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RIBBIT! THE EXHIBIT “HOPS” IN TO THE MORTON ARBORETUM IN 2016

LISLE, Illinois (February 3, 2016) – The Morton Arboretum will be “hopping” this spring and summer with the presentation of **Ribbit! The Exhibit**, a whimsical collection of larger-than-life copper frog sculptures on display from April 8 through September 25, 2016.

Hand-crafted by North Carolina-based sculptor J.A. Cobb, Ribbit! The Exhibit features 19 displays of five-to seven-foot-tall frogs taking part in a variety of activities, including playing instruments, catching butterflies and meditating on a lily pad. Displays include the “Tree Frog,” who will be nestled in a stately white oak, “Zenny,” relaxing on his lily pad in the fountain of the May T. Watts Reading Garden, and the “Jazz Trio,” set in the Arboretum’s Arbor Court, home of the popular Wednesdays, Woods and Wine outdoor music series.

Each of the frogs in Ribbit! The Exhibit will be accompanied by information about their relationship to trees. The exhibit will be supported by frog-themed programming, classes and events throughout its run. The traveling exhibit arrives at the Arboretum following an engagement at Dow Gardens in Midland, Michigan.

“Every year, our visitors are enamored by frogs at the Arboretum—from the tadpoles in our Children’s Garden to the musical croaking of the chorus frogs and spring peepers that can be heard throughout the Arboretum during the spring months—so we think Ribbit! The Exhibit will be a great addition to our spring and summer schedule,” said Anamari Dorgan, director of education at the Arboretum. “In addition to entertaining our visitors, Ribbit! The Exhibit offers a chance to learn about the relationship between frogs and the trees that live all around us.”

Ribbit! The Exhibit will be on display during Arboretum hours and is free with Arboretum admission. For more information, visit mortonarb.org.

Creating the Frogs

The 23 frog sculptures in Ribbit! The Exhibit are hand drawn, cut from sheets of copper, and hammered and folded into the desired shape, much like origami. The pieces are then assembled with a brazing process of solid copper, usually around a steel armature to give the sculpture the strength to last for many generations. Lastly, they’re finished, either from a chemically-forced patina or a colorful pattern coaxed from the metal using the heat.

About the Artist

Wilmington, N.C.-based sculptor J.A. Cobb's unique copper art has attracted crowds at public gardens around the country. He is particularly renowned for his large-scale, fanciful frog sculptures which are displayed in creative ways, both indoors and outdoors. He also produces exquisite copper sculptures of birds, fishes and other animals with an uncommon level of skill and artistry. What started as a hobby now keeps Cobb hopping to keep up with demand. Cobb is now often referred to as the "Frog Man" due to the hundreds of whimsical frog sculptures he has built.

About The Morton Arboretum

The Morton Arboretum is an internationally recognized outdoor tree museum and tree research center located in Lisle, Illinois. As the champion of trees, the Arboretum is committed to scientifically-informed action, both locally and globally, and encouraging the planting and conservation of trees for a greener, healthier, more beautiful world. On 1,700 acres are 220,000 plant specimens representing 4,100 different kinds of plants, along with specialty gardens, educational exhibits, the award-winning Children's Garden, 16 miles of hiking trails and the Visitor Center, featuring The Arboretum Store and the Gingko Restaurant and Café. The Morton Arboretum is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization, welcoming more than 1 million visitors and serving 42,890 member households in 2015. Learn more at mortonarb.org.

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