



thinking outside the classroom



U-M BLUELab India students (from left)
Sai Bolla, Anjali Balani, and Haresh Patel

INSIDE OUR LIVING LABS

For connecting with and learning about nature you can't beat the unique spaces at Matthaei-Nichols.

Faculty and students can test new ideas, participate in hands-on learning, and move beyond the traditional classroom. As many as a dozen projects take place here at any given time. Take a look at three of them below.



Hunter Lab - Milkweed Research

Monarch butterflies and milkweed, their larval host plant, make compelling research topics for several reasons, says Mark Hunter, Henry A. Gleason Collegiate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan. “Most members of the public can recognize monarchs and know something about their astonishing migration from eastern North America to Mexico, where they spend the winter,” Hunter explained in an email. And because people care about the monarch, “it makes studying their biology and conservation much more rewarding.”

Hunter turned to Matthaei Botanical Gardens for his research because it offers a combination of semi-natural and managed habitats and sites from which insects can colonize the plants used in the lab's experiments. At Matthaei, Hunter explains, “we are able to grow our experimental plants just the way we want to. So for us, working at Matthaei provides the perfect mixture of being able to control what we need to control, and yet let nature do the rest of the work for us.”

For some of those experiments Hunter's work extends below ground—into the little-seen universe of soil—to study mycorrhizal fungi and their relationship with plants' tolerance to being eaten by herbivores such as the monarch caterpillar. The presence of mycorrhizae and their influence on plants' medicinal properties and how those properties affect monarchs means that “we can't study single species in isolation,” says Hunter. “If you want to study butterflies, you have to study plants. And if you want to understand plants, you have to understand soil fungi. Of course, it makes ecology complicated as a discipline, but the degree of interconnection is also part of the wonder of it all.” Read more about Hunter Lab at sites.lsa.umich.edu/hunter-lab/.



Baucom Lab - Morning Glory Research

Focusing mostly on the common morning glory (*Ipomoea purpurea*), Professor Regina Baucom's Lab studies the evolution of traits that promote persistence in the face of environmental stress. Baucom is an assistant professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Michigan. Megan Van Etten, Ph.D., a postdoctoral research associate in the Baucom Lab, says that the greenhouse space at Matthaei is “absolutely essential” to many of the lab's experiments. “Because our plants get quite big, a small greenhouse or growth chamber won't work—we need lots of greenhouse space!” Van Etten says. “There is no other place on campus where we can do our research.” Under current



agricultural practices, Van Etten continues, herbicide resistance is an important trait. “Depending on the population, some plants can withstand more than twice the normal dose of herbicide—in this case glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup.” The Baucom Lab's goal, says Van Etten, is “to understand the evolutionary history behind this adaptation and the genetic basis so that we can design strategies to limit herbicide resistance development and spread.”

Last year a field at Matthaei yielded a different kind of opportunity when the lab hosted a sweet-potato tasting in the Kraus Building on central campus. Attendees gathered to taste the difference between sweet potatoes grown at Matthaei and at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Tasting results will be used to understand public preferences for specific sweet potatoes over others, which will in turn allow Baucom to identify varieties suitable for Michigan cultivation. Read more about Baucom Lab at sites.lsa.umich.edu/baucom-lab/.



BLUElab India Project

This multidisciplinary student organization at the University of Michigan designs sustainable technology in the small agricultural community of Dolatpura in Gujarat, India. The team focuses on two problems discovered during a needs assessment conducted in May 2014: excessive smoke from cook stoves and lack of usable toilets.



BLUElab India chose Matthaei Botanical Gardens to build and test their stove because the team could build and test a stove similar to those found in Dolatpura, explains project co-leader Shilpen Patel. The botanical gardens also offers high clay content soil, he says, “and the stove model we created is a mixture of clay, dirt, and sand. In India they use a mixture of cow dung and red clay and when the stove has dried completely and is ready for use it sits on the ground.”

BLUElab India's innovation, Patel says, is the addition of a metal chimney, which draws smoke away from the cook. This addresses the general health issue of exposure to smoke and a women's health issue as well, since women spend many hours each day cooking.

While BLUElab India Project is an organization affiliated with the College of Engineering, members are also drawn from multiple schools including the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and the School of Art and Design. BLUElab India is part of the umbrella organization, BLUElab, which has project teams working all over the world that are dedicated to co-designing sustainable solutions. Read more about BLUElab India at bluelabindia.wordpress.com.

How You Can Help

Matthaei-Nichols exemplifies the long-standing tradition of field teaching and research at the University of Michigan. Our properties offer unique opportunities for studying natural phenomena, and at any given time as many as 12 faculty or student research projects are underway here. This is an important part of our mission and commitment to the U-M community.

Yet while faculty and students turn to our spaces for research we're also experiencing growing pains. We are ready to expand our university connections to a new level, but our ability to host research is limited by outdated facilities. Transportation to Matthaei Botanical Gardens is an ongoing challenge and we need more support to oversee and coordinate the projects that take place here.

Your support for our student and research efforts is critical. Please use the enclosed envelope or contact **Director of Development Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu; or Director Bob Grese: 734.763.0645; bgrese@umich.edu.**

Thank you!

Pictured facing page, left: Amanda Meier, a University of Michigan doctoral student in Professor Mark Hunter's lab, counts milkweed-oleander aphids and their predators on milkweed plants in a field at Matthaei Botanical Gardens last summer. Meier is conducting research to determine how common below-ground microbes (arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi) may affect interactions between aphids and their predators above ground by altering milkweed plant chemistry.

Middle: Student researchers in Gina Baucom's lab stand near tables holding morning glory plants in one of the greenhouses at Matthaei. The Baucom Lab's goal, explains Megan Van Etten, a post-doctoral researcher in Baucom Lab, is to understand the evolutionary history behind herbicide resistance and its genetic basis in order to design strategies to limit this trait.

Inset photo: Hundreds of plastic pots hold morning glory plants for use in Gina Baucom's research conducted at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

This page: BLUElab India students (left to right) Sai Bolla, Anjali Balani, and Haresh Patel at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in front of the stove they created for their project. The stove's innovation is the chimney, which directs smoke away from the cook. This helps address both public health and women's health issues, since women spend so many hours each day cooking.

Inset photo: BLUElab India's stove debuts in Dolatpura, India.



Storied Garden Club Awards Bob Grese High Honors

Late last year the Garden Club of America (GCA) awarded Bob an honorary membership. The GCA is the first national federation of American garden clubs, with 200 member clubs and over 18,000 members across the country. Established in 1913, GCA has long championed the conservation and study of our nation's rich heritage of designed landscapes and gardens. Generations before these needs became evident to most citizens, the GCA spearheaded many pioneering efforts to document and steward significant heritage sites—and create endowments to allow their continuity and study.

The decision by the Garden Club of Michigan to nominate Bob was unanimous, says Mary Roby, who has served as President of the Michigan club and also as a Director of the Garden Club of America. “Bob is a most outstanding individual in the many paths his life has taken,” notes Mary. “His work in landscape design, leading to becoming an authority on Jens Jensen and studies of ecological landscape design, are so important.” Bob says he's thrilled to be given honorary membership in the Garden Club of America and to be associated with such a prestigious group of leaders in horticulture and conservation. “I have long been familiar with the club's support of students studying horticulture, landscape architecture, ecological restoration, and other aspects of plant science and conservation,” he says. “Many of my own students over the years have been supported through these scholarships—often at a critical moment in the student's time at the University.” Congratulations, Bob!

Dazzling Azalea Bonsai Display Returns

Melvyn Goldstein's blooming satsuki azaleas drew plenty of oohs and ahhs at Matthaei last year. So many that we decided to bring them back for 2016. Goldstein, a donor, U-M alum, and bonsai collector, generously loaned us the azaleas, which will be on display in the Bonsai and Penjing Garden at Matthaei at the end of May. Eventually, the azaleas, along with Goldstein's entire collection of bonsai, will find a permanent home here as Goldstein donates all of his plants—nearly 110 in all—to Matthaei-Nichols. As always with plants, the azalea display depends on the weather. Look for more information on our website and e-newsletter soon.

Young Scholars to Connect with Nature at Matthaei-Nichols

This July more than 200 students from Ypsilanti and Southfield schools will study wetlands, watersheds, ecology, and other nature-based subjects at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The students are participants in the University of Michigan's Wolverine Pathways program, which selects up to 120 students each from Southfield Public and Ypsilanti Community school districts. Once admitted, Wolverine Pathways Scholars take part every year through the completion of 12th grade. The scholars will participate in all-day sessions with Arb and Gardens staff, volunteers, and U-M student summer interns. They'll investigate and assess wetland habitat and learn how our field-services team manages ecosystems for biodiversity, among other activities. Students will then consider how they might apply this new knowledge in their own schools and neighborhoods.

The program is a win-win all around. It dovetails with our Nature Education Initiative, which seeks to connect a wide variety of audiences with nature-based programs. Additionally, these hands-on experiences will connect the dots for the students, providing real-world application of elements learned in the classroom. Youth programs at Matthaei-Nichols are grounded in Next Generation standards for K-12 students, and the summer field trip experiences will build on understanding and competence in ecology. What's more, each Wolverine Scholar who successfully completes the program and applies to the University of Michigan and is admitted will receive a full, four-year tuition scholarship to the University of Michigan.

Agave 2.0

Remember the 80-year-old agave that bloomed in 2014? One of its conservatory neighbors began sprouting a flower stalk in late January. We've dubbed it “Agave 2.0” because it's such a young plant—about 26 years, the normal time for an agave in the wild to sprout. Agave 2.0 might not have the same urge to grow through the roof like its 80-year-old cousin but the flower stalk is impressive nevertheless. We're not sure yet when the agave will bloom but it's definitely worth a visit Matthaei to see. The photo at left shows the flower stalk in February with the remains of the variegated agave behind it. The 80-year-old agave was finally removed in February. Check our Facebook page for updates.



Students Garner Prizes

Annual prizes and awards recognize creative work and scholarship related to the Matthaei-Nichols mission. These include the Nanette R. LaCross and William D. Drake prizes for School of Natural Resources & Environment (SNRE) or Program in the Environment (PitE) students who link their studies with us. The Winifred B. Chase Fellowship helps students in systematic botany research, plant geography, and other phases of botany requiring field study. Congratulations, students! This year's winners:

Research Funds

Benjamin Lee (Ph.D. in SNRE) for his studies of native tree seedling establishment. \$1,928 from the Student Research Funds.

Nanette R. LaCross Prize

Angey Wilson. \$1,500.
Madeline Baroli. \$1,000.
Claire Roos. \$1,000.

William Drake Prize

Jared Aslakson. \$1,500.
John Deruiter. \$1,500.
Andy Sell. \$1,500.
Nicholas Machinski. \$1,000.

Winifred B. Chase Prize

Amanda Salvi (undergraduate honors thesis) for collection and study of tropical ginger tissue samples. \$1,000.

Molly Ng (Ph.D. student, Earth and Environmental Sciences) to acquire bald-cypress and redwood tissue samples. \$750.

Alex Taylor (Ph.D. in EEB) to study bacterial nodulation in plants. \$750.

Peony Season Has Arrived

The clock ticks one year closer this spring to the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden centennial. Medical school alumnus Dr. W.E. Upjohn donated part of his collection of beloved peonies to the U-M in 1922. Some of the plants are still growing in the same spot they were planted in nearly 100 years ago. In spring 2016, expect to see some of the fruits of our restoration project, including plantings of new varieties of tree peonies from China, Korea, Japan, Europe, and the U.S.; handsome new steps at the top of the hill on the garden's east side; a restored pathway; and new installations of woody plants. Peony season runs approximately Memorial Day through mid-June, depending on the weather. For daily bloom updates, maps, and more visit our peony garden website: peony.mbgna.umich.edu. A garden of this stature needs long-term care—one reason we launched the Peony Garden Initiative in 2008. The initiative is a multi-year renovation and restoration project to ensure another thriving century for this historic garden, a national treasure and the largest collection of heirloom herbaceous peonies in North America. Many donors have stepped forward with support for the garden, including W.E. Upjohn granddaughter Martha Parfet. The Peony Garden endowment currently stands at nearly \$550,000.

Shakespeare in the Arb & Member Benefits

Love's Labour's Lost is this year's play for the sixteenth season of Shakespeare in the Arb. It's been 10 years since director Kate Mendeloff took up *Lost* and fell in love with it during rehearsal. “I chose *Love's Labour's Lost* initially because I thought it would work well in the Arb,” she explains. “Ten years on, I wanted to revisit this lesser-known gem and rediscover it with a new group of actors and a new creative team.” **Matthaei-Nichols members** can reserve tickets online and pick them up at will call before the show. Look for information and details on our website in May: mbgna.umich.edu.

Staff Spotlight: Adrienne O'Brien

You know our places and plants. Time to meet our people! This issue's staff spotlight shines on Adrienne O'Brien, Matthaei-Nichols' longest-serving staff member.



Matthaei-Nichols: How long have you worked here?

AO: I started working at Matthaei on November 1, 1982.

Where did you grow up?

In upstate New York. My family owned a dairy farm with 100 cows and 300 acres of land. I spent much of my time outdoors, learning about nature. Although I didn't work on the farm, I did help with the vegetable garden—I loved to weed!

What's your favorite part of working at Matthaei-Nichols?

I love the fact that every day is different; I learn new things or figure out how to do something more efficiently. I have also enjoyed watching our organization grow and find its mission. There have been so many positive changes and I am very proud to be part of such a great organization.

What are some of personal passions or favorite plants?

My hobbies include reading, sewing, and listening to classical music and jazz. I enjoy working and relaxing in our garden at home with my husband Mark. I am the secretary for the Michigan Entomological Society. And, I miss my daughter and daughter-in-law, Jorie and Steph, who live in Marquette, Michigan. I like the bulbs that bloom early in the spring and the perennials that bloom in early June—peonies, Siberian iris, clematis. Swamp milkweed is one of my late-summer favorites. It attracts so many interesting insects.

Transitions

Debra Vaught, customer services associate in Visitor Services, retired at the end of January after nine years. Deb's great customer service won her a lot of praise from visitors and staff alike. We'll miss her smiling face! Best wishes, Deb.

Pictured facing page: One of donor and collector Melvyn Goldstein's blooming satsuki azalea bonsai on display spring 2015 at Matthaei. Back by popular demand, the azalea display is scheduled for May 2016.

A scene from the 2006 performance of *Love's Labour's Lost*. This year's performance is only the second time that the Shakespeare in the Arb group has performed this tour-de-force of wordplay and puns.

Peonies in the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. Visitors to the garden this year will see several improvements to the area, including a new set of stone steps, more tree peonies, and the addition of woody shrubs.

“Agave 2.0” sends up a stalk in the conservatory at Matthaei. Unlike the 80-year-old agave that bloomed here in 2014, Agave 2.0 is a mere 26 years old.

Above: Staffer Adrienne O'Brien has worked for Matthaei-Nichols since November 1982. (Photo by Mark O'Brien.)

On the cover: University of Michigan BLUELab India students pose in front of a special stove they created at Matthaei. The stove's innovative feature is its chimney, which directs smoke away from the cook.

(Azalea bonsai and peony photos courtesy Michele Yanga.)

Campaign Update

As part of the Victors for Michigan fundraising campaign, we're reaching toward a **\$7 million goal**. That money will help fund student internships, field study and research, endowments for

specific gardens and collections, the Campus Farm, a hiking and biking trail to connect Matthaei Botanical Gardens to central campus and beyond, natural areas management, and more.

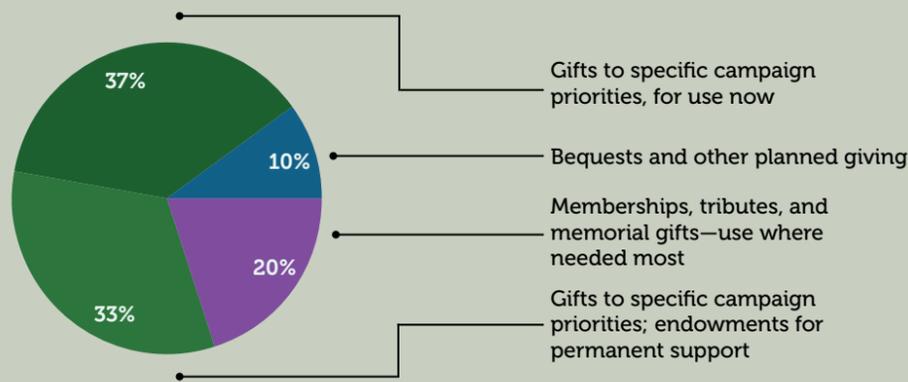
AHEAD OF OUR GOAL! We are 62% through the campaign, with 65% raised—\$4.5 million of our total goal!



Gifts: Your Choice

There are many options to support the Arb and botanical gardens you love—and they all help! Over 2,700 of you are members, providing core unrestricted support for use where needed most. Going a step further, two keys to successfully reaching our strategic priorities include earmarking a portion of your will for Matthaei-Nichols and gifts to endowments.

Get a flavor of these possibilities below, and contact: **Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu**



Bequests & Other Planned Giving

- **Planned giving helps ensure the future of a cause you believe in.**

The planning part involves setting aside funds from your estate for the future of your favorite cause. In most cases planned giving is revocable, meaning you can change your mind. That's a good reason to get off the fence and include us in your estate plan now!

Some 20 friends who cherish our organization have made a place in their will for Matthaei-Nichols. One anonymous donor, who has been a member since 1995,

describes herself as an infrastructure person. "If you don't keep up wonderful places, you won't have them for long," she says, calling the Gardens "a gem" and adding that she feels fortunate that we're so close to Ann Arbor and the university. Whether or not you give anonymously, making the commitment and documenting your good intentions makes all the difference for Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum!

Endowments

Think of an endowment as a kind of perpetual retirement account for good deeds. In other words, an endowment is meant to last forever. The donor and Matthaei-Nichols together decide what the endowment will support with income generated from the account each year.



For example, thanks to descendants of Dr. William E. Upjohn and other enthusiastic supporters, the **W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden Fund** today stands at more than **\$550,000**.

• **Good financial housekeeping: The contributions you make to our endowment funds help diversify and stabilize our revenue stream.**

We have more than a dozen endowment accounts, including:

- Display Gardens Fund
- Jerry & Rhona Meislik Bonsai Fund
- Natural Areas Fund
- Julie Norris Post Heathdale Collection

Dig In—to Our Garden Teams

Learn more: Volunteer Coordinator Yousef Rabhi: mbgna.volunteer@umich.edu or 734.647.8528.

Horticulture

Enjoy fresh air, exercise, beautiful settings, social connections, and hands-on learning. Activities include planting, weeding, mulching, pruning, and other seasonal garden maintenance. Weekly or a few times per month during the growing season April–October.

Gaffield Children's Garden

Enjoy this playful space and help tend garden spaces such as veggie, herb, and butterfly gardens, fairy & troll knoll, and more. Must enjoy working in a kid-friendly atmosphere. **Fridays, 9 am–noon.**

Matthaei Garden Teams

Learn new gardening techniques while you help maintain a variety of unique display and exhibit gardens. Garden locations vary. **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 9 am–noon.**

Nichols Garden Team

Help maintain the horticultural collections at the Washington Heights entrance including the Peony Garden, Gateway Garden, Laurel Ridge, and heirloom climbing roses at the historic Nichols Arboretum. **Mondays & Fridays, 9 am–noon.**

Top: Volunteer Bharathi Krishnaswamy helps out in the Alexandra Hicks Herb Knot Garden at Matthaei. Bharathi is on the Tuesday Garden Team at Matthaei. **Below:** Matthaei-Nichols horticulture manager Mike Palmer (right) hosts a tour of the greenhouses last year for student volunteers from the University of Michigan Filipino American Student Association.



Natural Areas

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

Native Plant Team

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



Our Surveys Say...!

We're eager to hear what our volunteers think about us and the volunteer programming here. To find out, we sent a climate survey to all volunteers last year to get their take on Matthaei-Nichols. Results of that survey will appear in our next newsletter. We're also keen to know how our many student workers and volunteers feel about the Arb and Gardens. Both groups—students and volunteers—enjoy a long history with the Arb and Gardens. We couldn't do what we do without them!

To make sure that students remain an active part of our organization into the future we've set a goal to increase the number of student volunteers by 15% through improved recruitment and by deepening their volunteer experience. But how do we better understand what the students are looking for and what's important to them? Those are questions we hope to answer after analyzing the results of a survey conducted with students last fall. We asked students questions such as how important it is for them to care for a natural area, whether working at Matthaei-Nichols helped lower their stress levels, and if they viewed volunteer work as a résumé builder.

No surprise: many of the students are nature lovers at heart. One student who helped with the project is University of Michigan undergrad Kayla Hobby. "While collecting surveys I found that students with a wide array of majors participate in our workdays, and the majority of them enjoy getting involved in nature and learning about our local plants and invasive species," says Hobby, a freshman and major in Program in the Environment (College of Literature, Science & the Arts). "It's great to see fellow students outdoors in their spare time."

Stay tuned as we bring you results and analysis of this important student recruitment effort!

Horner Woods Eco-Restoration Workday Trip Leader: Sylvia Taylor Sat., April 23, 9 am–noon

Join volunteers from the Michigan Botanical Club and Matthaei-Nichols to scout for invasive garlic mustard and help with light trail maintenance at Horner Woods, a wildflower sanctuary northeast of Matthaei.

Please dress for physical, outdoor work. Sturdy closed-toe shoes required. We provide tools and orientation. Minors are welcome with permission forms; those under 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Meet in the Matthaei Botanical Gardens west lobby, 1800 North Dixboro Rd., to caravan to Horner Woods.

Sensational Nature Spring-Summer 2016

Discover, learn, and play at Matthaei and in the Gaffield Children's Garden. Sensational Nature programs are 10 am-noon.

Sat., May 14: Super Seedlings-Flower Power!

Explore the life of a seed as it grows into a beautiful flower. Then, make paper pots with different seeds to germinate at home and plant in a window box or in your garden. **\$8/child includes activities & materials. 16-YE-13**

Sat., June 11: Secret Spaces

Take a hike with a guide and explore the secret spaces that plants and animals call home. Then make a secret garden from found natural materials to tuck away on the trails. **\$6/child includes activities & materials. 16-YE-14**



Wed., June 22: Wetland Wonders

We'll use dip nets, magnifying lenses, and other tools to discover plants and animals that depend on healthy wetland habitats. **\$6/child includes activities & materials. Appropriate footwear for wet areas recommended. 16-YE-15**

Wed., July 13: Paper Crafts

Learn to make paper from recycled materials and take a short hike to gather natural materials for a special piece of art paper. **\$6/child includes activities & materials. 16-YE-16**

Wed., Aug. 10: Incredible Edibles

Explore the life of veggies and fruits in the garden, learn about the care they need, and make a few tasty treats for your lunch. **\$6/child includes activities & materials. 16-YE-17**

Wed., Aug. 17: Wonderful Wednesday

Get ready for a fun family adventure. Keep your eye on our website for more information. **\$6/child includes activities & materials. 16-YE-18**

High-Fives for Virtual Conservatory Tour

A call from a local school teacher about a possible virtual tour of the conservatory intrigued Matthaei-Nichols children's ed coordinator Liz Glynn.

These days, for reasons ranging from transportation costs to time constraints, "teachers are often hard-pressed to take field trips off school grounds," Liz says. A virtual tour could address a lot of these issues and more, she adds. "It seemed like a great opportunity to test the use of interactive technology as an outreach tool for schools that can't visit the Gardens, and teach the kids the skills they need today."

With help from Arb and Gardens' docents, last January Liz created an interactive virtual tour about biomes and plant adaptations with Saline, Michigan, Harvest Elementary teacher Nicole Toth.

The children weighed in, creating a list of questions about plants that they wanted answered, such as, "How do plants handle all of that rain in the tropics?" And, "Why do cacti have spines?" During the

tour students could ask and respond to questions, see and hear docent guides, look at entire plants and see close ups of leaves, roots, flowers, and more. Students and adults loved it, Liz says. "The experience was terrific and taught us a lot about how to make a virtual tour a success and helped Matthaei-Nichols feel familiar and welcoming to all families and kids."

Two future virtual tours with Harvest Elementary are scheduled. In the meantime Liz has met with digital education folks at the University of Michigan to explore more ways to use the technology for digital learning. Stay tuned!



Top left: Kids in a class at Saline's Harvest Elementary watch a virtual presentation beamed from the conservatory at Matthaei. **Above:** Docent Marilyn Wooten conducts the tour with husband Dave filming at the helm of an iPad.

Free Family Program:

Sun., July 17, 1-4 pm
Things with Wings

Celebrate our winged friends! This special event includes Monarch Watch with live butterflies and information on monarch migration; Leslie Science Center, and face-painting. Fun for the whole family! Free.

(Photo © Michele Yanga.)



Upgrade to a Family Tree Membership

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

All programs unless otherwise noted are free, open to the public, and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Fee-based programs are noted with a \$; venues outside Matthaei-Nichols are marked with a 📍

MAY

Wed. May 4, 7 pm

Ann Arbor Garden Club Annual Potluck

All invited to this celebration of the past year. Bring a dish to pass and a garden plant or clipping to exchange.

May 6-July 24

Exhibit: Picture This!

An exhibit of photographs taken of and by young patients—many of whom were born with facial differences or cleft palates—in U-M Mott Hospital's Cranio-facial Anomalies Program. Paired with professional photographers, the children learned new ways to look at and through the camera lens.

Sat., May 7, 10 am-noon

📍 Horner Woods: Spring Curator's Tour

Matthaei-Nichols curator David Michener, natural areas specialist Mike Kost, and other experts lead tours of Horner Woods, a little-seen 90-acre wildflower and oak-hickory sanctuary. Bus transportation from Matthaei to Horner Woods provided. Free for sustaining level (\$100) and above members.

Through May 8

Hidden Worlds: Large-Scale Ceramic Pollen Sculptures

Stamps School of Art and Design Professor Susan Crowell's exhibit of grains of pollen rendered in fired, painted, and glazed ceramic reveals the hidden beauty and importance of these little-seen plant structures.

Sun., May 8, 2 pm

Basic Rose Care

Presenter: Huron Valley Rose Society
Program also includes a presentation on old garden roses and classic shrubs for zone 5. Q&A and refreshments provided.

Mon., May 9, 7-9 pm

Beekeeping in Cambodia

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
M.C. Hearing discusses what it's like to raise bees in Cambodia, followed by a talk by Win Harless on swarm management practices.

Spring Plant Sales at Matthaei-Nichols

Three spring plant sales you won't want to miss. Join us this May and June and help support the Arb and Gardens and Cultivating Community, the U-M student gardening group.

SPECIAL MEMBER HOUR: Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale

Sat., May 7, 9-10 am

Matthaei-Nichols members enjoy a special pre-sale discount this morning. Join us for coffee, tea, and breakfast munchies, then shop the sale of containers and hanging baskets. Receive an additional 10% off purchases (20% total).

Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale

Sat. & Sun., May 7 & 8, 10 am-4:30 pm

Hanging basket and container plantings—perfect for mom!—grown and designed on site by staff and volunteers. All proceeds benefit Matthaei-Nichols.

Mother's Day Weekend Artisans Market

Sat., May 7, 9 am-4:30 pm

Local artisans and craftspeople offer their unique items for sale. A great opportunity to discover the perfect, one-of-a-kind gift for mom. (No member discount on merchandise.)

Mother's Day Tea Party at Matthaei

Sun., May 8, 1-3 pm

Bring mom and help us celebrate her day with a special tea in the conservatory. All invited. Free. Please RSVP by April 29 to Ashley Rop: 734.647.8522.

Kitchen Favorites Sale

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

A sale of heirloom vegetables and herbs grown by U-M student volunteers in the student group Cultivating Community. Proceeds benefit Cultivating Community. Plus, Herb Study Group on hand with herb samples and information on growing herbs.

SPECIAL MEMBER HOUR: Kitchen Favorites Sale

Sat., May 14, 9-10 am

Matthaei-Nichols members enjoy a special pre-sale discount this morning. Join us for coffee, tea, and breakfast munchies, then shop the sale of herbs and vegetables. Receive an additional 10% off purchases (20% total).

Herbs with Madolyn

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

Herb Study Group president Madolyn Kaminski answers questions about herbs and plants during the annual Kitchen Favorites herb and heirloom vegetable sale. Info: m.kaminski@comcast.net.

Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden Season

Approximately Memorial Day through mid-June

The largest collection of heirloom peonies in North America. The garden, which began with a 1922 gift from Michigan alumnus W.E. Upjohn, comes alive in spring with as many as 10,000 blossoms at peak. Call or visit our dedicated peony website for daily bloom updates as the season progresses: mbgna.umich.edu/peony.

SPECIAL MEMBER HOUR: Peonies Galore Sale

Sat., June 4, 9-10 am

Shop the hour prior to the public peony sale and get first dibs on vintage peonies. Members also receive 10% off their purchase.

Peonies Galore Sale

Sat., June 4, 10 am-4:30 pm (or until peonies run out)

Bring some vintage beauty to your garden with our heirloom varieties of peonies. Sale held adjacent to the historic Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. A very popular sale so arrive early!

Wed., May 11, 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**.

Thurs., May 12, 1 pm
§ Ohara School Ikebana Workshop

Presenter: Ikebana Intl., Ann Arbor Chapter
A demonstration workshop led by Anne Morrison, an instructor in the Ohara School. Participants will bring their own container and flower materials are provided. Cost: \$12 for members; \$15 guests. A specific invitation detailing style and container required will be sent the week prior. Registration and information contact: janet.muheleman@regroup.us.

Tues., May 17, 7:30 pm
Bringing Conservation to Cities

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
John Hartig, Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and author of *Bringing Conservation to Cities*, talks about how making nature part of everyday urban life is part of a strategy focused on inspiring and developing the next generation of conservationists in urban areas, which are home to 80% of U.S. and Canadian citizens.

Wed., May 18, 7:30 pm
Invasive Species in the Great Lakes

Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Society
Learn about how invasive species got here, the damage they're doing and what can be done to control them. Bill Rapai is president of Grosse Pointe Audubon, and the author of *The Kirtland's Warbler and Lake Invaders*.

Sat., May 21, 11 am
Vanda coerulea Orchids

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
A presentation by accredited judge Alex Challis on this genus of orchids also known as blue orchids.

Sun., May 22, 2-5 pm
Mini-Catts

Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Peter Lin of Diamond Orchids gives a presentation on miniature cattleyas past and present. Plus, orchids for sale.

Wed., May 25, 1-5 pm
Lewy Body Wellness Day

A free program for caregivers and adults living with Lewy Body Dementia. Registration required by April 18. For information/registration: **734.936.8803**. Presented by University of Michigan Rinne Lewy Body Initiative; Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Center (MADC).

Wed., May 25, 7 pm
Seasonal Bonsai Workshop

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Participants will perform seasonal work on their trees. All encouraged to bring questions to the meeting. Info: AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com.

JUNE

Sun., June 5, 10 am-2 pm
Hosta Plant Exchange & Seedling Competition

Presenter: Hosta Hybridizing Group
All invited. Also includes a seedling giveaway to new attendees.

Sun., June 5, 2 pm (rain date: June 12)
Peony Blossoms & Pure Melodies

Chinese flower songs performed by local musicians and singers. *Co-sponsors: U-M Confucius Institute & Matthaei-Nichols*.

Mon., June 6, 10 am-11:30 am
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**.

§ Shakespeare in the Arb Love's Labour's Lost

Thurs.-Sun., June 9-12; 16-19; 23-26, 2016, 6:30 pm
Directed by Kate Mendeloff of the U-M Residential College and performed by U-M students and community players. Members receive a discount on tickets. For more information and ticket prices visit our website, mbgna.umich.edu.

Shakespeare in the Arb Member Benefit

Friends members may reserve tickets through our Friends Online Box Office. Reserve tickets for any performance up to 24 hours before show time and pick up at will call. Look for more information on our website in May: mbgna.umich.edu and in the May e-news.

Mon., June 13, 7-8:30 pm
Alexandra Hicks Herb Knot Garden Tour

Presenter: Herb Study Group
Group president Madolyn Kaminski conducts an evening walking tour of the herb garden at Matthaei. Sun teas are served as an accompanying refreshment.

Tues., June 14, 7-p pm
Ergonomics in Beekeeping, or, I Know a Better Way Not to Get Hurt While Having Fun

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Andy Hemken talks about ways to increase beekeeper wellness when working with equipment, followed by Michael Nardelli's discussion of "cut outs," places other than a hive where bees have taken up residence and have to be removed, or cut out.

Wed., June 15, 7:30 pm
The Bird a Day Big Year

Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Society
Join popular Washtenaw Audubon speaker Don Chalfant for his entertaining story about his latest birding game, the Bird a Day Big Year. Don has large lifetime bird lists for Washtenaw County and its townships, the states of Michigan and Florida, and North America.

Sun., June 19, 2-5 pm
Orchid Evolution and Classification

Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Kew Gardens Senior Research Professor and Michigan alumnus Mark W. Chase discusses his orchid projects.

Sun., June 19, noon-4 pm
Annual Rose Show

Presenter: Huron Valley Rose Society
Entries accepted in morning after 8 am. Roses on display with names and growing habits to help visitors plan for their own gardens.

Tues., June 21, 7:30 pm
The Politics of the Environment

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
Mike Berkowitz, Michigan Sierra Club Chapter Political Director, and Richard Barron, Political Committee Chair, discuss the context and details of the fall election, how the political races are shaping up, and how the outcomes will impact us in Michigan. Join in the discussion and learn how to make a difference in local, state and national elections.

Wed., June 22, 7 pm
§ Kusamono Demonstration

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Maryland-based Kusamono designer Young Choe demonstrates the creation of a Kusamono, the Japanese botanical art that developed alongside bonsai. Kusamono are potted arrangements of wild grasses and flowers in unique pots or trays selected to suggest a season or place. AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com.

JULY

Sun., July 10, 2 pm
Climbing Roses

Presenter: Huron Valley Rose Society
A program on climbing roses and a presentation of highlights of a trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Tues., July 12, 7-9 pm
Honey Tasting Potluck and Silent or Teacup Auction

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

Wed., July 13, 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**.

Sat., July 16, 11 am
New Orchid Species

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
A presentation by student judge Gordon Griffin.

Sun., July 17, 1-4 pm
Things with Wings

A family-friendly program featuring crafts, face-painting, butterflies, birds of prey, and more.

Tues., July 19, 7:30 pm
Medicinal Garden Tour

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
Matthaei-Nichols Arboretum Director Bob Grese leads a tour of the garden that reveals the connection between plants and human wellness.

Mon., July 25, 7-8:30 pm
Cleaning the Earth-Friendly Way

Presenter: Herb Study Group
Group president Madolyn Kaminski gives a presentation on herb-based "green" cleaning products such as essential oils, citrus infused vinegars, borax, baking soda, washing soda, and lemon. Hand-out included with recipes and cautions.

Wed., July 27, 7 pm
Artistic Concepts in Bonsai

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Jane DeLancey, a local visual artist with bonsai experience, discusses the application of artistic concepts to the art of bonsai. Also includes an application of these ideas to bonsai brought by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society members and to bonsai in the Matthaei-Nichols collection. Info: AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com.

Sun., July 31, 10 am-2 pm
Herb Benedict Plants

Presenter: Hosta Hybridizing Group
Group president Lisa Quiggle shares a journey through Herb Benedict's breeding program. Today's program also includes a plant auction and door prizes.

AUGUST

Open House & Intern Presentations

Sun., Aug. 7, 1-4 pm
Members and the public are invited to this annual open house, where our interns present and discuss the projects they've worked on all summer.

Mon., Aug. 8, 10-11:30 am
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**.

Tues., Aug. 9, 7-9 pm
Pollen Bees, the Silent Majority

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Ben Phillips discusses pollen bees— insects other than honeybees that help to pollinate crops and wild flowers. They are also called "native" or wild bees.

Sun., August 14, 2 pm
Growing Roses Organically

Presenter: Huron Valley Rose Society
Also includes a Q&A. Refreshments provided.

Tues., Aug. 16, 7:30 pm
The Future of Energy

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
The Future of Energy is a film that challenges current methods of energy production, and focuses on how we can leave behind the polluting energy sources of fossil and nuclear fuels. Followed by a discussion with Michigan Solar and Wind Power Solutions' Matt Hagerty.

Sat. Aug. 20, 11 am
American Orchid Society Awards

A webinar presentation by the American Orchid Society.

Wed., Aug. 24, 7 pm
Seasonal Bonsai Topics with Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Info: AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 27 & 28, 10 am-4:30 pm

§ Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show & Sale

Sponsored by Matthaei-Nichols and Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
This annual show at Matthaei features a display of bonsai, vendors selling bonsai trees and materials, a People's Choice Award, bonsai demos in the Bonsai and Penjing Garden at Matthaei, and more. \$3 per adult (12 and under free) payable at the door.

NOTE: Call ahead or check our website in advance to confirm programming: **734.647.7600**; mbgna.umich.edu.



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

caring for nature, enriching life

Robert E. Grese, Director

Karen Sikkenga,
Associate Director

friends **newsletter**

Joseph Mooney, Editor
jfmooney@umich.edu

For information:

734.647.7600
mbgna.umich.edu

Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 N. Dixboro Rd.

Nichols Arboretum
1610 Washington Hts.
Ann Arbor MI 48109

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Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc

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