



50 Merry Days & 25 Bright Nights at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Columbus, OH— Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens presents *Merry & Bright*, a celebration of the holiday season, November 15, 2014 through January 4, 2015.

Merry & Bright

November 15, 2014 –January 4, 2015

- Horticulture-infused holiday displays including 1,700 poinsettias, 53 evergreen trees, and time-honored traditions like a 15-ft. poinsettia tree and Paul Busse Model Garden Railway.
- **New!** Abundant evening lighting decorating each of the Conservatory's indoor plant collections and outdoor courtyards.
- The 8th Annual Gingerbread Competition on display beginning December 2, with entries in Youth, Teen, Adult and Family categories. Interested participants can deliver their entries on November 30 or December 1. Contest rules available at www.fpconservatory.org.
- Family activities nearly every weekend, entertainment during evening hours, and special events and dining opportunities.

Hours: Open daily 10am–5pm. Closed on Thanksgiving. Open Christmas Day 5–10pm

Special Evening Hours: Extended to 10pm on November 19, 26, 28–30; December 3, 10, 17, 19–31; and January 1–4, 2015

Event Highlights

Free with admission unless otherwise noted. For a full schedule of events, visit www.fpconservatory.org.

Wednesday, November 26, 11am–2pm

Sweet Turkeys. Listen to a story about the turkey that got away, then make a turkey-shaped cookie for a sweet treat. \$3 per cookie.

Friday, November 28, 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 29, 11am & 2pm

Ventriloquist David Crone performs.

Sunday, November 30, 7pm

The Salty Caramels performs

Wednesday, December 3, 7pm

Opera Columbus performs

Thursday, December 18, 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. 21+

Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21, 11am–2pm

Decorate cookies with Mrs. Claus. Santa and two of his live reindeer make a special appearance.

Sunday, December 21, 7pm

The Columbus Gay Men's Chorus performs.

Monday, December 22, 11am & 2pm

Juggle Matt Jergens performs.

Tuesday, December 23, 11am & 2pm

Naturalist Chris Rowlands teaches children about animals and their habitats.

Friday, December 26, 11am & 2pm

Tony West and the Amani Dancers perform in celebration of Kwanzaa and African heritage.

Saturday, December 27, 11am & 2pm

Endless Recess plays classic party tunes and interactive dance songs.

Sunday, December 28, 11am & 2pm

Our Zoo To You brings a variety of animals for a hands-on, interactive experience.

Monday, December 29, 11am & 2pm

Outback Ray presents exotic animals during an educational performance.

Tuesday, December 30, 11am & 2pm

Family entertainer Erica Carlson presents a Balloon Mystery Magic Show.

Wednesday, December 31, 7pm

In Full Swing, a 16-piece big band, kicks off New Year's Celebrations.

Special Dining Opportunities

Candlelight Dinners

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17, 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 6 or Saturday, December 3, 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

###