



For April Release

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More Than 20 Species of Butterfly Enchant and Enlighten

Phipps Conservatory's Butterfly Forest showcases winged wonders amidst beautiful botanical displays

Pittsburgh, Pa. — In celebration of Earth Day, [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens'](#) Butterfly Forest opens on Sat., April 22. This enchanting exhibit showcases more than 20 species of winged beauties fluttering through the tropical botanicals of the historic Stove Room. From the infamous monarch to the striking zebra longwing, guests can get nose-to-antennae with these important pollinators and learn about the threats they face. Witness the miraculous emergence of butterflies from their chrysalises, and gain a new appreciation for the important role they play in the environment. Butterfly Forest runs through Mon., Sept. 4.

In October 2016, seven species of bees native to Hawaii were added to the Endangered Species List for the first time, bringing the plight of pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, to the forefront of a national conversation. "The biggest threats to butterflies, and all pollinators, are habitat loss, invasive species of plants and insects, misuse of pesticides, and climate change," says Dr. Ryan Gott, Phipps' integrated pest management specialist. Though it may seem like a warmer climate would benefit butterflies, it is actually a threat to them. "Pollinators are very in sync with the growth and activity of plants all year. Temperate winters and early springs can trigger plants to grow and bloom early. However, many pollinators do not develop or become active early enough to find these plants and pollinate them."

Pollinators ensure that many plants that we value survive — from the food we eat to aesthetically pleasing plants. "It's estimated that pollinators, including butterflies, provide about \$24 billion to the economy each year," says Gott. Get to know these important animals at Butterfly Forest — one may even land on you!

There are plenty of opportunities to learn about butterflies at Phipps! Adults can sign up for Milkweed for Monarchs and learn how to create and maintain a native plant area that benefits pollinators like the monarch butterfly. For little learners, the Butterflies field trip moves through the lifecycle of butterflies and explores their anatomy, metamorphosis and ways they protect themselves in nature.

Hours are 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily and until 10 p.m. on Fridays. Admission is \$17.95 for adults, \$16.95 for seniors and students, and \$11.95 for children 2 – 18. Members and kids under 2 enter free. More details can be found at phipps.conservatory.org.

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About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

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