



friends newsletter • winter 2014

Inside: Free Ride to Matthaei • Reader Center Open for Business • Japanese Tree Peonies Have Arrived • and more



Caring for nature, enriching life

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens
& Nichols Arboretum**

**1800 N. Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor MI 48105**

Robert E. Grese, Director

Karen Sikkenga,
Associate Director

friends newsletter

Joseph Mooney, Editor
jfmooney@umich.edu

For information:

734.647.7600
mbgna.umich.edu

U-M Regents

Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor
Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor
Laurence B. Deitch, Bloomfield Hills
Shauna Ryder Diggs, Grosse Pointe
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Mary Sue Coleman, *ex officio*



PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum 40th anniversary *Friends* membership logo.

Free transportation to Matthaei Botanical Gardens is available to faculty and student groups who wish to bring a class or group to the Gardens.

New glass doors at the Reader Center transform a dark basement into an inviting, light-filled room.

Forty Years and Counting

The new year marks the 40th anniversary of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens *Friends* membership program. Begun in 1974, the program has since grown to more than 2,000. Over the years the support of each of our members has played a transformative role in shaping the Arb and Gardens. Today we represent four properties under one organization at U-M—Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Nichols Arboretum, Horner-McLaughlin Woods, and Mud Lake Bog. We invite you to join us for a special 40th-anniversary celebration and member campaign throughout the year. For more information see page 7.

Congratulations, Bob!

The University of Michigan Regents approved Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese to a five-year term as Theodore Roosevelt Professor of Ecosystem Management. The professorship, established by a gift from Sally and the late William Searle, recognizes a leader in ecosystem management, conservation, and restoration. Bob succeeds Mike Wiley as the Theodore Roosevelt professor and will continue to serve as professor in the landscape architecture program and director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. “I’m very honored to be appointed to a chair position named for one of our most conservation-minded leaders,” says Bob, “and I hope to use my teaching and research at SNRE and my work at Matthaei-Nichols to live up to that legacy.”

Free Ride to Matthaei

The Botanical Gardens is a popular place on campus to hold a class or group event. In fact, last year nearly 750 students with 28 instructors attended courses in meteorology, ecology, engineering, art, dance, literature, and others at Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1,227 students with 30 instructors total for the Gardens and Arboretum). We’d like to grow those numbers even more, and for good reason: the natural setting of the Arb and Gardens is conducive to learning across multiple disciplines and dovetails with our own goals of student support and those of many schools and colleges across campus. Now, thanks to a Transforming Learning for a Third Century “Discovery” grant from the president and provost’s office we can offer free transportation to Matthaei for University of Michigan classes or groups. If you’re a U-M faculty or student group we encourage you to take advantage of this option. To request free transportation to Matthaei, visit lsa.umich.edu/mbg/FreeRide.

Grant Funds Farm Coordinator

With a second season under its belt the Campus Farm at Matthaei keeps growing. As anyone who’s planted even a backyard vegetable plot knows, growing food is a 7-day-a-week job. Fortunately, a dedicated group of students from the U-M Sustainable Food Program along with U-M student and staff volunteers across campus have generously contributed their time to the Campus Farm effort. To keep that momentum going, a portion of the second Transforming Learning for a Third Century (TLTC) Quick Wins grant we received in early 2013 will be used to fund a half-time coordinator for the University of Michigan Sustainable Food Program. The coordinator will recruit students, administer student food-related organizations, and assist with the Campus Farm.

Reader Center Open for Visitors

Many have walked past the handsome Greek-revival house at the Washington Hts. entrance to Nichols Arboretum and wondered . . . what is it? Originally a private house built on Wall St. in the mid-nineteenth century by Nathan Burnham—and moved to its present location in 1998—it is today the James D. Reader, Jr. Urban Environmental Education Center. Over the last year we’ve turned the Reader Center on its head so that the staff office and visitor center are now on the lower level, transforming the building into an inviting space for the daily stream of students, University of Michigan staff, and visitors who pass through the Washington Hts. entrance. On the lower level, new glass doors turned a dreary basement into a light-filled space. Signage beckons pedestrians to stop in and maybe even stay for lunch at one of the shaded outdoor tables. Visitor guides and interpretation materials help with wayfinding, and for the citizen scientists among us, reference books are available for browsing, too. On your next visit to the Arb, stop in and say hello.

And for Events & Classes, Too

Small changes make a big difference. With its center floor now an ideal setting for U-M classes, private events, or back-up for an Arb wedding, the Reader Center is open for business. A few small but key changes such as new carpeting, refinished wood floors and fresh paint, and *voilà!*—a renovated Reader Center. If you’d like to book a class or private event, contact our facilities rental coordinator Linda Neely: lmneely@umich.edu; 734.647.7808. Or stop in weekdays at the Arb for a tour.

winter 2014

Matthaei-Nichols

news & updates, continued



PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

A tree peony near the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden, whose rejuvenation plan includes the planting of Japanese tree peonies on the south slope of the garden in spring 2014. Because they bloom before herbaceous peonies, tree peonies extend the peony season, and they often come in different colors than herbaceous varieties.

A multi-year road-improvement project in the Arb is just one of several that address critical infrastructure challenges at Matthaei and Nichols. Other projects include electrical work, building envelope upgrades, and an accessible bathroom at Matthaei.

The logo for the School of Literature, Science & the Arts winter 2014 theme semester, "India in the World." Matthaei-Nichols is holding a special exhibition in conjunction with the theme semester.

Projects Improve Arb & Gardens

Three major infrastructure improvement projects are underway or completed at the Arb and Gardens. A 2009 U-M internal review committee report identified the improvements as priorities, and each year since we've made significant repairs. This year's upgrades include electrical system and building envelope improvements at Matthaei (completed), road repairs at the Arb (multi-year), and an accessible bathroom off the west lobby at Matthaei (begins January 2014). U-M units increasingly are being asked to supplement university funding with their own dollars. The electrical, envelope, and road projects will be funded half by us with member dollars and activity-based revenue and half by the Provost's office. The bathroom is paid for by U-M Americans with Disabilities Act funds.

Roam Where You Want To!

Our members already receive reciprocal benefits at more than 270 botanical gardens and arboreta across the country. Now, we're expanding those benefits with an even more diverse set of partner institutions through the ROAM program (Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums) for members at the sustaining level (\$100) and above. ROAM was created by a team of membership professionals as a free, user-friendly way to connect world-class organizations that encourage interdisciplinary learning. As a participant in the ROAM program, we encourage our *Friends* members to travel, explore, and learn with this benefit. Upgrade to the sustaining membership level or higher today to enjoy ROAM benefits at 140+ museums such as the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the Winterthur Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, the Northwest African American Museum, and many more. Contact membership manager Andy Sell: **734.615.9475; sella@umich.edu** for more information.

Japanese Tree Peonies to Enhance Peony Garden

Specially ordered Japanese tree peonies arrived earlier this year following some complicated coordination with the Kansas-based Heartland Peony Society and the customs office. After some TLC at the Gardens they await a spring 2014 planting on the south slope of the Peony Garden as part of the rejuvenation plan for the garden. Articulating the complex, global story of peonies is an important piece of the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden, and to do that we need authentic period peonies from several cultures, including Japan, China, and Korea. The recent arrivals show the range of colors and forms of Japanese tree peonies that were available pre-1950. As we fill in the gaps in the story of peonies we continue to seek herbaceous historic peonies from Japan, not just the "Japanese" style herbaceous peonies that were popular in Western culture from the late 1880s on.

Spring Exhibit Celebrates India

Each academic year the University of Michigan School of Literature, Science & the Arts chooses a semester theme that brings together students, faculty, and staff across a variety of disciplines. As part of the winter 2014 theme semester "India in the World" we're offering our own take on this complex and compelling culture. Focusing on plants in the conservatory from India, we reveal the country through its botanical and horticultural riches. "The Garden of India," our winter-spring conservatory exhibit, runs January 25 through March 9 at Matthaei.

Call for Art

As participants in the LSA theme semester "India In the World" we're pleased to announce a call for photographic art to be displayed in an exhibit titled "India As I See It" in our gallery spaces winter 2014. Photographs must be of India's people, places, sights, and celebrations.

Exhibition details:

Eligibility: U-M students, faculty and staff, and community members.

Criteria: Photographs must be framed in black frames. Works will be displayed on gallery walls; wires for hanging must be provided on the back of each work.

Submission deadline: Sunday, January 4, 11:59 pm.

Submission address: David Betz, mdbetz@umich.edu.

Submission requirements: Name; address; phone; JPGs of work to be considered; work list including title, size, date, artist's statement and description of work; retail value.

Installation dates: January 22-24, 2014.

Exhibition dates: January 25–March 2, 2014

50 Shades of Green Holiday Exhibit through Jan. 5

There's still time to check out the 50 Shades of Green exhibit in the conservatory. Using examples from our conservatory collection the exhibit takes a close look at the color of nature. Save the dates: 12/8: **Photo-Synthesis**, a free photo workshop presented by the U-M Photography Club (10 am-noon); 12/21: **A Visit with Father Christmas** for the little ones (free; 11 am-2 pm); 1/4: **The Creature Conservancy** with live animals (free; noon-2 pm). Closed 12/24, 12/25, 12/31; open New Year's Day 10-4:30. Or just come out for a winter conservatory escape!



Youth & Kids' Classes and Programs — Winter 2014

Winter Adventure Saturdays!

Our Adventure Saturdays make winter mornings fun. All Saturday classes are 10 am–noon at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Fees include activities and materials. Limited class size—preregistration requested!

Hot Chocolate Jan. 25

Mmmm. . . . chocolate! Get a head start on Valentine's Day with our Hot Chocolate program. Bring your apron and be a chocolate expert for a morning. Learn all about chocolate, from tree to truffle, sip hot cocoa and make a chocolate treat to take home.

\$8.00/child 14-YE-01



Faerie Gardens and Doors Workshop March 8

Join us for two faerie and troll garden workshops this year. Faeries love visiting Matthaei in the winter and we love making gardens just for them. Faeries represent the beauty of the natural world and are the guardians of flower beds, woodlands, and streams. Create magical faerie gardens from natural materials to invite faeries into your yard. Who knows when they might visit! Class fills quickly, pre-registration suggested.

\$10.00/child 14-YE-06

Faerie Gardens and Doors Workshop March 15

Back by popular demand! Join us for the second of two yearly faerie and troll garden workshops. Class fills quickly, pre-registration suggested. **\$10.00/child 14-YE-07**

Camp Winter-Break, Feb. 17-21

Looking for a tropical oasis in town during the school break? Matthaei Botanical Gardens is your HQ for beating the winter blues. Visit the Botanical Gardens during the school winter break for guided activities and do-it-yourself fun. All programs 10 am–noon.

Mon., Feb. 17 *Self-Guided Adventure Day*

Pick up one of our backpacks full of activity sheets, magnifying lenses, paper, and crayons and head out to create your own adventure. **FREE**; self-guided.

Tues., Feb. 18 *Imagine That!*

Vivid imagination and interesting settings inspire storytellers and illustrators around the world. Come for a morning of storytelling about plants from India, then make your own illustrated storybook to take home. **\$5.00/child 14-YE-02**

Wed., Feb. 19 *Eco-Kids*

Kids around the world are active partners in ecosystem protection. Explore how kids take action and join in activities that help to reduce your family's eco-footprint.

\$5.00/child 14-YE-03

Thurs., Feb. 20 *Tree Tales*

What would we do without trees? They provide lumber, food, shade on a hot day and beauty. Each type of tree is unique and there are special clues to discovering the identity of each. Listen to stories about trees and then paint a picture of your favorite tree at Matthaei. **\$5.00/child 14-YE-04**

Fri., Feb. 21 *Flavor-Filled Friday!*

Some of the most delicious fruits and fragrant spices come from different parts of the world. Even deserts provide us with desserts! Come learn about the plants that provide so much enjoyment, and sample fruits and spices from around the world. **\$5.00/child 14-YE-05**



Make Way for Spring! School Break Getaway April 7-11

Join us for week of fun during school spring break. All programs 10 am–noon at Matthaei. Fees include materials and activities.

Mon., April 7 *Is It Spring Yet?*

Grab an activity backpack and go on a self-guided hunt for signs of spring. Scavenger hunt sheets, magnifying lenses, twig and bud detective guides will help children investigate signs of spring. **FREE**; self-guided.

Tues. April 8 *Windowsill Wonders*

Get a jump on spring with a windowsill garden plot. Learn the basics of seed starting, decorate a clay pot and then plant a few seeds that can be transplanted outdoors later or kept inside. **\$5.00/child 14-YE-08**

Wed., April 9 *What Grows in Your Yard?*

Why do some plants thrive in Michigan while others don't? Explore a variety of plants that are used as food around the



world. Based on clues, determine if you could grow that in Michigan or not! **\$5.00/child 14-YE-09**

Thurs., April 10 *Sketchbook Detectives*

A valuable plant has been stolen from the conservatory! Based on clues try your hand at sketching the missing plant and determine what other plants may have been part of the caper. **\$5.00/child 14-YE-10**

Fri., April 11 *Fabulous Friday*

Grab your coat, hat, and boots and let's head outside. Explore the trails and wetlands with a guide to discover how we can be the best land stewards ever. (Rainy day alternative: Michigan ecosystems games.)

\$8.00/child 14-YE-11

Little Green Thumbs

Spring 2014 kids' gardening classes at Matthaei. All programs 10 am–noon. Fees cover materials and activities.



Sat., April 26 *Super Seedlings*

What comes with its own coat, sleeps for months at a time and sprouts to life in the spring? Seeds, of course! Explore the amazing world of seeds and what they need to grow into healthy, beautiful flowers, fruits, and veggies. **\$8.00 14-YE-12**

Winter 2014 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

All programs and classes unless noted are free and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. * denotes offsite program.

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

JANUARY

Wed. Jan 8, 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 2/10, 3/12, & 4/14. To register: 734.936.8803.

Wed., Jan. 8, 6:45 pm

Annual Native Seed Cleaning Workshop and Exchange

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Learn how to clean and prepare native seeds for propagation using common tools. Bring your extra seeds (carefully labeled); and take seed packets home for your own garden.

Sun., Jan. 12, 2 pm

Types of Roses: Class and Categories

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
An illustrated program by Mike Dosey on rose types. Also, discussion of the newest roses, Q&A, and refreshments.

Tues., Jan. 14, 7 pm

Basic Beekeeping I

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Budding beekeepers encouraged to attend tonight's program for answers to beekeeping questions. Info: meghanom@gmail.com.

Wed., Jan. 15, 7 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

A monthly program featuring guest speakers on a wide variety of natural history and birding topics.

Sat., Jan. 18, 1:30-3 pm

Springtime in Istanbul: Plants of Turkey & Cyprus

Presented by Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society
A presentation on the spring flora of Turkey and Cyprus, with Turkey especially renowned as the source of many of our finest spring bulbs. Info: reznicek@umich.edu.

Sun., Jan. 19, 2-5 pm

Orchids of the Caribbean

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A presentation on interesting orchids of the Caribbean islands plus orchids for sale and more. Info: annarbororchids@aol.com.

Mon., Jan. 20, 7:45 pm

Michigan Wildflowers through the Seasons

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club Huron Valley Chapter

Tues., Jan. 21, 7:30 pm

The Controversial Coyote, Part II

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
Wildlife experts give an update on radio collar tracking-based studies of coyote activities in SE Michigan urban areas.

Wed., Jan. 22, 7 pm

Seasonal Bonsai Topics

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
A monthly program on the art and practice of bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 pm to speak with members. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Sat., Jan. 25-Sun., March 9

Exhibit: The Garden of India

Presented by Matthaei-Nichols
A conservatory exhibit in conjunction with the LSA theme semester "India in the World" that reveals the culture and people of India through its botany and horticulture.

FEBRUARY

Sun., Feb. 9, 2 pm

Romantic Rambling Roses

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A presentation on rambling roses and the historical importance of roses for Valentine's Day, with Q&A and refreshments.

Mon., Feb. 10, 10-11:30 am

Catching Your Breath

Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center
See January 8 listing.

Tues., Feb. 11, 7 pm

Basic Beekeeping II

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A conclusion of January's discussion and a kick off of basic equipment building construction techniques. Info: meghanom@gmail.com.

Wed., Feb. 12, 6:45 pm

Establishing A Rain Garden

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor
A presentation on the benefits of rain gardens for the home garden and how they help our rivers and streams. Program also includes how to build and plant one at home.

Sun., Feb. 16, 2-5 pm

Growing Miniature Orchids on Mounts

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A hands-on workshop that includes indoor care. Two take-home plants provided for each attendee; orchids for sale & more. Registration required: annarbororchids@aol.com.

Mon., Feb. 17, 7:45 pm

Regional Conservation Plan for the Oak Openings Region

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club Huron Valley Chapter

Tues., Feb. 18, 7:30 pm

Harmful Algae Bloom: When Blooms Go Bad

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
Sonia Joseph Joshi, NOAA Great Lakes Outreach Coordinator, discusses how certain types of algal blooms may pose a risk to humans, animals, and water quality.

Wed., Feb. 19, 7 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

A monthly program featuring guest speakers on a wide variety of natural history and birding topics.

Sat., Feb. 22, 11 am-12:30 pm; 1:30-3 pm

South Africa Extravaganza—Plants and Life of South Africa

Presented by Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society
Two presentations by South African nature guide and environmental educator Louis Jordaan. For a full description of today's programming visit the Arb & Gardens calendar: mbgna.umich.edu.

Wed., Feb. 26, 7 pm

Seasonal Bonsai Topics

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
A monthly program on the art and practice of bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 pm to speak with members. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

MARCH

Mon., March 3, 7 pm

Herb Seed Give Away

Presented by Evening Herb Study Group
All invited. Seeds available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sun., March 9, 2 pm

Growing Good Roses

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
Featuring a video and discussion on the topic of successful rose growing. Also, discussion of the newest roses, Q&A, and refreshments.

Sun., March 9, 2-5 pm

Phragmipedium kovachii and Its Crosses

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A presentation on the history and culture of the recently discovered *Phragmipedium kovachii*, one of the most exciting orchid finds in many years. Also, orchids for sale, show and tell, raffle table, and supplies. Info: annarbororchids@aol.com.

Tues., March 11, 7 pm

Basic Beekeeping III

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A continuation of February's program and a demonstration of equipment assembly. Info: meghanom@gmail.com.

Wed., March 12, 6:30-8 pm

Catching Your Breath

Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center
See January 8 listing.

Wed., March 12, 6:45 pm

Cues for Care

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor
A panel discussion that combines the research of Joan Iverson Nassauer with ways in which natural landscaping can be made more understandable to the public.

Mon., March 17, 7:45 pm

Ecology of Aquatic Plants

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club Huron Valley Chapter
A discussion by Eastern Michigan University Biology Professor Dr. Gary Hannan.

Tues., March 18, 7:30 pm

"Go Fish" in Michigan: What Can You Eat?

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
MDEQ aquatic biologist Joe Bohr discusses changes in mercury, PCBs, and other "legacy" contaminant levels over time and what fish tell us about contaminants in our waterways.

Wed., March 19, 7 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

A monthly program featuring guest speakers on a wide variety of natural history and birding topics.

Sat. & Sun., March 22-23, 10 am-4:30 pm

Ann Arbor Orchid Festival

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Featuring orchid displays, orchids in bloom from orchid societies and vendors, orchids for sale, supplies, and more. Plus free informational talks and demonstrations on orchid culture topics. Detailed info: aaosonline.org.

Wed., March 26, 7 pm

Seasonal Bonsai Topics

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
A monthly program on the art and practice of bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 pm to speak with members. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Sat., March 29, 1:30-4 pm

2014 New Dahlia Introductions

Presented by Michigan Dahlia Association
A video presentation, member auction of 2014 introduction tubers and other new dahlia tubers, and dahlia-growing handouts. Info: **734.429.5796**.

APRIL

Sun., April 6, 2-5 pm

Orchid Growing Workshops

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Local growers demonstrate various aspects of orchid growing including repotting, dividing, pest control, fertilizer, and more. Also, orchids for sale, show and tell, raffle table, and supplies. Info: annarbororchids@aol.com.

Mon., April 7, 7 pm

Evening Herb Study Group

Join us for a program about herbs that may include lectures by experts, seed or herb exchanges, recipes, planting tips, samples, and more. Tonight's topic TBA.

Tues., April 8, 7 pm

Alternative Hives and Beekeeping

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A hands-on, CSI (crime scene investigation) look inside a hive that didn't make it through the winter to determine why. Introducing packaged bees to a hive also discussed. Info: meghanom@gmail.com.

Wed., April 9, 6 pm

*Explore the Joy of Spring

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor
A tour of Dexter Huron Metropark, whose woodlands boast an abundance of spring ephemerals. Meet in east parking lot, 6535 Huron River Drive, Dexter. Info: **734.604.4674**.

Wed., April 9, 7 pm

Rock Gardens

Presented by Ann Arbor Garden Club
A talk by Garden Club Vice-President Patrick Ion. Info and for location of tonight's program: annarborgardenclub.org.

Sun., April 13, 1:30-4:00 pm

Michigan Dahlia Association Annual Tuber Sale

Presented by Michigan Dahlia Association
Program includes a video, "You Too Can Grow Beautiful Dahlias." Also free dahlia-growing handouts available for new growers. Info: **734.429.5796**.

Mon., April 14, 10-11:30 am

Catching Your Breath

Presented by Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center
See January 8 listing.

Tues., April 15, 7:30 pm

Ambystoma Salamanders: How Do They Do That?

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
EMU Assistant Professor of Biology Katy Greenwald discusses the all-female *Ambystoma* salamanders, unique creatures which often have multiple sets of chromosomes.

Wed., April 16, 7 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

A monthly program featuring guest speakers on a wide variety of natural history and birding topics.

Mon., April 21, 7:45 pm

The Pitcher Plant's Ecology in Southeast Michigan

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club Huron Valley Chapter

Wed., April 23, 7 pm

Seasonal Bonsai Topics

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
All invited to this monthly program on the art and practice of bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 pm to speak with members. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Sun., April 27, 1-5 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**.

Wed., April 30 & Thurs., May 1, 8:30 am-4 pm

Landscape Design School Course II

Presented by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
This 2-day course covers the principals of the landscape design process, including site design and land form, plants in the landscape, plant selection, structures in the landscape, landscapes as a learning experience, early American landscape design, and more. \$80 for two-day registration; \$40 for 1-day (each day includes lunch). Registration and information: michigangardenclubs.org; **734.476.2453**; marypulick@gmail.com.

NOTE: Occasionally, program dates or topics change after the newsletter is printed.

Visit our website (mbgna.umich.edu) or Facebook page (facebook.com/mbgna), or call ahead (**734.647.7600**) to check on the status of a program.

Get Involved!—Volunteer at Matthaei-Nichols

Our volunteer program offers diverse opportunities to learn, connect, and give back. As a volunteer, you'll develop new skills while supporting our mission of education and steward-

ship through hands-on service. We welcome new volunteers to join us in every season at the Arb & Gardens. Preregistration required for all trainings. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information: **734.647.8528; tgriffit@umich.edu.**

Visitor Services – Ambassador Trainings (preregistration required)

Michigan Solar House Ambassador Training

Sat., March 29, 9 am–noon, *Matthaei*

The Michigan Solar House (MiSo) is a solar-powered home collaboratively designed and built by a team of students and faculty from U-M Taubman College of Architecture and



Urban Planning for the 2005 Solar Decathlon in Washington DC. Now located at the Botanical Gardens, MiSo fosters public awareness in solar technology and serves as a laboratory for ongoing research. **Volunteers are trained to greet and guide visitors to points of interest in the house on weekends, May–October.**

Garden Ambassador Training

Two options: Wed., April 23 or Sat., April 26 (both at *Matthaei*), 9 am–4 pm

Our garden ambassadors enjoy the beauty of Matthaei's display gardens while inviting visitors to take a closer look. Training provides an introduction to the Visitor Services Dept., best practices for working with the public, and an overview of the most popular points of interest in the display gardens, Gaffield Children's Garden and beyond. We seek volunteers with a love of learning and interest in working with a diverse population of visitors, including children and families.

Monthly garden tours/talks will be led by our horticulturists throughout the season. Shifts are available 7 days per, May–October.



Peony Ambassador Training

Tues., May 13, 6–7:30 pm, *Arb/Reader Center*

Join Arb & Gardens Curator David Michener to learn more about the largest public collection of heirloom herbaceous peony cultivars in North America. Ambassadors greet and guide visitors



to points of interest in the peony garden during peak bloom time. The training session includes an overview of the peony collection history, horticultural basics and tips for working with the public. Ideal volunteers will have a genuine interest in the collection and an ability to work independently with a diverse array of visitors. **Evening and weekend shifts available late May/early June.**

Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

A huge thank you to our volunteers and staff in celebration of another abundant year of volunteer contributions at the Arb and Gardens! Volunteers got into the harvest spirit with a Michigan apple tasting, samples from local suppliers of cherry and fruit products, warm bowls of chili, and a variety of sweet treats.



Wow! Our volunteers work an impressive number of hours each year. Take a look:

408 regular volunteers logged 14,998 hours of service.
844 volunteers helped with one-time only group workdays (a total of 3,131 hours!)

178 volunteers logged 552 hours with our student programs
Cultivating Community and Campus Farm

Grand Total: 1,430 Volunteers,
18,681 Hours!

Counterclockwise from top left:

Volunteers and staff queue at the chili line; horticulture manager Mike Palmer mans the apple-tasting table; volunteers Dick Coy (L) and Dick Dionne (R) pose with collections specialist Paul Girard; volunteers Susan Davis, Sarah Minor, and Martha Johnson are all smiles with their gourmet jam and cherry products.



Victors for Nature

Two hundred years ago, the founders of the University of Michigan envisioned a great center of learning that would offer a truly “uncommon education.” Today, the unique properties of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum—over 800 acres in all—are transformative places that extend the work of U-M’s classrooms, laboratories, and performance spaces.

The University of Michigan has embarked on a high-profile new fundraising campaign—“Victors for Michigan”—notable for its intensive goals to help students financially. At Matthaei-Nichols, we aim to raise far more than ever in our history: \$7 million. One quarter will support student internships and awards. Fully 60% will protect the living collections and unique settings of the Peony Garden, Gaffield Children’s Garden, Great Lakes Gardens, and Bonsai & Penjing Garden. The remainder will build essential infrastructure for the new Campus Farm and manage our treasured ecosystems and protected species.

Every event, every field trip, every educational presentation helps build a public that cares about nature, the environment, and the University of Michigan. Watch this space for details in each coming edition of our *Friends* newsletter. There is much to be done.

Above: Did you know that Michigan, including Matthaei Botanical Gardens, is home to a thriving population of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes? Many of last summer’s interns didn’t know that either when they began their summer job. Even so, they braved the wilds of Ives Road Fen in Tecumseh, Mich., in search of this shy rattlesnake. Field trips such as these are one aspect of a summer intern’s life at Matthaei-Nichols. The summer internships are more than a job: they teach students valuable skills at the intersection of natural areas management, visitor services, horticulture, and environmental education.

Below: The Matthaei-Nichols version—with our motto—of the University of Michigan’s “Victors for Michigan” logo. The U-M campaign seeks to raise \$4 billion.



Friends for 40 Years, A 2014 Member Campaign



What a year, 2013! Great Lakes Gardens and Bonsai and Penjing Garden opened. Multiple building and road improvements. Over 80 University of Michigan students hired throughout the year as a direct result of your support.

Yet much work remains, and 2014 is shaping up to be even busier. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary next year we have the opportunity to look back and to plan for the years ahead with the launch of a major membership campaign. Since the founding of the Matthaei *Friends* in

1974 with 90 members (the Nichols Arboretum membership program began in 1991), we now boast over 2000 supporters who share our mission of caring for nature and enriching life. Our goals for the new campaign are to significantly grow our membership numbers and increase commitments from our current members.

Thanks to you we can offer thought-provoking exhibits, inspiring garden spaces, and hundreds of acres of natural areas to explore. Last fall, for example, the conservatory exhibit *50 Shades of Green* highlighted the sublime color of nature with the help of U-M student groups, student and community artists, and volunteers. Outdoors, we continue our natural areas restoration efforts and maintain our diverse plant collections and garden spaces. With just a 10% increase in membership numbers and support, we’ll be able to hire additional interns, host more exhibits, and continue our natural areas restoration. Please help us with this goal.

Join us in our year-long celebration of the *Friends* membership program. Look for expanded member benefits like the new ROAM reciprocal privileges for Sustaining *Friends* at museums and gardens across the country, discounts with businesses that share our mission, a special campaign celebration, member “pop-up” learning opportunities, and, of course, a botanical gardens and arboretum befitting our home within the University of Michigan. Thank you!

Upjohn Family Gift Boosts Peony Garden

A gift from the granddaughter of Michigan alumnus Dr. William E. Upjohn to Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum will help restore and protect the largest collection of heirloom peonies in North America. The gift honors Dr. Upjohn and establishes the W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden Fund to care for the historically and internationally significant Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. The \$500,000 gift from Martha G. Parfet, the last living grandchild of W.E. Upjohn, is the largest endowment gift in the history of the Gardens and Arboretum.

Upjohn, founder of the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Mich., and an avid peony collector, donated 280 peony varieties by 1927 to the University of Michigan from both his personal collection and from leading peony growers. More than 90 years later, many of the same peonies are still blooming where they were planted.

Support from the Upjohn family runs deep at the University of Michigan. Dr. Upjohn and five of his siblings earned degrees from Michigan in medicine or pharmacy between 1871 and 1886. “Amelia and Mary Upjohn, who earned their pharmacy degrees in 1871,” Parfet explains, “were among the first four women graduates from any unit of the University of Michigan.” Helen and brothers William E., Henry, and James all graduated with medical degrees. Much like Martha Parfet’s family connection to Michigan, the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden combines a link to the past with a strong mission of preservation for generations still to come. “We’re honored that the University has cared for the peony collection for more than 90 years and proud to be part of the effort to preserve the collection for the future,” Parfet observes. “Peonies were one of my grandfather’s great passions, and he would be so pleased to see how plants from his original collection are still growing, and will continue to thrive, in Nichols Arboretum.” For the full story on this momentous gift, visit umich.edu/mbg/happening/peonygift.

