MEET OUR NEW ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR!

Meet Erica Forstater, our new Environmental Education Program Coordinator and Orchid Greenhouse assistant! Erica’s job is a brand new position, created especially for the Field Station and Environmental Education Center. Erica is a welcome addition for our expanding focus on environmental education, and (coming soon) our Environmental Education Center, for which we are currently actively fundraising (more about this on page 2).

Erica is originally from Philadelphia, has her BS from Cornell University in Environmental Science, and her MS in Biology from Bowling Green University. Erica brings with her experience with nature education programs, a love for plants, and a wonderful enthusiasm which has already endeared her to all of us. We are very excited to have Erica on board, and look forward to expanding our education programs to include opportunities for STEM education, nature education for Muncie Community Schools, and the local community as well.

In other news, our August program, “Tropical Discovery for Ball State’s Welcome Week” was extremely well attended. We enjoyed sharing the greenhouse with over 230 visitors that day! Most of the guests had never been to the greenhouse previously, so it was great to be able to introduce them to the greenhouse early in their tenure at Ball State University.

Our Social Media intern, Jessica Kerrigan (Public Relations major, 2019) joined the greenhouse team in late August for the Fall semester. Jessica has been busy learning about orchids and posting to Facebook and Instagram. You can follow Jessica’s very informative posts on Facebook or Instagram!

UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark your calendars:

September 8: Succulents: What’s not to love? Saturday, 11 - 12 p.m. Limited to 15 people. FILLED at this time.

September 22: Family Weekend “Explore the Orchid Greenhouse” Visit with family and friends. Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm

October 13: Community Artists Invitation Day 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 pm
Since June, we have been raising and releasing Monarch caterpillars and butterflies. We have over 40 that are in various stages of development. The only food for the monarch caterpillars is milkweed, and they gobbled up lots of it before pupating in August. These are the last brood of monarchs for the year, and they are the ones that will over winter in Mexico. These adults are the ones to carry on the species and lay eggs in Oklahoma next March. They head south soon!

In early August, we dedicated a very special glass lady's slipper orchid sculpture for the Betty Kendall Ladyslipper Orchid Species Collection. Betty Kendall, now 102 years young, and over 40 guests, including Joe Rinard and Jennifer Mearns, helped celebrate and dedicate the unique sculpture. The sculpture will ultimately reside in the new Environmental Education Center, and will be housed in the Conservatory until that time comes.

As the school year starts anew, don’t forget, if you or a friend are interested in volunteering, please contact us for training. Training is held throughout the year. We always need help with our special programs, setting up for programs, and lots of behind-the-scenes projects, including marketing, promotion, setting up for programs and more!

EXPANSION UPDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Beginning in September, we begin in earnest a fundraising effort to help expand the orchid greenhouse and Environmental Education Center. With Erica, our new environmental education coordinator developing great education programs, we are planning to create a beautiful facility to bring more quality programs to our local schools, as well as to our community. The project cost starts at $1.2M, to be raised in the next year. If you are interested in making a contribution to this facility, please contact our Development Officer, Ali Badgero, at abadgero@bsu.edu or (765)-285-6585. Contact our curator, below, for any questions. Thank you!!

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday – Friday
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturdays
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Visit us on the web:
www.bsu.edu/orchids
www.facebook.com/WOCSB/
Instagram: @BSU_ROGH

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

Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid Greenhouse
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