

# Greater Akron Audubon Society

## Oct. 2, 2005 - Cynthia Druckenbrode, Conservatory Manager at Cleveland Botanical Gardens - Praying Mantis

As Glasshouse Manager, Cynthia Druckenbrod is responsible for overseeing all of the plants and animals in The Eleanor Armstrong Smith Glasshouse. Druckenbrod has determined the selection of plants and animals for the Glasshouse and has worked with partners in the United States and Costa Rica to attain the plants. She oversaw the critical handling, shipping and quarantine of the plants and animals throughout the process. Druckenbrod joined Cleveland Botanical Garden in January 2000 after serving as the director of the Day Butterfly Center at Callaway Gardens in Atlanta, Georgia. Her experience there included managing the plant and animal collections within a tropical conservatory as well as formulation and implementation of conservatory and exterior landscape design. Prior to working at Callaway Gardens, Druckenbrod worked at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo as an entomologist and managed the daily operations of the tropical Butterfly Garden. After growing up near Cleveland, Druckenbrod attended Case Western Reserve University, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Biology. She later attended Auburn University in Alabama and received a Master of Science in Entomology. Druckenbrod is an internationally recognized expert on the praying mantis and received the J. Paul Vissher Memorial Award of the Cleveland Audubon Society for Outstanding Ability and Promise in the Field of Conservation in 1992.

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