Inside: Artists Celebrating Nature • Interns Tell All • Sacred Plants • Campaign Dreams • Youth Ed Impact
High Hopes for Hoop Houses • Website Makeover • Volunteers Rock • and more
Yousef Rabhi

Yousef’s time at the Arb and Gardens began 10 years ago, in 2007, his first summer as an intern here. Yousef returned for four more summers, through 2011. In 2010 he was elected Washtenaw County Commissioner. And in 2014 he took the job of Matthaei-Nichols’ volunteer coordinator, leaving in December 2016 after he was elected as the Michigan state representative for the 53rd House District, which includes most of Ann Arbor.

Matthaei-Nichols (MN): What impact did Matthaei-Nichols have on the work you do now?

Yousef Rabhi (YR): When I started as an intern in 2007 I had the opportunity to take care of Nichols Arboretum. For me this was part of an ethic of stewardship and helping to maintain the Arb for students, visitors, and the community at large. When I ran for county commissioner in 2010, a lot of the same issues that I encountered as an intern came into play. Even now, if I walk through the Arb and I see a tree I planted more than 10 years ago—it’s a reminder of the work I did as an intern. As a state legislator I feel the same desire to help steward the state for the people of Michigan.

MN: What are some of your environmental passions or plans and goals for the future?

YR: I’ve been working on a number of bills related to alternative energy. I’d like to make it easier to put solar panels on residential property. I’m working closely with a bipartisan group of legislators to push that through. I’ve also got a bill that is sort of idealistic. It would require that the state switch to 100% renewable energy by 2050. I’ve believe that it’s important to set big goals if we want to start moving in the right direction!

Meredith Burke

Meredith Burke was summer 2016 intern in the communications department at Matthaei-Nichols, where she worked on special projects and social media. Currently she works with the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department as a program coordinator via AmeriCorps, where she coordinates and helps with several programs, including the department’s community garden, mobile food pantry, and special events.

Matthaei-Nichols (MN): What impact did Matthaei-Nichols have on the work you do now?

Meredith Burke (MB): As an intern I helped create the Grandmother Tree Walk, the Arb and Gardens’ activity for the U-M Bicentennial. That project allowed me to develop a growing appreciation for trees, how nature works, and how to creatively share that beauty with the world—from hardcore nature-lovers to just the average person who happens to find themselves in nature. Creatively and genuinely inviting all people to see the world from different perspectives is something that I took away from my time at Matthaei-Nichols and is very much a part of my every day work and life in Colorado.

MN: What are some of your environmental passions or plans and goals for the future?

MB: I finish my term with AmeriCorps in April and plan to transition to full-time employment in Colorado Springs. There are 2,000+ non-profits here, so hopefully I’ll land somewhere continuing the work I’m currently doing. After that I hope to attend grad school at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.
Matthaei-Nichols (MN): What impact did Matthaei-Nichols have on the work you do now?

Joél Reyes-Klann (JK): Working at Matthaei-Nichols for the past few years has definitely impacted the lenses through which I view the world, and was a large part of how I got to do the work I do now. I started here as a work-study, simply another less well-to-do undergrad needing a job and some spending money, but soon finding solace away from the bustle of campus while sitting in the dirt, pulling weeds, and listening to podcasts or music, if not simply enjoying ambient sounds of the Arb. As someone charged with tending the land to create a more welcoming environment, my experience here made me more deliberate and careful in the way I carry myself, as I am more aware of the power I carry and the impact I can have in any space.

Matthaei-Nichols (MN): What impact did Matthaei-Nichols have on the work you do now?

Citralina Haruo (CH): My confidence in my capacity to be a helper at the same time that I can serve as a learner is what changed the most from my experiences working with David. I was granted many opportunities to explore different corridors of professionalism, politics, academia, and indigeneity. Those learning and teaching moments all came at times during my internship in which I was encouraged to be autonomous and to be genuinely myself. That is what I continue to carry with me as I move through my daily routines and future planning.

MN: What are some of your environmental passions or plans and goals for the future?

JK: Being the foundation for our existence, natural areas and natural life should have a prevalent presence in our lives, especially in community life. The greater environment and the perceptions we make of it, being the cradle of all natural life and experience, should be regarded with the utmost respect. If we can lend credence to the idea that a strong, healthy environment is the platform from which life may thrive, I think the next step is working to create a coherent framework to get working to create that world.

CH: My dream is to work with indigenous/marginalized communities that need help creating an action plan to manage their natural resources in the face of climate change. That plan would include identifying, mitigating, and adapting to current and projected climate change impacts.
Thanks to the vision and generosity of our donors, we’ve raised $6,414 million in the Victors for Michigan campaign, and are 92% of the way towards our goal of $7,000,000! While this is impressive progress, there are still many opportunities to create change through the campaign.

Student support is the campaign’s highest priority across the University. Our immersive Nature Academy internship program prepares exceptional students from across campus to be effective leaders, advocates, and environmental stewards. And, these interns contribute critically to our core work.

We are educating the next generation of problem solvers by engaging youth in hands-on and nature-based activities, providing leadership development opportunities for U-M students, and leading cutting-edge research that creates bold ideas for solving critical environmental issues. Our gardens, farm, and natural areas provide an immersive setting for engaged learning.

There are many ways to make a gift in support of our campaign priorities including estate plans, as well as gift options that can provide you with a secure source of income now or in the future. Call or email me at 734.647.7847; merolson@umich.edu. I look forward to working with you to achieve your goals.

With 13 months left in the campaign, I’m excited to see how far we can go together to support our environmental mission.

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Student Support Giving Incentive

In celebration of the U-M Bicentennial, your endowed gift in support of student internships at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum may be eligible for incentive matching!

The Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative is a program that provides a pool of matching funds to encourage new gifts starting at $50,000. This program provides a 1:2 match for gifts that provide need-based financial aid and support endowments for undergraduate, graduate, or professional scholarships. Gifts ranging from $50,000 to $1 million that meet program eligibility requirements will be matched. Financial need is required as the primary criterion for all student support matched through this program.

If you are thinking about making a gift in support of student internships at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, contact Director of Development Meredith Olson at the number above.

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Plan for Tomorrow’s Victors Today!

Making a gift through your estate plans can be an easy way to leave a lasting legacy at Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum. Documenting your intention with us is simple, and will help ensure your wishes are met. When you document your intentions with U-M, the estimated value of your future gift counts toward current fundraising goals, and you retain the flexibility to change your plans, should your circumstances or priorities change.

For more information about making a gift through your estate plans, contact Director of Development Meredith Olson at the number above.
Member Impacts
By Ashley McCloskey, Membership Coordinator

Our 2700+ members have made a significant impact on our campaign progress!
To celebrate our philanthropic supporters, we hold several events throughout the year that provide opportunities for members to connect more deeply with nature, other members, and Matthaei-Nichols staff and volunteers. In 2017, we held 13 events and had over 620 guests in attendance! In September, we held an oak-tree planting event commemorating the U-M Bicentennial and our longtime members. The event included a slideshow of historical pictures and newspaper stories about Matthaei-Nichols, and a ceremonial tree planting with meaningful remarks from Director Bob Grese, Curator David Michener, volunteer Dave Wooten, and longstanding member Cathy Bach.

Member Spotlight - Cathy Bach
During her presentation at the oak-tree planting event, Cathy described her relationship with the Botanical Gardens as “long, very diverse, and extremely rewarding.” Her connection with the Botanical Gardens began in 1976 when she conducted her Ph.D thesis research studying cucumber beetles, leading her to grow over 15,000 pounds of cucumbers in the space that we now know as Campus Farm. Cathy has been a member of Matthaei-Nichols since 1986, when she was the Director of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens for a year. During her directorship, Cathy arranged for Matthaei to obtain control of Radrick Forest, which was originally managed by the Athletic Department.

Cathy and her husband Brian Hazlett have always valued nature and education. They were both professors, Cathy at U-M and EMU and Brian at U-M, and frequently brought their students to the Botanical Gardens for field exercises. They were even married in the Arboretum! Cathy and Brian’s longstanding relationship with the Botanical Gardens, both personally and professionally, led them to document a planned gift creating the Bach/Hazlett Children’s Nature Education Fund. The intention of the fund is to generate excitement and interest in K-6 children in exploring and understanding nature and ecology. Cathy and Brian continue to be dedicated members and attend events at Matthaei-Nichols throughout the year. They truly are ambassadors of our mission of promoting environmental enjoyment, stewardship, and sustainability through education, research, and interaction with the natural world. Thank you Cathy and Brian!

Recognizing Planned Giving to the U-M
Just as U-M’s founders had a vision to create an educational system of the future, so do the members of the John Monteith Legacy Society. Donors who generously support the university through planned giving provide the foundation for excellence for years to come.

Recognition in the society is automatic upon receipt of notice that the University of Michigan (all campuses) is named as a charitable beneficiary of your retirement plan, estate, life insurance, or annuity contract, or life income gift. If you wish, you may decline membership. Additionally, you may remain anonymous and exclude your name from donor listings if you prefer.

Our Planned Giving Donors
Ann & Richard Abdoo
Anonymous Donors
Cathy Bach & Brian Hazlett
Carol Brandon
Howard Bromberg & Maria Liu
Carl Cohen
Deanna & Richard Dornier
Kathy & Donald Duquette
Elizabeth & Gary Elling
Jean Forrest
Laura & David Gabriel
Mary Sue Grant
Clifford Gregory
Martha & John Hicks
Rebecca Horvath
Nancy & Robert Kaufman
Dorothy Lieffers
Mori & Cedric Richner
Sally Rutzky & Helmut Bertrand
Frederick Shell
Sheila Sikkenga
Joan & Jon Wolf
New Website Launches

The long-awaited website for Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum went live in October. The site is a culmination of more than a year of planning and implementation that included input from members, volunteers, staff, and students. The site features a contemporary design with plenty of gorgeous photos of our spaces and the people who visit them. We hope you’ll take a moment to visit the site—mbgna.umich.edu—and tell us what you think. Please send your comments and suggestions to newsletter editor Joseph Mooney: jfmooney@umich.edu.

High Hopes for Hoop Houses

Two new hoop houses went up this fall near the Campus Farm at Matthaei. That brings the total to three, with the houses making it possible to grow vegetables nearly year-round. Most of the produce is served to students, many of whom also helped grow the vegetables. The hyperlocal, super-fresh veggies are a big hit on campus, according to Director of Student Engagement Keith Soster. “You couldn’t have it any faster except for eating it in the field,” he says. And now that the produce from the hoop houses has GAP certification—or good agricultural practices, meaning it can be sold to U-M Dining—“we’re moving sustainability forward in a way that generates energy and interest for other students,” Soster adds. The hoops are also profitable, according to Campus Farm Manager Jeremy Moghtader. “I estimate that each hoop house generates $8,000 to $10,000 from the produce we sell to U-M Dining and also to the executive dining room at the U-M Ross School of Business,” Jeremy says.

David Michener Cowrites Peony Book

If you love peonies, you’ll want to get a copy of Peony, the understated title of the new book by Matthaei-Nichols’ Associate Curator Dr. David C. Michener and Carol Adelman, member of our Peony Advisory Board and owner of Adelman Peony Gardens in Oregon. Peony features not just luscious photos of peonies on nearly every one of its pages but also plenty of informative content including types of peonies available, growing information, the best peony varieties for specific needs, peony history, a list of best places to buy peonies, and the best public gardens to see them in. The book will be available on-line and in bookstores beginning early December. For more information visit timberpress.com.

Trail Opens with a Splash

Despite the rain, a damp but dedicated group of donors, members, university and local government officials, and Arb and Gardens’ staff gathered October 14 for the 10 am trail ribbon-cutting. In remarks prior to the opening, Michael Solomon, interim dean of Rackham, read a letter of congratulations from U-M President Mark Schlissel, who wrote that “The botanical gardens is a resource and site for important outreach functions and experiential learning by students from the University as well as students from K-12 programs throughout SE Michigan. It is wonderful to see how this valuable asset is enhanced further with the improved accessibility this trail now provides.” We invite everyone to come out to the botanical gardens and enjoy the trail soon!
Staff Awards Include Bob Grese, Mike Kost

Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese, together with producer-director Carey Lundin and the late producer-writer Mark Frazel, received a 2017 Professional Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for his contributions to the documentary film Jens Jensen: The Living Green. Frazel and Lundin credited Bob’s book, Jens Jensen: Maker of Parks and Gardens, as the basis of the film, with Bob helping to find the story and connect it to today. “I feel very honored to be a part of this award and am delighted to have the film recognized by the ASLA. Throughout the making of the film, I enjoyed working with Carey and Mark. For all of us involved, the film was truly a labor of love. Hopefully receiving this award will encourage more people to see the film and discover how Jensen’s artistry and devotion to conservation have lessons for today.” Curator of Native Plants Mike Kost received a 2017 Community Partner Award from the Community & Natural Resources Development Association at Michigan State University for his role in advancing our understanding and protection of vernal pools—seasonal pools that support a host of plants and creatures. Mike also received an award from the Michigan Botanical Club for his book A Field Guide to the Natural Communities of Michigan.

Architecture Student’s Project Imagines Sustainable Construction

“Reciprocal Shades,” a large-scale installation by Taubman College’s Ph.D student Omid Oliyan Torghabehi, is coming to Matthaei. According to Torghabehi, the project, part of his dissertation research, is meant to show how digital design processes can translate historic construction concepts into the contemporary built environment, and how these processes can then facilitate sustainable construction. The wood structure will be placed on “Mt. Matthaei,” the small hill in front of the main entrance to Matthaei. When installed, Torghabehi’s project will be on display for a year. Stay tuned for more info and interpretation materials in the new year.

Student Prizes Available

Cash prizes and funds are awarded each year to encourage and recognize affiliation, creative work, and scholarly activities with Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. For more info and to apply: mbgna.umich.edu. Deadline for applications/nominations is midnight Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

Everything You Wanted to Know about Native Plants but Were Afraid to Ask

You hear a lot about native plants these days. But they’ve long been absent or rare in most nurseries until recently, and information on how, when, where, and why to use them has been scant. If you want to learn more about their use in horticulture and especially in your garden, be sure to attend one or all of the series on native plants presented by the Ann Arbor chapter of Wild Ones. All programs begin 6:45 pm at Matthaei and are free. See the calendar section in this newsletter on pages 8-10 for details: Program: Native Seed Cleaning and Exchange - 1/10/18; You’ve Removed Invasive Plants—What’s Next? - 2/14/18; Designing Landscapes with Native Plants - 3/14/18; How to Grow Native Plants - 4/11/18.
Winter 2018 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

All programs and classes unless noted are free and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. • denotes off-site program

For complete program information visit our on-line calendar at mbgna.umich.edu

JANUARY

Tues., Jan. 9, 6:30 pm
Update on Current Beekeeping Practices
Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A discussion by local beekeeper, former president of Ann Arbor Beekeepers, and certified advanced master gardener Richard Mendel.

Wed., Jan. 10, 6:45 pm
Seed Cleaning and Exchange
Presenter: Ann Arbor Wild Ones
Help support Matthaei-Nichols’ eco-restoration efforts by sharing your surplus native seeds with the Arb and Gardens and the group. You’ll also learn techniques for cleaning seeds. Part I of a series.

Mon., Jan. 15, 10-11:30 am
Catching Your Breath
Presenter: MI 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

Mon., Jan. 15, 7:30 pm
Canopy Walk to Boomslang
Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club

Tues., Jan. 16, 7:30 pm
Solar Truths, Myths, and Promises
Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
A presentation by Chelsea-based clean energy and transportation technology expert Craig Toepfer, whose solar array in Chelsea powers his home and vehicles.

Wed., Jan. 17, 7:30 pm
Birding at the End of the World
Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Soc.
Join retired U-M physics professor and birder Len Sander for an illustrated program of the wildlife and spectacular scenery in Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, and Isla de los Estados, home to Andean Condors, Darwin’s Rhes, penguins and other creatures that inhabit this seldom-visited area.

Thurs., Jan. 18, 1-2:30 pm
Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Presenter: Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Cost: $20 which covers flowers and instructor. Reservations required.
Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Sat., Jan. 20, 11 am-2 pm
American Orchid Society Webinar
Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
Orchid experts from the Society conduct a webinar on various orchid subjects. Followed by a GLJ judging at 1 pm.

Sat., Jan. 20, 1:30-3 pm
Janet Macunovich: Planting Well Even When the Roots Aren’t Right
Presenter: Great Lakes Chapter North American Rock Garden Society
A presentation by Michigan garden designer, author, and educator Janet Macunovich on how to plant your garden effectively, keeping all-important roots in mind.

Sun., Jan. 21, 2 pm
Catasetum Orchids
Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A presentation on Catasetum orchids, an unusual group of orchids with fascinating, waxy flowers.

Mon., Jan. 22, 10-11:30 am
Catching Your Breath
Presenter: MI 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

FEBRUARY

Tues., Feb. 13, 6:30 pm
Products of the Hive: Salves and Balms
Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A presentation by Michigan beekeeper Sheldon Schwitek.

Wed. Feb. 14, 6:45pm
You’ve Removed Invasive Plants—What’s Next?
Presenter: Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Many people have questions about what to do after they’ve removed invasive plants on their landscapes. Come hear this panel of land managers and designers discuss their strategies for restoring and managing landscapes. Part II of a series.

Thurs., Feb. 15, 1-2:30 pm
Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Presenter: Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. $20 cost covers flowers and instructor. Reservations required.
Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Holiday 2017 Events

Winter Exhibit
Sacred Plants - Stories of Myth, Lore, and Legend
Through Jan. 8, 2017
A conservatory exhibit featuring plants celebrated in different cultures’ religions, myths, and rituals. Takes place in the conservatory at Matthaei.

Sat., Dec. 16, noon-2 pm
A Visit with Father Christmas
A great opportunity for kids and their families to visit with and get their photos taken with the real Father Christmas, in town for one day only!

We are open
New Year’s Day
10 am-4:30 pm
Start your new year with a visit to warmer climates in our conservatory.
**MARCH**

**Mon., March 5, 7 pm**
**Herb Seed Giveaway**
Presenter: Herb Study Group
Program also includes a presentation on starting plants from seed.

**Wed., March 7, 7 pm**
**Oh Deer! What’s Happened to My Plants?**
Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
Master Gardener Linda Green shares tips on how to deter deer in your garden and what plants deer are likely to avoid. Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

**Tues., March 13, 6:30 pm**
**Establishing a Varroa Resistant Population in the Apiary**
Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A talk by Roger Hoopingarner, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Michigan State University Entomology Department. Hoopingarner’s research interests were in apiculture. He has kept bees for 70 years, mostly in Michigan.

**Wed., March 14, 6:45 pm**
**Designing Landscapes with Native Plants**
Presenter: Ann Arbor Wild Ones
Native plant landscapes can range from formal to informal while being beautiful and supporting wildlife. This interactive conversation led by local landscape designer Drew Lathin is guided by drawings and pictures of native landscapes to identify tips and pointers for design success. Part III of a series.

**Thurs., March 15, 1-2:30 pm**
**Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging**
Presenter: Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Cost: $20 which covers flowers and instructor. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com

**March 17 & 18, 10 am-4:30 pm**
**Ann Arbor Orchid Festival at Matthaei**
Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Join us for one of the most popular events of the year—the annual orchid festival. Program includes orchid displays, orchid raffle, orchids, and related items for sale from orchid vendors, free presentations and demos on orchid growing: Free admission.

**Mon., March 19, 10-11:30 am**
**Catching Your Breath**
Presenter: Michigan 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.

**Mon., March 19, 7:30 pm**
**Wildflowers of Michigan: A Photo Project**
Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
Wildflower expert Dan Sparks gives a presentation on the state’s wildflowers.

**Tues., March 20, 7:30 pm**
**The World of Birds in Stamps**
Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Soc.
Amurthur Ramamurthy presents a fascinating and colorful program on stamps of the world depicting birds. Just as birding is about more than simple listing, stamp collecting opens the door to a vivid world of history, art, and zoology.

**Saturday, March 24, 10 am-4 pm**
**African Violets, Gesneriads, Fairy Gardens, & Terrarium Plants**
Presenter: MI State Africa Violet Society
A display and sale of these popular plants. Program includes a free growing skills class at 11 am on learning how to propagate African violets.

**Sun., March 25, 1-3:30 pm**
**American Dahlia Society New Introductions**
Presenter: Michigan Dahlia Association
A video presentation at 1 followed by an auction of Dahlia Society members’ 2018 introductions. Program includes handouts on growing and caring for dahlias. Info: 734.429.5796.
Wed., March 28, 7-9:30 pm  
**Bonsai Styling of Deciduous Trees**  
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
Tyler Sherrod of Dogwood Studios in North Carolina demonstrates how to style a deciduous tree. Tyler has studied with Boon Manakitivipart in California, and apprenticed with Shinji Suzuki in Japan. Info: annarborbonsaisociety@gmail.com.

**APRIL**

Mon., April 2, 7-8:30 pm  
**Perennial Herbs**  
Presenter: Herb Study Group  
A presentation on perennial herbs and how they have been used historically and today, including their medicinal and culinary uses by native Americans and early settlers and in Europe and Asia.

Wed., April 4, 7 pm  
**Prune Like an Expert**  
Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club  
Steve Turner, arborist for Belle Isle Conservatory and the Detroit Zoo, demonstrates the right and wrong way to prune, including choosing the correct tools and procedures. Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

Wed. April 11, 6:45pm  
**How to Grow Native Plants**  
Presenter: Wild Ones Ann Arbor  
Growing native plants often requires different strategies than those used in traditional horticulture. Come hear how Wildtype’s Bill Schneider propagates and grows native plants and what this means for using them in your garden or ecological restoration. Part IV of a series.
Why Nature-Based Education for Youth Matters

By Liz Glynn

As the youth education coordinator at Matthaei-Nichols, I’ve seen how kids benefit—often in surprising ways—from having nature in their lesson plan. For many of us a walk in the woods might be something we take for granted. But consider that of the 4,000 youth who took part in nature education here last year, more than 1,000 were under-represented youth visiting a botanic garden or natural area for the first time. This makes for a profound experience for participants and their families, and for Matthaei-Nichols, too.

Karen Dickelman is the science and field-trip coordinator at Marshall Upper Elementary in Westland. Each year Karen brings thirteen 5th-grade classes to Matthaei for field trips. Karen has seen how these trips affect the children, “most of whom are experiencing a nature hike for the first time while having an expert share knowledge about a variety of plants and animals in a very interactive way. Students come back to class talking about the experience for days after.”

A 2014 Ohio University study revealed that field trips and informal science education have a connection to science-related careers (Behrendt and Franklin, International Journal of Environmental & Science Education, pp. 235-245). This connection starts during elementary and continues through high school and beyond. Summer 2016 Nature Academy intern and current U-M School of Education doctoral candidate Ben Tupper has seen this effect up close during visits from local students participating in the Wolverine Pathways program. “Places like botanical gardens are rich with real-world phenomena and provide a place for youth to develop science interests, engage in science inquiry, and reflect on their experiences through sense-making conversations,” Ben observes. “These spaces have the power to attract and engage the next generation of scientists, teachers, and stewards of the planet.”

Programs and support materials are continually refined to ensure the experience is relevant to youth’s lives, enriches classroom learning, connects to science standards, and is filled with a sense of wonder. No small task! But we consider ourselves lucky to share nature and be present when the light bulbs click on and youth communicate their knowledge. This is a profound experience for us all.

Sat., Feb. 3, 10 am-noon, Sweet Things
Chocolate, fruits, and natural sweeteners have been used to make treats for hundreds of years. Explore the world of sweets and learn to make a chocolate treat flavored with an assortment of sweet flavors. Pre-registration suggested. Registration includes activities and materials per person. 18-YE-01 $10/child

Sat., March 10, 2 sessions, Faerie Door Workshop
Join us for a morning of creative fun and make a faerie door to welcome faeries and sprites to your home. Program is designed for children, but is also open to adults or guardians who want to participate. Register for one of two time slots. Classes fills quickly; pre-registration suggested. Includes materials and activities. 9:30-11 am (18-YE-02) $12/per person; 11:30 am-1 pm (18-YE-03) $12/per person

Spring Break at Matthaei!
Take a break from winter and enjoy your school spring break at Matthaei. Self guided and special programs throughout the week.

Choose your own adventure
Scavenger hunts, activity sheets, nature themed books, and more available at the front desk. Self-guided activities are free.

Fri., March 30, 10 am-noon, Just Deserts
Explore the diversity of life in deserts and learn how plants and animals depend on each other in this very special biome. Make a desert garden with succulent plants to take home. Program is designed for children, but is open to adults who wish to participate! 18-YE-04. $12.00/person

Sat., April 7, 10 am-noon, Super Seeds!
Investigate the secret life of a seed. Children will dissect flowers, fruits, and seeds and explore how seeds are made. We’ll sample edible seeds and then make a seed pot to take home. 18-YE-05. $8.00/child
Get Involved! Volunteer at Matthaei-Nichols
We welcome new volunteers to join us in every season at the Arb & Gardens. You'll develop new skills while supporting our mission of education and stewardship through hands-on service. Preregistration required for all trainings. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information: 734.647.8528.

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

Visitor Engagement – Ambassador Trainings (preregistration required)

Garden Ambassador Training
April 21, time TBD
Training provides an intro to the Visitor Engagement department, 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. Shifts are available daily, May–October.

Peony Ambassador Training
April date and time TBD
Ambassadors greet and guide visitors to points of interest in the peony garden during peak bloom time. Training 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.

Wow! Our volunteers work an impressive number of hours each year:

530 volunteers logged hours with our student programs (Campus Farm, Wild About Nature) for a total of 1,188 hours.

276 regular volunteers logged 12,246 hours of service!

1,023 volunteers (U-M students, community and corporate, private and public) helped with group workdays (a total of 3,494 hours!)

Volunteer Spotlight: Beth & Gerry Munsell
Behind every great volunteer is an amazing story. That’s definitely the case with Gerry and Beth Munsell. The Munsells have been ushering for Shakespeare in the Arb for 12 years. “Gerry’s sister also volunteers at the Arb and she got us started ushering for the plays,” Beth explains. “We like that the play is outside and that we move the whole audience from scene to scene.”

Besides volunteering for Shakespeare for 12 years, the Munsells have also committed decades of their lives to being foster parents—“78 children over the last 42 years,” Mary says. Shakespeare was a way to chill out from parenting duties. “It’s important to do things so the two of us get a break. We enjoy volunteering for the plays and so we get a sitter.” After Gerry’s retirement the Munsells only do respite and short-term emergency foster placements.

The unexpected keeps them coming back to Shakespeare. They especially enjoy the September student welcome week performances when the cast is more relaxed, according to Beth. During one student performance, she recalls, the Michigan Medicine Survival Flight helicopter landed near the hospital. “You couldn’t hear the actors,” she says, “so they all hammed it up and acted scared and hid in the trees. The audience loved it!”
A Year at Matthaei-Nichols by the Numbers

We continue to attract more people each year who value interaction and learning from nature: people of all ages, including students from across campus and in multiple classes, faculty seeking research spaces, volunteers, members of the public, schoolchildren, and families.

Student participation and engagement

- U-M students using our sites: 2,976 / 128 visits
- U-M classes held at our sites: 60
- Instructors: 42
- Summer interns ('16 & '17): 71 (33/2016; 38/2017)
- U-M volunteer groups: 19
- U-M student volunteers: 1,321

Faculty and grad student research

- Research projects: 47 (32 / 2016)
- Number of researchers: 44 (30 / 2016)

Children’s education

- School field trip participants: 3,620 / K-12
- Youth ed program participants: 600 / K-5
  - Field trips (school year & summer): 94
  - After-school/scout program participants: 20
  - Youth ed programs: 13

Nonprofit partners

(e.g. Audubon Society, Michigan Botanical Club, Herb Society, Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers)

- Partner programs: 140
- Number of nonprofit partners: 22

26: Public nature-based programs sponsored by Matthaei-Nichols (Shakespeare; art & other exhibits; concerts; workshops; family events)

135,000: Visitors to Matthaei FY 2017

330,000: Visitors to the Arb FY 2017
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