



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEIJER GARDENS CELEBRATES AUTUMN COLORS WITH FOURTH ANNUAL COLORFALL EXHIBITION

September 18 through October 31, 2009

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — September 14, 2009 — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of world's most comprehensive sculpture and botanic experience, celebrates autumn during the fourth annual ColorFall exhibition. Beginning September 18 through the end of October, indoor and outdoor activities, color tours and an extensive chrysanthemum display will highlight the changing of the seasons.

Fall is the most colorful season of the year as it features constantly changing hues of scarlet, auburn, yellow and gold. The many colors of nature can be found along the walking trails of Meijer Gardens and at Michigan's Farm Garden where heirloom vegetables, herbs, maize, gourds and giant pumpkins can be found.

Experience Nature

A highlight of the ColorFall exhibition is the extensive chrysanthemum displays both indoors and outdoors. Thousands of flowering mums make it the largest display in Michigan. This year there are unusual chrysanthemum varieties such as LaPorte with its bi-colored, spoon shaped petals, and Casper, which has sophisticated white quills.

Guided tours for both children and adults will take place. "Tree-mendous Kids' Tram Tours" will be held on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 2:30 PM. The engaging tram explores Michigan trees in the Sculpture Park and The Groves. Kids will learn which trees are used to make baseball bats, musical instruments and Popsicle sticks. Through a mini science experiment, kids will learn why leaves change colors. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children.

For the adults, "More Than Just A Pretty Leaf" is a guided tour occurring on weekdays at 11 AM and 2 PM and on weekends at 2 PM. A narrated tour through the English Perennial and Bulb Garden explores brightly colored bark, dye made from flowers, hued fruit, late-blooming goldenrods, asters and pansies, among many other plants. Free with paid admission.

Harvest Demonstrations

Floral arranging demonstrations with Meijer Gardens' Horticulturist Rose Allerdin will occur on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, October 25 at 2-3 PM. Allerdin will share tips and creative ideas for fall flower arranging and demonstrate how anyone can arrange a beautiful fall bouquet.

Chef Cheryl Powell will give cooking demonstrations on Saturday, October 10 at 2-3 PM. Powell will create a Michigan "Golden Delicious" apple strudel with brown sugar brandy glaze.

Artist Fred Osborn will turn an ordinary pumpkin into a sculpted work of art during the Saturday, October 24 pumpkin carving demonstration at 2-3 PM.

All demonstrations are free with paid admission.

Weekend Activities

Fall Family Days and Herb Fest on October 3 and 4 will highlight fragrant and culinary herbs, fascinating gourds and fun family activities at Michigan's Farm Garden. Visitors can taste test herb-seasoned foods like butter, popcorn, water, syrups and honey then make tea bags filled with dried herbs. Demonstrations will include how to make an herbal spa, herbal sweets and green cleaning products. Visitors can carve gourds into birdhouses then shop for locally grown products including goats' milk, soap, teas, herbal sugars and jellies. Other family activities will be taking place in the Children's Garden. Free with paid admission.

Giant pumpkins weighing hundreds of pounds will be on display at Michigan's Farm Garden during the Prodigious Pumpkins weekend on October 17 and 18. These giants will amaze kids and adults alike. Search the farm for fun pumpkin facts. Free with paid admission.

The annual Fall Bonsai Show will also occur on October 17 and 18. The West Michigan Bonsai Club will display a variety of bonsai, from trees in the early stages of training to older established specimens. Local vendors will be selling hard-to-find tools, containers, books and plants. Club members will be available to answer bonsai questions. Admission to the show is free.

Kids-Only Fun

The Children's Garden will host a variety of colorful art and nature activities. Times and activities vary and are posted at the Children's Garden information center.

Hallowee-Ones on Friday, October 30 features a costume parade in the Children's Garden. Between 10 AM and 1 PM, kids can show off their unique costumes, listen to Halloween-themed stories, make masks and celebrate Halloween without tricks or treats – just fun!

All activities in the Children's Garden are free with paid admission.

Flavor Harvest Dishes

The Taste of the Gardens Café will feature special Tuesday evening dinners with the fresh tastes of the season. Guests can enjoy the following harvest dishes then explore Meijer Gardens until 9 PM.

September 15

Wild mushroom and goat cheese strudel served with heirloom tomato and asparagus salad with our house-roasted vinaigrette

September 22

Curried center cut pork loin chop served with roasted garlic smashed redskin potatoes, seasonal vegetable and fresh baked roll

September 29

Homemade beef burgundy stew presented with a puff pastry crown, house salad and fresh baked roll

October 6

Fennel stuffed center-cut pork loin chop draped with red wine marinara sauce, served with roasted redskin potatoes, garden salad and fresh baked roll

October 13

Harvest Chicken: Chicken breast stuffed with apricots, apples, raisins and brie, served with whipped potatoes, seasonal vegetable and fresh baked roll

October 20

Madeira braised beef short ribs with fresh thyme and rich mushroom gravy, served with whipped potatoes, harvest vegetable and fresh baked roll

October 27

Chicken Provençal: sautéed chicken breast with white wine, garlic, harvest tomatoes and kalamata olives, garnished with a chiffonade of fresh garden basil

About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

One of the world'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.

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