

**Board of Park Commissioners  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens Quarterly Report  
September 2022**

**Blooming Butterflies Returns**



*Figure 1 Giant swallowtail (Papilio cresphontes) feeds on a flower in the Conservatory.*

In late July-early August, butterflies once again took flight in the Bolz Conservatory. Over the three week run of Blooming Butterflies almost 24,000 guests visited to enjoy butterflies of various shapes, colors, and sizes. Special programs were held offering families the opportunities to explore the Conservatory before opening at 10am. A special Butterfly Action Day was held to promote ways to protect and promote butterflies. Various media sources covered the exhibition.

- NBC 15 - <https://www.nbc15.com/video/2022/07/26/olbrich-botanical-gardens-blooming-butterflies/>
- ABC 27 - [https://www.wkow.com/news/making-blooming-butterflies-possible/article\\_34c56e7a-07b8-11ed-817b-bf151b7e9de9.html](https://www.wkow.com/news/making-blooming-butterflies-possible/article_34c56e7a-07b8-11ed-817b-bf151b7e9de9.html)
- Channel 3000 - <https://www.channel3000.com/olbrich-botanical-gardens-hosts-butterfly-action-day/>

## International Visitors



*Figure 2 Staff from the Thai Consulate, UW-Madison, Parks, & Olbrich Gardens gather in front of the Royal Thai Pavilion.*

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Olbrich Botanical Gardens hosted a delegation from the Thai Consulate in Chicago, IL. The Deputy Consul-General and her staff visited the Royal Thai Pavilion at Olbrich Gardens for their first time. Also attending were staff from the University of Wisconsin Campus Planning Department. The Deputy Consul-General is interested in bringing back the popular Thai Festival and staying informed about the Royal Thai Pavilion restoration project.



*Figure 3 Guests from Freiburg, Germany enjoy exploring the gardens.*

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, Olbrich Botanical Gardens hosted a group from Madison's Sister City Freiburg, Germany. The group was especially interested in learning about the sustainable practices used at Olbrich Gardens. Their visit include a tour of both the outdoor gardens and the Frautschi Family Learning Center.

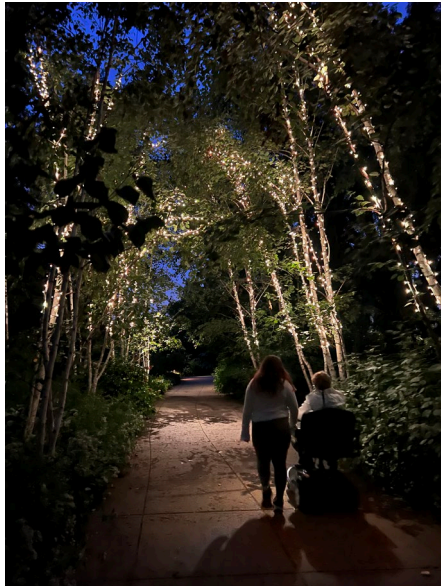
### Rare Sightings



Figure 4 Zebra swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*) butterfly spotted at Olbrich Gardens

Zebra swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*) was spotted in the Sunken Garden by Horticulturist Samantha Malone. The zebra swallowtail is widely distributed from southern New England west to eastern Kansas and south to Texas and Florida. Southern Wisconsin is a small part of its normal range, so a sighting in Madison is quite rare. Sam shared her sighting on iNaturalist and the word was out! For a couple weeks, butterfly enthusiasts from Madison and beyond were sighted in the gardens with binoculars and cameras in hand looking for the zebra swallowtail. It wasn't the only rare butterfly sighting in the gardens this summer either! Build it and they will come, build pollinator habitat that is!

## GLEAM, Art in a New Light



GLEAM opened on August 27, 2022 with record setting attendance. This year's exhibition includes 10 different light exhibitions. Artists are from Madison, Janesville, Toronto, Massachusetts, and Australia. Members of Olbrich Gardens enjoyed a special Member Movie event on with a movie on the lawn and the opportunity for the first glimpse at GLEAM.