



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2022

POWELL GARDENS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF BUTTERFLIES AND FAMILY FUN

Visitors embark on a journey that meanders to Madagascar, Australia, and the Midwest

KINGSVILLE, MO - On July 21, Powell Gardens welcomes the 25th annual Festival of Butterflies. Kansas City's Botanical Garden invites your family to celebrate the whimsical world of pollinators. This year's festival highlights the butterflies and moths of Madagascar, showcasing more than 50 species native to this island country. Garden explorers can learn about the mysterious journey of the Wanderer Monarch, enjoy a brand new art and plant activation at the Lotus Pond, spend evenings listening to live music in the gardens, and discover new ways to play together. Festival of Butterflies runs daily (9 a.m. - 8 p.m.) from July 21 through August 7 with new evening hours each day.

"Our community has enjoyed Festival of Butterflies for 25 years," said Tabitha Schmidt, Chief Executive Officer of Powell Gardens. "One of the best parts of summer in Kansas City is exploring Powell Gardens, especially during this festival. We love seeing all generations explore together. In 2022, we're looking forward to introducing new pollinator education and artwork alongside traditional favorites."

Start your Festival of Butterflies experience in the Martha Jane Phillips Starr Conservatory to get up close with free-flying butterflies and moths from all over the world. With an emphasis on Madagascar, this space is full of tropical pollinators soaring and enjoying and nectar plants. Witness metamorphosis for a butterfly's first flight as each newly-winged wonder emerges.

Next, travel to the Garden Galleries to uncover a decades-old butterfly mystery. Think like a biologist and hypothesize about where the Wanderer Monarch came from. Live and paper monarchs fill this space, replicating the monarch habitat in Australia. Get out your camera—this is the perfect photo op! Stop at the new Basecamp Bar + Bites near the Fountain Garden to enjoy a beverage in the shade while kids play in the fountain splashpad or explore Fortopia on the East Lawn.

Follow the Butterfly Meadow through some of Missouri's native host and nectar plants. At the end of the path, enter the Native Butterfly Tent. Here, butterflies native to the Midwest make their home. Try to spot a caterpillar in the raised garden beds nearby! Before you leave the Children's Garden, cool off and make take-home crafts in the Creation Station.

Continue exploring off the beaten path. The Lotus Pond features a mass planting of American Lotus and three new decks to enjoy pond-side. A new glass work from Monarch Glass is installed in the center of the pond, creating a new space for relaxing and reflecting. Don't miss American Lotus: One Night Only,

Powell Gardens' lotus-focused evening with fiber art demonstrations and a performance from Heidi Phillips of Frogpond on August 6 (5-8 p.m.).

The festival will be activated with educational events and activities for the whole family. Plan to attend a plant sale with Sow Wild Natives (July 30-31, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.), The Strawberry Swing Indie Craft Fair (August 6, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.), live music (on select evenings), and other special weekend education and entertainment pop-ups. For tickets and up-to-date information, please visit powellgardens.org/butterflies.

Festival of Butterflies Special Events & Classes

Garden to Glass: Coneflower Tea

Saturday, July 23 | 3-4 p.m. | \$22 | \$15 for members

Did you know you can make delicious tea using Missouri's native coneflowers? All tea drinkers are welcome to learn how to brew the best cup of tea and try Powell Gardens' version of coneflower tea. Attendees will take home coneflower seeds, a coneflower patch, and a Powell Gardens branded mug.

Book Club: Bicycling With Butterflies

Saturday, July 30 | 11 a.m. – noon | \$22 | 10% less for members

Join Education Manager, Caitlin Eckard, to discuss Sara Dykman's book, *Bicycling With Butterflies* (winner of the 2021 National Outdoor Book Award). The account details Dykman's round-trip bicycle ride from Kansas City, Kansas to Michoacan, Mexico, as she follows the migration path of monarch butterflies.

Native Plants as Host Plants for Butterflies

Saturday, July 30 | 3-4 p.m. | \$32 | \$20 for members

Join Dr. Nadia Navarette-Tindall (Extension Associate Professor, Lincoln University) for this presentation. Attendees will learn about the importance of native plants as host plants for butterflies. From milkweed to paw paws, build native plant identification skills and learn to grow them in your yard or acreage. Attendees will take home a native host plant!

Artful Gardens: Festival of Butterflies

Sunday, July 31 | 3-6 p.m. | \$50 | 10% less for members

Which came first, the artist or the garden? The plants that make up botanical gardens are thoughtfully curated, just like the paintings that hang in art museums. To explore the connection between visual art and the natural world, we invite you to join us for Artful Gardens: Festival of Butterflies in our living museum!

Gardening 101: Lotus or Waterlily?

Saturday, August 6 | 10-11 a.m. | \$20 | \$8 for members

Plants in the Nymphaeaceae (Waterlily) family are often confused with plants in the Nelumbonaceae (Lotus) family. In this Gardening 101 class, Matt Hockaday, Horticulturist, will teach you the difference!

American Lotus: One Night Only

Saturday, August 6

\$30 | \$25 for members

A one night only event celebrating the 25th anniversary of Festival of Butterflies featuring live music, art and beautiful blooming lotus against the backdrop of the Midwest sunset.

Featured musician, Heidi Phillips, lead vocalist of local pop-punk/post-grunge band, Frogpond, will perform live setting the ambiance for the evening. Grab a signature color-changing Lotus Root cocktail at the Missouri Barn, leisurely stroll through the gardens and appreciate American Lotus a new body of site-specific sculptures by Monarch Glass Studio. Local fiber artist Meagan Condon will be on the scene showcasing how fiber can be spun from the plant's stems sourced from the Gardens' botanic collection.

Press Images



Credit Powell Gardens. Additional images available upon request.

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Media Contact

Laina Gunsallus, Marketing Specialist

lgunsallus@powellgardens.org

816.868.5208 (text or call)

About Powell Gardens

As Kansas City's Botanical Garden, Powell Gardens plays a vital role in the community as a space for release, rejuvenation, and the celebration of the fleeting nature of nature itself. Visitors enjoy eight themed display gardens, a three-mile nature trail, seasonal festivals, rotating exhibitions, exceptional architecture, and dining options featuring ingredients grown in our Heartland Harvest Garden, one of the nation's premier edible landscapes. Established in 1988, Powell Gardens is a non-profit, public garden, maintaining 970 acres of lush, rolling hills and windswept meadows, with more than 175 acres and a large collection of plants open to the public for education, exploration, and recreation. Many of the plants in the Gardens are regionally native, and all highlight the changing seasons and Midwest spirit of place.