



# FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — March 30, 2009** — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of nation's most comprehensive sculpture and botanic experience, is delighted to present its 2009 calendar of events. Incorporating Meijer Gardens' core mission of exploring the duality of art and nature, the year features world-renowned sculpture exhibition and exciting horticulture shows along with returning visitor favorites and educational programming.

### Sculpture Exhibitions

#### **Jonathan Borofsky**

*January 30 – May 10, 2009*

American sculptor Jonathan Borofsky is among the most significant artists of his generation and widely admired for his public commissions across the globe. His exhibition at Meijer Gardens presents an extraordinary opportunity to view his latest work, *Human Structures & The Light of Consciousness*, designed specifically for Meijer Gardens' galleries. Guests can walk around the large structural sculpture made of hundreds of brightly colored male and female figures. *Human Structures & The Light of Consciousness* as well as maquettes and prints related to the work will be on display.

#### **Alexander Calder: 1969 – The Fortieth Anniversary of *La Grande Vitesse***

*June 5 – September 7, 2009*

Alexander Calder (1898-1976), the pre-eminent sculptor of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, profoundly changed the course of modern sculpture and notions of public art. *La Grande Vitesse* in downtown Grand Rapids dates to 1969 and is among his masterworks. The colossus was America's first public sculpture project funded by the National Endowment of the Works of Arts in Public Places program. The exclusive exhibition, organized in collaboration with the Calder Foundation, focuses specifically on work from 1969, an incredibly prolific year for the artist. Works related to *La Grande Vitesse*, such as the artist's rarely-seen large-scale maquette on exclusive loan from The Calder Foundation and original drawings of the colossus will be on display. Mobiles, stabiles, ceramics, and prints will also be featured.

### Seasonal Exhibitions and Events

#### **Destination: Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**

*April 23, 2009*

*6-8 PM*

Experience the tropics and food from around the world with members of The Connection and other young professionals from West Michigan at "Destination: Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park." This private reception offers all the amenities of a worldly vacation. The humid, 80-degree tropical conservatory is filled with hundreds of tropical butterflies. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine and tropical-themed drinks and then join in a scavenger hunt around the world. The event is free for members of The Connection and \$15 for non-members. RSVP is requested. For more information contact Heather at 616-974-5222, [hmack@meijergardens.org](mailto:hmack@meijergardens.org).

### **Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming**

*March 1 – April 30, 2009*

A visitor favorite, Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming features hundreds of butterflies from tropical regions flying freely in the 5-story Tropical Conservatory. The 80-degree conservatory makes for a warm, winter escape in West Michigan with brightly colored butterflies to brighten up the gloomy winter. This is the largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibition in the nation with over 40 different species of butterflies and moths.

### **Great Gardens Party**

*May 6, 2009*

*6 – 9 PM*

The annual Great Gardens Party has bloomed into an elegant evening cocktail party with delicious food and drink, entertainment and a fun atmosphere. Live and silent auctions feature artwork, one-of-a-kind items for your home, rare plants for your garden, and unique experiences to share with your friends and family, including a private dinner party and beachfront get-away. As a bonus, Meijer Gardens' horticulture experts will be on hand to answer any questions about caring for the plants. Tickets begin at \$100 per person, or \$1,500 for a table of ten. All proceeds benefit Meijer Gardens. To RSVP, please call 616-975-3143.

### **Lena Meijer Children's Garden 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Meijer Gardens**

*June 20, 2009*

*1 – 4 PM*

Come celebrate the Lena Meijer Children's Garden's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday at Meijer Gardens. Birthday festivities begin at 1 PM. Acrobatic demonstrations, juggling, birthday hat-making, games, face painting, and a treasure hunt are all part of the fun. And don't forget desert! Other birthday activities will last all summer long starting June 8 and ended August 30.

### **Summer Concert Series**

*June – September, 2009*

Eclectic selections of world-renowned musicians headline the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Concert Series at the Meijer Gardens Amphitheater. The intimate 1750-seat lawn setting is a great place to enjoy a picnic and great music in the summer weather. Past performers include Lyle Lovett, The Doobie Brothers, B.B. King, Willie Nelson, the Indigo Girls, and many more. August begins the Tuesday Evening Music Club –in addition to the Summer Concert Series – a series featuring West Michigan's finest performers. The lineup will be announced in spring 2009.

### **ColorFall**

*September 19 – October 31, 2009*

This annual celebration of the autumn season features an extensive chrysanthemum display with hundreds of flowering plants in both interior and exterior areas. Indoor highlights include varieties on display along the winding Scenic Corridor and the Seasonal Display Greenhouse, while outdoor plantings are featured in the English Perennial Garden, Michigan's Farm Garden and Volunteer Tribute Garden. Color tours, tram rides and seasonal children's activities offer a unique way to experience autumn.

### **Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World**

*November 18 – January 3, 2010*

*Lighting Ceremony – November 17, 2009*

Experience the most magical time of year as Meijer Gardens transforms into a world of winter magic with the glow of 300,000 lights, more than 40 captivating international trees and displays, strolling carolers, horse-drawn carriage rides and more surprises than can fit under the tree. The *Gardens Holiday Express* train exhibit, a holiday favorite designed by railway garden designer Paul Busse, winds its way through three separate indoor gardens.

### Education

#### **Earth Day Celebration**

*April 18 -19, 1-4 PM*

Celebrate Earth Day with Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in the Children's Garden with earth-friendly activities! Learn how worms do their part to recycle and then join in a fun worm hunt. Recycle newspaper into a pot, then plant a seed and watch it grow into a butterfly-attracting plant. Play our recycle relay

and discover what items are recyclable. Add to our weaving project and compare it to birds' nests woven from reused materials.

### **Secchia Lecture**

#### ***"Beautiful Organic Gardens – Good for the soil, good for the soul"***

*April 29, 7 PM*

Horticulture expert David Howard will share insight on maintaining a productive, yet environmentally-friendly organic garden. Made possible by Peter and Joan Secchia, this lecture will explore practices such as composting and dealing with pests for any type of garden, size or budget. Howard is the former Head Gardener at Highgrove House, the private estate of Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla, and is an expert on organic and sustainable horticulture. The lecture is free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

**Other classes are available at <http://meijergardens.org/education>**

### Horticulture Events

#### **Michigan All-State Bonsai Show, May 16 – 17**

*Vendors 9 am–5 pm Saturday; 12–5 pm Sunday; Displays 12–5 pm Saturday and Sunday*

Come see a variety of bonsai, from some of the finest in the state to younger trees in earlier stages of training. Throughout the weekend bonsai artists will demonstrate how to prune, wire and repot a tree so it resembles a very old tree growing in nature. Discover "viewing stones" or suiseki—rocks that suggest mountains, islands or caves—and cast a vote for your favorite bonsai for the "People's Choice Award." A large selection of bonsai trees and supplies will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

#### **Iris Show, May 30 – 31**

*12–5 pm both days*

Presented by the Iris Club of West Michigan, this year's show features hundreds of specimen iris blooms displayed in vases and arrangements. Discover a wide range of colors and forms, including the large and showy tall bearded, Siberian and species irises. Members from the Iris Club of West Michigan will be available to answer all of your questions about growing irises. Admission is free.

#### **Spring Rose Show, June 20 – 21**

*Saturday, 1–5 pm; Sunday, 12–5 pm*

Enjoy hundreds of specimen rose blooms, including miniatures, hybrid teas, old garden roses and floribundas. Vote for the most fragrant rose and find fresh ideas on how to use roses in arrangements. Beginners are welcome to enter flowers in the "Novice Class."

If it's advice you're seeking, Grand Valley Rose Society members will be on hand to answer your questions and provide tips. Admission is free.

#### **Daylily Show, July 18**

*9 am–5 pm*

Like a daylily, this show lasts for just one day! Grand Valley Daylily Society displays hundreds of specimen blooms; miniatures, spider forms as well as some of the newest varieties. Vote for your favorite new daylily and have your questions answered by the experts. Free lectures on growing daylilies are offered at 11 am and 2 pm. Admission is free.

#### **Standard Flower Show, July 17 – 19**

*Friday 1–5 pm, Saturday 9 am–5 pm, Sunday 12–5 pm*

Kent Garden Club members showcase their talents and "green thumbs" at this judged flower show featuring innovative, inspiring and fun floral arrangements; unique table settings; specimen flowers and foliage. Admission is free.

#### **Midwest Dahlia Show, August 29 – 30**

*Saturday 9 am–5 pm, Sunday 12–5 pm*

From dinner plate-sized blooms to tiny button forms, be amazed by the huge range of colors, types and sizes of dahlia flowers. Join the Grand Valley Dahlia Society for a "Show Highlights" tour at 2 pm each day and discover some of the most unique, unusual, and impressive flowers in the show. Learn what the judges look

for when awarding ribbons. Grand Valley Dahlia Society members will be on hand to answer all of your dahlia growing questions. Admission is free.

**Fall Rose Show, September 5 – 6**

*Saturday 1–5 pm, Sunday 12–5 pm*

Hosted by the Grand Valley Rose Society, this show features some of the finest fall roses. Vote for the most fragrant rose and see hundreds of specimen blooms along with rose flower arrangements. Rose Society members are eager to answer any questions about growing roses. Admission is free.

**Fall Family Day & Herb Festival, October 3 – 4**

*Saturday, 10 am–4:30 pm, Sunday, 12–4:30 pm*

Join us for fun and engaging family activities as we celebrate fall and the many uses for herbs. Members of the Midwest Michigan Herb Association provide an assortment of herb products to taste, conduct on-going demonstrations, and answer your questions about growing and preserving herbs. Local vendors provide unique and home-grown herb-related items for sale in our barn. Kid's art activities are available in the Children's Garden. Included with price of admission.

**Fall Bonsai Show, October 17 – 18**

*Saturday, 9 am–5 pm, Sunday, 12–5 pm*

West Michigan Bonsai Club will display a variety of bonsai, from well established older specimens to recently trained younger trees. Local vendors will be on hand, offering a variety of hard-to-find tools, supplies, books and plants. Admission is free.

Please Note

All exhibition dates and titles are subject to change. To confirm information, or to obtain additional information and images, contact Amy Sawade at 616-975-3155, or [asawade@meijergardens.org](mailto:asawade@meijergardens.org). Exhibitions are free with admission to Meijer Gardens. Hours are Sunday, 12:00 PM–5:00 PM; Monday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; Tuesday 9:00 AM-9:00 PM; Wednesday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; unless otherwise noted.

**About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**

One of the nation's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park serves more than a half-million visitors annually. The 132-acre grounds feature Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children's gardens in the country; arid and Victorian gardens; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; and a 1750-seat outdoor amphitheater, featuring an eclectic mix of world-renowned musicians every summer. The internationally acclaimed Sculpture Park features a permanent collection including works by Rodin, Oldenburg, Moore, Bourgeois and Plensa among others. Indoor galleries host changing sculpture exhibitions with recent exhibitions by Picasso, Degas, di Suvero and Chihuly. For additional information, please visit [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org).

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