



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Amy Sawade | Public Relations Specialist | 616-975-3155 | asawade@meijergardens.org

POPULAR “BUTTERFLIES ARE BLOOMING” EXHIBITION FEATURES ENTIRE BUTTERFLY LIFECYCLE

Thousands of tropical butterflies will fly freely in Meijer Gardens' Tropical Conservatory during March and April. The popular exhibition will feature a new display of native Michigan butterflies in every lifecycle stage. “Butterflies Are Blooming” will be open March 1 through April 30, 2011.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — February 9, 2011 — Every spring, thousands of tropical butterflies emerge and fly freely in the five-story Tropical Conservatory at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. The 16th annual ***Butterflies Are Blooming*** is open to the public March 1 through April 30, with a new addition this year. For the first time, the exhibition will show the entire lifecycle of these fascinating creatures.

The Tropical Conservatory will again host more than 40 different species of tropical butterflies including long-time favorites such as the Blue Morpho, Tree Nymph and Leopard Lacewing. In the Seasonal Display Greenhouse, the new display will feature native Michigan species, such as Monarchs and Swallowtails, in every phase of metamorphosis.

“Our visitors have always been interested in the entire butterfly lifecycle and now they’ll be able to see it happening right in front of their eyes,” said Steve LaWarre, Director of Horticulture. “The exhibition will show butterfly eggs on host plants, larvae hatching from those eggs and eating their way to full caterpillar status then shedding their skin and pupating – forming the chrysalis from which the butterfly emerges.”

More than 800 chrysalides arrive weekly from Asia, Africa, South America and Central America. Visitors can watch as delicate chrysalides and cocoons are placed in the Butterfly Bungalow, where the adult butterflies emerge and spread their wings for the first time. Throughout the two-month exhibition, more than 6,000 butterflies can be viewed drinking nectar from flowering plants and feeding stations, congregating among stream beds and fluttering through the 15,000 square foot garden.

The lush foliage and humid, 80-degree environment is a unique tropical getaway right in West Michigan. Guests can also view ***Jim Dine: Sculpture***, an exclusive sculpture retrospective tracing the three-dimensional efforts of an important Pop Art master. The exhibition traces more than five decades of work, representing the artist’s major themes such as the Venus figure, hearts, tools and his most recent exploration of the Pinocchio theme.

This exhibition is sponsored by The Daniel and Pamella DeVos Foundation, DTE Energy Foundation, The Meijer Foundation and the Botanic and Sculpture Societies of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. This year’s media sponsors are Channel 95.7 FM and The River 100.5 FM.

Exhibition Activities

- **Hands-on fun for kids of all ages** – Activities include butterfly crafts, puzzles, games and interactive learning. Activities are located in the Lena Meijer Children’s Garden during daytime hours; free with paid admission.
- **Tuesday Night Lights** – Bring your flashlights on Tuesday nights until 9 PM and discover the nightlife in the tropical conservatory.

Admission and Hours

Adults: \$12, Seniors (65+): \$9, Students: \$9, Children (5-13): \$6, Children (3-4): \$4, Children (2 and under): free.

Special exhibition hours: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday: 9 AM – 5 PM; Tuesday: 9 AM – 9 PM.

#

Images available upon request. [View thumbnails](#)

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. Meijer Gardens was recently ranked in the top 100 most-visited art museums worldwide by *Art Newspaper*, the leading publication in global art news. The 132-acre grounds feature Michigan’s largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children’s gardens in the country; arid and Victorian gardens with bronze sculptures by Degas and Rodin; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; and a 1900-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, Borofsky, Calder and Chadwick.

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)