



The Garden Issue

**A look at some of the spaces and places
that make Matthaei-Nichols unique—and
what it takes to keep them thriving**



Plus: A Gift of Bonsai • Bob Grese Reappointed • Before & After • Peony Garden Renovations • Listening to the Agave • and more

A Gift of Bonsai

Donor and Michigan alum Melvyn Goldstein's gift of his entire collection of bonsai— together with funds to help care for the collection—will elevate the bonsai and penjing collection at Matthaei-Nichols to national prominence.

Three bonsai—a Korean hornbeam, a Japanese black pine, and a narrow-leaf Ficus—arrived to great excitement at Matthaei this fall. The trees are just a fraction of Melvyn Goldstein's large assemblage of bonsai and the first wave of his collection, which he plans to donate in its entirety over the next few years. Goldstein is also donating funds to Matthaei-Nichols for the care and maintenance of the collection, which represents his lifetime dedication to acquiring, stewarding, and refining the plants—nearly 110 in all.

It's difficult to overstate the importance of this gift. According to respected bonsai educator and lecturer Jack Wikle, acquiring these bonsai has the potential for making Matthaei's display one of the top public collections of bonsai in the United States.

Among bonsai artists, Goldstein's private collection is recognized as one of the finest in the United States. William Valavanis, who has studied in Japan and apprenticed with Japanese bonsai masters for 30 years, wrote after a recent "bonsai road trip" that included a stop at Goldstein's Ohio home, "I've seen [his] fine bonsai for years at the US National Bonsai Exhibition but was not prepared to see the vast number of beautiful, well-cared-for [bonsai] so well displayed in his garden."

A U-M alumnus and Tibetan scholar at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Goldstein began his journey with bonsai nearly 50 years ago. In part his association with us rekindled feelings about his time at U-M. It was also time to think about who would take care of a collection that's been decades in the making, says Goldstein, who is in his 70s. "I'm at a point in my life where it makes sense for me to turn over the care of my bonsai to others," he says. "I'm excited about this collaboration as it gives me great satisfaction to be able to combine helping my alma mater, fostering knowledge and appreciation of the bonsai art form I love, and also knowing I have a wonderful home for my trees." Goldstein adds that his Japanese azalea teacher always emphasized that we don't own trees. Rather "we are just 'leasing' them until we pass them on to others who will continue looking after them. I truly believe this!"

Bonsai is a patient art and a long-time practice. Like their full-size cousins, bonsai often exist on a time scale beyond a single human life. The best trees may take decades to reach an apogee of refinement and even then, as living works of art they constantly change. The sheer number of plants that will find their way into our collection is only part of the story. It's also the quality of the plants that will make our collection great—especially with Goldstein's gift in place. "Dr. Goldstein's trees are by far some of the best bonsai I've had the privilege of viewing anywhere in the world," says Tennessee native Bjorn Bjorholm, a rising star in the bonsai world. "He has managed to single-handedly improve the quality of bonsai art in the United States."

PICTURED, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A satsuki azalea from Melvyn Goldstein's collection on display at Matthaei, spring 2015. All of Goldstein's satsuki azaleas will be included in his gift. A satsuki display is planned for spring 2016. A recent portrait of Goldstein. Goldstein riding a yak in Tibet. Goldstein's interest in bonsai started when he went to conduct research in Tibet via Beijing, where he first encountered beautiful Chinese bonsai up close and decided he had to learn the art. During his research among a group of high-altitude pastoral nomads in Tibet it was often necessary to travel between the dispersed campsites riding horses and yaks. A Japanese white pine in Goldstein's collection. The Korean hornbeam that was part of the first donation of Goldstein's bonsai in the fall of 2015.

Caring for Bonsai— a Long-Term Commitment

The Plant Collections Network at the American Public Gardens Association describes Matthaei-Nichols as "among a prestigious group of gardens and arboreta that have committed themselves to the conservation and care of specific plant collections curated at the highest professional level."

Building sufficient endowments for the care and upkeep of our gardens and collections is a top campaign goal. We need your help to ensure their future by making a donation to the garden endowment fund.

Donations can be made using the enclosed envelope; online at mbgna.umich.edu, or by contacting our Director of Development **Gayle Steiner**: gayles@umich.edu; 734.647.7847.



THE GARDENS

& SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

at MATTHAEI-NICHOLS

A key campaign goal for Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum is endowment support for our many gardens and specific collections.

Under the leadership of director Bob Grese, staff, students, and volunteers have installed several gardens over the years, and the last seven years or so have seen an increase in the number of new gardens.

2008 & forward:

Peony Garden Initiative



The Peony Garden Initiative is a multi-year renovation project to transform the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden into an internationally recognized reference collection and conservation model for historic cultivar collections and a destination for peony lovers. Gifts from major donors and organizations contribute greatly to this effort.

A gift to help build and name the children's garden came from donors Thomas and Jeanette Gaffield. The garden opened to rave reviews in 2009 and continues to attract families and kids. More than a dozen interactive spaces within the garden engage children with nature and gardening activities.



2009:

Gaffield Children's Garden



2013:

Great Lakes Gardens



These gardens celebrate the diversity of plants native to our region and idealize the special places where they're found in the wild. Included are simulated dunes, limestone habitats, oak openings, and others. Visitors have the opportunity to see many both common and rare ferns, orchids, and other plants of the region.

This garden allows us to display more of our collection than previously. A studio area provides space for bonsai experts to demonstrate the art of bonsai and conduct educational programs. The ever-growing collection creates opportunities for cultural connections and learning.



2013:

Bonsai & Penjing Garden



2015:

Medicinal Garden



This garden celebrates the earliest botanical gardens on campus and reveals the connection between plants and human health. We partnered with College of Pharmacy and Medical School faculty on the plants and clinical information. When complete the garden will contain more than 140 plants.

The gardens above need ongoing care and stewardship to thrive. How can you help? During our fundraising campaign and beyond we're actively seeking donations to help ensure the health of our gardens

and special collections for future generations. Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation; contact **Gayle Steiner, director of development: gayles@umich.edu; 734.647.7847**; or visit our website and click on "Give."



Congratulations, Bob!

Bob Grese, director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum and Professor and Theodore Roosevelt Chair of Ecosystem Management in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, has been reappointed for another five-year term as Director of Matthaei-Nichols, effective June 30, 2016.

This will be Bob's third term as director of the Gardens and Arboretum. Prior to his first term as director of Matthaei-Nichols Bob had been director of Nichols Arboretum since 1999. In 2004 he was named director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum, smoothing the way for the merging of the two organizations into one unit at the U-M. In just the last few years alone several new—and groundbreaking—gardens have opened under Bob's leadership, including the Bonsai & Penjing Garden, Gaffield Children's Garden, the Great Lakes Gardens, the Campus Farm, and the recently opened Medicinal Garden. Bob has also overseen the Peony Garden Initiative, a multi-year renovation and restoration of the famed Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. All of the gardens at Matthaei-Nichols reflect Bob's vision of redefining the role of the public garden—especially the university botanical garden—for the twenty-first century as a place for education, stewardship, and public outreach. In a letter to staff, Matthaei-Nichols vision leaders, and members of the U-M Cultural Collections committee, Professor Carol Fierke, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Rackham Graduate School, wrote that Bob "has a passion for enriching the experience of students, volunteers, and visitors with nature." Says Bob of his plans for a third term as director of the Arb and Gardens, "I look forward to deepening our involvement in the university's teaching and research while broadening our outreach to diverse audiences in southeast Michigan."



Peony Garden Improvements

The warm weather this November was a perfect opportunity for two long-term improvements to the Peony Garden. Immediately obvious is the new gravel surface on the main path through the garden and its continuation all the way to where the path connects to the main drive. Rebuilding the path will allow visitors with mobility restrictions much better access, especially after rains when the former woodchip path remained too soggy for dignified use. In addition, this path improvement allows visitors to make a loop through the garden, past Fairy Woods and Troll Knoll, and then return to the Washington Hts. Arboretum entrance. The different texture and color of the path should also help protect the peonies. Over the past several seasons too many visitors have strayed off the path and into the beds to the detriment of the peonies flanking the path. The new granite staircase and stone-edged beds on the slopes at the east end of the Peony Garden contribute to the garden's sense as a special place. The two tribute benches at the top of the stairs are now visually connected to the garden and accessible both from the stairs and from the wood-chipped path above the new peony bed. The new peony bed will house intersectional peonies—the long-elusive hybrids between herbaceous peonies (like those in our historic collection) and tree peonies.



Garden Walk Gives Back

The annual tour of some of the city's best gardens presented by Ann Arbor Farm & Garden may have been held in June, but its impact continues to ripple throughout the community. More than 80 gardening aficionados gathered at the Botanical Gardens on October 18 to hear Michigan gardening expert Janet Macunovich and six of the event's garden owners discuss the best practices that helped shape these beautiful green spaces over the years. Members of Ann Arbor Farm & Garden, a branch of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association (WNF&GA) and the organizer of the annual Garden Walk, were pleased to present a \$10,000 check to Bob Grese for the Michigan Division WNF&GA Student Internship Endowment fund at Matthaei-Nichols. The monies were from the proceeds of the special two-day 25th anniversary Garden Walk in June. Another \$1,600, raised from the October lecture event, will be added to the endowment, which supports summer interns at the Gardens and Arb.

Listening to the Agave

Thousands enjoyed a rare opportunity to see our blooming American agave last year in all its glory. More than a year later, the original plant is mostly a memory but the agave lives on in other ways. This February, we're offering the chance to *hear* the agave. Michael Gould, percussionist and professor in the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and flutist Michael Chikuzen Gould (no relation) put their musical heads together and with the



PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum Director Bob Grese. Bob was reappointed for a third term as director, effective June 30, 2016. Workers installed a set of new granite steps at the east end of the peony garden in November 2015. Other peony garden improvements include replacing the mulch in the center path through the garden with a gravel surface. The American agave lives! Students are shown here removing and sorting seeds from the seed pods on the agave flower stalk. Part of that same stalk was used to create a Japanese shakuhachi flute for a concert planned in February 2016. Pictured is the completed flute created from the agave stem. **ON THE COVER:** The new Medicinal Garden at Matthaei, summer 2015.

help of a maker of shakuhachi flutes in California, developed a wind instrument from a section of the agave flower stalk. On Saturday, February 6, you'll be able to see and hear the brilliantly repurposed stalk spring to life in a special concert of music composed for the flute. Advance tickets go on sale in early January. Discount available for Matthaei-Nichols members and students. Stay tuned for details and ticket purchase information in our free e-newsletter. Not a subscriber? Just enter your email address in the field at the bottom left of any page on the Matthaei-Nichols website.

Digitally Unlocking the Arb's Collections

Thanks to a \$76,900 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) we can now begin to digitally map and document the condition of the Arboretum's historic and woody landscape collections of trees and shrubs, among them the Centennial Shrub Collection, Heathdale, and the major canopy species. The grant timing is just right, as the project aligns with our campaign fundraising goals of collections stewardship and with our strategic plan. In turn the data will make it possible to create standardized maps to prioritize and customize conservation planning that's integrated with our geospatial database and plant records system. Long-term, this informs our plans for conservation, rejuvenation, and management of the collections for the university and the community. "One of our long-desired goals is the geospatial mapping of the important trees and collections in the arboretum," says curator and project lead David Michener. "With this grant we can now digitally unlock those collections for students and faculty seeking to conduct research on our living treasures."

The one-year project, a cornerstone of our new strategic plan to create consistent, uniform data that's accessible online, will benefit three groups: management teams engaged in the collection rejuvenation; university partners needing digital maps and related data for teaching, creative works and research; and arboretum visitors. As part of the grant a matching dollar amount from Matthaei-Nichols is required to fully fund the project.

Spring Exhibits at Matthaei

Two important exhibits are coming to Matthaei Botanical Gardens this spring. March 12-April 24, "**A Cloth of Earth and Sky: The Healing Power of Nature through the Eyes of African American Quilters,**" features quilts, most of them new works created for the exhibit, that express a cultural legacy based in the art of quilting related to individual and shared healing. *Sponsored by the Great Lakes African American Quilters Network & Matthaei-Nichols.* April 2 through May 8, "**Small Worlds: Large-Scale Ceramic Pollen Sculptures,**" features nearly 20 different kinds of plant pollen dramatically increased to human size as large-scale, realistic ceramic sculptures by U-M Stamps School of Art and Design Professor Susan Crowell. The sculptures remind visitors of the hidden and beautiful world of pollen and the entrancing shapes these tiny grains take, and how they play such an important role in the life of plants.

Spring Burn Season

Fire in a populous area is a bad thing. But fires in forests and grasslands occur naturally and help in their rejuvenation. Prescribed, or controlled, burns in one sense mimic the natural fire cycle. While controlled burning might sound like a modern invention, indigenous peoples in pre-settlement North America used fire as a land-management tool. Today the prescribed burn is a key component of our ongoing land-management and stewardship efforts to encourage native ecosystems and minimize the impact of invasive species. If you'd like to participate as a volunteer, contact our volunteer coordinator at **734.647.8528**. For general information, contact

our natural areas manager at **734.274.1809**. Or simply visit on a prescribed burn day to watch and see how it works. Prescribed burn season begins mid-March, depending on the weather. In these parts that means after the snow melts but before the spring wildflowers are in full bloom, according to natural areas manager Jeff Plakke.

Sylvia Taylor Receives George B. Fell Award

Please join us in congratulating Sylvia Taylor on receiving the George B. Fell Award from the Natural Areas Association (NAA). According to the NAA, the Fell award "is given to an individual who exhibits the highest qualities of the profession and who has significantly advanced natural areas identification, protection, stewardship, or research." One of our longest-standing Matthaei-Nichols members and volunteers as well as an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, Sylvia has demonstrated an amazing commitment to our natural areas program, a commitment that grew, she recalls, from discovering the first garlic mustard invasion in Horner Woods to collecting plants for the Great Lakes Gardens.

Transitions

Please welcome **Ashley Rop**, our new membership coordinator. You can read Ashley's story on the following page. Also, please welcome two new staff members to the Visitor Services team working part-time at the Matthaei front desk. **Denise Virgo** is a master gardener who worked as a volunteer on the horticulture team in 2015 after an early retirement from a career in social work. Master gardener **Katie Stannard** joins us bringing some great experience working with the public, most recently at Old House Gardens.

Matthaei Open New Year's Day

"I resolve to. . ." Visit a tropical getaway right here in town. On a day a lot of other places are closed. A great way to start the new year. Open Friday, January 1, 10 am-4:30 pm.

Save the Date

Warm up the cold days this winter with our special evening programs in the conservatory. Treat yourself to our **Winter Wednesday Evening series** January 27 and February 10 & 24, including a special Valentine's evening, a "Teas of the World" program, and more. See the events calendar on pages 8-10 for more information.

All programs free admission. Stay tuned, and visit our website in early January for details.



ABOVE: Professor Susan Crowell's large-scale rendering of water cabbage pollen (*Pistia stratiotes*), an aquatic plant in the Arum family. An exhibit of Crowell's pollen sculptures will be on display at Matthaei April 2-May 8. Crowell is a professor in the U-M Residential College & the School of Art & Design.

Our Gardens, Then And Now

With support from members and donors, a dedicated staff, and teams of students and volunteers, several new garden spaces have sprouted in recent years, changing the landscape dramatically. The pictures below tell the story of these amazing transformations.

BEFORE

AFTER



A



B



C



D



E



Pictured, top to bottom: A: The Medicinal Garden site at Matthaei in 2007, looking toward the auditorium. The Medicinal Garden on opening day, August 2, 2015. B: A view of the Great Lakes Gardens' construction getting started in autumn 2012—a muddy mess! The Great Lakes Garden in the fall of 2015. C: The Bonsai & Penjing Garden site in 2011 as work began to level and prepare the area. The garden in fall 2015. D: Director Bob Grese (right) and a contractor walk the site of the Gaffield Children's Garden in 2006. Kids playing in summer 2015 in a "secret space," one of more than a dozen interactive areas in the children's garden. E: U-M students amending the Campus Farm's soil with dozens of wheelbarrows of compost in 2012. A U-M student volunteer group weeding the Farm in summer 2015.

Welcome, Ashley



Hello Members!
My name is Ashley Rop and I'm the new Membership and Tribute Coordinator at Matthaei-

Nichols. My education and background is mainly in the arts, with a masters in Arts Administration from U-M Flint and a BFA in Dance from Western Michigan University. While at Western I had the amazing opportunity to be awarded a grant to study dance at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre Summer Intensive in New York. During that New York summer I came to realize that I enjoyed the grant-writing process more than living the "dancer life," and believed I could better contribute to the world through my administrative talents, rather than dance. This revelation led me to arts administration and eventually to development.

My love of nature and the arts, along with my education, will allow me to be creative with membership, the tribute program, and planning events. The next time you are at the gardens, feel free to come say hello and introduce yourself. I am looking forward to engaging with our Matthaei-Nichols community and beyond!

Help us keep the momentum going! Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation or call Gayle Steiner, director of development, at **734.647.7847**; gayles@umich.edu; or visit mbgna.umich.edu and click on "Give."

Get Involved! Volunteer at Matthaei-Nichols

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

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

Visitor Services – Ambassador Trainings (preregistration required)

Michigan Solar House Ambassador Training

Sat., April 2, 9 am–noon, Matthaei

The Michigan Solar House (MiSo) is a solar-powered home collaboratively designed and built by a team of students and faculty from U-M Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning for the 2005 Solar Decathlon in Washington DC. Now located at Matthaei, MiSo fosters public awareness in solar technology and serves as a laboratory for ongoing research. Volunteers are trained to greet and guide visitors to points of interest in the house on weekends, May–October.

Garden Ambassador Training

Two options: **Wed., April 13 or Sat., April 16** (both at Matthaei), **9 am–4 pm**

Training provides an introduction to the Visitor Services Dept., best practices for working with the public, and an overview of the most popular points of interest in the display gardens, Gaffield Children's Garden and beyond. We seek volunteers with a love of learning and interest in working with a diverse population of visitors, including children and families. **Monthly garden tours/talks are led by our horticulturists throughout the season.** Shifts are available daily, May–October.

Peony Ambassador Training

Tues., April 26, 6–7:30 pm, Arb/Reader Center

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



Volunteer Spotlight: Pen Goff

Long time bromeliad collections volunteer Penrith (Pen) Goff has been on the Matthaei-Nichols volunteer team for nearly 16 years! Pen has been a core member of the bromeliad collections team, working regularly to groom, divide, and repot the bromeliads, selecting the showiest for display in the conservatory. What got him initially interested in Bromeliads? "I was born addicted to them," he quipped.

Professional and/or volunteer background: I was a professor of German at Wayne State University from 1968 to 1994. During that time I grew (mostly) bromeliads. **What inspired you to get involved at Matthaei-Nichols?** I was active in the SE Michigan Bromeliad Society and one of our members, Aarne Lamsa, told me about his volunteer work with Roger Keller. I thought that would be just the thing for me. **When did you get started?** About 2000. **How often do you volunteer?**

I used to come once a week but now it's once every other week, weather permitting. **What's your favorite part about volunteering here?** Working with the plants, volunteers, and Matthaei staff.

Fall 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

A huge thank you to our volunteers and staff in celebration of another abundant year of volunteer contributions at the Arb and Gardens!



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

362 regular volunteers logged over **12,800 hours** of service.

1,096 volunteers (U-M students, community and corporate, private and public) helped with group workdays (a total of **3,910 hours!**)

391 volunteers logged **1,237 hours** with our student programs (Cultivating Community, Campus Farm, Wild About Nature) for a total of **957 hours**

Grand Total: 1,850 Volunteers, 17,679 Hours!

Counterclockwise from top left:

Volunteer coordinator Yousef Rabhi warms up the crowd at this year's well-attended event; the excellent culinary fare is as much a crowd-pleaser at these events as the camaraderie among the volunteers and staff; volunteers start to fill the auditorium as the event begins.



**MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Visit our website for more information about our volunteer programs: **mbgna.umich.edu.**

Winter 2016 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

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

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

Winter Wednesdays at Matthaei

The conservatory at Matthaei is decked out in special lighting and open until 8 on Wednesdays. Warm up the cold days with a tropical alternative to staying home. All programs free.

Jan. 27, Winter Wednesday

Join us for Winter Wednesday evenings in the conservatory. More details with tonight's special activity coming soon. Visit our website for more details.

Feb. 10 Love in Bloom: Valentines in the Conservatory

Enjoy a visit to the conservatory, where romance flowers when the sun goes down. A strolling guitarist will serenade you and your loved one amid tropical plants and atmospheric lighting.

Feb. 24 Teas of the World

Learn about the tea-making process as you sample teas from Ann Arbor's Tea Haus that are derived from some of the same plants that grow in the conservatory.

JANUARY

Thurs., Jan. 7, 1-2:30 pm Ikebana at Matthaei

The Ann Arbor Chapter of Ikebana International programs are informal and open to the public. At each meeting an accredited instructor will give a demonstration of an arrangement style. Participants who have registered in advance and who bring their own containers will be provided plant materials. **Info and to register:** janet.muhleman@regroup.us.

Sun., Jan. 10, 2-5 pm Ever Blooming Orchids for Under Lights and the Windowsill

Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A presentation by speaker Leo Schordje, with orchids for sale. **Info: aaosonline.org.**

Wed., Jan. 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. Also Feb. 8, March 16, and April 13.**

Wed., Jan. 13, 6:45 pm Seed Cleaning and Exchange with Mike Kost

Presenter: Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Learn how to clean and recognize native plant seeds with Matthaei-Nichols staff member Mike Kost. Bring your own native plant seeds to share. **Info: 734.604.4674.**

Sat., Jan. 16, 1:30-3 pm An Interactive Guide to the Principles of Rock Gardening

Presenter: Great Lakes Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society
Audience participation welcomed in this presentation by experienced rock gardeners from the Great Lakes Chapter. Topics include plant selection, planting techniques, rock garden design for our climate, and more. **Info: reznicek@umich.edu.**

Mon., Jan. 18, 7:30 pm Wildflower Photography Techniques

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
A presentation by River Raisin botany expert and photographer Bob Smith.

Tues., Jan. 19, 7:30 pm The Centennial Hybrid Electric Home

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
Craig Toepfer, electrical engineer and author on the history of electricity in America, discusses inventor Charles F. Kettering, who transformed his "electric start" automobile powertrain to fulfill the rural demand for electricity. The Kettering "hybrid" principles serve as the foundation for the transition to a global clean energy and transportation revolution. **Info: sierraclub.org.**

Wed., Jan. 20, 7:30 pm Birding in the Peruvian Andes

Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Society
Join Washtenaw Audubon's Andrew Pawuk in an exploration of the diverse species in the heart of the former Incan Empire, including the fabulous Andean Cock-of-the-rock and the endangered Royal Cinclodes. Andrew is an avid county birder and a volunteer for Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation breeding bird survey. He lived in Peru for two years as a volunteer English teacher.

FEBRUARY

Special Event:

Sat., Feb. 6, 7 pm Listening to the Agave: Featuring the American Agave Shakuhachi Flute

A concert featuring music composed for wind instrument. Not just any instrument, this unique flute was created from the stalk of the American agave that bloomed at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in the summer of 2014. Michael Gould, a professor in the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and flutist Michael Chikuzen will perform original works for the instrument, a kind of Japanese shakuhachi flute. If you saw the agave blooming last year you won't want to miss this one-time-only concert.

Mon., Feb. 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 & to register: **734.936.8803. Also March 16 & April 13.**

Thurs., Feb. 11, 1-2:30 pm Ikebana at Matthaei

Presenter: Ikebana Intl., Ann Arbor Chapter
The Ann Arbor Chapter of Ikebana International programs are informal and open to the public. At each meeting an accredited instructor will give a demonstration of an arrangement style. Participants who have registered in advance and who bring their own containers will be provided plant materials. Info and to register: janet.muhleman@regroup.us.

Mon., Feb. 15, 7:30 pm

Role of Soils in Ecosystems and Physiognomy

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club & Wild Ones Ann Arbor

A presentation by U-M School of Natural Resources & Environment professor Dr. Donald Zak.

Tues., Feb. 16, 7:30 pm

Ecological Balance: Natives, Invasives, and Weeds

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley

How do we interpret interactions and nurture what's important in the natural world around us? Jacqueline Courteau, professional ecologist, will discuss the complexities of ecosystems, and monitoring what happens in those systems over time. **Info:** sierraclub.org.

Wed., Feb. 17, 7:30 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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

Info: washtenawaudubon.org.

Sat., Feb. 20, 11 am

Species Cattleys

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

A talk by GLJC accredited judge Diane Burton on this group of showy orchids. Also, the Stanhopeas—a group of complex and often fragrant orchids—with GLJC accredited judge Dennis Seffernick.

Sun., Feb. 21, 2-5 pm

Orchid Talk & Workshop

Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society

Conducted by Rob Halgren, with orchids for sale. Current Ann Arbor Orchid Society members who attend receive one free orchid. **Info:** aaonline.org.

Wed., Feb 24, 7 pm

Seasonal Bonsai Topics

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

All invited to this monthly program on the art and practice of bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 pm to speak with members.

Info: AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com.

MARCH

Wed., March 2, 7 pm

Spring Flowers of the Western Cape of South Africa

Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club

A presentation on the height of the spring wild flower bloom in South Africa. Includes Cape Town, the Rooibos Tea Capital, and the Ostrich Capital of the world. **Info:** annarborgardenclub.org.

Mon., March 7, 7-8:30 pm

Free Seed Giveaway

Presenter: Herb Study Group

Program also includes a presentation on starting plants from seed. Handout included.

Tues., March 8, 7 pm

Beekeeping with Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)

Open to all beginner, intermediate, and expert beekeepers, A2B2 is dedicated to beekeeping education, mentoring, and networking. Programs may include honeybee management, care, production, and protection. Meetings held second Tuesday of each month at Matthaei.

Wed., March 9, 6:45 pm

Beekeeping with Meghan Milbrath

Presenter: Wild Ones Ann Arbor

Milbrath, president of Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers, discusses the plants that bees love to visit.

Thurs., March 10, 1-2:30 pm

Ikebana at Matthaei

The Ann Arbor Chapter of Ikebana International programs are informal and open to the public. At each meeting an accredited instructor will give a demonstration of an arrangement style. Participants who have registered in advance and who bring their own containers will be provided plant materials. **Info** and to register: janet.muhleman@regroup.us.

Exhibit:

March 12-April 24

A Cloth of Earth and Sky: The Healing Power of Nature through the Eyes of African American Quilters

Special exhibit sponsored by the Great Lakes African American Quilters Network & Matthaei-Nichols

Every culture has found ways to restore body, mind, and spirit in nature. In this exhibit, African-American quilters from the Great Lakes region interpret how plants, gardens, and nature are embedded in cultural awareness and expressions of health. The exhibit includes inherited and contemporary works that express cultural legacy based in the art of quilting related to individual and shared healing.

Sun., March 13, 1-3:30 pm

New Dahlia Introductions

Presenter: the Michigan Dahlia Association

Program includes a video of 2016 new

dahlia introductions at 1; member auction of 2016 introduction dahlia tubers at 2:00. Free handouts on growing and caring for dahlias. **Info:** 734.429.5796.

Tues., March 15, 7:30 pm

Eat Safe Fish

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services staff present a public health-focused follow-up to last year's presentation on the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program. Learn about the health benefits of fish in our diet, and gain awareness of the health problems linked with chemicals that may be present in the fish. **Info:** sierraclub.org.

Wed., March 16, 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 April 13.

Wed., March 16, 7:30 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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

Sat., & Sun., March 19 & 20

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Show & Sale

A two-day orchid extravaganza with orchid displays, orchids in bloom, and regional commercial vendors. Tropical and hardy orchids and orchid-growing supplies and related items for sale. Free informational talks and demos. **Info:** aaonline.org. (Note: the annual Michigan Orchid Society show will be April 23 & 24 in Madison Heights.)

Mondays, March 21-May 23,

10:30 am-12:30 pm

Mindfulness-Based Dementia Care

Presenter: Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center

A free, 7-week program specifically designed for family caregivers of persons with dementia. Learn how the practice of 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. For information and to register call U-M Memory Connection at 734.936.8803. (Note: program skips May 2, with Day of Mindfulness, 10 am-4 pm on Mon. April 25.)

Winter 2016 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

Mon., March 21, 7:30 pm

Ecosystem Thinking

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club

Chris May from The Nature Conservancy discusses ecosystem thinking and the Conservancy's management efforts at Erie Marsh.

Wed., March 23, 7 pm

Seasonal Bonsai Topics

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

All invited to this monthly program on the art and practice of bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 pm to speak with members. **Info:** AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com.

APRIL

Exhibit:

April 2-May 8

Small Worlds: The Large-Scale Ceramic Pollen Sculptures of Susan Crowell

Inspired by the beautiful forms that pollen takes, the amazing power of these tiny grains of life, and the challenges that honeybees and pollinators face, U-M Stamps School of Art & Design professor Susan Crowell fashioned large-scale ceramic sculptures of pollen. The sculptures will be displayed in the conservatory at Matthaei. As part of the exhibit Crowell has also created three sculptures of agave pollen based on scanning electron microscope images of the pollen taken by the U-M Hospitals imaging lab.

Sat., April 2, 10 am-4 pm

African Violet Display and Sale

Presenter: Michigan State

African Violet Society

Easy to grow, and with proper care, the African violet, considered one of America's favorite houseplants, will bloom all year around inside the home. Sale includes a large selection of hard-to-find European and Russian African violets, Streptocarpus and other Gesneriads. Free hands-on growing skills seminar at 11:30 a.m. Free admission to show.

Mon. April 4, 7-8:30 pm

Evening Herb Study Group

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

Wed., April 6, 7 pm

A Rose is a Rose

Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club

A presentation by club members that focuses on planting and maintaining roses. Time for Q&A **Info:** annarborgardenclub.org.

Sun., April 10, 2-5 pm

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Program

Tonight's program to be determined.

Info: aaosonline.org.

Tues., April 12, 7 pm

Beekeeping with Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)

Open to all beginner, intermediate, and expert beekeepers, A2B2 is dedicated to beekeeping education, mentoring, networking, and advocacy. Programs may include honeybee management, care, production, and protection. Meetings held second Tuesday of each month at Matthaei.

Wed., April 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. Also Feb. 8, March 16, and April 13.

Thurs., April 14, 1-2:30 pm

Ikebana at Matthaei

The Ann Arbor Chapter of Ikebana International programs are informal and open to the public. At each meeting an accredited instructor will give a demonstration of an arrangement style. Participants who have registered in advance and who bring their own containers will be provided plant materials. Info and to register: janet.muhleman@regroup.us.

Sat., April 16, 11 am

Bulbophyllums: Know Your Species

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

GLJC accredited judge Lynn O'Shaughnessy discusses this large genus of widespread orchids. Also, recently awarded Phragmipediums, a genus of Central and South American slipper orchids, with Rob Halgren.

Sun., April 17, 1-3:30 pm

Annual Dahlia Tuber Sale

Presenter: the Michigan Dahlia Association

Also includes a video on growing and caring for dahlias and free dahlia care handouts. **Info:** 734.429.5796.

Mon., April 18, 7:30 pm

Wild Rice and Conservation

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club

A presentation by naturalist and author Barb Barton.

Tues., April 19, 7:30 pm

Sierra Club Huron Valley

Tonight's topic to be determined.

Info: sierraclub.org.

Wed., April 20, 7:30 pm

Washtenaw Audubon Society

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

Wed., April 27, 7 pm

Seasonal Bonsai Topics

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

All invited to this monthly program on the art and practice of bonsai. Arrive by 6:30 pm to speak with members. **Info:** AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com.

NOTE: Occasionally, program dates or topics change after the newsletter is printed. Visit our website (mbgna.umich.edu) or Facebook page (facebook.com/mbgna), or call ahead (734.647.7600) to check on the status of a program.

Feb. 9, Hot Chocolate

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

\$10.00/child 16-YE-01



Winter Adventure Saturdays!

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

March 12, Faerie Gardens & Doors Workshop

Choose from two time slots: 10 am–noon or 12:30–2:30

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

**\$12.00/child 10am–noon 16-YE-06;
12:30–2:30 16-YE-07**

Camp Winter-Break, Feb. 15–19

Visit the Botanical Gardens during the school winter break for guided activities and do-it-yourself fun. All guided programs 10 am–noon.

Mon., Feb. 15, Self-Guided Adventure

Choose from a selection of books and activity sheets for self-directed discovery. Story book-bags contain a nature themed book and an activity. Backpacks are made for sharing and contain materials for a morning of fun for families or old and new friends. **FREE; self-guided.**

Tue., Feb. 16, Tell Your Story

Kids will make a short travel guide, fairy tale or explorers guide based on the curious plants in the conservatory and their own experiences in nature! \$5.00/child includes all materials and activities. **16-YE-02**

Wed., Feb. 17, Wild West Stories

Stories about the American southwestern deserts have been around for ages. But what about desert regions in other parts

of the world? Explore desert climate and geography around the world and the plants and animals that live there. Then make a paper craft 'cactus garden' to take home. **\$5.00/child 16-YE-03**

Thur., Feb. 18, Paper, the Back Story

Get the inside story of how paper has been made for centuries. Explore rice paper, papyrus, rag, and paper from wood. Then make paper from recycled newsprint. **\$5.00/child 16-YE-04**

Fri., Feb. 19, Flavor Filled Friday- Recipes from around the World

Recipe books from around the world teach us about interesting ingredients and mouthwatering flavors. Our conservatory has an abundance of fruits & spices to delight the senses. Explore recipes from around the world & make your own recipe cards to take home. **\$5.00/child 16-YE-05**

Note: Backpacks also available for check out at the Matthaei front desk throughout winter break (Feb. 15–19).

Make Way for Spring! School Break Getaway March 24–April 8

Join us for the 2 weeks of fun during the local school spring breaks. All programs 10 am–noon at Matthaei. Fees include materials and activities.

Tues., March 29, Tree Story

Kids learn how to 'read' the history of a tree from wood sections. Explore plants that make wood and why some plants don't make wood at all. Learn to tell the difference between different trees based on the 'tales' they tell from bark, stems and wood. Explore tree cookies and then sample real cookies made with maple syrup. **\$5.00/child 15-YE-08**

Weds., March 30 & April 6, Pollinator Power

What is pollen and why is it so important? Explore the amazing world of flowers and learn about how pollen is essential to the production

of fruits and seeds. Discover how unique pollen is and then explore what happens when pollinators such as bees and butterflies move pollen from flower to flower. Make a model of a pollen grain to take home. **\$5.00/child 3/30: 16-YE-09; 4/6: 16-YE-11**

Fridays, April 1 & 8, Fabulous Friday Spring Stroll

Spring is right around the corner. Grab your coat, hats and boots and let's go find it! Hunt for skunk cabbage, sticky tree buds, redwing blackbirds and ducks and other signs of spring. **\$5.00 per child; 4/1: 16-YE-10; 4/8: 16-YE-12**

Little Green Thumbs

Kids' gardening classes at Matthaei with an emphasis on growing green things. Fees cover materials and activities.



Super Seedlings

Our popular Super Seedlings programs take place in May of 2016. Stay tuned for our spring 2016 newsletter for dates and times.



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

caring for nature, enriching life

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CARING FOR NATURE, ENRICHING LIFE

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