



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BLOOMS & BUTTERFLIES RETURNS EARLY THIS YEAR**

Columbus, OH — After a pandemic-related hiatus, Franklin Park Conservatory’s quintessential seasonal exhibition, *Blooms & Butterflies*, is back! *Blooms & Butterflies* is scheduled to return February 20-May 31, 2021.

“Butterflies have long been considered a symbol of hope and beauty. That message feels especially profound now, considering the life-altering impacts of 2020. After a difficult year, we are so excited to have butterflies back at the Conservatory as we welcome the spring season,” said President and CEO Bruce Harkey.

*Blooms & Butterflies* features a wide variety of exotic butterflies inside the largest indoor biome at the Conservatory: the Pacific Island Water Garden. One of the most popular butterflies is the blue morpho (*Morpho peleides*), a butterfly with large, iridescent blue wings. About 12,000 butterflies will be a part of *Blooms & Butterflies* this year, with about 700-800 butterflies arriving each week, and about 2,500 butterflies flying around the Pacific Island Water Garden on any given day.

The butterflies arrive at the Conservatory as chrysalises, and are carefully placed inside the Conservatory’s Metamorphosis Lab. Visitors can view the chrysalises displayed in the lab, and might even see a butterfly as it emerges.

Due to pandemic-related safety precautions, the Conservatory will not be performing the daily butterfly release demonstrations this year. Instead, staff will be offering similar experiences virtually.

The annual Members Fly First event will be held the first evening of *Blooms & Butterflies*, from 5-8pm on February 20. During this event, members pre-purchase a butterfly (up to four per household) that they then release into the biome. Member registration is required for this event, and attendance is limited to comply with social distancing. For more information please check our website at the following link <https://www.fpconservatory.org/get-involved/membership/members-fly-first/>

In compliance with local health and government authorities, all visitors are required to wear a mask (or face shield) at the Conservatory and abide by social distancing guidelines. Visitors are encouraged to check the Conservatory’s website ([www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org)) for the latest policies related to COVID-19 before their visit.

For more details, please visit [fpconservatory.org/exhibitions](http://fpconservatory.org/exhibitions), and stay follow the Conservatory (@fpconservatory) on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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*Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers world-class horticulture, art and nature-based exhibitions, and educational programs for all ages. Situated on 40 acres on the eastern side of Franklin Park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House; 83,000 square feet of glasshouses; botanical gardens including the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden; and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns the largest collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly in a botanical garden and is home to internationally recognized light artist James Turrell's Light Raiment II, which illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.*