



International Magnolia Festival

*Science and awareness in action
to prevent extinction*

**Santa Rosa de Cabal, Risaralda,
Colombia**

May 24–29, 2026

FIRST CIRCULAR



Festival
Internacional
de Magnolias

FLAGSHIP SPECIES

Magnolia wolfii (Lozano) Govaerts



Introduction

Magnoliaceae is a family of trees and shrubs that is a top priority for global conservation. With 42 described species, Colombia holds the highest diversity of magnolias in the Neotropics. However, this is a race against time: nearly all Colombian magnolia species are currently threatened with extinction due to habitat loss and climate change.

To face these challenges, it is vital to join forces and share best practices. The International Magnolia Festival aims to raise awareness—both nationally and globally—about the conservation status

of Magnolias in Colombia, with a special focus on the Risaralda department.

This initiative stems from a conservation project led by the Tecnológico de Antioquia-University Institution. This project has left a lasting legacy: a dedicated group of researchers and environmental leaders that created the Foundation for the Conservation of Endangered Species. Their first major mission is hosting this festival in its regional home: Santa Rosa de Cabal. The festival integrates the vision and leadership of local partners, including

Badillo Tourism, Artelares, the Mayor's Office, and the Regional Autonomous Corporation (CARDER), all working toward one goal: reducing the threat level for these iconic species.

We are proposing three pillars.

Academic and scientific (Knowledge)

A specialized symposium will explore public policies for protecting endangered species in Colombia. Key topics include:

- National and international conservation strategies.
- Magnolia diversity across different Colombian geographies.
- Applied research for threatened species.
- The role of academia and botanical gardens.
- Community-led conservation success stories.

Outreach & Culture (Awareness)

We want the public to fall in love with magnolias through art and education. The festival includes a program to explore the variety of magnolias in the región.

- Media & Formats: Spreading information across multiple communication channels.

- Photography Contest: Showcasing the beauty of Colombia's magnolias.
- Art & Craft: Permanent stands for magnolia-themed crafts and workshops for children.
- Public Art: Murals dedicated to *Magnolia wolfii*, *M. hernandezii*, and *M. gilbertoi*.
- Workshops: Hands-on training in magnolia identification and propagation.

Ecotourism (Experience)

Santa Rosa de Cabal offers a breathtaking backdrop for conservation. The festival's circuits include:

- Unique Ecosystems: Exploring snow-capped mountains, thermal springs, and natural parks.
- Biocultural Interests: Merging local gastronomy with environmental education.
- Pre-Festival Excursions: Guided tours and cultural experiences within local communities.



Special guests



We are honored to be joined by Jan Wolf, the discoverer of the species *Magnolia wolfii*, as well as distinguished members of Magnolia Society International.



We will also be accompanied by Marcela Serna, a prominent Colombian botanist and leading national expert on the Magnoliaceae family

Strategic Ecosystems: The Heart of Magnolias in the Coffee Region

The Andean and sub-Andean ecosystems of the Colombian Coffee Region are the sanctuary for endangered *Magnolia* species. These lush, mountainous environments provide the specific humidity and conditions necessary for their survival.





Photo courtesy of Colombiatours.travel

Stretching across the Andean slopes, these ecosystems are shaped by the snow-capped peaks and thermal springs of Los Nevados National Natural Park in the Central Range, the exuberant biodiversity of Tatamá National Natural Park in the Western Range, and the warm dry forests of the Cauca River Valley.



Magnolia hernandezii and *Magnolia gilbertoi* forest remnants

The vegetation in this region is remarkably diverse, featuring shrubs and trees reaching up to 30 meters in height. Their trunks and branches are draped in epiphytes and vines, emerging from a landscape defined by persistent mist and crystalline rivers.



Event Schedule

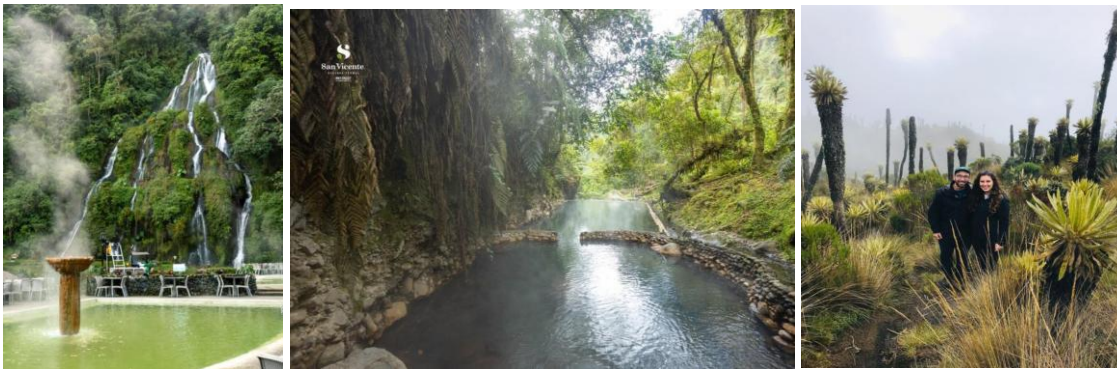
May 23 – 25 (Saturday to Monday): Optional Pre-Event Activities hosted by Badillo Tourism Agency (e.g., Los Nevados Nation Park, Santa Rosa Thermal Springs, San Vicente Ecotermas).

May 26 (Tuesday): Symposium (8:30 AM – 4:00 PM) and visit to Artelares to observe the *Magnolia wolfii* tree and traveling exhibition.

May 27 (Wednesday): Marsella Botanical Garden, House of Culture, and local community experiences (Parador Don Mario and La Nona)

May 28 (Thursday): Pereira Botanical Garden: Guided tour and exploration.

May 29 (Friday): Closing Ceremony: Cultural activities, book auction, awards ceremony, and official closing.



Call for Abstracts

We invite the community at large to share the progress and results of their research or community-led processes related to the study and conservation of magnolias

- Deadline: April 6, 2026.
- Submission Email: festival.magnolias@gmail.com.
- Subject Line: "Abstract – Festival Symposium"

Submission Guidelines

- Title: Maximum 20 words, sentence case (do not use all caps).



- Authorship: Full names of all authors, separated by semicolons.
- Affiliation: Institutions should be numbered consecutively. Assign the corresponding number(s) to each author as a superscript based on their affiliation.
- Email: Include the email address of the corresponding author.
- Abstract: Maximum of 300 words. It must be written as a single paragraph without subheadings. It should include the introduction, objective, methodology, main results, discussion, and conclusions.
- Keywords: Three to five terms, listed in alphabetical order and separated by a comma and space.

Please note: Submitting an abstract does not guarantee participation. Acceptance is subject to a review process by the Evaluation Committee.

Organized by:



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