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New building goes up at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens with placement of 200-year-old timber frame

New community outreach and education center takes shape as reclaimed frame from 200-year-old Richland County barn is placed today.

What:

Crew and cranes from Mt. Vernon Barn Company lift and place timber frame for new building at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

In 2014, the Conservatory's Board of Trustees identified a center for the Conservatory's rapidly expanding community outreach and education as a priority project. More space was needed to accommodate an expanding number of health, wellness, and gardening classes and to offer new programs for larger audiences.

In early 2014, an approximately 200-year-old, 4,000 square foot barn on farmland in Richland County was set to be dismantled just as the Conservatory's need for spaces for educational programs was identified. The timber frame from the barn was purchased to provide the skeleton and the inspiration for a new outreach and education center.

Construction is underway on this new 11,000 sq. ft. facility, located south of the Conservatory's main building and north of its ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus.

Features of the facility will include a catering and demonstration kitchen, a fireplace, a high quality A/V system, and lower level classrooms. Adjacent parking will be constructed to its north along with surrounding gardens and lawns.

It will be used for classes, symposia, scout camp-overs, garden conferences, Conservatory programs, performances, group tour experiences and lectures, and as a rentable venue.

When: Friday, May 22, 2015
8am – 4pm

Where: Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
1777 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43203

Contact:

Contact Lori Kingston, Director of Marketing and Visitor Experience (above) for placement on site. Contractor Doug Morgan from Mt. Vernon Barn Company has some availability for an interview throughout the day. Executive Director Bruce Harkey available for comment onsite from Noon until 3 pm or by phone arrangement.

Visual: Amish craftsman, ground crews, and equipment will raise the timbers for the 40' x 100' building. The early 1800's hand-hewn frame will be reset using centuries-old techniques.

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