



friends newsletter • spring-summer 2014

Inside: One Hundred Years, One Hundred Plants • Shakespeare in Advance • Unsung Heroes of the Arb



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Nichols Arboretum
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caring for nature, enriching life

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PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

The logo created for the 2014 “Friends for Nature” 40th anniversary campaign features the silhouette of the native yellow trout-lily (*Erythronium americanum*).

The current crop of Arboretum caretakers poses in the classroom at the Reader Center, Nichols Arboretum. **Pictured, left to right:** Julie McLaughlin, Jake Hamilton, Laura Palm, Brad Kasberg (not shown: Dan Buckley). Several of the caretakers are leaving in May. The search is on for their replacements.

Ann Arbor Farm & Garden honors the national organization’s 100th anniversary in 2014 with a special centennial planting of 100 plants at Matthaei-Nichols this spring.

On the cover: A flowering dogwood near the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden is as sure a sign of spring as you can ask for.

Happy 40, Friends!

The *Friends* membership program turns 40 in 2014. To honor that milestone we’re launching the “Friends for Nature” anniversary campaign with special events, new benefits, and expanded opportunities for our members. In 1974 nearly 90 people signed on as charter members passionate about supporting the Botanical Gardens. Today, Matthaei-Nichols membership stands at nearly 2,200. Through the decades we’ve retained our core mission of “caring for nature, enriching life,” providing educational opportunities for our members and the public, and deepening our connection to U-M students. Inside this newsletter you’ll find a special anniversary Member Guide, including several members-only programs and benefits. Stay tuned this summer and fall as we reach out to all of our members to help us celebrate and build bridges for the next 40 years.

Member Open House

Mark your calendar: on Sunday, August 3, we’re hosting an open house event for members, donors, and the public. The open house is an opportunity to see what our interns have been up to over the summer, with students presenting their summer projects science-fair style. Member dollars are an important source of funding for our student summer internships. Summer interns bring a jolt of fresh ideas and youthful energy to the Arb and Gardens, and they leave with valuable, portfolio-building experiences for their future careers as environmental leaders. We’ll also offer tours, Garden Store deals, and refreshments. Don’t miss this opportunity to meet and mingle with the Matthaei-Nichols summer intern team.

Shakespeare Tickets in Advance

Previously our members could only buy day-of-performance Shakespeare in the Arb tickets in the 5 o’clock member presale queue. Then wait—and wait—for the 6:30 opening act. This year we’ve made it easier with our new Online Friends Box Office ticket reservation system. Current members may reserve tickets up to noon on the day of the play for any of the 12 performances. Just enter your member ID, confirm your membership information, select the number of tickets you’d like, and pay for them at the box office will call. Forgot to reserve? No problem. You can still take advantage of the 5 pm members-only early-purchase option at the Arboretum box office. For more information visit our website: mbgna.umich.edu.

One Hundred Years, One Hundred Plants

As the Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association celebrates its 100th year in 2014, the Ann Arbor branch is commemorating this landmark occasion with special plantings at Nichols Arboretum that will last another 100 years. The Arb is the perfect setting for Ann Arbor Farm and Garden to establish a living legacy for generations to come, observes Carrie Riedeman, Centennial Legacy Planting chair. “Planting 100 trees, shrubs, and perennials from the ‘wish list’ that Arb and Gardens staff developed will expand and enhance the Arb’s collections, and provide new education and research resources,” Riedeman says.

Matthaei-Nichols have always been special places for Ann Arbor Farm and Garden, whose founder was Mildred Hague Matthaei, the driving force behind the gift that provided the land for what became Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Riedeman adds. Over the years, AAF&G has established an endowment to support student internships and to help fund special projects such as the Gaffield Children’s Garden.

The centennial plantings include classic ornamentals in the Centennial Shrub Garden at the Arb, Michigan native woody plants, and historic specimens and those with an Asian focus near Laurel Ridge and the Peony Gardens, according to Matthaei-Nichols Curator Dr. David C. Michener. “This is an exciting and forward-looking project as we begin the multi-year rejuvenation at the two Arboretum entrances,” Michener says.

Most importantly for Ann Arbor Farm & Garden, “the Centennial Legacy Planting will be a lasting tribute to the spirit, effort, and vision of the women who, like Mildred Matthaei, have led and nurtured Farm & Garden over the past century,” notes Riedeman, “and a visible reminder of our deep roots in this community.” Look for a list of plants on the Matthaei-Nichols website soon.

Caretakers, the Unsung Heroes of the Arb

On any given day at Matthaei Botanical Gardens you’re likely to see several University of Michigan student workers. These students engage with every department at Matthaei-Nichols as work-studies during the academic year and as summer interns May through August. It’s no exaggeration to say that our student workers are key to the Arb and Gardens’ operations. Less visible but just as important are the student caretakers at Nichols Arboretum who work at least ten hours a week there in exchange for housing at the Reader





PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

A *Tillandsia streptophylla* bromeliad with hummingbirds. Colored pencil on paper by bromeliad collection volunteer Penrith Goff for the volunteer art show at Matthaei.

Departing native plant specialist Connie Crancer pictured with her life-partner, Stuart Scholl. After 27 years with Matthaei-Nichols Connie is retiring to live in western Michigan with Stu and to pursue some of her lifelong dreams. We will miss her!

Center at the Washington Heights entrance or at the caretaker's cottage near the center of the Arb. Caretakers help keep the Arb shipshape, and may have one or more areas of focus. They might be asked to weed, plant, lead volunteer workdays, assist with events, participate in natural areas stewardship, and more. This season's crop of caretakers, some of whom are leaving at the end of the semester, include Dan Buckley, Jake Hamilton, Brad Kasberg, Julie McLaughlin, and Laura Palm.

Students Garner Prizes

Each year we offer cash prizes and awards to University of Michigan graduate and undergraduate students for their creative work and scholarship related to the Arb & Gardens' mission. The Nanette LaCross Memorial and William D. Drake prizes are funded through named endowments and are awarded for students who best exemplify the spirit of Nanette LaCross and William Drake. The Piehl Funds provide direct support for conservation research. 2014 winners:

Nanette R. LaCross Prize (\$1,000):

Mariel Cecelia Borgman, Master of Science May 2014 in the College of Literature, Science & the Arts Program in the Environment;

Zach Gizicki, Bachelor of Science May 2014 in the College of Literature, Science & the Arts Program in the Environment (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology);

Rebekah A. Kreckman, Bachelor of Science May 2015 College of Literature, Science & the Arts Program in the Environment.

William D. Drake Prize:

Tiffany S. Carey (\$2,800), Bachelor of Arts December 2014, College of Literature, Science & the Arts Environmental Studies and Political Science;

Pete Widin (\$1,800), Master of Science 2015, School of Natural Resources & Environment.

Piehl Funds:

Sara Kileen (\$1,676), Bachelor of Science May 2015, Cellular and Molecular Biology, College of Literature, Science & the Arts;

Anna M. Harrison (\$3,000), Ph.D. candidate, School of Natural Resources & Environment.

The Art of the Volunteer

Arb and Gardens volunteers contribute thousands of hours of their time each year to every department. They help keep this place running! Many of them have a creative side, too, a side you can see on display at Matthaei Botanical Gardens through May 18. This special exhibit features art in a variety of media created by our volunteers. Come see how creative our volunteers are. Free admission.

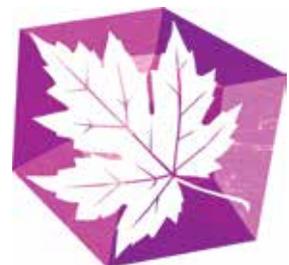
Botanical Gardens Gets Accessible Bathroom

In late March work began on a new, accessible family bathroom at Matthaei. The bathroom will be located off the west lobby. With its open-style room and ADA-approved door, the new space gives us at least one bathroom that meets all accessibility codes. The bathroom, which is part of a suite of infrastructure improvements at the Botanical Gardens and the Arb, is paid for by University ADA funds. Other upgrades include foundation work in the Conservatory and greenhouses, electrical wiring upgrades, and Arb road improvements, the most recent being those near the Peony Garden. These are funded half by us and half by the Provost's Office. A University internal review committee report of 2009 identified building improvements as one of three priorities for MBGNA, says Matthaei-Nichols Associate Director Karen Sikkenga, "and these projects fulfill most of the major infrastructure challenges at the Gardens and for the Arb roads," she adds.

Transitions

With sadness at her leaving and joy for her future we bid goodbye to Collections & Natural Areas Specialist **Connie Crancer** at the end of March. Connie began her career at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in 1988 when, during a visit to Matthaei, she asked if there were any job openings. Years later, Connie has come to be an indispensable asset and font of information on all things native plants. She most recently managed several native plant gardens and native species propagation programs. Best wishes, Connie!

We have a new Visitor Operations Front Desk & Events Supervisor. **Allison Correll**, who started in early March, most recently worked at Washtenaw Literacy as a marketing and development assistant. Prior, she was with the Ann Arbor Public Schools Education Foundation and the Chicago Children's Museum. She has a BFA from Columbia College Chicago with a major in Photography and a minor in Management. Allison says that her love of nature began when she attended an Amish farm camp at an early age. Welcome, Allison!



Gardening Classes:



Sat., May 17, 10 am-noon

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Learn how to make a beautiful vegetable garden anywhere! Decorate a small pot and transfer seedlings to take home. A Little Green Thumbs program: \$8 per child includes activities and materials. Family tree members and above receive 6 free passes for children's fee-based classes. A special family event during the Kitchen Favorites sale. **14-YE-14**

Tuesdays, May 8, 15, 22 & 29; June 6, 6:30-8:30 pm

4-H Junior Master Gardener Program

A hands-on program for youth ages 9-11 to explore various gardening topics and plant a large garden. Garden maintenance and community volunteer activities continue through the summer, including a Summer Harvest Salad Party and a Fall Harvest Party. \$40 program fee (\$10 4-H fee extra if applicable) includes Junior Master Gardener certificate upon completion of the program, a personal copy of the Junior Master Gardener Reference book, materials for all class projects. and a t-shirt. \$5 discount for early registration (by March 31.) Apply in person at 705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor; or download application at extension.ewashtenaw.org. All applications with payment due April 21, 5 pm. Info: Kathy Clark - katclark@provide.net or call **734.944.7728**.

Sensational Nature Spring-Summer 2014

Discover, learn, and play all summer at Matthaei and in the Gaffield Children's Garden. All programs presented by Matthaei-Nichols unless noted otherwise. Programs marked with a \$ are offered by outside groups.

Wed., June 18, 10 am-noon

Backyard Beauties

Celebrating pollinators of all types! Kids and parents, take a bug safari to learn about some of the insect pollinators you might find in your own back yard. A part of Pollinators Week (June 16-23). \$5.00/child includes activities and materials. Family tree members and above receive 6 free passes for children's fee-based classes. **14-YE-15**

Wed., July 16, 10 am-noon

Popsicles and Potpourris

Explore the many ways that herbs and spices can be used to cool you down on a hot summer day. \$5.00/child includes activities and materials. Family tree members and above receive 6 free passes for children's fee-based classes. **14-YE-16**

Wed., Aug. 6, 10 am-noon

Nature's Detectives

It takes detective skills to figure out whodunnit when it comes to invasive plants. Sharpen your pencils and grab your magnifying glass for clues to what happened on the Sam Graham Trees trail! \$5.00/child includes activities and materials. Family tree members and above receive 6 free passes for children's fee-based classes. **14-YE-17**

Free Family Programs:

Sun., July 13, 1-4 pm

Things with Wings

Celebrate our winged friends! This special event includes Monarch Watch with live butterflies and information on monarch migration; Washtenaw County Audubon Society with information about Safe Passage; Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers with an observation hive and information on backyard beekeeping. Fun for the whole family! Free.



May 31-June 15

Peony Bloom Season

Self-guided tours and scavenger hunts during the Peony Garden Bloom season. Free.

Shakespeare!

Offered through

Ann Arbor

Rec & Ed:



Mon.-Fri., June 16-20, 10 am-noon & 1-4 pm

Shakespeare in the Arb Workshops

Explore Shakespeare's comedy *As You Like It* in an outdoor setting! Campers take part in theater games, vocal exercises and direct work with the text, culminating in a performance of the play created and acted by the campers. Meet at 1610 Washington Hts. entrance to the Arb. Grades 2-5 and 6-9. For more information and to register visit reced.aaps.k12.mi.us.

Upgrade to a Family Tree Membership

And receive 6 youth and family free passes for fee-based classes. You also get \$65 off Matthaei Birthday Party programs. A great value at \$75. Visit our website for details: mbgna.umich.edu

Spring-Summer 2014 Matthaei-Nichols Events, Community/Adult Education Programs, and Classes

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. Fee-based programs are noted with a \$ and venues outside of Matthaei-Nichols are marked with a ☼.

MAY

Sat., May 3, 10:30 am-2:30 pm

Caregiver Wellness Day

Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center

This free 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**.

Sat. & Sun., May 10 & 11, 10 am-4:30 pm

Mother's Day Plant Sale & Fundraiser

A large selection of colorful container and hanging planters—perfect for mom!—designed and grown at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Sun., May 11, 2-5 pm

Paphiopedilums with Graham Wood

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society

Graham Wood from Lehua Orchids in Hawaii discusses Paphiopedilums. Also, orchids and supplies for sale, show and tell, and raffle. Info: annarbororchids@aol.com.

Tues., May 13, 6:30 pm

More than Honey

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Rich Wieske of Green Toe Gardens discusses other products from the hive. Program also includes a discussion of the basics of making splits. Beginners' Q&A 6:30-7.

Tues., May 13, 7:30 pm

Huron Valley Rose Society

A monthly program on the art and practice of growing roses. Includes discussion of the newest roses, information sharing, and refreshments.

☼ Wed., May 14, 6-7:30 pm

Wild Ones Plant Sale and Exchange

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter

Don't miss this opportunity to visit a local native plant nursery for this special one-time sale. Information/location: andrea@james-odell.com. Free admission.

Thurs., May 15, 5:30-8:30 pm

Holistic Chamber of Commerce Ann Arbor Chapter Kick-Off Event

HCC Ann Arbor seeks to create a balance between commerce, wellness, and the environment. Featuring Teresa de Grosbois, author, speaker, and founder of Evolutionary Business Council at 6 pm. Refreshments and music. Info and to register:

AnnArbor@HolisticChamberOfCommerce.com.

Sat. & Sun., May 17 & 18, 10 am-4:30 pm

Kitchen Favorites Sale & Fundraiser

A large selection of herbs and heirloom vegetables grown by Cultivating Community, the U-M student gardening group. All proceeds benefit Cultivating Community.

Sat. & Sun., May 17 & 18, 10 am-4:30 pm

Evening Herb Study Group

Offering information on herbs, free herbal samples, recipes, refreshments, and more.



Tues., May 20, 7:30 pm

The Nuclear Option: Issues and Alternatives

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group

Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear describes issues of environmental justice, safety, and security risks of nuclear energy, and the trend toward sustainable, benign, and democratic energy sources.

Wed., May 21, 7:30 pm

Monsoon Birds of South India

Presented by Washtenaw Audubon Society

Washtenaw County Division of Environmental Health's Mary Mathias talks about her monsoon birding adventures in the southwestern coastal state of Kerala, India.

Wed., May 28, 7 pm

Tropical & Subtropical Bonsai with Michael Feduccia

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

Michael Feduccia of Feduccia's Bonsai in Florida discusses issues relevant to tropical and sub-tropical bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 to speak with members before the program. For more information: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Fri., May 30, 4:30-7:30 pm, Nichols Arboretum
Peonies Galore Sale

A special members-only sale of locally grown heirloom peonies. Visit the peony garden in bloom and receive a discount on purchases of heirloom varieties of peonies. Not a member? Join at the sale and save!

JUNE

Sun., June 1, 10 am

A Tribute to Indiana Bob Balitewicz

Presented by Hosta Hybridizer Group

A program in honor of this hosta breeder and aficionado. Includes discussion, show and tell, and slideshow. Participants also encouraged to bring divisions and hostas with any shade of red.

Wed., June 4, 6:30-8 pm

Catching Your Breath

Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center

A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Also 7/14 & 8/20.

Thurs.-Sun., June 5-8; 12-15; 19-22,
Nichols Arboretum

Shakespeare in the Arb - As You Like It

Presented by U-M Residential College and Matthaei-Nichols

Don't miss this annual summer tradition, now in its 14th season! Directed by Kate Mendeloff and performed by University of Michigan students and local actors, Shakespeare in the Arb is a moveable production with Nichols Arboretum as a stage. Visit mbgna.umich.edu for information, ticket prices, and more.

Mon., June 9, 7 pm

Helping the Humble Butterfly

Presented by Evening Herb Study Group

What can we do to address the decline in butterfly populations? Brenda Dziedzic of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association offers a discussion and slide show on butterfly decline and possible solutions, including what kind of herbs and plants work best in the garden to attract butterflies.

Tues., June 10, 6:30 pm

How Mead Is Made

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

Join Mark Spahr for a discussion on the making of mead—a delicious and ancient product of honey. Beginners' Q&A 6:30-7.

Tues., June 10, 7:30 pm

How to Display Roses

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society

A discussion of optimal ways to display roses to their best advantage. Also, tips for how to enter a rose show. Includes discussion of the newest roses, information sharing, and refreshments.



Spring-Summer 2014 Matthaei-Nichols Events, Community/Adult Education Programs, and Classes

🕒 **Wed., June 11, 6:45 pm**

Maurita Holland's Rain Garden

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter
This beautifully designed, pollinator-friendly half-acre rain garden captures runoff from 15 acres and prevents flow into Newport Creek. Location: 2701 Lowell Road 48103.

🕒 **Sun., June 15, noon-4 pm**

Rose Show

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A show and display of rose blooms with names and growing habits to help visitors plan for their own gardens. Entries accepted in the morning after 8 am.

🕒 **Tues., June 17, 7:30 pm**

The Art of Interpretation

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
Learn the art of interpretation the National Park Service uses to help visitors care about natural resources so that they might support the care for them. Nationally recognized interpretive artist Nancy McKay uses simple artistic tools to teach others to become interpreters, to connect to the landscape, and to share its significance.

🕒 **Wed., Jun 18, 7:30 pm**

Florida Flora and Fauna

Presented by Washtenaw Audubon Society
Join retired Ann Arbor teacher, avid birder, and photographer Don Chalfant for a program on the abundant flora and fauna of the Sunshine State.

🕒 **Sun., June 22, 3 pm**

Summer Solstice Concert

Join us for a free outdoor concert of live music by the group Aikman, Kozora & Newcomb at Matthaei in celebration of the summer solstice. Free.

🕒 **Wed., June 25, 7 pm**

Seasonal Bonsai Topics with Jerry Meislik

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Nationally renowned bonsai artist Jerry Meislik discusses seasonal bonsai issues. Arrive by 6:30 to speak with members before the program. For more information visit annarborbonsaisociety.org.

JULY

🕒 **Mon., July 7, 7 pm**

Walking Tour of the Herb Garden

Presented by Evening Herb Study Group
July is a peak month for the Alexandra Hicks Herb Knot Garden at Matthaei. Meet outside in the Gateway Garden prior to 7 pm.

🕒 **Tues., July 8, 6:30 pm**

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

Meet with local beekeepers to learn about bees and discuss beekeeping strategies. Beginners' Q&A 6:30-7.

🕒 **Mon., July 14, 10-11:30 am**

Catching Your Breath

Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center
A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Also 8/20.

🕒 **Tues., July 15, 7:30 pm**

Politics of the Environment, 2014

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
Mike Berkowitz, chapter organizer, and Richard Barron, political committee chair, discuss the coming year's key races and issues. Join in the discussion and learn how to make a difference in local, state, and national elections.

🕒 **Wed., July 16, 6:45 pm**

Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter

A free monthly program that promotes the use of native plants in gardening and emphasizes the sustainable landscaping movement. Tonight's program TBA.

🕒 **Wed., July 23, 7 pm**

Bring Your Own Bonsai

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
A three-member panel of bonsai artists discusses care and design options for participants who bring their bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 to speak with members before the program. For more information visit annarborbonsaisociety.org.

🕒 **Sun., July 27, 10 am**

Interview with Mary Chastain

Presented by Hosta Hybridizer Group
A video interview of Mary Chastain that includes her important contributions to the art and hobby of hosta breeding. Program also includes a hosta auction.



AUGUST

🕒 **Mon., Aug. 4, 7 pm**

Native Pollinators

Presented by Evening Herb Study Group
Learn about native pollinators with U-M staff member Mark O'Brien.

🕒 **Tues., Aug. 12, 6:30 pm**

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

Meet with local beekeepers to learn about bees and discuss beekeeping strategies. Beginners' Q&A 6:30-7.

🕒 **Wed., Aug. 13, 6:45 pm**

From Farmstead to Homestead

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter
A visit to the home and gardens of Larry and Michelle Sanford, who followed a daunting path in transforming part of a lake bottom farm near Macon Creek into a Michigan field with increasing numbers of native plants. Located at 19505 Redman Rd; Milan, 48160.

🕒 **Tues., Aug. 19, 7:30 pm**

Permaculture Design and the Garden

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
Permaculture design provides protocols for decision making and problem solving based on the patterns of nature. Come learn more about permaculture and some practical gardening techniques for the temperate climate. Jesse Tack of Abundant Michigan, Permaculture Ypsilanti, will talk about perennial plants, soil building, water catchment, and more.

🕒 **Wed., Aug. 20, 6:30-8 pm**

Catching Your Breath

Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center
A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being.

🕒 **Sat. & Sun. Aug. 23 & 24, 10 am-4:30 pm**

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Annual Show

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Share the tradition of the practice and art of bonsai at the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society annual show at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Bonsai display, vendors, expert advice, and demonstrations. Admission: \$3 per adult; under 12 free.

🕒 **Wed., Aug. 27, 7 pm**

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

All invited to hear a discussion of seasonal bonsai topics. Arrive by 6:30 to speak with members before the program. For more information visit annarborbonsaisociety.org.

NOTE:
Be sure to call ahead
or check our website in
advance to confirm
programming:
734.647.7600
mbgna.umich.edu.

Matthaei-Nichols Garden Teams – Dig In!

Learn more: contact the Volunteer Coordinator at mbgna.volunteer@umich.edu or 734.647.8528.

Horticulture

Our garden team volunteers enjoy fresh air, exercise, beautiful settings, social connection and hands-on learning. Activities include planting, weeding, mulching, pruning, and other seasonal garden maintenance. Lend a hand weekly or a few times per month during the growing season April–October.

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 Garden Teams

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. May–August only.**

Nichols Garden Team

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



Natural Areas

Explore and learn more about the many natural areas, trees, trails and native landscaping at the Arb and Gardens while helping out with seasonal maintenance.

Native Plant Team

Tend a variety of native landscapes at the Arb and Gardens including the new Great Lakes Garden at Matthaei. Activities include general garden maintenance (April–September) and seed collection/propagation (October–March). **Weekdays, AM/PM shifts.**



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 10 & 11; May 17 & 18

Volunteers help make our annual plant sales hum! Sale 1: Mother's Day Weekend, featuring hanging baskets & containers. Sale 2: Kitchen Favorites heirloom veggies & herbs. All proceeds benefit U-M Cultivating Community. Choose from a variety of positions and shifts.

Peonies Galore Sale Nichols Arboretum

Member's-only sale: Fri., May 30, 4:30-8 pm

Featuring heirloom peonies from a local nursery.

Sale held near the Washington Hts. entrance to the Arb next to the Peony Garden. Choose from a variety of positions and shifts.

Shakespeare in the Arb - Thurs.-Sun., June 6-23

The 2014 season of Shakespeare in the Arb features *As You Like It*, directed by U-M Residential College's Kate Mendeloff. Ushers and box office assistance needed (pm shifts only). Orientation required.

Top: Matthaei Garden Team volunteers Carolyn Anderson-Burack and Karen Monnett commune with the sunflowers. **Above:** Volunteers Martha Johnson and Debra Beckwith-Weeks take a quick camera break at last year's Kitchen Favorites Sale. **Right:** The backs of these Shakespeare in the Arb volunteers' t-shirts display the familiar crowd-control message: “Ground sitters in front; chair sitters in back.”



A 40th Anniversary Member Profile - Dr. Sylvia Taylor



Sylvia Taylor remembers an early staff meeting at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. “Isn’t it wonderful the feeling of ownership these students have?” a staff member asked at the end of the meeting. It’s a feeling that, on reflection, went beyond the students, Taylor recalls. “I know I have it. I know most volunteers and regular visitors have it.”

Taylor is one of the longest-standing Botanical Gardens’ members from the original group who signed their names to the constitution in 1974. At the time—June of ’74—membership stood at 90. The framed

panel of signatories still hangs in the lobby at Matthaei, near the auditorium entrance. Ironically, Taylor’s name doesn’t appear on the panel—she was in Lansing at the time of the signing and couldn’t make it to the first meeting.

The founders had a plan back then, but Taylor couldn’t have known 40 years ago exactly how Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum would turn out in 2014. Over the years some things haven’t changed, she says. When Warren H. Wagner was the director in the 1960s, Taylor says that he “made sure that we all knew the three fundamental roles of the facility: teaching, research, and public outreach.” Three things just as important today.

But the emphasis has shifted, she points out. “Today the University of Michigan’s growing commitment to public outreach and involvement is reflected in the role of Matthaei-Nichols as an important public botanical gardens and arboretum.” And research emphasis has evolved from plant genetics to the ecology of species and systems, while teaching has expanded into many new venues. “Many more people today, including staff, students, volunteers, and visitors, view the Arb and Gardens as an important part of their lives,” she adds.

Things change. And there have been surprises for Taylor over the years. “I never expected to become so committed to Horner Woods and the garden’s natural areas program,” she says. That commitment grew, Taylor remembers, from helping clean up Kirk Woods and discovering the first garlic mustard invasion in Horner Woods to collecting plants for the Great Lakes Gardens. “I certainly never envisioned that the hard-packed gravel and weedy floodplain area between the conservatory and the creek would become our new Great Lakes Gardens,” observes Taylor, who credits director Bob Grese for “giving us all a model for expanding our vision.”

What hasn’t changed is Taylor’s commitment to Matthaei-Nichols and its mission. That feeling of ownership she talked about persists like a root in the ground, always ready to sprout. “It stays with us long after we go on to other things. It’s good to have a stake in something really worthwhile.”

Above: Sylvia Taylor poses in front of an orchid display in the conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. **Below:** Summer interns listen attentively as **Dr. Burton V. Barnes**, professor emeritus in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, conducts a lesson in forest ecology during the traditional summer intern field trip to Radrick Forest at Matthaei.

Put a Bough on It with a Gift Membership

Have a friend who isn’t a *Friend* of Matthaei-Nichols? Give the gift of the Gardens! Great for Mother’s Day, Easter, birthdays, graduations, anniversaries. Gift membership packages are available at the Garden Store at Matthaei. Anyone who receives a gift membership will appreciate its many benefits, including discounts, free parking, and reciprocal benefits at hundreds of gardens and arboreta nationwide. Each gift membership comes with a certificate card, *Friends* logo mug, and bumper sticker. And, it’s a tax-deductible contribution to the University of Michigan.

It’s Growing Season for Membership, Too

Just as plants need a little more light and warmth each spring, this season, and especially during our 40th anniversary Friends for Nature campaign, we encourage you to join, renew, or give a little bit more on top of your regular membership. Your generosity helps us hire summer interns and maintain the display gardens, trails, and natural areas at Matthaei-Nichols. Call or email Membership Manager Andy Sell for information on how you can top off your membership with that little bit extra:

sella@umich.edu; 734.615.9475



Break It Up!

Just like a gym membership or donation to your favorite public radio station, you can break your Matthaei-Nichols membership into twelve easy monthly payments. And you don’t have to be a U-M employee to enroll in our auto-deduction plan. The monthly plan also helps us save valuable resources that would otherwise go into printing and mailing. We’re about saving trees after all! Sustainable, sensible, simple. Find out more information on our membership web page and become a monthly “sustainer” today.