



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## POLLINATOR PALOOZA RETURNS TO FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY

COLUMBUS, OH — As public interest in honeybees, butterflies and other pollinators continues to grow, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens invites central Ohio to attend a free festival dedicated to supporting and celebrating all things pollinators. Open 11am-3pm on Saturday, June 19, Pollinator Palooza features entertaining demonstrations, live music, food trucks, and local organizations dedicated to raising awareness for pollinator health.

"Without pollinators, we would have no gardens, so it is only fitting to host an annual festival to celebrate them here at Franklin Park Conservatory, in conjunction with National Pollinator Week," said Jenny Pope, Director of Community Outreach and Education. "We have seen a growing interest in pollinator-friendly gardening over the years, from those who want to help support at-risk honeybee populations, to those who simply want to attract more butterflies to their backyards. The pandemic helped fuel that movement, too, as more people took on plant-related hobbies. For gardeners of all levels of expertise, Pollinator Palooza is a fun way to get more involved!"

Pollinator Palooza at Franklin Park precedes National Pollinator Week, when organizations from across the country host garden tours, pollinator ID workshops, pollinator-friendly plant sales, and other activities to support pollinator health, which is critical to the ecosystem and the food supply.

Special activities at Pollinator Palooza include:

- The Bugman (11am-3pm): Mark Berman, aka the Bugman, shares his knowledge and excitement about pollinators with his fascinating collection of live insects.
- Food Demonstrations (11am-2pm): Conservatory's Sustainability Educator Heather Bell will host cooking demonstrations featuring flavors that are only possible because of pollinators.
- Exploring Pollinators in the Garden (11:30am, 1pm, 2:30pm): Denise Ellsworth, the Program Director of Honeybee and Native Pollinator Education at OSU Extension, leads a walk through the pollinator garden to observe bees in action.
- George Barrie Band (11:30am-12:30pm, 1f:30-2:30pm): Live performances by this Columbus, Ohio-based band feature an upbeat blend of groovy rock n' roll inspired by bluesy songwriting.
- Stinger from the Columbus Blue Jackets (12-12:30pm): The pollinator mascot that represents Columbus's own hockey team will make an appearance.

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase from a variety of food trucks, including NAICCO, Sweet T's Southern Style, and Too Good Eats.



Pollinator Palooza is located in the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus, just outside the Franklin Park Conservatory's main entrance. No admission is required to enjoy Pollinator Palooza, and no reservations are required.

For more information, please visit [fpconservatory.org/pollinator-palooza](https://fpconservatory.org/pollinator-palooza) and follow @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.*