

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GET THE BUZZ ON ALL THINGS POLLINATORS AT FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

Columbus, Ohio—This Saturday, June 22 from 11am—3pm, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens hosts the annual Pollinator Palooza on the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus. This free event offers programming and entertainment for all ages in order to raise awareness for the declining pollinator population.

Hands-on activities and educational presentations show visitors how they can support the pollinator population. The day will include up-close demonstrations with 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.

New this year, join the BioBlitz hosted by Columbus Recreation and Parks, The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Ortho and Scotts Miracle-Gro. The BioBlitz is a collaborative race against the clock to discover as many species as possible within a set location over a defined time period. Using a smartphone app—iNaturalist—participants will actively document the biodiversity, focusing on pollinators, of Franklin Park Conservatory!

This year's Pollinator Palooza sponsor is Ortho, with additional support from the Pollinator Stewardship Council.

Event Schedule

Exploring Pollinators in the Garden | 11:30am, 1pm and 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.

The Bugman | 11am-3pm

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

Music from The Goldsberrys | 11:30am-12:30pm and 1:30-2:30pm

The Goldsberrys serve up original folk-grass jam. Originally formed as a husband and wife duo, the now four-piece band includes banjo, guitar, fiddle and bass performers.

Food Demonstration | 11am-3pm

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

Food Trucks | 11am-2pm

Blu Olive, Aiumama, Chicken Hatch and Too Good Eats



For more information, visit the <u>Pollinator Palooza Facebook event page</u>, the Conservatory's <u>event page</u>, and by following #PollinatorPalooza on <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. For more information about the BioBlitz, visit the Gro More Good Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz Facebook event page.

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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.