



Student farm takes root

friends newsletter • fall 2012

Inside: The Great Lakes Garden • Interns: the Summer Difference • Massasauga, Part II • and more

M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Matthaei Botanical gardens
and Nichols arboretum
Caring for nature, enriching life

U-M Regents

Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor
Laurence B. Deitch, Bloomfield Hills
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms
Olivia P. Maynard, Goodrich
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park
S. Martin Taylor, Grosse Pointe Farms
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Mary Sue Coleman, *ex officio*

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens
& Nichols Arboretum**

1800 N. Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor MI 48105

Robert E. Grese, Director

Karen Sikkenga,
Associate Director

friends newsletter

Joseph Mooney, Editor
jfmooney@umich.edu

For information:

734.647.7600
mbgna.umich.edu



Pictured, top to bottom:

Director Bob Grese with U-M Provost Phil Hanlon (center) and students involved with the U-M student farm (from left: Allyson Green, Lindsey MacDonald, Jerry Tyrrell).

An eastern massasauga rattlesnake hibernacula, or winter quarters. The massasauga, which is listed as a species of special concern in Michigan, uses crayfish burrows for hibernation.

Students in Program in the Environment's Environmental Ethics class (ENV 376) brave a chilly winter day last January to help remove invasive shrubs during a Nichols Arboretum workday.

A view of the student farm in July shows tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and sunflowers. The farm is located at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

On the newsletter cover: A campus-wide cross-section of students came out to plant and dig on the U-M Student Farm inaugural workday.

Provost Visit Marks 50th

A visit from U-M Provost Phil Hanlon, together with donors, members, University officials, and students, marked the anniversary of the 1962 dedication of the Botanical Gardens. Provost Hanlon, who spoke of Matthaei-Nichols' many links to the U-M mission, including education, research, and community engagement, has been a key supporter of our initiatives under the leadership of Director Bob Grese. When it was their turn to take the podium, students involved with the U-M student farm provided insight into the status of the project, including plans for a Harvest Festival on October 4. See p. 4 for details about the festival.

Interns: the Summer Difference

Summer is the growing season here in more ways than one: this year nearly 40 students from across the U-M doubled our ranks from May through August, contributing their school smarts and fresh ideas to every department. The students represented schools and colleges such as Literature, Science, and the Arts; School of Natural Resources and Environment; the Business School; and others. Thank you, summer 2012 interns!

Thinking Outside the Classroom

Students inhabit our facilities in other ways, too, notably for classes, fieldwork, and volunteer workdays. Matthaei regularly hosts the fall Ecology Field Lab (EEB 372); Woody Plants (NRE 436) typically conducts a field trip to Matthaei, Mud Lake Bog, and Horner-McLaughlin Woods; Soil Ecology (NRE 430) visits Radrick Forest; and students use the Arb for individual study. This October we'll also lead a field trip for an Environmental Interpretation class from U-M Dearborn.

Student Farm Bears Fruit

By late July the U-M Student Farm at Matthaei looked lush and green with tidy rows of vegetables under a summer sky. The pilot farm program began with the blessing of the university and an award of \$42,000 from The Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund for student-initiated projects that promote environmental sustainability at U-M. Stay tuned as the farm progresses and plans for next year unfold.

A Full Calendar

Last year we recognized the need for a simpler way of showing the many programs and events that we and our partner groups provide for the public. On almost any given day the Arb & Gardens is a hive of activity with programming that ranges from beekeeping to birding, native plants to rock gardening, bonsai, orchids, and more. The result was a more comprehensive calendar of programs and events. Check out the calendar on pp. 4-5 for a list of fall offerings.

Massasauga, Part II

Congratulations to our Natural Areas team for securing a new round of funding from the Sustain Our Great Lakes grant program, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for the second phase of restoration work on eastern massasauga rattlesnake habitat. In Phase I we improved nearly 65 acres of habitat by removing invasive shrubs, which encourages native species; purchased, planted, and caged 150 disease-resistant American elms; and sowed 75 gallons of native-plant seeds, among other efforts. Two major conservation goals for Phase II are ecological restoration work on 50 new acres of massasauga habitat and the removal of exotic invasives on 25 of those acres.

Great Lakes Garden Underway

Earlier this year we received a major gift that will underwrite the construction of the Great Lakes Garden at Matthaei. Work on the garden is scheduled to begin around the beginning of September, with project completion by November 1. The garden will feature, of course, plants native to the Great Lakes region. What sets this garden apart from similar installations in other botanical gardens will be the recreation of Great Lakes habitats such as dune, alvar (limestone plain with little or no soil), and wetland—environments in which many Great Lakes' native flora live exclusively. See p. 2 for the Great Lakes Garden story.

Feast!

Our winter 2012-13 conservatory exhibit "Feast! – A Cross-Cultural Culinary Tour of Plants from Around the World," highlights many of the plants in our conservatory and how ancient and modern world cultures have used these plants in celebrations and cooking, particularly during the holidays. The exhibit, which runs through Jan. 6, 2013, features a grand opening on Sat., Nov. 24 that includes the annual Spinner's Flock sale. During the grand opening members receive a 20% discount on all Garden Store purchases.

Save the Date

**Sat., Sept. 29, 9 am, Nichols Arboretum
2nd Annual Run for the Arb**

All proceeds benefit Matthaei-Nichols; 20% registration discount for members—the family pooch is welcome, too! Register yourself and Fido online at our website. See p. 4.

**Sun., Sept. 16, 1 pm, Nichols Arboretum
Music in the Arb**

An afternoon of world music in the Arb, with performances by faculty from the U-M School of Music and U-M Residential College. Free. See p. 4 or visit our website in early September.



In the Great Lakes Garden, visitors will discover the region's botanical riches and explore issues and research related to Great Lakes plants and habitats.

A gift of \$800,000, the largest since the Matthaei family donated over 200 acres in 1957 for the creation of Matthaei Botanical Gardens, will fund construction of the Great Lakes Garden at Matthaei.

Best known for its plentiful supplies of fresh water, the Great Lakes region harbors another treasure—an astonishing diversity of native flora and the places they grow.

Many of these plants are endangered, threatened, or of special concern in state or national rankings, or find their purchase in habitats that exist only here or in a few other places worldwide.

A Natural Heritage Worth Protecting

“The Great Lakes Garden will allow us to honor a unique regional heritage—it’s really about the sense of place,” says Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese, whose own research over the years has focused on native gardens and the people who designed them. “It will also demonstrate that we are a center to celebrate the region,” a longstanding directive of Matthaei-Nichols and its sustainability initiatives, Grese adds.

The idea of creating spaces that incorporate native plants is well-established and grounded in good environmental stewardship practices. Native plants grow well in their own regions, and they support beneficial insects and other wildlife, contributing to a harmonious ecosystem.

Along with the strong conservation theme, notes Grese, the Great Lakes Garden connects with the U-M Herbarium and the Native American groups on campus and how it tells their story, especially in ethnobotanical terms.

Grese and other Matthaei-Nichols staff have been collaborating for several years with the Herbarium,

whose assistant director, Tony Reznicek, has provided invaluable knowledge and support for the Garden and the plants it will contain.

Botanical gardens, Reznicek says, have evolved in recent years to be more in line with their region’s natural heritages. Reznicek, who has consistently campaigned for gardens everywhere to display more of our native heritage, says that prior to this evolution in thinking, the idea of a native garden was considered unusual because gardens had traditionally been home to more exotic varieties of plants.

Thankfully that mindset is changing. And given the interest in native plants and how they’re able to survive in harsh environments, adds Reznicek, “there should be some real lessons about sustainability that go along with native gardens.”

Recipe for Success

The Great Lakes Garden site is located behind the Gateway Garden at Matthaei, with entrances near the Marie Azary Rock

Garden and the Alexandra Hicks Herb Knot Garden. The garden will reproduce as closely as possible several regional habitats such as coastal beach, alvar, and oak openings.

Grese’s face lights up when he discusses some of the plants that will be a part of the garden—including the many native orchids of the region such as the lady slippers. “Orchids are such a treasure when you find them in the wild,” says Grese. “People used to see them along roadsides and other wild places, but they’re becoming much more rare.” Michigan alone is home to nearly 100 species of native orchids, according to the USDA Plants Database.

Reznicek is passionate about alvar habitats, places of exposed bedrock that are home to species such as the lakeside daisy (*Tetranneuris herbacea*). Besides the Great Lakes region, alvar habitats are found in only four other places in the world—England, Estonia, Ireland, and Sweden.

The garden will also feature a native fern garden named after the late Warren (“Herb”) Wagner, former director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Wagner was particularly interested in fern hybrids and how these hybrids showed continual adaptation and change.

Like all living things, Great Lakes flora and fauna are connected to a bigger ecological picture. “All of the plants that occur in the glaciated Great Lakes regions came from somewhere,” says Reznicek, “and this provides some interesting links to other North American flora.” Ancestors of the lakeside daisy, for example, are from the high plains. The forebears of the dwarf lake iris are from Appalachia. “So very directly we can see the connections to other places,” Reznicek notes.

The timing is right, too. The Great Lakes Garden presents an amazing diversity, with important take-home lessons about our unique heritage and ways that people can “think about different approaches to gardening and work for change,” adds Reznicek. 🌿

What to Expect

The Great Lakes Garden will be a place of display and of refuge for native species and will feature five habitats found in the Great Lakes region:

Great Lakes Endemics Garden

Flora found in sandy conditions such as dune, rocky beaches, and alvar, an exposed limestone habitat that exists in just four other world locations.

Native Orchid Display Garden

Iconic Great Lakes orchids are the envy of horticulturists everywhere. Michigan alone is home to nearly 100 native species. The Orchid Display Garden will contain native orchids and related species, with interpretation about where they’re found in the wild.

Oak Openings Garden

Among the most threatened in the U.S., with less than 1% of the original remaining, oak openings are quasi-open woodlands and prairies that feature wildflowers requiring full summer sun.

Woodland Wildflower Gardens

Native wildflowers found throughout the region in conditions ranging from dry to moist. A special feature will be the Herb Wagner Fern Collection, integrated throughout the Woodland Wildflower and other gardens.

Prairie Wildflower Garden

Sun-loving native prairie flowers will grow in this garden, attracting birds and butterflies. Visitors will also learn about using wildflower species in garden settings.



Pictured, above left: Looking as much like an abstract painting as a plant habitat, an alvar site on the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario is home to mosses and lichens as well as plants such as northern white cedar. **Above:** Dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*), which grows in alvar habitats.

Fall 2012 Youth & Kids' Classes and Programs

Sign Up! —

For our **Homemade Heritage** kids' workshops listed below. Fees are per child and include activities and materials. For more information call 734.647.7600 or visit our website, mbgna.umich.edu, where you can also subscribe to our free monthly e-newsletter. All programs below held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens unless otherwise noted.

Sat., September 29, 10 am–noon

Festi-Fall

Explore the many ways that plants and animals prepare for fall and colder weather. Create a wreath of rainbow-colored leaves and make arts and crafts from nature's bounty. Bring a light colored t-shirt and use leaves and natural materials to design and paint your own designer t-shirt. \$8.00/child includes activities and materials.

12-YE-22



Sat., Oct. 27, 10 am–noon

Halloween Spooktacular

Join us for our annual Spooktacular event. Pumpkins and gourds come in all shapes and sizes, so choose your favorite to decorate the house for Halloween. Plus, make fantastic butterfly, dragonfly, and bird masks to take home and sample tasty pumpkin treats. \$8.00/child includes activities and materials.

12-YE-24

Sat., Oct. 13, 10 am–noon

Build Your Own Scarecrow

Build a kid-sized scarecrow to take home! Listen to stories about scarecrows and how farmers relied on them to keep animals from raiding the farm and garden, then build and decorate your own scarecrow to take home. Bring a set of child-sized clothing; we provide the rest. \$10.00/child includes activities and materials. 12-YE-23



Sat., Nov. 17, 10 am–noon

Kids Are Chefs, Too!

Release your inner chef! Learn how the original Thanksgiving celebration used native plants and items brought from Europe, while today's Thanksgiving feasts include foods from around the world. Learn to make foods from native plants as well as plants brought by immigrants and explorers to America. Make a decorative centerpiece to take home. \$8.00/child includes activities and materials. 12-YE-25



Sat., Dec. 8, 10 am–noon

Winter Wonders - Solstice Celebration

Celebrate the Winter solstice—even if it's a bit early! Learn about the change of seasons, decorate with native plants and other evergreens, and make a holiday card and decorations to take home. \$10.00/child includes activities and materials. 12-YE-26



Scout Programs

Scouting programs at Matthaei provide Girl and Boy scouts with new experiences and opportunities to meet many different journey, badge, and patch requirements. Please contact children's ed coordinator Liz Glynn for questions about meeting your troop or den's specific badge and patch goals: 734.763.6667; lizglynn@umich.edu



Pictured: an Eco-Kids patch

Exploration Nature Uncover botanical treasures!

Learn the roles plants play and why they're important. Also, build a terrarium to take home.

Trail Treks Discover tracks and trees

Discover Michigan's unique trees along the Sam Graham Trees Trail. Plus, receive a booklet to make leaf rubbings and learn what makes Michigan ecosystems so special.

Eco-Kids Go green and make a difference

Kids can make a difference when it comes to the health of the planet! Make paper, learn how composting works, or plant a tabletop garden to explore ways you can change the world.

Sketchbook Detectives Put the world on paper

Find out how artists and scientists both uncover the secrets of nature through close observation. In this workshop, paints, pastels, and colored pencils are your tools for rediscovering the natural world.

Wetland Explorer (Offered May/June & early October)

Clean water is important to everyone and everything! Explore ponds and streams to discover and learn about creatures and plants and their role in wetlands. This program counts toward the following badges: Junior Girl Scout-Outdoor Creativity & Outdoor Surroundings, and Cub Scouts.

All programs and classes unless noted are free and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

For complete program information visit our online calendar at mbgna.umich.edu or the "Come Learn" section of our website.

SEPTEMBER

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 8 & 9, 10:30 am–4 pm

Exotic Plant Sale

Presented by Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society & SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
A large selection of cactus, succulents, bromeliads, supplies, books, and more. Info: 248.380.7359



Sat., Sept. 8, 1 pm

The Wonderful World of Bromeliads

Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
An introduction to the bromeliad (pine-apple) family features its diversity of form and color, its survival strategies, and its importance to the ecology of its habitat.

Sun., Sept. 9, 1 pm

Growing Bromeliads in Michigan

Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
Tips on choosing bromeliads that best suit your needs. Plus a discussion of potting, fertilizing, watering, propagation, and more.

Mon., Sept. 10, 7 pm

Garden Pollinators—Not Just Bees

Presented by Herb Study Group
Hear entomologist Dr. Mark O'Brien discuss the many different kinds of pollinators.

Tues., Sept. 11, 7:30 pm

Soil Testing for Your Roses

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A discussion on soil testing and why it's performed. Also, Q&A and refreshments.

Wed., Sept. 12, 6 pm

Matthaei Botanical Gardens Foray

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Explore native plantings and lawn alternatives at Matthaei. 734.604.4674; wildones.org/chapters/annarbor/.

Wed., Sept. 12, 7 pm

Fall Hive Management

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Topics include the status of pests and pathogens; determining hive strength prior to winter cluster; and last-minute interventions to aid in hive survival.



Fri., Sept. 14, 6–10 pm

Cattleya walkeriana

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Harray Akagi of H&R Orchids in Hawaii discusses the culture of this Brazilian native, as well as the breeding of various orchids at H&R. Pre-orders due Aug. 31: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Sat., Sept. 15, 11 am

Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
Dennis Seffernick presents new awards and Jim Heilig discusses *Phalaenopsis* orchids. Info: 517.546.8303.

Sun., Sept. 16, 1-4 pm, Nichols Arboretum

Music in the Arb

Presented by Matthaei-Nichols
An afternoon of music in the Arb, with performances in the peony garden, at the river front, and in the amphitheater.



Mon., Sept 17, 7:45 pm

Hiking and Botany of Isle Royale

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club
Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation naturalist Faye Stoner leads a presentation on hiking on Isle Royale and the botany of this rugged national park in Lake Superior.

Tues., Sept. 18, 7:30 pm

Great Lakes Estuaries: Keys to the Health of the Great Lakes

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
Michigan DNR scientist Paul Seelbach explains the latest studies on the Great Lakes river estuaries and provides insight on what the future holds.

Wed., Sept. 19, 7:30 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

Tonight's topic TBD.
Info: washtenawaudubon.org or call 734.677.3275.

Sat., Sept. 22, 10 am–4 pm

Michigan State African Violet Society Semi-Annual Display and Sale

Presented by the Michigan State African Violet Society
Experts on hand to answer questions. Free seminar at 11:30 am.

Wed., Sept. 26, 7 pm

Annual Bonsai Auction

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Annual auction of bonsai and bonsai-related materials. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Sat., Sept. 29, 9 am, Nichols Arboretum

Run for the Arb- 5K Walk/Run

All proceeds benefit the Arb & Gardens.
Registration fee \$20 for Matthaei-Nichols members; \$25 general public. Register online at mbgna.umich.edu.



OCTOBER

Mon., Oct. 1, 7 pm

Herb Study Group

Tonight's program TBD. Please call or visit our website: mbgna.umich.edu.

Thurs., Oct. 4, 4–8 pm

Harvest Festival

Presented by University of Michigan Sustainable Food Program (UMSFP)
All invited to an evening in celebration of the student farm at the University of Michigan. Free shuttle available from Central Campus to Matthaei. Info: umsfp.com.

Tues., Oct. 9, 7:30 pm

Winter Protection for Your Roses

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society

Tues., Oct. 9, 7 pm

Fall Management II

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A discussion of hive honey supply, how to determine hive strength and survivability, and practical methods for mice control.

Wed., Oct. 10, 6:45 pm

Wild Ones Ann Arbor

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Tonight's program TBD. For updates visit wildones.org/chapters/annarbor/.

Sun., Oct. 14, 2–5 pm

Stars & Stripes of the Mini-Catts

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A presentation on the smaller *Cattleyas* and a discussion about their culture. Info: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Mon., Oct. 15, 7:45 pm

Jens Jensen and Other Naturalists: Methods of Naturalistic Landscaping

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club
Hear Robert Grese, director of Matthaei-Nichols Arboretum and professor of landscape architecture at the U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment, discuss the renowned Danish landscape architect Jens Jensen.

Tues., Oct. 16, 7:30 pm

Ah, Wilderness! The 25th Anniversary of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
A behind-the-scenes look at the legislative process that protected 90,000 acres of diverse Michigan ecosystems.

Wed., Oct. 17, 7:30 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

Tonight's topic TBD.

Info: washtenawaudubon.org
or call 734.677.3275.

Wed., Oct. 24, 7 pm

A Study of Bonsai in Silhouette

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

An opportunity for attendees to study their trees prior to winter storage. Info:

annarborbonsaisociety.org.



NOVEMBER

Sat., Nov. 3, 10 am–2 pm

Annual Hosta Seed Trade

Presented by Hosta Hybridizer Group

A hosta seed trade and special presentation on embryo rescue by Patrick Brown. Info: jo43@tds.net.

Mon., Nov. 5, 6 pm

Annual Potluck and Bonsai Critique

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

All invited to enjoy a meal followed by a critique of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and AABS trees. All invited; bring a dish to pass. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Mon., Nov. 5, 7 pm

Herb Study Group

Tonight's program TBD. Please call or visit our website: mbgna.umich.edu.

Sat., Nov. 10, 1:30 pm

Rock Garden Plants for Eastern N. America

Presented by Great Lakes Chapter, N. American Rock Garden Society

Author and rock-garden expert Rex Murfitt, from Victoria, BC, discusses rock garden plants suitable for our region, with an emphasis on Saxifrages suitable for smaller rock gardens and troughs. Info: reznicek@umich.edu.

Sun., Nov. 11, 2 pm

What's New in Roses for 2013

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society

Also, Q&A and refreshments.

Tues., Nov. 13, 7 pm

Winter Management

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

A discussion about winter hive preparation and the problem of condensation, including practical approaches to managing internal condensation.

Wed., Nov. 14, 6:45 pm

Annual Potluck, Slide Show, and Deep Roots Award

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor

All invited for a harvest celebration of ideas and food and the presentation of the Deep Roots Award, which recognizes the outstanding stewardship of a Wild Ones' member. Bring a dish to pass. Info: 734.604.4674.

Wed., Nov. 14, 7:30 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

Tonight's topic TBD.

Info: washtenawaudubon.org
or call 734.677.3275.

Sat., Nov. 17, 11 am

Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

Ed Cott discusses recent awards and Ron Payeur talks about First Class Certificates. Info: 517.546.8303.

Sat., Nov. 17, 2 pm

Life as an Epiphyte

Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society

A presentation on how bromeliads acquire the moisture and nutrients they need and their survival strategies.

Sun., Nov. 18, 2–5 pm

Weird & Wonderful Orchids

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society

Dawn Schlote of Mystic Orchids in Ohio discusses the culture of unusual orchids. Also, show and tell, raffle, and related items for sale. Info: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Mon., Nov. 19, 7:45 pm

Biodiversity of Aquatic Plants—Temperate Versus Neotropics: Is Northeastern North America the Amazonia of Diversity for Aquatic Plants?

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club

Tues., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm

Wondrous Wilderness: Tramping in New Zealand

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group

Author Jim DuFresne shows why New Zealand is such a paradise for hikers and backpackers, and why backpacking is such a passion with New Zealanders.

Sat., Nov. 24–Sun., Jan. 6, 2013

Feast! - A Cross-Cultural Culinary Tour of Plants Around the World

Conservatory exhibit

From cinnamon in Sri Lanka to figs in ancient Rome, the winter exhibit takes a look at how plants have played an essential role in celebrations and cooking, especially during the holiday season. Activities during the exhibit include a visit from Father Christmas, food event, music on Nov. 24, member sale, and more. Visit our website soon for more information.

Sat., Nov. 24, 10 am–4:30 pm

Spinner's Flock Holiday Sale

One-of-a-kind clothing, art, accessories, and holiday items for sale by local and regional weavers and fiber artists.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 8, 10 am–noon

Annual Holiday Greens Workshop

Presented by the Ann Arbor Garden Club

Create your own wreath or greens arrangement. Materials provided. Bring your own clippers. Potluck follows. \$15 per person includes materials. Space limited; reservations recommended. 734.255.7912.

Tues., Dec. 11, 7 pm

Alternative Hives and Beekeeping

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

A show and tell about the different shapes and construction of alternate hives and a discussion about the difference between organic and biodynamic beekeeping.

Sat., Dec. 15, 11 am

Chinese *Paphiopedilums*

Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

A presentation by Katie Payeur. Info: 517.546.8303.

Tues., Dec. 18, 7:30 pm

Great Adventures from Around the Globe

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group

Share your travel pictures and stories with us! Send a Powerpoint presentation or 10–15 digital photos with your stories to lighthawkpilot@gmail.com.

NOTE:
Be sure to call ahead (734.647.7600) or check our website—mbgna.umich.edu—in advance of any program. Due to speaker availability or other reasons beyond our control, program dates or topics occasionally change after the newsletter is printed.

Get Involved—Volunteer! Fall 2012

Fall is the perfect time to dig into some great volunteer opportunities at Matthaei-Nichols. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528 or tgriffit@umich.edu for more information. All trainings are held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., unless otherwise noted. Note: Preregistration required for all training sessions and special events.

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

Natural Areas



Native Plant Team – Fall/Winter Kick Off

Thurs., Sept. 6, 1–3 pm

Expand your knowledge of SE Michigan native plants by helping out with seed collection, processing, and propagation. Future plants will be used in various native gardens and natural areas projects at Matthaei-Nichols. Volunteer workdays occur weekdays 9 am–noon and 1–4 pm; September–March. Volunteers may help weekly or at least two times per month during the season.

Prescribed Burn Crew Training

Thurs., Oct. 11, 1–3 pm, Nichols Arboretum - Reader Center

A great service learning opportunity for those who enjoy the natural areas at Matthaei-Nichols and would like to help maintain them. 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.



Above: Volunteers Sayaka Terada, Dorothy Yenni, Liz Sweet, and Tim Schafer process milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seeds.

Visitor Services



Conservatory Ambassador Training – two options

Sat., Oct. 13, 9 am–noon

Wed., Oct. 24, 1–4 pm

Cooler days and bare branches bring visitors to our conservatory, where ambassadors greet and guide them to points of interest and informal learning opportunities. Ambassador training introduces volunteers to the Visitor Services department and covers the basics about the conservatory's tropical, temperate, and arid biomes and their many fascinating plants. Ambassadors commit to two 3-hour shifts per month and attend ongoing educational sessions.

Education



2013 Docent Training - Information Sessions

Tues., Dec. 4 and Thurs., Dec. 6, 2–3:30 pm

Inspire future generations of environmental stewards as a Matthaei-Nichols Docent! We are now accepting applications for the 2013 Docent Class. During the academic year, docents work in small teams to lead interpretive programs for school groups and evening and weekend activities for scout, youth, and family events. Docents develop skills in interpretation and

active learning while sharing enthusiasm and knowledge of the natural world with learners of all ages. *Docent classes begin late January 2013 and run for approximately 8 weeks.*



Right: Docent Kathy Wirstrom leads a school tour in the conservatory.

Special Events



Music in the Arb

Sun., Sept. 16, 1–4 pm., Nichols Arboretum

An afternoon of world music from the U-M School of Music and the U-M Residential College. Volunteers are positioned at key locations in the Arb to greet and direct audience members to the performance locations.

Run for the Arb

Sat., Sept. 29, 9 am, Nichols Arboretum

Join us for the 2nd Annual Run for the Arb, a family run/walk through the trails of Nichols Arboretum. All proceeds benefit Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum. Volunteers help out with registration, way-finding, refreshments, and finish line.



Left: Volunteers help runners at the finish line at Run for the Arb 2011.

Building a Home for Our Bonsai and Penjing



Masons and carpenters are busy transforming a large, quiet space southwest of the conservatory into the Bonsai and Penjing Garden at Matthaei, a project six years in the planning. Since the first gift of \$30,000 in March 2008, donors have given over \$280,000 toward the dream of a permanent space to exhibit our bonsai collection. The trees are constantly pruned, trained, and watered to thrive at a fraction of their usual size.

Bonsai artistry lies in capturing the essence of a tree growing in specific circumstances in the wild. When this has been skillfully done, visitors report experiencing a sensation of actually standing in a forest.

As we celebrate the success of raising money for the garden, a final fundraising phase will ensure the knowledgeable, seven-day-a-week care that the collection and garden demand. Each donor offering \$1,000 or more will be named on an honor roll in the garden. In addition, three major spaces within the garden could still be named, e.g. the display space could be the YourName Gallery, or the work area could be the YourSpouse Studio. Contact Development Director Gayle Steiner, 734.647.7847 or gayles@umich.edu.

Thank you in advance—and watch for the grand opening of the Bonsai and Penjing Garden next year.

Above: An artist's rendering of the bonsai garden at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The garden, featuring display space and a studio, will be located southwest of the conservatory

A Flowering of Friends

These are tough times, but they prove what we already know—the loyalty of our longtime members and the curiosity and excitement of our new *Friends*. For the first time since Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum merged in 2004, our *Friends* memberships have surpassed 2,000, representing households from twelve states and from Canada dedicated to supporting the Arb & Gardens and the work we do.

All of those memberships add up to one-third of Matthaei-Nichols charitable giving. Together with end-of-year annual gifts to our enrichment fund, *Friends* membership dues are a stable source of income in an unpredictable economic environment.

Your dollars provide important support for:

- ✿ Natural areas restoration and trail maintenance;
- ✿ Plants for outdoor display gardens, conservatory, and seasonal displays;
- ✿ Paid educational internships for nineteen University students, who enrich the Arb & Gardens and receive an immersive learning experience.

This year we added some key benefits. These include the 'Family Tree' membership level incorporating youth program benefits, a switch from free conservatory admission to free parking at Matthaei, additional educational tours for *Friends* at the sustaining level and above, and membership dues reduction for college and university students.



Your questions and comments are important to us. Please feel free to call or email Membership Manager Andy Sell at 734.615.9475; sella@umich.edu.

The Matthaei-Nichols Memorial and Tribute Program



Our memorial and tribute gift programs provide a meaningful way to celebrate a special occasion or remember a loved one. You can dedicate a tree or a bench, create a special ceremony to remember a family member or friend, or name a trail or garden. These enduring and tax-deductible gifts support our work to promote environmental stewardship, education, and enjoyment for the public and for the University of Michigan community.

Cumulative or one-time gifts of \$1,500 receive a tribute tree with an inscribed tree tag and profile on our online TributeTracker.

Gift amounts of \$5,000 and above are eligible for bench dedications, which include a bench plaque and a profile on the TributeTracker. Gifts to the tribute and memorial fund directly support the maintenance of the many trails, gardens, and natural areas at the Arb & Gardens today and for future generations and are vital in the installation of new trees for our collections and benches for visitors.

Tribute Tracker lists all current tributes and each listing provides a description of the tribute, dedication, donation date, location, and map. You can also search for a specific tribute. Visit the TributeTracker on our home page—mbgna.umich.edu—by clicking on the icon pictured here or by searching for TributeTracker in the search field on any page of our site.



For more information, call or email Membership Manager Andy Sell at 734.615.9475; sella@umich.edu.