



An Environment of Nature-based Learning at Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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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

For information:

734.647.7600
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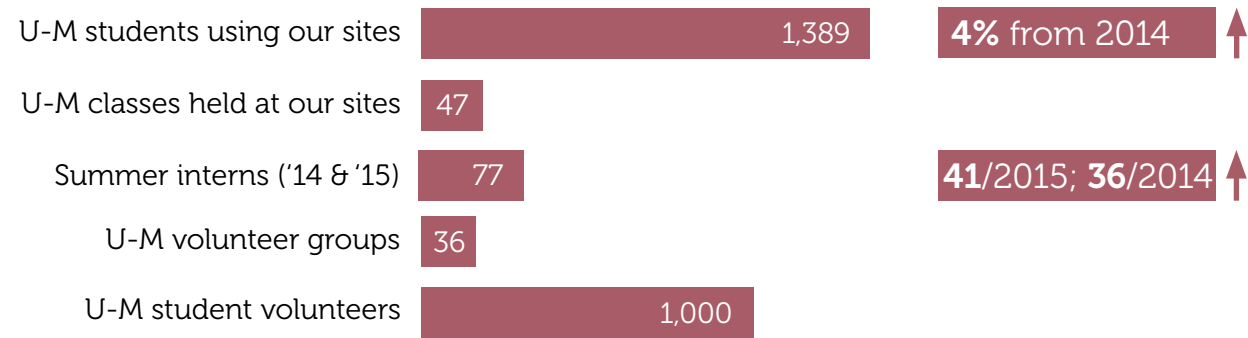




Matthaei-Nichols by the Numbers

We continue to attract more people each year who value interaction and learning from nature: people of all ages, including students from across campus and in multiple classes, faculty seeking research spaces, volunteers, members of the public, schoolchildren, and families.

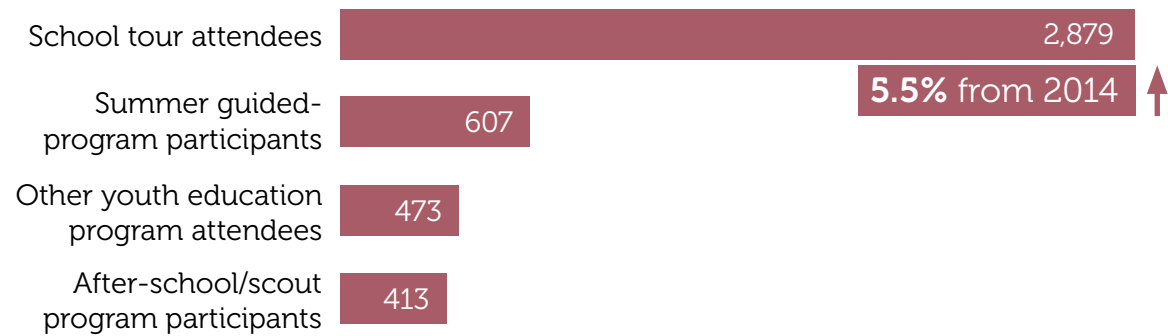
Student participation and engagement



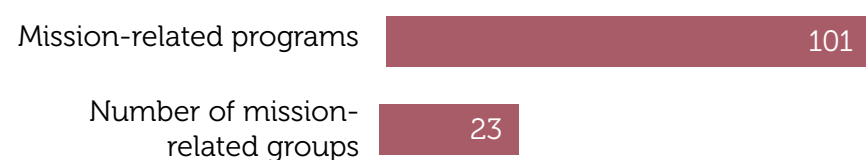
Faculty and grad student research



Children's education



Mission-related groups



Etc.

150,000:

Visitors to Matthaei FY 2015

15.5%
from 2014 ↑

Busiest day of the week (Matthaei):
Sunday

12+:

Public nature-based programs sponsored by Matthaei-Nichols (Shakespeare; art & other exhibits; concerts; workshops; family events)

On the cover: Summer 2015 intern Ryan Flynn takes a closer look at a Blanding's turtle discovered at Matthaei. The Michigan DNR lists the Blanding's as a species of special concern. The presence of the turtle is one indicator of a healthy ecosystem.

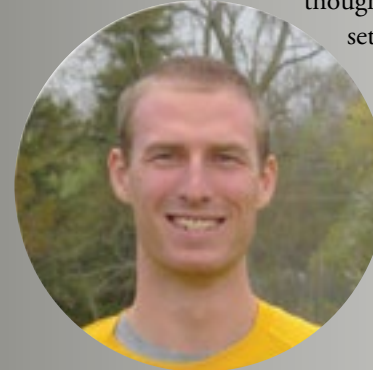
Above: Matthaei-Nichols director Bob Grese leads a tour of the new Medicinal Garden. The garden celebrates the earliest botanical gardens at the U-M—themselves pharmaceutical gardens—and illuminates the connection between plants and human health.

Interns: In Their Own Words

This past summer we hired over 40 interns. Their hard work and dedication is evident throughout our properties. Here's what several interns had to say about their experience at Matthaei-Nichols.

Nick Machinski

"I love working outside and enjoying the environment every day. It's something people really don't do much anymore. My internship though, gave me a lot of experience and insight in how to run a small business, whether it is on a farm or in another setting." (Nick's Campus Farm internship was funded by the Porter Family. He is currently a grad student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment.)



Andrew Harmon

"It's one thing to read about the important services that our native ecosystems provide and another thing entirely to walk out into a fen first thing in the morning when the wildflowers are piercing through a thin veil of fog, when you can feel the value of these natural areas on a visceral level." (Andy's internship was funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He is currently a grad student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment.)



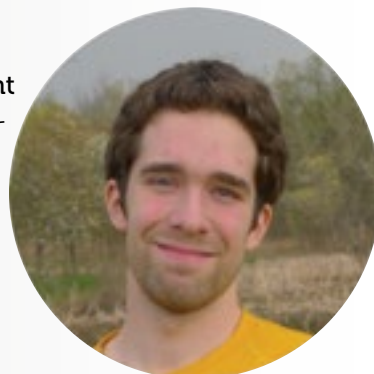
Morgan Wynne

"As a music student, working at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum this summer really drove home for me that nature helps humans express themselves through art, dance, music, written and spoken word, and more." (Morgan's internship was funded by member dollars. She is an undergrad in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.)



Richard Bryant

"This was my third summer helping conduct and teach the Michigan Math and Science Scholars class at Matthaei-Nichols, but my first as a graduate instructor. Using the Arboretum and the Gardens to train students to think was thrilling. It's gratifying for me to see Matthaei-Nichols being used to connect and engage future students in ways they may never forget." (Richard's internship was funded by member dollars. He is a grad student in the LSA Department of Statistics.)



Joel Klann

"As the Volunteer Services intern this past summer and as a 2+ year student-staff member at Matthaei-Nichols, being able to interact with and help out those many wonderful people who seek to be involved with our organization has been quite a treat. The contributions of thousands of volunteers are what enable us to sustain our vitality and provide for the community at large. I'm grateful to have been part of the action." (Joel's internship was funded by member dollars. He is an undergrad in the LSA Department of Political Science.)



Nature Academy: A Community of Students Making a Difference



This summer, 41 students joined our staff for intensive nature-based internships. Next year, without fresh funding, five of those positions will disappear as a grant comes to an end, the University continues annual budget reductions, and two unique, one-time gifts end. With your support we can continue to hire students we need—and who need us. It takes many hands to keep our more than 800 acres thriving. The students we bring on board make that happen. In return, each student receives unique professional learning opportunities. We call this program our "Nature Academy"—a community of students committed to making a difference in caring for the environment and connecting with the public in meaningful ways.

You can help. Together, your gifts will enable us to hire summer interns that cost \$8,000-10,000 each per summer and part-time school-year positions that run \$1,000-2,000 apiece. Your gifts make these rich experiences possible for students and provide the public programs and care for the places you value at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. Please contact Director of Development Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847 to learn how you can help.

Name That Intern!

Our members play an integral role in intern support, with significant member dollars funding internships. As we continue to build our internship program, several donors and family foundations have stepped forward to create named internships, for example, the Gaffield Children's Garden internship helmed this summer by Marissa Silverberg, pictured at left. These internships include:

The A. Geoffrey and Marian Norman Intern

The Cook Family Foundation Intern

Elizabeth Needham Graham Intern

The Gaffield Children's Garden Intern

The Julie Norris Post Heathdale Collection Intern

The Porter Family Intern

Woman's National Farm & Garden Association Intern

You, too, can name an internship! For more information contact Director of Development Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu.

Picturing the Nature Academy

Opportunities to interact with and learn from nature abound at Matthaei-Nichols. These pictures illustrate our mission: **Developing leaders and inspiring people to care about nature and enrich life on Earth.**



Pictured clockwise from top middle: BEE SPOKE: German 325, "The Hidden Life of Bees," conducts a U-M language class in German at UM Bees' hives at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Nearly 1,400 students in 50 classes visited Matthaei-Nichols for study in fiscal year 2015. **THE NEXT GENERATION:** Intern Rebecca Liebschutz (standing, right) leads a tour of children at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Liebschutz was one of the kids' education interns this past summer. **JUNIOR SCHOLARS GET A TASTE OF NATURE:** Matthaei-Nichols curator David Michener (far right) conducts the summer Michigan Math & Science Scholars program, which brings high school students from around the world to Ann Arbor for a taste of college classes and a chance to study nature. **THE MEDICINE CABINET IN THE GARDEN:** Matthaei-Nichols horticulture manager Mike Palmer (center left, in blue shirt) leads a group of U-M Medical School student volunteers on a tour of the new Medicinal Garden at Matthaei. **FLOWER SONGS:** At the annual peony concert in the Arb we partner with the Confucius Institute to present "Peony Blossoms and Pure Melodies," a program of Chinese flower songs. Over the course of a year we offer more than 12 public programs

such as concerts, art and other exhibits, plays, and family programming. **ALL HANDS ON DECK!** When the garlic mustard gets tough, staff and interns at Matthaei-Nichols get going. Last May, natural areas staff conducted a workday to pull invasive garlic mustard. In the process, workers get some exercise and, most important, a better understanding of how invasive species compete with native plants. **INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH:** The U-M Center for Japanese Studies brought godaiko drummers to Matthaei during Japan Week. The week-long event brought the sights, sounds, and cultural treasures of Japan to the Arb and Gardens and other parts of town. **Center: STARTING EARLY:** Volunteer docent Edie Hurst leads a tour of children in the conservatory at Matthaei. This year 42 volunteers gave nearly 2,000 hours of their time for the education department here. The volunteers say it's as much an education for them as it is for their charges.

donors at the \$250 and above level for fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015) and cumulative lifetime supporters, endowments, and planned giving and bequests.

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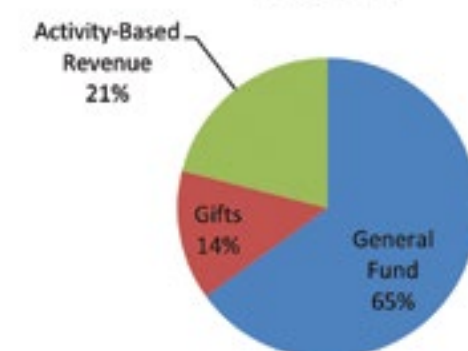
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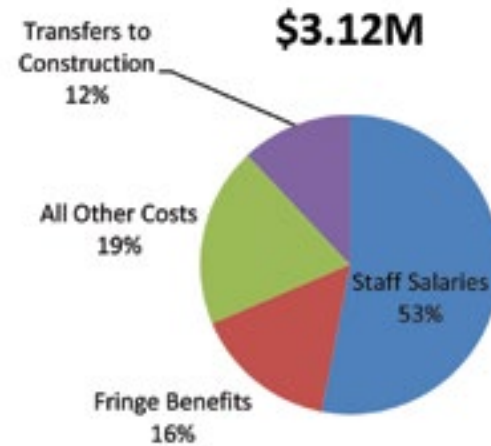
Gifts in honor of:

Ben and Lindsey
Gloria & Bob Kerry's
60th Wedding Anniversary
Aiden and Bailee Reames
Idonna Snow

FY2015 Revenues \$2.82M



FY2015 Expenses \$3.12M



Statement of Activity

General Fund	\$1,842,671	Salaries	\$1,657,323
Gifts	\$397,885	Fringe Benefits	\$484,063
Activity-based Revenue	\$583,530	Transfers to Construction	\$374,190
		Everything Else	\$608,256
Total	\$2,824,086	Total	\$3,123,832