
The many ways your gifts impact us. Thank you for being a Victor for Nature!
Thank You
FOR BEING A
VICTOR FOR
NATURE
IN SUPPORT OF THE
VICTORS FOR MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN

Scenes from the Victors For Nature campaign celebration, November 1, Matthaei

Student Support :: Bold Ideas :: Engaged Learning
Left: Thank you for being a Victor for Nature!
More than 8,300 donors have contributed $8,500,000 in support of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum throughout the Victors for Michigan Campaign. On November 1, 2018, donors and friends gathered to celebrate our progress.

Right: Guests explore an interactive story map about the Peony Garden Initiative.
Support from the Victors for Michigan campaign is helping us transform the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden into an internationally recognized reference collection, a conservation model for other historic cultivar collections, and a destination for peony lovers. As we look ahead to the Peony Garden Centennial in 2022, your support will continue the preservation and restoration of this historic garden.
(All photos pages 4-5 by Daryl Marshke-Michigan Photography.)

Above: Guests explore a model of the passive solar greenhouses found at Campus Farm.
Throughout the campaign, private support has transformed a small field at Matthaei Botanical Gardens into a living, learning laboratory for sustainable food systems. Since the beginning of the campaign, Campus Farm has added four passive solar greenhouses, a sustainable straw bale structure, and washing and packing stations. This infrastructure provides educational, research, and engagement opportunities that connect students across the University with sustainable food systems.

Above right: Curator David Michener discusses highlights of our bonsai collection with guests.
“The art of bonsai celebrates what is possible when people and nature work together” – Jack Wile
Bonsai brings together art and science, bridging cultures, challenging thinking, and encouraging sustainability. What better home for a premier bonsai collection than here at Michigan? Support from donors during the Victors for Michigan Campaign is positioning Matthaei Botanical Gardens as one of the foremost collections of bonsai and penjing in North America.
Gifts FROM 8,300+ DONORS


Right: Curator Mike Kost talks native plants with guests.
At the beginning of the Victors for Michigan Campaign, the Great Lakes Gardens existed only in concept and as a few sketches on paper. Thanks to the generous support of donors throughout the campaign, the Great Lakes Gardens is now a collection of fragile habitats and rare plants of the Great Lakes’ region, and is a place of beauty where visitors can see plants they might never come across in the wild. The gardens will also serve as a place for research and will inspire conservation for generations to come.

Below: Guests experience biking from the gardens to the Arb.
During the Victors for Michigan Campaign, private support helped us address one of our biggest challenges—creating safe transportation options to the botanical gardens. The Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail now provides a nonmotorized link from the gardens to Parker Mill Park to the south, with connections to the county trail system, the local Gallup Park pathway, and U-M Nichols Arboretum and central campus.

Right, middle and below: Staffer Lee Smith Bravender helps guests explore nature play activities.
Nature education programming at Matthaei-Nichols is committed to engaging the next generation in creating a sustainable future. This goal drives everything we do, from immersing youth in nature-based play in the Gaffield Children’s Garden, to hosting environmental field trips to reinforcing field-based learning experiences for U-M students. Launched during the Victors for Michigan Campaign, the Nature Education Initiative seeks to permanently fund our educational mission. To date, we have raised $2,650,000 towards a goal of $4,000,000 for nature education!

Campaign impact stories continued

There’s still work to do and your gift in this campaign will allow us to pursue our ambitious vision. The Victors for Michigan Campaign ends on December 31, 2018. Contact Director of Development Meredith Olson at merolson@umich.edu or 734.647.7847 to discuss the impact you want to make in this campaign.

(All photos pages 6-7 by Daryl Marshke-Michigan Photography.)
Finding Common Ground in a Special Woods
Students and community members work together to preserve a rare slice of virgin land

Sylvia Taylor has been studying trees long enough to remember when the elms were dying everywhere, including Horner-McLaughlin Woods. Taylor, adjunct assistant professor in the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), has been conducting volunteer eco-restoration workdays for many years in those woods, one of Matthaei-Nichols four properties. That experience endows her with a historical perspective on a place that’s remained largely untouched by humans for nearly 300 years.

“The big thing about Horner Woods, Taylor explains, is that it’s never been logged and likely never been grazed. It deserves to be called a virgin landscape. Considering that it’s so close to urban areas, it has the least 20th-century disturbances.”

That alone makes it worth protecting and restoring, says Jack Pritchard, a caretaker at Nichols Arboretum. And a student in SEAS studying conservation ecology and landscape architecture. Pritchard and Taylor led a workday in Horner Woods in November with U-M students and members of the Michigan Botanical Club.

The further we stray from nature, says Pritchard, the further we move away from recognizing our mark on it and consequently how that affects humans. “We have such a huge impact on the environment, and we need to recognize how we’re shaping everything with our actions and decisions.”

The November workday made for a working lesson in a living classroom. Students volunteering for Timmy Global Health and the American Medical Student Association were there, as was Michigan Botanical Club. The club donated the Horner Woods land in 1965. Michigan Engineering undergraduate Kelsey Philipps didn’t know much about Horner-McLaughlin Woods prior to the workday, but she says the work and the education experience was great. “I learned a lot about the different kinds of invasive species that were in the area and how they got there.”

Philipps adds that participating in nature-based workdays is important for students. “You learn about the local environment and plants, and you also learn the importance of the work done by volunteers for the quality of our local environments.”

Want to be part of a similar story? Matthaei-Nichols welcomes volunteer student and community groups to help our efforts. For more information about this and our many volunteer opportunities Contact Volunteer Coordinator Christine Chessler-Stull 734.647.8528; cmchess@umich.edu. Or visit our website mbgn.umich.edu.

A Year at Matthaei-Nichols by the Numbers
The numbers below reflect how many people from the University of Michigan and local communities value interaction and learning from nature on our properties.

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<th>Student and faculty engagement and research</th>
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<td><strong>U-M classes held at our sites</strong></td>
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<th>Volunteer participation</th>
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<td><strong>Individual volunteers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total volunteer hours</strong></td>
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<th>Youth &amp; children’s education</th>
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<td><strong>School field trip participants</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Youth ed program participants</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Field trips</strong> (school year &amp; summer)</td>
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<td><strong>After-school/scout program participants</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Partner programs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Number of nonprofit partners</strong></td>
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**Campus Farm Student Engagement**

| Friday workdays | 27 |
| Number of student participants | 617 |
| Number of hours | 1,234 |

**Youth ed programs**
44:
Public nature-based programs sponsored by Matthaei-Nichols (Shakespeare; art & other exhibits; concerts; workshops; family events)
Conifers at Your Fingertips, Thanks to Technology

We’ve been making a lot of GIS (geographic information system) data available online to the university community for research and teaching. The data is also available to anyone who wants to explore our living collections. Winter is the perfect time to get outside for a walk around our properties for a look at conifers, the trees that stay green all winter. Use your smart phone to navigate to key plant specimens within Matthaei-Nichols properties. Staff, student interns, and volunteers are using GPS units, iPads, and smart phones to document the locations of trees and shrubs throughout Nichols Arboretum and Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Information is being used to help students and our visitors learn to identify plants at the Arb and Gardens. On your next visit to the Arb, pull up the “Conifers of Nichols Arboretum” app using your smartphone’s web browser and easily navigate to 28 species of conifers from Michigan and around the world.

Like a Plant from Another Planet

Matthaei Botanical Gardens is anticipating the blooming of our titan arum in 2019 or 2020! Also known as a corpse flower (Amorphophallus titanum) this species produces the largest unbranched inflorescence of any flowering plant. And oh the smell when it flowers! Right now this plant is in its vegetative growth cycle and is displayed in the conservatory. This cycle, the corm weighted 22 pounds at replanting and shot up its one leaf stalk to over 6 feet tall in 2 months. The corm was acquired through a plant exchange with the U-C Berkeley Botanical Garden in 2014. Its parents were “Titania” (mother) pollinated by frozen pollen from “Trudy” in 2005. Trudy and Titania were both seedlings grown from seeds collected by the late Dr. James Symonds of San Francisco. Dr. Symons made plant collection trips to Sumatra and Indonesia between 1985 and 1995 to obtain seeds of the titan arum. The “flower” gives off sulfur compounds and other organic chemical compounds that smell a lot like rotting animal flesh. The flower actually produces heat to volatilize these aromas further afield, a process that attracts pollinators such as carrion beetles and flies.

First Indigenous Collaborative Harvest Feast

Over 50 people gathered to celebrate the fruits of our first year of the Indigenous Collaborative Garden at Matthaei October 26. This year was a learning process about using traditional approaches. We had an abundant harvest of corn, tobacco, and squash. Sunflowers, Potawatomi watermelons and beans were successful. After the opening ceremony, activities centered on the harvested heritage crops, and the hosted potluck feast. Friends from 7 First Nations were present, and the Little Traverse Bay Bands honored all by bringing their Eagle Staff, carried by Joe VanAlstine. Student representatives from the three University of Michigan Native American student associations honored elders before the feast. During the feast, there was an exchange of honor gifts—and the gardens has one of the rare Potawatomi watermelons with the encouragement to distribute the seeds. Over a dozen U-M units were represented. The project is ongoing, with planning for the 2019 garden in the coming months. For more information, contact michener@umich.edu. For a list of the seven First Nations present visit our blog: mbgna.umich.edu/blog/.

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. Online applications begin December 15, 2018. Deadline for applications/nominations is midnight Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

Transitions

This has been a year of many staff leaving and new staff arriving. Congratulations to long-time staffer Adrienne O’Brien! Adrienne, who has worked at the Botanical Gardens and the combined Botanical Gardens and Arboretum since 1982, is leaving at the end of 2018. Through the years she’s worn many hats and worked on countless projects, gardens, and events. She has worked with many volunteer and student workers over the years and led efforts that include plant propagation, establishing many different gardens, and the recent efforts to rejuvenate the Peony Garden. It won’t be the same here without her! Best wishes, Adrienne. Welcome Alexis Ford, our new visitor engagement events coordinator. Alexis, who started in September 2018, previously worked on projects throughout southeast Michigan including the Kensington Metropark Art Fair, Belle Isle Art Fair, YpsiArt Festival of the Honeybee, D’tipi Summer Festival and many more. Andy Tough joined Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum in August as the Garden Store and front desk manager. He brings with him a lot of retail management and customer service experience working with teams at Williams Sonoma, Google, and most recently as the associate director of operations at EyeQuity. Andy will focus on retail and front desk operations. Ashley McCloskey, assistant director of annual giving, left in October to accept a position as a major gift officer at the Ross School of Business. Ashley had coordinated our membership and tribute programs. We wish her success. Our new volunteer coordinator Christine Chesser-Stull started in September. Prior, she worked with the community in outreach, volunteer, and environmental education programs for the City of Ann Arbor’s Natural Area Preservation (NAP) and Recycle Ann Arbor. Welcome Christine. David Betz, formerly our visitor engagement manager, has taken on a new role and title at Matthaei-Nichols. David is now the chief administrative officer. In that capacity he will be working with budgets and business operations, and he will continue to work with visitor engagement. Karen Sikkenga, associate director, is leaving at the end of December for a position with EMD Consulting, a firm that works with many nonprofits, including dozens of botanical gardens, parks, and conservancies. Karen has been with Matthaei-Nichols for more than 13 years. Mason Opp has joined us as the conservatory and greenhouse technician, a temporary position that goes through June 2019. Mason had been an intern and student worker for the past 18 months at Matthaei-Nichols.

PICTURED left, top: A white pine in Nichols Arboretum. A new app allows anyone with a smart phone to identify and locate woody plants at Matthaei-Nichols. Winter is a perfect time to get outside, discover, and learn about conifers. left, bottom: The last stalk of the Amorphophallus titanum on display in the conservatory towers over the other plants like an alien tree. After several years of carefully managing the growing corm, the titan arum is expected to bloom in 2019 or 2020. When it does, the inflorescence will give off the putrid smell of rotting animal flesh—a technique the plant uses to attract flies and other pollinators. Above, top: Elder Sydney Martin (c) announcing why William Johnson (l) is being honored with the Potawatomi watermelon held by Kev-in Finney (r) at the first indigenous collaborative harvest feast held at Matthaei October 26. In the background is a partial view of the Eagle Staff of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Above, bottom: The poster for “Beautiful Bugs,” the holiday conservatory exhibit at Matthaei. The display focuses on the insects, spiders, and other multi-legged creatures that inhabit our global ecosystems. Exhibit runs through January 6, 2019.

Winter is a perfect time to get outside and identify and locate woody plants at Matthaei-Nichols. Use your smart phone to navigate to key plant specimens within Matthaei-Nichols properties. Staff, student interns, and volunteers are using GPS units, iPads, and smart phones to document the locations of trees and shrubs throughout Nichols Arboretum and Matthaei Botanical Gardens.
Winter 2019 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

**January**

**Tuesday, Jan. 8, 6:30 pm**
**The Beauty of Native Plants**
Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Local nursery owner Drew Lathin talks about ways that home gardeners can use native plants to create beautiful and ecologically restorative landscapes for residential, commercial, and public spaces that support wildlife, reduce resource inputs, and create healthy outdoor living spaces. Wed. Jan. 9, 6:45-8:30 pm

**Monarch Butterfly Migration**
Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Andre Green, a U-M Presidential Ann Arbor Farm & Garden Janet Macunovich, Michigan garden designer, and author, discusses ways to keep your garden looking good even in the off-season. $5 fee supports AAGF’s grants/scholarships fund. Registration required: annarborfloralgardens.org. Held at Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Mon. Jan. 14, 10-11:30 am

**Four Season Landscapes**
Ann Arbor Farm & Garden
Sally Oey, U-M professor of astronomy, describes the benefits of darkness for us and our fellow beings, as well as how we can navigate our nighttime lives with less escaped light.

**Thurs., Jan. 17, 1-2:30 pm**
**Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging**
Ann Arbor Ikebana Int’l. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with help from a certified instructor. $20 fee covers flowers and instructor. Please email 2 weeks prior to each class to receive an e-invite to attend. Registration limited to 25. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

**Sat., Jan. 19, 11 am**
**Recent Orchid Society Awards**
Great Lakes Judging Society (Orchids)
Accredited American Orchid Society Judge Dennis Sefernick gives a Powerpoint program of the latest AOS orchids. Orchid judging at 1 Visitors welcome to observe.

**Sat., Jan. 19, 10-3 pm**
**Benedict’s Garden**
Great Lakes Chapter, N. American Rock Garden Society
Indiana nursery owner Esther Benedict focuses on small plants, dwarf woodies, and their uses in modern gardening. Participants will learn helpful things for their own gardening from Esther’s experiences growing treasures.

**Sun., Jan. 20, 2 pm**
**Orchid Growing for Beginners**
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Learn the important elements of growing orchids: how air movement, fertilizer, pest control, potting media, sunlight and water will bring you beautiful flowers!

**Mon., Jan. 21, 7:30 pm**
**The Other New World Temperate Vegetation Zone: Patagonia**
Michigan Botanical Club, Huron Valley
University of Michigan Herbarium Curator Tony Reznick discusses the forests and grasslands of Patagonia.

*Holiday 2018 Events Winter Exhibit: Beautiful Bugs - The Amazing Insects of Our Global Ecosystems*
Through Jan. 6, 2019
A conservatory exhibit featuring larger-than-life graphics, representations of the insects and other megalegged creatures that inhabit our world. Accompanied by a community art exhibit of the same name that looks at insects from the artist’s perspective.

**Sat., Dec. 15, 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.

**February**

**Mon., Feb. 11, 10-11:30 am**
**Catching Your Breath**
Mich. Alzheimer’s Disease Center

**Tues., Feb. 12, 6:30 pm**
**Bees in New Zealand**
Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Long-time Lansing-area beekeeper Steve Tillman talks about beekeeping Down Under. Program also includes a mini-workshop on building and using a Styrofoam nuc.

**Wed., Feb. 13, 6-45-8:30 pm**
**Landscape for Life**
Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Julie Conley, landscape architect, discusses a national program sponsored by the US Botanical Garden called “Landscape For Life” that empowers homeowners to create a more earth-friendly garden at home.

**Winter Dormant Orchids**
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Orchids that are dormant in the winter allow some down time for working on the rest of your collection or taking a winter vacation. Speaker Leo Schordie talks about orchids that go dormant in the winter.

**Mon., Feb. 18, 7:30 pm**
**The Complex Environmental Web of Northern Lower Michigan: Cimate, Soils, Forests**
Michigan Botanical Club, Huron Valley
Randy Schaezit, professor in the Michigan State University Department of Geology, discusses the process of soil formation in conjunction with climate and plant communities in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

**Tues., Feb. 19, 7:30 pm**
**Archnids: No Need for Phobias**
Sierra Club Huron Valley
Cara Shillington, professor of biology at EMU, discusses her research, which includes observations of spider behavior in the wild. It is a great opportunity to observe different specimens. 

**March**

**Mon., March 4, 7 pm**
**Herb Seed Giveaway**
Herb Study Group
Start your summer herbs early. Group President Madolyn Kaminski also offers tips on seed starting.

**Wed., March 6, 6 pm**
**Growing & Share: Planting America**
Ann Arbor Garden Club
Michigan Garden Clubs President Carol Brender discusses garden efforts of the Michigan and National Garden Clubs including the project “Michigan Pollinator Gardens.” Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

**Mon., March 11, 10-11:30 am**
**Creating Your Breath**
Mich. Alzheimer’s Disease Center

**Tues., March 12, 6:30 pm**
**Bee Nutrition**
Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Beekeeper Andrea Hoffman discusses microbes and bee nutrition.

**Mon., March 18, 7 pm**
**Creating Near Native Habitats in Built Environments.**
MI Botanical Club, Huron Valley
Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Matt Demmon, director of native landscapes division at Plantwise, discusses how planting design and new models of landscape maintenance can help us create resilient, beautiful plantings that have the chance of fulfilling the stormwater and ecosystem functions we are trying to create.

**April**

**Mon., April 1, 7 pm**
**Growing Herbs for the Kitchen**
Herb Study Group
Group President Madolyn Kaminski also offers tips on growing your own herbs for cooking.

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**Calendar continued next page**
Winter 2019 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

Focus on Choice Alpines
Great Lakes Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society
Two programs presented in one day by Ger van den Beeken, one of Europe's most eminent experts on the cultivation of choice alpine plants. Program I (13-12.30): The Cultivation and Propagation of the Genus Saxifraga (includes Porphyrophyl, Saxifraga and Liguilatae Saxifragae). Program II (13.30-3): Cushion Plants.

Mon., Apr. 8, 10-11:30 am Catching Your Breath
Mich. Alzheimer's Disease Center
A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

Tues., Apr. 9, 6:30 pm Producing Nucs to Meet Your Needs
Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Caledonia, Mich.-based beekeeper Ray Lackey discusses making nucs as well as record keeping for your beekeeping efforts and how to learn from your mistakes.

Sat., Apr. 13, 2-4:30 pm Annual Dahlia Tuber Sale
Michigan Dahlia Association
Program also includes a video presentation on growing and caring for dahlias along with handouts.

Sun., Apr. 14, 2 pm Orchid Mounting Demonstration
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Epiphytic orchids grow in trees, lithophytic orchids grow on rocks. Chris Steel demonstrates how, using plastic mounts, mounting orchids is a great natural way to grow them.

Mon. Apr. 15, 7:30 pm Spring Ephemerals of the Great Lakes
MI Botanical Club Huron Valley; Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Presenter Bob Smith displays and discusses colorful photographs of spring ephemerals (perennial woodland wildflowers that bloom and set seed quickly), while Robert Ayotte highlights the systematics and site preferences for each species. This is a primer for up coming field trips.

Mon., Apr. 15 – June 3, 10-noon Mindfulness-based Dementia Care
MI Alzheimer's Disease Center
A free, 7-week program specifically designed for family caregivers of persons with dementia. Learn how the practice of mindfulness can help you cope with the challenges and stresses of dementia care, and also greatly improve the experience of the person in your care. Program time slot listed is tentative. For class times or to register call U-M Memory Connection at 734.936.8803. Program runs Mondays, April 15 – June 3.

Tues., Apr. 16, 7:30 pm PFAS in Health and the Environment
Sierra Club Huron Valley
PFAS, perfluorinated compounds, is an umbrella term for some 5,000 chemical compounds that have been manufactured and used in consumer products since 1960. Stephen Brown, Ph.D., chemist and co-chair of the Sierra Club Huron Valley conservation committee, provides a non-technical review of aspects of concern about PFAS.

Thurs., Apr. 18, 1-2:30 pm Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with help from a certified instructor. $20 fee covers flowers and instructor. Please email 2 weeks prior to each class to receive an e-invite to attend. Attendance limited to 25. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com

Sat., Apr. 20, 11 am Botanical Terminology: A Look at Words We Can Use to Describe Flower and Plant Parts
Great Lakes Judging Society (Orchid)
Accredited AOS judge Dave Miller familiarizes us with the anatomy and descriptions of orchids and other plants. Orchid judging at 1. Visitors welcome to observe.

Fri., May 17, 10 am-2 pm Caregiver Wellness Day
MI Alzheimer's Disease Center
This free program for learning skills essential for continued health and well-being is designed for caregivers of adults living with memory loss. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

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

Last year, more than 20 nature-based, mission-affiliated non-profit groups offered 126 programs to the public at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. Topics ranged from beekeeping at home to birding to bonsai, orchid growing to ikebana to gardening for native plants. On average 60 people showed up at each program. The program series accommodates children.

Spring weekends call for a cup of hot cocoa or tea and sweet treats. Learn about tea time around the world and make a special tea or cocoa mix to take home. Learn how to make a healthy snack to go with your tea.

Pre-registration suggested. Registration includes activities and materials per person. Recommended for children ages 5-12. $10/child, Adult accompanies children.

March 20, 10 am-noon Faerie Doors Workshop
Faeries are nature's guardians, keeping a watchful eye on the natural world. Invite them to your garden or home by creating beautiful faerie doors decorated with natural materials and other decorations. After the program, visit the conservatory to look for beautiful faerie gardens.

NOTE: Two sessions on one date: 9:30-11 am (19-YE-02) and 11:30-2 pm (19-YE-03). Pre-registration suggested. Registration includes activities and materials per person. Recommended for children 4-12. $12/child, Adult accompanies children.

Check out our youth education and family programs on our website: mbgna.umich.edu/education/youth-education/

The Importance of Field Trips
By Liz Glynn, Matthaei-Nichols K-12 Education Coordinator

Field trips enrich classroom learning, develop natural science skills, and enhance personal growth. Students learn to navigate the subtleties of working in small groups and practice interacting with each other and new people in meaningful ways. Field trips expand horizons for children, introduce them to new experiences, and in turn inform their world views. Studies indicate that nature-based field trips increase students' interest in the environment later in life.

We look forward to summer, when student interns like Sabrina Mastroianni come on board to help out with our nature-based ed efforts and field trips. Sabrina says that it's difficult to know in advance what her impact as an educator will be. And while she always hopes to make that impact when she teaches, "It always turns out to be so much more than I ever assume. The students I taught at Matthaei broke those assumptions by continuously asking questions, making connections or even just saying 'plants are so cool!!' Being able to facilitate memorable experiences that generated curiosity and brought inspiration about the natural world to youth was an opportunity I will never forget."

Summer 2018 intern and Sarah Duke Conservation Scholar Tiffany Wu points out the importance of an inclusive dynamic: "Sometimes certain students were seemingly disengaged in an activity, but after our conversations about their interests and passions, they would jump right into the activity and offer some of the most insightful and creative ideas in their projects." Tiffany helped conduct the education programs for the Wolverine Pathways students this summer.

We aim to make a difference in accessibility, too. In 2018 about 4,000 K-12 students visited Matthaei. Thirty percent of those students attend Title One schools. Our field trip subsidy fund covers half the cost and enables students and their adult chaperones to experience the beauty, wonder, and excitement of Matthaei-Nichols and the University of Michigan. For most of these students this field trip is their first visit to a botanical garden or natural area like ours, for those children and many others it is an awe inspiring adventure.

Fri., March 29, 10 am-noon, Just Deserts a Spring Break Adventure
Deserts are beautiful, special places with plants uniquely adapted to dry conditions. Explore the arid house and learn how plants & animals survive in the desert. Then, make a desert garden to take home with succulents that require little care or water.

Pre-registration suggested. Registration includes activities and materials per person. Recommended for ages 5-12. $12.00/child, Adult accompanies children 19-YE-04.

Sat., April 6, 10 am-noon, Super Seeds!
Seeds are a mystery; how does a tiny seed grow into a big tomato plant? Now is the time to start seedlings which can be transplanted when the weather is warm. Explore the life cycle of plants from flower to seeding and plant seeds to grow at home.

Pre-registration suggested. Registration includes activities and materials per person. $10/child, Adult accompanies children 19-YE-05.