

# The ORCHIDIAN

Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania – July 2024



## OSWP MONTHLY MEETING – open to members, guests and the general public

- THERE IS NO MONTHLY MEETING. JULY IS THE **OSWP SUMMER PICNIC!**
- Location: The Oldenburg Residence
- Saturday, 7/27 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm
- Rain Date: Sunday, 7/28
- Email RSVP by 7/15: [the\\_oldenburgs@comcast.net](mailto:the_oldenburgs@comcast.net)



## EVENTS SCHEDULE – happenings in Western Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

- **The Baton Rouge Orchid Society's Annual Show and Sale** is being held July 12 - 14, 2024 at the LSU Rural Life Museum, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.
- **Central Iowa Orchid Society Speaker's Day** is being held July 20, 2024 at the Johnston Lions Club Community Center, 6401 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131.
- **The Houston Orchid Society Annual Summer Workshop** is being held on August 3, 2024 at the First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd, Houston, TX 77005.
- **The Ohio Valley Orchid Show** is being held August 24 & 25 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 4865 Wilmington Pike, Kettering, Ohio (Corner of Rahn and Wilmington)



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## OSWP Summer Picnic

2:00pm – 6:00pm, Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

Rain date: Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>



### **Location:**

597 McCombs Road  
Venetia, PA 15367

**Food:** We will provide burgers (real meat and synthetic too), chicken and hot dogs and have some sides to pass. It is requested that everyone bring either a side or a dessert to share with the crew. An electronic sign-up sheet has been created to streamline the dish to share process. We will have soft drinks, coffee, water, and a few types of beer. If anyone has anything special they like to drink, please bring it with you.

Please RSVP by July 15<sup>th</sup> with the number attending:

Email: [the\\_olderburgs@comcast.net](mailto:the_olderburgs@comcast.net)

Call or Text: 412-953-1536

**Parking:** We live in a residential area on a somewhat busy two-lane road so on-street parking blocks one lane of traffic. We have room in the driveway/yard to park about 8 vehicles and we would like to reserve those spaces for persons with mobility issues. Overflow parking will be at the **Bower Hill Elementary School** which is a couple blocks from the house. We will have a shuttle to bring people back and forth.

- To request the shuttle, call or text Samantha at 412-925-1449 when you arrive for a pick-up

**Entertainment:** We have ping-pong, corn-hole, bocci, frisbee, trac-ball and a few other yard games. Greenhouse tours also.

**Plant sales:** Member plant sales are allowed. We have a table under shade reserved for plant sales.



American Orchid Society  
Education. Conservation. Research.

Free Immersion in a Members-only benefit of the American Orchid Society

**Preview a Master Gardener Webinar Free**

Join Us **Tuesday, July 16** for *How to Repot, Divide and Mount Orchids*

**with a live Q&A session following the broadcast.**

This event is made possible for all, at no cost, through the *Orchids for Everyone* webinar series created by the AOS Education Committee for the Master Gardeners of the Penn State Extension.

We were thrilled with the results of this program as over 2,500 registered for the initial showing of these webinars. Rewatching the presentations, as often as needed, is one of the many perks of AOS membership. (And there are hundreds of other webinars to watch at [Webinars - American Orchid Society \(aos.org\)](#) on every topic imaginable.)

**Learn that Orchids are Not Complicated**

This series is in six sessions covering different topics and includes a Q & A session following the presentation. A sampling of the topics includes the most popular genera, cultural requirements, insects, disease, and environmental issues.

Membership in the AOS supports a mind-boggling amount of education and conservation programs. It also provides you access to thousands of pages of members-only orchid culture information and species identification; enriching stories in ORCHIDS magazine a monthly world-class publication; Orchid Marketplace™, a curated collection of the world's top orchid vendors (sorted by keyword product and specialty) and member-exclusive discounts.

Most importantly, you will be part of a society of people that has a long-standing international reputation. You already know it is a redeeming hobby and one that can enrich your heart and mind. With the AOS you can elevate your experience even further in a purposeful way.

Remember to tune in on July 16th for the full free preview of *How to Repot, Divide, and Mount Orchids* - register [Webinars - American Orchid Society \(aos.org\)](#). **Registration for this webinar should be up on the website in the next week or two.**

Become a member at [Join the AOS for Exclusive Member Benefits and Savings](#). and take advantage of the entire webinar series and the many other benefits.

**Thank you for Making the World a Better Place with Orchids**

P.S. Membership costs less than you think - at a starting level of \$54 a year - less than \$5 per month - you can change your whole orchid experience.

## A LETTER FROM THE OSWP PRESIDENTS - Demetria Marsh and Gary VanGelder

We first want to say thank you to the members of the OSWP, who have asked us to serve as Co-Presidents of the society. We appreciate your confidence in our ability to step up to the challenges facing our society today.

We thank those who served as the prior OSWP Officers. Dave and Michelle Panasiuk did a wonderful job of guiding the Society out of the disasters Covid heaped upon us, as well as finding a great meeting place when the Phipps Garden Center and Botany Hall no longer were a good option. Carolyn Bolton and Natalie Turicik have consistently provided excellent speakers; Zander Morrison has the Mini Classes going strong; Janet Greenberg is doing a great job with finances; and Kathy Collins continues to be outstanding in documenting our meetings. We also thank Tim Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak, Chuck Oldenburg, and Brian Powell for serving as members-at-large on the Board for the wisdom they contributed.

We welcome and thank those who agreed to serve with us as officers and board members. Carolyn Bolton and Brian Powell as Co-First Vice President, Zander Morrison as Second Vice President, Janet Greenberg as Treasurer, Kathy Collins as Secretary, and the Board Members of Mike Lysy, Carol Panza, Mona Rice, Giovanni Giraldo, and Bob Lusnak. This group of Officers and Board Members were presented to the membership through the effort of the Nominating Committee consisting of Sheila Nathansan, Norma Raiff, and Jim Yamber, so we send out thanks to them also.

There are also many Committee Chairs, Volunteer Leaders, and Key Task Performers who keep things running for the society. We deeply give our thanks to them. We will begin going into depth with these positions in our next newsletter column with who they are and the key contributions of their positions.

We are giving a huge shout out to Norma Raiff for all the hard work she has put into editing and assembling a new Show Guidebook, and to everyone who has contributed information. Please get your portion of the book completed if she has asked and you have not finished it yet. This Show Guidebook is a great example of the documentation we hope to have in place for all other vital society processes before the next set of officers are elected. Norma as well as our other show chairs, Janet Greenberg and Sheila Nathanson, as well as all their show committee chairs, went above and beyond to make this year's show the success it was.

A top priority of our Co-Presidency is to ensure policies, procedures, and activities of the OSWP are effective for serving the needs of our members, as well as the greater mission of the Society. We are also going to place great emphasis on developing new leadership for the future. These efforts are intended to ensure the vibrancy of our society is strong going forward. As this will be a large undertaking. We will be asking for a good bit of assistance from our talented membership to be successful with these initiatives.

An urgent need is for one of our society members (or a team) to step up to take over Hospitality from Carolyn. There will not be any beverages or snacks at the September meeting if this does not happen. The hospitality person or two or team bring and care for the OSWP coffee pot and all the items that go along with having coffee available at the meeting. Hospitality also reminds members to bring in treats to share at the meeting. It gives our meetings a warm, inviting aspect. Plus, we love to share food together. Please consider stepping up to help the OSWP in this way. This position is a great way for someone new to the society to help and get to know other members better.

Looking forward to the July 27th picnic and our next regular meeting on September 15th.

Hope you have a great summer, and your orchids keep on growing and blooming,

Demetria Marsh and Gary VanGelder

**OSWP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: for new fiscal year 07/01/24 - 06/30/25**

**Note: New 2024 Members do not renew at this time. Their membership goes thru 06/30/25**

**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:**

- EASY to Pay per website link.

*Just sign into OSWP.org*

➤ *Go to memberships and Click on button “Buy Now” for either Individual or Family.*

- *On “Make A Payment” screen Click on “Buy with PayPal” to get automatically signed on as a PayPal guest.*
- *Then drop down to the end to “Pay with Debit or Credit Card.”*
- *Or to use own PayPal account, enter your email address in 1<sup>st</sup> option & to pay use email address OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com*

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

- Or, Pay with Zelle, using #724-255-5508.

- Give check to Janet at July picnic or September meeting. (No meeting in August).

## OSWP MEETING MINUTES – June Meeting

### Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP) Meeting – June 9, 2024

The meeting was held at The Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood.

Demetria Marsh presented a mini-class on how to successfully grow paphiopedilums and phragmipediums in the home.

The business portion of the general membership meeting was called to order at approx. 2:00 pm by President Dave Panasiuk.

Zander Morrison noted that presenters are needed for mini-classes, October 2024 and June 2025 meetings.

Dave noted OSWP's Summer Picnic will take place on July 27<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 6 pm at Chuck Oldenburg's home. Emails have been sent out for RSVPs (which are due by July 15<sup>th</sup>) and Sign-up Genius is active for shared dish signups.

The next order of business was the election of officers and directors for the next fiscal year.

The slate of officers and Board Directors presented for voting was as follows:

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

A motion to vote on the panel as presented was made by Amanda Valko. The motion was seconded by Rick Mercurio. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the members present.

Vacancies which need to be filled:

Co-Show Chair to assist Beverly Dodson

Hospitality Committee Chair

**Show and Tell:**

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

### **Reports:**

- a. Newsletter: It was noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month. Submissions should be sent to Dave Panasiuk at: [Letsgroworchids@gmail.com](mailto:Letsgroworchids@gmail.com) Dave also noted that he may be establishing a new email address just for the submission of newsletter articles. More info on that to come.
- b. Treasurer: Janet Greenberg presented the Treasurer's report.
- c. Pfun: Demetria Marsh noted that OSWP continues to volunteer at Phipps on Wednesday and Thursday.
- d. Hospitality: Carolyn noted that she will no longer provide hospitality and a successor is needed if there is to be coffee for the September meeting. Please contact Carolyn to arrange for the transfer of the coffee pot and various other hospitality items.
- e. Spring Show: Norma Raiff noted that a Show Book is being developed to provide information for future Committee Chairs on the steps to be completed for each area of the Show. 2024 Committee Chairs were encouraged to submit their information.
- f. Orchid Gems: Norma noted they are currently compiling a list of members to be interviewed for future newsletters. If you would like to be interviewed or have a suggestion for someone to include, please contact Norma or Pam Horter-Moore.
- g. Membership. Kathy Collins noted the membership numbers for the last 4 years have generally been trending upwards as follows: 6/30/21 - 228; 6/30/22 - 254; 6/30/23 - 234; 6/30/24 - 391  
Also - membership dues are now being collected for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Once again, a raffle of a plant is being offered as an incentive for membership renewals. The plant will be a Hibiki Dendrobium from Windswept in Time Orchids.

### **Raffle**

Seven plants were available for the raffle. Two were donated by the 6/9/24 speaker, Peter Lin. The winners of the plants were Laurence Wagner, Giovanni Giraldo, Cindy Weiland, Lawrence Neel, Nancy Kline, Geanina Rusu and Carol Panza. The raffle raised \$170.

### **Miscellaneous**

The next gathering of OSWP will be at the July 27 picnic.

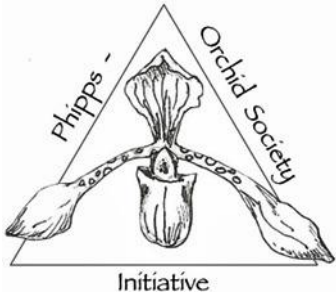
There is no meeting in August

OSWP will return to the Spartan Center for the next scheduled meeting on Sept. 15, 2024.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m. and was followed by Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids. Peter gave a presentation on the 2024 World Orchid Conference in Taiwan.

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

July, 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 Giovanni needs. **We are now going to Phipps most Wednesdays and 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 growth of the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, a living museum of slipper orchids.

Be sure not to miss Phipps Summer Flower Show, "Under the Sea." It will be a wonderful way to welcome summer!

**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 by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the preceding month with 6 Pfunsters each day. Because of Phipps' work and temperatures, we are already scheduled for the month of July, on a very limited basis, and wait to see how many Pfunsters may be needed in August. Sign up and we'll add you to our Pfunster team!

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

Demetria Marsh

[Demetria117@gmail.com](mailto:Demetria117@gmail.com)

412-848-4349



## 2024 OSWP SPRING SHOW: Additional Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge and pay tribute to some members, for their special efforts for the Spring Show.

Your creativity and generosity are what makes the OSWP much more than just an orchid club.

Other show contributors and workers, were previously acknowledged.



Abby Warhola: Thanks for the beautiful design of our 2024 Spring Show poster, and also the 2024 Sponsor & Ad Contract Form. Thanks for the 91 beautiful show photos, which are now posted on the website.



Alexis Chontos: Thanks for your donation of your own beautiful original framed orchid painting.



Denny & Karen Licht: Thanks for donating 2 beautiful framed orchid photos and for the beautiful etched orchid bowls.



Jinghua Ou: Thanks for your donation of your own beautiful 5 original framed orchid paintings.



Thanks everyone for a great Father's Day. I received my traditional picture with Rosalie, 12 years in a row, in front of the Mary Schenley Memorial Fountain. "A Song of Nature, Pan the Earth God Answers to the Harmony and Magic Tones Sung to the Lyre by Sweet Humanity." This fountain sculpture in bronze and granite was designed by Victor David Brenner, the designer of the US Lincoln Penny. I hope you also had a special day!

-Dave Panasiuk, Editor