



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 5, 2017

**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Wilson  
Director of Marketing and Visitor Experience  
Office: 614-715-8150  
Cell: 740-398-8371  
[jwilson@fpconservatory.org](mailto:jwilson@fpconservatory.org)

**THE CONSERVATORY WELCOMED OVER 500 GUESTS TO 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
HAT DAY FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON**

Columbus, OH—Despite unseasonably cold and rainy weather, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens welcomed over 500 guests this afternoon to the 17th annual *Hat Day* celebration. Guests sporting stunning hats of every size, color and shape mingled and lunched under a grand marquee just west of the Conservatory's historic John F. Wolfe Palm House.

*Hat Day*, also known as *Les Chapeaux dans le Jardin*, is one of Columbus' premier social traditions and the Conservatory's signature spring fundraising event. The luncheon features a cocktail hour, cuisine by Cameron Mitchell Catering, a live auction and a festive performance by the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus.

The annual event was chaired by DeeDee Glimcher. Angela An and Pete Scalia, WBNS 10TV, served as emcees for the afternoon.

Proceeds from this year's event are expected to net \$262,000 to benefit the Conservatory's pre-K through K-12 education and outreach programs. *Hat Day* has raised more than \$3.6M since it began in 2001.

Jenny Pope, Director of Education and Community Outreach at Franklin Park Conservatory, thanked attendees for their continued support of the Conservatory's youth education programs. "Because of you," Pope began, "The Conservatory is able to touch the lives of over 50,000 children each year by providing them with opportunities—connected to nature—to observe, wonder and learn."

Each year the Ann Isaly Wolfe Award, given in honor of its first recipient, recognizes individuals or organizations that have provided longtime leadership, service or financial support to the Conservatory. This year, the 14th annual Ann Isaly Wolfe Award was presented to Barbara Brandt.

**Past Ann Isaly Wolfe Award winners include:**

2016 Alexis Jacobs  
2015 I. Lorraine Thomas  
2014 Beth Fisher  
2013 Beth Henry  
2012 Liz Fox  
2011 Paige Crane  
2010 Barbara Trueman  
2009 Beth and Doug Morgan



2008 Pamela Farber Thomas

2007 Mo Meuse

2006 William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C. Davis Foundation,  
and Bill and Jackie Wells

Paul B. Redman

2005 Cherie Lucks

2004 Ann Isaly Wolfe

**Hat Day 2017 Sponsors include:**

Presenting Sponsor: Davis Foundation

Cocktail Party Sponsors: Nationwide; I. Lorraine Thomas

Media Sponsor: WBNS 10TV

Platinum Sponsors: DeeDee Glimcher; Huntington; L Brands Foundation; Ohio Health

###

*Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers botanical collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns a signature collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly. Light Raiment II, a permanent installation by internationally recognized light artist James Turrell, illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.*