



Franklin Park Conservatory
and Botanical Gardens

CELEBRATE SPRING AT THE CONSERVATORY

Vibrant blooms, captivating exhibitions, exciting events and peaceful moments in nature bring the season to life! This magazine provides an overview of Conservatory offerings up to end of May. Clickable links are provided for more information.

WE'RE OPEN! ENJOY THE GARDENS DURING RENOVATION

Please excuse our dust and noise as we move through this exciting time of renovating the historic John F. Palm House and Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse. These two spaces will remain closed through Fall 2027 as we work to create an immersive and accessible experience and secure their future for generations to come. The rest of the Conservatory, including the four biome plant rooms, Cardinal Health Gallery, Grand Atrium, Garden Cafe, Botanica Gift Shop & Greenhouse and outside gardens remain OPEN for your enjoyment with enhanced programming and new seasonal exhibitions.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

BECOME A MEMBER!

Give a gift that keeps growing all year long with a membership. Perfect for Mother's Day or Father's Day, a membership offers free daily admission to our beautiful gardens, seasonal exhibits and peaceful spaces to relax and explore together. Instead of a one-day gift, you're giving months of inspiring nature, vibrant flowers, and memorable visits.

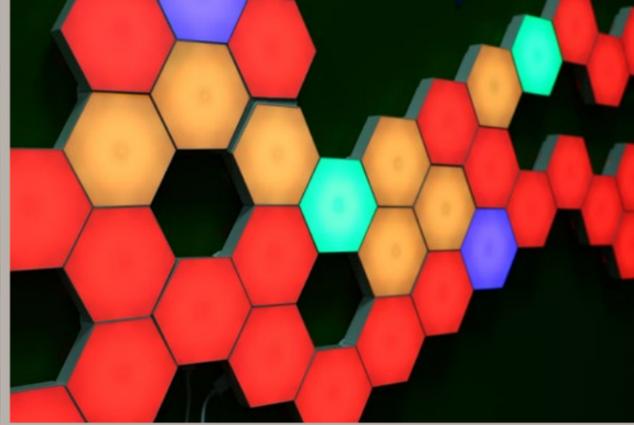
JOIN TODAY!

fpconservatory.org |    

SPRING 2026 IN THIS ISSUE

New Kids Play Space
Columbus Blooms
Blooms & Butterflies
Coffee at the Conservatory
and more!





NEW THIS YEAR!

Kids' Corner is a playful, interactive space for children ages 2–8 to explore nature themes through movement, imagination, and free play. Featuring an interactive floor projection system with Conservatory-inspired games, a whimsical woodland mural, climb-and-play elements, and sensory-friendly features the space is accessible for kids of all abilities. Located near the Visitor Center, this new interior, dedicated play space is designed for family play and encourages creativity, problem solving and social connection. Kids' Corner invites our youngest visitors to discover, move and learn together!

PLAN A VISIT



SATURDAY, MAY 30 | 10AM–1:30PM
\$35, \$30 FOR MEMBERS
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED | 18+ ONLY

Celebrate the beauty of a spring morning in the Wells Barn and Community Garden Campus with a special ticketed event the Conservatory. Wander through the gardens as they come alive with fresh blooms and morning light while sampling exceptional coffees from local roasters. Enjoy a peaceful, wellness-inspired atmosphere featuring local vendors and entertainment. Connect with friends, savor the flavors of the season and ease into the day surrounded by nature.

GET TICKETS TODAY!

COLUMBUS BLOOMS

BLOOMING SPRING 2026

A dazzling celebration of spring! More than 140,000 tulips, daffodils, and pansies throughout the gardens and container displays combine with stars of the botanical garden. Magnolias, lilacs, cherries, viburnum and thousands of perennials bring an exciting burst of scents and colors after a long winter slumber.

LEARN MORE

PRESENTED BY



Spring represents a renewal of hope. It's the perfect time to celebrate or remember a loved one. There are many ways to pay tribute at the Conservatory, including sponsoring bulbs that flower during Columbus Blooms for \$25 for each 5 bulbs.

Make a Tribute Gift and specify in the notes if you'd like to sponsor bulbs: fpconservatory.org/tribute

BONSAI COLLECTION

ON VIEW THROUGH OCTOBER

Trees from the Conservatory's bonsai collection are now on display in the Himalayan and Desert biomes. Select trees from the bonsai collection will also be displayed in the Botanical Garden Welcome Patio late March through October.

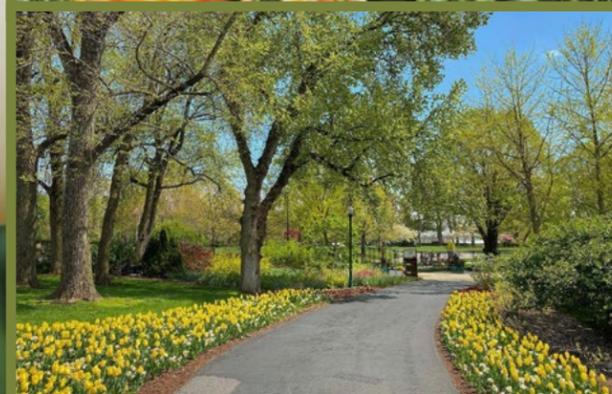
VIEW COLLECTION



BLOOMS REPORT

Starting the first week of *Columbus Blooms*, a blooms report will be available on the website so you can easily check current blooms and what's coming up next.

[VIEW REPORT](#)



BLOOMS & BUTTERFLIES

IN FLIGHT THROUGH JULY 5, 2026

Experience *Blooms & Butterflies* and immerse yourself in the enchanting Pacific Island Water Garden, where hundreds of vibrant exotic butterflies flutter freely in a warm, tropical paradise filled with brilliant nectar flowers. Visit the Metamorphosis Lab to witness new butterflies emerging from their chrysalises every day.

[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)



COLOR FLY BUTTERFLY

APRIL 25 THROUGH AUGUST 23

The Cardinal Health Gallery will experience its own metamorphosis into an immersive butterfly coloring experience which invites guests to color their own butterfly and watch the butterfly creation come alive in the illustrated Pacific Island Water Garden. Select and color a butterfly at a coloring station then scan the page at the kiosk to release the butterfly into the digital environment. Watch as the butterfly flutters around the garden and swoops down for a snack on a nearby flower!

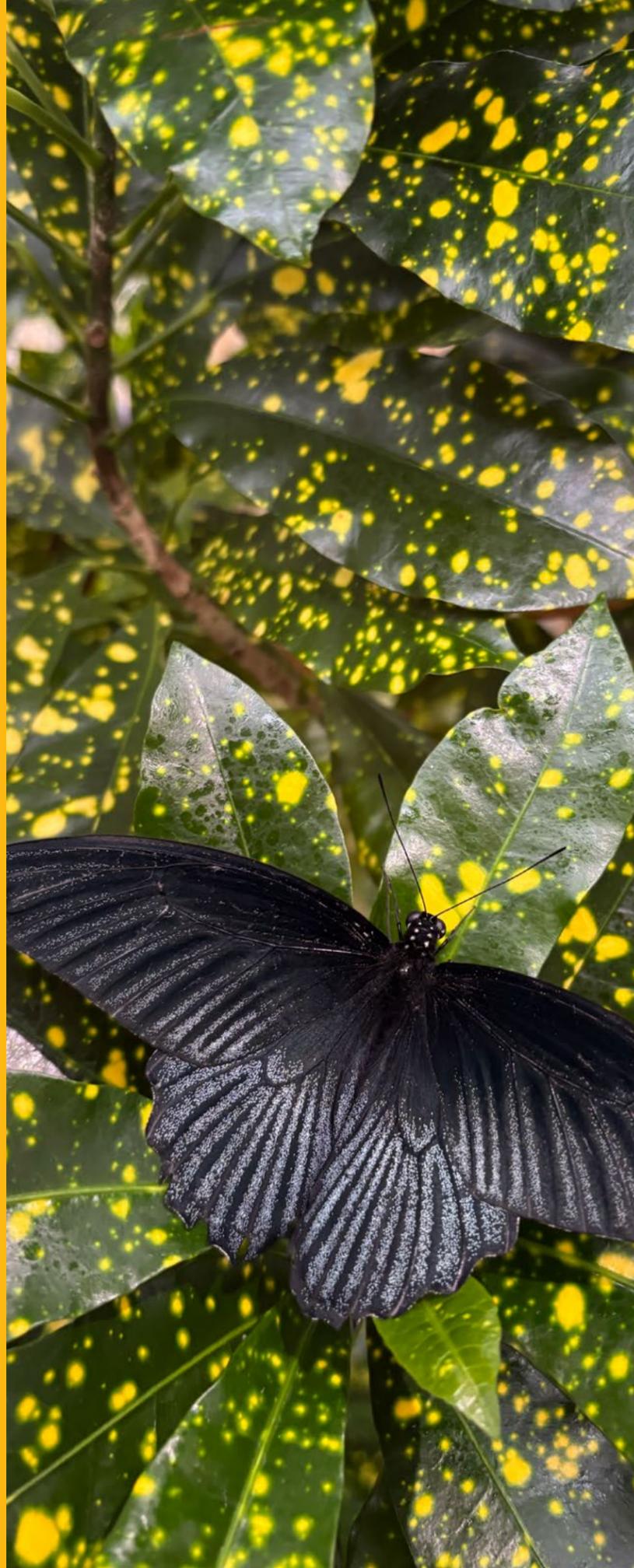
MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO

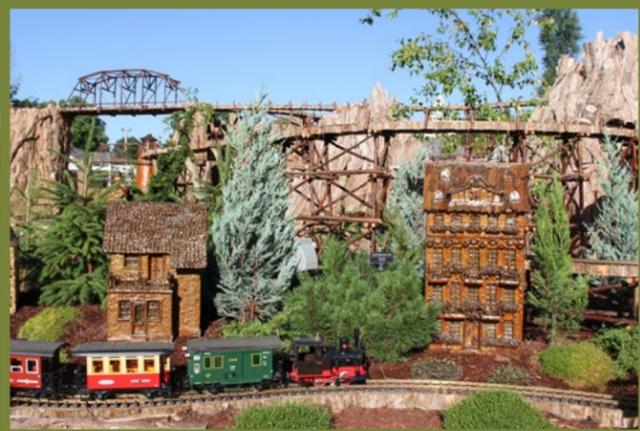


WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)





FROM THE MINDS OF APPLIED IMAGINATION

TWO EXCITING EXHIBITIONS ON VIEW
MAY 16, 2026–JANUARY 3, 2027

Paul Busse GARDEN RAILWAY

All aboard! Nine G-scale model trains travel across 1,122 feet of track that runs high and low through themed destinations: Fairytale Land, Wild West Town, European Travels and the animal-centric Who Lives Here. Guests can journey with the trains through a miniature world of 51 botanical models made from all-natural plant material.

[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)

Through the Vines

A SEASONAL JOURNEY

A site-specific installation by Applied Imagination invites guests to explore the lights, sights, and sounds of the four seasons. Walk through vibrant spring blooms, warm summer vitality, rich fall hues, and the serene beauty of winter.

[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO



WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



CHIHULY COLLECTION

ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

The Conservatory's Chihuly Collection—the largest permanent collection in a botanical garden—is on view year-round. Seventeen installations of stunning glass art is displayed throughout the interior Conservatory.

CHIHULY NIGHTS

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT | 6–10PM

APR 25 | MAY 30 | SEPT 5 | OCT 3 | NOV 7

Chihuly Nights offer you the opportunity to view 17 installations illuminated to create heightened drama and breathtaking views within the backdrop of the interior and of the warmth of the Conservatory. Explore the plant collections and current exhibitions after dark.

CHIHULY NIGHT PERFORMANCES

PEREGRINE QUARTET: APRIL 25 | 8:30–9:30PM

This quartet performs a mix of jazz and funky pop. The group is fronted by soul queen, Jesse Powers and includes guitarist, Ryan Hall, pianist Tiberius Shields, and drummer Paul Meeker.

E-FLAT JAZZ BAND: MAY 30 | 8:30–9:30PM

Listen to the smooth sounds of this Columbus native band. Led by David Dennis on the Sax, Charles Small on keys, Aaron Thomas on bass, and Robert Riley on drums.

ADD A GUIDED TOUR TO YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Learn more about Dale Chihuly and the Conservatory's Chihuly Collection by adding a docent-led tour to your Chihuly Night experience. These 45 minute experiences walk you through the collection and focus on installations. Tours available 6:30pm, 7pm, 7:30pm and 8pm nightly. *Pre-registration is recommended as spaces are limited.*

[VIEW COLLECTION](#)





COCKTAILS AT THE CONSERVATORY

**\$35, \$30 FOR MEMBERS
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED | 21+ ONLY**

Cocktails at the Conservatory continues with all new themes. These cocktail parties feature samples from breweries, wineries, and distilleries as well as themed activities, live music, food trucks and prizes all in the most beautiful gardens in Columbus.

PETALS & PROSECCO

APRIL 16 | 5:30–9:30PM

Step into the Conservatory at the height of spring blooms for the garden party of the season! Sip sparkling wine and bubbly samples from local wineries and wine shops and enjoy the ambiance set by a live acoustic duo while you explore the Conservatory's beautiful floral displays.

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

MAY 1 | 5:30–9:30PM

Join us after hours to roam the exhibits while sampling themed cocktails and fine wines that capture the spirit of Churchill Downs. Test your knowledge in our Derby-themed trivia and compete to win bragging rights in our hat contest.

MORE COCKTAILS IN 2026

- FRIDAY JULY 17: *SUMMER OF SANGRIA*
- THURSDAY AUGUST 6: *FROM VINE TO VINTAGE*
- THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24: *ULTIMATE TAILGATE*
- THURSDAY OCTOBER 29: *SPIRITS & SPELLS*
- WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2: *SLEIGH BELL SIPS*
- THURSDAY DECEMBER 3: *SLEIGH BELL SIPS*

[LEARN MORE!](#)

Each ticket includes a \$5 donation to support our mission to connect people to nature and create life-enhancing experiences! By attending, you support programs that benefit our entire community and inspire a love of nature!



SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S GARDEN

The Children's Garden is open all year, but educational programming and special guests are scheduled for the spring and summer! Children will discover fun ways to connect with nature during these recurring events and activities centered around a monthly theme.

Programs will meet in the Learning Pavillion and will be weather-dependent. Check the website for updates on special announcements! Water features open April 18.

MONTHLY THEMES

MAY: Spring Celebration

JUNE: Forest Friends

JULY: Wetland Wonders

AUGUST: Wings & Webs

SEPT: Magic in the Meadow

EARTH DAY FREE TREE GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 18; 11AM-2PM

Celebrate Earth Day with a family fun celebration honoring trees and their contribution to a healthy ecosystem. Kids can take part in a tree cookie craft, then families can pick out a tree sapling to take home and plant in their own yard. Tree saplings provided by Green Columbus.

2026 CULTIVATE: *WHAT WILL YOU GROW?*

Through the Cultivate! Campaign, you help connect people of all ages to the wonder of nature—from preschoolers planting their first seeds through the Head Start Discovery Program to community garden leaders growing food and connection across Central Ohio. Your support makes these moments possible, ensuring children, families, and neighbors can experience the inspiration, learning, and sense of belonging that nature provides. Help everyone in our community grow, donate today!

[DONATE TODAY!](#)



SAVE THE DATE!
**THE 3RD ANNUAL
FLUTTER RUN 5K
SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

Run, flutter, or walk! The Flutter Run 5k offers a scenic 5k run or walk, the Caterpillar Crawl Kids Run and the option to join in the fun as a spectator. By participating in the 5k, you're not only embarking on a journey through beautiful Franklin Park but also contributing to impactful efforts that sustain our mission. Your support helps fund educational programs, events, and initiatives that engage and connect our community to the wonders of the natural world. You won't want to miss this fun morning of celebrating pollinators, nature and community!

[SIGN UP NOW!](#)





FAMILY FUN

Included with admission and does not require pre-registration unless otherwise noted.

FAMILY FUN DAY – SPIN ART

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 | 11AM–2PM

Some of our furry friends are raising babies and waking up from their winter hibernation this month. Come make a beautiful spin art craft to celebrate March and spring babies! \$3 fee per spin art craft.

BRING THE FARM TO YOU

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 | 11AM–2PM

Barnyard friends descend upon the Conservatory! This hands-on program will connect visitors of all ages to an up-close experience with cuddly rabbits, goats, sheep, and other farm animals.

GABBY'S DOLLHOUSE MEET 'N' GREET

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 30 & 31 | 10AM – 5PM

Presented in partnership with DreamWorks Animation and KidsGardening.org, this is a unique opportunity to meet and get a picture with Gabby! Kids can participate in garden activities approved by Kitty Fairy and the Fairy Tail Garden! Pre-registration required.

MOTHER'S DAY AT THE CONSERVATORY

FLOWERPOT CRAFT: SATURDAY, MAY 9 | 11AM

Decorate a flowerpot and plant a beautiful spring flower to give to that special person in your life to celebrate Mother's Day. \$5 per craft/live flower, while supplies last.

MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT: SUNDAY, MAY 10 | 2PM

Treat mom to a day at the Conservatory, featuring a special Mother's Day concert by Honey & Blue. These local favorites feature the harmonizing duo of singer-songwriters Adam Darling and Stephanie Amber in a sound that blends soul and rhythm & blues.

[VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)





BOTANICA

GIFT SHOP & GREENHOUSE

Like the gardens this season, Botanica is blooming with beauty. Discover something wonderful during General Admission or the next event at the Conservatory

PLANT OF THE MONTH

20% off for members and 10% off for non-members

APRIL: Violet

MAY: Spider Plants



EARTH DAY SALE: APRIL 25

Buy 2 indoor plants and get 50% off a bag of potting soil (One per customer)

MOTHER'S DAY SALE: MAY 9 & 10

20% off all outdoor patio plants

VISIT BOTANICA

TAKE A CLASS!

CULINARY ARTS

Cake Decorating: Bunny Cake	APRIL 3
Plenty O Cookies: Pollinators	APRIL 6
Garlic Mustard Ravioli	APRIL 17
Unique Uses for Soy	APRIL 22

FINE ARTS & CRAFTS

Zentangle 1	MARCH 29
Fused Glass Insects	APRIL 10
Painting Tulips in Acrylic	APRIL 19
Stained Glass Rainbows	APRIL 25

GARDENING & ENVIRONMENTAL

Spring Florals in a Basket	APRIL 2
Forced Bulb Planters	APRIL 9
Spring Bird Migration Walk	APRIL 21
The Extraordinary Modern Day Lily	MAY 2

VIEW FULL CLASS SCHEDULE

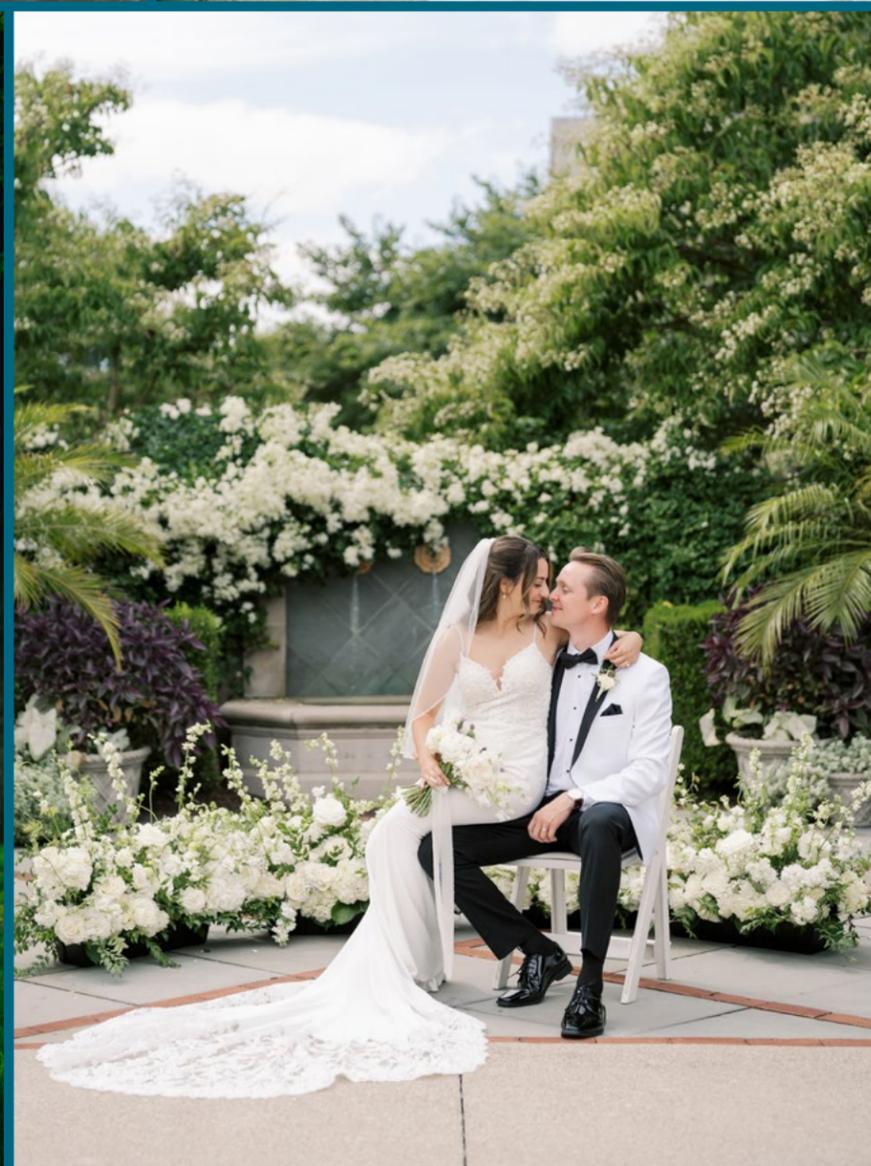


HOT SHOP & GLASS BLOWING

The Hot Shop, the Conservatory's on-site glass blowing studio, offers daily demonstrations, as well as scheduled classes and personal sessions.!

[VIEW CLASSES](#)





HOST YOUR EVENT AT THE CONSERVATORY

Celebrate among nature in a unique event space—perfect for weddings, social events, and corporate gatherings. This spring, host your event in the Wells Barn, Garden Pavilion, or Grand Atrium. Now booking weddings, receptions and other private events in 2026 and beyond

CHOOSE YOUR SPECIAL VENUE

THE WELLS BARN

A 200-year-old, hand-hewn timber frame from a Richland County barn provides the framework and inspiration for this one-of-a-kind venue.

GRAND ATRIUM

The Conservatory's largest indoor space features stately, plant-draped pillars and slate tile floors. The versatility of this venue makes it perfect for seated dinners or cocktail receptions.

GARDEN PAVILION

A charming black-framed tent, complete with hardwood floors, floor-to-ceiling tinted glass walls, creating a modern structure that feels both elegant and sophisticated. The premier Garden Pavilion blends year round indoor comfort with an outdoor feel.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

EVENT SALES | 614.715.8100
EVENTSALES@FPCONSERVATORY.ORG

HOST YOUR EVENT!



COMING SOON

DAVID ROGERS: BIG BUGS

JUNE 6—SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

David Rogers' Big Bugs brings the hidden world of insects to breathtaking scale. This traveling exhibition features oversized, anatomically accurate sculptures crafted from reclaimed wood and natural materials, revealing the intricate beauty of creatures often overlooked. From towering ants to giant dragonflies and massive praying mantises, these monumental works invite visitors of all ages to explore, discover, and see nature from a new perspective.

Designed to blend seamlessly into the landscape, *Big Bugs* creates a magical outdoor environment that sparks curiosity and imagination while gently reminding us of the vital connection between protecting living creatures and sustaining a healthy environment. Each handcrafted sculpture reflects Rogers' lifelong dedication to transforming simple natural materials into extraordinary works of art.

SUMMER BLOOMS & BEYOND

ON VIEW THROUGH EARLY SEPTEMBER

Experience lush, colorful, summer seasonal blooms throughout the gardens and within over 100 mixed containers, hanging baskets and a new 9' tower of flowers! Butterfly topiaries from the Conservatory's topiary collection are featured in the North Courtyard and the cardinal and pot of gold return to The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden.