

**Matthaei Botanical gardens
and Nichols arboretum**
Caring for nature, enriching life

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens
& Nichols Arboretum**

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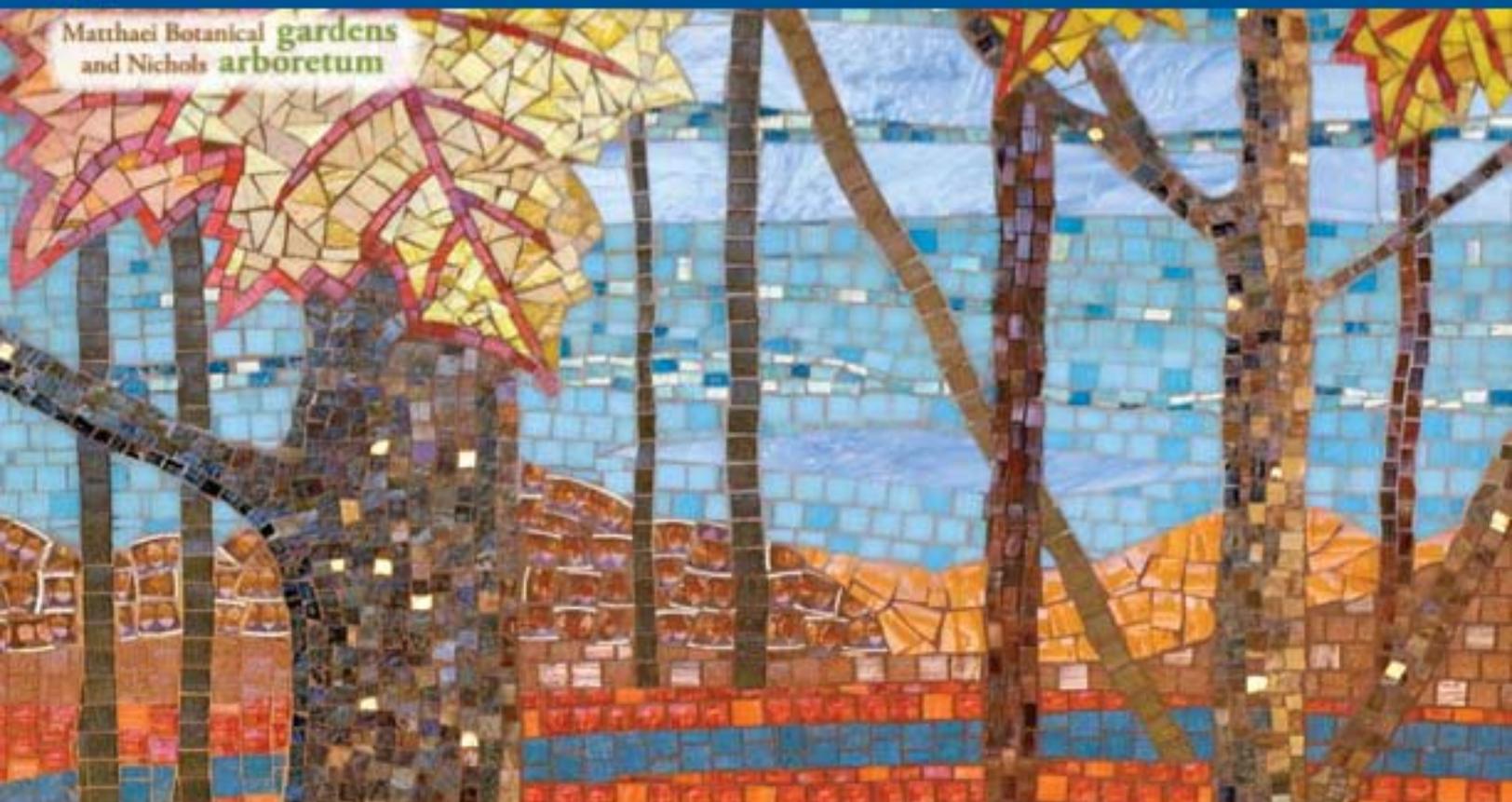


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**Matthaei Botanical gardens
and Nichols arboretum**



friends newsletter • fall 2011

Inside: Grant on a Mission • Bonsai Blue Chips • Plant Sale Round-Up • and more



Pictured, top to bottom:

An eastern massasauga rattlesnake at Matthaei; a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will help us complete an assessment of our resident rattler population.

The Billy King band at Music in the Arb July 17.

A cactus in the arid house of the Conservatory at Matthaei beautifully illustrates plants' adaptive patterns.

Runners in the Arb.

On the newsletter cover: a detail from the "Autumn" mosaic at Matthaei, one of an eight-panel group designed by mosaic artist Yulia Hanansen featuring native Michigan ecosystems.

Grants on a Mission

A federal grant of nearly \$127,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences enables an assessment of our at-risk natural communities. The project is part of an ongoing stewardship planning process and involves staff members and a collaboration with the U-M Herbarium. See p. 2 for the full story.

Another grant of just over \$74,000 comes from the Sustain Our Great Lakes grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant will help us with several projects: removing exotic invasive plants, reintroducing fire on 200 acres of diverse habitat, completing an assessment of our eastern massasauga rattlesnake population, and creating educational materials about the rattler.

A grant from the James A. and Faith Knight Foundation makes possible a web-based game for children. The Wetland Adventure Game and Backpack Discovery Walk, in collaboration with education specialists here and at the Ann Arbor Public Schools, encourage thousands of local and regional public-school students who take outdoor field trips to engage in online activities back home that complement and enrich their field experiences. The grant also allows us to create educational materials and to buy magnifying lenses, ID cards, and more that kids can check out from the front desk.

Meter Metrics

The Botanical Gardens has long been the only U-M museum to charge admission, and we're one of the few U-M departments to offer free parking. In a move to align ourselves with U-M policies, we're installing parking meters in the Matthaei lots and ending the Conservatory entrance fee; the change begins around January 1. Members will continue to park for free. The good news: all parking monies will support Matthaei-Nichols, and the shortfall from the loss of Conservatory fees will be recaptured through the meter system. Look for a full explanation in our Jan. 2012 newsletter.

Run for the Arb

Thousands of runner, walkers, and joggers can't be wrong: the Arb is a great place to exercise. Join us Sun., Oct. 2, for our first "Run for the Arb," a 5K/1K family-friendly trails walk-run through the Arb. All proceeds benefit Matthaei-Nichols, and each participant receives a nifty T-shirt. Visit our website, mbgna.umich.edu, for information.

Music in the Arb

Don't miss the final Music in the Arb 2011 concert Sept. 18. Featuring Mon Monarch, a group that blends roots music, country, bluegrass, and Southern gospel. And thanks to you, members, the concert is free!

Festival of Kites

Look to the skies Sept. 25 for the Festival of Kites at the Arb. This campus-community collaboration offers kite-building, entertainment, and activities, with kite masters from China and Michigan demonstrating constructions alongside student and community talent. The free event, which kicks off the Center for Chinese Studies 50th anniversary, also includes on-site crafting of minute-made kites, Chinese lion dancing, and information about sustainability issues. **Sponsored by U-M Center for Chinese Studies; U-M International Institutes; and U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum. For more information visit the CCS website, ii.umich.edu/ccs/ or call 734.936.3961.**

Are Alien Plants Bad?

All invited to hear Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware professor and noted author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, weigh in on the ecological impacts of invasive plants. Dr. Tallamy argues that by trading wild spaces for uncontrolled expansion and replacing native with alien species, we've threatened the survival of wildlife. It isn't too late, he maintains, to save ecological communities, and that we all have a significant role in the process. *Thurs., Oct. 27, 7:30 pm. For more info see p. 5. Sponsored by U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum; U-M Program in the Environment; U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment; Michigan Botanical Club; Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter; and the Audubon Society Washtenaw Chapter.*

Pineapples and Pincushions

For a close-up view of plants' amazing patterns, visit our exhibit "Pineapples and Pincushions: The Art and Science of Patterns in Nature." Featuring images of plant patterns along with work by U-M students and a seasonal display of flowers. We'll also showcase research by Inés Ibáñez, a professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, on climate change-induced patterns of plant distributions. *Opens Sat., Nov. 26.*

Staff Transitions

Patricia Ferrer Beals left last June to pursue freelance opportunities. Since October 2006 Patricia's talents added immensely to our education team. **Carmen Leskoviansky**, who joined us in 2009, became a permanent staff member July 1. She'll continue her work on the Peony Garden and will help maintain other gardens and plants here, including the orchid, bromeliad, and bonsai collections. **April Pickrel** departed last August to return to school full time. She joined the staff in 1999 and wore many hats, most recently in management and grants administration. **T. J. Smith**, our IT person, left at the end of summer to work full-time on his own web company. We wish them all the very best!



A special grant will help us map at-risk plant communities at Matthaei-Nichols and launch a comprehensive natural areas stewardship planning process

A federal grant of nearly \$127,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) enables a critical research project to locate and assess at-risk plant communities growing on our four properties.

Part old-fashioned fieldwork, part high-tech information-gathering, the project is contemporary natural history for the long term. It's also an institution-wide stewardship planning process—a high priority for us going forward.

The project runs June 2011 through May 2013 and will be supervised by our Natural Areas Manager Jeff Plakke.

Bog to Woods to Arboretum

The four properties—Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Nichols Arboretum, Mud Lake Bog, and Horner-McLaughlin Woods—harbor a treasure of natural heritage and a rich diversity of ecosystems, from bog to oak savanna and more. Together they comprise a valuable research and study resource for U-M faculty, students, and others.

An earlier survey by Plakke revealed that 20 of the 76 communities recognized statewide

by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory currently live at one or more of our properties. Of those 20, sixteen are recognized as critical, imperiled, or vulnerable in state and/or global rankings.

Moving beyond previous institution-wide efforts, a botanical inventory such as this lays the groundwork for ongoing decision-making and is another step on the journey toward long-term conservation of our natural areas.

Pivotal to the project's success is the use of technological recording and tracking tools to create an in-depth accounting of existing natural communities and the threats to them, explains Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese.

"This inventory helps us better understand the communities on our properties," Grese says. "We'll learn both the significance of what we have and provide a baseline for the future."



Pictured, top left: A view of native grasses under a late-summer sky at the prairie at Alex Dow Field, Nichols Arboretum.

Left: A showy lady's slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) is a rare orchid that's native to northern North America, including Michigan. Photograph by Tony Reznicek.

A Garden to Celebrate Our Great Lakes Heritage

The IMLS grant is one piece of an organization-wide conservation picture. It's also a natural tie-in with the Great Lakes Garden at Matthaei—a place to showcase and protect the diversity of habitats and plants of the Great Lakes region and of Michigan. The Garden will spur visitors to appreciate and explore current issues and research related to Great Lakes plants and habitats. The proposed space will feature several habitats and plant types, including wetland and prairie wildflowers, native orchids, oak openings, and more.

We offer gifting and naming opportunities for the Great Lakes Garden and its components. The University of Michigan and Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum have joined forces to match 30% of every gift with

funds for the endowment. To permanently protect the garden and care for its collections, each gift will be split between construction (75%) and an endowment earmarked for perpetual care (25%). A gift of \$100,000, for example, will result in \$75,000 for construction, \$25,000 for the endowment, and a matching \$30,000 for the endowment from the University and from us.

A naming opportunity is a great way to honor a friend, relative, or loved one who finds meaning in the region's flora. For more information on naming opportunities or on making a gift, contact Development Director Gayle Steiner at gayles@umich.edu or 734.647.7847.

Collaborate, Succeed

Teaming up with other U-M units strengthens the project's success, notes Grese. "We researched collaborative opportunities and developed a unique partnership with the University of Michigan Herbarium," he says. "We recognized that working with the Herbarium would be a good fit, especially given that the university is encouraging creative partnerships wherever it can."

In addition to Plakke, U-M Herbarium botanist Beverly S. Walters will assist in the project along with U-M grad student and School of Natural Resources and Environment student Mary Hejna. During the first season Walters and Hejna will create a comprehensive geospatial baseline inventory and description of the four properties.

A detailed documentation and cataloging of the natural communities follows, using global positioning system (GPS) technology and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory classifications.

Finally, the areas will be quantitatively ranked for conservation and restoration, a stewardship model along with faculty and expert consultants will be established, and consistent monitoring protocols put into place. Ultimately the results will be released to the public and to professionals in the field.

The grant, and the ensuing cataloging and assessment, will be a model for many other U-M properties, says Grese, who explains that "there are bits and pieces out there, but no full accounting or catalog of resources." Given our role in curation, Grese believes, creating that model is an important step in taking a leadership role in natural land stewardship. 🌱

Fall 2011 Youth & Kids' Classes and Programs

All classes are held on Saturday mornings 10 am–noon. Program fee includes materials, activities, and one admission to the Conservatory. Classes fill early and are limited in size; preregistration strongly encouraged.

Sat., Sept. 24
Autumn Equinox Celebration and Harvest Party!
 Celebrate the arrival of fall with a harvest party. Children will gather fruits and veggies from the Gaffield Children's Garden and Edible Estates and make fall pickled veggies and pizza sauce to take home.
\$5 per child 11-YE-15

Sat., Oct. 8
Build Your Own Scarecrow
 Join us for our annual scarecrow building workshop. We provide straw, string, pillowcases for faces, paint, and the wooden frame material. You provide child sized clothing, hats, and gloves.
\$7 per child 11-YE-16

Sat., Oct. 22
Halloween Spooktacular
 Dress up in your best costume and have a scary good time at our Halloween Spooktacular! Paint pumpkins and gourds, scoop out pumpkins for pumpkin seed treats, make paper masks and decorations, and finish up with cookies and roasted pumpkin seeds! **\$7 per child 11-YE-17**

Sat., Nov. 19
Kids are Chefs, Too!
 Thanksgiving is the perfect time to enjoy the late fall harvest. Kids learn how to turn fall apples, squash, and wheat into delicious sauces, cookies, and bread. Everyone takes home goodies for the Thanksgiving feast.
\$5 per child 11-YE-18



Sat., Dec. 17
Winter Wonders
 Nature provides beautiful and elaborate patterns in every plant. Learn how to find the patterns in the night sky and in nature and celebrate the Winter Solstice by creating beautiful decorations from natural materials. Make snowflakes, pine cone ornaments, winter gift bags, and evergreen decorations to take home. **\$7 per child 11-YE-19**

Scout Programs

Choose from a variety of activities designed to meet badge and patch requirements. Programs are offered every Thursday evening by reservation. Minimum 6 children required; \$5 fee per participant. Optional Matthaei Botanical Gardens patches available for \$3. Contact children's ed coordinator Liz Glynn (734-763-6667; lizglynn@umich.edu) to plan your group's visit!

Trail Treks

Counts toward the following badges: Brownie Try-It-Plants, Junior Girl Scout-Outdoor Surroundings and Cub, Bear, Boy Scouts Forestry, Plant science, Nature.

Eco-Kids

Counts toward the following badges: Daisy Earth Is Our Home, Junior Girl Scouts Eco-Action, and Cub, Boy Scouts Plant Science.

Exploration: Nature

Counts toward the following badges: Daisy Flower Garden Journey, Brownie Try-It-Earth's Caretakers, Junior Girl Scouts-Earth Connections, and Cub Scouts Outdoor Activity, Nature Merit, Plant Science Merit.

Sketchbook Detectives

Counts toward the following badges: Junior Girl Scout-Outdoor Creativity & Outdoor Surroundings, and Cub Scouts.

We also offer special programs for the Forester and Naturalist badges for Boy Scouts and Wildlife badge for Girl Scouts. The Forester and Naturalist program helps Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts understand the importance of natural areas, forests, and the environment. Explore the Sam Graham Trees Trail at Matthaei while learning about the importance of native species and the interaction between plants and animals and what plants mean in our daily lives.

Here's How to Register for Classes

(For a printable registration form visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/learn/registration.asp>)

Phone: 734.647.7600. (Business hours: Mon., Tues. & Thurs.–Sun., 10 am–4:30 pm; Wed., 10 am–8 pm.)

Fax: Download, print out, and fax completed registration form with credit card information to **734.998.6205**.

Mail: Download, print out, and mail completed registration form with credit card information to:
 MBGNA - University of Michigan
 1800 N. Dixboro Road
 Ann Arbor MI 48105

Online: Visit mbgna.umich.edu and fill out registration form online.

In Person: Stop by the front desk at Matthaei during Conservatory hours: Mon., Tues., & Thurs.–Sun., 10 am–4:30 pm; Wed., 10 am–8 pm.

Make checks payable to "MBGNA."

Note: Fee-based adult education classes are open to those at least 16 years of age. Classes meet as designated at Matthaei Botanical Gardens or Nichols Arboretum. Classes may meet off-site (call for location and directions if you miss a class). Field trips may be physically challenging—call if you have questions about the difficulty of any class or trip. Classes are popular and fill quickly—early registration is suggested.

Are You a Member?

To become a member of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, send a **separate** check made out to "MBGNA." Fees are \$55 for a family membership, \$45 for a single membership, and \$20 for University students.

Refunds: Refunds given if MBGNA cancels class. Sorry, no refunds for classes with fees of \$5 or less; no refunds for no-shows. For additional information, visit our registration page at: lsa.umich.edu/mbg/learn/registration.asp

 Visit our website mbgna.umich.edu or call 734.647.7600

All programs and classes unless noted otherwise are free and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Fee-based programs are noted with a § and venues outside of Matthaei are marked with a † symbol.

SEPTEMBER

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 10–11, 10 am–4:30 pm
Annual Plant Sales - Michigan Cactus Society & Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society

Free admission.

Sat., Sept. 10, 1 pm
The Wonderful World of Bromeliads

Presented by the SE Mich. Bromeliad Society. A PowerPoint introduction to the amazing bromeliad (pineapple) family features its diversity of form and color, its survival strategies, and its importance to the ecology of its habitat.

Sun., Sept. 11, 1 pm
Growing Bromeliads in Michigan

Presented by the SE Mich. Bromeliad Society. A talk by Paul Wingert on choosing bromeliads that fit your needs: for winter color or bloom, and those that make a stunning accent in the summer garden. Also, discussion of potting, fertilizing, watering, propagation, and more.

Sun., Sept. 11, 2 pm
New Vision Orchids – *Odontoglossums*
Presented by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society.

Mon., Sept. 12, 7 pm
Preserving Your Herbal Harvest
Presented by the Herb Study Group.

Wed., Sept. 14, 5:30–7:30 pm
† **Shanghai Prairie Tour with Aunita Erskine**
Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter. Tour this special community of plants located on the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital campus. Meet in the picnic area parking lot opposite staff parking area D at the 3-way stop on McAuley. Visit stjoesannarbor.org for a map. Long pants, closed-toe shoes, and weather-appropriate clothes.

Wed., Sept. 14, 7 pm
Fall Hive Management Strategies I
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2). Reviewing the health of the hive in preparation for winter.

Thurs. & Fri., Sept. 15–16, 8 am–5 pm
§ **Wetland Grasses Identification Course**
The Michigan Wetlands Association (MWA), U-M Herbarium, and Matthaei-Nichols present a 2-day laboratory/field course on the identification and distinguishing characteristics of wetland grasses with instructor Dr. Anton Reznicek, Curator of Vascular Plants at the Herbarium. Preregistration encouraged. To register, visit miwetlands.org.

Course fee: \$200 (MWA members); \$250 (nonmembers) per person. Box lunches provided; lodging and other meals not included.

Sat., Sept. 17, 10 am–4:30 pm
Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

1) New Awards & 2) Species Identification Task Force Requirements

Mon., Sept. 19, 7:45 pm
The Life of Fungi - Ecosystems Interactions, by Dr. Timothy James.
Presented by the Michigan Botanical Club.

Tues., Sept. 20, 7:30 pm
Let's Take the Family to... The Galapagos Islands!
Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group. The Jackson family of Dexter, Mich., recounts their budget-wise travel approach and adventures in the Galapagos Islands and beyond.

Wed., Sept. 21, 7:30 pm
Chile: Birding at the End of the World
Presented by the Washtenaw County Audubon Society. Join Rodolfo Palma for a visit to the southernmost South American country, which has 479 species of birds, including twelve endemics.

Sun., Sept. 25, 1–5 pm, Nichols Arboretum
† **Festival of Kites**
A one-day kite festival features student competitions, international-quality kites, kite workshops, Asian kite masters demonstrating craftsmanship and flying techniques, and more. Cross-campus competition will include team units to display and fly kites.

Sponsored by Center for Chinese Studies, U-M of International Institutes and Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.

Wed., Sept. 28, 7 pm
2011 Annual Bonsai Auction
Presented by the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. All invited to this annual event where visitors can buy and sell bonsai at auction. Members encouraged to bring surplus bonsai material.

OCTOBER

Mon., Oct. 3, 7 pm
Herbs Used in Indian Cooking
Presented by the Herb Study Group. Plus, a sampling of Indian food.

Sun., Oct. 9, 1–4 pm
§ **Cactus Dish-Garden Workshop**
Presented by the Michigan Cactus Society. Note: \$5.00 per person materials fee.

Sun., Oct. 9, 1 pm
The Slippers of Venus, by Alex Challis
Presented by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society.

Tues., Oct. 11, 7 pm
Fall Hive Management Strategies II
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2). A review and discussion of practical methods to protect the hive, determine its health and survivability, determine honey quantity for winter survival, and more.

Wed., Oct. 12, 6:45 pm
Understanding the White-Tailed Deer: The Good, the Bad & the Biology
Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter. Randy Baker, award-winning naturalist and owner of Naturalist Endeavors, examines the white-tailed's adaptations, its effect on landscapes and ecosystems, and its economics.

Sat., Oct. 15, 10 am–4:30 pm
Great Lakes Judging (Orchids) New Awards (Ron Payeur)
Hybridizing with *Phragmipedium besseae* (Rob Halgren)

Tues., Oct. 18, 7:30 pm
The Controversial Coyote
Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley. All invited to hear Michigan licensed wildlife rehabilitator Holly Hadac dispel myths and provide research-based facts about the amazingly adaptable coyote. Learn where they came from, their pack behaviors, their interactions with people and pets, and more.

Wed., Oct. 19, 7:30 pm
Adventures with Black-Backed Woodpeckers
Presented by the Washtenaw County Audubon Society. All invited to hear a discussion about these beautiful birds, which inhabit boreal forests, often moving into areas of recent forest fires.

Thurs., Oct. 20, 6–9 pm
Fall Presentation, American Rhododendron Society, Michigan Chapter
Presented by the American Rhododendron Society, Ann Arbor Chapter. All invited to a class on growing rhododendrons from seeds and propagation from cuttings. Catered dinner for all attendees and lecture to follow. Free.

Wed., Oct., 26, 7 pm
Our Bonsai, Then and Now—A Photographic Review
Presented by the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. A presentation depicting bonsai from its beginnings until now. Members will also present images illustrating the development of raw material into bonsai.

Thurs., Oct. 27, 7:30 pm, Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor
† **Are Alien Plants 'Bad'?**
Dr. Douglas Tallamy of the University of Delaware talks about his book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, which argues that by trading wild spaces for uncontrolled expansion and replacing native species with alien species, we've threatened the survival of wildlife. Dr. Tallamy passionately argues that it isn't too late to save ecological communities, and that we all have a significant role in the process.

Sponsored by: U-M Program in the Environment; U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment; U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum; Michigan Botanical Club; Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter; and the Audubon Society Washtenaw Chapter.

NOVEMBER

Mon., Nov. 7, 6 pm
Review and Critique of Matthaei Botanical Gardens' Bonsai Collection
Presented by the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Review followed by a potluck dinner.

Mon., Nov. 7, 7 pm
Herbal Craft Sharing of Ideas & Recipes
A joint presentation of the Herb Study Group members.

Tues., Nov. 8, 7 pm
Winter Hive Preparation
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2). Learn about the different methods of preparing the hive for winter along with practical approaches to managing internal condensation generated by the honeybees.

Wed., Nov. 9, 6:45 pm
Annual Potluck, Slide Show, and Deep Roots Award
Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter. Bring a dish to pass and slides to share in celebration of another year of restoring beauty and diversity to our corner of the earth.

Tues., Nov. 15, 7:30 pm
Burning Rivers of the Great Lakes
Presented by Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group. Dr. John Hartig, author of *Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban-Industrial Rivers that Caught on Fire*, chronicles the indiscriminate use and abuse of some of our great freshwater resources, describes the stewardship efforts used to control pollution, and presents evidence of dramatic improvements in these aquatic ecosystems.

Wed., Nov. 16, 7:30 pm
Reclaiming Land for Wildlife in the Netherlands
Presented by the Washtenaw County Audubon Society. Join Jacco Gelderloos for a program on the history and wildlife of the Oostvaardersplassen, one of the Netherlands most renowned nature areas.

Sat., Nov. 19, 10 am–5 pm
Great Lakes Judging (Orchids) Business Meeting

Sat., Nov. 19, 2 pm
The Earth Stars, by Lynne Echlin
Presented by the Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society. A survey of the beautiful Earth Stars (*Cryptanthus*)—small, colorful, low-light plants that are ideally suited to windowsill gardening and flourish in a terrarium—along with culture tips to ensure success.

Sun., Nov. 20, 2 pm
“Growing Orchids The EnLightened Way: Gardening Under Fluorescent Lights,” by Ernie Gemeinhart
Presented by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society.

Mon., Nov. 21, 7:45 pm
“Highlights of Forays Past,” by Judy Kelly
Presented by the Michigan Botanical Club. All invited to hear about Michigan Botanical Club forays—field trips to significant natural areas in Michigan and neighboring states.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 3, 10 am-noon
§ **Introduction to the Art of Pressed Flower Cards**
Presented by Matthaei-Nichols. Instructor Beth Gilford demonstrates how to create greeting cards with pressed flowers. Participants take home at least four cards created in class. Preregistration required; class fills early.
Materials fee: \$8.00 11-AE-09.

Sat., Dec. 10, 10 am-noon
§ **Greens Workshop**
Presented by the Ann Arbor Garden Club. Materials for a wreath will be provided, or bring a container to create a greens arrangement instead. Space limited; reserve early. Potluck to follow. For reservations call Nancy Hart: 734.665.7072.
Materials fee: \$15.00 (due at registration).

Tues., Dec. 13, 7 pm
Alternative/Biodynamic Beekeeping
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2). A look at the different shapes and construction of alternate hives along with the pros and cons associated with them, with a discussion about the difference between organic and biodynamic beekeeping.

Sat., Dec. 17
† **Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count**
Presented by the Washtenaw County Audubon Society. All invited. Previous birding experience helpful but not necessary; participants will be paired with an experienced birder if needed. See washtenawaudubon.org for details and times or call 734.973.9422.

Sat., Dec. 17, 10 am–5 pm
Great Lakes Judging (Orchids) New Awards (Richard Bennett): Miniature Orchids (Dennis Seffernick)

Tues., Dec. 20, 7:30 pm
Great Adventures Around the Globe
Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group. Share your travels! Send a PowerPoint presentation or 10–15 digital photos to Ed Steinman (esteinma@umich.edu). For mounted slides bring 10–15. A digital projector will be available.

Get Involved—Volunteer! Fall 2011

Dig into some great volunteer opportunities at Matthaei-Nichols this fall. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528 for more information. All trainings are held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., unless otherwise noted. Preregistration required for all ongoing assignments and special events.

Ambassador Training - Conservatory

Sat., Oct. 15, 9 am–noon

After the blooms of the display gardens have faded our visitors can find a welcome retreat in the Conservatory. Ambassadors greet and guide visitors to points of interest and informal learning opportunities. The Conservatory training will introduce volunteers to the Visitor Services department and covers the basics about the three climates and the plants found in the Conservatory. Ambassadors commit to two shifts per month and attend ongoing educational sessions regarding special collections exhibits and events. Interview and preregistration is required.



Left: Volunteers Angela Hellis and James Sternberg. Right: Burn crew volunteers all suited up and ready for work in Nichols Arboretum.

Right: Alpha Pi Omega ServicePalooza volunteers in the Arb
Opposite: DTE "Green Team" Volunteers helped with restoration efforts in and around Dow Prairie in the Arb.



Groups are welcome to coordinate a service project at the Arb or the Gardens during the week or weekend; **9 am–noon or 1–4 pm**. Activities may include natural areas restoration, display garden maintenance, and other special projects. **Advance notice is required for all group projects.** Contact the Volunteer Coordinator (734.647.8528) to explore possibilities for the fall.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Matthaei Botanical gardens and Nichols arboretum

Visit our website
for more information:
mbgna.umich.edu

Prescribed Burn Volunteer Training

Thurs., Oct. 13, 1–3 pm

Our Natural Areas Manager Jeff Plakke is all fired up about fall burn season! We are looking for new recruits to join the volunteer burn team so if you enjoy the natural areas at the Arb and Gardens and would like to help maintain them this is a great service learning opportunity. Volunteers are on call for weekday, afternoon burns (1–4 pm) during the spring and fall. The training will provide basic information about the use of prescribed fire as a restoration tool and the basic volunteer duties. A tour of past burn sites and hands-on demonstration will be provided, weather permitting.



Service Opportunities for Groups

Volunteers representing community, corporate, college, and youth groups contribute over 2,000 hours of service every year! Group service projects at Matthaei-Nichols are a great way for members to enjoy fresh air and exercise in a beautiful natural setting and work together toward a common goal. Our staff provides education about the work at hand and explains how volunteer efforts support our mission and programs.



Blue Chip Bonsai

Special match grows your endowment gift 120%

They say money doesn't grow on trees, but a special matching-funds program from Matthaei-Nichols and the University comes close. Give a gift to endow the Bonsai and Penjing Garden planned for Matthaei and watch your contribution increase to 120% of the original donation!

Here's how it works: because creating a new garden is one thing—and very popular with donors—and setting aside money for keeping the garden healthy is equally important—but doesn't give donors quite the same thrill—U-M has committed to a 1:1 match of endowment gifts for major projects such as the Bonsai and Penjing Garden. Matthaei-Nichols will add an additional 20% of the endowment amount. For a recent gift of \$60,000,



Above: A *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Boulevard' from the bonsai collection at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Photograph © 2010 Carlos Diaz.

75% was directed to Bonsai Garden construction and \$15,000 to the bonsai endowment. U-M and Matthaei kicked in another \$18,000, bringing the total from \$60,000 to \$78,000.

More than a third of the construction goal of \$455,000 has been raised for space to exhibit our breathtaking collection.

We also offer naming opportunities ranging from \$1,500 to \$220,000. For more information contact Development Director Gayle Steiner (734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu).

Spring Plant Sale Round-Up

You visited, you saw, you liked! So we concluded following our 2011 Spring Plant Sale season after much positive member and visitor feedback, brisk sales, and generally empty shelves in the aftermath. In fact, we sold out of all 125 peony plants within the first 90 minutes of the peony sale—and nearly all of our hanging baskets the first weekend of the sales.



Changing the sale fundamentals like we did this year—smaller sales, no perennials, integration of the sales into regular retail business—was not an easy decision. But it did teach us a few lessons. We found that despite the transition, you, our members, stuck by us and understood why we made the changes we did. We learned that offering plants similar to those we grow in our gardens makes more sense and allows us to offer special arrangements such as the miniature container gardens of succulents or the unique hanging basket combinations you can't find at a big box store. And the changes helped us manage our staff time better,

especially during the growing season, when we need to be concentrating on our gardens and natural areas. Taken together, the new time management, cost reduction, and retail strategies added up to a significant profit this year.

Most important, we learned that thanks to loyal member support we can continue our mission of stewardship and sustainability and offer members, visitors, and volunteers a deeper connection to nature through great programming, educational opportunities, and events.



Left: Greenhouse 3 decked out for the annuals sale. Above: one of the many unique hanging baskets for sale during Mother's Day weekend.

Protecting Your Gift

Beginning September 1, 2011, all Matthaei-Nichols membership contributions will be sent directly to the bank used by The University of Michigan instead of 1800 N. Dixboro. Why the change? U-M wants all gifts to travel safely, promptly, and directly to the bank, passing through fewer hands. And because your gifts arrive at the bank more quickly, they'll benefit

our gardens and natural areas faster than before. As always, the membership team here will continue to make any changes in information and address any comments or concerns you include with your donation. Please feel free to contact membership manager Andy Sell (734.615.9475; sella@umich.edu) for more information.

