



# Matthaei-Nichols Member Guide

# 2017

## What are we?

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum is a single unit within the University of Michigan that manages four separate properties:

Matthaei Botanical Gardens, featuring:

- The Great Lakes Gardens
- Bonsai & Penjing Garden
- Gaffield Children's Garden
- The Medicinal Garden
- Large conservatory with three biomes
- 360 acres, six miles east of central campus

Nichols Arboretum, featuring:

- The Peony Garden
- Heathdale Collection of Appalachian Plants
- Centennial Shrub Collection
- Alex Dow Field
- 123 acres adjacent to central campus

Horner-McLaughlin Woods, featuring:

- Oak-hickory woodlands
- Small vernal ponds and streams
- Buttonbush swamp
- 90 acres, about a mile north of Matthaei on Dixboro

Mud Lake Bog, featuring:

- Large wetland area with swamp hardwood forest
- Most remote and rugged property at Matthaei-Nichols
- Used mostly for research by U-M students and staff
- 260 acres in Whitmore Lake, Michigan

The Botanical Gardens visitor center, conservatory, and display gardens are open daily fall and winter 10 am-4:30 pm; until 8 pm on Wednesdays. Trails are open dawn to dusk. Spring and summer, Matthaei is open 10 am-8 pm daily. Nichols Arboretum is open daily dawn until dusk. Admission to both properties is free.

Matthaei is closed Thanksgiving day, Christmas Eve and day, and New Year's Eve.

Matthaei: 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor  
Nichols Arboretum: 1610 Washington Hts., Ann Arbor

**M CARING FOR NATURE, ENRICHING LIFE**  
Support Matthaei-Nichols in the Victors for Michigan Campaign

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

1800 N. Dixboro Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Robert E. Grese,  
Director

Karen Sikkengra,  
Associate Director

2017 member guide  
Ashley Rop,

Membership Coordinator  
arop@umich.edu

734.615.9475

mbnra.umich.edu

### U-M Regents

Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc  
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor  
Shauna Ryder Diggs, Crosee Pointe  
Denise Hlitch, Bingham Farms  
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor  
Andrew C. Richner, Crosee Pointe Park  
Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor  
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor  
Mark S. Schlissel (ex officio)

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## Membership impact

Thanks to our members, we get things done! Here's a look at what membership dollars funded in 2016:

- New plantings in the Medicinal Garden at Matthaei
- Three new rain gardens at Matthaei, two more in progress
- Kids events at Matthaei such as Things With Wings and Hot Chocolate
- New steps on the ridge trail at Nichols Arboretum, scheduled to be installed Spring 2017
- The Grandmother Tree Walk in Nichols Arboretum to celebrate the U-M Bicentennial, designed by student intern Meredith Burke

## Member benefits

Members enjoy a multitude of benefits here & beyond:

- Free parking at Matthaei
- 10% off Garden Store and plant sale purchases
- Friends newsletter and e-news subscriptions
- Discounts and presale opportunities at plant sales
- Curator's tours
- Shakespeare in the Arb ticket reservations
- Reciprocal benefits at hundreds of participating gardens, museums, and cultural centers
- Youth & family activity programs

Benefits are based on membership level. Visit our website to find the best membership level for you!



One of the Grandmother Tree Walk signs created for the U-M Bicentennial by intern Meredith Burke. Member dollars make a huge impact on our student interns and their projects.

### Yellowwood

*Cladonia ramulosa* - 99 years old

**A Special Appearance in MI**  
-The yellowwood is named for its bright yellow heartwood

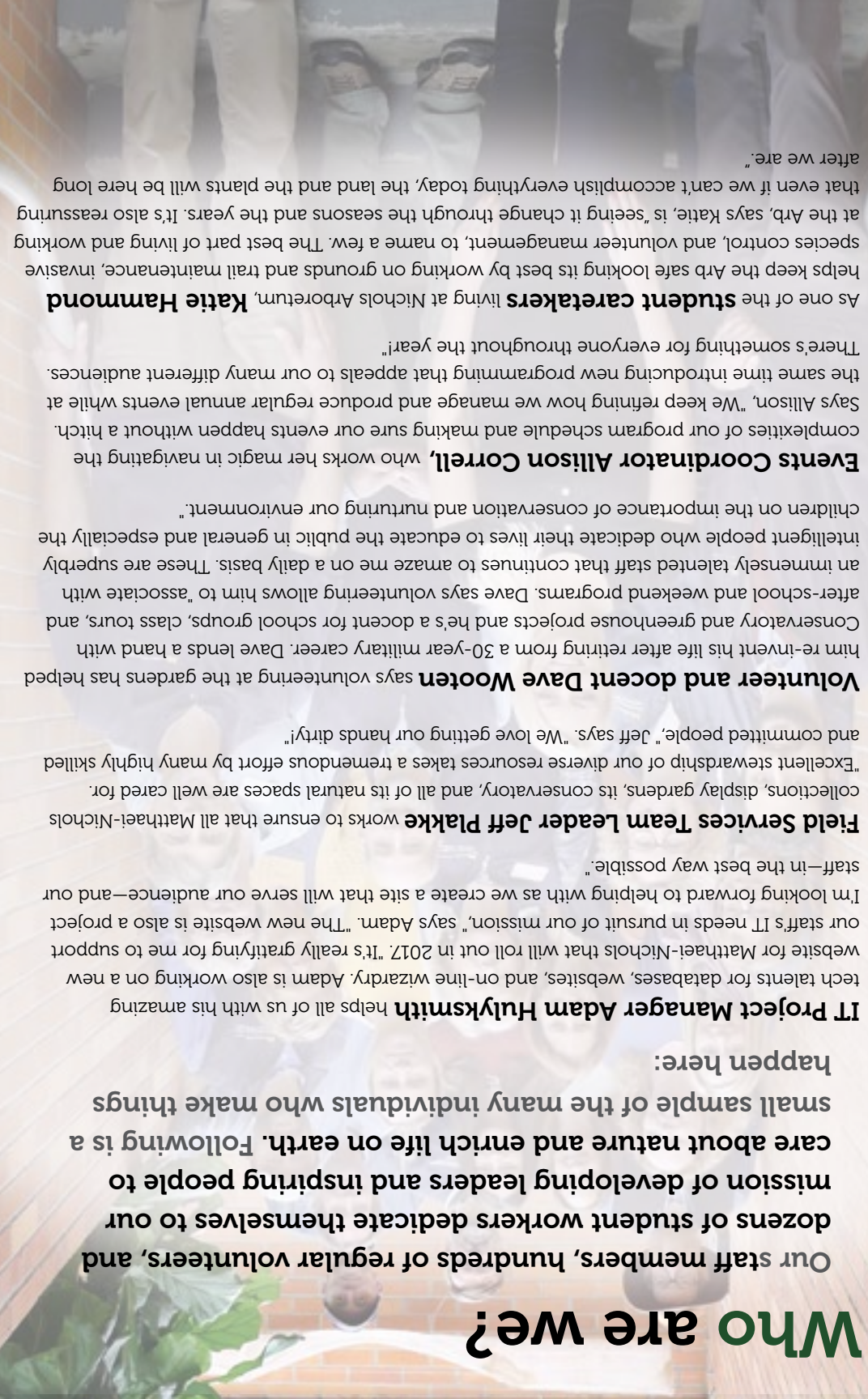
-In the spring, the yellowwood produces white pea-like flowers that hang in clusters.

-Native Range: Southeastern U.S.; introduced in Michigan.

Planted in 1918

**Breaking Racial Barriers**  
Also in 1918, U-M doctoral student Elmer Samuel Ives becomes the second African-American man in the nation to earn a Ph.D. in physics. Ives' thesis research was a pioneering work in the infrared spectra of diatomic molecules.

After working in New York City and contributing to the issuance of four patents, Ives accepted an invitation to serve as chair of the Physics Department at Fisk University in Nashville, TN.



## Our tribute program

Honor a loved one or commemorate a special date with a tribute bench, a tree, or a space located in one of our display gardens, along a trail, or in scenic natural areas at Matthaei Botanical Gardens or Nichols Arboretum. Tribute gifts offer unique and lasting ways to recognize family, friends, and events that have touched our lives while also supporting Matthaei-Nichols. Single or collective donations can be used for any tribute.

### Tribute program highlights:

- Name a tree: \$1,500\*
- Name a bench: \$5,000\*
- Name a space: varying prices (e.g., a peony bed)\*
- Continued maintenance of tree, bench, or space
- Tax-deductible donation
- Digital archive of each tribute available on our website
- Anodized aluminum plaque identifying the name of the person(s) honored
- Recognition in our annual report (\*Time limited)

Questions? Contact Ashley Rop, Tribute Coordinator:  
arop@umich.edu, 734.615.9475



Above: Andy and Kiki Markovits take a break on their tribute bench that poses a thoughtful question and honors their golden retrievers.

IT Project Manager Adam Hulyksmith helps all of us with his amazing tech talents for databases, websites, and on-line wizardry. Adam is also working on a new website for Matthaei-Nichols that will roll out in 2017. It's really gratifying for me to support our staffs' IT needs in pursuit of our mission," says Adam. "The new website is also a project I'm looking forward to helping with as we create a site that will serve our audience—and our staff—in the best way possible."

**Field Services Team Leader Jeff Plakke** works to ensure that all Matthaei-Nichols collections, display gardens, its conservatory, and all of its natural spaces are well cared for. "Excellent stewardship of our diverse resources takes a tremendous effort by many highly skilled and committed people," Jeff says. "We love getting our hands dirty!"

**Volunteer and docent Dave Wooten** says volunteering at the gardens has helped him re-invent his life after retiring from a 30-year military career. Dave lends a hand with Conservatory and greenhouse projects and he's a docent for school groups, class tours, and after-school and weekend programs. Dave says volunteering allows him to "associate with an impressive talented staff that continues to amaze me on a daily basis. These are superbly intelligent people who dedicate their lives to educate the public in general and especially the children on the importance of conservation and nurturing our environment."

**Events Coordinator Allison Correll**, who works her magic in navigating the complexities of our program schedule and making sure our events happen without a hitch. Says Allison, "We keep refining how we manage and produce regular annual events while at the same time introducing new programming that appeals to our many different audiences. There's something for everyone throughout the year!"

As one of the **student caretakers** living at Nichols Arboretum, **Katie Hammond** helps keep the Arb safe looking its best by working on grounds and trail maintenance, invasive species control and volunteer management, to name a few. "The best part of living and working at the Arb, says Katie, is "seeing it change through the seasons and the years. It's also reassuring that even if we can't accomplish everything today, the land and the plants will be here long after we are."



# 2017 events & programming



## Cold-Weather Cure

### Take a Break from Winter in Our Conservatory

Daily 10 am-4:30 pm; Wednesday until 8

It's always summer in the conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Stop by for a life-affirming dose of pure nature and experience the tropics, a Mediterranean climate, and a desert landscape.

### Our Winter & Summer Hours

#### Matthaei Botanical Gardens:

**Winter** Labor Day through late May: daily 10 am-4:30 pm; Wednesdays until 8.

**Summer** Late May through Labor Day Daily 10 am-8 pm.

#### Nichols Arboretum:

Sunrise to sunset year-round.



## MARCH

### Ann Arbor Orchid Society Show & Sale

Sat. & Sun., March 18 (noon-4:30) & 19 (10 am-4:30 pm)



Orchids and orchid-growing accessories for sale in this popular annual show that features displays of orchids in bloom and more. Cosponsored by Matthaei-Nichols and the Ann Arbor Orchid Society. **Free.**

## APRIL

### The Grandmother Tree Walk

\*Part of the University of Michigan Bicentennial celebrations  
April 2-Dec. 31, 2017

A tree's-eye view of the bicentennial. The Grandmother Tree Walk is a self-guided tour of 12 trees in Nichols Arboretum. The trees are historically or horticulturally important and their stories are told alongside key moments in U-M's history. Maps will be available at the Arboretum visitor center, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and on-line beginning in April. **Free.**

### U-M Residential College Student Performance: *The Seagull*

Fri. & Sun., April 7 & 9, 7:30 pm, in the conservatory at Matthaei

Kate Mendeloff of the U-M Residential College directs, with students performing, Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov's 1895 play *The Seagull*. Performance held in the conservatory at Matthaei. **Free; limited seating.**

## MAY

### Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale Member Hour

Sat., May 13, 9-10 am

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



### Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale

Sat. & Sun., May 13 & 14, 10 am-4:30 pm

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

### Mother's Day Weekend Artisan Market

Sat., May 13, 9 am-4:30 pm

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

### Kitchen Favorites Sale Member Hour

Sat., May 20, 9-10 am

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

### Kitchen Favorites Sale

Sat. & Sun., May 20 & 21, 10 am-4:30 pm

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

## JUNE



### Magnificent Miniatures: Azalea Bonsai in Bloom at Matthaei Botanical Gardens June 3-11 (bloom time approximate)

For one week only, see a breathtaking exhibit of satsuki azalea bonsai in bloom on loan from renowned Ohio collector and University

of Michigan alumnus Dr. Melvyn Goldstein. Open to the public in the Bonsai and Penjing Garden. Details to come in our May print and digital newsletters. **Free.**

### Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden Season Memorial Day through mid-June (bloom time approximate)

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

### Peonies Galore Sale Member Hour

Sat., June 3, 9-10 am

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

### Peonies Galore Sale

Sat., June 3, 10 am-4:30 pm (or until peonies run out)

Bring some vintage beauty to your garden with our heirloom varieties of peonies. Sale held adjacent to the historic Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. Plants sell out; arrive early!

### Peony Blossoms & Pure Melodies

Sun., June 4, 2 pm (rain date: June 11)

A popular annual concert featuring Chinese flower songs performed by local musicians and singers. Cosponsored by the U-M Confucius Institute & Matthaei-Nichols. **Free.**

### Shakespeare in the Arb: *The Tempest*

Thurs.-Sun., June 8-11; 15-18;  
22-25, 6:30 pm

Now in its 17th year, Shakespeare in the Arb is directed by Kate Mendeloff of the U-M Residential College and performed by U-M students and community players. Members receive a discount on tickets. For more information and ticket prices visit our website, [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).

### Shakespeare in the Arb Member Benefit

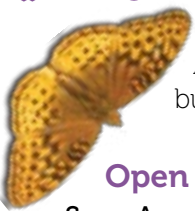
Members may reserve tickets through our Friends Online Box Office. Reserve tickets for any performance up to 24 hours before show time and pick up at will call. Look for more information on our website in May: [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu) and in the May e-news.

## JULY-AUGUST

### Things with Wings

Sun., July 30, 1-4 pm

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



### Open House & Intern Project Presentations

Sun., Aug. 6, 1-2 pm

Members and the public are invited to an open house, where our interns present and discuss the projects they've worked on all summer. **Free.**

### Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show & Sale

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 26 & 27

Includes a display of over 100 bonsai, demos in the bonsai and penjing garden at Matthaei, bonsai accessories and materials, Peoples' Choice awards, and more. \$3 admission per adult (12 and under free) payable at the door.

## SEPTEMBER

### Student Welcome Week: Shakespeare in the Arb Revival

Sun. & Mon., Sept. 3 & 4, 5 pm

Director Kate Mendeloff brings back the summer 2017 production of *The Tempest* in two performances for students only. **Free.** Student ID required.

### Cactus & Succulent Society Exotic Plant Sale

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 16 & 17, 10 am-4:30 pm

A large selection of cactus, succulents, and bromeliads, including air plants, for sale in sizes ranging from seedlings to mature plants. Supplies, books, and art prints also available. Lectures scheduled for both days. Info: 248-380-7359. Free admission. Presenter: Mich. Cactus & Succulent Soc. and SE Michigan Bromeliad Society. **Free.**

## Oak Tree Planting (Matthaei and the Arb)

\*Part of the University of Michigan Bicentennial celebrations

Date TBD

We're planting two locally sourced white-oak trees to honor the U-M Bicentennial. Planting date to be determined. **Free.**

## OCTOBER

### Native Plant Sale Member Hour

Sat., Oct. 7, 9-10 am

Matthaei-Nichols members enjoy a special one-hour sale of native plants prior to the public sale opening. Join us for coffee, tea, and breakfast munchies.

### Fall Native Plant Sale

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

A sale of native herbaceous and woody plants, many grown at Matthaei Botanical Gardens by staff and volunteers. A local nursery will also be on hand with woody plants and trees.

FALL SALE

### Zombie Run - Run for the Arb, Run for Your Life!

Fri., Oct. 13, dusk

Nichols Arboretum is an obstacle course of marauding zombies in this 5K run/walk over the Arb's trails. Can you survive to the finish line? Registration begins spring 2017. Member discount on registrations.

### Pumpkins, Lanterns, & Leaves

Fri., Oct. 20, time TBD

Light up the night in our new family event this fall! Join us after hours in the gardens with pumpkins, masks, and other harvest-themed fun. Then top off the evening with a parade of lanterns that kids and families make and take home. This is a ticketed event; member discounts apply. Ticket information and reservations available in September.

## NOVEMBER

### Sacred Plants - Holiday Conservatory Exhibit

Nov. 25, 2017-Jan 7, 2018 (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. Open New Year's day)

Focusing on plants in our conservatory collection, the holiday exhibit explores how certain plants figure in myth, lore, and ritual for cultures around the world. This annual winter/holiday event also features seasonal flowers, decorated trees, kids activities, holiday items in the Garden Store, and more. Discounts in the Garden Store for Matthaei-Nichols members. **Free.**

### Holiday Art Exhibit

Nov. 25, 2017-Jan. 7, 2018

A display of art created by U-M students, faculty and staff, and members of the local and regional communities. Stay tuned for exhibit details later in 2017. **Free.**

## DECEMBER

### Holiday Kids Program

Sat., Dec. 2, 10 am-noon

A special holiday program for kids and family that's part of the winter exhibit at Matthaei. Per-child program fee; details TBD.

### Holiday Artisan Market

Sun., Dec. 3, 10 am-4:30 pm

Our first holiday artisans market was such a success we're offering it again in 2017. This year, dozens of local artists as well as U-M students and staff are selling their high-quality crafts and art. No member discount on merchandise. **Free.**

### Holiday Greens Workshop

Sat., Dec. 9, time TBD

Our annual holiday greens/craft program for kids. Choose from a selection of evergreens and ribbons and decorate a bough for the door or mantle. Make winter related crafts to take home. Class fee TBA.

### Father Christmas

Sat., Dec. 16, noon-2 pm

The annual visit by the real McCoy, Father Christmas. In town for one day only. **Free.**



Photo credits: Cover: B&W photo of couple with dog at overlook in Nichols Arboretum, circa April 1943: University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library. This page: Orchid, Mother's Day plant sale, bonsai azalea, Shakespeare in the Arb, Father Christmas: Michele Yanga. Tribute panel: Photo by Andy and Kiki Markovits. All other photos courtesy Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum.

Indicates events at Matthaei

Indicates events at Nichols

\* U-M Bicentennial event

F Family/kids program