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CONTACT:

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

**WE DIG OHIO SUMMIT PROVIDES TOOLS, TECHNIQUES TO EQUIP
CENTRAL OHIO COMMUNITY GARDENERS**

Columbus, OH—Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' Growing to Green program presents its annual We Dig Ohio summit on March 25, 2017 at The Wells Barn and the ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus.

This one-day summit focuses on urban agriculture and community gardening topics. Attendees will become versed in relevant topics that will expand their gardening expertise. Sessions and workshops are planned in a variety of subjects, including plant pathology, food deserts, wildlife fencing, four-season gardening, urban aquaponics and more.

This year's We Dig Ohio keynote speaker is Clara Coleman. Coleman is a second-generation organic farmer, consultant, writer, and TEDx and keynote speaker on sustainable four-season farming. She is the daughter of renowned farming pioneer Eliot Coleman. Clara is passionate about inspiring and supporting the next generation of farmers to create sustainable and lasting farming legacies for generations to come.

In addition to a variety of engaging speakers, attendees have the opportunity to tour the ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus, as well two springtime exhibitions in the Conservatory—*Blooms & Butterflies* and *Fairy Gardens*. The Conservatory's Women's Board will host a raffle and proceeds will benefit the We Dig Ohio 2018 Scholarship Fund.

The Growing to Green program presents We Dig Ohio annually as part of its mission to support community gardening efforts throughout central Ohio. Growing to Green is Columbus' largest organized effort to promote and provide free community resources for community gardening and city beautification. Initiated in March 2000, Growing to Green has assisted in the start-up or renovation of more than 250 community gardens throughout the central Ohio area. These projects include community gardens, school gardens, memorial gardens and neighborhood beautification projects.

We Dig Ohio sponsors include The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Services, Kurtz Brothers Inc. and Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' Women's Board. In-Kind Sponsorship is provided by Oakland Nursery, Urban Farms of Central Ohio, Giant Eagle, Jim Budros, Tiger Mushroom Farms and Panera Bread.



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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.