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## Pollinator Palooza

*Franklin Park Conservatory hosts free festival to promote pollinator preservation*

June 21, 2016—Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens presents the first annual Pollinator Palooza sponsored by ScottsMiracle-Gro on Saturday, June 25 from 10am–3pm.

No party would be as festive or delicious without the contribution of pollinators and the plants they pollinate. Attendees will learn about pollinators—bats, bees, butterflies and more—and celebrate National Pollinators Week during a fun-filled day with hands-on learning opportunities, guest speakers, garden walks, cooking demonstrations and crafts. The festival will include local food trucks as well as live music from Smokey Row String Band. Native plants and honey will be for sale throughout the day.

Over 15 organization booths will offer family-friendly pollinator activities that highlight the huge impact these small creatures have on nature. Visitors can learn the bee waggle dance, make a native bee hotel and create a butterfly masterpiece, or sample foods produced by pollinators in cooking demonstrations led by Conservatory Educator Allison Hendricks.

Pollination experts will provide insights on the health and protection of pollinators through guest lectures and garden tours. Matthew Rawlings, Senior Scientist/Entomologist with ScottsMiracle-Gro, will present his research on the significance of pollinators. The 2016 American Honey Queen, Kim Kester, will share her experiences working in the beekeeping industry and highlight its importance to agriculture. Garden Walks led by Denise Ellsworth, Program Director for Honey Bee and Native Pollinator Educator, will allow guests to see pollination in action and observe a honey bee hive.

The event will take place rain or shine at the Conservatory's ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus. Admission is free.

Organizations providing information and activities include:

Butterfly Ridge Butterfly Conservation Center | Cedar Bog Nature Preserve | Central Ohio Beekeepers Association | City of Columbus Green Spot | Columbus Recreation & Parks | East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association | Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland | Grange Insurance Audubon Center | Midwest Bat Working Group | Natives in Harmony | Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative | Ohio State Beekeepers Association | OSU Extension | Wild Ones | Pollinator Stewardship Council | The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.

### **About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**

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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.