



Merry Days & Bright Nights at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Columbus, OH— Holiday spirit returns to Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. From November 23, 2013 through January 5, 2014, visitors enjoy a festive display of over 1,000 poinsettias, evergreens, and time-honored traditions like the 10-ft. poinsettia tree and Paul Busse Model Garden Railway.

New this year, *Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown*, an exhibit from the Charles M. Schulz Museum, features a gallery of *Peanuts* cartoons and examines the making of the animated classic *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

The 7th Annual Gingerbread Competition is on display beginning December 3, with entries in Youth, Teen, Adult and Family categories. This year's theme is "Holiday Favorites: Books, Movies and Television Specials". Interested participants can deliver their entries on November 30 or December 1. Complete contest rules available at www.fpconservatory.org.

Bruce Munro: Light at Franklin Park Conservatory

Visitors can enjoy the traditional holiday favorites and more during an evening visit to see the special engagement *Bruce Munro: Light*. This evening exhibition transforms the Conservatory's indoor spaces and outdoor courtyards with large-scale light-based installations by acclaimed artist Bruce Munro. On view Wednesdays–Fridays, 5–11pm and some weekends. Full details at www.fpconservatory.org/light. Special ticket prices apply.

Holiday Activities and Entertainment

The following programs are free with admission unless otherwise noted. *Bruce Munro: Light* special engagement admission prices apply during evening activities.

Saturday, November 23, 2pm

Columbus Children's Choir performs

Sunday, November 24, 2pm

The *Sugar Plum Pas de Deux* from *The Nutcracker* performed by OSU MFA Students Kristina D'Onofrio and Brandon Whited.

Wednesday, November 27

11am–2pm: **Sweet Turkeys**. Listen to a story, presented every 30 minutes, about the turkey that got away, then make a turkey-shaped cookie for a sweet treat. Supplies available on a first come, first served basis. \$3 per cookie.

6–9pm: Visit the ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus and meet Snoopy, Woodstock and the rest of the *Peanuts* gang. Enjoy a *Peanuts* "Thanksgiving dinner" of popcorn, pretzels, buttered toast, jelly beans and jello sundaes. \$2 per "meal", \$1 hot beverages.

7pm: The Ladies of Longford perform.

Friday, November 29, 11am–4pm

Gingerbread Friday. Create a house with graham crackers, frosting and candy. Supplies available on a first come, first served basis. \$3 per house.

Saturday, November 30

11am: Kids watch a balloon twisting workshop and practice their skills. 2pm: *Rockin' Pirate Magic Show* featuring Erica Carlson and Sedgewick, the live hedgehog.

Sunday, December 1

2pm: Columbus Youth Jazz Studio Ensemble performs.

Wednesday, December 4

6–9pm: Decorate cookies at **Mrs. Claus' Kitchen** on the ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus, warm up by the fire, and enjoy hot beverages (\$1). Santa and two of his live reindeer make a special appearance.

7pm: The Worthington Chorus performs selections from their holiday program *Follow the Star to Bethlehem and the North Pole*.

Saturday, December 7, 11am & 2pm:

Columbus Children's Theatre presents *Hansel & Gretel*. Kids create gingerbread men crafts between performances.

Sunday, December 8, 2pm

Hilliard Davidson Madrigals perform

Wednesday, December 11, 6–9pm

Families explore winter holidays from around the world and taste traditional celebration food. \$1 per sample or hot beverage. 7pm: The Magpie Consort performs selections from their holiday program *Christmas in the New World*.

Saturday, December 14, 2pm

Capital University Philomel performs.

Sunday, December 15, 2pm

The Broad Street Bells perform.

Wednesday, December 18, 6–9pm

The Royal Jokers light up the night with an illuminated juggling performance at 6 and 8pm. Children play with LED hula hoops and glow sticks (\$1).

7pm: The Columbus Opera presents a sing along of traditional holiday favorites.

Thursday, December 19, 5:30–10pm

'Tis the Season: A Classic Cocktail Party. Guests enjoy live entertainment, full bar offerings, specialty cocktails, and appetizers. \$15 admission includes one drink ticket.

Saturday, December 21, 11am–2pm

Children create and wrap their own gifts. \$2 per craft.

2pm: Suzuki Music Columbus Cello Choir performs.

Sunday, December 22, 2pm

Grove City Chamber Singers perform.

Thursday, December 26, 11am & 2pm

The Incredible Mr. Bob captivates audiences with a humorous, one-of-a-kind juggling routine that includes audience participation.

Friday, December 27, 11am & 2pm

The Cincinnati Circus performs amazing feats during a performance that includes stilt walkers, balloon art and a kids' rock show.

Saturday, December 28, 11am & 2pm

Our Zoo To You brings a variety of animals for a hands-on, interactive experience. Pet, hold or hand-feed animals ranging from a cute, cuddly ringtail lemur to a creepy, crawly tarantula.

Sunday, December 29, 11am & 2pm

Whip artist Gery L. Deer and magician James Karns present *Whips and Wands*, a variety act combining music, magic, whip artistry and comedy.

Monday, December 30, 11am & 2pm

David Crone brings along a number of his beloved characters in this unique combination of comedic ventriloquism, magic and audience interaction.

Wednesday, January 1, 7pm

The Columbus Chorus of Sweet Adelines presents a tribute to the 60's with selections from their show *FAR OUT in four parts*.

Saturday, January 4, 2pm

Edwin Butler performs jazz music

Special Dining Opportunities

Space is limited and reservations are required. Call 614.715.8101

Candlelight Dinners

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18, 6–8pm

Dine in the warm surroundings of the John F. Wolfe Palm house and enjoy an exceptional evening out for couples, colleagues, friends and family. *Reservations are required, call 614.715.8101. \$55, \$50 for members; \$19.95 children ages 4–10. Children under 3 free*

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 7 or Saturday, December 14, 8:30–10am

Join Santa for breakfast and a meet-and-greet photo opportunity. Decorate holiday cookies. *Reservations are required, call 614.715.8101. \$30 adults; \$25 for members. \$15 children ages 3–10; \$12 member children. Free for children under 3.*

About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

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. www.fpconservatory.org

###