



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Upcoming Events

Looking Ahead

2018 – December 9
Holiday Party
Timothy Choltco
Sex, Lies, and Orchids.

2019 - January 20 Thomas Sampliner The Orchids
of Malaysian Borneo
2019 - February 17 T.B.A.
2019 – March 14-17 O.S.W.P. Spring Show
2019 - April 28 New Members Panel

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

OSWP Officers

President: Demetria Marsh

First Vice President: Lori McDermott & Tim Choltco

Second Vice President: Sheila Nathanson

Directors: Don Ammon, Mike Lysy, Kim McClelland, John Whiting and April Arroyo

Secretary : Lance Chevront

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Poinsettia 'Euphorbia pulcherrima'

Poinsettia plants are native to southern Mexico known as 'Taxco del Alarcon' where they flower during the winter. The ancient Aztecs called them 'cuetlaxochitl'. The Aztecs had many uses for them including using the flowers (actually special types of leaves known as bracts rather than being flowers) to make a purple dye for clothes and cosmetics and the milky white sap was made into a medicine to treat fevers. (Today we call the sap latex!)

The poinsettia was made widely known because of a man called Joel Roberts Poinsett (that's why we call them Poinsettia!). He was the first Ambassador from the USA to Mexico in 1825. Poinsett had some greenhouses on his plantations in South Carolina, and while visiting the Taco area in 1828, he became very interested in the plants. He immediately sent some of the plants back to South Carolina, where he began growing the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.

One of the friends he sent plants to was John Bartram of Philadelphia. At the first Philadelphia flower show, Robert Buist, a plants-man from Pennsylvania saw the flower and he was probably the first person to have sold the poinsettias under their botanical, or latin name, 'Euphorbia pulcherrima' (it means, 'the most beautiful Euphorbia'). They were first sold as cut flowers. It was only in the early 1900s that they were sold as whole plants for landscaping and pot plants. The Ecke family from Southern California were one of, if not, the first to sell them as whole plants and they're still the main producer of the plants in the USA. It is thought that they became known as Poinsettia in the mid 1830s when people found out who had first brought them to America from Mexico.



this is off of the internet

President's Letter December 2018

It's December already!

As we remember the victims of the Tree of Life synagogue, those killed and those seriously injured just over a month ago, let us affirm the power of love and respect and vow to help make our world a better place, through our words and actions! The police and emergency personnel who stepped in to help are beacons of bravery and kindness, as well as the medical staff at the hospitals. People who know that love is stronger than hate. Pittsburgh strong! May we follow their examples.

Now some good OSWP news: Phipps is allowing us to use Botany Hall in place of the Garden Center starting in September, 2019, when the Garden Center should be undergoing renovations. Our cost will be the same. This is a tribute to the partnership we have developed over the years, Phipps and the OSWP, to work together to develop and help maintain the Phipps orchids collection. Just great!

Norma Raiff, who has resurrected our Orchid Gem feature for our newsletter, helping us learn more about our members, is looking for a few people to help with writing a few columns a year. Norma has a format that is easy to follow: pick a member, call and ask the list of questions Norma uses as a blueprint, then spend an hour or two to write the column. Please let Norma know if you are interested. normaraiff@gmail.com

At our November meeting, Brandon Spannbauer spoke on Pleione, a type of orchid, which, for many of us, was unknown. Brandon did a comprehensive talk on the different species and hybrids and the seasonal culture changes needed for them. He kept it simple and understandable. Very well done! With orchids, there is always something new to learn.

The Holiday Party is nigh. Be sure to let Carolyn Bolton know that you are attending. The sooner the better! We are looking forward to a wonderful afternoon of a orchids (plants and a wonderful talk by Tim Choltco), food, fun and friendship.

If you cannot attend, warm wishes for a Happy Holiday and good growth in the new year. May we experience and help spread peace, respect and love.

Demetria

Demetria Marsh,
OSWP President
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Upcoming 2018 speakers

- 2018 – December 9 Holiday Party Timothy Choltco Sex, Lies, and Orchids.
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Reminder: The new fiscal year is approaching-07/01/18-06/30/19, and annual dues should be paid by July 1st.

NOTE: Members who joined from March 2018 thru June 2018 are considered paid thru June 30, 2019.

Important Notice:

Effective immediately, because of rising costs, dues for MAILED NEWSLETTERS are increased from \$10 to \$15 additional dues.

New annual dues rates for mailed newsletters:

Individuals \$35

Household \$40.

Dues for emailed newsletters remains the same at \$20 for Individual and \$25 for household.

Checks are payable to OSWP and mailed to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr.,

McMurray, PA 15317 or via OSWP website, PayPal link.

Chairpersons

AOS Nancy Kline
Facebook Lance Cheuvront
Holiday Party Carolyn Bolton
Hospitality Carolyn Bolton
LibraryRosa Graudin
Membership Val Robey

Orchid Show Sheila Nathanson, Gary Van Gelder
Pfun Nancy Kline
P-OSI Demetria Marsh
Website Jinghua Ou
Newsletter Jim Yamber

2019 Spring Show

As you enjoy the holiday season, please think about ways you can pitch in to make our Show next March a success. Activity will kick into high gear right after the holidays.

Being at a new location will require an extra effort in publicity. We will need to put out information earlier and in more locations than the past. Although the publicity effort needs to happen all over western Pennsylvania, we will need a concentrated effort in the Mount Lebanon, Dormont, and surrounding communities to help replace some of the walk in traffic we had at the garden center. Please let us know if you can help in this aspect.

Please consider volunteering to assist a show committee chair if you are newer to the society and would like to know what is involved. This will help greatly with continuity

Gary VanGelder

Greenhouse Light Levels

LIGHT: Approximate light levels, expressed in footcandles (fc). These light levels may be used as a starting point, but it is important to watch each plant carefully and to modify the light at the first indication of stress. Light levels should always be changed gradually.

Plants generally utilize morning light most effectively, since their metabolism is frequently most active in the morning; but as with most rules, there are exceptions. If the habitat climate shows frequent morning overcast, then the plant may benefit from higher light in the afternoon.

Greenhouse plants should be watched carefully during seasonal shifts in light patterns to guard against the possibility of sunburn. Species grown in light which is too low may not bloom, but low light seldom causes the serious damage that can result from excessively high light.

Cultivated species may adapt to different light conditions, but they are unlikely to thrive and may not bloom unless they receive light at the appropriate levels and times. The most widely distributed species are those most likely to be adaptable to various light levels. The following generally accepted cultural divisions describe light levels:

- Very high. Over 5000 footcandles--nearly full sun except at midday, when full summer sun in most latitudes may reach 10,000 fc. Full sunlight through clean fiberglass is usually 5000-7000 fc on a clear day.
- High. 4000-5000 footcandles--bright light, just under 50% of the full midday sun. Although most plants utilize light most efficiently at 5000 fc, many orchids use light most efficiently at much lower levels.
- Intermediate. 1800-4000 footcandles--dappled sunlight.
- Low. 1000-1800 footcandles--reduced sunlight, so that if a hand is passed over the leaves it does not produce a shadow.
- Very low. Less than 1000 footcandles--deep shade.

Light can be measured with a light meter. If no direct-reading light meter is available, footcandles may be measured with a 35 mm camera that has through-the-lens metering. The procedure is simple. First, set the camera for a film speed of ASA 25 and a shutter speed of 1/60 second. Center the needle in the viewfinder by adjusting the camera's *f*/stop while focusing on a clean, white sheet of paper which has been placed where the plant actually grows. Then convert the *f*/stops to approximate footcandles as follows:

f/2:100 fc *f*/2.8:200 fc *f*/4:370 fc *f*/5.6:750 fc *f*/8:1500 fc *f*/11:2800 fc *f*/16:5000 fc

When artificial lights are used in the growing area, the *f*/stop readings may be quite low and yet the light may be adequate. Artificial light is constant, whereas natural light fluctuates during the day as the wind moves leaves and clouds causing shadows.

Orchids grown in the home normally require supplemental lighting. Fluorescent lights are most frequently used in a one-to-one ratio of cool-white and Gro-Lux bulbs which provide nearly full-spectrum light. Growers also successfully use the newer "full-spectrum" fluorescent and high-intensity lights. Halide lights should be combined with sodium bulbs since alone they are deficient in red portions of the light spectrum, which prevents flowering in some species. Artificial lights are easily controlled by timers to provide seasonal fluctuation, increasing and decreasing light levels each month. Most species do well with 11-14 hours of light, which the following schedule provides:

JAN. (JUL.) 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	JUL. (JAN.) 5:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
FEB. (AUG.) 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	AUG. (FEB.) 5:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
MAR. (SEP.) 5:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	SEP. (MAR.) 5:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
APR. (OCT.) 5:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.	OCT. (APR.) 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
MAY. (NOV.) 5:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	NOV. (MAY.) 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
JUN. (DEC.) 5:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	DEC. (JUN.) 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Seedlings need very low light, starting at 200 fc when they are just out of the flask. During the following years, light should gradually be increased to mature-plant levels as the plants reach blooming size.

Studies indicate that seedlings grow more rapidly if given 14-16 hours of light year-round. However, extending light in the general growing area may adversely affect blooming in mature plants. Consequently, either seedlings should be grown in a separate area, or the light should be blocked from other plants in the same area.

Pfun at Phipps in November

We have our usual 2 potting dates for December and may be looking for more help with unpacking. Our set dates are Thursday the 13th and Wednesday the 19th. There are deliveries expected that day so you may be unpacking arrivals from Hawaii. Be alert for a possible email asking for help for more unpacking. Will be around this time, mid-late December.

There are name tags in a box in the beige cabinet in GH 1. Please take one and add your name. These can be taken home and used when you return. Also helpful in the cafe or the gift shop when you request your 20% discount.

We also have some of our orange 'Volunteer Parking Permits' in that same box in that cabinet. Take one if you need one.

As always, contact me if you are available. We begin typical Pfun work at 9:30 and finish around 12:30. Lunch at the Cafe is always an option.

If you are working at any other time than Pfun, please let me know your hours.

These figures are reported to Phipps' volunteer coordinator and they help both OSWP and Phipps.

If you have begun working with Katie in the greenhouses, you can contact her with your availability.

Katie would love to hear from you if you have the time, she may have an opportunity for you:

kschuller@phipps.conservatory.org

If you have any questions, email me at nancyk412@gmail.com or call 412-367-1556.

Thanks for your help.



Holiday Party

Speaker / Entertainment

It's a fun and informative introduction to
some of the crazier orchid pollination mechanisms.

It's titled "Sex, Lies, and Orchids"



Time to celebrate the holidays with your OSWP family.

Date: Sunday, December 9, 2016
(THE second Sunday in December)

Time: 2-5PM

Where: Phipps Garden Center

When: 2-3:15 . . . very short business meeting and then
Tim Choltco presents his program. See article in newsletter.

Bring show 'n tell plants for room decorations.

3:15- 5PM . . . food and fun!

Members will provide the appetizers and desserts.

You may BYOB. We will provide the drinks hot and cold.

If your last name begins; A thru L . . . please bring an appetizer

M thru Z . . . please bring a dessert

You can call/email me and let me know what you will bring.

If I have too many of one category I may request something different.

There will be plant favors this year. The order for RSVPs will determine the grab bag
choosing order so the earlier you RSVP the better choice you will have.

**RSVP by Wednesday, 12/6, to Carolyn at 412 714 0263 or
boltoncs@gmail.com.**

Help is always needed to set up the room around 12:30.

Any and all helpers greatly appreciated.

Come hear Tim's talk about orchid sex!

**"Please email, call or text what you will be bringing
to the Holiday Party, Thank You"**

NEW LOCATION FOR 2019 OSWP ORCHID SHOW

As much as most of us do not like changes, sometimes they are handed to us. The need to find an alternative location for our annual spring show is one of those changes. We were unable to secure a firm commitment from the Garden Center for our 2019 show due to their plans to renovate that property. This required exploring alternative options.

Our thanks goes out to all the members who offered suggestions. Our thanks especially goes out to the team of diligent members who researched the suggested alternative venues, and many many more. After extensive weighing pros and cons of all options, the search team, the OSWP board, and show chairs decided Artsmiths Gallery in the South Hills made the most sense to host our 2019 spring show.

This facility is a recently renovated former hardware store, and is located at 1635 McFarland Rd, Pgh, 15216. It is approximately five minutes from the Ft Pitt Tunnels. It boasts plenty of free parking, two spacious downstairs gallery spaces, a classroom, and an upstairs cafe. There are several accessible restrooms, and an elevator. It is a lovely facility to host our show, and it will not require navigating side streets in an unfamiliar section of town.

This is a big change for the society, but if we have all hands on deck we will have a successful show. When those volunteer clipboards start getting passed around, don't be shy about getting involved. It takes us all, working together, to run a great show.

We are sure there will be unforeseen challenges to this 2019 show, but we know our members will pull together to make it a great success.

Mini-Classes

No Mini-class this meeting



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Membership Information DUES: 07/01/18-06/30/19

The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving orchid enthusiasts. Our purpose is to stimulate interest in the exchange of information about the culture, conservation, and exhibition of orchids. Membership is open to everyone, whether they grow orchids or just want to learn more. Visit us at www.oswp.org

OSWP Membership Application Form

Name _____

Name of spouse/other family member _____

Your Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____

Date: _____

Annual Dues calculation: (check all that apply)

Individual Membership \$20

Household Membership \$25

Additional fee for paper newsletter: \$15

Total dues \$ _____ Check payable to OSWP

Or PayPal, via OSWP.org, Dues PayPal link,
Or PayPal, using email address: OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com
PayPal-Please click on "Friends and Family" or fee assessed OSWP

Mail your completed form/check to:

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



Orchid Society of Western
Pennsylvania

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 2018 speakers

FUTURE PROGRAMS

December 9, 2018

Holiday Party

Timothy Choltco
Sex, Lies, and Orchids.



WANTED

THE AMERICAN ORCHID
SOCIETY JUDGING PROGRAM
IS SEEKING HIGHLY
MOTIVATED ORCHID
ENTHUSIASTS TO JOIN THE
JUDGING RANKS.
TEAMWORK, WILLINGNESS
TO LEARN AND ENTHUSIASM
ARE PARAMOUNT
QUALIFICATIONS. THERE ARE
NO AGE OR GEOGRAPHIC
RESTRICTIONS.

FOR DETAILS CONTACT DAVE MILLER AT
330-307-7189 OR DCMJPASML@AOL.COM