

Matthaei Botanical gardens
and Nichols arboretum

Friends

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Some "Green" Alternatives for Winter

Rick Meader

As winter begins, you may be contemplating your landscape

and wondering where the color is. Unless your yard resembles a Christmas tree farm or nursery teeming with evergreens, you probably are missing the friendly sight of green as your foliage becomes compost. If this is the case, you may be missing out on subtle but quite interesting textures and colors offered by some deciduous trees and shrubs and other herbaceous material.

One of the joys of winter that helps compensate for the loss of foliage and the shortening of the days is the new openness of the canopy. The sunlight that is available reaches right down to the ground and in your windows, brightening up the day, and opening up vistas that are closed in the summer. Wildlife that crept about secretly in the summer is now much more visible from a distance. Bark and the form of trees and shrubs that was hidden now become more apparent. Some plants change color in the winter. All of these features may be missing from your landscape now, but you can liven up future winters by observing and planning now for planting in the spring.

The forms of trees and shrubs become very evident in winter. Their underlying shape, masked by luxuriant foliage in the summer, becomes exposed and available for closer inspection during our "naked tree" months. The strongly horizontal limbs of the non-evergreen conifer, tamarack (*Larix laricina*), and cockspur hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli*) can become magical with a light covering of frost or snow. The cascading canopy of weeping cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*) trees can create a virtual icy waterfall after an ice storm or night of hoarfrost. The gnarled, twisting branches of contorted American hazelnut (*Corylus americana* 'Contorta') can actually match your own body shape on a frigid January morning.

Bark provides another point of interest. The odd, knobby bark of hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) is fun to see and feel, as are the smooth, muscular limbs of blue-beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*). The peeling bark of river birch (*Betula nigra*), paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*), Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*), ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) or oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) provides a variety of warm shades and interest to the plants' skeletons during

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Special Features In This Issue



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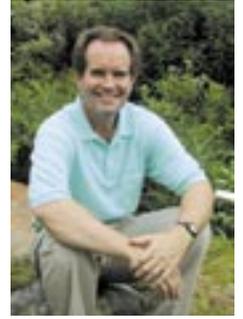


New!
Happenings Brochure Inside, pp. 7-14



Winter Bird Walk
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Director's Message Happy Birthday, MBGNA



Bob Grese

This winter we'll start a year-long 100th birthday celebration for the University's botanical gardens and arboretum. One hundred years ago in February 1907 the University took gifts of land from Walter and Esther Nichols, George P. Burns and Detroit Edison and joined with the City of Ann Arbor (which also provided land) to form the University's "Botanical Garden and Arboretum" at the site now known as Nichols Arboretum (name was changed in 1922). Some fifty years later in 1957, the University accepted a gift of land from Frederick and Mildred Matthaei to create a new home for the Botanical Gardens in what would become known as Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Throughout the year we'll be marking our birthday celebration in a variety of ways. On February 1, we'll launch a collaborative project with the Ann Arbor Arts Center to celebrate our birthday through a special series of "Tree Town Banners." Ultimately, we hope to display these at the entrances to both our sites. Later that week, we'll begin a series of exhibits at the Botanical Gardens and the Arboretum's Reader Center showcasing our colorful past. From February 8th through the 11th a "Global Dance Performance" in our conservatory will showcase the talents

of Professor Jessica Fogel and her dance students. We'll be using the centennial as a theme in other ways as well. For instance, our spring bulb display in the Conservatory this winter and the display of annuals in the Botanical Gardens' Gateway Garden will feature antique varieties from the 19th and early 20th century.

When families get together to celebrate birthdays or other occasions there's a lot of sharing of memories of special times or places. We'll be doing the same, although on a slightly larger scale. Do you have a particular story or time you'd like to share? Perhaps it was as part of a class field trip or tour, a special concert or performance, or just hanging out with friends. Maybe you got married in the Arb or Botanical Gardens or maybe you have stories about a Flower Show, Peony Party, Renaissance Festival or some other event. Write us a note, drop us an email, or allow one of our volunteers to record your stories as part of our oral history project. We're also looking for pictures—particularly those of families and individuals out enjoying themselves. Did your mom or dad take pictures of you among the blooming peonies or lilacs at the Arb or the fall chrysanthemums at the Botanical Gardens when it was on Iroquois Street? If you have any pictures you'd be willing to share, please drop a note to Dorothea Coleman at theacole@umich.edu.

Two special birthday parties are being planned—one this summer on July 28th at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and the other in the fall on October 6th at Nichols Arboretum. We hope you'll mark your calendars now and plan to join us then.

We have a special Centennial Celebration Committee that is headed by volunteers Carrie Bachman and Deanna Dorner and our Associate Director Karen Sikkenga and Director of Development Budge Gere. If you'd like to help out with the planning or with any aspects of the Centennial, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Major at bamajor@umich.edu or 734-647-8528.

Birthdays are also a time for moving forward. We continue to have lots of projects underway or ready to get started. While we're celebrating we'll also be creating the first phases of our new Display Gardens and the Gaffield Children's Garden, updating our Conservatory roof and mechanical systems (scheduled for summer 2007), and installing portions of a new interpretive wetland boardwalk at the Arboretum. What this means is that each time you come for a visit there should be something new to see or explore. During our Centennial year, we'd also like to encourage more people to join us as Friends. Broadening our base of support clearly allows us to better care for our collections and facilities and offer a greater variety of programs. If you've never been a member or your membership has lapsed, please consider joining. (We've provided the means for you to do so in the center of this newsletter.) When you come to one of our Centennial activities, bring a friend along and urge them to join us as well!

Friends

Winter 2007 / Vol. 3, No. 2

Friends of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum Newsletter

Dorothea Coleman, *Editor* – theacole@umich.edu

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum
University of Michigan

Robert E. Grese, *Director*

Karen Sikkenga, *Associate Director*

A Winter Bird Walk

Dea Armstrong

Looking for birds in the wintertime has some distinct advantages. For the novice birder, there are far fewer species to confuse. A productive walk may only yield about 20 different species. And although morning is still the best time of day to see birds at either the Gardens or the Arb, in the winter you don't have to get up as early as in the summer! A winter bird walk that starts at 8 or 8:30 can be quite rewarding at either place! So put on your warmest winter gear, grab your binoculars, your Peterson's* field guide, and head out.

One of the first things you'll notice is that you don't hear very much in the way of the complex bird song that fills the early mornings of spring and summer. (If your cap covers your ears, you may not be hearing much anyway. Free up those ears for a few minutes and take a listen from time to time while you're out!) In winter, singing to attract a female or to let another male know where a territory begins and ends is not the order of business. Finding food is the number one priority. While they are looking for food, many of the birds in the Arb or the Gardens will "chip" or "zeet" to stay in contact with other members of the flock. Other birds like woodpeckers and nuthatches have distinct single noted calls that may be expressing excitement at finding food or concern over the approach of another bird, an animal or a human. Of course, American crows and blue jays make their usual calls year round. These are definitely birds you'll have a good chance of seeing and hearing on your walk.

The most common birds you'll probably find are black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice and northern cardinals. All of these birds are adapted to making use of the winter food available to them in Michigan. Take a look at the beak style: seed crushing for finches like the cardinal, or sharp and

probing like the chickadee and titmouse. Other birds that pick and poke at the bark are white-breasted nuthatch and our common winter woodpeckers: downy, hairy and red-bellied.

Most birds migrate away from our area in order to have more success at finding food, but at least one species that breeds up north considers southern Michigan as "south enough." The dark-eyed junco is a beautiful dark gray, sparrow-sized bird that many folks call "snow-bird." Their bellies are white ("snow-dipped") and the birds are easily recognized in flight by their white outer tail feathers that flash in flight.



Top to bottom:
Black-capped chickadee
White-breasted nuthatch
Tufted titmouse

(Photos by Rich Miller)

This is a common species in our area from November to early April.

Speaking of migration, please do not be surprised to find American robins in either the Arb or the Gardens during the winter. As long as the ground is not completely frozen or the fruit on shrubs and trees not completely gone, the Arb and especially the Gardens seem to be a haven for quite a few of these. Last year's mid-December Christmas Bird Count# found over 900 in the Ann Arbor area!

While it's always interesting to find and observe birds, for some frequent winter bird watchers, it is the unexpected or even simply the more unlikely that adds some zip to winter birding. In winter, the Arb and the Bot Gardens always seem to provide this kind of thrill. I've looked up to see a bald eagle flying overhead, had wonderful January looks at yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and some have been lucky enough to find a Saw-whet owl tucked under a conifer off of one of the trails. These are the unusual finds. Not so uncommon are Carolina wrens, white-throated sparrows, and hermit thrushes and eastern bluebirds—all great finds on a winter day. So get outside and enjoy the birds. See you out there!

* *Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America* - still my first choice for novice birders. Don't forget to read the introductory pages and keep it by your bird feeder when you're not using it in the field. (And since I mentioned feeders, be sure to keep your feeders filled in the winter. Birds visit feeders regularly in the winter and actually depend on food being there. If you plan to start feeding birds, don't let the feeders sit empty for very long and have someone fill your feeders for you if you are away.)

The Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count is in its 59th year! All skill levels can be helpful and have fun with this event. See <http://www.washtenawaudubon.org/aacbc/> or contact Dea Armstrong (ddarm@umich.edu) for more information.

Marching to their Centennial

David C. Michener

What do two species of figs, a banana, a cycad, an aloe, and an Australian ribbon bush have in common? Hint: our centennial year is reason enough to reflect on and celebrate our oldest collections. Being the depth of winter, it's a fine time to call attention to our oldest Conservatory plants, while in the next issue, we'll turn our attention to the venerable plants at the Nichols Arboretum, the physical "home" of the Centennial. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

When the U-M Botanical Gardens were established in 1907, there was clearly a university need for non-hardy plants—to show exotic plant families, novel structures, and plants of economic value. In 1910, the oldest surviving non-hardy plants were in the original greenhouse, now long-gone, that stood behind the caretaker's cottage. We know this because the original accession books and card filing system still exist. Amazing to many, we still have some of the original greenhouse plants at the Conservatory at the Matthaei site! The short list of plants leading this column are marching to their Centennial.

Below: Planting the fiddleleaf fig (Ficus lyrata) in the tropical house in 1966.

Upper right, early photo of the fiddleleaf fig.

Photos by A. G. Norman



The 1910 shipment that included the "quiz" plants at the lead of this article were part of the shipment from the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Still with us in the tropical house are:

- *Ficus lyrata*, fiddle-leaved fig, a tough-leaved evergreen tree
- *Dioon edule*, a cycad
- *Musa* 'Gros Michel,' which was the most common banana in commerce for the first part of the 20th Century.

In the Temperate House is:

- *Ficus carica*, the edible fig.

In the backup (not currently on display):

- *Homalocladium platycladium*, Australian ribbon bush, with ephemeral leaves and leafy stems (technically cladophyll, or leafy stem that has taken over the role of the leaves)
- *Aloe ciliaris*, climbing aloe.

My sense is these were all useful in teaching plant diversity—the cycad and ribbon bush vouch for that—with the inclusion of some economic plants that would be rarely seen by U-M students (remember, in pre-World War One America, long distance travel was a luxury).

In time, the original greenhouse was inadequate for the expanding exotic collection, and the entire collection decamped to the Iroquois Street site when the original Gardens was separated into the Arboretum and Gardens. Plants

received in 1916 that are still with us in the Tropical House are two *Cycas revoluta*, or Japanese sago palms, from one W. Manda in S. Orange, NJ, and



the *Tamarindus indica*, or tamarind tree from Royal Palm Nursery of Bradenform, FL. The following year brings the cast iron plant, *Aspidistra elatior*, (source not yet tracked) while the *Piper nigrum*, black pepper, came from the Lincoln Park Conservatory.

Decades later, these plants (or their clones) were again moved to the Matthaei site with the opening of the current Conservatory in 1965. The cycads and tamarind are the original plants—the others are all clones of the mother plants. Lest you think this has been made up, the plant records document that the plants were inventoried at various years in specific places, and a series of inventory numbers links all together. Piecing the complex inventory history together has been a labor of love performed by Dorothea Coleman, for which we should all be thankful. At last count, over 30,000 plant records have been processed, and if this sort of work intrigues you as a volunteer, please contact me at 734-647-8711 or michener@umich.edu.

As we enter our Centennial year, it's refreshing to have confirmed that "Caring for nature, enriching life" is more than just a motto—that stewardship can be documented for some of our non-hardy teaching collections since 1910. Next up—an overview of the plantings at the Nichols Arboretum, and issues in what the museum world calls "legacy collections."

Updates

Community Gardens at MBG

Community gardens are coming to the Botanical Gardens! As of spring 2007 (next growing season!), community members will be able to plant their vegetables and flowers right here at our site, thanks to Project Grow. Project Grow is a private, non-profit organization with an emphasis on community gardening and gardening education (to learn more visit www.projectgrowgardens.org). You might have seen some of their gardens at County Farm Park, the Ann Arbor Airport or Zion Lutheran Church. Our vision is to provide lifespan gardening opportunities here at MBG, from the Junior Master Gardeners to seniors in the enabling garden. If you are interested in having a plot at MBG, please email info@projectgrowgardens.org or call 734-996-3169.

Vermicomposting Pilot

Can we have a functioning composting system in the winter? We'll soon know. As part of our cUltivating coMMunity project, we've dug a 6' x 4' pit near our nursery at MBG, and populated it with worms. We'll be depositing food scraps and leaves there over the winter. By the time the next newsletter comes out, we'll know whether the worms survived and turned these organic scraps to compost.

Formal Garden Area

This year, we took the annuals out of MBG's Gateway Garden of New World Plants a bit early to make way for "green manure." Green manure is a cover crop that adds nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Ours is a fast-growing winter rye and mammoth red clover mix that adds visual interest during late fall and early winter. We've also planted hostas from our collections and from a recent donation by Fraleigh's nursery under the nearby trees. We've moved our daylily collection from the workyard into the public gardens area, interspersed with demonstration "no mow" ground covers. You can learn more about ground covers from *Taylor's Guide to*

Ground Covers, written by our own curator, David Michener. Pick up a signed copy at our gift shop.

The Gaffield Children's Garden is moving forward, with design plans almost complete, thanks to a major gift from long-time volunteers Tom and Jeannette Gaffield. Check out the eagle carved from a birch stump, a donation from Christa Coxon of Brighton. The eagle will be the center of a maze when the garden is complete. Also in the design stages is an accessible treehouse. Learn more about the treehouse designer at www.treehouses.org.

River Road

Unusually heavy rains have eroded the Arboretum's River Road, limiting access for fire vehicles. We are working with University administrators to find funding for emergency repairs. In the meantime, prescribed burns are on hold for the first time in 18 years. Says Bob Grese with regret, "It just doesn't make sense for us to set fires—even controlled fires—when we are worried about access for fire suppression."

Reader Center Facelift

New signage and regular hours mean a steadier stream of visitors at the Reader Center. The R.C. has a cleaner and brighter face as of October, thanks to Ken Lussenden's expertise in historic house painting.

Conservatory Roof Replacement

The Conservatory roof replacement is on track. The University has deposited \$1.3M with the Plant Department and the bid documents are now at Plant for review. The project will go for Regents approval and contractor selection will begin in January 2007. Meanwhile, we are working to raise the additional \$450K needed for environmental enhancements, such as automated controls and a fogger. We've submitted a grant request to the federal Institute for Museum and Library Sciences, and are requesting wholesale pricing for the glass itself.

Happy Birthday!

Our Centennial celebration planning continues. We hope you enjoyed the Centennial calendar that went out in early November, a student project celebrating the beauty of the Arb and Gardens in honor of our birthday. Our Centennial events are listed within, including four exhibits, a party at the Arb and another at the Gardens, and a kick-off the first weekend in February that includes an ice sculpting event, a global dance performance, and the Ann Arbor Art Center's "Tree Town" banner exhibit.

Flora and Fauna Art Show

The pilot Flora and Fauna Art Show in late September brought thousands of visitors to the Gardens and thousands of dollars to MBGNA, along with 15 new or upgraded memberships, a donation of art to the Gaffield Children's Garden and a donation of a 115-year-old herbarium to the U-M. Many sponsors have already asked to participate again at higher values next year. And at least one visitor is planning her vacation around the art show. "It was such a lovely event," she said, "I just want to be sure I'm in town for it next year."

Web Site Redesign

We plan to launch our newly redesigned web site on January 1. The new site is more beautiful, user friendly, and contains up-to-the-minute information like suggestions for things to do based on today's weather. You may now also register for classes on-line. Take a look at www.mbgna.umich.edu.



Arb Rambles

Explore the Arboretum from a naturalist's perspective. Each month investigates a different topic.

Instructor: Robert Ayotte

Fee: Free but registration is required.

Snowcology

Saturday, January 6, 9:30 – 11 am

How do plants adapt to winter? #07-AE-24

Flakes in the Arb

Saturday, February 3, 9:30 – 11 am

Snowshoe Hike—trek to Alex Dow Field.
#07-AE-25

Coneheads

Saturday, March 3, 9:30 – 11 am

Winter evergreens. #07-AE-26

First Flush

Saturday, April 7, 9:30 – 11 am

A look at woody plant spring blooms and fruits.
#07-AE-27

Leaves Unfurled part 1

Saturday, May 5, 9:30 – 11 am

#07-AE-28

Yoga at the Gardens

Please sign up for both sections for a continuous flow of yoga in your life!

Vinyasa-style, Hatha Yoga for those who enjoy a flowing sequence of sun salutations and postures coordinated with music. Class will be at a moderate pace with instruction in postures. Open to all levels. Class will be held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium. Please enter from the west entrance near the large parking lot. Bring a yoga mat and towel.

Section 3

Mondays, January 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19 and 26, noon – 1 pm

Section 4

Mondays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9, noon – 1 pm

Instructor: Janine Bennett,
Certificate: White Lotus Foundation,
Santa Barbara CA; Instructor: *Inward Bound*,
Ann Arbor, MI

Fee: \$48 Members and U-M Students,
(Non-members: \$60)

Section 3 #07-AE-01, Section 4 #AE-07-10

Wed. A.M. Hiker

Wednesdays, 9 am to noon

Instructor: Ellen Elliot Weatherbee, M.A. former head of U-M MBGNA Adult Education Program; wetland and protected plants consultant

Winter

January 24, 31 and February 7

Field trips feature interesting hikes to little-known nature areas. The pace and destinations of these winter trips are perfect for hiking and exploration. Appropriate but inexpensive clothing and footwear will be emphasized, making any winter situation comfortable, no matter how weird the weather. The fabric of these invigorating forays is always interwoven with plants, habitats and the effects of cold on natural environments. All sessions will be held outdoors.

Fee: \$72 Members and U-M Students
(Non-members: \$90) #07-AE-02

Spring

April 18, 25, May 2, 9 and 16

Weekly hikes take the inquisitive plant seeker to the more remote habitats of woods and wetlands. Edible plants and mushrooms, as well as the interesting plants and intriguing habitats of little known and out-of-the-way places, are emphasized in our usual academic but playful atmosphere.

Fee: \$120 Members and U-M Students
(Non-members: \$150) #07-AE-20

Boreal Forest and Tundra: Russia to Manitoba

Wednesdays, January 24, 31 and February 7,
7:30 – 9 pm

Explore the northern reaches of plants, and areas not on the usual tourist circuit. A lecture with Dr. Voss, a most engaging speaker, is not to be missed. A tour of northern, often circumpolar, plants and habitats, presented via slides, maps, literature and specimens.

Instructor: Edward G. Voss, Ph.D.,
Curator Emeritus, U-M Herbarium;
Author *Michigan Flora*

Fee: \$36 Members and U-M Students
(Non-members: \$45) #07-AE-03

The Science of Winter

Lecture: Thursday, February 1, 7 – 9 pm

Field trips: Saturdays, February 3, 10 and 17,
10 am – noon

Why can't we exist without ice? Why do we get more snow than the North Pole? Why is it warmer in the snow than in the air in winter? Why do only certain animals hibernate? Learn the meteorology, physics, astronomy, chemistry, & biology of winter as we explore why winter happens, how it affects the planet, wildlife, plants, and our daily lives.

Instructor: Matt Heumann, Natural Features Consultant, Earth Sciences Instructor, retired naturalist

Fee: \$64 Members and U-M students
(Non-members: \$80) #07-AE-04

Far Away Places: A Slideshow Anthology of Natural Places

Tuesdays, February 6, 13 and 20, 7 – 9 pm

Caught in the dreariness of winter? Join the instructor for a virtual tour of far away natural areas. Discover the geology, botany, zoology and culture of: The Jordan Valley in the Middle East, The Okeefenokee Swamp, The Range & Basin of the western U.S., The Black Hills & Badlands of South Dakota, and The Highlands & Islands of Scotland.

Instructor: Matt Heumann, Natural Features Consultant, Earth Sciences Instructor, retired naturalist

Fee: \$36 Members and U-M students
(Non-members: \$45) #07-AE-05

Ice Carving

Saturday, February 10, 9 am – noon

Ice sculpture is an art form that uses power tools! How can you resist? Join us for an introduction to ice-carving at this hands-on workshop. Tools and techniques will be demonstrated. You will have a chance to chip or melt part of the class sculpture. The instructors, Nick White and Dave Kurth, are former EMU team members and club presidents.

Instructors: Nick White, Staff
and Dave Kurth, Professional Ice Carver

Fee: \$32 MBGNA Members and U-M Students,
(Non-members: \$40) #07-AE-06

Botany on Ice

Sunday, February 11, 10 am – 3 pm

Wonder how our conservatory plants would look as ice sculptures? Do you want a glimpse at this winter art form in action? Carving teams from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College will carve onsite in the Botanical Gardens' Gateway Garden. Please come by and watch them carve. Stop by later in the week to take a look at their works, which will be on display as long as the weather holds.

Free

Winter Tree ID Walk at the Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 24, 10 am – noon

Do you wander and wonder what tree is which when hiking in winter? Learn how to use a 'key' to identify what you are seeing. Using bark buds branching and buds you too can learn to identify trees in winter.

Instructor: Judy Dluzen, Staff Horticulturalist

Fee: \$5 for all #07-AE-07

Michigan Wildflowers

Sundays, February 25, March 4 and 11, 1:30 – 3 pm

Fred Case has most recently been honored with the top horticultural award in the United States, a Gold Medal in Horticulture from Scott's Arboretum at Swarthmore College. Join a much-honored world expert, author and teacher for an extraordinary slide journey and discussion of Michigan Wildflowers. Have a look at the natural habitats that are home to many of the showiest wildflowers. Trilliums, wild orchids, and pitcher plants are some of the highlights the instructor shares. Cultivation and conservation of wildflowers will also be discussed.

Instructor: Fred Case, MS Botany; Wildflower authority; Author, *Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region and Trilliums*

Fee: \$36 Members and U-M students, (Non-members: \$45) #06-AE-08

Animal Tracking

Lecture: Wednesday, February 28, 7 – 9 pm

Field trip: Saturday, March 3, 9 am – 1 pm

If you attended the Animal Tracking class last fall or even if you didn't, you will enjoy this class. We will review some of the basics of tracking, including track identification, classification and interpreting the stories to be read in prints and signs found in the landscape. Beyond this, the class will focus on gait patterns. We will study how animals move across the land as shown by the different print patterns left on the ground. There's no better canvas than a clean blanket of snow! Gait patterns can tell you much about an animal's behavior, how an animal moves, where it went, how fast it was moving and even the size of the animal. For a fascinating look into the world of local wildlife, join us! Experience helpful but not necessary.

Instructor: Tom O'Dell, Staff Horticulturalist, Expert Tracker

Fee: \$48 Members and U-M Students, (Non-members: \$60) # 07-AE-09

Sweden's Linneaus: The Man and His Land

Tuesday, March 6 and 13, 7:30 – 9 pm

In celebration of the tercentenary of Linneaus' birth (1707–2007), this course will follow in the footsteps of Linneaus, Swedish national hero and world renowned scientist: botanist, zoologist, geologist, physician, philosopher and charismatic teacher, whose disciples carried his taxonomic methods around the world. We will learn about the land that formed Carl Linné e.g., Småland, Lappland, Uppland, Öland, and about the remarkable life of this father of taxonomy. Sarah Nooden has spent considerable time in Linneaus' Sweden and with her husband's relatives who live near Linneaus' birthplace in Småland, Sweden. A board member of the Michigan Botanical Club, she has given talks on Linneaus, and some know her as the "Rainforest Lady" for her informative and interesting talks on tropical rainforests.

Instructor: Sarah Nooden

Fee: \$24 Members and U-M Students, (Non-members: \$30) #07-AE-11

Plant Identification

Wednesday: March 7, 14 and 21, 9 – 11 am

Learn to use field guides and more complicated botanical texts to improve your skills for identifying wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Learn which books to buy and how to find meanings of Latin words. Emphasis will be on the three volumes of Michigan Flora by Edward G. Voss, as well as other helpful sources. Texts will be furnished for use during class and available in our gift shop for purchase.

Instructor: Ellen Elliot Weatherbee, M.A. former head of U-M MBGNA Adult Education Program; wetland and protected plants consultant

Fee: \$48 Members & U-M Students (Non-members: \$60) #07-AE-12

3000 Years of Chocolate

Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, 7–9:30 pm

This class is a perennial favorite. How could it not be? It's all about chocolate. Journey into the origin, culture, history and biochemistry of chocolate that has captivated cultures for the last 3000 years. Enjoy stories about the botanical intricacies of the plant, the chemical make-up, how various types of chocolate are made, and the quirky tales of growing and producing. The instructor brings to each session: a world of knowledge, much personal experience, and many visual aids from his years of research on the subject. This is not to be missed for anyone who loves chocolate! Price includes lots of chocolate.

Instructor: Patrick Fields, Ph.D., Instructor, Olivet College and Researcher, Dept. of Plant Biology, MSU

Fee: \$80 Members and U-M students, (Non-members: \$100) #07-AE-13

Book Discussion Group

Thursday, March 8, 7 – 8:30 pm at Nichols Arboretum, Reader Center Classroom

This session will discuss Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*. This book published first in 1949 has had a sustained impact on generations of readers. It is a natural history classic. The book is available for purchase in the Gift Shops.

Discussion led by Scotti Parrish, Ph.D. U-M Dept of English, and Jeffrey Plakke, Staff Horticulturalist

Fee: \$5 for all #07-AE-14

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Conservatory and Reader Center Closed	2	3 Conservatory open until 8 pm	4 Conservatory open until 8 pm	5	6 Adult Education 9:30 am Arb Rambles— Snowcology
7	8 Conservatory Closed	9	10 Conservatory open until 8 pm Meeting 7:30 pm Ann Arbor Garden Club and Wild Ones "The 100 th Anniversary of MBGNA," Bob Grese	11 Conservatory open until 8 pm	12	13 Workday 9 am – noon at the Arb
14 Meeting 10 am Rock Garden Society	15 Conservatory Closed Meeting 7:45 pm Michigan Botanical Club	16 Meeting 7:30 pm Sierra Club	17 Conservatory open until 8 pm Meeting 7:30 pm Audubon Society	18 Conservatory open until 8 pm	19	20 Meetings 10 am Great Lakes Judging 10 am Rock Garden Society
21	22 Conservatory Closed Adult Education Noon Yoga at the Gardens	23	24 Conservatory open until 8 pm Adult Education 7:30 pm Boreal Forest and Tundra Meeting 7 pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Adult Education 9 am Wed. A.M. Hiker	25	26	27 Workday 9 am – noon at the Gardens
28	29 Conservatory Closed Adult Education Noon Yoga at the Gardens	30	31 Conservatory open until 8 pm Adult Education 9 am Wed. A.M. Hiker 7:30 pm Boreal Forest and Tundra			

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum

Outdoor gardens and trails
Open every day 8 am to dusk, free admission



Matthaei Botanical Gardens Conservatory
Mon. closed
Tues. 10 am to 4:30 pm
Wed. 10 am to 8 pm
Thurs. – Sun. 10 am to 4:30 pm
Admission information at www.mbgna.umich.edu



The Reader Center at Nichols Arboretum
Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

January

2007

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

February

2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Event 9 am Tu B'shevat: Birthday of Trees	Conservatory closed Adult Education Noon Yoga at the Gardens Meeting 7 pm Evening Herb Study Group	Adult Education 7 pm Far Away Places	Conservatory open until 8 pm Adult Education 9 am Wed. A.M. Hiker 7:30 pm Boreal Forest and Tundra	Event 4:30 pm Global Dance Performance	Event 4:30 pm Global Dance Performance	Adult Education 9 am Ice Carving 10 am Science of Winter Kids Stuff 1 pm Scout Patch Walk Event 4:30 pm Global Dance Performance Workday 9 am – noon at the Arb Meeting 2 pm Huron Valley Rose Society
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Meeting 2 pm Ann Arbor Orchid Society Events 10 am Botany on Ice 4:30 pm Global Dance Performance	Conservatory closed Adult Education Noon Yoga at the Gardens	Adult Education 7 pm Far Away Places	Conservatory open until 8 pm Meeting 7:30 pm Ann Arbor Garden Club "Gardening Tips and Volunteering in Ann Arbor Area"			Adult Education 10 am Science of Winter Meeting 10 am Great Lakes Judging
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Conservatory closed Adult Education Noon Yoga at the Gardens Meeting 7:45 pm Michigan Botanical Club	Adult Education 7 pm Far Away Places Meeting 7:30 pm Sierra Club	Conservatory open until 8 pm Meeting 7 pm Wild Ones "Seed Cleaning Workshop and Exchange" 7:30 pm Audubon Society			Workday 9 am – noon at the Gardens
25	26	27	28			
Adult Education 1:30 pm Michigan Wildflowers	Conservatory closed Adult Education Noon Yoga at the Gardens		Conservatory open until 8 pm Adult Education 7 pm Animal Tracking Meeting 7 pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society			

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The Reader Center at Nichols Arboretum

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

March 2007

3

Adult Education
9 am Animal Tracking
9:30 am Arb Rambles—
Coneheads

2

4

Adult Education
1:30 pm Michigan Wildflowers

5

Conservatory closed
Adult Education
Noon Yoga at the Gardens
Meeting
7 pm Evening Herb Study Group

6

Adult Education
7:30 pm Sweden's Linneas:
The Man and His Land

7

Conservatory open until 8 pm
Adult Education
9 am Plant Identification
7 pm 3000 Years of Chocolate

8

Adult Education
6:30 pm MI School of
Gardening: Landscape Design
Event
7 pm Book Discussion Group at
the Reader Center

9

Workday
9 am - noon at the Arb

10

11

Adult Education
1:30 pm Michigan Wildflowers
Meeting
2 pm Huron Valley Rose Society

12

Conservatory closed
Adult Education
Noon Yoga at the Gardens
6:30 pm Gardening Tools

13

Adult Education
7:30 pm Sweden's Linneas:
The Man and His Land

14

Conservatory open until 8 pm
Adult Education
9 am Plant Identification
7 pm 3000 Years of Chocolate
Meeting
7 pm Wild Ones "Common
Sense Forestry"
7:30 pm Ann Arbor Garden Club
"Going to the 2006 Chelsea
Flower Show", Betty Bishop

15

Adult Education
6:30 pm Minute Masterpiece at
the Reader Center—
O'Keefe

16

Event
Noon - 4:30 pm Ann Arbor
Orchid Society Festival
Meeting
10 am Great Lakes Judging

17

18

Event
10 am - 4:30 pm Ann Arbor
Orchid Society Festival

19

Conservatory closed
Adult Education
Noon Yoga at the Gardens
Meeting
7:45 pm Michigan Botanical
Club

20

Meeting
7:30 pm Sierra Club

21

Conservatory open until 8 pm
Adult Education
9 am Plant Identification
7 pm 3000 Years of Chocolate
Meeting
7:30 pm Audubon Society

22

Adult Education
6:30 pm Minute Masterpiece at
the Reader Center—
Monet

23

Workday
9 am - noon at the Gardens

24

25

Event
U-M Student/Family Day

26

Conservatory closed
Adult Education
Noon Yoga at the Gardens

27

Conservatory open until 8 pm
Adult Education
7 pm 3000 Years of Chocolate
Meeting
7 pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

28

Conservatory open until 8 pm
Adult Education
7 pm 3000 Years of Chocolate

29

Adult Education
6:30 pm Minute Masterpiece at
the Reader Center—
Goldsworthy

30

31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Adult Education 1 – 4 pm Green Roof Workshop	2 Conservatory closed Adult Education Noon Yoga in the Gardens Meeting 7 pm Evening Herb Study Group	3	4 Conservatory open until 8 pm	5 Event 8 am Audubon Society Spring Migration Bird Walk in the Arb	6	7 Adult Education 9:30 am Arb Rambles—First Flush Event 10 am – 4:30 pm Michigan State African Violet Society Show and Sale

8 Event 11 am – 2 pm Michigan State African Violet Society Show and Sale	9 Conservatory closed Adult Education Noon Yoga in the Gardens	10 Meeting 7:30 pm Huron Valley Rose Society	11 Conservatory open until 8 pm Meeting 7 pm Wild Ones and Ann Arbor Bonsai Society, “Native Plants in Pots and Other Small Spaces” 7:30 pm Ann Arbor Garden Club and Rhododendron Society, “Rhododendrons”	12 Event 8 am Audubon Society Spring Migration Bird Walk in the Arb	13	14 Workday 9 am – noon at the Arb
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15 Meeting 2 pm Ann Arbor Orchid Society	16 Conservatory closed Meeting 7:45 Michigan Botanical Club	17 Meeting 7:30 Sierra Club	18 Conservatory open until 8 pm Meeting 7:30 Audubon Society	19 Event 8 am Audubon Society Spring Migration Bird Walk in the Arb For Members Only 11:30 am Behind the Scenes Tour for New Members noon Brown Bag Lunch	20	21 Meeting 10 am Great Lakes Judging
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22 Event 1 pm Earth Day Festival	23 Conservatory closed	24	25 Conservatory open until 8 pm Meeting 7 pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society	26 Event 8 am Audubon Society Spring Migration Bird Walk in the Arb	27	28 Workday 9 am – noon at the Gardens
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29 Adult Education 1 pm Guided Walk in Horner Woods	30 Conservatory closed					
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The Reader Center at Nichols Arboretum
Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

April 2007

continued from page 8

Gardening Tools

Monday, March 12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn how to use gardening tools like a landscape professional. In this class you will learn the fastest way to do specific jobs, the best tool for the job, tool maintenance including sharpening, and tips for selecting and buying quality tools.

Instructor: Erica Kempter, owner Nature & Nurture, a local organic landscaping company

Fee: \$20 Members and U-M students, (Non-members: \$25) **#07-AE-22**

Minute Masterpiece

May enroll for one, two or three sections. All sections meet at Nichols Arboretum, Reader Center

Enter the world of nature through the eyes of various artists, Georgia O’Keefe, Claude Monet, and Andy Goldsworthy. Floral portraits, landscapes and ephemeral sculptures will be the focus. Take a short class in technique and method and go home with a masterpiece you create in the O’Keefe or Monet style. Create a temporary, natural sculpture in the Arboretum mimicking Goldsworthy’s techniques. Bring your own sketchbook and pencil, we supply the rest.

Section I—O’Keefe

Thursday, March 15, 6:30 – 9 pm #07-AE-15

Section II—Monet

Thursday, March 22, 6:30 – 9 pm #07-AE-16

Section III—Goldsworthy

Thursday, March 29, 6:30 – 9 pm #07-AE-17

Instructor: Nick White, Staff; B.A., Fine Arts,

Fee: \$20 per section Members and U-M Students, (Non-members: \$25 per section)

Ornamental Grasses

Tuesday, March 20, 6 – 8 pm

Ornamental grasses offer hardy, low maintenance, drought-tolerant plants that also provide drama and interest in the garden throughout the four seasons. Years of experience growing and observing ornamental grasses in the Midwest will be shared in this informative class. Slides will acquaint you with the various species and cultivars (learn some botanical names!), forms in the landscape, ultimate sizes and effective uses of ornamental grasses. Propagation methods and division will also be demonstrated. Some

seedlings will be available to take home.

Instructor: Mike Palmer, Staff Horticulturalist

Fee: \$20 Members and U-M Students, (Non-members: \$25) **#07-AE-18**

Green Roof Workshop

Sunday, April 1, 1 – 4 pm

Green roofs help to detain and filter rain water. They offer a green oasis in a sea of roof tar and asphalt shingles. They look pretty darn neat too. This hands-on workshop will show you the steps and materials needed to complete your own home project. We will work on small roof structures, created just for the workshop, so that you gain actual experience in working with the materials used in green roof construction.

Instructor: Joel Percovich, MS Landscape Architecture candidate

Fee: \$48 Members and U-M Students, (Non-members: \$60) **#07-AE-19**

Pots of Color!

Wednesday, April 25, 6 – 8 pm

Spend two hours with two of our staff horticulturalists, plant propagator and garden designer to explore the world of container gardening. Plan your spring palette and learn the best way to pot for long-lasting beauty. Containers provide a unique opportunity to bring beautiful plants right up to your doorstep. Learn from the experts as you watch them create exciting compositions in color and texture in a wide range of containers for that hard to plant spot or corner. Make your shopping list and get a sneak peak at plants that will be available at the Spring Plant Sale the first weekend in May.

Instructors: Judy Dluzen and Mike Palmer, Staff Horticulturalists

Fee: \$20 Members and U-M students, (Non-members: \$25) **#07-AE-21**

Guided Walk in Horner Woods

Sunday, April 29, 1 – 4 pm

Sylvia Taylor will guide this walk through Horner Woods, a U-M research site and natural area. This protected site has limited access, so this guided walk is a wonderful way to see this natural area and to catch its special seasonal blooms. There is a chance to see the elusive spring ephemeral twin leaf during this hike.

Instructor: Sylvia Taylor, PhD Botany

Fee: \$5 for all **#07-AE-23**

Discover the World of Plants

Thursdays, 6 – 7:30 pm, starting in February

Small groups may call to schedule.

Families and scout troops will explore a tropical rainforest and a desert, follow a scavenger hunt, and create a simple terrarium. This is a great parent and child activity to introduce everyone to the world of plants. Snack included. For children ages 7-12 with adult. Registration required.

Additional themes under development.

Instructors: MBGNA Docents

Fee: \$8/child **#07-YE-1**

Scout Patch Walk: The Architecture of Nature

Saturday, February 10, 1 – 4 pm

Discover the geometrical design of plants in nature. The Conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens will be the place to explore the shape, color, pattern and function of plants! Learn how to read an architect’s blueprint and build your own model Conservatory and village landscape.

For children ages 7-12 with an adult. Registration is required.

Instructors: MBGNA Docents

Fee: \$5 per adult or child **#07-YE-2**

Go Blue Discover Green: Nature Programs for Kids

Sunday, March 25, 1 – 2:30 pm

Join us for a nature discovery program for little kids led by big kids. U-M students will guide children ages 4 to 7 to discover nature inside our Conservatory or on our trails (weather permitting.) Kids need to bring an adult and all must register.

Instructors: U-M Student Docents

Fee: Free, registration required. **#07-YE-3**

More Happenings on back cover...

Profile Jan Stearns

Karen Sikkenga

How many grown children can say that they have no complaints about their childhood? Jan Stearns's children say just that. And staff, volunteers and visitors say the same thing about Jan's work here at the Arb & Gardens, where Jan has been the receptionist for over four years. Her secret? "I believe my job is always to be nice, no matter what." But what about when people don't listen, or get irritable, or argue about the rules? "For every person who gives me a hard time, there are lots who are really nice. I see a lot of familiar faces now, wonderful volunteers and visitors. We look at each other's pictures of grandkids and exchange the latest stories."

Says superintendent Mike Hommel, "Jan is relentless in pursuit of customer satisfaction. More than satisfaction. Insisting on understanding the needs of each and every one of our faculty, staff and visitors and tracking down the resources to meet their needs, whether it's a six-year-old who wants to save a fledgling sparrow that has fallen from a nest in the Conservatory or a visitor asking to know the name of a plant removed from exhibit eight years ago." Jan's supervisor, April Pickrel, says simply, "When it comes to customer service, Jan is truly amazing."

From the Editor

I hope you like our new look. Please feel free to let me know both the pros and the cons, especially in the Happenings and Calendar sections. Can you find the information you want easily? Is it confusing? Your feedback will help me to offer you a better product.

Thanks, Dorothea

theacole@umich.edu or 734-764-1510

So amazing, in fact, April has nominated Jan for the University's Candace J. Johnson Staff Award for Excellence (<http://www.umich.edu/~hraa/cjjaward>).

Those of you who've spoken with Jan have probably noticed the long, broad vowels of Maine in her speech (and, no, it's definitely NOT Canadian). Even after 22 years in Ann Arbor, she hasn't lost the accent. That's because, twice a year, she hops in the car and heads back to Portland. Most times, her grown son and daughter, son-in-law, two grandkids and Gus, her pug dog, come along. What keeps pulling them back? "Salt in the air. Fried clams, Italian sandwiches and scallops. Dad's beach house on the shore of Hill's Beach. Family."

Jan came to Ann Arbor 22 years ago for her husband's job, and she's been here ever since. Jan stayed home to raise her two children. The oldest, January, now lives in the same Ann Arbor condo complex as Jan, along with her husband and children. Jon is a senior in college. Does she dream of moving back to Maine? "No. This is home for the kids. Besides, the weather is better here."



A lot has changed at Matthaei Botanical Gardens since Jan joined the staff four years ago. A newly redesigned lobby. Merging with Nichols Arboretum. Leadership changes. Added responsibilities in her job, like scheduling school bus tours. Another change is on the horizon for Jan: she is transitioning from receptionist to human resources coordinator. If you miss seeing Jan behind the lobby reception desk, poke your head in her office and say hello. She'll still have a smile for you, whether it's in the job description or not.

The Arb and Gardens in the Press

We were quite honored to be featured 3 times on the cover of the Ann Arbor Observer this year, as well as on the cover of the Reader's Choice Awards. Additionally, the Ann Arbor News has run several articles regarding our programs throughout 2006.

Bursley Hall Lunch Menu

Bursley Hall has added a new salad, the "Matthaei Garden," to their menu in honor of the Gardens.



15

the gray winter months. If you want showy color, the bright red of silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*, aka *Cornus sericea*), or the bright yellow of its 'Flaviramea' cultivar, can't be beat. Sure, you may see it around a lot, but that is for a reason—in winter, color is good. The smooth gray bark of serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) and its multiple stems are outstanding with a light layer of snow on them. Of course, the brilliant white bark of paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) looks especially striking against an evergreen background. To see a good example of this, take a walk to the west end of Dow Prairie in the Nichols Arboretum and look at those birches on a winter day.

Of course, color can also be provided by berries, or the birds who feed on them. Shrubs are your best bet for this. Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) have brilliant red berries that can last the winter, until they sweeten up enough to be attractive to birds. Firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*) has bright orange berries that persist through the winter. Unfortunately they also have some nasty thorns that make pruning them a pain, literally. Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis* or *orbiculatus*) has white or pink berries that may last all fall until Christmas, then they're eaten by the birds. Staghorn, smooth and shining sumac (*Rhus typhina*, *glabra* and *copallina*, respectively) all have bunches of red berries that feed birds throughout the winter. Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) has white-gray berries that can persist through the winter and provide food for birds as well. And rosebushes' red hips add color to the landscape, and food for the birds (but please don't plant the invasive multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)—it's attractive, but is a real problem in natural areas).

Green. It's hard to give up. So, if you want green, but don't want to go with conifers, we actually are lucky enough to live in a place warm enough to support some evergreen deciduous plants. Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* or *Buxus sempervirens*) stays green all year round, as does inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) and some other hollies (*Ilex* spp.). Other plants may not stay completely green through the winter, but retain their leaves, providing color for you and cover for little birds. Shrubs in this category include Japanese pieris (*Pieris japonica*) and firethorn. Trees include the American beech tree (*Fagus grandifolia*) which keeps some of its leaves all winter long and oaks which retain some of their lower, interior leaves well into the winter.

If you're really into detail, winter buds are fun to observe. American beech trees and nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*) both have large, interesting buds that are easy to see. Finally, there are the gems that bloom in the late fall or extremely early spring, shortening the dead of winter and bringing a little bit of color into our lives. Our native witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) has interesting yellow flowers that keep blooming as the snow flies in November. On the other end of the season is Chinese witchhazel (*Hamamelis mollis*)

which blooms from late winter into early spring. (The naked buds of witchhazels are also quite interesting to observe.) American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) starts blooming in March. You've just got to love these guys!

Of course, there are many, many other trees and shrubs that can bring light into your winter life—it's all a matter of perspective. And excluding evergreens from this article is by no means a slam on them. Animals love them for the food and cover they provide, and anyone with color vision appreciates them on a gray, dreary day. But, trees and shrubs and evergreens are not the only plants that can provide winter interest. Native plants with sturdy structures such as ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*) stay strong through the winter while waving in the breeze, and the distinctive seed heads of golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) and common evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) last through the winter as well. Of course, many grasses and sedges may not stay green, but keep their form through the winter, and some of them have seed heads that persist through the winter until you cut them down as a rite of spring. The following grasses all have attractive reddish foliage in winter and several maintain at least



Pieris japonica

some of their seed heads: Karl Foerster's grass (*Calamagrostis x acutifolia* 'Karl Foerster'), bottlebrush grass (*Hystrix patula*), Muskingum sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*), and the big four prairie grasses—big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). And, finally, you can go for the early spring peepers—plants that actually bloom during the winter. Violets (*Viola* spp.), snowdrops (*Galanthus* selections) and crocuses (*Crocus* spp. and selections) can all bring color to the ground while the snowflakes are still flying. Enjoy the winter everyone! There are plants to help you through, especially if you're willing to stop and ... well you can't smell the roses, but you can enjoy their hips!



Weeping cherries

From the Gift Shop

Once the hectic days of holiday travel, gift giving, and family gatherings are done, stop by the MBGNA Gift Shop for a little winter reading with our new and improved book selections. Start with field guides that can help you identify trees just by their bark and twigs. Move on to great resources for orchid care in your own home. Finish up by getting your copy of Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac*, the subject of our first book discussion of 2007 on March 8 (See "Book Discussion Group" on page 8 for more details). Leopold's *Almanac* takes the reader on a wonderful, month by month journey of the natural world around the author's Wisconsin cabin, and has become one of the most frequently read books by nature lovers and preservationists alike. Get your copy today!

Hello...

We are pleased to welcome several new staff to MBGNA this season. Sarah Weiss, landscape architect and adjunct faculty at SNRE, has joined us as a part-time project manager through June 2007. She'll be keeping the Sue Reichert Trail, the Sam Graham Trees Trail, the Arb boardwalk and the new Gaffield Children's Garden on track, as well as helping with day-to-day maintenance at MBGNA.

Long-time volunteer and newsletter editor Dorothea Coleman also joins us part-time through June 2007. She will organize all our documents—be they words or pictures, physical or electronic—into a shared filing system. She'll continue to edit the newsletter and will also be the point of contact for Centennial activities.

Sarah Swanson joins us part-time for at least two years as the cUltivating coMmunity project manager. Sarah comes to us from SNRE's Environmental Justice Program. She'll be working with students, faculty and administration at the University to maintain the project as a demonstration for a closed loop food system. She'll also be managing the day-to-day operations of the program, including the gardens and the vermicomposting pilot project at MBG.

Patricia Ferrer Beals comes to us as a former lecturer at the U-M School of Art & Design, and an educator at the Hands On Museum. She brings talents in scientific illustration, working on collaborative projects with students and faculty, and knowledge of children's education programs. She will be acting as our University liaison and interpretive materials specialist.

And Goodbye...

Paulette Brown has left the Arb & Gardens to seek other opportunities within the University and beyond. Please join us in thanking Paulette for her many years of dedicated service.

Budge Gere has accepted a call to the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. He will serve as their Executive Associate Pastor. While we will miss Budge and the work he has done as our Director of Development, we wish him all the best as he answers this call.

Get Involved Join our Volunteer Teams!

Ecological Restoration Workdays: We need your help—whether you are an



Docent Ellen Scavia explains the parts of a bromeliad flower to a group of students

individual, a student group, or corporation team—with our restoration efforts at the Arb and Gardens removing invasive plants. Winter does not stop our efforts. We have designated the 2nd Saturday of the month for the Arboretum and the 4th Saturday at the Gardens. From 9 am to noon, join our natural

areas staff in various restoration projects. It's a great way to combine learning with doing!

Conservatory Ambassador: Are you interested in learning about our Conservatory's plant collection? And then sharing that knowledge with others? A new program is forming to train

Conservatory Ambassadors (similar to our existing Gardens Ambassadors who share knowledge of the display gardens). After training, you'll work in the Conservatory on our Free Fridays and a shift of your choice over the weekend.

Volunteer Welcome Center: As a volunteer you now have access to a Hospitality Area (Room 126 located off the West Lobby). The room is available for any volunteer during normal business hours as a break area, a place to relax and read, or to meet and chat with others. This is another way for staff and the institution to show our appreciation for your time, effort, and involvement. This area is near my office (Room 130) so do stop and say hello. We also have several public work stations with computer access if you need to do any research related to your volunteer task.

To get involved, contact Barbara Major, Volunteer Coordinator at 734-647-8528 or email at bamajor@umich.edu.

The Ann Arbor News Readers' Choice Awards

This year's People Choice Awards have been handed out and we are thrilled to be the recipients of five! The Arb took the Gold and the Gardens the Bronze in the Best Place for a Wedding category. The Arb also received Gold Awards for Best Place for a Picnic and Best Place for a First Date. Our Silver Award went to the Arb for Best Community Park.

Additionally, the line of daffodils from Imagine/Align was featured on the cover of the awards booklet.



Ecosystem Restoration Workdays

Join MBGNA staff in working to remove invasive species to promote native plant growth. We'll mix some hard work with education about the restoration work being done. Dress to work outside! Snacks and tools provided but you are welcome to bring your own loppers or pruners. Locations vary each session so call 734-647-7600 for more info and to sign up.

at the Arb: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14; 9 am – noon

at the Gardens: January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28; 9 am – noon



Date sensitive material

For information:

734-647-7600
www.mbgna.umich.edu

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

1800 N Dixboro Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Nichols Arboretum

1610 Washington Heights
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

U-M Regents

David A. Brandon
Laurence B. Deitch
Olivia Maynard
Rebecca McGowan
Andrea Fischer Newman
Andrew C. Richner
S. Martin Taylor
Katherine E. White
Mary Sue Coleman (*ex officio*)

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Happenings, continued from page 13 Winter 2007

Events (*at the Gardens unless noted otherwise*)

**Tu B'shevat:
Birthday of the Trees**

February 4, 10 am

This Jewish festival celebrates the traditional crops of Israel: wheat, barley, figs, pomegranates, olives, carob and grape.

Tree Town Banners

February 8 - April 30

The Ann Arbor Art Center's *Off the Wall Gallery* exhibit, **Tree Town**, comes to the Gardens through April 29. Local artists created banners inspired by arboreal subjects to celebrate Ann Arbor's nickname.



Global Dance Performance

February 8-11, 4:30 pm

Ann Arbor Dance Works presents a new work entitled "In the Garden" by Jessica Fogel. Choreographed in honor MBGNA's centennial, inspiration came from the diversity of plants in the Conservatory as well as dance styles from around the world.

Reservations required as audience is limited to 50.

**Centennial Display:
Our History**

February 8 - April 30

The first installment of four displays telling the story of the Gardens and Arboretum of the University of Michigan. This display will focus on how we came to be, grew apart, and reunited.

**Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Festival**

March 17 and 18; 10 am - 4:30 pm

Enjoy this largest plant family and its diversity. Members of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society will be available to answer your questions.

**Michigan State African
Violet Society Show
and Sale**

April 7, 10 am - 4:30 pm

April 8, noon - 2:30 pm

African violets, episcias, streptocarpus and other gesneriads will be shown and sold at this semi-annual event.

Earth Day Festival

April 22, 1 - 4 pm

Celebrate Earth Day 2007 at our family friendly event. Enjoy performers, information, demonstrations and activities—including an All Species Parade—on the 37th anniversary of its creation.

**Audubon Society Spring
Migration Bird Walks
at the Arb**

April 5, 12, 19, 26; 8 am

Join Audubon Society members in walks through the Arb looking for spring migrating birds.

For Members Only

New Member Tour

April 19, 11:30 am

New members enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the Gardens' facilities.

Brown Bag Lunch

April 19, noon

Bring your own brown bag lunch and any plant questions you have been dying to ask. A panel of our own MBGNA horticultural experts will answer all your questions. Beverages will be provided.