SPRING IS HERE!

The days are getting noticeably longer and we are getting ready for a flush of new growth and blooms in the greenhouse. Spring in the greenhouse means two things: 1) plant sale preparations and 2) repotting season.

Our April Fundraiser/Plant sale is Saturday, April 29, from 9 – noon! Both our Friends of the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse and docents have been extremely busy getting plants ready for this event. All plants will have a suggested donation amount and all funds generated will be used for greenhouse supplies and educational programs. Our Fundraiser/Sale helps keep our programs free! Plants include succulents, hanging ferns, orchids, outdoor perennials, herbs and many others. These make great graduation and Mother’s Day gifts! Orchid repotting demonstrations will take place at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Do you have plants you no longer need or want? You can donate houseplants or perennials to the sale! We will accept them at the greenhouse, through Monday, April 24.

Friends of the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse will be invited to shop early on Friday, April 28, from 6 – 7 pm. To find out more about how to be a Friend of the greenhouse, contact us or visit http://bsu.edu/orchids for a form.

The other big project that is keeping us busy at the greenhouse is Repotting Season. This always takes place in late winter/early MARCH/APRIL 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your Calendars!

March 4: Community Photographers Day Saturday, 8 – noon. Join us for a rare opportunity to capture the orchids in good morning light. Explore and enjoy numerous late-winter blooms!

March 3 - 31: Greenhouse Gallery Show – Burris Student Spring Exhibit. Meet the Artists Reception on Friday March 3, 6 – 8 pm.

April 8: General Tour for Families Saturday, 1:00 pm – 2 pm. Focused tour for youth. Explore the greenhouse using magnifying glasses and have fun learning about plants.

April 8 - 29: Greenhouse Gallery Show – Ball State Art Student Spring Exhibit. Meet the Artists Reception on Friday April 8, 6 – 8 pm.

April 29: Annual Greenhouse Fundraiser/Plant Sale, 9 – noon. Early sales for Friends of the Greenhouse only (Friday April 27, 6 – 7 pm).
spring, as plants begin to grow new roots and stems. We repot about half of the entire collection each year, as the potting media breaks down (decomposes) over time. By repotting in the spring, we encourage new roots to take full advantage of the new potting media.

With over 2,000 plants, you might wonder how we know which plants need attention, and when. The Rinard Orchid Greenhouse has a database in which all plants records are kept. Plants are assigned a unique accession number. We keep track of when each plant is repotted, when they bloom, the health of the plant and more.

New this year is the method of keeping track of these plants. Ball State University has a very talented student group called Digital Corps, where tech-savvy students take on real projects that are selected as good technology learning opportunities.

With the skilled help of the Digital Corps, we have been testing out the ‘behind the scenes’ version of the online database since December. Curator Cheryl initiated this project nearly ten years ago, and is excited to (finally) launch the public site this year. This online database will include photos, information about what’s in bloom, and when it is in bloom, information about habitat, distribution and how to grow the plants. We think it will become a valuable resource for potential visitors, researchers, and the greenhouse staff as well. Watch for the launch of this great resource soon!

**Mindful Meditation Returns**

Yogi and meditation leader Shari Flanders will return for Tuesday meditation in the greenhouse on Tuesdays, March 14 – May 5. Join us at 3:30 for 45 minutes of a variety of meditation practices, including seated meditation and walking meditation, proper sitting techniques and various energy healing-balancing techniques. Wear comfortable clothing. Folding chairs are available in the greenhouse. Mindfulness meditation is presented as a secular practice.

**Volunteer Training**

In early February we held our annual (formal) docent training, to teach volunteers about the orchids, other unique tropical plants, and the greenhouse, its long and interesting history. If you missed this training and wish to be a volunteer, you can still be a part of the group. Contact us for more information, to set up docent shadowing and more.

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**Thank you!**

Ball State School of Art Ceramics professor Vance Bell created our latest addition to the Display Conservatory: a baby life-sized Lowland tapir, named Theodore! Tapirs are related to rhinos. Lowland tapirs live in jungle and forest regions of South and Central America. They are shy, with prehensile snouts and are excellent swimmers. Come find Theo! Thank you, Vance!

**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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