WINTER: HOLIDAY IN BLOOM

In early December, we kicked off the holidays with our annual Holiday in Bloom Open House event, held on December 2.

We had a great turnout, with 500 people visiting the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse! Our neighbors at the Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass were very busy. We also saw heavy traffic via the MITS trolley from Minnetrista’s luminaria event, with several busloads of 30 – 40 people each time (Minnetrista reported ~5K visitors for their portion of the evening). The trolley guests arrived/departed at the University Ave entrance to Glick-Greenhouse and enjoyed our luminaria path to our facilities.

This year, we extended our luminaria pathway to the Charles W. Brown Planetarium, with an estimated 40 - 45 people who utilized the lighted path connecting the greenhouse to the planetarium.

We hope this very modest attempt at connecting the west corridor will be considered as the cultural corridor project proceeds toward reality in the future.

Many thanks go to our donors: Spangler Farms (hot chocolate), Joe Rinard (700+ cookies), Starbucks (coffee), Wasson’s (wreath), Alice Thomas (cash donation).

Thanks also go to our a-cappella group, Sedoctave, theCHILDREN’S CRAFT

UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark your Calendars!

January 13: Winter Greenhouse Tour Saturday, 1 - 2 p.m. Escape to a warm, tropical place without expensive travel! Explore and find the numerous winter blooms.

February 10: Heartfelt fun & orchids for love. Join us for a fun pre-Valentines’s Day. For children and adults. 11:00 – 2:00 p.m.

March 3: Community Photographer’s Day, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – noon. The greenhouse will be flush with spring blooms. Join us special early hours, to capture the orchids in good morning light.

Be sure to set aside April 28 for our annual greenhouse fundraiser/plant sale!
BSU Wildlife Society, and the many docents who helped prepare for and staff the event: Beth Hahn, Jackie Harris, Suzanne Plesha, Joy VanderHill, Kitty Sandy, Jean Gadziola, Betty Kendall, Dr. Joe Rinard, Deb Frederick, Leslie Slack, Andrew Slack, Carolyn Vann, Beth Gonser and Frida Cannon, Sharon Stephen, Linda Hanson, Tom Schwartz, Nancy Umbach, Hannah Bovino and June Hutchinson.

Although it feels like forever ago, our November Tropical Edibles program felt a tremendous uptick in attendance, primarily from BSU students, with 100 people enjoying home-made banana muffins and other assorted food items from products grown in the greenhouse.

Our big news for December was the unexpected blooming of our bucket orchid, Coryanthes macrantha. Short-lived and rare in the wild as well as in collections, it is hard to grow and bloom. The pollination story is integrally tied with male orchid bees. About 75 visitors were able to see it in person and over 6000 saw it online. Four more buds are forming and we anticipate their appearance in late January and February. Be sure to stay tuned!

**SHORT DAYS = WINTER QUIET**

Plants always remind us of seasonality and perhaps more importantly, patience. If we watch closely enough, it is encouraging to witness growth and flower buds as they form and bring the promise of something new. As we enjoy the holidays, and prepare for winter, it is nice to remember that winter means spring is right around the corner. Plants are literally a breath of fresh air in our long dark winters. They and the warm tropical greenhouse are much welcomed. Stop by to enjoy a large healthy dose of oxygen, and springtime in winter. We anticipate many colorful orchids in bloom in January and February, so be sure to visit often to enjoy this colorful show! The rest of the plants are resting and preparing for spring, as we do the same.

Although the sale seems far off in April, preparations are ongoing for the annual greenhouse fundraiser. Our plant sale will be held April 28. If you are interested in helping with this process, please let us know. Training is provided.

**ROGH FRIENDS**

For those of you who support us as a Friend of the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse, we thank you very much for your 2017 contribution! Our free programs depend on your continued interest and support of the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse. **We value you!** 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

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