



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lori Kingston

614.715.8150, lkingston@fpconservatory.org

Summer of Bugs at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Columbus, OH— Bugs of all sizes are taking over Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

This spring and summer, the Conservatory presents exhibitions of real insects and artistic representations, for a family-focused experience that entertains, educates and alters perceptions of these fascinating creatures.

David Rogers' Big Bugs

May 16–September 27

An exhibition of enormous, whimsical sculpture is displayed within the Conservatory's indoor plant collections and outdoor courtyards. Nine installations include three 25-foot-long ants, an 18-foot-tall praying mantis, a dragonfly, spider, damselfly, daddy long legs, butterfly, assassin bug, and a lady bug.

Sculptor David Rogers' created the pieces, ranging in weight from 60 to 1,200 pounds, from fallen or found wood, cut saplings and branches, tree bark and other natural materials that have been sustainably harvested. Materials include red cedar, black locust, black walnut, plate fungi and willow.

This popular touring exhibition brings awareness to the importance of understanding, respecting and preserving the natural world. *David Rogers' Big Bugs* has been exhibited in public and private botanical gardens and nature centers throughout the United States, including The United States Botanic Garden, Disney World Epcot Center, Longwood Gardens, New York Botanical Garden and Chicago Botanical Garden.

***Life on the Leaf Edge* by Samuel Jaffe**

May 16–September 27

New England based naturalist and artist Samuel Jaffe captures the art of survival of native caterpillars, pupas, and moths, through high detail photography. Displayed in the Conservatory's Cardinal Health Gallery, each piece calls attention to the survival techniques and defensive adaptations of these remarkable and beautiful creatures.

Blooms & Butterflies

On view through September 27

The Conservatory's annual exhibition offers an up-close experience with hundreds of colorful, exotic butterflies in the Pacific Island Water Garden. Newly emerged butterflies are released during educational presentations every day at 1 and 3pm. Local butterflies and a monarch butterfly hatchery are featured in the outdoor Pollinators Garden, located on the Conservatory's ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus.

Related Programs

Opening Day of *David Rogers' Big Bugs*

Saturday, May 16

The Stand-Up Chameleon, Jackson Gillman, entertains families with an interactive performance of music, movement, storytelling, comedy and science in an interactive performance. 11am & 2pm

The title character of *A Very Hungry Caterpillar* visits with guests for a photo opportunity. 12–1pm

The Bug Man

Mark Berman, aka The Bugman, visits with an array of insects and shares his knowledge and excitement about bugs during a family friendly presentation.

May 30, June 27, July 18, August 29, September 26

11am–2pm

Pollinators Palooza

Saturday, July 11, 9am–4pm

This day-long symposium explores pollinators of all kinds, from honeybees to hummingbirds, and the effects of pollinators on the ecosystem. Local experts share the intricate interdependence between flowers and pollinators, what is needed to attract pollinators to your garden, and more. Featuring writer, artist and naturalist, Julie Zickefoose, author of *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds*

\$40 members; \$50 non-members. Pre-registration is required.

Additional bug-related family activities, presentations and classes are scheduled. Visit www.fpconservatory.org for more information.

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

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