



# Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

May 2022

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

## Upcoming Events

May 15 2022

Dave Miller

“Picking the Right Plant”

## Looking Ahead

**Meetings will continue on Zoom for now**

June 19 2022 Edgar Stehli, Bulbophyllum

July 30 2022 OSWP Picnic

August no newsletter or meeting

Sept 18 2022 TBA

### " UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES "

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)

HOWEVER, we are on Zoom for meetings , and those interested non members could use the 'contact us ' section of the website to get a Zoom invitation

#### OSWP Officers

Co-President: Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse

Co-First Vice President: Kathleen Arria and David Springer

Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco

Directors: Brooke Decker, Peg Kalupanov, Jinghua Ou, Aaron Vitron, Tamara Wurst.

**Secretary: open**

**Treasurer: Janet Greenberg**

### What's Blooming Now

### Cym. Avrancnes ‘Green Gold’ x Cym. Louise Hay ‘Nancy’

Standard cymbidium orchids are beautiful long lasting flowers. They come in many colors from white through pinks to brick red, browns and yellow and many shades of green. The two main problem with the standard cymbidium is size and temperature requirements. These plants can get to bushel basket size with seven or more flower spikes. They are magnificent plants and relatively easy to grow. They come from the Himalayas at high elevations. They don't like high temperatures like 85° F and above, more like highs in the 70's and can take low temperatures to 35° F. Here in Pittsburgh PA. I have my Cymbidiums out all summer in full sun all the way to frost. In my green house night temperatures go down to 40° F and day temperatures are around 60° F. The growing media is porous but never dries out. Cymbidiums are terrestrial so must grow in a type of soil. I fertilizer year round with 20-20-20 and a dressing of MagAmp during the growing season. To bloom these plants they require as much sun as you can give them and then a cool down in the fall (40° F to 45° F) to set flower spikes. They can take some freezing temperature but not recommend. When the weather is going to freeze bring the plants in. Go no lower than 40° F on the low end.



Photo by JIm Yamber

## Co-President's Letter May 2022

I don't know about you, but I am confused with this seesaw weather pattern - it's summer! No, it's winter! No, it's somewhere in between- often on the same day! Traditionally, here in Western Pa., we are frost free by Mother's Day. But, before you drag your entire collection outside, check the long term forecast for your area. Unless you have a very manageable collection, it is a major undertaking to get everything settled outside for their summer break. The last thing you want to do is have to reverse the process. But once the weather has settled on something it likes, consider getting your plants outside to enjoy the balmy breezes, bright shade and high humidity that is summer in Pittsburgh. Look for a location protected from anything but early morning direct sun, at least for the first few weeks. Under an overhang or covered porch, or beneath a shade tree are some of the sweetest spots.

This is also the time to be keeping a close eye on catasetum, and starting to feed and water them when the roots are at least 4 - 5 inches long. Also a good time to observe your cattleya for new growth, and start a regular feed with a Mag-Cal supplement to keep up with their increased demand for more calcium to support that new growth. If you're considering doing any cattleya repotting, wait until the new growth is starting to show the beginning of new roots. This is the best time to disturb them - those new roots will make sure the transition is seamless.

Thanks to our Nominating Committee, ( Demetria Marsh, Norma Raiff and Jim Yamber ) we have a brand new slate of officers and a new board. Mike and I have been honored to have been co- presidents for the past two years, and now happily plan to surrender our positions at the end of June.

We are looking forward to meeting some of the most recent members of the OSWP on May 15, when Kathy Collins, Membership Chair, will host a New Member Reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, followed by a regular meeting, with a very special speaker, Dave Miller. Make plans to join us!

In other meeting news, we have been invited back to have OSWP meetings at the Phipps Garden Center on Shady Ave, This was our meeting and show venue for many years, so we are thrilled to be going back. Our June 12 meeting will be held there, and the new officers and board will be voted in. The speaker will be Edgar Stehli, of Windswept in Time Orchids, and his topic will be Bulbophyllums. If there is something , orchid-wise, you have been hankering for, contact him at edgarstehli@sbc-global.net, and he may be able to bring it to the meeting for you.

Enjoy the Spring weather, whatever it does, and continue to think orchids!

Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lysy, co- presidents

# OSWP Election Next Month

Below is the slate of officers and board members who have agreed to serve next year, if elected. The election will be at the June Annual Meeting, June 12th.

The Nominating Committee (Jim Yamber, Norma Raiff, Demetria Marsh) and all the OSWP thank them for their willingness to serve.

Our thanks also go to the officers and board members who have served the last two years. Without them, the OSWP would cease to exist. Thank you!

Co presidents: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk  
Co first vice: Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton  
Second vice: Katie Schuller Mentor: Tim Choltco  
Secretary: Kathy Collins  
Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

Board Members  
Tim Choltco  
Kathy Grajcar  
Dave Motak  
Chuck Oldenburg  
Brian Powell



## **Orchid Gems Worlds of His Own -- Steve Grendzinski**

by Pamela Jean Horter-Moore

Most people lose contact with nature the minute they enter their homes and close the doors behind them. Members of the Society are an exception, since our passion makes us indoor or greenhouse gardeners.

There are people, however, who are not content to leave nature on their doorstep. Their homes become the center of living and thriving ecosystems. Steve Grendzinski and his wife Teri are such people.

The workday pulls Steve away from the restful environment of his home, and to say that his schedule is busy and full might be an understatement.

At 4:30 in the morning, he leaves his home in Ross Township to travel fifty miles to Bessemer, a small town west of New Castle, to begin his

6 am shift at Hanson Aggregates, a quarry providing aggregate, concrete and asphalt products to the construction industry in western Pennsylvania and the mid-Ohio Valley.

Working in the heavy industry was a natural choice for Steve, whose hometown is Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, famous for anthracite coal. With a family background in mining, Steve wanted to pursue a career in this field. After studying his options, Steve selected Penn State over the Colorado School of Mining and went on to earn a degree in mining engineering.

Many youngsters grow up with cats and dogs, but Steve's life has always included the unusual animal as well. He's had geckoes, a scorpion, boa constrictor, turtles, birds, and a variety of other forms of life. Not surprisingly, then, he worked in a pet shop in State College while going to school, which only enflamed his passion for animals and aquatic life. As an employee, he could purchase supplies wholesale and even acquire some animals while living on a student's budget. One of these was a parrot that is now 29 years old. One might say that this is quite a commitment to the animal kingdom. Steve later worked at Wilkesburg Aquarium and Pet Supply.

Like Steve, Teri is a longtime pet owner, having had a rabbit, guinea pig, and birds. As a natural-born animal lover, she is Steve's perfect partner. Born and raised in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, she is a Penn State graduate in Animal Biology who worked as a veterinarian technician before attaining her degree. She then accepted a position at the National Aviary that brought her home and brought Steve to the Pittsburgh area. She is now a 29-year veteran of the National Aviary of Pittsburgh and President of Pearl Parrot Rescue, an organization that educates owners in the care of birds and assists with their rescue and adoption.

The couple's home reflects their love of plants and animals, and of nature in its wildness and beauty. Steve maintains a pond outside his home, and inside, nature flourishes regardless of the season. Their living room is surrounded by paintings and artwork of wildlife, and features a paludarium, an enclosed ecosystem that functions as both an aquarium and terrarium.



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“The paludarium and terrariums are like little worlds. Full of life competing with itself. It becomes necessary to trim and maintain the variety of pitcher plants, air plants, ferns, and other vegetation,” says Steve.

One terrarium in the living room contains miniature orchids. He became interested in miniatures three years ago when someone suggested that they would be perfect for such an environment. He admits that he has developed an obsession. Steve also grows slipper orchids and has a vanilla orchid that has wrapped itself around its environment but hasn't yet bloomed.

“I purchased seven orchids at the Orchid Show,” Steve comments. “I'm attracted by the shape of the leaf and the plant, and I am particularly drawn to orchids that produce green flowers.”

Steve has approximately thirty orchids. One of his favorites is *Catesetum*, from which he has cuttings that have already begun to grow. Some of his other orchids include *Paphiopedilum hilo leopard*, *Dendrobium lichenastrum*, *Rodrunnia*, *Angraecum dollii*, *Mediocalcar decoratum*, *Pleurothallis grobyi*, and *Lockhartia bennettii*.

Being good with his hands, Steve takes advantage of the woodshop in his basement to create many of the things that are necessary to maintain and grow his indoor habitat, such as cages and stands. He is planning to make another terrarium out of plywood sealed with coats of epoxy. It will measure approximately 3 ½-feet x 2-feet x 2-feet and will be lined for cork for drainage.

Although Steve and Teri share a common love of animals and nature, and have filled their home with both, they currently do not own dogs or cats, believing that their busy schedules would interfere with the care that these familiar pets require, but they have no issue babysitting their friends' pets once in a while.

Instead, they have fish tanks, and a great variety of birds, including finches, parrots, macaws, and African Greys. They also have a box turtle, a red foot tortoise, and an alligator snapping turtle. “This awesome turtle predates Man's arrival on earth,” Steve explains. “They can weigh up to hundreds of pounds. Ours weighs between 40 to 50 pounds.”

As someone with a great love of water life, Steve is on the board of the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, which has just concluded its Spring Auction. The auction is the Society's largest fund-raising event, and is conducted twice a year – in the spring and in the fall. Open to the public, this event gives people the opportunity to begin or to enlarge their collections of fish and aquatic plants and supplies. He is also a member of the Pittsburgh Area Planted Aquarium Society, an organization dedicated to aquascaping, which can be described as underwater gardening. Not only does the enthusiast have to consider the aesthetic qualities of the plants and materials that are used, but the requirements of all of these elements, living and nonliving, interacting within a closed system.

Although this organization has become less active since the pandemic, it still has its share of enthusi-

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asts, several of whom, like Steve, are also members of the Orchid Society.

With all Steve has going for him, he also enjoys playing computer games, which provides another respite from his work life at Hanson Aggregates.

Many people dream of a garden of Eden, a primeval place where nature is supreme and humankind is just one of many creatures fitting within what might be called a perfect environment. This is a place where the concept of indoors and outdoors is erased, where animals, people, and plants coexist and everything works together in harmony. Steve and Teri have made their home a place where such a dream is close to a reality.





## 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.

May 2022

Back to work, better known as Pfun at Phipps:

We are now welcome back to help with the orchid collection at Phipps. We have finished repotting most of the cymbidiums and are moving on to cattleyas or whatever else Giovanni needs. We are going to Phipps most Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30AM – 12:30PM. (If it's your first visit, you must stop in at the Volunteer Office with proof of vaccination and ID and sign a photo release. All of the volunteers are required to wear masks at Phipps.)

If you would like to join our Pfun efforts and haven't previously signed up with us, please let us know at the email addresses below. We are using 3 members each date, with at least one being a more experienced grower.

Our May dates are filled so we would be looking at the Mondays and Thursdays in June.

In the April edition of Helping Hands, the Phipps volunteer newsletter, the Pfun volunteers have pictures plus a mention earlier in the newsletter. Very special!

Thanks and looking forward to working and learning together.

PS: Phipps Summer Flower Show: Monet in Bloom opens on May 7th. Don't miss it!

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

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

### Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore, Cristina Eyler
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront	P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Garden Club/Library Liaison	Karen Gibson	Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton	Show	Sheila Nathanson, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Library	open	Speaker	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Membership	Kathy Collins	Website	Jinghua Ou
Mini-class	Tim Cholte		
Newsletter	Jim Yamber		

## May Speaker Dave Miller

### **What Makes a Good Orchid?**

The Speaker for our May meeting will be Dave Miller. Dave is well known to most of us as an active member of the OSWP and many of the other orchid societies in nearby Ohio. Dave will guide a tour through some of the AOS award winners from our 2022 show and look at some of the other recent AOS awards. Picking a good plant from the start begins with knowing what characteristics to look for when adding a plant to your collection. As we proceed through the year, shows are over but there are sales tables and vendor sales going on throughout the year as well as trades with your orchid friends. Hopefully our tour will give you a better understanding of what to look for as your orchid collection grows and shrinks over time.

## Windswept in Time Orchids

Kim & Edgar Stehli

8066 Skyline Drive

Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147

(440)838-5757 - Call first for an appt.

[Windsweptorchids.com](http://Windsweptorchids.com)

## 2022 OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

SPRING - May 28 & 29 (Sat. & Sun.) 11am - 5pm

FALL - Nov. 5 & 6 (Sat. & Sun.) 11am - 5pm

Check us out on Facebook at

Windswept in Time Orchids (Agricultural Services)



# West Shore Orchid Show



Carol Panza, Chuck Oldenburg, Kathy Collins and Carolyn Bolton took plants from 7 growers to the West Shore show April 22 in Strongsville Ohio. Set up began at 11 am and we were amazed that we were finished at 4:15 and had lots of time left over to shop the vendors. We had a total of 68 orchids in the exhibit. Plants in the exhibit were from Carol Panza, Hossein Noorbakhsh, Raj Popet, Carolyn Bolton, Sheila Nathanson, Chuck Oldenburg and Phipps. We did very well. We won 11 awards including the AOS Show Trophy and a Silver Certificate.

Besides the AOS Show Trophy/Silver Certificate these are the class trophies

Best Orchid Society Exhibit

Best Cattleya AND Best in Show!...Sheila Nathanson's *C. skinneri* alba 'Snow'

Best First bloom seedling...Carol Panza's *Rth. Kabloom* x *Rlc. William Farrell*

Best Oncidium...Chuck's *Tolumnia Genting Pink Lady*

Best Miscellaneous... Chuck's *Maxilaria tenuifolia*...huge plant

Best Pleurothalid/Masdevallia...Carolyn's *Masdevallia Cassiope* 'Alexa' HCC/AOS

Best Cymbidium...Carolyn's *Cymbidium Memoria Amelia Eahart* 'Scott Valine' HCC/AOS

Best Vanda...Raj's *Vanda falcata*

Best Dendrobium...Phipps' *Dendrobium aggregatum*



First Class Mail

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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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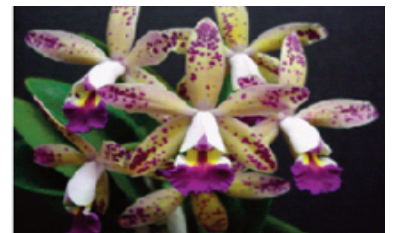
**Upcoming 2022 speaker**

May 15 2022

Dave Miller

“Picking the Right Plant”

More to come for the future programs for 2022



**WANTED**

***The American Orchid Society Judging Program is seeking highly motivated orchid enthusiasts to join the judging ranks.***

*Work with other such people and help maintain our awards programs and educational efforts.*

*For more information contact Dave Miller at: 330-307-7189 or demjpsmil@aol*