SUMMER – ALMOST: “SHOULDER SEASONS”

As we all awaken and prepare for being more active with outdoor activities, those with orchids have been busy: repotting, dividing, grooming and enjoying those ever-beautiful flowers!

February, March and April are repotting months for most tropical orchids. We’ve been busy in the greenhouse, and the plants are responding to their new ‘digs’.

Visitors for the April Program enjoyed a greenhouse tour and a “Make&Take” project to make wind-chimes and other creative items from bamboo.

The Friends of the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse Alliance (ROGA) have been very busy putting the finishing touches on the Annual Plant Sale. The event was a big success (see page 2 for more), and thanks go to the many docents, volunteers and ROGA Friends who helped make it all possible. Perhaps you, too, would consider being a ROGA Friend? Funds help support the greenhouse educational programs and you can get first pick at the plant sale.

Our creative Social Media intern, Raven Johnson will be ending her stay with us in May. We will continue to have a social media presence on Instagram and Facebook, and hope to have a new intern in the fall semester. Thanks go to Raven, for her hard work!

After seven months of waiting, our banana plant is now bearing edible fruit! Many people have had a unique opportunity to eat an Indiana-grown banana, and described the flavor as ‘very sweet’!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars:

May 14: Tropical Creatures. Saturday, 1 – 2 p.m. Join guest Professor Dr. Gary Dodson to explore and learn about various Tropical creatures. All welcome.


July 9: Mid Summer Night’s Dream Open House - Saturday, 7 – 9 p.m. Find faeries and trolls, learn garden lore, and join Muncie Ballet Studio dancers in the gardens. Wear your faerie or sprite costume!
The new Betty Kendall Ladyslipper Orchid Species Collection now had 100 slipper orchids at BSU. Many of these beautiful ladyslipper orchids are in bloom and in bud. Stop by to see some of the 170+ lady-slipper orchids known in the wild that have been added to the ROGH collection.

The Rinard Orchid Greenhouse was present at the annual Central Indiana Orchid Society ORCHID SHOW, held on April 16 – 17, at Garfield Park Conservatory, in Indianapolis. Student assistant Travis Nerding put together a nice display, representing the species diversity at the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse and came home with lots of ribbons and awards! Well done, Travis!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS (page 1) include for more programs. Mark your calendars! Programs include Tropical Creatures (May), Tropical Tea (June) and our fun Mid-Summer Night’s Dream/Open House (July).

If you are interested in volunteering, or becoming a Friend of the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse, please contact us for more training or information.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE REPORT
Orchids, perennials, succulents, herbs and more

The Rinard Orchid Greenhouse hosted the 6th annual Greenhouse Plant Sale on Saturday, April 23. Weather cooperated and over 230 visitors attended. Our dedicated volunteers worked over 160 hours, and lots of work resulted in raising over $2700 for greenhouse and educational programs.

The plant sale featured a variety of new and different items this year, including bee-tunnel nest boxes, to encourage our native pollinators, hand-made hummingbird feeders, made by ROGA Friends and Docents, Marimo Moss balls from Japan. Other items included lots of potted orchids, succulents, native perennials unusual tropical plants for the home gardener, and (new this year) some annuals. We would appreciate your feedback about the event and items offered. Also the work load to put on this event is being discussed. Is it worth the effort? Please let us know your thoughts!

Student greenhouse assistant Travis Nerding also offered two orchid care and repotting demonstrations at the Rinard Orchid Greenhouse!

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