



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**POLLINATOR PALOOZA SHINES SPOTLIGHT
ON VITAL BUT VULNERABLE ANIMALS AND INSECTS**

Columbus, Ohio—In honor of National Pollinators Week, Franklin Park Conservatory is hosting a free, family-friendly event – Pollinator Palooza – from 11am–3pm on Saturday, June 23 on the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus.

Pollinator Palooza aims to raise awareness about the impact bees, bats, butterflies and more have on people’s lives. “Not only is pollination important for the environment and ecosystems, but humans depend on pollinators more than most people realize,” says Mark Miller, Outreach Education Manager at Franklin Park Conservatory. “All of our favorite foods would disappear without pollinators.”

Hands-on activities and educational presentations show visitors how they can support the pollinator population. The day will include up-close demonstrations with live insects, garden tours, live music, educational food presentations and samples, and access to food trucks. Activities will be held rain or shine at the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus.

Patrons of Pollinator Palooza have the chance to win a family membership to the Conservatory, courtesy of the Pollinator Stewardship Council. The first 300 visitors to The Ohio State University's Ohio Bee Atlas booth will receive a milkweed plant to take home. See the schedule for this year’s program below:

Exploring Pollinators in the Garden | 11:30am, 1pm & 2pm

Take a walk in the garden and observe bees in action. Led by Denise Ellsworth, Program Director, Honey Bee and Native Pollinator Education, OSU Extension.

Meet Columbus Blue Jackets, Stinger | 1–2pm

The Bugman | 11am–3pm

The Bugman, Mark Berman, shares his knowledge and excitement about bugs.

Music from Keith Colbert | 11:30am–12:30pm and 1:30–2:30pm

Influenced by artists like Robert Johnson, Howling Wolf, BB King, Freddy King, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, Keith “T-Bone” Colbert’s music is a slow rev mixing traditional riffs with a modern flair.

Food Demonstration | 11am–2pm

Taste yummy foods featuring ingredients that are made possible by pollinators.

Food Trucks | 11am–3pm

Tortilla Street Food, Sweet T’s and Too Good Eats



For more information, visit the Pollinator Palooza [Facebook event page](#), the [Conservatory's event page](#), and by following #PollinatorPalooza on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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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, illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.