



**For Immediate Release**

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**Phipps Buzzing Over Threat to Food Supply**

*Observational beehive and Butterfly Forest highlight the importance of pollinators in our lives.*

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** — In honor of National Pollinator Week, [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) is excited to announce that it will install an observational beehive on the Conservatory's campus in July. Phipps hopes to use the hive as an opportunity to teach guests about the plight of bees and their importance to the food supply chain.

Until the buzzing new neighbors' home is built, guests can learn about the pollinating power of long-time Phipps residents, the stars of [Butterfly Forest](#). Phipps' Butterfly Forest is filled with nectar plants for the winged wonders — hummingbird bush, shrimp plants and porter weed, for example. The butterflies are nourished by the nectar from these plants, and actually help to grow their food source. They carry pollen on their legs as they flutter from plant to plant, and, by transferring the pollen from one plant to another, they take the crucial first step in the plant's reproduction cycle.

Guests can learn how to create a butterfly haven in their own backyard by attending Milkweed and Monarchs, a free-with-admission program held at the Conservatory on Sat., July 9 and Sundays, July 10 and Aug. 21 at 1:30 p.m. A more intensive class on butterfly gardening is offered through Phipps' adult education program, and young minds can learn more about these pretty pollinators in a butterfly-centric field trip.

Phipps hopes that by introducing guests to bees and butterflies, which play a vital role in pollinating much of the food we eat, they will feel connected to the creatures and want to protect them and their habitats.

For more information please visit [phipps.conservatory.org](http://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](http://phipps.conservatory.org).

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