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Media Contact:

Jennifer Quermann
Butterfly Pavilion
jquermann@butterflies.org
703-477-0668

Butterfly Pavilion Unveils New Exhibit Celebrating the Vital Role of Invertebrates in Mexican Culture and Biodiversity

Opening March 15, 2025 - Where Culture and Conservation Come to Life!

WESTMINSTER, Colo. – February 20, 2025 - <u>Butterfly Pavilion</u> is proud to announce the grand opening of its latest immersive exhibit, <u>Legacies: Invertebrates of Mexico</u>, launching March 15, 2025. Designed to captivate visitors during spring break and beyond, this dynamic experience supports global invertebrate conservation with a blend of education, animals, entertainment, and cultural heritage.

"From ancient civilizations to modern conservation, invertebrates have shaped Mexico's landscapes, traditions and biodiversity," said Nathalie Brochu, Interim CEO of Butterfly Pavilion. "This exhibit brings their stories to life in a magical way, inspiring visitors to understand how essential these small creatures are to our world."

Discover the Rich Heritage of Invertebrates

Legacies: Invertebrates of Mexico showcases the vital role invertebrates play in both nature and human history. From their use in food and dyes to their relationship with essential crops, these incredible creatures have shaped Mesoamerican traditions for centuries. Through vibrant, interactive displays, visitors will uncover the ecological importance of invertebrates and their often-overlooked influence on our world. Featuring fascinating species like tarantulas, millipedes, and leafcutter ants, this exhibit brings history and science to life in an unforgettable way.

Global Conservation in Action

Highlighting Butterfly Pavilion's commitment to environmental stewardship, the exhibit also showcases the organization's collaboration with the government of Mexico on an ambitious project to restore the vital monarch butterfly habitat in Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. Visitors can learn more about this inspiring conservation effort at the exhibit, gaining insights into how local and international initiatives are making a tangible difference for these iconic pollinators.

Exhibit Highlights:

- **Live Animals** Millipedes, scorpions, tarantulas, and other invertebrates highlight their vital role in Mexico's ecosystems, agriculture, and culture.
- **Monarch Tree with Biofacts** A dynamic installation featuring preserved specimens and educational displays.

- **Sensory Elements** Lush soundscapes and natural scents transport visitors into Mexico's diverse ecosystems.
- Live Feeding Displays Witness leafcutter ant colonies farming their own food.
- **Interactive Educational Activities** –Hands-on conservation learning opportunities to engage visitors of all ages.

Strengthening Local Cultural Ties

To bring this exhibit to life, Butterfly Pavilion collaborated with esteemed cultural partners including the <u>Consulate General of Mexico in Denver</u>, the <u>National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico</u>, <u>Calaveras en mi Ciudad</u> and <u>Harvest Of All First Nations</u>. These partnerships have enriched the exhibit by providing authentic cultural insights and artifacts, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive presentation of Mexico's diverse cultural narratives.

WHEN: Exhibit Opens: Saturday, March 15, 2025

Daily 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Included with general admission

WHERE: Butterfly Pavilion, 6252 W. 104th Avenue, Westminster, CO

LEARN MORE AND GET TICKETS: https://butterflies.org/legacies-invertebrates-of-mexico/

About Butterfly Pavilion

Butterfly Pavilion, celebrating its 30th year in 2025, has been part of the Colorado community since 1995 and is the first Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited, stand-alone, non-profit invertebrate zoo in the world, located in Westminster, Colorado. Butterfly Pavilion's mission is to foster an appreciation of invertebrates by educating the public about the need to protect and care for threatened habitats globally, while conducting research for solutions in invertebrate conservation. Beyond Colorado and the United States, Butterfly Pavilion conservationists are doing important invertebrate research, conservation and education projects around the world from Mongolia and Mexico to Tanzania and Sumatra, Indonesia. www.butterflies.org

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