

The Flamingo Gardens held a “Big Bugs Exhibit” from May 29-September 6, 2021. The artist was David Rogers (David Harry Grodzinsky-Rogers) from Long Island, NY. A self-taught artist who worked as a sailboat and cabinet maker.

As he developed an interest in various wood saplings in 1991, he conceived the idea and designs for his Big Bugs. His shows continue to move throughout the United States. His bugs, as you will see below, are truly big. On his web site it states, “The One, The Only, The Original traveling garden exhibit. Creating swarms of new visitors for greater than 25 years...” It was an impressive exhibit.



(David Rogers, American, B.1960)

DIMENSIONS: Spider: 3' L x 4' W x 1' H
Web: 12' x 12'

WEIGHT: Spider: 60 lbs
Web: 75 lbs

MATERIALS: Spider: Carved Red Cedar
Web: Willow on Armature

Spiders are usually associated with being an insect, but they are not actually an insect. Spiders belong to the class of invertebrates called Arachnida.

DIMENSIONS: 25' L x 12' W x 10' H (each ant)

WEIGHT: 725 lbs (each ant)

MATERIALS: Body: Bent Willow on Armature
Eyes: Carved Red Cedar

Ants can be found just about anywhere- in forests, fields, deserts, and cities. Their success can be attributed to being social insects, living and working together in highly organized societies



(David Rogers, American. B.1960)

DIMENSIONS: 7' L x 7' W x 3.5' H

WEIGHT: 150 lbs

MATERIALS: Body and Legs: Carved Black Walnut
Eyes and Proboscis: Carved Red Cedar

There are several species of assassin bugs ranging in size from 1/2 inch to 1 1/2 inches long. One of the most common found in Florida is the milkweed assassin bug, aka long-legged assassin bug.



(David Rogers, American. B.1960)

DIMENSIONS: 7' L x 7' W x 3' H

WEIGHT: 150 lbs

MATERIALS: Body: Bent Willow on Armature
Head, Legs, and Spots: Black Walnut

Lady bugs, aka lady beetles, are not actually a true bug, but instead belong to a family of beetles called Coccinellidae, with about 98 species of lady bugs in Florida.



DIMENSIONS: 10' L x 3' W x 12' H

WEIGHT: 100 lbs

MATERIALS: Body: Carved Red Cedar
Wings: Willow on Armature
Perch: Black Locust


Damselflies belong to the order Odonata, which also includes dragonflies. Damselflies closely resemble dragonflies but tend to be the daintier and more morphologically diverse of the two. Damselflies' forewings and hindwings are close to the same shape and they hold their wings together and upright when they are at rest. The eyes of a damselfly are round and protrude on either side of the head. Damselflies will lay their eggs in aquatic plants for protection. Damselflies eat a variety of flying insects.






DIMENSIONS: 17' L x 17' W x 10' H
WEIGHT: 600 lbs
MATERIALS: Body: Willow on Armature
 Legs and Eyes: Red Cedar

Daddy Long Legs Spiders, aka cellar spiders or Pholcid spiders, are commonly found in the corners of households waiting upon prey to become ensnared in their messy looking webs. Pholcid spiders will eat a variety of prey such as flies, bees, wasps and even other Pholcids. These spiders are also the natural enemy of the larger spiders found in homes.




DIMENSIONS: 18' L x 20' W
WEIGHT: 1200 lbs
MATERIALS: Carved Black Locust

Praying mantis are one of the most easily recognized insect. These ambush predators are masters of stealth, patience, and camouflage. Combined with their speed, strong forelimbs, beak made for slicing and tearing, and powerful jaws, mantids are a force to be reckoned with. Despite their vicious nature, mantids are beneficial to gardeners for controlling pests.




Flamingo Gardens 3750 South Flamingo Road Davie, FL 33330-1614 (954) 473-2955

Sources: <https://www.flamingogardens.org/>, and <https://www.big-bugs.com/>.

Other topics about the Flamingo Gardens: Flamingo Gardens, The Gardens Revisited, The Wray Home, Tram Tour, and Flora and Fauna. Go to acuri.net: USA – Florida – Flamingo Gardens.

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Flamingo Gardens Big Bugs