

NEWS RELEASE



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Great Garden Adventure Opens May 3 *Discover and Reconnect with Nature at Stan Hywet*

April 3, 2008 – Akron, Ohio –An interactive exploration of the gardens and grounds, **Great Garden Adventure** at Stan Hywet is open May 3 – October 31, 2008. Designed to enhance the experience of nature and the enjoyment of the Stan Hywet property, this installation takes advantage of noteworthy yet less visited areas of the Estate. “Imagination Stations” along new paths created by the Stan Hywet horticulture staff serve as guides and stopping points, and act as springboards to reconnecting with nature and learning about the natural phenomena at Stan Hywet. *A descriptive list of Imagination Stations follows.*

Great Garden Adventure is inspired by the book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by futurist and journalist Richard Louv, who suggests that the children growing up in today’s increasingly wired and high-tech environment do not get enough direct exposure to nature, which provides opportunities for physical exercise, education, exploration, and creativity— all essential for healthy childhood development.

Programming and lectures in conjunction with Great Garden Adventure take place throughout the season. Providing some of the programming and installations for *Great Garden Adventure* is Stan Hywet artist-in-residence, P.R. Miller. A self-proclaimed “junkyard artist,” Mr. Miller has created 100 giant flowers made out of reusable and cast-off materials like plastic purgings, machine turnings and other found objects. Materials recycled from Stan Hywet’s 2007 installation, *Treemendous Treehouses* are being used to create some of these pieces for the “outdoor gallery,” which includes a rolling ball kinetic sculpture. The outdoor gallery also includes 100 whimsical bugs and butterflies made from recyclable materials by schoolchildren at workshops led by Miller at four Northeast Ohio schools: Firestone High School and Miller South School in Akron; Garfield Heights High School in Garfield Heights; and Spring Garden Waldorf School in Copley.

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is open Tuesday – Sundays, 10 am-6pm (with admissions closing at 4:30pm) and closed to the public on Mondays, except for Memorial Day and Labor Day.

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*Great Garden Adventure is sponsored by
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and OMNOVA Solutions Foundation*

Imagination Stations



Great Garden Adventure is designed to help one and all explore the gardens and grounds and enjoy the outdoors and nature at Stan Hywet. We have created “imagination stations” around the property to guide you. Use this as a springboard to create your own inspired adventure.

Worm, Worms, Worms

Learn about the incredible benefits of worms to the environment. It’s called vermiculture and it’s the process by which worms turn organic waste into some of the best fertilizer on earth. The end product is nutrient rich and a great soil conditioner. Our display at Stan Hywet will show how this process works.

How Old Is This Tree?

Climbing is encouraged on and around the giant fallen tree in the woods near The Dell and the Plane Tree Allée is 3 feet in diameter and about 100 feet long. Count the rings: how old is this tree? What kind of tree is it?

Life at the Lagoon

The Lagoon is what remains of the stone quarry at Stan Hywet, now a series of pools. One of the shallowest pools provides an opportunity to explore the life in a pond, and this particular pool is teeming with thousands of frogs, with an island in the middle. The land between this pond and the next is a good place for viewing pond life. How many frogs and other pond creatures you can identify? What else do you see? What type of plants? Are there birds nearby? Do you see any interesting insects?

Crazy Maze

Our artist-in-residence, P.R. Miller has created a fun maze in the old tennis court near the Lagoon. See the giant moveable 10ft. tall butterfly sculpture created from found objects and recyclable materials (hint: the wings are made of old CDs). Look for the rolling ball kinetic sculpture.

Tree Trunk Sculpture “Garden”

In the 1920s and the 1930s, it was thought that filling a decomposing tree trunk cavity with concrete would stop the decay. Not only didn’t it work, it hastened the decaying process. These eight cement castings are what remain after the organic material had crumbled away; it is a perfect “memory” of trees that were alive 80 and 90 years ago. Can you identify all of the types of trees in these eight castings?



Imagination Stations (continued)

100 Bugs

Count all of the whimsical bugs created by Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens' artist-in-residence, P.R. Miller. The "outdoor gallery" at Stan Hywet will include 100 whimsical bugs and butterflies made from recyclable materials by schoolchildren from four Northeast Ohio schools.

100 Flowers

Can you find all 100 of P.R. Miller's fanciful flowers? P.R. Miller is creating 100 giant flowers for the property, made out of reusable and cast-away materials and other found objects.

Natural Amphitheater

Explore this natural feature in the hilltop adjacent to the Lagoon. This saucer-like area of the landscape has a natural "bench." It's a great place to sit and enjoy nature, or plan your next stop on the Great Garden Adventure.

What is a quarry?

Stan Hywet, old English for "stone quarry" is named for the Estate's most prominent natural feature. Learn about quarries at this station near the Lagoon.

How to Grow A Forest

Explore the lifecycle of the woods, and the role of trees in the pollination process, near the *ex10haus* treehouse on Pleasure Drive, behind the Manor House How do trees grow? What are the conditions for a tree to die? What is the perfect environment for a sapling to sprout?

A Secret Tunnel!

Here's a chance to explore a secret tunnel that goes into the the Manor House —and the site of what is believed to be many a secret escape. The tunnel is near the old cistern on Pleasure Drive and it is a fully functional drainage tunnel restored in 2000.

Treehouses

Everyone loves treehouses, and we've saved some of our favorites from our 2007 *Tremendous Treehouses* exhibition. Climb, explore, and enjoy a different view of the property in the 5 treehouses at Stan Hywet.

The 1920s Gardener's Toolshed

Much has changed since the 1920s, but some things stay the same. Can you find a sprinkler in this collection of Stan Hywet gardening implements that looks like one you might use today? How are these tools different? On display in the Corbin Conservatory.

