

NOC SYMPOSIUM

Orchids of “The Cape Cod of the Midwest”

June 11-15 2026

Overview

Door County, WI boasts a beautiful coastline, eclectic villages, boreal forest, unique ridge-swale topography, an extraordinary concentration of migrating birds, other interesting fauna and beautiful flora including, of course, native orchids.

Our meeting venue is the Auditorium in the Northeast Wisconsin Technical Center in Green Bay. The event begins with a reception and early check-in on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the Green Bay Botanical Garden followed by two days of lectures alternating with two days of field trips. Plan to come early Thursday; **registration includes all-day admission** to the botanical garden prior to our reception.

TRANSPORTATION: Green Bay is the most likely drive OR fly destination. It's a 2-3 hour drive from Chicago or Milwaukee; a few hours longer for those in the lower Midwest or Plains states. Multiple airlines serve the Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport, which is roughly seven miles southwest of downtown. Door County, the primary site for our field trips, is roughly 90 minutes away from Green Bay by car.

LODGING: Choose your own accommodations. Prices will be noticeably cheaper closer to Green Bay with its large selection of chain hotels. Door County offers smaller lodges, has fewer chains and will be more expensive due to its exceptional tourist appeal.

REGISTRATION: *Advanced registration is required and is limited to the first 100 respondents. Registration at the door is not available.*

Register on-line using a credit card or your personal PayPal account.

Visit: nativeorchidconference.org

Upon receipt of your registration, a confirmation notice will be emailed to you. Periodic updates will follow as they become available.

CONFERENCE FEE:

Member Registration: \$ 229 US per person

Non-member Regist. \$ 249 US per person

Student Registration: \$ 99 US per person

(full-time students at any high school, college or university)

Case Grant Program: The NOC supports native orchid research and conservation through its Fred Case Grant Program; part of your registration fee may be used to support this ongoing program.

A most important aspect of this event is the opportunity to meet people who share a common interest in natural history in general and native orchids in particular. Many long-lasting friendships and professional relationships have been formed at NOC symposiums. Why not take this opportunity to renew them and/or make new ones in Wisconsin.



Cypripedium arietinum

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Nelson Ham, Ph.D.
St. Norbert College

Ken Cameron, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin

Scott Weber
Bluestem Farms

David Remucal, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota

Fernando Rocha-Vento
Case Grant Recipient

Adam Herdman
Case Grant Recipient

**Jane Whitney, Julie Knox
& David Barnes**
The Ridges Sanctuary

Ben Crain, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin

Others to follow

Schedule of Activities

Thursday, June 11 **Green Bay Botanical Gdn.**
6:00pm - 8:00pm Reception; early check-in
(all-day admission to GBBG included)

Friday, June 12 **NE WI Technical College Auditorium**
8:00am - 8:45am Check-in; Breakfast
8:45am - 9:00am Welcome
9:00am - 11:30am Presentations
11:30am - 12:00pm **Annual meeting**
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch (provided)
1:00pm - 3:00pm Presentations
3:00pm - 4:00pm Field Trip Planning

Saturday, June 13
8:00am - 5:00pm **Field Trips**

Sunday, June 14 **NE WI Technical College Auditorium**
8:00am - 8:45am Continental Brkfst.
8:45am - 12:00pm Presentations
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch (provided)
1:00pm - 3:00pm Presentations
3:00pm - 4:00pm Field trip planning

Monday, July 7
8:00am - 5:00pm **Field Trips**

Door County at a Glance

Door County occupies a craggy peninsula that juts like a thumb from eastern Wisconsin into Lake Michigan. Once known as “Death’s Door” because of several shipwrecks in the strait between the peninsula and nearby Washington Island, it is now a popular vacation destination. Quaint coastal clapboard villages and a spectacular coastline are reminiscent of New England’s iconic Cape Cod. It also harbors the continent’s southernmost boreal forest which adds unprecedented richness in native flora, including 29 species of native orchids. At the edge of this habitat is The Ridges Sanctuary near the town of Baileys Harbor. It was established in 1937 as the first area Wisconsin set aside to protect native flora. The preserve’s name derives from the 30 or so narrow, crescent-shaped ridges which represent former beach lines of Lake Michigan created over the past centuries. The ridges are forested with black and white spruce, white balsam fir and white pine peppered with wet swales in between, each with a diverse collection of marsh and bog flora.

The Ridges Sanctuary currently has five orchid species targeted for research to improve their sustainability in a warming climate. Two involve extensive work by citizen scientists, from seed collection to outplanting: The Ram’s Head Lady’s Slipper Orchid Project and Showy Lady’s Slipper Orchid Research. Volunteers are also using orchid protocols to help secure the population of another threatened species, the dwarf lake iris.



What to Expect

Weather – Typical mid-June temperatures range from the mid-to-upper 60’s during the day (with a possible outlier in the 70’s) and nighttime lows in the mid 50’s. In 2025 orchids bloomed “on schedule”.

Field Trips – Dress for moderate temperatures and humidity (layering is helpful). Hiking in and around The Ridges Sanctuary will include boardwalks and/or easy to moderate terrain. Some field trips will include fens, bogs and swales ... consider sturdy shoes/boots that can get wet. Hats, sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended.

Orchids – Field trips sightings could include *Corallorhiza trifida*, *Corallorhiza striata*, *Cypripedium arietinum*, *Cypripedium acaule*, *Cypripedium parviflorum*, *Cypripedium reginae*, *Arethusa bulbosa*, *Calopogon tuberosus*.



Sales Area: Limited space will be available for those wishing to sell or display orchid related items (books, prints, etc.). Pre-approval is required. If you wish to reserve sales or exhibit please advise.

For additional information or assistance:
Janice Yates, President jyates4110@gmail.com
Dick Barmore, Treas. rebster61@yahoo.com

Cancellation policy: 75% of the symposium registration fee may be refunded if written notice of your intent to cancel is received before May 1, 2026.

