



## Prairie magic

**friends newsletter • fall 2013**

*Inside:* Cherry tree plantings honor 1912 gift • Museums on call • The healing power of plants • and more



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS  
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*caring for nature, enriching life*

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
& Nichols Arboretum**

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The National Park Service, which runs the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., describes the cherry blossom as a symbol of the fleeting nature of human life that also “epitomizes the transformation of Japanese culture throughout the ages.”

In celebration of that symbolic power and of Japan’s 1912 gift of trees, we’re planting nearly 30 cherry-tree seedlings at Matthaei and in the Arb near the Peony Garden. The seedlings, germinated at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska from seeds donated by Japan, were later delivered to 23 arboreta and botanical gardens in 21 states. Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum is the sole Michigan recipient of seedlings.

The seeds came from groves in Tokyo and Nara in south-central Japan, reportedly from the same groves where the original 1912 cherry trees were grown, according to Woodrow Nelson, Vice President Marketing Communications for Arbor Day Foundation, which germinated the seeds last year.

Timing drove the decision to send seeds, according to Nelson. When it heard about the centennial promotions, “Japan wanted to make the gift during the 2012 Cherry Blossom Festival but didn’t have trees to send,” Nelson says, so they sent seeds instead.

The new trees not only provide a connection to the widely celebrated Washington plantings and the friendship with Japan that they represent, says Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese, “they remind us of our strong cultural connections with the people of Japan both at the University and in Michigan.”

The cherry trees also enrich our collections of culturally significant plants, such as the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden, the Julie Norris Post Collection of Ericaceous and Appalachian Plants, and the Centennial Shrub Collection in the Arb.

## A National Event that Nearly Wasn’t

Today a pilgrimage to see the cherry trees in bloom is a bucket-list essential, with millions of visitors flocking to Washington each year to capture a lasting memory of an ephemeral flower. Yet it took 24 years of letter writing by Elizah Scidmore—an American writer, photographer, and geographer who had lived in Japan—to get the U.S. government to plant them in the first place. The original proposal to plant cherry trees in Washington was Elizah’s brain-child. Beginning in 1885, she embarked on her



*The planting of cherry tree seedlings at Matthaei and in Nichols Arboretum commemorates Japan’s 1912 gift of cherry trees—and reveals two University of Michigan connections*

long letter-writing campaign to convince the U.S. government to plant cherry trees in the capital. Finally, in 1909, Scidmore’s letter to first lady Helen Taft bore fruit when Taft promised to make the trees a reality.

Unfortunately, when the first shipment of trees from Japan arrived the following year, a USDA inspection team, which included nematologist Nathan Cobb (see sidebar), discovered that the trees were infested with nematodes. The trees had to be destroyed.

In 1912 Japan sent new cherry trees that passed inspection, and several were planted around the Tidal Basin. Workmen continued planting trees there for the next seven years, but it wasn’t until 1954 that the National Cherry Blossom Festival officially began.

In a 1946 letter, Harlow Whittemore wrote to A.C. Marshall, Detroit Edison’s past president, “We have had inquiry recently from Tokyo with regard to the donation made some years ago . . . for a Japanese cherry collection given by the University alumni in that city.” Whittemore, a Professor in the University of Michigan Department of Landscape Architecture from 1914-1958 and then U-M Chairman of City Planning, envisioned “a great collection of flowering trees” donated by Michigan alumni, one of which is the magnificent weeping Higan cherry near the Alex Dow Field (pictured above). Today Arb visitors make their own yearly pilgrimage to see the nearly 60-year-old tree. In a few short years, new cherry blossoms will grace the Gardens and Arboretum, dazzling visitors with nature’s display of renewal and transformation. ❀

## Go Pink—and Blue

What does the U-M have to do with Japanese cherry trees? Turns out there are two Michigan connections—to the 1912 gift from Japan and to the idea of planting cherry trees in the United States. The first is Frieda Cobb Blanchard, daughter of Nathan Cobb, an inventor, scientist, accomplished artist, and “father of nematology.”

As a member of a United States Department of Agriculture inspection team, Cobb discovered the 1912 shipment of cherry trees to be infested with nematodes—small, often microscopic worms, many of which are parasitic. Because of the nematodes, the cherry trees had to be destroyed.

Frieda, who was born in Australia, moved to Ann Arbor in 1916 and, while earning her doctorate in genetics from the U-M, was appointed assistant director of the Botanical Gardens at its location on Iroquois Street. Blanchard lived in Ann Arbor until her death in 1977.

The other U-M connection is the Grand Rapids-born O. C. Simonds, the celebrated landscape architect who studied at U-M and who designed Nichols Arboretum. Simonds was a colleague and advisor of the noted plant explorer David Fairchild, an early promoter of Japanese cherry trees long before they became a fixture in American gardens. Fairchild’s efforts to promote the plant likely helped inspire an American passion for the flowering cherry tree.



**What are those trees?** The Japanese name of the cherry tree seedlings is *Prunus jamasakura* Siebold ex. Kidzumi (common name: Yamazakura). The western species name is *Prunus serrulata* var. *spontanea* (Maxim.) E. H. Wilson (common name: Japanese mountain cherry).



#### **Pictured, top to bottom:**

Campus Farm Manager Parker Anderson in front of a farm beehive. The honeybees are part of a bee sanctuary that Anderson is constructing on the farm.

The bark of the native willow, *Salix alba*, yields aspirin, easily one of the most important plant-derived medicines ever developed.

The logo of the Michigan Horticultural Therapy Association, a new member of our mission-related group roster.

**On the cover:** Native asters, goldenrod, and grasses glow in the late-summer sun, Alex Dow Field, Nichols Arboretum.

## The Healing Power of Plants

So much depends upon plant-derived medicines. According to the National Institute of General Medical Sciences ([nigms.nih.gov](http://nigms.nih.gov)), “over half of the world’s population still relies entirely on plants for medicines, and plants supply the active ingredients of most traditional medical products.” The College of Pharmacy established the first botanical garden in the late 1800s on central campus. In honor of that legacy and to educate visitors about the origins of many of our current and historical medicines, a new medicinal garden will open soon at Matthaei. Collaborating with university units is key to our mission; for the Medicinal Garden we’re partnering with **Dr. Leslie Shimp** from the **U-M School of Pharmacy** and **Dr. Sara Warber** of the **U-M School of Medicine/Center for Integrative Medicine**. Uniquely, the garden will be organized by the system of the body that the medicines are used to treat—for example, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, and cardiovascular. Tours, interpretive signage, and materials will be available at the front desk and in the garden, located just east of the Conservatory in a space previously devoted to themed displays. Look for more information on our website soon.

## Campus Farm, a Living Classroom

Campus Farm Manager Parker Anderson is a gardener on a mission. Anderson, a dual degree master’s student at U-M (Sustainable Systems and Landscape Architecture), has been hard at work at the Campus Farm this summer creating a laboratory of sustainable agriculture in a modest plot on the Botanical Gardens property. The farm fills an educational gap, Anderson observes. “Students have a need to connect to local food,” he says, “and our farm offers the side benefits of learning and community,” desires borne out in a recent survey of U-M students. Anderson has incorporated the principles of permaculture into the Campus Farm. A significant goal of permaculture is the development of agricultural systems based on natural ecosystems. You can see that in the area devoted to honeybees and pollination Anderson calls the “bee sanctuary,” and the future plans for a “food forest”—a plot of food-producing and nutrient-enhancing plants—near the farm. Other elements, like the herb spiral and potato snake, are as much about artful delight as they are horticultural, says Anderson. And soon, he hopes, the farm will grow enough herbs to supply the U-M Dining Services. If you haven’t been out to the farm yet, stop by any time the Botanical Gardens is open. Look for announcements about seasonal farm-related celebrations and events on our website or on the U-M Sustainable Food Program site, [umsfp.com](http://umsfp.com), later this year.

## Museums on Call

Botanical gardens, museums, and zoos are fun and educational to visit, and it turns out they’re good for your health, too. On June 17 a congressional briefing in Washington organized by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) revealed in a national report how museums are playing a key role in health-care issues with programs geared toward disease prevention, mental health, and memory loss, to name just a few. Matthaei-Nichols is listed in the report, and through our partnership with the Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center (MADC) we’re contributing to this important work by hosting programs for caregivers of adults living with memory loss and for those with cognitive impairment. Regular contact with nature is vital to our well-being, one reason the MADC chose our site for their programs. Given the evolving role of museums in American culture, those health-inducing properties make places like botanical gardens even more indispensable. You can read the AAM’s report, “Museums on Call: How Museums Are Addressing Health Issues,” on their website, [aam.us.org](http://aam.us.org).

## Welcome, Hort Therapy Group

The case for regular contact with nature just got stronger with the addition of the Michigan Horticultural Therapy Association to our mission-related group roster. Mission-related groups share Matthaei-Nichols motto of “caring for nature, enriching life” and offer regular programming—usually free—of interest to our members and visitors. A position paper published by the American Horticultural Therapy Association defines HT as “the engagement of a client in horticultural activities facilitated by a trained therapist to achieve specific and documented treatment goals.” That could include community horticulture, restorative gardens, healing gardens, vocational horticulture, and other ways to improve human well-being and health through horticulture. Look for the Michigan chapter’s programming in our newsletter and web calendars in the near future. And welcome, MHTA!

## Save the Date (See pp. 4-5 for details.)

**Sun., Sept. 15; 1-2:30 pm**

**Matthaei-Nichols New Member Orientation**

**Sun., Sept. 22, 6-7:30 pm**

**Music in the Arb**

**Sat., Sept. 28, 9 am, Nichols Arboretum**

**3rd Annual Run for the Arb**

**Sat., Oct. 12-Sun., Nov. 10**

**Art exhibit: Legacy of the Land Through Art**

Sponsored by Legacy Land Conservancy.

**Nov. 30-Jan. 5**

**Exhibit: 50 Shades of Green - A Dynamic Look at the Color of Nature**

# Fall 2013 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](http://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., Sept. 28, 10 am-noon**

### September Stroll

Kids and their parents are invited to take a walk on the trails, in the conservatory, or in the Gaffield Children's Garden. Self-guided tours and activities focus on late-summer flowers, butterflies, beetles, and more. Each child receives a mini-magnifying lens to take home! A Homemade Heritage program. **Free!**

**Sat., Nov. 23, 10 am-noon**

### Kids Are Chefs, Too!- Warm Winter Spices

Shorter, cooler days put us in the mood for food and drinks that make us feel warm inside. With our spices from around the world you can create your own signature apple sauce, pumpkin pie filling, and stuffing. **\$8.00 per child** includes activities and materials. **13-YE-20**



**Sat., Oct. 26, 10 am-noon**

### Halloween Spooktacular- Vexing Vines and Batty Flowers

Join us for a morning of (not so) scary fun. Make a mask and take a spooky trip through the conservatory to learn about vines that just might reach out and grab you, critter-munching leaves, and bat-shaped flowers.

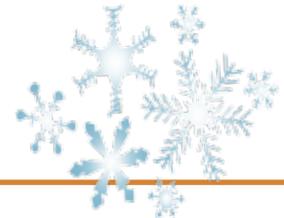


Complete the morning by decorating a mini pumpkin to take home. A Homemade Heritage program. **\$8.00 per child** includes activities and materials. **13-YE-19**

**Sat., Dec. 7, 10 am-noon**

### Winter-Green

Ever wonder why we say 'spruce' up the house for the holidays? Discover the magical power and history of greens in wintertime and create an evergreen decoration to take home. Design a card and make star- and snowflake-themed decorations to celebrate the start of the winter season. **\$8.00 per child** includes activities and materials. **13-YE-21**



## 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](mailto: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 and 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 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, open to all, and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. For complete program information visit our online calendar at [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu) or the "Come Learn" section of our website.

## SEPTEMBER

**Mon., Sept. 9, 7 pm**

### How to Keep Herbs Indoors during Winter

*Presented by the Evening Herb Study Group*

**Tues., Sept. 10, 7-9 pm**

### Fall Hive Management I

*Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers*

A pre-winter review of hive health, pests and pathogen status, and hive survival interventions.

**Tues., Sept. 10, 7:30 pm**

### IPM in the Rose Garden

*Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society*

A presentation by Baldo Villegas on integrated pest management.

**Wed., Sept. 11, 5:30 pm**

### Landscaped Prairie Garden Tour

*Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter*

Tour a prairie garden scaled to fit a suburban setting. **Offsite:** 8850 Hidden Woods Dr., Dexter.

**Wed., Sept. 11, 6:30-8 pm**

### Catching Your Breath

*Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center*

A monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Also 10/7, 11/13, & 12/9. To register: **734.936.8803**.

**Sat., Sept. 14, 1-4:00 pm**

### Tree & Woody Plant ID Lab at Matthaei

*Presented by Stewardship Network*

Covers several ecosystems. Stewardship Network members \$10; nonmembers \$15.

To register: [stewardshipnetwork.org](http://stewardshipnetwork.org).

**Sat. & Sun., Sept. 14-15, 10 am-4:30 pm**

### Exotic Plant Sale

*Presented by Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society & the SE Michigan Bromeliad Society*

Cactus, succulents, and bromeliads for sale in all sizes. Also supplies, prints, & books, and art. **248.380.7359**.

**Sat., Sept. 14, 1 pm**

### Bromeliads, the Awesome Houseplants

*Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society*

An introduction to the bromeliad family illustrates its diversity, survival strategies, and more.

**Sun., Sept. 15; 1-2:30 pm**

### Matthaei-Nichols New Member Orientation

New members enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of Matthaei. Space limited; please preregister with membership manager Andy Sell by Sept. 1: [sella@umich.edu](mailto:sella@umich.edu); **734.615.9475**.

**Sun., Sept. 15, 1 pm**

### Yes, You Can Grow Bromeliads in Michigan

*Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society*

Tips on choosing bromeliads that suit your needs in all seasons, as well as a discussion of potting mix, fertilizing, watering, and more.

**Mon., Sept. 16, 7:45 pm**

### Biodiversity of Aquatic Plants— Temperate Versus Neotropics

*Presented by Michigan Botanical Club*

Dr. Garrett Crow discusses the question of whether northeastern North America is the Amazonia of diversity for aquatic plants.

**Tues., Sept. 17, 7:30 pm**

### Localization: What's in It for Us?

*Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Chapter*

U-M Assoc. Prof. Raymond De Young discusses adapting-in-place, whose goal is sustaining or improving natural systems that support our communities while advancing society's well-being. [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron).

**Wed., Sept. 18, 6:30 pm**

### Native Companion Plantings for Rhododendrons

*Presented by Ann Arbor Rhododendron Society*

A meet and greet social hour at 6:30, followed by a presentation by Rick Meader on native companion plantings for your rhododendrons.

**Wed., Sept. 18, 7:30 pm**

### Birding in the 'Cloud'

*Presented by Washtenaw Audubon Society*

Local startup Ornicept founder Russell Conard discusses how his company is changing the traditional field guide with digital tools for capturing data in the field using tablets and the online cloud. [washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org).

**Sun., Sept. 22, 2-5 pm**

### Growing Orchids to Their Potential

*Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society*

Clown Alley Orchids offers several types of orchids for sale. Also, orchid show & tell, raffle, and sale of plants and supplies.

[annarbororchids@aol.com](mailto:annarbororchids@aol.com).

**Sun., Sept. 22, 6-7:30 pm**

### Music in the Arb

Classical music with local professional chamber orchestra group Arborata. Bring a picnic dinner (no alcohol, please) and a blanket or chair to enjoy this free concert in the Arboretum's amphitheater. Weather permitting.

**Wed., Sept. 25, 6:30 pm**

### Annual Auction – Bonsai and Supplies

*Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society*

All invited to bring surplus bonsai and related materials to either a silent or a live auction.

[annarborbonsaisociety.org](http://annarborbonsaisociety.org).

**Sat., Sept. 28, 9 am**

### Run for the Arb 2013 – 5K Family Fun Run

A dog-friendly run/walk through the Arboretum. All proceeds support the Arb & Gardens. Pre-registration \$25/members \$20; dog registration \$5. Participants receive a Run for the Arb t-shirt; space limited! Register: [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).

## OCTOBER

**Sat. & Sun., Oct. 5-6, 10 am-4:30 pm**

### Great Lakes Gardens Fall Festival & Native Plant Sale

Celebrate our natural heritage! Featuring hardy Great Lakes native woody plants and shrubs for sale. Plus, guided tours, live music with Joe Reilly Sunday at 2, and activities that highlight ways we can protect our region's botanical bounty. 10% Matthaei-Nichols member discount. [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).

**Mon., Oct. 7, 10-11:30 am**

### Catching Your Breath

*See September 11 listing.*

**Mon., Oct. 7, 7 pm**

### Evening Herb Study Group

Join us for a program about herbs that usually includes recipes, planting tips, and samples.

**Tonight's topic TBA.**

**Tues., Oct. 8, 7-9 pm**

### Fall Hive Management II

*Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers*

Determine hive honey supply for winter survival, how to conduct a hive survivability survey, and some practical anti-mouse methods.

**Tues., Oct. 8, 7:30 pm**

### Winterizing Roses

*Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society*

A presentation on the latest techniques.

**Sat., Oct. 12-Sun., Nov. 10**

### Legacy of the Land Through Art

In collaboration with the Legacy Land Conservancy, Matthaei-Nichols presents an exhibition of art in an array of media that celebrates the connection between land and people—a key component of both organizations' missions. Info and preview: [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).

**Tues., Oct. 15, 7:30 pm**

### The State of Michigan State Parks

*Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Chapter*

Chief of MI State Parks and Rec. Ron Olson reviews our state park system and answers questions. [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron).

**Wed., Oct. 16, 7:30 pm**

### Some of My Favorite Birds

*Presented by Washtenaw Audubon Society*

Join birder and photographer Doug Leffler for a program on some of the most beautiful birds you'll ever see. [washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org).

**Sat., Oct. 19, 10 am-4 pm**

**Display and Sale: African Violets, Gesneriads and Terrarium Plants**

*Presented by Mich. State African Violet Society*  
Also, free growing skills seminar at 11:30 am.  
[LynnAllen0413@comcast.net](mailto:LynnAllen0413@comcast.net).

**Sat., Oct. 19, 11 am**

**Orchid Species Identification**

*Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)*  
This task-force exercise program documents physical characteristics for proper species identification.

**Sun., Oct. 20, 2-5 pm**

**Orchid Photography by Matthew Cook**

*Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society*  
Tips from this Ann Arbor photographer, who specializes in native orchids. Also, supplies and orchids for sale, show & tell, and raffle.  
[annarbororchids@aol.com](mailto:annarbororchids@aol.com).

**Mon., Oct. 21, 7:30 pm**

**Native Bees and Honey Bees**

*Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter & Michigan Botanical Club*  
Hear Julianna Wilson discuss native bees, honeybees, their ecology, and the pollination of native plants and crops.

**Wed., Oct. 23, 6:30 pm**

**Bill Cadmen on Bonsai**

*Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society*  
Society member Bill Cadmen shares the progress he's made working with celebrated bonsai artist Ryan Neal. [annarborbonsaisociety.org](http://annarborbonsaisociety.org).

**Sun., Oct. 27, 1-5 pm**

**Caregiving Wellness Gathering**

*Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center*  
This program for learning skills essential for continued health and well-being is designed for caregivers of adults living with memory loss. To register: **734.936.8803**.

**Mon., Oct. 28, 7:30-9 pm**

**High Rise and Time Share**

*Presented by Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society*  
Noted Scottish author and gardener Ian Young discusses his garden and how he maximizes planting space. [reznicek@umich.edu](mailto:reznicek@umich.edu).

## NOVEMBER

**Sun., Nov. 3, 10 am-2 pm**

**Presented by Hosta Hybridizer Group**

Introducing seed trade and raffle at each program. Bring a dish to pass. [jo43@tds.net](mailto:jo43@tds.net).

**Mon., Nov. 4, 6 pm**

**Banquet and Critique of Bonsai**

*Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society*  
Celebrate the end of the outdoor growing season. Bring tableware & a dish to share.  
[annarborbonsaisociety.org](http://annarborbonsaisociety.org).

**Mon., Nov. 4, 7 pm**

**Evening Herb Study Group**

Join us for a program about herbs that usually includes recipes, planting tips, and samples.  
**Tonight's topic TBA.**

**Sun., Nov. 10, 2-5 pm**

**Miniature Cattleyas**

*Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society*  
New Vision Orchids offers several different types of orchids for sale. Also, orchid show & tell, raffle, and sale of plants and supplies.  
[annarbororchids@aol.com](mailto:annarbororchids@aol.com).

**Sun., Nov. 10, 2 pm**

**David Austin English Roses for the North**

*Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society*  
A presentation by Mary Peterson and a discussion of new roses.

**Sun., Nov. 10, 2:30-5 pm**

**HeARTful Care Partnering**

*Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center*  
Designed for adults living with mild memory loss and their partners, this program is an opportunity to gather and enjoy the gardens together. To register: **734.936.8803**.

**Tues., Nov. 12, 7-9 pm**

**Winter Management of the Hive**

*Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers*  
Practical approaches to winter hive prep methods and to managing internal condensation.

**Wed., Nov. 13, 6:30-8pm**

**Catching Your Breath**

*See September 11 listing.*

**Wed., Nov. 13, 6:45 pm**

**Potluck, Slide Show, & Bob Grese Deep Roots Award**

*Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter*  
A celebration of ideas and food along with a photo gallery of the Wild Ones efforts to replace lawns and invasives with natural landscapes.

**Sat., Nov. 16, 11 am**

**Recent Orchid Awards with Ed Cott**

*Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)*

**Sat., Nov. 16, 2 pm**

**Life as an Epiphyte**

*Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society*  
Learn about the survival strategies of some 30,000 species of tree canopy-dwelling bromeliads—many of them well-known houseplants.

**Mon., Nov. 18, 7:45 pm**

**Three Months in the Forest**

*Presented by Michigan Botanical Club & Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter*  
Field botanist Amanda Klain recounts her time in the Manistee National Forest.

**Tues., Nov. 19, 7:30 pm**

**Isle Royale: Lake Superior Protects a National Treasure**

*Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Chapter*  
Author and long-time Isle Royale visitor Vic Foerster shares his insights into this archipelago and its fascinating blend of people, wildlife, and object lessons. [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron).

**Wed., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm**

**Delaware: Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs**

*Presented by Washtenaw Audubon Society*  
Haehnle Audubon Sanctuary Stewardship Committee members Gary Siegrist and Lathe Claflin discuss one of North America's most important migratory spots. Info: [washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org).

**Sat. & Sun., Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 10 am-4:30 pm**

**Holiday Open House Member Appreciation**

Holiday festivities, including live music, holiday items, and fresh greens. Additional 10% Matthaei-Nichols member discount all weekend.

**Sat., Nov. 30-Sun., Jan. 5**

**Special Exhibit - 50 Shades of Green: A Dynamic Look at the Color of Nature**

Using examples from the conservatory's collection and touching on art, science, psychology, research, environmental issues, and literature, "50 Shades of Green" illuminates the many meanings of "green."

## DECEMBER

**Mon., Dec. 9, 10-11:30 am**

**Catching Your Breath**

*See September 11 listing.*

**Tues., Dec. 10, 7-9 pm**

**Alternative Hives and Beekeeping**

*Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers*  
A presentation on the pros and cons of alternate hive shapes and construction and the difference between organic and biodynamic beekeeping.

**Tues., Dec. 17, 7:30 pm**

**Great Adventures from Around the Globe**

*Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group*  
An annual presentation of travel adventures. Send a PowerPoint presentation or 10-15 photos with captions to [lighthawkpilot@gmail.com](mailto:lighthawkpilot@gmail.com). Info: [michigan.sierraclub.org/huron](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron).

**Sat., Dec. 21, 11 am**

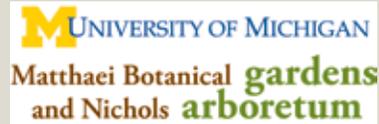
**Annual Bizarre Bazaar**

*Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)*  
An auction of orchid supplies and unusual orchids and recent orchid awards presented by Dennis Seffernick.

**NOTE: Occasionally, program dates or topics change after the newsletter is printed. Call ahead (734.647.7600), or visit our website ([mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/mbgna](http://facebook.com/mbgna)) to check on the status of a program.**

## Get Involved—Volunteer! Fall 2013

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](mailto:tgriffit@umich.edu) for more information.



Visit our website for more information:  
[mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu)

### Special Events

#### Music in the Arb

Sun., Sept. 22, 6-7:30 pm  
Nichols Arboretum

An outdoor evening of classical music by local group Arborata in the Nichols Arboretum amphitheater. Volunteers are positioned at key locations in the Arb to greet and direct audience members to the amphitheater. Note: concert cancelled in case of inclement weather.



#### Native Plant Sale & Festival

Sat. & Sun.,  
Oct. 5 & 6,  
10 am-4:30 pm

A sale of native woody plants and shrubs. Plus, guided tours, live music Sunday at 2, and activities. Volunteers will help with set up, greeting and directing visitors, and selling plants. Other positions TBA.

**Far right:** A Music in the Arb concert in the Nichols Arboretum amphitheater. **Right:** Student volunteers from the Beta Theta Pi fraternity lending a hand with Run for the Arb pose with volunteer coordinator Tara Griffith (second from right) in front of the Reader Center at the Washington Hts. entrance to the Arb. **Below:** Matthaei-Nichols Natural Areas Manager Jeff Plakke (L) conducts a prescribed burn with a volunteer in the Alex Dow Field in Nichols Arboretum.

#### Run for the Arb

Sat., Sept. 28, 9 am  
Nichols Arboretum

Join us for the 3rd Annual Run for the Arb, a special fundraising run/walk/stroll 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.

### Trainings

#### Prescribed Burn Crew Training

Thurs., Oct. 10, 1-3 pm  
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

If you enjoy the natural areas at Matthaei-Nichols and would like to help maintain them this is a great service learning opportunity. Volunteers are on call for weekday, afternoon burns (1-4 pm) during the spring and fall. The training will provide basic information about the use of prescribed fire as a restoration tool and the basic volunteer duties. A tour of past burn sites and hands-on demonstration will be provided, weather permitting. **Pre-registration required.**

#### Conservatory Ambassador Training two options

Wed., Oct. 23, 1-4 pm  
Sat., Oct. 26, 9 am-noon  
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

After the blossoming glory of the display gardens has faded our visitors can find a welcome retreat in the Conservatory. Ambassadors greet & guide visitors to points of interest and informal learning opportunities. This training will introduce volunteers to the Visitor Services department and cover the basics about the tropical, temperate, and arid biomes and the many fascinating plants that are found in each. Ambassadors commit to two, 3-hour shifts per month and attend ongoing educational sessions. **Phone interview and pre-registration is required.**





## A Nature Lover's Legacy Helps Trees, and Students, Grow

Elizabeth Needham (Betty) Graham (A.B. '46) was a force for nature at Matthaei Botanical Gardens from the early '80s until her death this past February. The first of more than 50 donors to honor her were Donald C. (B.S.E. '55, M.S.E. '56) and Ingrid A. Graham (B.S.Des. '57), Betty's former brother-in-law and his wife. They committed \$200,000 to create the Elizabeth Needham Graham Internship in her memory. Thanks to this generous memorial, an Elizabeth Needham Graham Intern will oversee an ambitious collection of native Michigan trees that Betty envisioned years ago.

Don and Ingrid had originally breathed life into the collection by joining with other family members to fund the new Sam Graham Trees and Trail in 1999. The tree collection and trail, running through multiple ecosystems along the entrance to Matthaei Botanical Gardens, was named in honor of Samuel Alexander Graham, Betty's father-in-law and Don's father. Sam was a leading ecologist and forest entomologist at U-M from 1927 to 1961.

Betty's obituary noted how much her involvement at Matthaei as a docent and then as a member of the Friends and Gardens advisory boards meant to her. Resulting donations in Betty's honor, with the enthusiastic agreement of her son Christopher and daughter-in-law Elaine, will fund the first Elizabeth Needham Graham Intern in 2014, a year before proceeds from Don and Ingrid's endowment become available. Other gifts made in memory of Betty's son Peter will also support the internship.

What a perfect legacy for Betty, who, in the words of her obituary, "wholeheartedly loved the outdoors and took every opportunity to include interpretations of its plants and animals and birds and design to others." Betty's annual gifts helped to support Matthaei Botanical Gardens without fail for more than 30 years, and gifts in her memory will continue that work without end.

**Left:** In this photo from the 1980s, Betty Graham embraces a cherished Japanese paper bark maple (*Acer griseum*), which she planted as a young tree in the backyard of her Ann Arbor home around 1961. The tree is registered with the City as its Champion of the species.

## 2014 Marks Friends Member Campaign

In 2014, the *Friends* membership program turns 40. What have those years meant to us? Literally and figuratively, an opportunity to put down roots, send up branches, and grow into an indispensable part of the University and local community. Next year, we're honoring those decades of tradition and looking to the next 40 years of Matthaei-Nichols with the launch of a major membership campaign.



Formed in 1974 with 90 founding members, the *Friends* of Matthaei Botanical Gardens began with a mission of creative and educational programs for the benefit of the University and surrounding communities. Similarly, the *Friends* of Nichols Arboretum formed in 1991 with over 100 charter members.

Today we've blossomed to over 2,000 members who believe in our mission of caring for nature and enriching life. That support is evident in the amazing progress we've made over the years, progress that

includes many new gardens and living collections, dozens of trail improvements, hundreds of student interns, and thousands of elementary school tours.

Each year we bring thought-provoking exhibits, educational offerings, and compelling programming to Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum—for example, *Places for the Spirit*, an exhibit of photos by nationally recognized artist Vaughn Sills; family festivals like last July's *Things with Wings*, a fun, educational, and collaborative event that brought together several of our University, local business and community, and mission-related partners; and Shakespeare in the Arb, which just completed its thirteenth season. We couldn't offer all the great things we do without the support of members like you.

Our goals for the *Friends* campaign are to significantly grow our membership numbers and, with your help, increase commitments from our current members. Throughout 2014, look for expanded member benefits and discounts, a special campaign celebration, and member "pop-up" learning opportunities.

### Save the Date

**Sun., Sept. 15; 1-2:30 pm**  
**New Member Orientation**

Are you a new member of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum? Join us for a special behind-the-scenes tour of Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Tour is free. Space limited. Preregister with membership manager Andy Sell by Sept. 1: [sella@umich.edu](mailto:sella@umich.edu); **734.615.9475**.

## Plan a Gift to Keep Us Growing

Help protect the future of your beloved Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum by including a gift to us in your will or trust. Planned giving offers ways for you to substantially increase your support to the Gardens and Arb you love and

achieve your financial goals and family objectives at the same time. To learn more, contact *Gayle Steiner*: **734.647.7847**; [gayles@umich.edu](mailto:gayles@umich.edu), or *Donna Parr* in the University of Michigan Office of Gift Planning: **734.647.6061**; [dmparr@umich.edu](mailto:dmparr@umich.edu).