

**Matthaei Botanical gardens  
and Nichols arboretum**

*Caring for nature, enriching life*

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
& Nichols Arboretum**

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**Matthaei Botanical gardens  
and Nichols arboretum**



docents inspire!

**friends • winter 2011 • newsletter**

*Inside: The Plant Sale Evolves • Stories of the Arb • Honoring Alex Dow • and more*



#### PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

A summer view of the Labyrinth, dedicated August 4, 2010.

MBGNA Director Bob Grese accepts a \$10,000 check from Irene Ball and Sue Klaas of the Ann Arbor chapter of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association.

Our annual fall Halloween activities, which included a scarecrow-building event, continue to be wildly popular.

## The Plant Sale Evolves

The annual spring plant sale and fundraiser will undergo a transformation in 2011 as we introduce a series of smaller, more focused events that will add value for our members and visitors and address several long-standing structural and economic challenges presented by the sale. For the full story, turn to page 2.

## Summer Intern Endowment Grows

Between its 2010 summer and fall garden walks, the Ann Arbor chapter of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association donated \$16,500 toward the salaries of our 2010 interns and to the internship fund that will support summer interns for the Gardens in the future. Together with a donation from the state chapter, WNFGA's total support in 2010 came to \$17,160. Donations like these help us continue our successful student summer internship program. The students gain real-world experience and contribute their own knowledge and talents—a true win-win arrangement. Many thanks to WNFGA from all of us at the Arb and Gardens!

## Stories of the Arb

The beneficial effects of contact with nature are well known. Turns out they're well documented, too: many visitors to the Arb have left their written impressions of its special magic in the guest book at the Reader Center. A sample:

Joy (a medical driver): "I've been bringing patients to U-M for five years now and never knew this fabulous place was here. Thank you for sharing. I plan to revisit each time I come and will share this area with my patients and other drivers."

Pat: "Walking with my sister before her breast cancer radiation appointment. [The walk was] beautiful and restful."

KC: "The Arb is an island respite in the middle of the urban landscape. The natural setting is so beautiful."

## Honoring Alex Dow

Our thanks to DTE Energy, whose gift of \$6,000 made possible several new additions to Nichols Arboretum. The money was used to purchase a large engraved boulder honoring Alex Dow; to commemorate the gift of Dow Field to the University by Detroit Edison in 1943; and to create interpretive signs in the Arb, including one that provides background on Alex Dow and Dow Field history. A dedication ceremony was held October 29.

## Activity Days a Hit

Our second annual Halloween Activity Days, held at the Gardens, proved to be a huge success, drawing more than 80 children last October. Together with their parents, the kids created pint-sized scarecrows, decorated pumpkins and gourds, created cut-out bats, and tried their hands at making homemade pumpkin seed treats on two beautiful fall days at the Gardens.

## A Christmas Tree Carol

If you haven't seen it yet, there's still time to catch the winter exhibit in the conservatory. Educational and fun, "A Christmas Tree Carol" is a dazzling display of eight unique holiday trees from the past, present, and future. Visitors will learn the history of the tree from different historical periods and take home tips and ideas for creating a more sustainable and environmentally friendly holiday display at home.

## 5,000 and Counting

The Arb and Gardens continues to reach out to and partner with students, the University, and the community through our programs, volunteer opportunities, internships, classes, and more. One example of our outreach efforts is the robust program of tours we offer during the academic year. During fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010) nearly 5,000 kids and adults toured our grounds and Conservatory. As an added outreach bonus, many of these groups were led by our knowledgeable volunteer docents, who spend several weeks in training to become capable teachers, advocates of lifelong learning, and guides for our visitors.

## Save the Date

**Start the new year right**—and take a break from the cold—with a visit to the Conservatory, which is now open seven days a week and New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1.

**Learn about the planet's most precious natural resource** with a visit to our spring exhibit, which will be based on LSA's winter semester theme, "water." Opens February 25.

## Try a Little Treecycling

Recycle your tree *and* help support the Gaffield Children's Garden. Bring in your holiday tree to the Gardens January 1–9. Just \$5 per tree, with all proceeds going toward our Children's Garden. Even better, your tree will be shredded and used as mulch on our property. For more information on how and where to drop your tree off, call 734.647.7600 or visit [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).



# Rethinking the Spring Sale



*The plant sale will be different in 2011—and that's a good thing*

Build a supermarket in three months, stock it with merchandise in two days, then sell it all in one weekend. Picture that and you've got a reasonably accurate idea of what it's like to run our annual plant sale and fundraiser.

But imagine also loving the planning, the growing of plants, the putting up of tents and signs, the crowds—the whole tradition of that weekend in early spring.

Of those two minds and in a post-sale fog after last May's sale, we found ourselves asking the hard question: can we keep doing this? The answer was, no. Well, nearly no. Because we didn't want to

abandon the sale completely. And yet we couldn't deny that the costs and effort of conducting a single big sale have, over the years, consistently

outpaced the revenues, and that the net proceeds just aren't enough to cover the work that goes into it. Other organizations and public gardens reported similar trends and a cessation of their large annual sale events: Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Mich., and the Ann Arbor chapter of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, for example, have ended their large annual sales events.

So we decided to offer a series of smaller, less cost-intensive sales at which members and visitors could buy the plants we grow here (see sidebar) while still taking advantage of their member benefits. And we stretched the sales over the month of May and into early June to give our members and visitors the opportunity to come back every weekend.



Our reasons for the change are pretty straightforward. Apart from the spring sale's price tag, competition is an issue as well. Today, independent nurseries and big box chains alike

offer the perennials and woody plants we've always sold. It didn't make sense any longer to go up against a system that operates on volume, price, and choice.

Finally, timing. The plant sale takes place during the spring, when we're busy preparing, growing, and maintaining our gardens and lands, which is what we're all about. And over the last few years we've added new installations such as the Gaffield Children's Garden and the Sue Reichert Trail, and our existing spaces have grown in either size or scope: the Peony Project and the Riverfront in the Arb, not to mention our prairie areas and new installations such as the labyrinth.

## I Joined Because of the Plant Sale!

The possibility of member dissatisfaction was one of our biggest concerns in making changes to the plant sale. Many of you joined because of the sale and the spring tradition of coming to the Gardens for your favorite perennials. We're keenly aware of that and wanted to maintain a sense of continuity while addressing the inevitable structural and strategic changes that occur in every organization.

### What to Expect in 2011

Choose from plants unique to our spaces, including the Peony Garden, Gateway Garden, and Edible Estate

#### Mother's Day Sale—May 7-8

Out-of-the-ordinary terrace pots and hanging baskets—perfect for mom—grown and designed by volunteers onsite.

#### Gateway Annuals Sale—May 14-15

Create your own spectacular garden accented with the same annuals grown in the Gateway Garden at Matthaei.

#### Kitchen Favorites—May 21-22

A fundraiser for Cultivating Community, featuring heirloom vegetables and herbs.

#### Peonies Galore—early June, the Arb

A special sale of some of the beautiful varieties of heirloom peonies that grow in the Peony Garden in Nichols Arboretum.

#### What we won't have:

Perennials, trees, and shrubs. Check out local nurseries and farmers markets for the highest quality, most eco-friendly perennials, trees, and shrubs.

Native plants. Our native plant vendor, the Native Plant Nursery, is available every week at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market.

Another key part of the plant sale is our team of dedicated volunteers. We'll be recruiting volunteers for the sales and events next spring and all of our events in 2011. And next summer is shaping up to be one of our busiest ever.

Given the tradition and the fun of the spring plant sale, implementing these changes was a difficult step to take—perhaps one of our most difficult—but ultimately one we couldn't avoid.



We look forward to seeing you next spring! In the meantime, please call or write if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

Clockwise from upper left: The holding tent during the spring 2010 sale; Cultivating Community student volunteers in front of their vegetable seedlings; a sample of the Gateway Garden color palette; the Peony Garden in bloom.

# Youth & Kids' Classes and Programs—Winter 2011

## Winter Adventure Saturdays!

Our Adventure Saturdays make winter mornings fun. All Saturday classes are 10 am–noon at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and cost \$5.00 per child, which includes admission to the Conservatory, activities, and materials. Limited class size—preregistration requested!



### Eco-Kids

Sat., Jan. 29, 10 am-noon

Start the New Year right with three easy ways to reduce your environmental impact! Turn recycled newspaper and dried flowers into beautiful cards, make a kitchen compost bucket, and learn how to save water for the garden. #11-YE-01

### Hot Chocolate

Sat., Feb. 5, 10 am-noon

Sweet! Explore the 1,000-year-old story of chocolate, discover why we love it so much, and learn how to make delicious chocolate treats!

#11-YE-02. (Note: Hot Chocolate *is* a popular class; please register early to reserve your spot!)



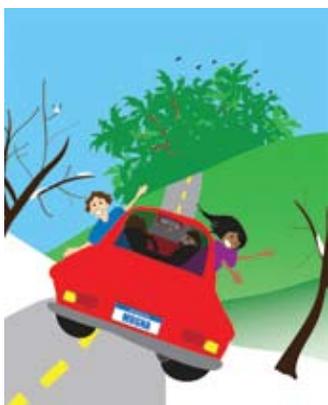
### Blustery Day Fun and Games

Sat., March 12, 10 am-noon

What can you do on a blustery day? Come out for a morning of fun and games, scavenger hunts, and puzzles and learn how plants and animals are getting ready for spring. #11-YE-03

### Feb. 22: Paper Story

Ever wonder where paper comes from? Find out in this class as you turn recycled paper and natural materials into beautiful cards and stationery that you can write on. #11-YE-04



### Make Way for Spring! School Break Getaway

Kids and parents, join us for a week of fun during spring break, Feb. 19-27. Escape to the tropics on a midwinter Conservatory getaway to the Botanical Gardens! The fun starts February 19 with a scavenger hunt to find the fairies and trolls who've come back to visit us this winter. And don't forget to join us for one of the activities below. All Make Way for Spring classes are held from 10 am-noon and cost \$5.00, which includes materials, activities, and admission to the conservatory.

### Feb. 24: Bathtub Bouquets

A cold winter night and a hot bubble bath—the perfect combination, especially when you scent the bath with your own special blend of herbs and flowers. Learn all about the mysteries of bubbles as you create fragrant bubble baths and room sachets. #11-YE-06



### Feb. 23: Fanciful Fairy Gardens

Every winter, fairies and trolls return to the conservatory, where they hide in all the nooks and crannies. Go on a scavenger hunt to see if you can find them all, then build your own fairy garden and fairy door to take home. #11-YE-05

### Feb. 25: Sketchbook Detectives

Express yourself—and explore how creating art in nature can improve your brain power. Families will leave with sketchbooks and new art skills to keep their minds sharp. #11-YE-07

### Little Green Thumbs—Saturday Spring Garden Classes for Kids



Come for one class or all throughout the season and be a Gaffield Growers' Gardener. We'll have scheduled classes and drop-in times throughout the spring and summer. Preregistration required. All classes are held from 10 am-noon at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and cost \$5.00 per child.

### How Does Your Garden Grow?

Sat., April 9, 10 am-noon

Find out how to start a garden when you sign up for one or all in our exciting series of kids' gardening classes. We'll begin by learning about seed basics and what gardens need to grow and flourish. Help plant seeds to grow in our greenhouses for planting outdoors later in the season. Or bring some home to plant in your own garden. #11-YE-08

### Super Seedlings

Sat., April 23, 10 am-noon

Discover what seedlings need to grow into healthy fruits and vegetables. Experiment with composting and garden soils, and plan a garden for your own yard. Help transplant tiny seedlings into bigger pots for final planting in the Gaffield Children's Garden, and take home seedlings to care for in your garden at home. #11-YE-09



### Stay Tuned for Our May Activities—

**When Plants Go Bad:** put a stop to invasive plants!

**Summer Whimsy:** make whimsical pieces for your home gardens.

**Butterflies and Dragons:** adventure hikes to look for the first signs of summer such as butterflies, moths, dragonflies, and more.

**Wednesday and Saturday Children's Garden drop-in activities:** mini adventure hikes, plant care, fruit and veggie tasting.

# Winter 2011 Community/Adult Education Programs and Classes

## Winter to Spring Community Education Classes

The University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science & the Arts theme this winter semester is "water." Look for more information at <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/theme>

The Arb and Gardens is hosting two water-themed classes this winter: *Photographing Water* and *Dragonflies and the Aquatic Environment*, both with Mark O'Brien. And to prove that winter hiking is an enjoyable experience, join us on our *Wednesday A.M. Hikers* this winter. In March we're relaunching the Clean Water Trail self-guided walk at the Arb.

For members interested in drawing we've invited illustrator Deborah Kopka back to launch a series in botanical illustration, the first in graphite and the second using colored pencils. Deb taught here a few years ago and the work that her students produced was amazing. We all want to take her classes!

## Wed. A.M. Hiker, Winter

Wednesdays, Jan. 19, 26, and Feb. 2, 9 am–noon, various locations

The pace and destinations of the Wednesday winter trips are perfect for hiking and exploration. Appropriate but inexpensive clothing and footwear are emphasized, making any winter situation comfortable no matter how bad the weather. These invigorating forays are always interwoven with observation of and learning about plants, habitats, and the effects of cold on natural environments. All sessions are held outdoors and are led by Ellen Elliott Weatherbee. #11-AE-01 \$86 members and U-M students; \$108 nonmembers

## Botanical Illustration I: Graphite

Instructor: Deborah Kopka

Saturdays, 6 weeks: Jan. 22 & 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 9:30 am–12:30 pm

Learn basic processes and natural science illustration techniques for creating botanical drawings in graphite that combine accuracy with graceful composition. Each session includes demonstration and practice in drawing botanical shapes and patterns from live plant specimens. The class will also explore the fascinating history of botanical art and what's being created all over the world today.

A supply list will be sent before the first class and a botanical specimen is provided for the first class. Although previous drawing experience is helpful, beginning artists are welcome and encouraged to attend. #11-AE-02 \$172 members and U-M students; \$216 nonmembers

## Botanical Illustration II: Colored Pencil

Saturdays, 6 weeks  
March 12, 19, & 26; April 2, 9, 16  
9:30 am–12:30 pm

Instructor: Deborah Kopka

Create beautiful and realistic botanical drawings with the versatile medium of colored pencil. You will work from live plant specimens and explore techniques such as blending and burnishing to accurately render colors and texture. Each session includes demonstration and practice in drawing botanicals.

A supply list will be sent before the first class and a botanical specimen is provided for the first class. Some experience in drawing botanicals is helpful, but beginning artists are welcome and encouraged to attend. A materials list will be sent to you after registration. #11-AE-03 \$172 members and U-M students; \$216 nonmembers

Deborah Kopka is a writer/illustrator with a 30-year background in education and



publishing. Her lifelong passion for drawing and painting, along with her love of natural science, led her to study botanical illustration in England and editorial illustration at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. A botanical artist for more than 17 years, she teaches botanical illustration in Ohio and Michigan. She is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Colored Pencil Society of America, and the Ohio Arts Council. (Pictured: Graphite drawing of strawberries © by Deborah Kopka 2011.)

tration at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. A botanical artist for more than 17 years, she teaches botanical illustration in Ohio and Michigan. She is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Colored Pencil Society of America, and the Ohio Arts Council. (Pictured: Graphite drawing of strawberries © by Deborah Kopka 2011.)

## Photographing Water

Instructor: Mark O'Brien

Part I, Sun., March 6, 1–4 pm;  
Part II, Thurs., March 10, 7–9 pm

Water is one of the major themes in landscape photography, manifesting itself as a solid, liquid, and vapor. Any one of these phases may require a different approach in technique, and each has a different mood and aesthetic in photography. Join Mark O'Brien for this 2-session class that will provide you with the knowledge of how to

photograph water and improve your images. Digital cameras with manual adjustment are recommended. We will spend one session in the classroom and outdoors and one session back in the classroom reviewing images and discussing technique and tools.

#11-AE-04 \$32 members and U-M students; \$40 nonmembers

## Dragonflies and the Aquatic Environment

Instructor: Mark O'Brien

Session I, Sun., April 10, 2–4 pm  
Session II, Wed., April 13, 7–9 pm

Michigan abounds in riparian, or water, habitat, which is very important to all of the species of *Odonata*. Dragonflies are just one aspect of the insect world, but they play a role in aquatic habitats. In the nymphal stage, they are usually unseen aquatic denizens, and in the adult stage they are obvious aerial acrobats. This 2-session class will explore the ecology and behavior of *Odonata* in Michigan and provide an overview of the species found in the state, as well as how to attract species to man-made ponds. Requirements: participants should have a grasp of biological principles and natural history. #11-AE-05 \$16 members and U-M students; \$20 nonmembers

## Integrated Pest Management

Instructor: Nate Wolton

Sat., March 26, 10 am–noon

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a comprehensive approach to managing the insects and diseases in your farm, garden, or greenhouse. IPM relies on identifying pests early and using their own biology against them to reduce the need for pesticides. Learn the basic principles of IPM, how to identify and manage some common insect pests, and how to use some of the tricks and tools of the trade.

#11-AE-06 \$10 (no discounts)

## Professional Development Seminar:

### Finding Your Niche—

*Establishing an Ecological Focus for Your Landscape Firm*

Mon., Feb. 28, 9 am–5 pm

Registration includes course pack, lunch, and refreshments. CEUs available.

Landscape professionals: join us for an informative one-day seminar on ways to strengthen and build your business in the growing segment of native landscapes. The curriculum will include practical techniques for self-education, credentials establishment, marketing, and effective client communications. The highly accomplished group of presenters will

# Winter 2011 Community/Adult Education Programs and Classes, continued

include ecologist **Tony Reznicek**, landscape architect **Bob Grese**, and landscape designer **Larry Weaner**, who bring nearly 100 years of combined experience in the fields of ecology and design. For registration information, program schedule, and a syllabus, see [www.ndal.org](http://www.ndal.org) and [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).  
**#11-AE-07 \$135 (\$95 students only)**

## Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)

**Second Tuesday of each month beginning in January, 7–9 pm, Room 125, Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

This monthly meeting is designed for anyone interested in learning about the life of honeybees, their survivability, their habitat, how they fit into the community, and how to keep them. Please contact Richard ([rimentel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rimentel@sbcglobal.net)) or Marin ([mperusek@gmail.com](mailto:mperusek@gmail.com)) if you have any questions. Free; drop-in.

Check our website, [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu), for upcoming beekeeper topics.

## Orchid Fever!

Discover the fascination of orchids and learn how to grow these beautiful plants at home. Join the Ann Arbor Orchid Society at their free monthly meetings. Orchids available for sale at each meeting. Attendees can also purchase orchid plants via the Ann Arbor Orchid Society's silent auction and raffle. Orchid growers will display their blooming orchids and tell how they grew the plants; all invited to bring in a problem plant for expert help. For more information visit [aaosonline.org](http://aaosonline.org) or call 734.663.0756.



## Growing Cattleyas on Windowsills

**Sun., Jan. 16, 1:30 pm**

A member of the Michigan Orchid Society will discuss his personal experience and success with growing these long-time favorite orchids at home.

## Orchid Trip to Borneo

**Sun., Feb. 13, 1:30 pm**

Jack Shumaker will show pictures of his excursion to Borneo to see a number of orchids growing in the wild, some found only on the slopes of Mount Kinabalu.

## Ann Arbor Orchid Festival

**Sat. & Sun., March 19 & 20**

**Sat. sale hours: 10 am–4:30 pm; show hours: noon–4:30 pm**

**Sun. hours: 10 am–4:30 pm; photographer's hours: 9–10 am**

Orchid sales tables; displays of orchids from growers and societies; talks and demonstrations on orchid culture. Free.

## Here's How to Register for Classes *(see registration form below):*

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

**Fax:** 734.998.6205. Send completed registration form with credit card information.

**Mail:** MBGNA - University of Michigan  
1800 N. Dixboro Road  
Ann Arbor MI 48105

**Online:** [www.mbgna.umich.edu](http://www.mbgna.umich.edu)

**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:** 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. (See form below.)

**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](http://lsa.umich.edu/mbg/learn/registration.asp)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

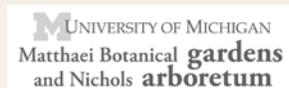
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent's name (if student is under 18):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member of Friends of MBGNA (Member Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_)**

**Non-member**

**U-M student: (Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_) Is this your first class?**  **Y**  **N**



Student's Name	Class Code	Also attending (if family class)	Member Fee	Nonmember Fee
			<b>Total</b>	

List additional classes on a separate sheet and include with original form.

**Payment:**  Check made payable to: MBGNA  
 Visa  MasterCard  Discover  
 American Express

**Card #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cardholder Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

## Get Involved— Volunteer at the Arb and Gardens

We welcome volunteers to get involved in every season at MBGNA. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528 to learn more about current opportunities.

New volunteer orientations are offered every month, with additional training required for some assignments.

*Preregistration required for all orientations and trainings.*

## Michigan Solar (MiSo) House Ambassador Training

Sat., March 26, 9 am–noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens

If you have an interest in or firsthand knowledge of solar energy, we've got the perfect job for you! Volunteers will be trained to greet and guide visitors as they learn about the MiSo (Michigan Solar) House, a unique "green" structure, designed and built by a team of U-M students, that employs passive energy methods, zero-energy consumption strategies, and smart resource utilization. Weekend open house shifts and special request tours run May–October.

## Gaffield Children's Garden Ambassador Training

Two training options:

Wed., March 30, 1–4 pm or Sat., April 16, 9:00–noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Individuals and families are invited to join us as we create a welcoming atmosphere in this new garden designed especially for young visitors—and the young at heart! Volunteers will learn about basic visitor etiquette and the different elements of this unique, interactive landscape. Shifts available seven days per week, May–October.

## Garden Ambassador Training

Sat., April 30, 9–noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Garden ambassadors welcome visitors during peak bloom season and special events. As an ambassador, you'll enjoy the beauty of the display gardens while you invite visitors to take a closer look. Training provides an overview of the Visitor Services Department, visitor etiquette, and our most popular points of interest. Additional garden tours/talks will be led by our horticulturists as the season unfolds. Weekend & Wednesday shifts available, May–October.

## Spring 2011 Plant Sales

Mother's Day weekend sale: hanging baskets and container plants, May 7 & 8

Gateway Garden annuals sale, May 14 & 15

Kitchen Favorites: sale of heirloom vegetables and herbs grown by Cultivating Community student volunteers, May 21 & 22

Peony Sale at the Arb, early June

We're offering a series of smaller, more focused sales in 2010 instead of one large sale (see p. 2). But we still need you! The upcoming sales are a great opportunity for Master Gardeners and others who want to lend a hand—and pick up some beautiful plants, too. Stay tuned for more information soon or call the volunteer coordinator as we approach the spring season.

# 16,000!

That's how many hours our volunteers logged last year.

In celebration of their passion, commitment, and service, volunteers and staff savored the sweet rewards of another year during two volunteer appreciation events last November that were centered around the theme of bees and honey.



## Volunteers with 10 or more years of service



### Horticulture, Natural Areas, Visitor Services, & Library:

Left to Right – *Front Row:* Judy Scanlon, Marjorie Berndt, Mona Pancioli, Dorothy Winter, Borah Bender, Phyllis Hiller, Betty Tedder, Gene Regenstreif, Joan Wheeler

*Back Row:* Sylvia Taylor, Penrith Goff, Marilyn Couture, Harry Winter, Jo Bertoni, Jane Coates, Ruth Heyn, Wendy Fanson, Paul Jones, William Heston, Jeanne Montie, Toni Hopping, Elizabeth Schick, Donna Wagner, Peter Schick

(*Not Pictured:* Dorothy Bloom, Alice Cohen, Mary Bond, Sharon Duesterhoft, Susan Smith, Joan Doman, Judith Rady, Celia Copeland, Carrie Riedeman, Jeanette Gaffield, Aunita Erskine, Jeanette Hescheles)



### Docents: Left to Right –

Liz McLeary, Barbara Powell, Nancy Smith, Bruce Graves, Ruth Graves, Barbara Schommer, Tom Gaffield, Valerie Carey, Judy Magee, Edith Hurst, Susanne Tons.

(*Not pictured:* Barbara Black, Margaret Nance, Marion Morris, Merrie Malerich, Anna Madison, Beth Gilford, Betsy Dugan and Sue Frazier)



Natural Areas Manager Jeff Plakke leads members on a tour of the Arb and Gardens' ecological improvements during the autumn 2010 Naturalist Tour.

The big news for spring 2011 is the annual Spring Plant Sale metamorphosis (see story on p. 2). This change multiplies the opportunities to use your member benefits and—something many of you have requested—makes available plants completely grown at the Arb and Gardens. Watch for a special tribute to our plant sale history in the coming weeks.

With these big changes afoot, we need your membership more than ever. Did you know that your member dollars fund most of the innovative, mission-critical programs you've come to expect? Take a look at the photo above. To make those terrific ecological improvements highlighted in the Naturalist Tour this fall, Jeff Plakke needs specialized equipment, like a chipper, fire retarding jumpsuits, and portable water tanks. The materials and equipment costs for our natural areas program—budgeted at \$11,000 per year—come directly from your contributions to our membership program.

This year alone, your contribution to our membership program provided funding for internships, events, educational programs, and so much more.

We here at the Arb and Gardens continually strive to enhance our programs, gardens and trails. We believe that providing you, our members, a high-quality experience is the best thanks we can give for your generous support.

We think we have something very special going on. Thank you for making it possible.

With warm holiday wishes,

**Andy Sell, Membership Coordinator – [sella@umich.edu](mailto:sella@umich.edu)**

**Start the New Year with the Gift of Membership**  
**Current members receive 10% off gift memberships!**

## 2011 Member Calendar at a Glance:

### *Members-Only Kickoff to the Growing Season Party – Friday, May 6*

Get growing with special members-only discounts in the Garden Shop and connect with Arb and Gardens horticulturalists while enjoying seasonally inspired refreshments.

### *Mother's Day Sale – May 7-8*

Members receive a 10% discount on out-of-the-ordinary terrace pots and hanging baskets—perfect for mom—grown and designed at the Arb and Gardens. Members will also receive a special discount when giving a membership to a friend or family member.

### *Gateway Annuals Sale – May 14-15*

Create your own spectacular garden accented with the same annuals grown in the Gateway Garden at Matthaei and receive a 10% member discount.

### *Kitchen Favorites Sale – May 21-22*

Members receive 10% off unique vegetables and herbs inspired by our Edible Estates Garden and grown by the U-M student organization, Cultivating Community.

### *Peonies Galore Sale –*

#### *Early June at Nichols Arboretum*

Members receive a 10% discount at this special sale of unique heirloom peonies, many of which grow in the Peony Garden at Nichols Arboretum.

### *Shakespeare in the Arb –*

#### *Thursday through Sunday, June 9-26*

Members may purchase tickets before the general public and at discounted prices. Increase your membership levels to receive complimentary admission.

### *Music in the Arb Concert Series – monthly concerts in July, August, and September*

Members receive a special invite to these monthly concerts.

### *Run for the Arb: 5 & 1 K Family Fun Run in Nichols Arboretum – Sat., Oct. 8*

Sign up, run, and support Nichols Arboretum! Members will receive a special invitation to this fundraising event.

## GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Mail form to: 1800 N. Dixboro Rd.  
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Order by phone: 734.647.7600

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- |  |        |              |                         |
|--|--------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student           | \$20   | <b>\$18</b>  | Current Member Discount |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual        | \$45   | <b>\$40</b>  |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family            | \$55   | <b>\$49</b>  |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining        | \$100  | <b>\$90</b>  |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor           | \$250  | <b>\$225</b> |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor        | \$500  | <b>\$450</b> |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director's Circle | \$1000 | <b>\$900</b> |                         |

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