

*Leading the Way
in Nature-Based Learning*

Inside: Intern Open House • The Medicine Cabinet in the Garden • Fossils and Mud •
The Gift of Nature • Trailblazing



INNOVATORS *for Nature*

Where else on campus can you start a beehive? Or conduct a field study on climate change, build a working solar pump, or experience the rejuvenating effects of nature? Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum rolls out the welcome mat for students and faculty to innovate and experiment, and for the public to discover nature's indispensable role in the ecology of learning

Imagine taking Intro to Micro-Economics in a greenhouse.

That “Why not?” scenario, Mike Bianco believes, could help push learning in new directions through the innovative use of Matthaei-Nichols unique spaces.

Bianco, a recent MFA graduate of Stamps School of Art and Design and an early member of the student beekeeping group UMBees, used a Planet Blue Sustainability grant to establish the honeybee and pollinator sanctuary in the Campus Farm at Matthaei. The sanctuary is just one way to imagine learning opportunities beyond the traditional classroom and biology- or ecology-centered course.

As the Bee Flies

Bianco calls the beekeeping project part of a larger “ecology of care,” and believes that “caring for bees expands into caring for the environment, caring for one’s community, and caring for other living beings.”

The Bee Sanctuary showcases Matthaei-Nichols’ special role as the University of Michigan’s environmental campus and the go-to place for student and faculty experimentation and innovation, says Bob Grese, Arb and Gardens director and professor of landscape architecture in the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

“We offer students hands-on opportunities to learn about native ecosystems and their management, for growing food as part of the Campus Farm, or for escaping the stresses of campus life in exchange for being in a more natural setting,” says Grese. It’s also, he adds, about fostering an environment of exploration and experimentation, where students and faculty feel they can try out new ideas, particularly around environmental and sustainability themes. In recent years, Grese continues, “we’ve been able to provide places for students and faculty to test and share innovative ideas that haven’t been allowed on other parts of campus.”

Case in point: before the beehives came to Matthaei, UMBees put campus liberty to the test. Together with Bianco, SNRE grad student Pete Widin and others approached the university with the idea of installing beehives on the roofs of some central campus buildings. Though initially receptive, the U-M nixed the plan over safety concerns, and the apiaries moved to Matthaei Botanical Gardens, where they’re now part of the Campus Farm footprint.

With the beehives at Matthaei, Widin sought to expand the notion of eco-learning for students and the public. A signal feature

of the sanctuary, he notes, is that it makes possible the experience of nature for students who wouldn’t otherwise find themselves in an environmental setting.

At its core UMBees was about educating the public and getting students interested in bees and by extension, nature, Widin says. “Honeybees are like the canary in the coal mine. We rely on them in our food systems! And so we wanted to share the importance of pollinators with students and the public.”

The bee sanctuary, Widin says, is also about reimagining the education environment, getting people out into nature, “and educating through inspiration, inciting energy for positive change, and creating a multigenerational experience.”

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum provide a welcoming place for students and faculty to conduct research, try out new ideas, or integrate nature into class programming. Some of these recent collaborations with the University of Michigan include:

- The use of Matthaei Botanical Gardens by the U-M Alzheimer’s Disease Center as a rejuvenating space for its monthly dementia caregiver programs;
- The student volunteer program “Wild About Nature,” which offers guided tours and activities at Nichols Arboretum for kids at Mott Children’s Hospital and their families;
- The troll sculpture installed in the Arb and created by students in Stamps School of Art & Design Assistant Professor Osman Khan’s Contemporary Sculpture 260 class;
- Partnerships with the English department for poetry readings and student and faculty engagement for last year’s “Letters & Leaves” poetry-inspired exhibit.

Living Labs

Even if they never make it up the hill at Matthaei to visit the Campus Farm or the bee sanctuary, students still arrive in large numbers for classes throughout the academic year. Many of these classes aren't part of the natural sciences, says Grese. "Over the years we've worked to make our sites more inviting to students and more open to collaborations with a variety of units on campus," he says. The result is that Matthaei-Nichols has been able to nurture partnerships that go beyond the traditional relationships botanical gardens and arboreta typically have with the environmental sciences to reach out to other groups on campus.

As the environmental campus, Grese explains, we support the university and its educational mission. A key part of that role is to experiment and generate new knowledge. It's been a success story, he observes. "We've built rich relationships with the University of Michigan Health System, programs in the arts and humanities, architecture, information science, and initiatives in sustainability." What begins within the university community extends to the community at large, he says, each time we share that spirit of exploration with our visitors, "whether it's Shakespeare performances, art or architecture installations, or creating a deeper understanding of local ecosystems." ❧

Many of our partnerships with campus and the university go beyond what botanical gardens and arboreta typically have with the environmental sciences, director Bob Grese says.

Creating a Center for Nature-Based Learning

Key campaign goals for Matthaei-Nichols include student support and enhanced opportunities for field-based learning and teaching. Recently several donors stepped forward to create named internships, while long-time supporters Ian and Sally Bund seeded a fund to endow the Nature Education Initiative at Matthaei-Nichols.

The Bunds' initial donation marks a challenge for our times: "If we're not adding to those who are participating in nature-based programs, we're falling short," they say. "What can we do so that every U-M student has some environmental exposure?"

One way to achieve that goal, Ian says, is to ensure that the "education mission of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum be funded on a permanent basis. If you're serious about your mission then having it subject to an annual budget isn't sufficient." With their donation establishing the Nature Education Fund, the Bunds are asking others to step forward to

help the fund grow as quickly as possible to \$4 million.

While Ian explains that nature education is a major focus for both him and for Sally, the Nature Education Initiative goes beyond Matthaei-Nichols to embrace the university and local communities in an effort to bring nature into the classroom and the classroom into nature. The Bunds have written that, through this fund, the U-M can distinguish itself even more in fully involving the university and general communities in nature education. Such a position, they argue, would underscore the U-M's commitment to our water and land resources and to sustainability.

For more information on how you can contribute to one of our top campaign goals, or to explore naming opportunities for the Nature Education fund, contact Matthaei-Nichols Director of Development Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu.

A sample of nature-based education at Matthaei-Nichols. Pictured below: **Left:** Students in this summer's Michigan Math & Science Scholars on a field trip in Nichols Arboretum conducted by Associate Curator David C. Michener (left, in hat). High school students from across the country and around the world submit applications to the U-M Math Department for this competitive program, part of which is conducted at Matthaei-Nichols. **Center:** Morning glory seedlings grow in greenhouse spaces at Matthaei as part of Assistant Professor Regina Baucom's research project on the drought tolerance of and effect of herbicides on morning glories. Baucom teaches in the College of Literature, Science & the Arts Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. **Right:** Students in Assistant Professor Osman Khan's Contemporary Sculpture 260 class pose in front of a troll in the fairy and troll hollow in Nichols Arboretum. The troll, constructed last fall in Khan's class, was made of stacked Styrofoam slices coated with a thin cement skin.





PICTURED ABOVE, from the top:

A map of the proposed trail connecting Matthaei with the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border Trail system.

Director Bob Grese, center, stands amid the Medicinal Garden just a few days prior to opening on August 2. At right is intern Alex Peters, who worked extensively with horticulture manager Mike Palmer to install the garden. (Photo © Mark Bialek.)

At the intern open house on Sunday, August 2, students (left to right) Nick Machinski, T.J. Fagan, and Erin Todd greeted visitors and sold produce grown at the farm. Other students were arrayed around the terrace, Gateway Garden, and Great Lakes Gardens at Matthaei.

High Gear for Trail Funding

The clock is ticking to raise the final \$400,000 for the hiking-biking trail connecting Matthaei Botanical Gardens to the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border trail. To receive the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program commitment of \$1.2 million toward the \$2.5 million project cost, we must complete fundraising by the end of 2015. That allows time for a design to be drawn up by the end of the year, construction to be done next summer, and the trail to open thereafter. This is a great opportunity to help support a project that is just plain good on a lot of levels—sustainability, connecting Matthaei to the community and the county, and providing a safe, nonmotorized route to the Gardens. If you're interested in supporting the project, now is the time. To learn more or to make a donation, visit our website at mbgna.umich.edu, or contact Associate Director Karen Sik-kenga: 734.647.7697; ksikkeng@umich.edu or Director of Development Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu.

Medicinal Garden Opens

The Medicinal Garden at Matthaei officially opened on Sunday, August 2, 2015. The first botanical garden on the University of Michigan campus was in part a pharmaceutical garden. Since that time there have been versions of gardens on campus and greenhouse collections focused on ethnobotany and the study of medicinal herbs. The Medicinal Garden at Matthaei celebrates both the history of this relationship and showcases examples of current drugs and dietary supplements derived from plants. (Did you know that nearly 40% of drugs used in the United States today are derived from or were originally derived from plants?) The garden is organized by human body systems (e.g., cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal) and by condition (e.g., infectious disease, diabetes, cancer). Only plants or the medicines derived from them with strong clinical evidence for effectiveness are included. We collaborated with Dr. Leslie Shimp of the U-M College of Pharmacy and Dr. Sara Warber of the U-M Health System to develop a collection of plants that would meet this clinical standard. Come out and see this truly unique garden this summer and fall. For more information visit the garden's website: lsa.umich.edu/mbg/sec/medgarden/.

Interns Star at Open House

Interns gathered in the garden spaces at Matthaei this August to greet members and visitors and to present the projects they've worked on all summer. With 41 posters on display the interns really put on an impressive show—and visitors came away with a new appreciation of the enormous contributions the students make to Matthaei-Nichols each summer. The best part of the afternoon, said social media and exhibits intern Morgan Wynne, "was seeing all the kids in the children's garden and how they learned that eating their vegetables is a pretty good thing!" Wynne added that visitors also showed interest in all of the posters, including her project on marketing the gardens through social media. "A lot of them didn't know that much about social media," she said, "so helping them learn more about it was a good experience." T.J. Fagan, grounds and facilities intern, says he's learned several new skills this summer. "When I started in May I thought I'd be doing more grounds work," he said, "but it's been a lot more than that—planting trees, carpentry, and fixing machinery, to name a few." Andy Sell, who returned this summer as an intern after several years as the Matthaei-Nichols membership manager, talked about a discussion he had during the open house with a visitor from Germany. What really struck me," Sell recounted, "was when he said, 'What a great idea—a botanical garden that supports all areas of education at the university.'" Did you know that member dollars play a key role in student intern support? Or that several donors have stepped forward recently to create named internships? For more on these internships and how you can contribute see the resource development and friends member section (page 6).

A Case for Environmental Resources

Our properties offer unique opportunities for studying nature, and at any given time as many as 15 faculty research projects are conducted here. Students also play a huge role in our operations throughout the year. Indeed student internships and field study and research are two top-level fundraising priorities for us.

Call for Art for Exhibit “Forest and Tree - A Multitude of Gifts”

Announcing a call for art from the U-M and local communities. We're seeking art for the gallery exhibition “**Forest and Tree: A Multitude of Gifts**” at Matthaei.

As an artist, what do you see—the forest, the trees, or both? How does your art reflect these living gifts? We're inviting all members of the U-M community to enhance the winter conservatory exhibit at Matthaei Botanical Gardens with inspired works that visually capture the gift of the forest or the gift of trees. We'll display the works in the gallery spaces at Matthaei throughout our winter exhibit “The Gift of Nature.” Let the forest or the tree inspire you to capture nature's legacy in a photograph, painting, watercolor, sculpture, or whatever medium speaks to you. No matter your medium, we invite you to participate in our art exhibit “Forest and Tree: A Multitude of Gifts.” For more information visit our website or email Visitor Services Manager David Betz: mdbetz@umich.edu.

Submission Deadline:
Sunday, October 18, 2015

Submission Address:
David Betz, mdbetz@umich.edu

Submission Requirements:
Limit 3 pieces for consideration. Send low-res photographs (72 dpi; maximum 1 MB each). Include your name; address; phone; title of work; estimated retail value (for insurance purposes only; we will not be selling art).

Selection Notification:
Selection committee will meet and you will be notified by Friday, November 6 concerning pieces selected (up to three may be selected).

Delivery & Installation Criteria:
Pieces selected for exhibit must be delivered to the Botanical Gardens front desk by Monday, November 16. Artwork that will be hung must be framed or have suitable hanging hardware.

Exhibition Dates:
November 28, 2015–
January 3, 2016

This past year has been especially productive, with 13 projects by U-M faculty as well as researchers beyond the University of Michigan community. Research in 2014, with some still ongoing, was conducted onsite at Matthaei-Nichols by U-M faculty, grad students, and post-doctoral fellows, and includes studies on the role of urban agriculture on mediating effects of urbanization on plant pollinator networks; effects of nitrogen addition on ant-aphid-milkweed interactions; effects of urban landscapes on bee diversity and garden yields; monarch butterfly rearing; effects of drought and herbicides on morning glories; and growing native plants under artificial light, among others.

Fossils, Mud, Flowers, and Fun

There's no better way to get to know nature than to play with it. That was the idea behind the new activities Children's Garden Project Coordinator Lee Bravender developed this past summer to encourage kids and their families to get curious about the world in which we live. Bravender has her volunteers on board, too, including retired psychologist and early childhood specialist Karen Mikus, Ph.D. “Outdoor, hands-on, child-led play with natural materials contributes significantly to children's cognitive, physical, emotional and social development,” Mikus explains.

This summer Bravender introduced three new features. One is the Mud Garden. “It turns out that exposure to common soil bacteria may help to strengthen our immune systems. Our new Mud Garden features mud pies, child-scale road work projects and opportunities to get up close and curious about soil textures, geology and earth science,” says Bravender. Another is the Archeology Garden, which features a small area for digging and finding artifacts that tell stories about nature and cultures. The Cutting Garden features brilliant, sturdy blooms to facilitate curiosity about the relationship between flowers and pollinators, and to support human aesthetic love of nature. This station is open when our Garden Ambassadors are available to help manage and teach safe pruning shear practices.

Budget Dollars Address Matthaei Transportation

With permanent bus service to and from Matthaei still but a dream, the provost is providing \$22,000 for accessible, on-demand transportation in the form of taxi service. This will allow us to continue transportation for students and faculty to Matthaei from campus. Previously that on-demand service was funded by a U-M Transforming Learning for a Third Century Grant. Hooray for both opportunities to enhance the visitor and university community's experience at Matthaei.

Ann Arbor Garden Walk Revisited

If you missed this summer's 25th anniversary garden walk sponsored by the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Woman's National Farm and Garden, join us at Matthaei on Sunday, October 18, 2 pm to hear Michigan gardening expert Janet Macunovich present a visual tour of the gardens on the tour and discuss the best practices that shaped them. A panel discussion with many of the 2015 garden owners will follow Janet's lecture. Capping off the afternoon, participants are invited to visit one of the gardens on the tour, David Baker's hillside garden. The event will feature the gardens of Matthaei-Nichols staffers Bob Grese, David Michener, and Adrienne O'Brien; U-M Herbarium Assistant Director Anton Reznicek; and homeowners David Baker and Versile Fraleigh. Cost: \$20 per person; all proceeds benefit the Matthaei-Nichols student internship endowment. Seating limited. Registration and prepayment online: annarborfarmandgarden.org.

Exhibit: The Gift of Nature - 10 Plants that Changed the World

Our winter exhibit will feature plants in the conservatory that have benefited humans in important ways, including medicine, tools, technology, food, religion, economy, and more. Exhibit includes collaborations with U-M departments, seasonal flower display, and themed conservatory areas. Opens Saturday, November 28. See calendar on page 10 for details on all of the exhibit-related programming.

An Early Love for Nature Fosters a Lifelong Devotion, Intern Says

Inspired by our campaign goal of building a strong internship program, donors Tom and Jeanette Gaffield provided funding to create an internship dedicated to the enhancement of the Gaffield Children's Garden. Intern Marissa Silverberg grew up surrounded by nature. For kids today, she says, an early love for nature can blossom into a lifelong devotion to tackling pressing environmental issues as adults.

During my childhood summers, I could often be found in my backyard with chives in my mouth, or with berry-stained palms. In winter, I'd trek through the woods with my best friend and co-researcher looking for unicorn tracks and jotting down observations in our notebooks. Many of my childhood memories take place outdoors, learning to love nature by playing in it.

This summer I worked as the Gaffield Children's Garden intern, still loving nature but worried about the environment. This concern, and my hope for all children to have such positive experiences in nature, is what drove me to apply to Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum. Exploring nature, unencumbered by worries about climate change, biodiversity loss, and other ecological crises, is one of the foundations that can lead to children taking on these pressing issues when they're older. As David Sobel argues in his essay "Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education," "If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, let us allow them to love the earth before we ask them to save it." In their study on sustainability leadership that appeared in *The Journal of Education for Sustainable Development*, Evonne Miller and Kristeen Bentley write that spending lots of time outdoors, especially during childhood, can have profound effects on people's motivation to act sustainably.

As the Gaffield Children's Garden intern, I learned concrete ways to provide these nature-based experiences. With my interest in sustainable food, I worked to make the Grower's Garden more engaging for our younger visitors. Using a chalkboard to list the vegetables, fruits, and herbs that were ready for sampling, we could see how kids and their parents searched the garden for plants they could taste and experience. I also planned two veggie parties in which kids tasted what we grew, participated in a Grower's Garden scavenger hunt, and created vegetable art.



My favorite part of work, though, was talking to kids about what they experienced in the garden. They expressed amazement when tasting borage flowers and became engrossed in the inching of a caterpillar along a stick. One of the best moments for me was a conversation I overheard between a boy and his mom. "I think I might want to work here when I grow up," he told her. It's moments like these that made me feel like the Gaffield Children's Garden was doing exactly what we hoped it would—providing positive, hands-on experiences in the outdoors that ultimately foster a love of nature. ☘



Marissa Silverberg, above right, and, at left, welcoming guests to a veggie tasting in the Gaffield Children's Garden.

Name That Intern!

Our members play an integral role in intern support, with significant member dollars funding specific internships like Marissa Silverberg's above. As we continue to build our internship program, several donors and family foundations have stepped forward to create named internships. These 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](tel:734.647.7847); gayles@umich.edu.

Create a Legacy for Tomorrow: Be A Victor for Nature and for Michigan

Did you know? One of every 10 gift dollars that support U-M comes from private donors who have made a specific provision in their estate plans.

Do you have a will, trust, or a retirement plan? Have you thought about including Matthaei-Nichols as one of your beneficiaries? Bring your questions either to Development Director **Gayle Steiner**, [734.647.7847](tel:734.647.7847); gayles@umich.edu; or contact specialists at the University of Michigan: [888.518.7888](tel:888.518.7888). You can also begin your research at michigan.giftlegacy.com.

Get Involved—Volunteer! Fall 2015

Fall is the perfect time to dig into some great volunteer opportunities at Matthaei-Nichols. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528 or yorabhi@umich.edu for more information.



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Visit our website
for more information:
mbgna.umich.edu

Special Events

Native Plant Sale & Festival

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 3 & 4, 10 am-4:30 pm

A sale of native woody plants and shrubs. Volunteers will help with set up, greeting and directing visitors, and selling plants. Other positions TBA.

Run for the Arb

Sun., Oct. 11, 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.



Volunteer Spotlight

Intern Joel Klann, who worked as the volunteer department intern this summer, contributes this profile on ambassador Rosemary Caruso.

Conservatory and Garden Ambassador Rosemary Caruso has been a part of the Matthaei-Nichols volunteer family for two years.

Rosemary says that she is continually inspired to remain involved with the organization because of the “strong collective effort to cultivate a refreshing and spirited environment.” Her favorite thing about Matthaei-Nichols? “The resounding positive energy that occupies the whole of its surroundings, impacting the community here in a way that induces a warm, neighborly charm.”



Trainings

Prescribed Burn Crew Training

Fri., Oct. 9, 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: Sat., Oct. 10, 9 am-noon; Wed., Oct. 14, 1-4 pm

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.**



Above left: Student volunteers helping out with the 2014 Run for the Arb event. **Above right:** Garden and conservatory ambassador Rosemary Caruso poses in the conservatory at Matthaei. Photo: Yousef Rabhi. **Above:** Matthaei-Nichols staff and volunteers conduct a prescribed burn last fall at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

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 or the "Come Learn" section of our website.

SEPTEMBER

Wed., Sept. 2, 6-7:30 pm

Catching Your Breath

Presenter: 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. Info and to register: **734.936.8803**. Also Oct. 14 and Dec. 14.

Wed., Sept. 2, 7 pm

Common Bulbs in Michigan

Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club

A presentation about bulbs and the differences among them. Participants will learn some botany; planting and storing tips; what constitutes a bulb, corm, rhizome; how to force bulbs to encourage indoor flowers during the winter; and more.

Sun. & Mon. Sept. 6 & 7, 5:30 pm

Student Welcome Week - Shakespeare in the Arb Performance

Two special Welcome Week performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Student ID required; free admission. Box office located at the Nichols Arboretum 1610 Washington Hts. entrance.

Tues., Sept. 8 6:30 pm

All about Beekeeping

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

Open to anyone who wants to learn more about pollinators. Meetings start with an informal Q&A at 6:30, followed by a formal presentation of a bee related topic at 7 that may include honeybee management, care, protection, and production.

Tues., Sept. 8, 7:30 pm

Shrub Roses

Presenter: Huron Valley Rose Society

Program also includes a Q&A, information sharing, and refreshments.

Thurs., Sept. 10, 1 pm

Ichiyo School of Ikebana

Presenter: Ann Arbor Chapter Ikebana International Association

Janet Knowlton of the Detroit Ikebana chapter demonstrates the skills of incorporating native plants into an Ichiyo arrangement. Participants will use these principles to create their own arrangements. \$15 per person covers materials. Info and reservations: **734.327.6605**.

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 12 & 13, 10 am-4:30 pm

Exotic Plant Sale – Bromeliads & Cactus

Presenter: Mich. Cactus & Succulent Soc. and SE Michigan Bromeliad Soc.

A large selection of cactus, succulents, and bromeliads, including air plants, for sale in sizes ranging from seedlings to mature plants. Supplies, books, and art prints also available. Lectures scheduled for both days. Info: **248.380.7359**. Free admission.

Sat., Sept. 12, 1 pm

Bromeliads, the Awesome Houseplants

Presenter: SE Michigan Bromeliad Soc.

A PowerPoint introduction to the amazing bromeliad (pineapple) family features its unmatched diversity of form and color, its strategies for survival in a hostile environment, and its vital role in the ecology of its habitat. Care, propagation, and display in home and garden are also discussed.

Sun., Sept. 13, 1 pm

Yes, You Can Grow Bromeliads in Michigan

Presenter: SE Michigan Bromeliad Soc.

Tips on choosing the bromeliads that best suit your needs: the easiest, the prickliest, the ones that bloom or keep their color in winter, and those that accent the summer garden. Discussion of potting mix, fertilizing, watering, propagation, and more.

Sun., Sept. 13, 2-5 pm

Stanhopea Orchids

Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society

Nina Rach presents on *Stanhopea* orchids from Central and South America. Plus, show and tell, raffle, orchids and related items for sale.

Info: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Mon., Sept. 14, 7-8:30 pm

Easy Herb Preservation

A presentation on preserving herbs by making herbal salts, sugars, butters, syrups, and more. Recipes available.

Info: m.kaminski@comcast.net.

Tues., Sept. 15, 7:30 pm

It's All Connected: How Green Infrastructure Sustains Life

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley

Huron River Watershed Council's Kris Olsson describes the watershed's Green Infrastructure—the interconnected network of natural areas and waterways that support native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, and contributes to our health and quality of life.

Wed., Sept. 16, 7:30 pm

Antarctica: Penguins and Prions

Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Society

Join Washtenaw Audubon Education Chair Cathy Theisen for a program on remote birding destinations Antarctica, home to avifauna such as albatrosses, skuas, and penguins.

Sat., Sept. 19, 11 am

Native Michigan Orchids

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

Student judge Gordon Griffin presents on native Michigan orchids and their habitats. Plus, a brief presentation of the North American Orchid Conservation Center working to preserve our native orchids.

Sun., Sept. 20, 11 am-12:30 pm

Building Crevices and Other Czech Gardens

Presenter: Great Lakes Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society

Expert rock gardener Jirí Papoušek discusses how Czech rock gardeners have developed the art of the crevice garden to provide microsites for choice rock garden plants. Info: reznicek@umich.edu.

Mondays, Sept. 21-Nov. 9, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Mindfulness-Based Dementia Care

Presenter: Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center

A free, 7-week program designed for family caregivers of persons with dementia. Learn how mindfulness can help you cope with the challenges and stresses of dementia care, and also greatly improve the experience of the person in your care. Info and to register: **734.936.8803**.

Mon., Sept. 21, 7:30 pm,

Status of the Emerald Ash Borer and our Woodlands

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club

Dr. Dan Kashian of Wayne State University gives a presentation on the emerald ash borer.

Wed., Sept. 23, 7 pm

Annual Bonsai Auction

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

All invited to shop the auction of bonsai and bonsai-related material. Items can be purchased from either auction, silent or live. Info: aabonsaisociety@gmail.com.

OCTOBER

Sat. Oct. 3, 9-10 am

Native Plant Sale Member Hour

Join us for breakfast and a members-only special presale. Receive an extra 10% discount on purchases (20% total discount).

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 3 & 4, 10 am–4:30 pm
Native Plant Sale

A two-day sale of native plants in Greenhouse 3. Matthaei-Nichols members receive 10% off plant purchases.

Sat., Oct. 3, 10 am–4 pm
African Violet Display and Sale

Presenter: Mich. State African Violet Society
 Including a large selection of hard-to-find European and Russian African violets, *Streptocarpus*, and other Gesneriads. Free growing skills seminar 11:30 am.

Wed., Oct. 7, 7 pm
Creating Sustainable Landscapes

Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
 A presentation by native plant landscape design specialist Drew Lathin.

Thurs., Oct. 8, 1 pm
Ikenobo School of Ikebana

Presenter: Ann Arbor Chapter Ikebana International Association
 Lauren Paul of the Detroit Ikebana chapter demonstrates one of the oldest schools of ikebana. Members and guests will explore this more traditional form of floral arranging and take home an arrangement. \$15 per person includes materials. Info and reservations: **734.327.6605**.

Sun., Oct. 11, 9 am, Nichols Arboretum
5th Annual Run for the Arb

A family-friendly 5K run/walk through the Arboretum. All proceeds support the Arb & Gardens. Preregistration \$25/members: \$20. Dogs welcome, too! Register Fido for \$5. Participants receive a Run for the Arb T-shirt. Register: mbgna.umich.edu.

Sun., Oct. 11, 2-5 pm
Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
New World Orchids & Orchids of Japan

A presentation by Kristen Uthus. Plus, show and tell, raffle, orchids and related items for sale. Info: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Tues., Oct. 13, 6:30 pm
All about Beekeeping

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
 Open to anyone who wants to learn more about pollinators. Meetings start with an informal Q&A at 6:30, followed by a formal presentation of a bee related topic at 7 that may include honeybee management, care, protection, and production.

Tues., Oct. 13, 7:30 pm
Winterize Your Roses

Presenter: Huron Valley Rose Society
 Presentation also includes Q&A, information sharing, and refreshments.

Wed., Oct. 14, 6-7:30 pm
Catching Your Breath

See September 2 listing.

Sat., Oct. 17, 11 am
How Well Do You Know Your Orchids?

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
 See how well you can recognize some of the top hybridized and awarded species from the *Bulbophyllum* group of orchids with accredited orchid judge Lynn O'Shaughnessy. Followed by educational information and examples of photos.

Join us for two programs on regional native and Michigan plants cosponsored with **Michigan Botanical Club** and presented by Matthaei-Nichols Director **Bob Grese** and **Mike Kost**, native plants specialist at the Arb and Gardens and author, with **Josh Cohen**, of *A Field Guide to the Plant Communities of Michigan*.

Sat., Oct. 17, 2 pm
The Great Lakes Gardens & the Role of Botanical Gardens in Native Plant Education

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
 A presentation by Bob Grese, Director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum and professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Michigan.

Mon., Nov. 16, 7:30 pm
A Field Guide to the Plant Communities of Michigan . . . Methods & Challenges

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
 A presentation by Josh Cohen, author, with Matthaei-Nichols native plants specialist Mike Kost, of a book by the same name.

Sun., Oct. 18, 2 pm
Ann Arbor Garden Walk Revisited

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Woman's National Farm & Garden Association
 Michigan gardening expert Janet Macunovich presents a visual tour of the 2015 Ann Arbor Garden Walk, followed by a panel discussion. \$20 per person; all proceeds benefit the Student Internship Endowment at Matthaei-Nichols. Info & registration: annarborfarmandgarden.org.

Tues., Oct. 20, 7:30 pm
Plastics! Ecosystem Health & Plastic Debris in Our Great Lakes

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
 U-M Assistant Research Scientist Melissa Duhaime discusses a cross-disciplinary

approach to study the holistic ecosystem impact of plastic debris on the Laurentian Great Lakes, to inform policy and management.

Wed., Oct. 21, 7:30 pm
Washtenaw Audubon Society Birding Jamaica

World birder and Washtenaw Audubon field-trip coordinator Bryn Martin presents on the group's most recent field trip to Jamaica, where there are a number of birds found nowhere else in the world.

Wed., Oct. 28, 7 pm
Bonsai Design Principles
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
 Regional bonsai artist Todd Renshaw discusses bonsai design principles plus bonsai container and display stand options. Info: aabonsaisociety@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER

Wed., Nov. 4, 7 pm
Table Designs for the Holidays

Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
 Bring a place setting and consult an expert panel about table setting decoration ideas.

Sun., Nov. 8, 2-5 pm
Ann Arbor Orchid Society

Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
 Main program TBA. Ann Arbor Orchid Society monthly programs include show and tell, raffle, orchids and related items for sale. Info: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Sun., Nov. 8, 2 pm
What's New in Roses

Presenter: Huron Valley Rose Society
 A presentation about new trends in roses as well as planning for the coming year. Plus, Q&A, information sharing, and refreshments.

Tues., Nov. 10, 6:30 pm
All about Beekeeping

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
 Open to anyone who wants to learn more about pollinators. Meetings start with an informal Q&A at 6:30, followed by a formal presentation of a bee related topic at 7 that may include honeybee management, care, protection, and production.

Wed., Nov. 11, 6:45 pm
Annual Potluck and Awarding of the Bob Grese Deep Roots Award

Presenter: Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter
 Come share food and stories about successes in your efforts to promote native plants. Participants are encouraged to bring slides and share stories about their work. Info: **734.604.4674**.

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 or the "Come Learn" section of our website.

Thurs., Nov. 12, 1 pm

The Art of Ikebana

Presenter: the Ann Arbor Chapter Ikebana International Association

Program TBD. Following the demonstration guests and members will create their own arrangement to take home. This a fee-based program. For more information or to register call: **734.327.6605**.

Sat., Nov. 14, 10 am-2 pm

(Free; reservation required by Nov. 9)

Caregiver Wellness Day

Presenter: 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. Registration required by November 9. For information and to register: **734.936.8803**.

Sat. Nov. 14, 2 pm

The Awesome Air Plants

Presenter: SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
A presentation on *Tillandsias*, the largest and most highly evolved bromeliad family, with emphasis on the atmospheric *tillandsias* (air plants) with photos of their habitat and a discussion on how they manage to survive and flourish under extreme conditions.

Tues., Nov. 17, 7:30 pm

Hiking Isle Royale

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
Michigan writer and explorer Jim DuFresne describes his favorite visits to this unique archipelago, known for its unique ecosystems and challenging terrain.

Wed., Nov. 18, 7 pm,

British Isles Garden Cruise

Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
Betty Bishop shares her experiences visiting gardens in Northern Ireland and Scotland this past summer.

Wed., Nov. 18, 7:30 pm

How You Can Help Birds to Survive

Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Society
Barbara Lucas presents on ways we can help birds survive in an increasingly urbanized environment. Barbara is the host of WEMU's The Green Room, a program exploring local environmental issues.

DECEMBER

Tues., Dec. 8, 6:30 pm

All about Beekeeping

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Open to anyone who wants to learn more about pollinators. Meetings start with an informal Q&A at 6:30, followed by a formal presentation of a bee related topic at 7 that may include honeybee management, care, protection, and production.

Thurs., Dec. 10, 1 pm

Ichiyo School of Ikebana

Presenter: the Ann Arbor Chapter Ikebana International Association
A demonstration and workshop by Janet Knowlton of the Detroit Ikebana chapter. Participants will use evergreen boughs to create their own holiday themed arrangements. Info and to register: **734.327.6605**.

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

Catching Your Breath

See September 2 listing.

Tues., Dec. 15, 7:30 pm

Tales and Travels from around the Globe

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
The annual Huron valley group program. Participants are encouraged to share and inspire with stories of their travels. Send a PowerPoint presentation or 10-15 digital photos to Ed Steinman: lighthawkpilot@gmail.com and tell us about your adventures, near and far.

Sat., Dec. 19, 11 am

Annual Bizarre Bazaar

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
All invited to a potluck lunch provided by the Judging Center judges. Donated orchid-related items are auctioned off to raise funds for yearly operation of the center. Items include rare orchid species, divisions of select clones, as well as potting supplies and other items for the orchid grower.

December 19

Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count

All invited to participate in the annual bird counting event. Visit the Washtenaw Audubon Society website for details.

NOTE: Occasionally, program dates or topics change after the newsletter is printed. Call ahead (734.647.7600), or visit mbgna.umich.edu to check on the status of a program.

Winter Exhibit Events & Program

Sat., Nov. 28- Jan. 4, 2016

Handspinners Holiday Fair

Sat., Nov. 28, 10 am-4 pm

Sponsored by Spinners Flock
Featuring member-made products such as handspun yarns; knitted, woven, and felted garments; accessories; wall hangings; and ornaments. Also available: books, knitting needles, craft tools, and spinning wheels. Demonstrations. Free admission. spinnersflock.com; **734.769.1657**.

The Gift of Nature Winter Exhibit

Sat., Nov. 28-Jan. 4, 10 am-4:30 pm

Plants have always had a huge impact on our lives, in large and small ways and in ways we take for granted. The Gift of Nature will feature plants in the conservatory that have benefited humans in important ways, including medicine, tools, technology, food, religion, economy, and more.

Artists Market at Matthaei

Sun., Dec. 6, 10 am-4 pm

Featuring a selection of art in a variety of media from the local and U-M communities.

Sat., Dec. 12, 10 am-noon

Annual Holiday Greens Workshop

Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
Denise Looker leads a workshop on holiday greens. Cost: \$15. Wreath/arrangement materials provided. Registration appreciated (please register through the Garden Club only): **734. 255.7912**. Potluck brunch.

Wonders of Winter Kids Program

Sat., Dec. 12, 10 am-noon

Celebrate our holiday conservatory exhibit, "The Gift of Nature" in this annual Wonders of Winter kids-ed program. Create a seasonal pot-pourri and evergreen boughs to bring home or gift. Make nature-themed paper crafts to take home too! \$10.00/person includes activities & materials. Registration requested.

Sat., Dec. 19, noon-2 pm

A Visit with Father Christmas

A great opportunity for kids and their families to visit with and get their photos taken with the real Father Christmas, in town for one day only!



Homemade Heritage Programs

The change of season is a time to give thanks for the gifts of summer and to look forward to cooler weather and autumn's bounty. From cranberries to scarecrows to jack-o'-lanterns and holiday trees, the Homemade Heritage programs celebrate our creative traditions.

Sat., Oct. 24, 10 am-noon

Harvest Spooktacular

Vexing vines, strangling figs and meat-eating plants make for a spooky conservatory morning! Dare to take a walk through the conservatory and then make not-so-spooky masks and decorated pumpkins to take home. \$8.00/child includes activities and materials.

Registration requested. **15-YE-15**

Sat., Nov. 21, 10 am-noon

Kids are Chefs, Too! Planetary Plant Exchange

How has the exchange of plants around the world improved our food and drink choices and kept us healthy through the cold winter months?

Imagine if wheat or rice was never cultivated! What if we never learned to use cranberries or chocolate from the Americas? Discover the origins of some favorite food plants and learn how to prepare a special treat for your holiday feasts. \$8.00/child includes activities and materials. Registration requested. **15-YE-16**



Sat., Dec. 12, 10 am-noon

Wonders of Winter - The Gift of Nature

Help us celebrate our holiday conservatory exhibit, "The Gift of Nature" in this annual Wonders of Winter kids ed program. Nature's bounty provides an endless array of delights. Spices, teas, fruits, and fragrances have long been exchanged as gifts. Create a seasonal potpourri and evergreen boughs to bring color and fragrance to your home or to share as a present. Make nature-themed paper crafts to take home too! \$10.00/person includes activities and materials. Registration requested. **15-YE-17**

DIY Nature Adventures

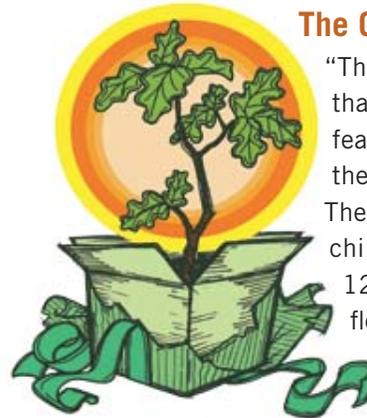
Sat. Sept. 19

Autumn Adventure - Self-Guided Hike

Pick up activity sheets from the Visitor Center and create your own Autumn Adventure. Explore the woods and fields for late wildflowers. Look for fall migrating birds and butterflies, and enjoy the coming fall. Free, drop-in program; no registration necessary.

Upgrade to A Family Tree Membership . . .

. . . and receive six 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



The Gift of Nature Exhibit

"The Gift of Nature - 10 Plants that Changed the World," is the featured exhibit this season in the conservatory at Matthaei. The event includes a special children's program on December 12 (see listing at left), seasonal flower display, and decorated holiday trees themed to the exhibit.

Making an appearance on December 19 from noon to 2 pm is the one and only authentic Father Christmas. Great photo op, and free!

Exhibit is free and open to all. (December 12 kids programming Wonders of Winter is fee-based.) Also, don't miss the Open House on Saturday, November 28 featuring seasonal items in the Garden Store and the annual Spinners Flock fiber arts sale.



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

caring for nature, enriching life

1800 N. Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor MI 48105

Robert E. Grese,
Director

Karen Sikkenga,
Associate Director

friends newsletter
fall 2015

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
Mark S. Schlissel, *ex officio*

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 144

Date Sensitive Material



Printed on 100% recycled fiber, with 50% post-consumer content. Processed chlorine free, using non-oil-based inks.