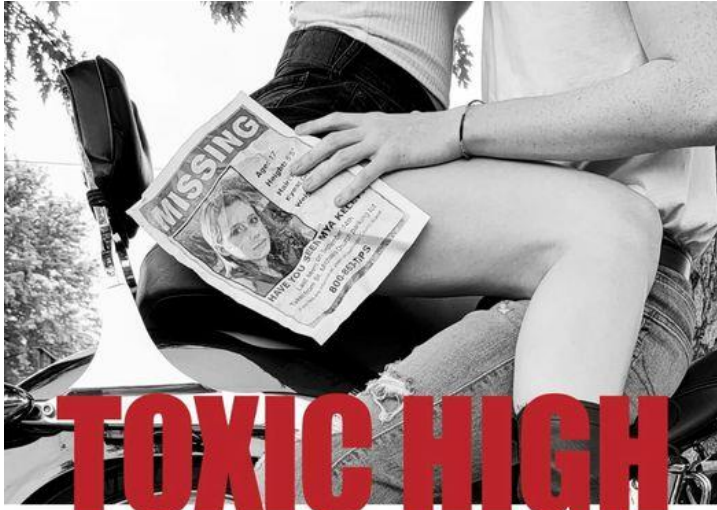
Bill will be bringing plants for sale. No member sales.

Parking: Parking is free in the fenced in lot directly next to the Spartan Center and slightly down the hill across the street. Street parking is also available. We hope to see members new and old this Sunday, September 15th!

ORCHID GEMS – Don Ammon

Orchid Gems – Giving Words Flight -- Don Ammon

By Pamela Jean Horter-Moore



a novel by Don Ammon



Health issues can immobilize a person and sabotage their dreams. There are some, however, who find new opportunities in the midst of adversity, and great satisfaction in walking a new path.

That's what I was thinking as I interviewed Don Ammon for this month's "Orchid Gems" feature, conscious that he and I have interests in common, such as the lifelong desire to be a writer.

Moreover, as a writer, I wanted to share Don's exciting news with our members: His novel Toxic High is published and available (<https://www.amazon.com/Toxic-High-Don-Ammon-ebook/dp/B0DCGHNCTV/>) or directly from Don at meetings.

The inspiration for this high-school murder mystery came to Don during Elvis Costello's concert in 2017. Images of *film noir* movie posters and pulp fiction book covers were projected on a screen behind Costello while he sang "Watching the Detectives." The lurid lyrics describe an underage girl who drives men crazy, even to the point of murder.

Don wondered: "Who is this girl men would die for?"

In answer to this question, Ammon's high-school student Lacey Costa was born. The character is not a *Lolita* -- the provocative, exploited innocent of Vladimir Nabokov's novel - - but a rich and spoiled young coquette with a dark secret and a chain of lovers.

The book begins with the kidnapping of a young girl, and the entangling relationships between adolescents and adults create a complex blend of deception, malice, and lust that leads to murder.

"They are adolescents playing very adult games with fatal endings," Don explains. "The characters are young adults, but this is not a book for young adults. The kids are awful, but the grownups are worse."

The setting is contemporary, so social media and web cameras add to plot twists that keep readers guessing. One Amazon reviewer describes the book as a "teenage traumaedy."

Don originally wrote Toxic High as a movie feature, but then realized that a movie wasn't long enough to tell the story. "In a screenplay, one page equals about one minute of screen time," Don explains. "Therefore, your usual 90-minute film would be only 90 pages long." Instead, Don opted for a serial of 10 episodes of 45 minutes each, which he wrote during lockdown.

While working on his independent film project, "Summerlings," Don met a young actor whose mother created Starlit Waters Publishing. She read his screen play and urged him to rewrite the TV series as a book.

Reformatting Toxic High from screenplay to book required a different perspective. In a screenplay, writers create the dialogue and plot as the viewers experience them, but the job of casting, costumes, hair and make-up of the characters is not the screenwriter's responsibility. In a book, the author creates the world in which the characters live, adding description to provide the proper nuance. "A screenwriter only writes what the viewer can see. With the novel, I could provide characters' back stories, thoughts, emotions, motives -- I had more freedom than I did writing a 45-page TV episode."

Don's other project, "Summerlings," is a "coming-of-age" screenplay about two boys from two different worlds caught in the economic upheaval of 1985, when steel mills were closing and decimating working-class communities like Turtle Creek, Trafford, Pitcairn, and East Pittsburgh.

The poor boy is the son of a single mother and is forced by her boyfriend to sell drugs. The rich boy is the son of the man who is closing the mill. They meet and have strong feelings for each other but struggle with their sexuality and with the difficulty of their situation, considering the environment of the times.

As I listened to Don's summaries of his latest works, it occurred to me that he is particularly drawn to the anxieties of the young, and to his native Trafford, a town established by the Pittsburgh industrialist George Westinghouse, and one of many communities in what might be called "Westinghouse Valley."

The third child of four, Don graduated from Penn-Trafford High School and attended St. Vincent College in Latrobe where he majored in English. "I had the good fortune to spend a semester at Trinity College in Wales during my sophomore year. The Carmarthen campus is close to Fern Hill, the farm of Dylan Thomas' uncle and a place where Thomas spent much of his childhood."

The Carmarthen campus is devoted to the memory of this native son. There would be few young writers who wouldn't be affected by the experience of attending school so close to where such a literary figure lived.

Don returned to academia after obtaining his Bachelor of Arts. For eight years, he was a high-school substitute teacher. He then earned a Master of Arts from California University of

Pennsylvania and taught communications at St. Vincent College and freshman composition at Seaton Hill University.

In 1991, Don was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. He continued working until 2006 when the disease forced him to stop working and refocus his life. Although disabled, Don relied on his lifelong love of writing to reconnect with the world. The internet made it possible for him to publish and to move in another artistic direction, particularly when he discovered ScreenwritingU where he took online classes.



Don's imagination and use of language made him a writer, but his resilience to prevail over illness and find new outlets for his creativity has been the grist for his latest accomplishments.

In fact, he's spending this month answering the challenge laid down every November by the nonprofit organization NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). From November 1 through November 30, writers around the world commit to producing a 50,000-word draft.

When he isn't writing, Don is caretaker for his mother and looks after his orchid collection. He joined OSWP in 2013, and over the years has created ten table-top exhibits for our Orchid Shows, eager to participate and to make our most celebrated annual event a success.

As a writer who is too often distracted, I found fresh enthusiasm from talking with Don. He's reminded me to never give up, never stop learning, and never stop dreaming. It's a lesson to take to heart.

Don lives with his husband Paul in their Monroeville home with three dogs and 133 orchids.

MEETING MINUTES – September

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)

Oct. 20, 2024

Regular Meeting of OSWP

Everett Chronowski presented a mini-class on *Neofinetia Falcatas*. (His presentation was later sent out on as an Eblast.)

Business

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:00 pm by Co-Presidents Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh.

A special presentation was made to Janet Greenberg in recognition of her contributions to OSWP. She will be recognized in the Orchid Digest as a Diamond Award winner for her outstanding volunteer service to OSWP.

Demetria introduced the Show Chair Team for the 2025 Spring Show. Mary Ann Pike, Kathy McCafferty and Lawrene Neel have agreed to work together as Co-Chairs for this event.

OSWP positions to fill:

Meeting Ambassador: Demetria noted that the role of OSWP Meeting Ambassador is being reinstated. This person will assure that people who attend the meetings are greeted and made to feel welcome.

Social media: OSWP does have a presence on Facebook. However, there is currently no presence on either “X” or Instagram. A volunteer is needed to build OSWP’s social media outreach.

Historian: A historian is needed to organize and maintain OSWP’s various newsletters and membership rosters, etc.

Budget:

Gary noted that the OSWP Board met at the September meeting to review and discuss the 2025 budget. The Board approved a balanced budget at that time which was emailed to the general OSWP membership for review. Jim Yamber made a motion to approve the Budget as presented. The motion was seconded. The Budget was approved by unanimous vote of the membership in attendance, which constituted a quorum of OSWP’s membership.

Reports:

- a. Treasurer: Janet Greenberg presented the Treasurer’s report.
- b. Speakers: Carolyn advised that:
 - Dave Miller was filling in as the October speaker as there had been miscommunication with Longwood Gardens.
 - Bill Goldner will be the November speaker but will be unable to participate in our Spring Show.

- Jack Zhu will provide a presentation on Chinese Cymbidiums at the Holiday Party. Overnight hospitality is needed for Jack during his time in Pittsburgh. Please contact Carolyn if you are able to assist.
- c. AOS: Nancy provided copies of the QR codes that AOS now has available to link directly to culture sheet information for specific orchid genera.
- d. Culture Corner: Nancy indicates she will attempt to answer questions related to specific plants if they are either brought to the meetings (in paper bags if there is a question regarding either bugs or diseases) or she can review photos of plants.
- e. Pfun: Demetria noted that OSWP continues to volunteer at Phipps 2 or 3 days per week.
- f. Orchid Gems: Norma noted the Don Ammon will be featured in the November newsletter.
- g. Newsletter: It was noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month. Submissions should be sent to Dave Panasiuk at: OSWPnewsletter@gmail.com
- h. Hospitality: Lawrene encourages members to bring snacks to share during OSWP meetings.
- i. Holiday Party: The party will be at the Crowne Plaza on Dec. 8, 2024 from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. Reservation information will be available in November. It will likely be a plated meal this year as opposed to the buffet in prior years.
- j. Spring Show Committee: It was noted that a Publicity Committee Chair is still needed for the Show. A working list of contacts is available as a starting point for this position.
- k. Mid-Atlantic Orchid Congress (MAOC): Mary Ann Pike noted that OSWP has a membership. The MAOC was making a presentation on Tolumnias that was being recorded and would be available for a period of weeks following Oct. 20th.

New Business:

Janet presented the membership with the possibility of ordering Tote bags with the new OSWP logo. Interest was gauged as to color and size. More info will be forthcoming.

Show and Tell:

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

Raffle

Natalie Turcik provided a plant for the raffle and her daughter, Sofia donated some of her art work. Also made available were 6 tickets to Phipps Conservatory which were donated by Phipps in recognition of OSWP's volunteer service. The raffle raised a total of \$125.

Miscellaneous

The next meeting of OSWP will be Nov. 10, 2024. (This is the second Sunday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.)

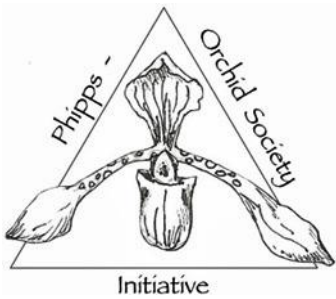
The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. and was followed by our October speaker, Dave Miller. Dave gave a presentation on choosing plants for your collection.

Submitted by: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary

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



November, 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 is needed. **We usually go to Phipps some Tuesdays, Wednesdays or 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 continued growth of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, a living museum of slipper orchids.

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. We usually set up the month's schedule the 3rd week of the preceding month with 2-6 Pfunsters each day. Contact me and sign up. We'll add you to our Pfunster team!

While you're having Pfun, be sure to see Phipps Winter Flower Show, "Holiday Magic," opening November 16th.

Thanks and looking forward to working and learning together. . . and having Pfun!

Demetria Marsh


Demetria117@gmail.com

412-848-4349



Encounter the meetings
IN PERSON and find out
what you are missing!

Mini classes, feature
speakers, raffles, show &
tell, snacks and friendly
faces to share your orchid
stories and personal
experiences!



Save The Date

March 15 & 16
2025

Orchid
SPRING SHOW

THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS

Orchid **obsession**

SATURDAY MARCH 15
EXHIBITS NOON TO 5 P.M.
VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
SUNDAY MARCH 16
EXHIBITS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
VENDORS 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

CROWNE PLAZA SUITES
PITTSBURGH SOUTH EXHIBITS
164 FORT COUCH RD.
PITTSBURGH PA 15241
(ACROSS FROM SOUTH HILLS VILLAGE)

ORCHID DISPLAYS
EXPERT PRESENTATIONS
ORCHID REPOTTING
ORCHID VENDOR SALES
OSWP SALES

Free Parking with easy access to all events

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OSWP



**The Orchid Society
of Western Pennsylvania**

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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

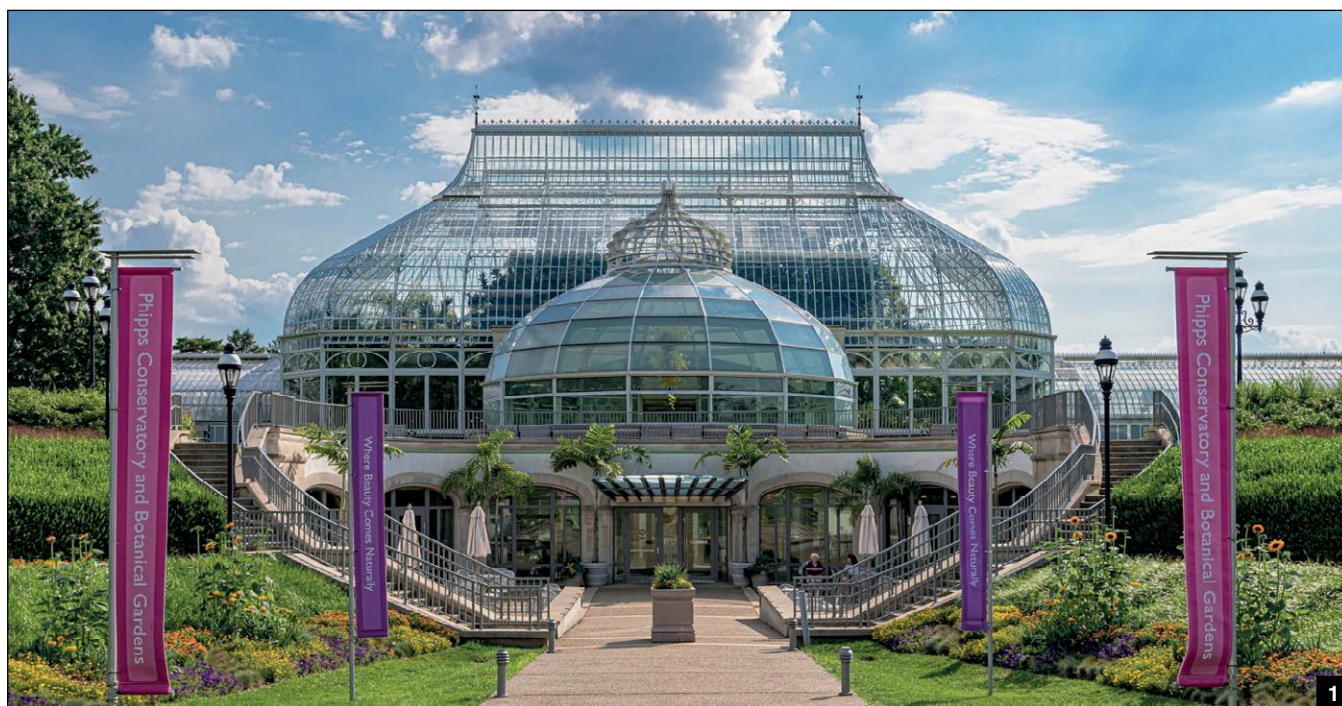


American Orchid Society
Education. Conservation. Research.

Phipps Conservatory

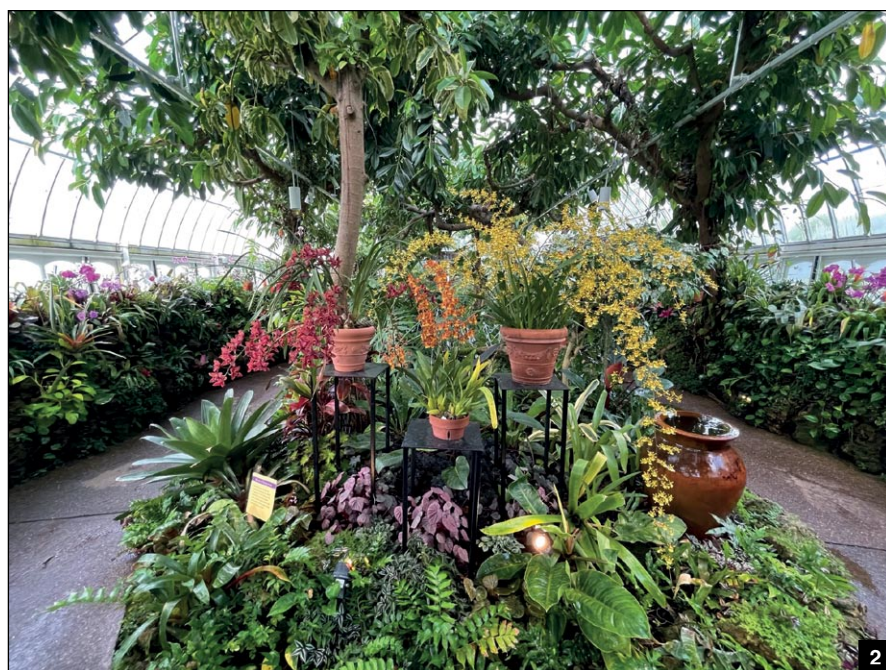
The Living Museum of Orchids

BY BEN DUNIGAN AND AND GIOVANNY GIRALDO



A LITTLE OVER a decade ago the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP) received the Distinguished Affiliated Society Service Award. Ten years later they continue to work toward developing and improving what has become a living museum of orchids. Partnering with Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens (Phipps), the OSWP has worked to develop a relationship that has helped to create a living museum of orchids, where orchid lovers can enjoy hundreds of blooms on any given day of the year. The partnership, better known as P-OSI (Phipps Orchid Society Initiative) has been fundamental in helping to improve the care and curation of orchids and bringing awareness to both organizations. Although this partnership had a history of many decades together, it was not until it was formalized with a Memorandum of Understanding in 2011 that it became what it is today. Since then, the memorandum has been renewed to ensure the partnership continues.

Members of OSWP provide knowledge and assistance to the horticulture



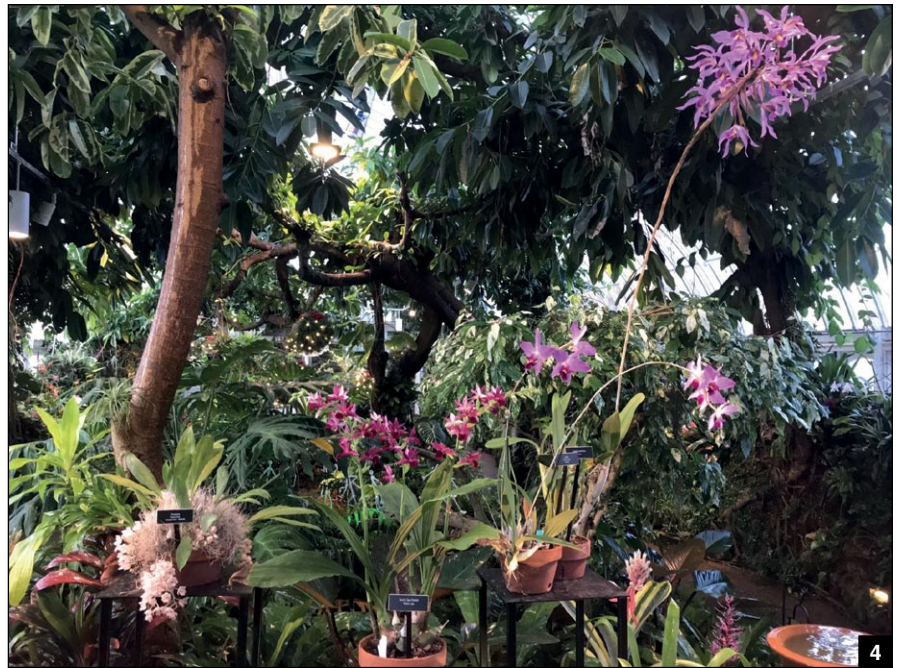
[1] Phipps Conservatory

[2] The orchid display room at Phipps.



team, while Phipps provides a permanent display space along with a long-term institutional commitment to collect, document, grow and maintain living orchids for public display. With over 2,200 orchids in the collection, there are numerous opportunities to repot, scout for insects, help with inventorying or any of several other projects. This gives society members the chance to learn at various skill levels.

The collection is particularly rich in the subfamily Cypripedioideae with more than half of the collection falling into the lady slipper category. This subset of the collection is known as the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection and was named in honor of long-time OSWP member, AOS accredited judge and founder of The Slipper Orchid Alliance, Barbara Tisherman. Although the preservation of species is common among public collections, initial benchmarking efforts determined that historically significant hybrids would be targeted for preservation as well. Efforts were made to consult with experts around the world to determine the most important hybrids from every decade starting in the late 1800s. Quantitatively these hybrids were ranked in accordance with the number of AOS and RHS awards given, along with the number of progenies



[3] The cymbidium greenhouse.

[4] The orchid display room is an ever-changing display of plants throughout the year.

created through their use in further breeding.

In 2014 Phipps successfully applied for accreditation by the American Public Gardens Association's Plant Collections Network (PCN), formerly the North

American Plant Collections Consortium. At the time no orchid collection had such a distinction. Little did Phipps know that the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC was also working towards that recognition. Within two weeks of each other,



both institutions were honored with the first orchid collections recognized in the network. A PCN accreditation is considered the gold standard in horticultural collections management. More recently, Atlanta Botanical Garden and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance have joined the ranks.

Efforts are underway by collections managers and curators of these institutions to recruit other public gardens with significant orchid collections into a new multisite collection. By working together, these public gardens can ensure the preservation of a much more diverse collection while raising curatorial standards and sharing knowledge of best practices. The network also facilitates the sharing of plants to help build redundancy to the greater collection. This guarantees that if one garden were to lose an important orchid, it could be recovered from a partnering institution. With such a large plant family as orchids, it would be impossible for one collection to encompass even half of the known species let alone hybrids. With the development of a greater multisite collection, different institutions could focus on smaller sub-sets and take their facilities strengths and weaknesses into account when develop-

ing management policies.

In January of 2022, Giovanni Giraldo took over as the orchid horticulturist at Phipps. His background in botany and experience with growing and showing orchids allowed him to hit the floor running. Since then, he has initiated multiple curatorial and cultural changes to the orchid collection at Phipps.

Early on, the fertilization regime was evaluated. Like many top-tier orchid collections, Phipps uses reverse-osmosis water to irrigate and fertilize the orchid collection. With this in mind, and after observing the symptoms the plants exhibited, Giovanni suspected there was a problem related to the pH of the final fertilizer solution. A pH test later confirmed that the solution was too acidic. Because of the nuances of the fertilization setup (and after initial tests), it was determined that there needed to be a change in the fertilizer formulation and type of water used to mix it. This resolved the issue and increased the plant size and vigor across the collection, corroborating the validity of these changes.

One of the main tasks that needed to be addressed was repotting the complete collection. It was severely overdue because, because of safety concerns at the height of

the COVID-19 pandemic, our volunteers and staff were unable to perform such a task. To tackle such a gargantuan undertaking, OSWP volunteers returned to work, now assisting twice a week instead of twice a month, and to date, 95% of the collection has been repotted.

Simultaneously, we are inventorying the collection, a task performed every few years. During this process, we record the condition of every orchid, its location, and update any nomenclatural changes that might have occurred since the last inventory. Keeping an updated orchid inventory is the keystone for managing the collection and setting its future direction.

Lastly, as we addressed the most pressing needs of the collection, discussions about our curatorial practices were held. One of the main topics was virus management among the orchids. We had effective sanitation practices and procedures to keep viruses from spreading, along with an early protocol to test for *Cymbidium* mosaic virus (CymMV) and *Odontoglossum* ringspot virus (ORSV). Despite this, the latter had never materialized. Giovanni identified this as an action area, and in conjunction with OSWP, we started testing the collection for CymMV and ORSV in 2022. We foresee



this process to be an integral part of the curation of the orchid collection for years to come.

Phipps and OSWP strive to maintain and improve the quality of the orchid collection and now seek to increase its visibility with the public we serve. We have increased the amount of blooming material in the Orchid Room at Phipps by about 30% and send more plants to events and judging centers close to Pittsburgh. Since 2022, Phipps has doubled the number of its AOS-awarded plants, including a 95-point Certificate of Cultural Excellence for *Coelogyne convallariiformis* var. *convallariiformis* 'Phipps Apricot Showers'.

Phipps and The OSWP look forward to more opportunities to share the beauty of this wondrous plant family with the public. For more information regarding the collection or to make a tax-deductible donation in the support of these collections' efforts, contact the Director of Horticulture, Ben Dunigan, via email at bdunigan@phipps.conservatory.org.

— Ben Dunigan, corresponding author, is the Director of Horticulture at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. In his time at Phipps he has contributed to the success of several projects including the pursuit of the Plant Network Associations accreditation for their cypripedioideae collection along with several other collections driven initiatives in various plant families. He is also very passionate about tropical forest ecosystems and enjoys teaching and interpreting these beautiful places to the more than half a million annual visitors the garden receives each year (bdunigan@phipps.conservatory.org).



- [5] *Paphiopedilum gratixianum* 'Phipps Best' CCE/AOS exhibited by the Phipps Conservatory.
- [6] *Paphiopedilum* Chiu Hua Dancer
- [7] *Phragmipedium* After Glow
- [8] A beautiful specimen *Stanhoepa wardii*.
- [9] *Sobralia rogersiana*.
- [10] A magnificent specimen *Barbosella*.
- [11] *Paphiopedilum* Our Prince (Goliath x Tommycurte) was registered in 1918. Antique hybrids such as this are rarely ever remade making this likely a piece of a plant over 100 years old.

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