RE-OPENING, EXPANSION & (STILL) COVID-19

So many of us are being creative in finding safe ways to manage through these troubling times. These past months have been challenging for everyone, with closures, cancellations, social distancing and precautions. At the time, BSU policy continues to have the greenhouse remain closed to the public. However, we DO have a proposal in place for Ball State University review that should allow us to reopen safely. We are waiting for that proposal to be reviewed, and anticipate July (we hope) or no later than August as a time when we will be able to see you all again!

In the ‘quiet’ of COVID, the greenhouse orchids continue to grow and bloom. We have bumped up our social media presence as a way to share these beauties from afar. If you don’t already, you can follow us on Facebook (Rinard Orchid Greenhouse – Ball State University) or Instagram (BSU_ROGH). We have also added virtual tours by request!

Expansion – NOW

Also in the COVID-induced quiet, we have been anything but quiet! As we work on the greenhouse expansion, our dream of creating an Environmental Education Center is real! An architecture firm has been selected, and site visits have been made. We are truly on our way to creating this unique and valuable learning space for our community!

Because of COVID, we have been unable to present publically about this great project – you can learn more here: www.bsu.edu/orchids/expansion

Because of COVID, we know funding is not readily available and nearly impossible to find. We have raised 90% of our goal, and due to the timeline for construction in 2021, NOW is the time to make your contribution if you are so inclined.

We have great plans and have several key items we wish to include but thus far, are unable to fund. For example, adding a solar installation would cost an
estimated $25- $30K. Seating for two groups of grade-school students would add $100 - $150K to the project cost. Outdoor memorial benches with plaques for $10K, and courtyard with memory pavers (values will vary by size, ranging from $500 - $1500 each) are available. Funds for this project need to be secured by September, 2020 to be applied to this phase of the project. If you wish to donate to the Expansion, please consider doing so now. You may give online at [www.bsu.edu/giving](http://www.bsu.edu/giving)

* click 'Give NOW'  
* Select OTHER for the FUND  
* designate ROGH Greenhouse Expansion FUND #919.

You may also contact BSU Foundation Deanna Zimmer, [djzimmer@bsu.edu](mailto:djzimmer@bsu.edu) or (765) 285-1081.

For those who wish to support parallel Expansion project-related items for Christy Woods, these include but are not limited to: improved interpretive signage, pergola-type entrances to Christy Woods and assistance with an ADA compliant pathway to the new facility. Contact us for more information about this.

Please consider helping us close the gap and create this amazing new facility and thank you for your continued support!

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**Re-Opening**

When we receive approval for re-opening the greenhouse to visitors, we will have a few policies in place for COVID safety. Visitors will be limited to six (6) at a time, and required to wear masks (no exceptions). Foot traffic will be limited to one-way directional flow (mostly). The restroom will be available, with users requested to wash and use cleaning materials provided after their use. We must remain safe until a vaccine is in place, and thank you for your patience as we work through these details. Date of re-opening is under review.

**Friends of the Rinard**

A big shout-out goes to the Friends of the Rinard, Plant Sale committee! Our first-ever online plant was a success!!! Over half of our inventory sold and there were only a few minor glitches with orders. We are so very grateful to all of our supporters, and hope that your new plants are thriving!

If you are not already a Friend of the ROGH, you can be now! Visit the same link provided, left, and designate ROGH FRIENDS FUND #911. Thank you for your help in keeping our programs free!

We will update [www.bsu.edu/orchids](http://www.bsu.edu/orchids) with the latest information as necessary and appreciate your understanding and patience during this time of uncertainty. Stay healthy and we hope to see you at the greenhouse again soon with your mask!

Contact Curator, Cheryl LeBlanc: [cleblanc@bsu.edu](mailto:cleblanc@bsu.edu) or (765) 285-8839  
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