

For Immediate Release

February 7, 2024



Media Contacts:

Olivia Wall | Director of Marketing | 901-636-4120 | olivia.wall@membg.org

Jeff Hulett | Jeff Hulett PR | 901-859-9430 | jeff@jeffhulettpr.com



Bird's the Word at the Memphis Botanic Garden this February

Memphis, TN - Memphis Botanic Garden (MBG) is pleased to announce its participation in the 2024 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), an inter-organizational effort between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada. This global event, which happens every February, is in its 27th year. More than an estimated half-million people participated during the 2023 GBBC, reporting more than 7,500 species of birds from 200+ countries.

The community event hosted at MBG will take place on February 17 from 10 am-2 pm and features fun for the whole family. Attendees can assist the Garden record and count birds, enjoy a self-guided bird scavenger hunt, learn how to use the Merlin Bird ID App, and children will receive paper binoculars to decorate & take home during this fun day your whole flock will leave raven about. Plus two family-friendly presentations will be offered:

Great Horned Owls: Hiding in Plain Sight

10-11:30 am

Join us for a family-friendly presentation by Mark Glenshaw, an award-winning naturalist, on Great Horned Owls. Mark has been studying this species of owl in Forest Park, a large urban park in St. Louis, Missouri, for over 18 years – and has an impressive collection of photos, personal stories, and fascinating facts that will entertain and educate you about this species. Children can enjoy learning about owls as well during the event with volunteer-led activities and crafts.

Exploring the World of Native Birds

12:30-1:30 pm

Join MBG Horticulturists Anna Vo and Adam Gann as they take attendees on a guided walk through the Woodlands. There you will learn how to find birds, how to tell birds apart, and how to identify

them by color, markings, and calls! Grab your binoculars and come explore. This activity is recommended for ages 6 and up.

“The Memphis Botanic Garden is a great location to observe nature. It's amazing that at a place in the center of the city, you can find such a diversity of bird species,” said Gina Harris, Director of Education & Events. “The Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way to participate in a global citizen science project where your observations contribute to important scientific research in a fun and accessible way.”

It is the perfect opportunity to encourage the whole family to get outdoors & connect with nature this February. Plus River City Dogs & The Fry Guy food trucks will be on-site for a picnic lunch. All activities are free with Garden admission, and no registration is required. This is an outdoor event; be sure to dress appropriately for the weather.

Learn more about the Great Backyard Bird Count global effort at birdcount.org.

About Memphis Botanic Garden

The Memphis Botanic Garden is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to being an exemplary center for horticulture and environmental enrichment. Serving over 40,000 school-aged children annually, and hosting 260,000 visitors each year, Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature, increasing awareness and appreciation of our environment.

###