

The Showy Lady Slipper

Many years ago, I found a Showy Lady Slipper on our farm.

The Showy Lady Slipper is a rare orchid of northern wetlands.

The Showy Lady Slipper is especially beautiful.

So rare and gorgeous that it was designated the Minnesota State Flower in 1929.

This is the only “known” Lady Slipper in Sherburne County.

Our Lady Slipper is at least fifty years old.

The plants can live one hundred years or more.

It has been photographed countless times and it has even won photography awards.

In the past it has produced as many as twenty-four blossoms.

In those years I actively nurtured it by trimming shading brush and pulling competitive plants. I have not been able to get to the plant for several years.

Several weeks ago, Granddaughter Samantha asked me to show her the location of the Lady Slipper.

It was totally buried under brush and competing plants.

Sam immediately went to work and spent over two hours giving the plant lots of sunlight and free space.

You can see a second bud in the photos.

Sam says the second stalk has more buds.

Samantha will take care of the Lady Slipper for future decades.



