



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEIJER GARDENS' 27th ANNUAL BUTTERFLY EXHIBITION EXPLORES THE POWER OF FLOWERS

Enjoy thousands of butterflies as they fly freely in the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory and learn about the positive and powerful impact flowers have on the world.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – February 3, 2022 – Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park's annual *Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies Are Blooming* exhibition will bring more than 7,000 tropical butterflies to West Michigan, beginning March 1. The highly anticipated exhibition is the largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibition in the nation.

This year's exhibition highlights the power of flowers and the positive and powerful impact flowers have on butterflies, people, and the world. New this year within the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory is a beautiful kokedama arch, highlighting colorful penta, lantana, bromeliads and orchids while creating an oasis for butterflies. Kokedama is a moss-covered ball of soil on which ornamental plants grow. An additional flowering kokedama curtain is planned for the Caterpillar Room within the Grace Jarecki Seasonal Display Greenhouse, featuring a mix of flowering and herbaceous material. Fresh flowers welcome guests throughout their visit, beginning in the new Welcome Center and continuing throughout the Gardens and Sculpture Park as the weather warms.

Approximately 60 colorful species of butterflies and moths journey from butterfly-rich regions of Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Philippines and Kenya to fly freely in the five-story tall, 15,000 square-foot Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory. At 85 degrees and 70 percent humidity, this balmy environment mimics the tropical regions the butterflies call home. Butterflies visit clusters of brightly colored flowers, including pentas and lantana, that provide landing platforms for guests to view up close. Plants flowering during the exhibition include orange plume flower, blue porterweed, and jatropha, as well as queen's wreath and bleeding heart vines.

Species of butterflies expected to arrive include the blue common morpho, whose iridescence impresses in flight, as well as brushfoot varieties such as the clearwing, lacewing and zebra mosaic. Likewise, the longwings

captivate with distinctive wing patterns as seen on the small blue Grecian, doris, postman and tiger butterflies. Gliders like the emperor, ruby-spotted and orchard swallowtails will also add to the diverse assortment.

“We’re highlighting the power of flowers this year more than ever,” said Steve LaWarre, Vice President of Horticulture. “Our goal is to bring an awareness of the important relationships butterflies and humans have with flowers, and to show the positive and powerful impact flowers have on butterflies, people, and the world.”

An average of 1,000 pupae arrive at Meijer Gardens weekly, from around the world. Guests can watch as delicate chrysalides and cocoons are placed in the Observation Station, where these unique and fascinating creatures then transform and spread their wings for the first time.

The Caterpillar Room, in the Grace Jarecki Seasonal Display Greenhouse, features monarch caterpillars. Here guests will have the opportunity to observe how flowers play a role in the lifecycle of butterflies. Caterpillars hungrily feed on milkweed host plants mixed in with the flowering spring plantings and ferns that encompass the perimeter of the Seasonal Display Greenhouse.

Exhibition rules:

Please don’t touch the butterflies.

During the butterfly exhibition, tripods are not allowed in the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory. Monopods may be used, but please be courteous to other guests.

No butterfly or plant materials may leave the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, per USDA regulations.

Extended Hours & Exhibition Activities: More information at [MeijerGardens.org/calendar](https://www.meijergardens.org/calendar)

- *Who Am I? A Butterfly Ballet*

February 19 (10 am & 12:30 pm)

February 20 (12 & 2:30 pm)

Huizenga Grand Room

Tickets required: [MeijerGardens.org/calendar](https://www.meijergardens.org/calendar)

Told through the eyes of a newly emerged butterfly, the story will captivate young and old alike. With colorful costumes, spectacular music, and exquisite choreography, this enchanting performance will provide a unique and memorable experience. *Who Am I? A Butterfly Ballet* is choreographed by Attila Mosolygo and performed by members of the Grand Rapids Ballet Junior Company. Sponsored in part by Jesse & Gia Budrick and Karl & Patti Betz. *Please note: Masks are required for all attendees during these*

performances.

- **Extended Spring Break Hours:** Open until 9 pm on April 1 and April 4–8.
- **Outdoor Children's Activities**
Monday, March 1–Friday, April 30, daylight hours only
Lena Meijer Children's Garden
Included with admission
Once you have observed caterpillars in the Seasonal Display Greenhouse and butterflies in the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, come out to the Children's Garden for engaging outdoor educational events. Fly like a butterfly, wrap up like a chrysalis, curl up like a caterpillar, or crawl out of an egg using your imagination. Perform your own butterfly-themed puppet show or read about moths and butterflies in the Log Cabin. Search for butterfly and moth life cycle stages in a special Treehouse Village hunt. Ring the bell after successfully navigating the Butterfly Maze. Become a butterfly in the Monarch's Migration game. Enjoy a springtime puppet show or story time. There is something for all ages! Check the Children's Garden Information Center for activities and times, which vary daily.
- **Tuesday Night Lights**
Included with admission
Bring your flashlight on Tuesday nights until 9 pm to search for butterflies and see the nightlife in the Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory.
- **SMART Gardening to Support Monarchs (Lecture)**
Sunday, March 13, 2–3:30 pm
Included with admission
Erwin "Duke" Elsner, Extension Educator, Michigan State University
- **Flower House Detroit (Lecture)**
Sunday, March 27, 2 pm
Included with admission
Lisa Waud, Botanical Artist, Flower House Detroit

- Flower Power Exploration Stations
Sunday, April 24, 2–3:30 pm
Included with admission

The exhibition is made possible by the DTE Energy Foundation; the Howard Miller Company; the Meijer Foundation; Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation; Botanic and Sculpture Societies of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Media sponsors are Star 105.7 FM and Blue Lake Public Radio.

High-resolution images available for [download here](#).

Volunteers:

Wanted. Needed. Appreciated. Various jobs and shifts. Contact Valerie Maciejewski at 616-974-5221 or vmaciejewski@meijergardens.org.

Membership:

Members of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park enjoy unique members-only events and exhibition openings, valuable discounts, and reciprocal benefits to more than 300 other gardens nationwide. Exclusively for members, Meijer Gardens is open early the first full weekend of each month on Saturdays from 8 am–9 am and Sundays from 9 am–11 am.

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About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the world's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, was recently listed in the top 100 most visited museums in the world and the 30 most visited museums in the United States by *The Art Newspaper*, the leading global art news publication. Education programs welcome 80,000 students and guests each year. Culinary Arts & Events offerings include weddings, corporate meetings and award-winning catering. The 158-acre main campus features Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the country's largest interactive children's gardens; arid and Victorian gardens with bronze sculptures by Edgar Degas and Auguste Rodin; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens, including a replica 1930s-era farm garden; an eight-acre Japanese garden featuring contemporary sculpture; and a 1,900-seat outdoor Amphitheater Garden, showcasing an eclectic mix of world-renowned touring musicians each summer. The permanent collection highlights hundreds of sculptures from internationally acclaimed artists Magdalena Abakanowicz, El Anatsui, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Mark di Suvero, Marshall Fredericks, Henry Moore, Michele Oka Donor, Beverly Pepper, Jaume Plensa, Auguste Rodin, Richard Serra, Yinka Shonibare CBE and Ai

Weiwei, among others. Indoor galleries with changing sculpture exhibitions have hosted shows by Jonathan Borofsky, Edgar Degas, Jim Dine, Laura Ford, Richard Hunt, Rebecca Louise Law, Pablo Picasso, George Segal and others.

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of gardens, sculpture, the natural environment, and the arts.

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