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**Date:** March 4, 2010

**EXPERIENCE LARGER-THAN-LIFE 'JURASSIC BUGS'  
AT THE SOPHIA M. SACHS BUTTERFLY HOUSE**  
*"Jurassic Bugs" Exhibition Opens May 1 through Oct. 3*

**WHAT:** "Jurassic Bugs" exhibition  
**WHEN:** May 1 through Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Mondays);  
Memorial Day through Labor Day, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily  
**WHERE:** Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, 15193 Olive Blvd. at Faust Park  
**COST:** Included with Butterfly House admission  
(\$6 adults, \$4 children ages three to 12, free ages two and under.)  
**INFO:** [www.butterflyhouse.org](http://www.butterflyhouse.org); (636) 530-0076

(ST. LOUIS): Enormous, ancient creatures are invading the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House in Chesterfield this year! See life-size replicas of prehistoric arthropods, explore displays of their living relatives and learn about how these animals have changed over millions of years when the **"Jurassic Bugs"** exhibition crawls into town, Saturday, May 1 through Sunday, Oct. 3. Hours through Memorial Day are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays); from Memorial Day through Labor Day, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The exhibition is included with Butterfly House admission.

Fossil records indicate that some animals were enormous as compared to today's specimens. Encounter five of these oversized species taking up temporary residence inside the central exhibit hallway.

See **Brontoscorpio**, a meter-long scorpion that shared its environment with **giant cockroaches** that were over a foot long! View the enormous dragonfly, **Meganeura**, and giant millipede, **Arthropleura**, which thrived during the Pennsylvanian Period about 300 million years ago. Also on display is the largest arthropod presently known, **Pterygotus**, a ferocious ten-foot-long sea scorpion

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### **ADD ONE: Jurassic Bugs**

from the Silurian Period. These prehistoric bugs will join the permanent residents of the Butterfly House: living beetles, roaches, tarantulas, spiders, scorpions and other insects and arachnids.

Compare these smaller creatures of today to their larger prehistoric relatives to learn how they have evolved over eons.

Insects and other arthropods are far older than dinosaurs; arthropod fossils in the form of primitive millipedes and scorpions date back to 450 million years ago. Amber, or fossilized tree resin, is an important source of information about the history of these creatures, providing clues in the form of preserved insects (whole or in parts), pollen and other small specimens. Examine some of these important fossil records on display that date back to nearly 70 million years ago.

Delve deeper into the world of prehistoric critters with **Jurassic Bugs Family Days**. Drop-in anytime from 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the last Saturday of June, July, August and September to explore ancient arthropods and the living insects of today through games, activities and crafts geared for children ages six to 12.

The Butterfly House is well-known for its flying creatures, featuring an 8,000-square-foot tropical conservatory with **more than 1,000 butterflies** in free-flight, representing approximately 80 species from around the world. Learn more about the history of the Lepidoptera, the large order of insects that includes today's butterflies and moths, which first appeared around 160 million years ago.

The Butterfly House also offers a variety of classes for youth of all ages interested in expanding their exploration of the natural world. To browse a complete lineup of programs, visit [www.mobot.org/classes](http://www.mobot.org/classes).

The Butterfly House is located at 15193 Olive Blvd. at Faust Park in Chesterfield, Mo., accessible from Interstate 64 at exit #19B. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (closed Mondays); Memorial Day to Labor Day, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The last ticket is sold 30 min. prior to closing each day.

Admission is \$6 for adults (ages 13 to 64), \$4.50 for seniors (ages 65 and over), and \$4 for children (ages three to 12). Children ages two and under and Missouri Botanical Garden members are free.

For more information, visit [www.butterflyhouse.org](http://www.butterflyhouse.org) or call (636) 530-0076.

**(more)**

**ADD TWO: Jurassic Bugs**

The Butterfly House is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and a division of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

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**NOTE: Digital images available by request. Download media materials at [www.butterflyhouse.org/press](http://www.butterflyhouse.org/press).**

The mission of the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House is to foster a greater understanding of plant and animal relationships in the environment in order to promote the conservation and restoration of natural habitats.