



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

July 2021

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

July 18 2021

OSWP Picnic

Looking Ahead

Meetings will continue on Zoom for now

August NO MEETING
September 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

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 Cholco

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

Secretary: open

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

I'll have two
pic-a-nic baskets
please.

OSWP Picnic

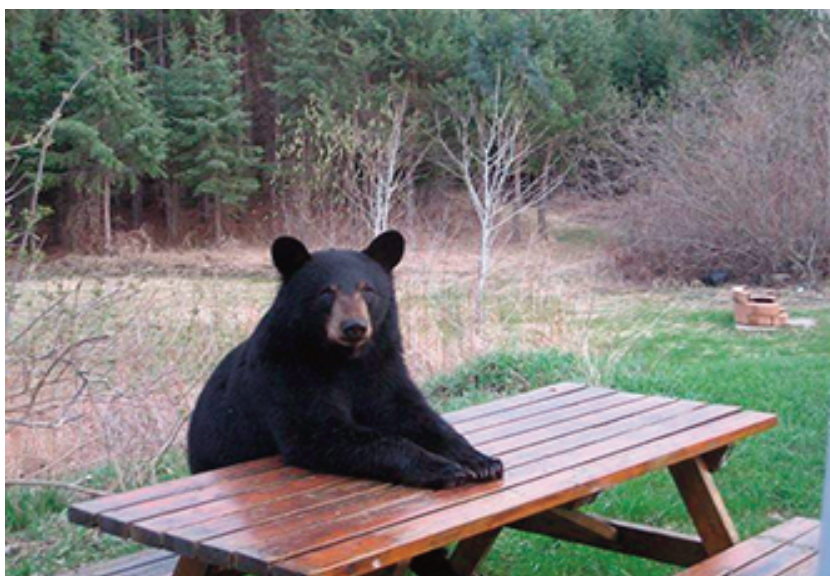


Photo from internet

Co-President's Letter July 2021

As I am writing this, it is still technically spring. We have not had a day with a high under 80 for a couple of weeks. If your plants are enjoying the warmth, light, and humidity outdoors, you probably should increase the frequency of your watering. Anything mounted or in an airy basket (think vandas) should be misted heavily as many times a day as you can. Also, a dilute feeding with extra Mag - Cal every couple of weeks will be much appreciated by your cattleyas, most busily growing new pseudobulbs for flowering.

It was wonderful seeing new and old members at the Swap and Sale, including our youngest member, 5 week old Dimitri ! The weather was warm, but we had shade, each other, and orchids.

One of the highlights of the day was having the privilege of presenting Jim Yamber with an Orchid Digest Diamond Award, which is an honor bestowed upon an orchid society member who has served the society with excellence. We certainly all agree that Jim has gone above and beyond to keep us informed, entertained and in possession of our Zoom invitations throughout this past year. We could not have done this without him, and we are grateful.

I'm looking forward to our June 27 Zoom meeting, and the annual picnic, which takes the place of our July meeting. Elsewhere in this newsletter will be picnic details.

Continue to enjoy our climb out of the pandemic and think orchids !

Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lysy, co- presidents, OSWP

Annual OSWP July Picnic

Our annual July picnic will have a new venue this year, due to numerous construction projects happening at Chez Choltco this summer. The 2021 venue will be in Mt Lebanon, at the home of Sheila Nathanson.

Date : Sunday, July 18, 2021

Time: 2 pm - 6 pm

Place: 717 Osage Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15243

We will be having potluck, plus doing a little grilling. Please let me know what you would like to bring, so I can fill in the blanks. Also, I have chairs for about 20 people, so if you have a portable outdoor chair, bring it along. We will have member sales, so another opportunity to share the wealth of our collections.

If anyone is interested in getting wet, bring a bathing suit and towel, we can provide water.

RSVP to msnsan@gmail.com

Thank you Thank you Thank you

I would like to take this space to thank all involved in awarding me the "Orchid Digest Diamond" award. I am totally surprised and humbled by this prestigious award. I never thought about getting anything for what I do for the society, and this is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

Jim Yamber

Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore, Cristina Eyler
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, Tammy Wurst, 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 Gems

Horticulture is his Heritage -- Andrew Romanchik – Orchid Gems

By Pamela Jean Horter-Moore

I was first attracted to Andrew Romanchik's orchid collection when he sent three photos of flowering orchids for Show and Tell to Jim Yamber, OSWP Editor, via email on March 31st. In that email, Andrew remarked that the stunning *Paphiopedium callosum* 'Show Stopper' x Paph. Pitchweb was his first Paph in bloom. I wanted to learn more about the person who grew such lovely orchids but who wasn't necessarily a long-time grower.

Andrew Romanchik is 15, but his roots go back centuries to the Ukraine, where his ancestors brought their gift for horticulture to the United States. He prides himself on coming from a long line of farmers. "The Ukraine is known as the Breadbasket of Europe because it is the largest land mass in the world containing chernozem, a soil rich in humus," Andrew explains. "My grandmother's love for gardening was passed onto her children and grandchildren. The diversity and great numbers within the orchid family have attracted my cousins. It rubbed off on me. Taking care of orchids is a very calming feeling. "If anyone in the family wants to know why they haven't seen me for hours, it's probably because I've been out in the garage at the workbench repotting my orchids."

Andrew's interest and aptitude for gardening come naturally through his Ukraine background, but his inspiration for orchids in particular might be in part because of his cousin, Natalie Turicik, the daughter of one of his mother's three sisters, who induced him to join OSWP in March 2020 just as the pandemic was becoming an issue. "She's an impressive grower, and I have learned a lot from her. She has helped me hone my skill."

His first acquaintance with growing orchids began on his tenth or eleventh birthday, when he was promised three plants, and one of them was an orchid. That orchid died, but he received another orchid a couple of years later that continues to thrive.

"I consider myself a beginning-to-intermediate orchidist," says Andrew. "I started out with *Phalaenopsis*, and then moved onto *Cattleyas*. No there is no end to it. I currently have around 65 orchids.

"I actually began gardening in earnest at age eight or so, and I continue to have an interest in all plants, but orchids are my favorites. It's the largest and most diverse family of plants on the planet, and you can't master them all. That is what makes them so interesting."

Andrew maintains an interest in many types of plants. During a trip to South Carolina, he developed an obsession with the Spanish moss hanging from the trees. Spanish moss, of course, is an unusual plant in its own right with a mystique of its own. Andrew has nurtured Spanish moss on an apple tree in his yard from which he hangs his *Vanda* in the summer. They just go together so well.

"When I began this hobby in earnest, I was surprised at the number of orchid growers within my church and within my community."

Like so many orchid enthusiasts, Andrew shares his successes with his parents and older sisters. They have come to know a little bit more about orchids, even if it hasn't been their intention. "During the Covid lockdown, I was always bothering my parents while they were working from home."

The reward of growing orchids is addictive. A person wants to repeat the experience again and again. Andrew loved not having to go to school during lockdown. At home with the orchids, he could utilize the time to research and dive into them.

Although Andrew says that he has "infested" several rooms in the house with orchids, one room in particular has the best setting. Called the "Animal-Spotting Room" by the family because its expansive windows allow sightings of deer and other wildlife, this part of the house provides natural light and plenty of shelving for orchids. Since Andrew's parents enjoy having their coffee in this room, which also includes the computer, the family is surrounded by the beauty of the flowers and by the clean air the orchids provide.

Andrew has grow-lights on some of the shelves in the Animal-Spotting Room, and he summers his or-

chids outdoors in a shady location wherever it is appropriate.

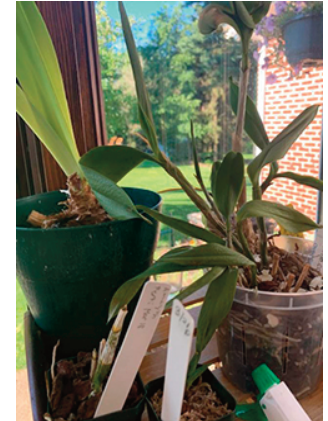
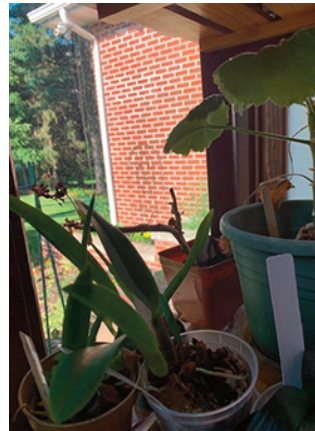
There are three orchids that Andrew considers his favorites: Vandas, because they can be grown with Spanish moss; Cattleyas, because he had admired them in his cousin's collection; and Zygopetalum, because of their fragrance.

"I get whatever orchid I can afford with my chore money or whatever I can get my hands on," says Andrew. Andrew lives in Franklin Park and will be entering the tenth grade at North Allegheny High School. He has two older sisters -- one in college and the other a senior in high school. He would like to study Constitutional law someday and become an attorney, ideally in Washington, DC, working in areas of treason and espionage. Like plants, laws grow and evolve, and provide opportunities for young people to play an active role.

Andrew looks forward to being fully vaccinated so he can ditch the mask. He is eager to take part in activities again, like the OSWP Orchid Swap and in-person meetings.

Not that he hasn't been busy. He spent the month of May doing political canvassing for the primary election, taking tests in school, and preparing for the Keystone Exams, which are mandatory for graduation. He has had a lot of orchids to repot.

Andrew cautions new orchidists not to love their plants to death. "Don't overthink it. Every single thing I do, I wonder whether this is right or that is right. I over-nurture, put in too much care, overwater, and the result is root rot." Perhaps Andrew's growing success with orchids is derived from the feeling of calmness that he gets when working with them. As a horticulturalist with a Ukrainian heritage, Andrew understands that there is a gift to giving an orchid what it needs, not what you think it needs.



Memories

Memories like the wind mills of your mind.

For those who did not know the Orchid Society of Western Pa OSWP was started in 1954 with the help of Phipps director Frank Curto. The first orchid show was at the Allegheny County Fair held at South Park. Greda Evens was the person instrumental in forming the society. She had been growing orchids for many years. The society held meetings in the potting shed at Phipps. Over the years members came and went and the society grew in to what we have today. One of the largest orchid societies in the eastern United States. We became affiliated with the American Orchid Society (AOS) which meant we could have AOS judging for the orchids. There was meetings of the AOS officers held in different cities along with what was called the Eastern Orchid Congress (EOC). The Eastern Orchid Congress was a separate organization from the AOS, but affiliated with it. Our society (OSWP) decided to hold our show along with an EOC. This was a monumental task headed by Barbara Tisherman which was held Oct. 23-27, 1985 at the Pittsburgh Hilton in downtown Pittsburgh. During this event there were lectures, demonstrations, vendors from around the world so you could shop to your hearts content, also, tours of Pittsburgh and a banquet with entertainment. This society has had many very talented members. Soooo we decided to put on the

“Phalaenopsis Folies”

with songs, choreography and narration. This came about because of Christmas carol singing at Cris Cox’s home around a piano. There were songs to be written, choreography to be developed, and practice, practice, practice. Bud and Demetria Mellott were in theater and with the help of Cris Cox ,and others, rewrote the words to many well known songs. “I’m an Orchid Doodle Dandy”, “Smoke Gets In Your Eyes”, “Phantom of the Virus”. “There is nothing like a Phal”, “Stormy Weather”, ‘Oh the sun will come out tomorrow’.

These are some of the lyrics:

“I’m an Orchid Doodle Dandy” I’m an orchid doodle dandy orchids are the plants for me. We organized in Pittsburgh in 54 to form a society...etc

“Smoke Gets In Your Eyes”, They asked if I knew why my leaves are blue, I of course replied Pittsburgh Disulfide cannot be denied...etc

“Phantom of the Virus” Softly, gently, virus spreads it’s splendor, feel it, see it, tremulous and tender. Silently the senses abandon their defenses, turn your thoughts away from orchids sadist plight and let me do my damage every night...etc

And many more with great lyrics!

The cast consisted of Demetria Mellott (Marsh), Bud Mellott, Fred Wright, Virginia Wright, Carolyn Bolton, Larry Seigworth, and Jim Yamber. Staging Vicki Strod. Lyrics assist Cris Cox and Mary Lou Kosis and pianist Carol Karl

This meant learning new lyrics to old songs and meeting in the Mellott’s garage for choreography practice. The entire show took several months to develop and learn. It turned out to be a great success and we did it again in the fall of 1999 for our second EOC. Of course, there had to be changes: new songs, new cast members etc.

There was lots of work to make this happen, BUT, so much fun we could have gone on the road (which we were asked to) if we didn’t have other every day responsibilities like work, family etc...

All in all these are great memories of the past OSWP times created by and for the members of this well-known Orchid Society the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania.

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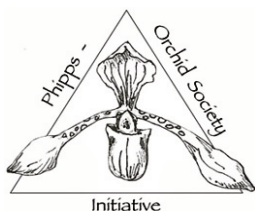
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Tune in again next time to those thrilling days of yesteryear and the OSWP



The cast and crew of the “Phalaenopsis Folies”

From left to right: Cris Cox, Mary Lou Kosis, Vicki Strod, Carol Karl, Jim Yamber, Larry Seigworth, Fred Wright, Virginia Wright, Carolyn Boltin, Demetria Marsh (Mellott) and Bud Mellott. (Some are still with us some have passed)



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 2021

While we are not yet permitted to resume our volunteer work helping with the Phipps orchid collection due to pandemic precautions, Margie Radebaugh promises the orchids are being well taken care of. We can still visit Phipps Conservatory’s Summer Flower Show, The Hidden Life of Trolls, and see the blooming orchids in the Orchid Exhibition Room in the Conservatory.

Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to return as volunteers working to repot Phipps orchids, Pfun at Phipps, plus our other cultural and inventory work with the Phipps orchid collection, P-OSI

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OSWP 2nd ANNUAL
FREE ORCHID RAFFLE

To be held 07/04/21

All Paid members for Fiscal Year 07/01/21-06/30/22
are Automatically entered in the RAFFLE

OSWP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Individual: \$20; Family \$25; Add \$15 for mailed newsletter.

Emailed newsletter option is appreciated.

PayPal very easy renewal=No PayPal account needed

Using PayPal to pay via a debit or credit card is very simple.

If your contact info for address, phone, or email has not changed, there is no need to complete the membership form.

DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS:

PayPal -HIGHLY recommended for Ease of Use.

DON'T have a PAYPAL ACCOUNT?

Just sign into OSWP.org. Go to memberships

and Use the selection to pay via PayPal.

OR with own PAYPAL ACCOUNT:

Use email address OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com and choose "Friends and Family"

(no fee assessed OSWP).

Send check payable to "OSWP" and mail to Treasurer,

Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr. McMurray, PA 15317-3212.

If you are not sure if your dues are paid up for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1st, please email my personal account: Janetg150@verizon.net

OSWP 2nd Annual free Orchid Raffle.

RAFFLE DETAILS:

ELIGIBILITY: All paid memberships for new fiscal year 07/01/21-06/30/22. No action needed, entry is automatic.

WHAT: Paphiipedilum Ho Chi Minh (delenatii Dunkel x vietnamense) See the attached photos.

WHEN: 4th of July

SPRING SHOW 2020 NEW MEMBERS: All who joined at the Spring Show 2020, or the remainder of 2020, are now up for renewal.

2021 NEW MEMBERS: All new members in 2021 are paid thru 06/30/22 & automatically entered in the raffle.

DUES AMOUNT: Individual \$20, Family \$25.

HOW TO PAY: Please see attached.

<https://www.eliteorchids.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Paph.-Ho-Chih-Minh-Good-Morning-Vietnam-close-4.18.2003.jpg>

Thank you. Janet Greenberg Treasurer



Similar Orchid



ACTUAL RAFFLE ORCHID



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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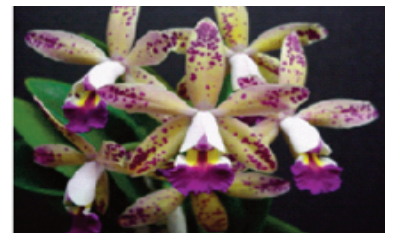
Upcoming 2021 speaker

FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 18 , 2021

OSWP Picnic

More to come for the future programs for 2021



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