Rinard Orchid Greenhouse Docent Program

Week 1: Introduction
What do Docents do?

• Connect visitors to Christy Woods, Teaching / Research Greenhouse and Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection.

• Provide a guided experience through facilities that focuses on nature education.

• Allow for greater accessibility of facilities* while providing security for the collections.

* Current program for Orchid Greenhouse only. Future options may include Docents in additional Christy Woods facilities.
Training Program

- Demonstration and Practice tours in Rinard Orchid Greenhouse (ROGH)
- Regular tours and self-quizzes & assessments to practice knowledge & skills and build confidence
- Two (2) classroom sessions, covering four (4) topic areas.
- Independent review of classroom materials, available online.
Paperwork

- Curriculum outline
- Powerpoints available online
- Background check form (required by BSU)
- CWGG Docent Interpretive Guide
- Volunteer Application
- Docent Agreement
- Periodic Handouts
- Docent Daily Interpretive sheet*
- Sign-up sheet*

* See example in packet
Expectations – Your commitment

- Attend/Shadow 2 trainings (or online) [http://greenhouse.iweb.bsu.edu/](http://greenhouse.iweb.bsu.edu/)
- Regularly review ‘What’s in Bloom’ presentations online (will share link as soon as website is active)
- During initial training observe 2 tours
- Flexible Schedule: accommodating for travel and other plans
- Preferred schedule: Serve for at least one 2 hr time block per month
Returns – What’s in it for you

• Satisfaction of sharing valuable asset with Muncie Community, educating youth and adults about nature using orchids as ‘platform’.
• Master Gardener and IN Academy community service hours accrued
• A supportive climate where docents are considered part of Greenhouse staff.
• Opportunity to meet new people with similar interests
• Annual Docent “Thank You” gathering
• A letter of recommendation upon request
• A fun, inspiring, and awesome working environment!
Methods & Materials

- Training, feedback and guidance so you can help visitors have a meaningful educational experiences with natural history and culture.
- Docent orientation and training sessions supported by solid research.
- Provided materials, misc. information and assistance for you to meet the requirements of your position.
- Periodic performance reviews by the Curator and instructor/group leader evaluations.
Logistics

• Volunteer hours available:
  M – F 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. & Sat. 10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

• Two hr blocks:
  M – F: 10 – 12, 12 – 2, 2 – 4:30
  Sat: 10 – 12:30, 12:30 – 3:00

• Docents are paired with a buddy for staffing and camaraderie

• Parking Option 1: Reserved next to greenhouse/parking passes.

• Parking Option 2: Overflow Commuter lot west of Glick Center
Christy Woods

- 18 acre ‘arboretum’ for outdoor education
- **MISSION 1:** To promote multi-disciplinary environmental education in natural settings for students of all ages.
- **MISSION 2:** To promote scientific inquiry into the functions of natural and human-dominated ecosystems of the Midwest.
- Native species management practices
Christy Woods Facilities

- Eastern-deciduous hardwood forest
- Greenhouses:
  1. Rinard Orchid Greenhouse (ROGH)
  2. Teaching/Research Greenhouse (TRGH)
  3. Environmental Studies Greenhouse (ESGH) – old orchid GH
- “Demonstration” ecosystems, including: Tallgrass Prairie and Wetlands

ROGH Docent Program
Week 1: Introduction
Visiting Christy Woods & GHs

Scheduled/Guided Tours

• School tours, garden clubs, groups of 8 or more
• By arrangement
• Online form for registration

Independent (Unguided) Tours

• No advance registration needed
• Mon. – Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
  Sat./Sun. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m

Greenhouses open weekdays; ROGH open Saturdays 10 – 3 pm
TRGH closed on weekends.
Teaching / Research GH

Purpose
• Botanical collections for use in Biology courses.
• Research areas for faculty and students

Facility
• 3,000 plants, 500 species over 100 families.
• Cacti, succulents, ferns, gesnerids, orchids
• 3,400 sq ft, built in 1991 (original GH remains as Herb Propagation greenhouse)

Uses
• BSU faculty, students, school tours, casual visits, illustration, photography
Dr. Joe & Alice Rinard Orchid GH
Gift of Dr. Joe Rinard, honoring late wife Alice

Ball State University Rinard Orchid Greenhouse

Opened Spring 2014
Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection & Species Bank

Purpose

• Education, conservation and research for Orchids

Collection

• Over 2,000 orchids, including species & hybrids
• Largest collegiate orchid collection in USA
• Collection at BSU since 1971
• Includes non-orchid plants and animals for ‘tropical’ experience, learning about biology, ecology & plant-insect interactions

Original OGH, 1971 - 2014
Dr. Joe & Alice Rinard Orchid GH

Facility

• Growing Area (2,600 sq ft) - with cloud forest and tropical areas.
• Display Area (750 sq ft) - for interpretive tours, displays.
• Total area – 3,400 sq ft, opened May, 2014.
• Includes non-orchid plants and animals for education about tropical biology, ecology and plant-insect interactions.
Dr. Joe & Alice Rinard Orchid GH

Purpose

• Home of Wheeler-Thanhauser Orchid Collection & Species Bank
• Education for Orchids & tropical biology
• Cross-disciplinary, immersive experience

Uses

• School tours, student projects, research, casual visitation, research, illustration, photography, community outreach programs, semester-based exhibits for students, invited artists, & photographers.
The Docent Program & You

- Provides learning experiences for you and a valuable service to the University and local community.
  - Broaden your horizons
  - Sharing knowledge and experiences with students & visitors
- Provides an opportunity to meet people with similar interests and make new friends.
Thank you for being a part of this program!

ROGH Docent Program
Week 1: Introduction