

GROW WINGS THIS SPRING!

Hundreds of Butterflies Flutter into Los Angeles When Pavilion of Wings Returns to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Saturday, April 11 – Sunday, September 6, 2010

LOS ANGELES—Spring is here, and so is the *Pavilion of Wings*. Visitors will come face to face with the majestic colors and brilliant patterns of more than 40 species of butterflies and super-sized moths in the 12th annual *Pavilion of Wings* at the Natural History Museum, near downtown Los Angeles. This popular outdoor attraction is open April 11 through September 6, 2010.

Fluttering through the newly re-landscaped Pavilion on the Museum's South Lawn will be hundreds of free-flying butterflies and moths. More than half are native to California and all are native to North America. Giant Swallowtails, American Painted Ladies, California Dogfaces and more will fill the air around visitors, or alight delicately on their arms.



Could monarch butterfly migration originally have been the result of human rural and urban development throughout North and Central America? Visitors can learn all about monarch migration, as well as the lifecycles, defense mechanisms, and host plants of all of the butterflies. Through science driven-activities designed for audiences of all ages, friendly and knowledgeable Museum educators use the fun and lively pavilion environment to teach young and old not just what we know about butterflies, but how we know it.

Among the new additions this year are the tropical Small Postman butterfly, and more species of moths than ever before, including polyphemus moths, sphynx moths (also called Hawk Moth, because of its distinctive flight patterns), and the elaborately patterned Cynthia moth. The *Pavilion of Wings* also feature's the Museum's newly installed demonstration garden and bird feeders just outside the Pavilion, on the Museum's South Lawn.

Available in the Museum store is the *Butterfly Gardening in Southern California* guide. Edited by NHM entomology curator Brian Brown, the book encourages backyard butterfly exploration and is a field guide to the common butterflies of the Los Angeles Basin, as well as some less frequently-seen species from the surrounding beaches and mountains. To enhance and promote the conservation of butterflies and their environments, it also includes information to help gardeners select flowers and plants that support butterflies and help caterpillars thrive.

NHM Pavilion of Wings Special Ticketing Information

Special ticketed admission applies to the Pavilion of Wings: Adults \$3; Students and seniors \$2; Children 5-12 \$1; Museum members and children under 5 are FREE. Regular Museum admission is separate and as follows: Adults \$9; Students, seniors and Youths (13-17) \$6.50; Children (5-12) \$2. Museum members and children under 5, FREE.

Coming Soon: The Bug Fair!

In further celebration of butterflies and all things fluttery and multi-legged, the Museum will also host the 24th annual Bug Fair on May 15 and 16, 2010. The biggest bug festival in North America, the Fair will give visitors an opportunity to buy bugs and bug merchandise from more than 60 vendors, view outstanding collections, and learn more about the teeming world of arthropods and arachnids, with help from the Museum's resident "Bug Guy," entomologist Brent Karner, Entomology Curator Dr. Brian Brown, and many of the Museum's world-class scientists.

About the Natural History Museum

The Museum was the first dedicated museum building in Los Angeles, opening its doors in 1913. It has amassed one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history — with more than 35 million objects, some as old as 4.5 billion years. The Natural History Family of Museums includes the NHM, the Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits (Hancock Park/Mid-Wilshire), and the William S. Hart Park and Museum (Newhall, California). The Family of Museums serves more than one million families and visitors annually, and is a national leader in research, exhibitions and education. For more information the public may call 213 763-DINO or visit www.nhm.org.

NHM Next

Last year's completed renovation of the Beaux-Arts 1913 Building, the original component of the NHM, has set the stage for the rollout of a series of new, permanent exhibitions leading up to the Museum's centennial in 2013: *Age of Mammals* and the Haaga Family Rotunda galleries open in July 2010; *Dinosaur Mysteries* in July 2011; and *Under the Sun*, focusing on the Southern California environmental history, in late 2012.

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