SUMMER HAS ARRIVED

Most of us don’t think of a greenhouse as a ‘go-to’ place in the hot part of the summer. Yet the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse is actually a nicer environment than outside on many of the hot summer days. One might ask why?

With our new greenhouse, we have built a ‘machine’, designed to create a carefully controlled environment, to mimic conditions where many of the orchids live in the wild. Most days, we are successful. Sometimes, our climate controls can’t keep up, but thankfully, those days are rare. Overnight lower temperatures allow the plants to tolerate the higher-than-desired daytime temperatures for short periods of time.

Now you know, and next time you are looking for something to do on a sunny summer day, stop by the greenhouse!

Our May program, ‘Tropical Creatures’ was an educational opportunity for all who visited. Dr. Gary Dodson presented an insightful comparison of moths and butterflies. Visitors learned about various mammals, birds and reptiles common to the Central American tropics.

Unfortunately, our June ‘Tropical Tea’ was cancelled due to high outside temperatures. Mark your calendar for this event in 2017.

Our July Open House ‘Mid-Summer Night’s Dream’ will feature Muncie Ballet Studio dancers both in the greenhouse and on the west lawn. This event is for families; dress in faerie and sprite costumes! There will be face-painting and wand-making activities. All guests will also be encouraged to discover many faeries and trolls hiding in the greenhouse, as well as learn about orchid legends and lore.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars:

**July 9: Mid-Summer Night’s Dream Open House. Saturday, 7 – 9 p.m.** Join Muncie Ballet Studio dancers for a fun evening program at the greenhouse. All welcome.

**August 20: BSU Welcome Week – Tropical Discovery, Saturday, 10 am – 3 p.m.**

**September 10: Orchid Care – Saturday, 1 - 2 p.m.**

What’s wrong with your orchid? Do you want to know how to get it to bloom again? Should it be repotted? How and when? Bring your plant with your questions.
Our summer Social Media intern, Stacia Merkel joined the greenhouse team in late May and she has been busy learning about orchids and posting to Facebook and Instagram.

Our banana plant completed its life cycle after producing about 40 bananas, which many students and visitors were able to enjoy. The process of growth to edible banana takes approximately two full years, with a maturation process of nearly eight months for fruit to be edible!

Consider how many bananas are available at nearly every grocery store, and you’ll get a good idea of the scope of commercial banana production.

The Betty Kendall Ladieslipper Orchid Species Collection wows visitors, with many ladieslippers continue to bloom.

Don’t forget, if you or a friend are interested in volunteering, please contact us for training. Training is held throughout the year. Or if you prefer to support the greenhouse in other ways, consider becoming a Friend of the Rinard Orchd Greenhouse. http://greenhouse.iweb.bsu.edu/files/Membership%20form%20FINAL%202016.pdf.

NEW MINI-EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
Want to know more? Orchids, carnivorous plants, tropical edibles and more

Beginning in August, we will hold monthly mini-educational programs, designed for new docents, and the public. The programs will cover a variety of topics about which many visitors have expressed interest.

These 30 minute sessions will be held at the Ball State University Alumni Center, on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. Experienced docents will present these short programs.

The first program will be ORCHID CARE, presented by curator Cheryl LeBlanc. If you are interested in growing Phalaenopsis orchids in your home, or learning more about them, plan to attend.

Other topics include: orchids by season, tropical animals, tropical edibles, propagation and more. Have a particular interest? Contact the greenhouse to suggest a plant-related or nature-based topic.

Don’t forget to sign-up. Fall Dates are: Aug 16, Sept 13, Oct 11.

DOCENTS AND KNOWLEDGABLE NATURE LOVERS:
Please contact Cheryl with your topic and preferred teaching date.

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday – Friday
7:30 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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