

The Peony Garden Turns 90!

friends newsletter • spring-summer 2012

Inside: Great Lakes Garden, Gifted • A Farm Grows at Matthaei • Student Prizes • and more

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PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

A wide-angle view of the Peony Garden in bloom. The Garden celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

Hanging baskets are ready for the Mother's Day Weekend Sale & Fundraiser at Matthaei.

An eastern massasauga rattlesnake makes its way across a section of pavement at the Botanical Gardens.



Gift Boosts Great Lakes Garden

A major gift of \$800,000 will primarily fund construction of the Great Lakes Garden at Matthaei. The gift is the largest since the Matthaei family donated over 200 acres to the University in 1957 for the creation of Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Construction will begin in late summer or early fall 2012. For more information, see p. 7.

Nine Decades of Peonies

This season marks the 90th anniversary of the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. In addition to its famed blooms, the garden is also benefiting from the Peony Initiative, a multi-year restoration project. Tree peonies are being planted, as are heirloom annuals for visual interest after the garden finishes blooming. Don't miss the largest collection of heirloom peonies in North America! Peak bloom late May through mid-June, weather depending. Call or visit our peony Facebook page for updates (search for "The Peony Garden at Nichols Arboretum").

Students Garner Prizes, Fellowships

Annual prizes and awards recognize creative work and scholarship related to the Matthaei-Nichols mission. The Nanette R. LaCross and William D. Drake prizes honor work by students in the School of Natural Resources & Environment (SNRE) or Program in the Environment (PitE) who link their studies with us. The Winifred B. Chase Fellowship helps students in systematic botany research, plant geography, and other phases of botany requiring field study. This year's winners, who take home a total of \$13,000 in prizes: **Chase Prize:** Daniel Katz (SNRE); Tess Nugent, Earth & Environmental Sciences (EES); Na Wei, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. **Drake Prize:** Laurent Beriont (EES/PitE); Ayehlet Cooper (SNRE); Helen Graham (SNRE); Daniel Katz (SNRE); Lindsey MacDonald (SNRE); Diana Portner (SNRE). **LaCross Prize:** Erin Dreps (SNRE); Allyson Green (SNRE); Jen Horton (Urban Planning) The Presidential Management Fellow winner is Ben Johnson (SNRE). The PMF is a paid leadership development program at the entry level for advanced degree candidates.

Eastern Massasauga Workshop

Join us for a free workshop highlighting the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. For this program, Yu Man Lee, a conservation scientist with Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and Matthaei-Nichols' staff member Steven Parrish discuss the massasauga, its biology and ecology, detection and survey methods, and its habitat-management challenges. Steven will describe the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-funded project currently underway at the Gardens to restore massasauga habitat. Discussion is followed by a field trip of the Gardens' property to view massasauga survey methods (condition dependent) as well as management practices used to restore massasauga habitat. See p. 4 for details.

Bonsai Garden Update

Construction of the new bonsai display garden continues. Grading for the site was completed in April and will be followed by the fencing, gravel, plumbing, and wiring. The benches, beautifully constructed by volunteer Bill Sloan, are ready. The vagaries of construction and weather make it difficult for us to predict exact times but if all goes well, installation and placement of the plants is scheduled for later this summer or fall. Pending a few crossed fingers, the bonsai garden structure may be ready by end of year. The new garden will allow us to display much more of our bonsai collection than currently possible. Stay tuned for more updates.

Connecting People & Nature with Restoration

Matthaei-Nichols is co-sponsoring with the School of Natural Resources & Environment, Grand Valley State, and others the fourth annual meeting of the Midwest-Great Lakes Society for Ecological Restoration, May 4–6 at Matthaei. Conference includes a keynote address on the Great Lakes by Helen Taylor of the Nature Conservancy, four workshops, over 50 contributed presentations, off-site field trip, and much more. Visit the Midwest-Great Lakes SER chapter home page for registration information: ser.org/mwgl.

Save the Dates

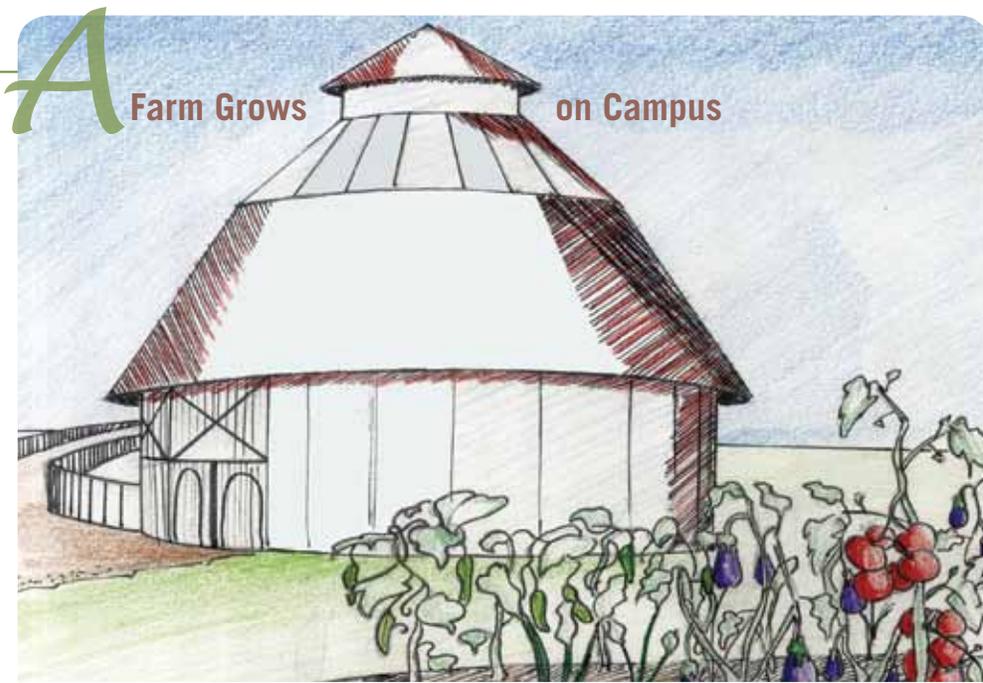
May 12–13, 10 am–4:30 pm, Matthaei
Mother's Day Weekend Fundraiser & Sale
 Hanging baskets and containers.

May 19–20, 10 am–4:30 pm, Matthaei
Heirloom & Water-Wise Fundraiser & Sale
 Water-resilient perennials for shade and sun, plus herbs and vegetables grown and sold by Cultivating Community.

May 19, 10 am–4:30 pm, Matthaei
(Note location and date change)
Peonies Galore Fundraiser & Sale
 Antique and heirloom peonies for sale.

Mid-May-early June, Nichols Arboretum
Nichols Arboretum Peony Festival
 The Peony Garden is early this year! Call ahead or visit our website for festival and bloom updates.

Thurs.–Sun., June 7–24, Nichols Arboretum
Shakespeare in the Arb
The Merry Wives of Windsor
 Early, day-of-performance ticket sales and discounts for members.



Farm Grows on Campus

The campus farm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens: for U-M students, a gathering place and learning center for sustainability and best practices in growing food

Where does our food come from, how is it grown, and why does that matter? Many of us are asking similar questions today about the food we eat.

Soon, University of Michigan students will find their own answers as they create and grow a campus farm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, first with a small pilot garden this summer, followed by a formal groundbreaking in 2013.

As much laboratory as classroom, the farm will connect students with nature in ways they might never have experienced before. Such hands-on experience, Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese believes, provides invaluable lessons in small-scale food production for students who—even if they don't go on to be farmers—“will play a role in food production and delivery systems as policy makers, planners, health professionals, social workers, and ecologists,” he says.

Strong Student and University Support

Whatever their academic stripe, U-M students certainly champion the farm idea. A proposal submitted by undergraduate students in ENV 391, a course in LSA's Program in the Environment, indicates significant student backing for a farm. Of 457 responses to a survey attached to the proposal, 83% expressed a moderate to high interest in starting a farm, and more than half would enjoy volunteering at the farm or participating for academic reasons.

Most important, the farm has the University's blessing. In its most comprehensive study yet of sustainability on campus, the U-M released

last year the Campus Sustainability Integrated Assessment (CSIA). The Sustainability Executive Council chaired by President Mary Sue Coleman endorsed the study and recommended that the University create a campus farm.

Commenting on sustainability after the release of the CSIA, President Coleman pointed out that the University's role in addressing these issues is to lay the groundwork for “the next generation of scientists, leaders, and engaged citizens.”

Along with undergrads, graduate students in the School of Natural Resources and Environment will be working with Grese, Matthaei-Nichols staff, and U-M faculty members to make the farm a reality.

Planning for a sustainable food program and campus farm implementation will serve as the student group's capstone master's project. The farm would be part of a University-wide effort to increase students' knowledge of critical food topics so they can make informed food choices for themselves and help educate others.

The Farm and Its Mission

The farm would tangibly demonstrate the U-M Sustainable Food Program's core values. “It will tie education, community, and sustainable food together in a way that hasn't been done before at U-M,” notes master's proposal team member Elizabeth Dengate. And because Matthaei-Nichols' and the farm's mission align so closely, “the Gardens stands out as the place on campus that fosters the same kind of learning the farm will promote.” The farm will also help students extend their learning beyond

campus, “giving them opportunities to further connect, learn, and explore while on site at the Gardens,” Dengate adds.

The student farm points to important socio-political issues, too. If one definition of sustainable food and farming is “food that is produced, distributed, and processed in a way that supports environmental longevity and health, and social equity,” according to the master's team, then business as usual—profligate use of pesticides, large-scale monoculture, and other detrimental food-growing practices—won't insure we are stewarding the world for future generations. A campus farm, the student master's team leaders say, provides an avenue for exploring and educating about alternatives. ♻️

Having a Farm, and Getting There, Too

An issue of growing importance is transportation to Matthaei Botanical Gardens. No public transportation exists, and options are limited to car, bicycle, or walking. Since the Gardens is some miles from campus and narrow, winding Dixboro Road lacks a bike path, few opt for the two-wheeled approach and almost no one for the two-footed.

Students are willing to be creative, however: car-pooling or hopping on a bus that brings classes to Matthaei are two possibilities under discussion, though a bus may make the most sense from volume and environmental perspectives. Discussions with the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority are also ongoing but as of this writing there are no definite plans to create an AATA route on Dixboro or divert other lines.

Nevertheless, there is avid interest among students who responded to a survey about transportation to Matthaei Botanical Gardens. In the survey, conducted earlier this year, 47% and 25% of students, respectively, were somewhat or very interested in visiting the Gardens, while 77% of respondents who had visited the Gardens said that they had used a car. Nearly three-quarters were somewhat or very comfortable with using a bus to get around, and 75% were more inclined to visit the Matthaei Botanical Gardens if a university sponsored bus or carpool was available at no cost.



Youth & Kids' Classes and Programs—Spring-Summer 2012

Members Spring Fever Garden Party Fri., May 11, 5-7:30 pm, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Rm. 125

Calling all kids: You're invited to our Spring Fever Members Garden party, too! We'll have lots of fun activities during the evening such as decorating flower pots, a planting session, and more. Refreshments served. Mom and dad: not a member of the Arb & Gardens? Join Friday and enjoy the festivities and everything we have to offer throughout the year.

Sensational Nature Youth & Kids' Activities & Workshops— Spring-Summer 2012

Discover, learn, and play all summer at Matthaei and in the Gaffield Children's Garden, where you'll invent, create, design, show off your artistic talents, or see what's new and growing in your favorite vegetable patch. We'll have free self-guided scavenger hunts, discovery cards, and adventure backpacks available at the Matthaei front desk during regular business hours beginning in May.



Wed., June 20

Butterflies and Dragons

Look for signs that summer is truly here—dragonflies, hummingbirds, summer flowers, and more. Then help us celebrate summer with crafts, games, and guided hikes. **12-YE-16**

Fri., June 22

Bugs Are Beautiful

Without insects, we'd be in big trouble. Insects pollinate almost 90% of all of our food crops. Which makes butterflies, moths, bees, beetles, and flies very important. Take a hike to look for pollinators and build a model flower and fantasy pollinator to celebrate our winged friends. **12-YE-17**

Fri., July 13

Art for the Garden

Gardens and garden decorations tell visitors a story about you and your garden. Come listen to stories that take place in gardens and then make a garden decoration to take home. **12-YE-18**



Sign Up!—

For our Sensational Nature workshops listed below.

The \$5.00 fee per child includes activities and materials. For more information call 734.647.7600 or visit our website, mbgna.umich.edu, where you can sign up for our free monthly e-newsletter to stay on top of what's happening here. All activities held 10 am–noon at Matthaei unless noted otherwise.

Wed., July 25

Herb Tales

Explore the Herb Knot Garden at Matthaei and the herb and spice beds in the conservatory for a fragrant diversion and a look at herbs from all over the world. Make herbal iced teas and a sachet to take home. **12-YE-19**

Fri., Aug. 10

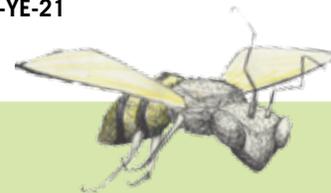
Wetland Explorer Hike

Grab an adventure backpack and explore a constructed wetland, a floodplain, and a pond. Use dip nets to examine the abundant life living in and near water. **12-YE-20**

Wed., Aug. 22 10 am

Pickle It!

Before refrigerators, people pickled vegetables at the peak of the season to store them for fall and winter. Pickles are fun to make and even more fun to eat! Try making pickles from different fruits and vegetables and take a sample home. **12-YE-21**



Summer Drop-In Days at the Gaffield Children's Garden

Check the Gaffield Children's Garden bulletin board for drop-in activities throughout the summer.

Pollinator Week: June 18-24

Pollinator Week is an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and beetles. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture signs the proclamation every year. Visit pollinator.org for more information.

All programs below unless otherwise noted are free, open to the public, and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Money collected for fee-based classes covers materials. See specific listings for any discounts. Fee-based programs are noted with a \$ and venues outside of Matthaei are marked with a ⌘.

MAY

§ Spring-Summer 4-H Junior Master Gardener program

Hands-on classes help kids 9–11 discover the fun of gardening and volunteering. Six classes, 5/8–6/19, followed by 2 monthly garden sessions through mid-September. \$40 per child; application deadline April 30. Info: 734.997.1678.

May 4–6

§ Connecting People & Nature with Restoration

Annual meeting of the Midwest-Great Lakes Society for Ecological Restoration. Visit the Midwest-Great Lakes SER chapter home page for registration information: ser.org/mwgl.

Tues., May 8, 7:30 pm

What's Bugging Your Rose Garden?

Sponsored by Huron Valley Rose Society. Program covers soil problems, diseases, and pests, and solutions.

Wed., May 9, 6–8 pm

⌘ Wild Ones Plant Sale and Exchange

Sponsored by Wild Ones Ann Arbor. Held at Native Plant Nursery. Info: for-wild.org/chapters/annarbor.

Wed., May 9, 7 pm

Pests and Pathogens in Beekeeping

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2). A close look at pests and pathogens and integrated pest management (IPM) practices for the new beekeeper. Info: rimendel@sbcglobal.net.

May 12 & 13, 10 am–4:30 pm

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Mother's Day Plant Sale

A large selection of hanging baskets and containers grown by Matthaei-Nichols staff and volunteers. Plus, gift items in the Garden Store at Matthaei. 734.647.7600.

Sat., May 12, 10 am–2 pm

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

American Rhododendron Society Sale

Tues., May 15, 7:30 pm

The Blue/Green Alliance: Jobs for the Future

Sponsored by Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group.

A discussion about the Jobs21! campaign for 21st century jobs in renewable energy, manufacturing, transportation, energy efficiency, recycling, and more.

Mid-May through early June (weather-dependent)

Nichols Arboretum Peony Festival

The peonies are early this year but the Peony Festival is still on! Join us for the 90th anniversary of this renowned garden. For updates, call or visit our website or Facebook page.

Wed., May 16, 7:30 pm

Superbirders of Southeast Michigan

Sponsored by Washtenaw Audubon Society

Andy Dettling and Jacco Gelderloos have sighted a huge number of bird species over the course of the year. Hear their tales of death-defying rides in all weather and traffic.

Sat., May 19, 9 am–3 pm

Annual Herbfest

Sponsored by Evening Herb Study Group.

Free information about herbs during the Matthaei Heirloom and Water-Wise Sale. Plus, herb cooking demo and tastings at 11, 1, and 3.

Sat. & Sun., May 19 & 20, 10 am–4:30 pm

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Heirloom & Water-Wise Spring Plant Sale and Fundraiser

A selection of water-resilient perennials that adapt well to dry summer conditions, plus herbs and vegetables grown and sold by the U-M student volunteer group Cultivating Community. Proceeds support Matthaei-Nichols and Cultivating Community.

Sat., May 19, 10 am–4:30 pm

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Peonies Galore Sale and Fundraiser

A rare opportunity to purchase some of the same varieties of beautiful heirloom peonies that grow in the U-M Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. 734.647.7600.

Sat., May 19 & 26, 9 am–noon

§ Painting in the Peony Garden

An Ann Arbor Art Center Workshop. Paint or draw in the Arboretum Peony Garden with instructor Janet Kohler. Bring sketchbook, preferred medium, sunscreen, hat, and comfortable shoes. Registration & info: annarborartcenter.org.

Sun., May 20, 2 pm

Bulbophyllums

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Orchid Society. A discussion about this largest group of orchids found mostly across Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

Wed., May 23, 7 pm

Design of a Dawn Redwood Forest

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Kurt Smith discusses how to design and assemble a redwood forest. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Sat., May 26, 10 am–1 pm

Dawn Redwood Workshop

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Those with intermediate bonsai skills invited to this workshop using dawn redwood. Participants will have an opportunity to design their own dawn redwood clump or forest. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

JUNE

Sat., June 2, 10 am–2 pm

Creating Bonsai Hosta

Sponsored by Hosta Hybridizer Group. Discover "bonsai hosta" techniques, discuss hybridizing information and techniques, and learn the process of embryo rescue and its feasibility for hostas. Plus, annual breeder stock exchange, seedling contest, auction, and seed trade.

Sun., June 10, 1–4 pm

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Conservation Presentation and Field Trip

Sponsored by Matthaei-Nichols. Staff from Michigan State and Matthaei-Nichols discuss the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, its biology and ecology, detection and survey methods, and some of the challenges of managing its habitat. Presentation followed by a field trip of the Matthaei property.

Thurs.–Sun., June 7–10; 14–17; & 21–24

Shakespeare in the Arb –

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Sponsored by Matthaei-Nichols & U-M Residential College. Directed by Kate Mendeloff of the U-M Residential College. Members may purchase tickets at a discount and before the general public sale. For more information visit our website or call 734.647.7600.

Mon., June 11, 7 pm

Herbs, a Taste for Life - Culinary Herbs and Recipes

Sponsored by Evening Herb Study Group. Tonight's program features herbs not usually considered for culinary use and common herbs in unusual recipes.

Tues., June 12, 7:30 pm

Showing Off Your Roses

Sponsored by Huron Valley Rose Society. Tonight's program provides options for sharing the beauty of the rose with others.

Wed., June 13, 6-8 pm

♣ Nichols Arboretum Oak Openings: An Ergonomics Lesson and Workday

Sponsored by Wild Ones Ann Arbor. Come dressed to help clean up errant invasives in the Oak Openings. 734.604.4674.

Wed., June 13, 7 pm

Catching Swarms

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2). Tonight's program looks at catching a swarm of bees. Info: rimendel@sbcglobal.net.

Sun., June 17, 1-4 pm

Annual Rose Show

Sponsored by Huron Valley Rose Society. Entries accepted until 11 am; show opens to the public at 1.

Tues., June 19, 7:30 pm

Oil and Gas Drilling in Washtenaw County

Sponsored by Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group. When oil company landmen began seeking leases to explore for oil and gas in Lodi Township, local landowners compared notes and began researching. Mitchell Rhode and Clive Wooten explain their findings and what they did next.

Wed., June 20, 7:30 pm

Rock Star of the Bird World: Kirtland's Warbler

Sponsored by Washtenaw Audubon Society. Join writer Bill Rapai for the fascinating account of the near-extinction of the Kirtland's Warbler, and the people who saved it.

Wed., June 27, 7 pm

Bring Your Own Bonsai

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Those working on their own bonsai who need assistance encouraged to attend this hands-on workshop. AABS members will be on hand to help. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

JULY

Mon., July 2, 7 pm

In the Herb Garden at Matthaei

Sponsored by Evening Herb Study Group. A walking tour of the Alexandra Hicks Herb Knot Garden and information about the history and uses of herbs. Refreshments served.

Tues., July 10, 7 pm

Beekeeping: Summer Management

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2). Tonight's program takes an in-depth look at summer management which involves determining the presence of varroa mites and hive beetles and how to reduce their negative impacts. Info: rimendel@sbcglobal.net.

Tues., July 10, 7:30 pm

Watering Techniques for Roses

Sponsored by Huron Valley Rose Society

Tues., July 17, 7:30 pm

Walk & Talk: Up Close to Michigan Native Plants at Matthaei-Nichols

Sponsored by Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group. Matthaei-Nichols staff member and native plant specialist Connie Crancer discusses the resilience of native species and their use in bioswales, formal prairie wildflower gardens, and more. Tonight's outdoor program showcases the beauty of Matthaei, the long-time venue and host for Sierra Club HVG.

Sat., July 21, 11 am

Get to Know My Orchid

Sponsored by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids). Each of the judges and student judges in attendance will bring an orchid or photograph to discuss species data, hybridizing insights, judging comments, or culture.

Wed., July 25, 7 pm

Bonsai Design Options

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Three AABS members, selected for their fine eye for detail in bonsai design, will offer design suggestions to members who present a pre-bonsai or bonsai for review. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

AUGUST

Mon., Aug. 6, 7 pm

Herbs of the Middle Ages

Sponsored by Evening Herb Study Group

Sun., Aug. 12, 1 pm

Bonsai Succulents

Sponsored by Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society. A discussion and demonstration of pseudo-bonsai, succulents that form a thickened stem relatively quickly giving the appearance of great age. Succulents also require less watering than bonsai plants, making care somewhat easier. Info: cuzenlouie37@yahoo.com.

Tues., Aug. 14, 7 pm

All about Honey

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2). Tonight's program covers interesting facts about honey and its unique properties, including different types of comb and honey extraction methods. Plus, a discussion about the merits of removing honey now vs. the fall. Info: rimendel@sbcglobal.net.

Tues., Aug. 14, 7:30 pm

Cooking with Roses

Sponsored by Huron Valley Rose Society. Tonight's program includes tasting and sharing of recipes that incorporate roses.

Sat., Aug., 18, 11 am

Tolumnia

Sponsored by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids). Marilyn Lee discusses some of the important orchid species, hybridizing, and culture being done with *Tolumnia*, a group of warm-growing orchids.

Tues., Aug., 21, 7:30 pm

From Wilderness to Designer Forests

Sponsored by Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group. John Knott, author of *Imagining the Forest: Narratives of Michigan and the Upper Midwest*, discusses the evolution of cultural attitudes toward forests from the early 19th century to the present.

Wed., Aug. 22, 7 pm

Fertilizing Your Bonsai

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Information on the science and practice behind fertilization and the health of bonsai. Plus, a demonstration on making fertilizer cakes and a discussion of alternative fertilizing. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 25 & 26

Annual Bonsai Show

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. All invited to this annual showing of AABS members' trees, with over 100 trees on display from all sizes and species. Plus, workshops, demonstrations, and vendors available. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Get Involved!—

Join a Matthaei-Nichols Garden Team as a Volunteer

Volunteers enjoy fresh air, a variety of beautiful garden settings, hands-on learning and the company of fellow gardeners and staff horticulturists. Lend a hand weekly or a few times per month during the growing season. Activities include planting, weeding, mulching, pruning, and other seasonal garden maintenance. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator to learn more: tgriffit@umich.edu or 734.647.8528.

Gaffield Children's Garden

Enjoy this playful, interactive landscape as you help tend 15 unique garden spaces—including veggie, herb, and butterfly gardens, fairy & troll knoll, and more. Must enjoy working in a kid-friendly atmosphere. Fridays, 9 am–noon.

Matthaei Display Gardens

Learn new gardening techniques while you help maintain a variety of unique display and exhibit gardens. Garden locations vary. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 9 am–noon.

Weekend Weeders

For those who work weekdays this is a great opportunity to dig in and help out in the display gardens at Matthaei. Saturdays, 9 am–noon.

Nichols Arboretum Gardens

Enjoy the beautiful natural setting of the Arb as you help maintain the horticultural collections featured at the Washington Heights entrance including the Peony Garden, Gateway Garden, Laurel Ridge, and heirloom climbing roses. Mondays & Fridays, 9 am–noon.

Native Plant & Seed

Learn more about landscaping with plants that are native to our region as you tend a variety of gardens at Matthaei and Nichols. This group is active year-round and activities include general garden maintenance (April–September) and seed collection/propagation (October–March). Schedule TBA.



Pictured above right, top to bottom: Native plant and seed volunteers take a break with Matthaei-Nichols staff member Connie Crancer; volunteer Pete Wilcox planting the Gateway Display Garden at Matthaei; volunteers Jon Doherty and Kourtney Barber pull weeds at Matthaei.



Special Events

Looking for a more flexible, one-time only volunteer option? Check out these special events and visit “Get Involved” on our website to register:

Matthaei Spring Plant Sales: May 12 & 13; May 19 & 20

Volunteers help make our annual plant sales hum! May 12 & 13 is our Mother's Day Weekend Sale & Fundraiser; the following weekend our Heirloom and Water-wise Sale & Fundraiser in Greenhouse 3. For both weekends we have a variety of positions and shifts available morning and afternoon.

Peonies Galore Sale: May 19 (at Matthaei Botanical Gardens)

The warm spring weather has put the Peony Garden and the Peony Sale on a fast track this year, so we've moved the sale date and location to Matthaei and incorporated the sale into our May 19 events.

Shakespeare in the Arb: Thurs.-Sun., June 7-24

The 2012 season of Shakespeare in the Arb features *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, directed by the U-M Residential College's Kate Mendeloff. Ushers and box office assistance needed (pm shifts only). Orientation required.

Pictured, left: A scene from the 2011 season of Shakespeare in the Arb; volunteers Linda Hintz and Cindy Baird at the spring 2011 plant sale.



Major Gift Brings Great Lakes Garden Within Reach

A donor has made a gift of \$800,000, primarily to fund the Great Lakes Garden at Matthaei. This is the largest gift to Matthaei-Nichols since Frederick C. Matthaei, Sr. and his wife Mildred Hague Matthaei donated over 200 acres to the University of Michigan to create a new home for the Botanical Gardens.

The garden will draw attention to the Great Lakes region, long known for its floral diversity. “Few regions in the country are blessed with as great a range of habitats,” says Matthaei-Nichols Director Robert Grese. Within these ecosystems are many endemic plants—those found here and nowhere else in the world. The Great Lakes Garden will celebrate the distinctive beauty of the Great Lakes flora, help visitors understand why conservation of this diversity is so important, and bring visitors up close to plants they might never see in the wild or in any other garden. The Great Lakes Garden helps to fulfill Matthaei-Nichols’ long-term mission of environmental stewardship, sustainability, and outreach.

We’re now 88% of the way toward our fundraising goal. To help take us over the threshold, please call or email Director of Development Gayle Steiner: gayles@umich.edu; 734.647.7847.

Above left: The showy lady’s slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) is a rare orchid that’s native to northern North America, including Michigan. The showy ladyslipper is one of the many native plants that will be featured in the Great Lakes Garden. Photograph by Tony Reznicek.



Garden Party!

**Special Members-Only
Event at Matthaei
Friday, May 11, 5–8 pm**

Join us for a festive evening and the start to a new growing season, National Public Gardens Day, and 50 years of Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

- **Mother’s Day Sale of hanging baskets, terrace pots, and planters**
- **Season preview talk with Horticulture Manager Michael Palmer (5:30-6)**
- **Live music**
- **Kids’ planting activity**
- **Seasonal refreshments**
- **And much more!**

**Have a friend who’s not a member?
Invite them to join so they can enjoy
the party, too!**

**RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 to Andy Sell:
sella@umich.edu; 734.615.9475.**



Featured Friends

“Featured Friends” is an occasional series spotlighting one or more of our members.

Sanam Arab (L);
Elizabeth Young

Sanam Arab

Student member since 2011

For Sanam Arab (AB’07, MS’10) travel is a favorite pastime, so she appreciates seeing plants from around the world at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens conservatory or escaping the crowds on central campus in Nichols Arboretum. Since moving to Michigan from Iran, Sanam earned two U-M degrees, including a masters from the School of Information, and works full time at the Hatcher Graduate Library. Now she’s pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies. This latest endeavor is changing her perspective on the purpose of botanical gardens and arboreta. She sees each plant and tree as part of a larger ecosystem, a living museum. These insights motivated her to become a new student *Friends* member. You’ll see Sanam in the conservatory rediscovering plants that she grew up with in Iran or walking her dog in the Arb.

Elizabeth Young

Department of Sociology Ph.D. Candidate and student member since 2009

Elizabeth Young earned her undergraduate degree on the wooded campus of Haverford College. When she chose to continue her studies at the University of Michigan finding green spaces like those at Haverford was high on her list. Elizabeth always makes time to find some peace and relaxation in Nichols Arboretum, away from the intensity of her doctoral studies and away from the urban bustle. You’ll most likely find her in Heathdale, where she remembers watching her first Shakespeare in the Arb performance. Elizabeth joined as a Friends student member in order to support the Arb and future music and theater performances. She hasn’t missed a Shakespeare in the Arb season since!