



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Dec 2022

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

Dec 11 2022
Christmas party Crowne Plasa-
Pgh South 2 to 6

Looking Ahead

Jan 15 2023 TBA
Feb 19 2023 TBA
March 16-19 2023 Spring OSWP Show
Crowne Plasa-Pgh South

" 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

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: Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

Secretary: Kathy Collins

Co-First Vice President: Natalie Turicik and Carolyn Bolton

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

Second Vice President: Katie Schuller Mentor: Tim Choltco

Directors: Tim Choltco, Kathy Grajcar, Dave Motak. Chuck Oldenburg, Brian Powell

What's Blooming Now

Angraecum sequipedale

This is the famous Darwin orchid, native to the island of Madagascar, with large white flowers with up to 12-inch long spurs (nectary). Darwin predicted the pollinator to be a moth with a 12" proboscis. Years later, it was discovered to be true. The moth, *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* (named for Darwins prediction of such a moth), was found to be the official pollinator. *Angraecum sequipedale* typically flower around the end of December to early January and hence the nickname 'Star of Bethlehem' orchid. Grow in medium to high light and water when the potting mix just dries out. When in spike or flower keep slightly more moist at the roots.



Photo by Vicki Strod

Co-President's Letter November 2022

Hi Everyone,

I'd like to take a moment to say how much I've enjoyed seeing everyone at the OSWP meetings! We have had such a nice turnout the last couple months. I am a huge fan of fall weather, and know how hard it is to spend all afternoon inside when the sun is shining and the trees look like they belong on a postcard. Not to mention, the 1 o'clock Steeler games have made it rough for our sports fans. So thank you to all those who have attended the meetings, brought plants for Show & Tell, and to everyone taking the time to read our newsletter! It is much appreciated.

Next month we once again be adding Zoom to our meeting. The OSWP will meet in person at the Phipps Garden Center on Shady Ave as regularly scheduled. However, our speaker will be joining us on a Zoom call. I know, it's always nice to have everyone in person, and yes, it can be challenging. Yet, on a positive note, Zoom will open the door to many new speakers who could otherwise never join us in person.

As many of you know, the Garden Center will be undergoing renovations. We are still waiting to learn when the work will start. So, for now, our meetings remain at the Garden Center. I will be sure to share any updates as soon as possible.

Enjoy the fair weather and your orchids! See you in November.

Michelle and Dave Panasiuk

Co-Presidents, OSWP

December 11, 2022 Speaker Tom Mirenda

Tom Mirenda has been cultivating plants since his early childhood and lives to create beauty with plants in botanic Garden settings for more than half of his adult life. Originally trained as a Marine Biologist, Tom moved to Hawaii in his early 20s to pursue a MB career and worked on the Trophic relationships of denizens of Coral reefs in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (Midway and French Frigate Shoals). There he realized he was better suited to Horticultural pursuits and took positions at New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden and at the Incredible Greentree Estate in Long Island where he cared for a first class Orchid collection. During this time, Tom also was the floor manager of the legendary New York International Orchid Show. Eventually Tom accepted the Orchid Collection Specialist Position at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC where he cultivated and curated a huge diverse orchid collection for the past 17 years. The collection was used to create massive 4 to 5 month long educational orchid exhibits displayed to literally millions of visitors each year.

For the past 18 years Tom has contributed 2 monthly columns for the ORCHIDS magazine, the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society, and has developed an international following, as a writer, speaker and advocate for orchid conservation around the world. Three years ago Tom Co-authored The Book of Orchids with Two scientists from Kew and has done speaking tours in the British isles for the last three summers. Presented at the last 3 world Orchid conferences and several IOCC and AOCs on Conservation

topics. Tom was a founding member of the North American Orchid Conservation Center and continues his support of orchids conservation there, and around the world.

Last fall, Tom took a major gamble and left the security of his job with the Smithsonian to take a leadership position at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, an exceptionally beautiful jewel on the lush Hamakua coast just north of Hilo on the Big Island (aka the Orchid Island!). What Tom found there was an Orchid Paradise where myriad spectacular orchids of all types, both lowland and montane species and hybrids seem to thrive, simply planted in the trees, placing them thoughtfully in the landscape.

Ultimately, he believes that the concept of growing orchids in Garden settings, to be a viable model world-wide for orchid conservation and encourages the ex-situ cultivation of orchids by diverse stakeholders in the orchid community and that it is only with the cooperation of Botanical Garden Professionals, Commercial Growers, academia and committed orchid collectors and backyard growers, that orchids will survive the vicissitudes of climate change..



Come Celebrate!

WHAT: OSWP Holiday Party
WHO: OSWP Members and guest
WHEN: Sunday, December 11, **SECOND Sunday**
2:00-6:00 PM, dinner at 3pm, cash bar until the end of dinner

WHERE: Crown Plaza Hotel Pittsburgh South

COST: \$15.00 The balance is subsidized by OSWP

MENU: Pasta Buffet; Garden Greens with 2 dressings, Penne Pasta, Marinara and Al
Fredo Sauce, Sliced Grilled Chicken, Italian Meat Balls, Garlic Bread Sticks.
AND RETURNING...THE COOKIE TABLE AS DESSERT.

PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR RESERVATION IF YOU HAVE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS!

PAYMENT: Preferred method-OSWP.org and select Holiday Party Payment or your own
Paypal, or mail a check to Janet Greenberg to be received by the deadline of December
7 at the latest. If not paid, you cannot attend unless there is a late cancelation and
refunds for payment until December 7.

Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Drive, McMurray PA, 15317

the direct link <https://www.oswp.org/holiday-party> for members to pay online?

What to bring: If you have a blooming orchid/orchids please bring to use as center pieces,
and, cookies

RSVP: Carolyn Bolton, boltoncs@gmail.com or 412 714 0263 to be included for the
holiday favor orchid plant.

NOTE: The holiday favor picks will be determined by the order of RSVP

We do not have to supply food or decorate the room just orchids for the tables

Orchid Gems – Barbara Tisherman – OSWP’s Long Term Go-To Judge and Exhibit Artist

By Norma Raiff

Who wouldn't like getting an award? Whether it's for an orchid that you've finally flowered after many futile tries, or an exhibit that successfully showcases the limited plants you have to work with, orchid judges' decisions can sometimes seem mysterious. And if you're a first-timer or a newer member, you may wonder: What are the rules? Who decides? And how do they earn that privilege?

Thanks to Life Member Barbara Tisherman, the OSWP is considered a highly active and informed society that excels in knowing what judges look for. And this reputation largely rests on Barbara's legacy of educating our members on the ABCs of award-worthy plants and show exhibits. She's incredibly informed, is always willing to answer questions and give her opinions, and is considered an international figure on the orchid scene.

As long-time member Lester Olson remembers, "I met Barbara Tisherman around 1985, when she rapidly became a dear friend and mentor who shared her wealth of knowledge about orchids with me for decades. She taught me to recognize high-quality orchids, to improve my growing culture for them, and to exhibit them well in society shows."

Barbara is the founder (1999) and until the end of 2020 was the president of the Slipper Orchid Alliance: an international organization devoted to the understanding of and conservation of lady slipper orchids. She continues to be the Executive Editor of its journal, Slipper Orchids. On top of that, she holds the esteemed position of Judge Emeritus: the highest honor the American Orchid Society (AOS) can bestow on a judge.

When you visit the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and admire the orchid room, you will see a small sign that says: Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection, which Phipps describes as "one of the most definitive of its kind."

Tell us about yourself:

Barbara lived in Squirrel Hill for many years before downsizing to a condo in Oakland in 2015. Many members remember visiting her impressive greenhouse, which contained three sections to accommodate the diverse needs of cool growing, warm growing and intermediate plants. She also hosted various ancillary meetings and a few picnics.

Her family is a source of great personal pride and Barbara is always glad to keep her friends up to date on the achievements and activities of her three children (Sam, Bill, and Susie), eight grandchildren and a new great-grandson. However, the OSWP has been such a major part of her life that she says it is her second family.

Barbara now divides her time between her Summer-Fall residence in Pittsburgh and living in Florida during the colder months. She remains active as a judge as circumstances permit, and attends OSWP meetings when in town or on Zoom.

What about your orchid adventures?

Barbara's orchid journey began quite fortuitously when she received a gift of two phalaenopsis in 1971. She soon joined the OSWP and began attending area shows to broaden her knowledge. Society members know that besides growing numerous awarded plants, Barbara is an exhibitor par excellence. She displayed her first exhibit -- a 3x3-foot table-top, in which only a rabbit's-foot fern attracted attention -- within two years of joining. Her next exhibit, with her husband's help in construction, however, was massive: an astonishing 50 square-foot display that won the AOS Show Trophy. This award is based on General Arrangement - 35 points, Quality of flowers - 35 points, Variety - 20 points, and Labeling - 10 points.

So, what's the big deal, you might ask? To quote: "The AOS Show Trophy is the most prestigious trophy awarded on a regular basis by the American Orchid Society's judging system. It is a trophy that all of us would like to win or would like to win again --



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kind of like having the Oscar, Emmy and Tony Awards, all wrapped up into one (McNerney, S.)”

Barbara continued to exhibit in the OSWP show every year, and later when she needed assistance to create larger exhibits, she recruited a team of helpers that eventually included OSWP members Carolyn Bolton, Circe Curley, June Marshall, Arlene Ricker, Paul Spencer (now deceased), Gary VanGelder and John Whiting. As the team gained experience, the exhibits became larger (150 sq. ft.!) and included “mountains” and water features.

Barbara’s exhibits eventually became a Show signature. They were designed to be walked around and viewed from all sides, and they were placed near the front door so as to greet visitors as they entered the Show. John Whiting recalls its origins thusly: “I like to do exhibits in the round and I had suggested this to Barbara She agreed to do a 360-degree exhibit in 2009. I made a water course with plastic and rocks which took a lot of time, and then Barbara and the rest of us placed the orchids and the exhibit was done on time for the judging the next day.

“I liked working with Barbara and learned a lot from her. I learned that she paid attention to details. When an exhibit was done she would go around it and adjust this, tweak that and then I would follow her and tweak the edge of moss around the exhibit. The best detail I learned from Barbara was displaying the orchid name tags so they can be seen by the judges and easily read.” John Whiting

Carolyn Bolton: “My first encounter with Barbara was when someone at Phipps gave me her phone number and I called to ask about buying an orchid.... She asked me what I was interested in and, of course, I had no idea.... Soon I found that Barbara was looking for someone to help her repot her orchids. That is how I got hooked. Working with her collection I absorbed her knowledge...I started helping Barbara for the last 4 or 5 years she did exhibits. Again, I absorbed her knowledge about how exhibits should be designed! Barbara and I became close orchid friends, and I will never be able to repay her for all that she has taught me about orchid selection, growing and exhibiting.

What about being an AOS judge?

Her experiences with exhibiting led Barbara to volunteer as a “clerk” for a judging team at the OSWP shows, and she soon became aware that the official judges’ choices often paralleled her own. Hermann Pigors (owner of Oak Hill Gardens) encouraged her to consider becoming a student judge, and in 1977 she was accepted by the National Capital Judging Center (Washington, D.C., the closest center to Pittsburgh).

The pathway to becoming a judge involves a series of steps after acceptance into the program – from a minimum of three years as a student judge, another three years to associate (formerly called probationary) judge, to accredited judge. “It’s a rigorous process,” says Barbara, and it requires a commitment to learning, attending monthly regional AOS Judging Center meetings, and serving as a judge at various AOS-affiliated shows. Barbara’s journey also included some exceptional achievements, among them being elected as the Chairman of the National Capital Judging Center for a five-year term, judging shows across the county and at nine World Orchid Conferences, and then the crowning achievement, becoming a “Judge Emeritus.” The Emeritus status requires a nomination from the judge’s Judging Center and approval by the AOS Board of Trustees, based on evidence of over 20 years of exceptional service that goes beyond that normally required of a judge. At present, there are only about 35 individuals in the U.S. who hold this elite title.

And while on the topic of awards and highlights, here are a few more:

- Barbara’s history of OSWP service included the positions of Secretary, Vice President, President and Show Chairman.
- Barbara upgraded our monthly “Show and Tell” discussions by introducing the practice of commenting on plants to

educate our members from a judge's perspective about the quality of certain flowers and other important aspects, such as historical interest and cultural factors. She would point out the especially good features of flowers, and that knowledge would help members in choosing plants to add to their collections.

- At our shows, Barbara would lead a walk around – open to anyone who wanted to attend – to point out plant and exhibit highlights, with discussion about how judges reached their decisions. It was a popular and innovative add-on that educated members and the public at large.
- She initiated and led the OSWP Awards Study Group, a small informal group of members who wanted to increase their overall knowledge of orchids, especially with regard to judging standards. Study group members would prepare reports and discuss specific genera and species.
- She joined with other members to take her and other members' plants and props to create OSWP exhibits at regional shows.
- She chaired an AOS/Eastern Orchid Congress in October 1985 and an Eastern Orchid Congress in October 1999, which the OSWP hosted in Pittsburgh.
- In the fall of 2013, Phipps and the OSWP partnered to begin the building of a Living Museum of Slipper Orchids, an action intended to honor OSWP's long-standing history of volunteering at Phipps. At our suggestion, it was named The Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. This collection is known throughout the orchid world as a resource for hybridizers and botanists to study rare species and slipper hybrids dating back from 1859. And in line with OSWP's culture of education (and using any event as an excuse to eat), on October 5-6, 2013, a Super Slipper Celebration was held to officially name the Barbara Tisherman Slipper Orchid Collection at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and to help fund the collection. The weekend of festivities included four national and international speakers, sales, lunch and tours of the conservatory and orchid growing houses (which are normally not open to the public). The Saturday night reception was followed by the presentation ceremony with several speakers, including the President of the A.O.S., and was capped by an original musical production written and presented by OSWP members.
- Over the years Barbara was the recipient of 45 flower quality awards, 7 cultural quality awards and 2 cultural excellence awards (90 points or more) from the AOS. She also received 17 AOS Show Trophies for her exhibits.

Final thoughts

Barbara urges newer members to become involved. She believes you learn by doing, and the world of orchids is so enormous that we never stop learning about these gorgeous, exotic and intriguing flowers that we love so much and that add a new dimension to our lives.





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.

December 2022

Pfun at Phipps, a vital part of the OSWP's volunteer work at Phipps, is repotting orchids as well as doing the inventory of the Phipps orchid collection. The Pfunsters are also helping as the Clean-up Crew too. We are going to Phipps most Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30AM – 12:30PM. If you don't think you have the expertise to repot orchids or work on the inventory, you can help with orchid greenhouse clean-up. It's all a great learning experience for all of us.

If you would like to join our Pfun/P-OSI efforts and haven't previously signed up with us, please let us know at the email addresses below. We are using at least 4 members each date, with at least one being a more experienced grower.

(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. At the moment, all of the volunteers are required to wear masks at Phipps.)

Don't miss the Winter Flower and Light Show at Phipps!

Looking forward to working and learning together and having Pfun!

Happy Holidays!

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

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

Mini-Class- December

There will be no mini-class in December prior to the meeting and the mini-class will resume in January. Thanks, Katie

november meeting raffle!

At our Nov. 20 meeting Nancy Klein won the lovely Brsdm. Gilded Urchin! Raised \$67 to benefit the society.

We are looking for a plant for our raffle. Anyone who is interested in donating a plant, please contact Natalie Turicik" natalie.rozum@gmail.com

Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore,
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Chevront	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 Choltc		
Newsletter	Jim Yamber		

Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP)
General Meeting
November 20, 2022

Meeting was held at Phipps Garden Center.

As there was no mini-class for the November meeting, the business portion of the meeting was called to order at approx. 2:00 pm by Vice-President Carolyn Bolton standing in on behalf of Co-President Michelle Panasiuk whose father-in-law was gravely ill at the time of the meeting.)

Recognition was also given to the passing of Jim Yamber's sister, Lila who was often in attendance alongside Jim at OSWP events.

3 new members were welcomed to their first meeting.

Old Business:

- a. Crawford Estate Donations: Items remain in temporary storage in Pitcairn. Coordination with Phipps remains unresolved. OSWP will require the services of 1 or 2 volunteers to assist in choosing items from the estate once the details with Phipps can be worked out. An E-Blast for volunteers will be sent once a time can be set.
- b. OSWP Meeting Location: The Phipps Garden Center will be renovated in 2023. Phipps would only guarantee our use of the location for January and February, 2023. A new location has been identified in Hazelwood at the old St. Stephens School. The rent is reasonable and parking lots are available. If there are other suggestions for a location, please contact Michelle Panasiuk directly.
- c. Raj Popat Orchid Collection - The future of Raj's orchid collection has yet to be determined.

Reports:

- a. Pfun / P-OSI: Demetria Marsh provided an update on Pfun and P-OSI activities at Phipps. Pfun continues to volunteer twice per week to do orchid repotting, inventory and clean-up. Volunteers work in the Orchid greenhouse on both Monday and Thursday (9:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m.).
- b. American Orchid Society: Nancy Kline provided a short review of AOS webinars and orchid conservation activities. A gift membership to AOS could be just the perfect gift for an Orchid Lover. (aos.org)

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c. Newsletter: Jim Yamber noted that articles are due on the 20th of the month to allow for editing and distribution. If possible, articles should be submitted in Word format.

d. Orchid Gems: Norma Raiff thanked all the OSWP members who are willing to be interviewed for Orchid Gems. If you would like to be interviewed or have a suggestion for a member who should be interviewed, please contact Norma or Pam.

e. Orchid Show: Norma noted many of the vendors have committed for the Spring Show. A vendor has been found to provide supplies in lieu of Roberts since Wayne Roberts has retired and is no longer available. The Spring Show dates will be March 18 and 19, 2023.

f. Treasurer: The Treasurer's report, presented by Janet Greenberg, indicates funds in a variety of investment accounts, including checking, money market, CD and a US Treasury I-bond. Janet also noted that the website has been revised so that payment for the Holiday Party can be submitted for more than 1 attendee.

g. Audit: An audit of the OSWP financial records was done prior to the meeting. The results were good and no issues were identified.

h. Winter Party: The Winter Party will be held at the Crowne Plaza on Dec. 11th. One orchid will be given to attendees at the party (one per household membership).

Miscellaneous:

A plant raffle was held. Nancy Kline was the lucky winner. Any OSWP members wishing to donate a plant for the raffle should contact Natalie Turicik.

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

New Meeting: January 15th, mini-class may be on how to set up a Show Table at the Orchid Show. Zoom access still to be determined.

Orchid Show - March 17 - 19, 2023. Donations of orchid-related items for the silent auction will be welcomed. Members are encouraged to save these dates as many volunteers will be needed for set-up as well as for the days of the Show.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m. and was followed by the guest speaker, Sarah Hurdel (Something About Orchids) who gave a presentation on "Tips, Tricks and Creative Solutions for Growing Orchids Successfully without a Greenhouse."

Submitted: Kathy Collins, OSWP Secretary



First Class Mail

Orchid Society of
Western Pennsylvania
James Yamber (editor)
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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American Orchid Society
Education, Conservation, Research,
Affiliated Society

Upcoming 2022 speaker

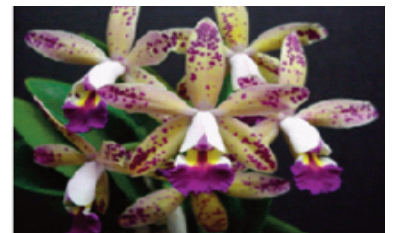
Nov. 20, 2022

Sarah Hurdel

tips, tricks and creative solutions for growing orchids successfully
without a greenhouse

Zoom and in person meeting

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 demjpasml@aol