

# Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

May 2020

[www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org)

## Upcoming Events

May 17-2020

**Cancelled**  
Look forward to  
June meeting

## Looking Ahead

<u>2020 – June 28</u>	Jason Fischer
<b>2020 – July</b>	<b>Picnic</b>
<b>2020 – August</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>

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](http://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 Cristina Eyler**

**Secretary : Lance Chevront**

**Treasurer: Janet Greenberg**

### What's Blooming Now

### OSWP Disa uniflora

This is a picture of my Disa uniflora in bloom now in my plant room. I collect rain water because the Disa cannot tolerate chlorine This IS NOT an orchid for beginners as you can see from the article I copied from the internet. BUT if you can learn to grow them they are very rewarding. I will be pollinating it in a few days and if all goes right I will get seed and then be on my way to hopefully more plants. Disa are orchids that have very large seed and can be grown outside of the flask. The website URL is at the end of this article on page 3.

Disas require rather different conditions than many other orchids. But meet their needs and they grow fast! Forget everything you know about growing other orchids if you want to keep these: in particular, they are NOT epiphytes! Also, the conventional wisdom that most orchids die from overwater-



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photo by Jim Yamber

## **President's Letter May 2020**

Magical Mysterious Marvelous May!

While we wonder how best to keep the virus at bay, remember to enjoy the beauty and joy of spring, and of course, our orchids!

We are very sad to have to cancel another monthly meeting, so we will NOT be together on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May for safety's sake. We are hoping the virus subsides and we are safe to be together on June 28<sup>th</sup>, the weekend after Father's Day, at Phipps Garden Center in Shadyside, to officially welcome new members and truly celebrate being together and learning more about orchids.

At our June meeting our attending members are needed to vote on:  
The amendment to our bylaws as outlined in this newsletter; and  
Officers for the upcoming year (July, 2020 – June, 2021).  
More information will be in the June newsletter.

In the meantime, until we meet again, we have tried to keep our orchid connection going thru several means:

**ONLINE SHOW AND TELL:**

**OSWP WEBSITE:**

- and -

**OSWP FACEBOOK PAGE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/orchidsocietyofwesternpennsylvania>

If you have photos of your orchids you would like to share, please send to Jinghua Ou, our webmaster : - and - to Lance Chevront, our social media guru: with the name of your orchid and any other info.

**OSWP CULTURE CONNECTION EBLASTS:**

Keep an eye open for Eblasts from Jim Yamber as OSWP members send some information about their orchid growing history with pictures to help us stay connected, celebrate and learn. If you would like to participate, just let me know. My contact info is below. Many thanks to the members who have already shared a little of their history of growing orchids. Very special thanks to Jim Yamber for doing all these extra Eblasts along with his other work for the OSWP.

Looking forward to seeing you on June 28<sup>th</sup>!

Be well, celebrate every day and think orchids!

Demetria

Demetria Marsh

412-848-4349



# May 17, 2020 meeting Cancelled

The OSWP Board, wanting to be cautious and avoid confusion in May, has voted to cancel our regular monthly meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 17th, and have a very special meeting on Sunday, June 28th. Our June 28th meeting at Phipps Garden Center (1059 Shady Avenue near Fifth) will include:

A new members' reception;

A small panel discussion especially for newer members;

Our 2:15 regular business meeting with Show 'N Tell

Looking forward to seeing you then. In the meantime, be well, celebrate every day and, of course, think orchids!

**Be sure to see our member's photos of our Orchid Show on our OSWP website ([oswp.org](http://oswp.org)) and Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/orchidsocietyofwesternpennsylvania/>)**

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ing does not apply. One could reasonably consider Disas to be water plants, as they are sometimes found completely submerged in nature during certain seasons, and they generally grow right next to streams. You should water them at least daily, set them in buckets of water, or even construct flow tables that keep water flowing past their roots constantly. They should never, ever dry out or they will die.

You need very pure water for these plants: they grow in mountain streams. So unless you want to go to the grocery store to get distilled water every day, invest in a reverse osmosis system. (Your other orchids will appreciate it, too!) Monitor how well your reverse osmosis system is working, changing its membrane as necessary; you want a TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) meter to read less than 200-300 ppm, even after fertilizer is added. They also like an acidic pH; use peat moss or sphagnum moss in the potting mix to achieve this. (They often like to be overpotted in plastic mesh pots, too.)

Since these plants get so much water, you may sometimes need to treat bacterial and fungal diseases. But whatever chemicals you use needs to be at low concentrations, because the plants require pure water!

Disas don't like root temperatures above 70°F (21C). Otherwise, they are pretty forgiving about temperatures: they can withstand (very) light frost and temperatures over 100°F (37C), on occasion! Higher humidity should help them withstand high temperatures. Ideally, they should have cool temperatures, below 70°F (21C) by day, and 10-15°F (6-8C) cooler by night. Cool root temperatures are especially important.

They like bright light; direct sunlight is okay, if you can provide it without overheating the roots.

They seem to care a lot about air circulation, so use some fans!

After blooming, the plant will die back, but hopefully you'll already see a number of new shoots growing out of the pot. You should pot these up separately, as the old plant will rot! Also repot them any time they don't appear to be doing well, as it gives you a chance to cut off any rotting roots.

<https://www.orchid-care-tips.com/disa-orchids.html>

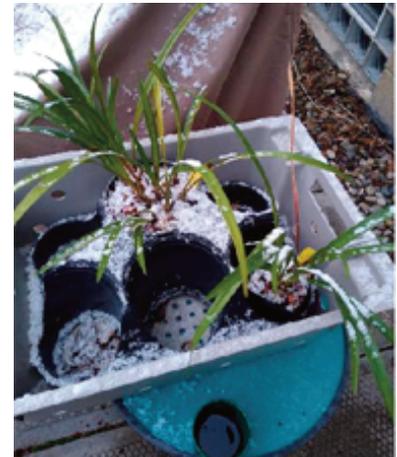
## When Can I Put My Orchids Outside? by Dave Miller

Now that spring is approaching, we want to get our orchids outside as quickly as possible. It is now late April approaching May and we are at the height of desire to get our orchids jump started for the Summer. Well, nice plan, and in past years, a good plan. But, Mother Nature has her ways and not always fitting our ways. I generally put half of my orchid collection outside for the Summer (notice I did not say Spring). Keep in mind that most of our orchids are tropical and do not like extended periods of temperatures below 60 degrees. I use the general rule of "orchids outside between Memorial Day and Labor Day". In some years I am lucky to put them out May 15 and keep many out past September 15 approaching October 1. However, I have damaged some of my orchids staying out till October.

I know of other orchidists who are willing to move their plants in and out each day and night to get that early breath of warm weather but I am not one of those. Where others are willing to carry them to the garage each night, I am not. When I put my plants out, they stay out. About two weeks ago when the weather was routinely in the 40-50's overnight, I put out my cold-loving orchids. *Cymbidiums*, nobile *Dendrobiums*, *Dendrobium moniliforme* and *Neofinetia (Vanda) falcata* all tolerate very cold temperatures so some years they go out in late March. As you can see by the photos, Mother Nature tricked me and the overnight temps went back down to the 20's and snowed. Oops. Now, these plants will tolerate snow but not frost so a game of risk is in play. As I awoke that morning several weeks ago, they were snowbound. So in they came and have remained so ever since. They are just fine.

On April 20th, we had a hard frost and even my *Bletilla striata* clumps got frost-bitten. These are hardy perennial orchids that grow in my flower garden. I have had these clumps for several years but as you can see in the photo, the frost killed all of the tender growth. I don't know the extent of damage yet, perhaps losing only recent growth but possibly losing all of the flowers. Yikes. Even Carolyn Bolton in Pittsburgh has suffered the same fate on her *Bletilla* clumps.

I have found that four months of Ohio Summer is enough time to encourage strong flowering of most of my orchids. Be patient and you will be rewarded with blooms in time for show season next year.





# SPECIAL INVITATION

## New Member Reception—Rescheduled (Again!!)

Sunday, June 28, 2020 - 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Phipps Garden Center, 1059 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232**

(Please Note: Not at the Phipps Conservatory)

New Member Reception is followed by



Stay tuned—we are still in the re-  
planning stage!

**Please RSVP by June 24 to:**

Valerie Robey, Membership Chair  
vrobey71@gmail.com



## You are STILL invited to the New Member Reception!

Who would EVER have guessed that our nation would be shut down for weeks? Even now, we are hoping to see SOME return to normalcy in the next month. Even if that happens, our meeting location is closed for the entire month of May, so we are again back to planning what we hope will be a nice introduction for you to our orchid society, friends and flowers.

As we wait, with great anticipation, we ask you to STAY TUNED....we will let you know when it looks like a more certain get-together. In the meantime, we hope that you are enjoying all the special eblasts with photos, member mini-bio's and greenhouse mini-tours. If you haven't already discovered, we have quite a few of our previous newsletters posted on our website, [www.oswp.org](http://www.oswp.org). The link is in the lower left corner of our home page. You can continue to get to know us better at a SOCIALLY SAFE DISTANCE...until we can get to know each other better IN PERSON!

On behalf of the entire leadership and membership of the OSWP, we wish you all the best.

Stay well!

Valerie Robey, Membership Chair

## **Board voted to amend the OSWP bylaws**

On April 14th, the Board voted to amend the OSWP bylaws Article V, Section 6 to read: “With the exception of the Treasurer or Secretary, no Officer or Director shall serve more than two consecutive terms per position.” The vote passed unanimously.

On April 19th the OSWP voted unanimously to cancel the May meeting due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 situation. Decisions for future events will be decided as we move along.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE**

**Fiscal Year 07/01/20-06/30/21.**

**(Does not apply to those who joined at Spring Show or libraries in 2020)**

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

*We are trying to make renewal as easy as possible for everyone.*

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

**DID YOU KNOW: You do not need to have a PayPal account.**

DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS:

**1. PayPal -HIGHLY recommended for Ease of Use.**

o **DON'T HAVE A PAYPAL ACCOUNT?**

***Just sign into OSWP.org. Go to memberships and Use the buttons to pay via PayPal. No need to sign in to PayPal. Select “Pay with Debit or Credit Card”.***

o **OR WITH OWN PAYPAL ACCOUNT:**

**Use email address and choose “Friends and Family” (no fee assessed OSWP).**

**2. Send check payable to "OSWP" to Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr. McMurray, PA 15317-3212.**

**3. Submit “OSWP” check at a regular monthly meeting to Treasurer, Janet Greenberg**

## **New Members Corner**

Val Robey, Membership Chair

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member(s) to OSWP:

Elaine Stoneback and Mary-Peg Miller

## **Current Committees Chairs,**

AOS	Nancy Kline	Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore,
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline		Cristina Eyler
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront	Pfun	Nancy Kline
Garden Club/Library Liaison		P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
	Karen Gibson	Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton	Show	Sheila Nathanson, Tammy Wurst,
Library	Rosa Graudins		Norma Raiff
Membership	Val Robey	Speaker	Lori McDermott, Tim Choltco
Mini-class	Sheila Nathanson	Website	Jinghua Ou
Newsletter	Jim Yamber		

## Pfun at Phipps in May

Unfortunately, nothing new at Phipps or anywhere else. May Market is cancelled and the 'used bulb and used orchid' sales are cancelled.

Keep an eye out on Orchiholics on FB as Deb Knorr, volunteer coordinator, occasionally sends me information about programs for volunteers. The most frequent one is "Lunch & Learn" which is Thursday at noon. They only schedule a few weeks in advance and I post them when I see them. A timely offering of a few weeks ago was seed starting. These are done over Zoom and you have the opportunity to ask questions. Keep an eye out or if you are not on FaceBook, let me know you are interested and I can forward Deb's emails to you.

I am sure you are all as anxious as I am to get back to the greenhouse.

Nancy Kline [nancyk412@gmail.com](mailto:nancyk412@gmail.com) 412.367.1556



## COMING SOON – FIRST DRAFT OF THE OSWP SPRING DIRECTORY

\*\* VIA EMAIL!!! \*\*

Hello again, Member!

If you have not already done so, **PLEASE RESPOND BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 6.**

I sent out two emails:

To New Members – requesting confirmation of your contact info along with a questionnaire to help us get to know you better. **I've received about 25% response.**

To Renewing Members -- asking for confirmation of your contact info.

Please check your directory info as listed in that email for accuracy. **Also, if you would like to add your mobile phone number, now would be a great time to do that.**

**Please respond to [vrobey71@gmail.com](mailto:vrobey71@gmail.com) with any changes or mobile phone number additions.**

Thank you!

Val Robey, Membership Chair

## Election of Officers slate

It is time to elect new offices and members of the board. Here is the list of members who have agreed to serve for the next 2 years. Election is at the June meeting...if we have one. If no meeting maybe a vote by email...Demetria?

President..Co-presidents	Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse
First Vice Presidents Co...	Svetlana McDonald and Kathleen Arria
Second Vice President	Timothy Choltco
Secretary	Lance Cheuvront
Treasurer	Janet Greenberg
Directors	Brooke Decker
	Peg Kalupanov
	Jinghua Ou
	Aaron Vitron
	Tamara Wurst.



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 2020 speaker**

FUTURE PROGRAMS

May 17, 2020

**Cancelled**

See you in June

More to come for the future programs for 2020



**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

