



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUTTERFLIES BLOOM AT FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming: March 1 – April 30, 2009
The Nation's Largest Temporary Tropical Butterfly Exhibition

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — February 2, 2009 — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the nation's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, offers a warm and colorful getaway during the 14th annual *Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming* – the largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibition in the United States. More than 40 species of butterflies and moths will take flight in the 15,000 square foot Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory between March 1 and April 30, 2009.

The exhibition attracts more than 140,000 visitors annually to view thousands of butterfly species from Asia, Africa, South America and Central America.

"Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming is a magical experience where the warmth, humidity and lush surroundings transport you to another place," said Steve LaWarre, Director of Horticulture at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. "Upon entering the tropical conservatory, the walls seemingly disappear and butterflies flutter and dance freely, as though no one is watching."

Throughout the exhibition, butterflies can be viewed drinking nectar from the flowering plants and feeding stations, congregating among stream beds and flying freely within the five-story tropical conservatory. Approximately 800 chrysalides are delivered to Meijer Gardens weekly. Visitors may watch delicate chrysalides and cocoons being placed in the Butterfly Bungalow, where the unique creatures transform and take their first flight.

Long-time favorites such as the Blue Morpho, with its large metallic blue wings and the Clearwing, with its see-through wings will return. Others such as the Tree Nymph, Black Swordtail, Leopard Lacewing and the Atlas Moth, with its impressive six-to-twelve-inch wingspan are also expected to make appearances.

This colorful exhibition coincides with an exclusive exhibition by American sculptor Jonathan Borofsky. His latest work, *Human Structures and the Light of Consciousness*, is designed specifically for Meijer Gardens' galleries. Guests can walk around the large structure made of hundreds of brightly colored male and female figures. The exhibition runs through May 10, 2009.

Foremost Insurance Group, located in Grand Rapids has sponsored *Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming* since 1998.

"Take in this spectacular tropical getaway, right here in Grand Rapids," said John T. Kalinka, Marketing Communications Director at Foremost Insurance Group. "A relaxing walk through the warm conservatory is a vacation in itself and a welcome relief from the cold temperatures outside. *Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming* provides an educational, family-friendly experience."

Exhibition Details

Butterfly Activities in the Children's Garden

Flutter out to the Lena Meijer Children's Garden for butterfly-related activities. Use a "magiscope" to take a closer look at Michigan butterflies and moths. Admire yourself wearing butterfly wings. Assemble a 12-inch, three-dimensional wooden butterfly. Invent a unique butterfly wing pattern out of colorful scales. Find the missing part of a butterfly using clever clues, and then have fun adding color. "Fly" through the Butterfly Maze and identify Michigan butterflies. Activities are ongoing during public hours (excluding Tuesday evenings) in the Lena Meijer Children's Garden Information Center.

Admission Prices

Adults – \$12
Seniors (65+) – \$9
Students – \$9
Children (5-13) – \$6
Children (3-4) – \$4
Children (2 and under) – Free

Hours

Monday, Wednesday – Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM; Tuesday: 9 AM – 9 PM; Sunday: 9 AM – 5 PM. *Note – Extended Sunday hours are only for the duration of the exhibition.

About Foremost Insurance Group

Foremost Insurance Group is a single source for property, casualty and commercial small business insurance. Foremost is located in Grand Rapids, Michigan and has been a leader in the insurance industry since 1952. Foremost offers programs for auto, home, umbrella, manufactured home, motor home, travel trailer, luxury motor coach, specialty homeowner, vacant property, seasonal property, landlord and rental properties, motorcycle, off-road vehicle, snowmobile, boat, personal watercraft, and collectible auto. They also provide commercial small business programs for retail, wholesale, office, service, industrial, restaurant and habitation businesses. Foremost is a member of the Farmers Insurance Group of Companies based in Los Angeles, CA. To learn more about Foremost, visit www.Foremost.com.

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.

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