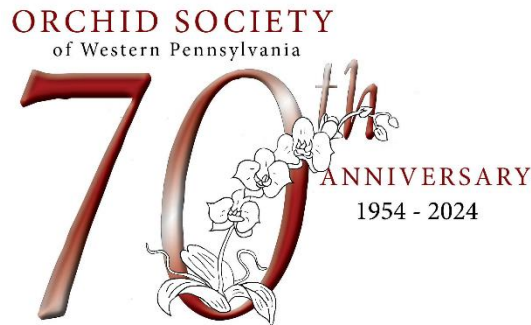


The ORCHIDIAN



Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – October 2024



EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

- **The Illinois Orchid Society Fall Show and Sale** is being held **October 12 - 13, 2024** at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL 60022.
- **The Acadian Orchid Society's "Haunted by Orchids"** is being held **October 12 - 13, 2024** at The Our Lady of Fatima, Knights of Columbus Hall, 515 Rena Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503.
- **Eastern Iowa Orchid Society's "Orchids are a Scream"** is being held **October 19 - 20, 2024** at the Elks Lodge Hall, 801 33rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.
- **The Central Ohio Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale** is being held **October 19 - 20, 2024** at the Polaris Fashion Place, 1500 Polaris Pkwy, Columbus, OH 43240.
- **The Orchid Society of Greater Kansas City Show** is being held **October 25 - 26, 2024** at the Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater St, Merriam, KS 66202.
- **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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October 2024 Public Meeting

Date: Sunday 10/20/2024

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 CLOSSES at 4:30PM.

Mini-class: Everett Chronowski - Neofinetia falcata: the bonsai of the orchid world

Neofinetia falcata or Furan in Japanese, is an orchid species that is native to northeast Asia. In the early Edo period in Japan this orchid was owned by the local elite (shoguns and samurai). The orchid was held at such a high esteem that only the ruling class was permitted to own the orchid. The orchid would be grown on a moss mound and placed in a hand painted pot, like how bonsai would have a specific pot for the tree.

Today the orchid is collected by many and can still be found planted in the traditional Japanese method. In this mini class we will explore the history of this orchid and look at some of the varieties of Neofinetia falcata.



Speaker: Dave Miller

Topic: Picking the Right Plant with Dave Miller

Arm yourself for the next orchid sale! Whether at the sales table or viewing an orchid catalog, knowing how to decide what is a good plant is definitely not a simple task. In this talk we'll look at what is a good plant regardless of orchid group and then talk about how to decide which one is the best pick. General audience. PowerPoint format. 45 minutes.

Sales: Dave is NOT bringing plants for sale. Members ARE invited to sell plants.

Bio: Dave Miller retired from the corporate Information Technology field after thirty-two years in various capacities of software support and development. He then spent three years in the horticulture industry as a perennial plant specialist at a large regional nursery.

Dave and his wife Mary Jo live in Niles, Ohio. Dave is an active member of four orchid societies in Ohio and Pennsylvania; he is past-president of the Greater Akron Orchid Society. He and Mary Jo have been OSWP members for almost twenty years. Over the last twenty-five years, Dave has received more than twenty-five AOS awards including three cultural awards. In addition, he is an accredited orchid judge with the Great Lakes Judging Center of the American Orchid Society where he is the Education Coordinator and spends quite a bit of orchid time judging orchids at monthly AOS judging in Ann Arbor Michigan and at orchid shows in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York and Canada throughout the year.

Feel free to contact him at any time with orchid questions at dcmjpsmil@aol.com.

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!

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

We first want to thank the Audit Committee, Mike Lysy, Lori McDermott and Sheila Nathanson. They were invaluable to do the required audit of the great work Janet Greenberg does for the OSWP as our treasurer. And thanks to the OSWP Board, who came early and had one of our required Board Meetings. Thank you all!

A review and approval of a proposed budget for our current fiscal year was the primary order of business at the Board Meeting. We felt that it was necessary to reduce the load on new Show Chairs as much as possible. The budget proposed to the Board was created to be balanced but live without the net income of a few show aspects that did not affect the primary purpose of the show. These aspects added much work to the Show Chairs. We felt we were successful at this, and after the review so did the board. A summary copy of this approved budget is being distributed to the OSWP membership before the Regular October Meeting for a final approval vote by members.

For those who missed it, at the September meeting, Zander Morrison presented a mini-class on orchid names and Wade Hollenbach presented his informative talk on warm growing masdevallias. Our meetings provide such a great opportunity to learn more about orchids, buy a few orchids, make orchid friends and have some treats as well. We are looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting, Sunday, October 20th. The Spartan Center opens at 12:30, mini-class at 1PM and meeting at 2PM (or thereabouts).

The Spartan Center in Hazelwood can be accessed off the Parkway East at the Squirrel Hill or Oakland exits or off the Boulevard of the Allies via Parkview to Swinburne to Greenfield Avenue. Southwest Pittsburgher probably know lots of ways via 885 to Second Avenue. There is parking in lots and on the street, always available. Consider joining us October 20th for wonderful speakers on Neofinetia falcatas and disas, orchid sales plus camaraderie and treats.

Happy Growing and Think Orchids,
Gary VanGelder and Demetria Marsh

ORCHID GEMS – Thathmini Kularatna

Orchid Gems: Thathmini Kularatna, Our Newest Go-To Orchid Expert and Phipps' Orchid Display Horticulturist

By: Norma Raiff



I was so happy to meet Thathmini Kularatna, Phipps' new "Orchid Display Horticulturist," at OSWP's July Picnic. This highly popular get-together – almost 100 members attended -- was a wonderful opportunity to talk to Thathmini who has only recently moved to Pittsburgh. This Gems article focuses on introducing her and sharing information about Thathmini's role at Phipps, her unique international training and background, and what she anticipates will be included as part of her long-range goals and work-related efforts.

As the Orchid Display Horticulturist, Thathmini manages the Conservatory's public display rooms *and* the huge orchid collection that resides in the out-of-sight growing houses where non-blooming plants are nurtured until they are ready to be exhibited.

And since Phipps has approximately 3,000 orchids, it's an enormous job. For starters it includes oversight of the existing collection, making recommendations about expanding/culling plants, and thoughtfully planning for upcoming display needs. And Thathmini not only brings highly relevant work and educational qualifications and experience, but she is also interested in introducing and propagating new orchid hybrids and species.

Thathmini grew up in Sri Lanka (formerly called Ceylon), and for those of you who may not be familiar with this country, it is an Island Nation in South Asia characterized by a biodiverse agricultural environment and six UNESCO World Heritage sites. Such familiar media resources as Conde Nast, USA Today, and CNN have openly ranked Sri Lanka as one of best places in the world to visit by (Source: <https://www.srilanka.travel/international-endorsements>).

And given the current political discussion and complaints about the unheard-of costs of acquiring an education and in contrast with the United States' approach, Sri Lanka's educational system is publicly funded and free to residents.

Thathmini earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 2014 at The University of Colombo, which is ranked among the top 10 universities in South Asia. Her studies included Plant Science, Zoology, and Chemistry.

She then moved to Hawaii and in 2021 she completed her MSc in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) from the University of Hawaii Hilo, where she also worked as a graduate teaching assistant where she was responsible for the care of the Orchid collection greenhouse of University of Hawai'i at Hilo Agricultural Farm Laboratory.



Thathmini's first post-graduate job at Amazon Support Greenhouse at Amazon's Horticultural Program involved numerous duties such as taking care of the orchid and carnivorous plant collections, overseeing special projects: e.g., building temporary orchid exhibits and interior plant installations and managing the Amazon Greenhouse's tissue culture facility that micro propagated native and endemic orchids. One of her most vivid memories concerns her experiences in pollinating *Huntleya wallisii*, a.k.a. "the Red Star Orchid" which grows as an epiphyte in tropical wet forests in Colombia and Ecuador. The Atlanta Botanical Garden describes it as the "star of their greenhouse." So, you can understand the Amazon facility's horticulturists' agitated reaction when her pollination efforts turned flowers from red to green, causing

the observers to think that Thathmini had unwittingly done something catastrophic.

Thathmini was introduced to the Phipps in 2017, when her maternal Aunt and Uncle, who she was visiting here in Wexford, took her to the Conservatory. This was the first time she had ever seen such a facility. She remembers being attracted by the diversity of plants and their many magnificent flowers.

So now it is a decade later and Thathmini is back in town. She's assuming many functions, has many duties and a great deal of work, and is therefore especially appreciative of the 4-5 Pfun at Phipps volunteers who assist at the greenhouses once to twice a week. "Their help is invaluable. The Pfun folks are helping a lot to improve the collection. The relationship between Phipps and OSWP is highly successful. It's a win-win situation."

And what are some of the next steps that she is considering? Well, Thathmini would like to build on her experience in tissue culture to increase production and to expand the Phipps's orchid collection. She would also like to share her knowledge with the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania younger members who are going to be the next OSWP's next generation.

Final words/thoughts: "It is such a great opportunity to work at Phipps 7 years after visiting here. I never thought I would be the Orchid Display Horticulturist at the very first Conservatory I have seen in my entire life. And I really enjoy my time working with all the pfunsters and appreciate their dedication."

MEETING MINUTES – September

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)

Sept. 15, 2024

Board Meeting

A meeting of the OSWP Board was held at The Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood on Sept. 15, 2024. In attendance were: Demetria Marsh, Gary VanGelder, Carol Panza, Bob Lusnak, Mona Rice, Janet Greenberg, Mike Lysy, Carolyn Bolton, Kathy Collins, Brian Powell and Giovanni Giraldo. It was established that a quorum of the Board was present.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm with the initial discussion focused on the review and approval of the budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Janet, Gary and Demetria prepared the budget keeping in mind a desire to obtain a balanced budget and to alleviate the workload on the Spring Show Chair(s). The primary changes in the budget figures affect the Spring Show and result in the elimination of the Program Books for the Show (a large expense item) which is to be offset by the elimination of the hunt for sponsors and obtaining advertisers. The bulk of both the program preparation and finding sponsors/advertisers fell on the Chairs and by eliminating these offsetting items, with some additional changes of far less impact, the Board is able to balance the budget. Additionally, T-shirt production and sales will be eliminated for the 2025 Spring Show. This was, again, an item that was handled predominantly by the Show Chair(s).

The vendor fees will remain the same for the 2025 show.

Additionally discussed was whether the Board felt that continuation of OSWP membership in the Mid-Atlantic Orchid Conference (MAOC) was a reasonable expense for OSWP and whether that cost provides sufficient benefit to the OSWP membership. A motion to continue membership for one additional year with re-evaluation to occur for the 2025-2026 budget year was made and seconded. It was voted unanimously to continue OSWP's membership in MAOC for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The Board then entertained a motion to accept the budget as prepared. The motion was seconded. The vote was unanimous to present and recommend to the OSWP membership the budget as drafted. The budget will be presented for vote at the October meeting.

The need to obtain Show Chairs for the 2025 Spring Show was then discussed.

A discussion of the Audit Committee’s review of the OSWP financial records prior to the September 15, 2024 meeting was the next agenda item. The Audit Committee, via Mike Lysy reported, that OSWP’s financial records are in order.

Old Business of the Board – none

New Business of the Board – CDs will be maturing prior to the next Board meeting. Decisions on further investment of these funds will be made by the Board either by email or Zoom, as appropriate.

The Board further agreed to renew the Zoom contract for an additional year.

The Board agreed that it would meet again at 1:00 on Nov. 10, 2024.

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45.

Regular Meeting of OSWP

Zander Morrison presented a mini-class entitled “All Organisms have a Name...Common and Scientific.”

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

It was noted that Lawrene Neel has agreed to serve as Hospitality Committee Chair.

Demetria noted that OSWP still needs to fill the Show Chair position(s) for the 2025 Spring Show. Show Chair(s) should be identified by the end of September. Most Committee Chairs for the Show are in place and a Show Book with instructions for each position has been completed.

Demetria also noted that she would like to see the role of Meeting Ambassador re-instated. This person would assure that people who attend the meetings are greeted and made to feel welcome.

Gary noted that the Board had met during the mini-class. The 2025 budget was discussed and approved and will be presented to the membership for vote at the October meeting. It was also noted that the Board will meet three times per year.

Reports:

- a. Treasurer: Janet Greenberg presented the Treasurer’s report.
- b. Membership: Kathy Collins noted that there are currently 255 paid members and that a “last call” has been sent out to members with unpaid dues.
- c. Mini-Classes: Zander noted that speakers are currently lined up for the October and November meetings.
- d. Speaker: Carolyn advised that the October speaker will come from Longwood Gardens.
- e. AOS: Nancy Kline indicates that the AOS website has been revamped and is easier to use.

- f. 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.
- g. Pfun: Demetria noted that OSWP continues to volunteer at Phipps 2 or 3 days per week.
- h. POSI: Currently on hold.
- i. Library: Lori Beth Bloom indicates additional books were located at the Garden Center. The OSWP website has been updated to include these additional books. If anyone would like to borrow a specific book, please email Lori Beth so that she can bring it to the next OSWP meeting.
- j. Orchid Gems: Norma noted the new orchid grower at Phipps, Thathmini will be featured in the October newsletter.
- k. 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
- l. Hospitality: Lawrene encourages members to bring snacks to share during OSWP meetings.
- m. Audit Committee: Mike Lysy reported that the audit was completed and no irregularities were found in the OSWP financial records.

New Business:

Demetria advised the membership that Raj Popat has decided to move to Bridgeville and is having a garage give-away which includes orchid paraphernalia as well as furniture. If anyone would like to make arrangements to view his items, they should call Raj. Demetria will send an eblast as well.

Show and Tell:

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

Raffle

Five plants were available for the raffle. The raffle raised \$62.

Miscellaneous

The next meeting of OSWP will be Oct. 20, 2024.

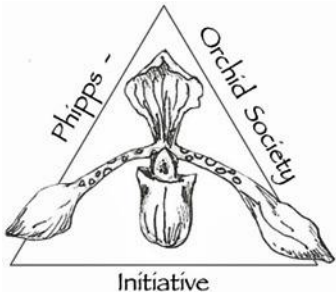
The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. and was followed by our September speaker, Wade Hollenbach of Wade's Orchids. Wade gave a presentation on warmth tolerant Masdevallias.

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



October, 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 Fall Flower Show, “Rhythm and Blooms,” opening October 5th.

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

Demetria Marsh

Demetria117@gmail.com

412-848-4349

OSWP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dues: Individual: \$20; Family \$25

- ❖ No need to complete the membership form, if your contact info for address, phone or email has not changed.

DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1. EASY to Pay per website link.

Just sign into OSWP.org

Go to memberships and use the buttons to pay

Click on "Buy with PayPal" to pay as a PayPal guest.


Pay with Debit or Credit Card.

2. Or, Via own PayPal, Use email address OSWPTreasurer@gmail.com and if possible, select "Friends and Family" (no fee assessed OSWP).

3. Or, Send check payable to "OSWP" and mail to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr. McMurray, PA 15317-3212.

4. Give check or cash to Janet at meeting on October 20th.

Note: If you are unsure if your dues are paid, please email Janet, Janetg150@verizon.net.



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

WWW.OSWP.ORG



**The Orchid Society
of Western Pennsylvania**

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Affiliated Society



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Education. Conservation. Research.