

May 10, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Butterfly House Opens, Free Japanese Stroll Garden Admission Friday

The Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park celebrates National Public Gardens Day Friday, May 11, with all-day activities for the whole family at the park and the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center.

"Parks and gardens are great for the body and soul," said Katie Steinhoff, Botanical Center Coordinator. "Public Gardens Day is a way of raising awareness of the important role public gardens play in promoting conservation, education and environmental preservation."

Activities slated for Friday include:

- Opening Day for the Dr. Bill Roston Native Butterfly House (free admission) 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Butterfly House is open Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday through October.
- Free admission to Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Free guided garden solar tram tours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Free children's crafts, including Mother's Day cards, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Master Gardeners available for Q&A in the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- An open invitation to photographers to visit the park and participate in the National Public Gardens Day photo contest, with details here: www.nationalpublicgardensday.org/photo-contest
- "The Intimate Patio for Mother's Day," a Friends of the Garden-sponsored Tablescapes Series with Parks Horticultural Interpreter Peter Longley, 6 p.m. (\$8, registration required at 417-891-1515.)

The 114-acre Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park is home to the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, the Dr. Bill Roston Native Butterfly House, the Grey-Campbell Homestead, the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens, playgrounds, recreation trails and several botanical gardens created and maintained by the Friends of the Garden, Inc. and other volunteer organizations.

For more information, contact Botanical Center Coordinator Katie Steinhoff at 417-891-1515; or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 471-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.