I’m writing today to let you know that I will retire from the university in June 2020, both as director of Matthaei-Nichols and as professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability (SEAS). I am looking forward to the transition and wrapping up the many projects already underway.

I often tell people that I have the best job at the university. For me, the combination of working with students at SEAS and then putting my landscape architecture skills directly to use in shaping our properties has brought me much joy.

While we’ve accomplished many things during my time here, there is much to be done yet this next year. In addition, we’ve created a strong momentum with our dedicated staff and other supporters that I know will continue with the next director.

That forward momentum is a result of the many achievements we can be proud of. Those include a much stronger engagement of faculty and students at Matthaei-Nichols and the establishment of more thorough management plans for our natural areas.

We’ve also rejuvenated our existing display spaces and created new gardens at Matthaei. This has positioned us as an entry point for community engagement with the university and helped make us a destination for visitors from all over.
We built the Campus Farm and created its many related programs, installed the Matthaei Botanical Gardens trail, revitalized the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden as a model for historic plant conservation, and developed Shakespeare productions and other arts programs at both our sites.

In addition, we’ve transformed Matthaei-Nichols as a place for demonstrating sustainable design and practices and as a center for hands-on learning about nature and the environment.

And we’ve built considerable momentum and even greater potential for moving the university’s green agenda forward in meeting carbon neutrality goals and climate change adaptation. The following pages illustrate how many of our plans and dreams became reality over the years.

It’s an exciting time to be a part of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum, and we all have so much to be proud of. Thanks again for all your help and support!

Bob

Bob Grese
Director, Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum
Bob Grese is passionate about native plants, in particular the plants and habitats of the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes Gardens (above), opened in 2014, is unique among American botanical gardens. It presents a series of contiguous spaces that showcase Great Lakes regional plants growing in specially recreated habitats such as dune, alvar, and wetland. Many of these plants are rare and little-seen in the wild. For visitors, interpretation illuminates the role conservation plays in protecting this unique diversity. It’s fitting that the Great Lakes Gardens are located at the University of Michigan, with its great tradition of botanists knowledgeable of our region’s flora and home to the Michigan Flora Project at the U-M Herbarium. Previous pages: Bob examining a pitcher plant in the conservatory; teaching a class in nearby Radrick Forest, and helping install the first hoop house at the Campus Farm. (Photo by Mike Kost, Matthaei-Nichols associate curator.)
It’s been my pleasure to know Bob Grese for nearly 10 years in my capacity as the Matthaei-Nichols newsletter editor and communications lead. In that time I’ve watched as Bob’s vision has played out against the backdrop of a growing public appreciation of nature’s benefits.

Bob has been the director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum since 2004, when the two units merged at the University of Michigan. Before that, he was director of Nichols Arboretum since 1999. He is also a professor and was the Theodore Roosevelt Chair of Ecosystem Management (2013-2018) in the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. Bob’s teaching and research involve ecologically based landscape design and management that respects the cultural and natural history of a region. As the country’s foremost expert on the landscape architect Jens Jensen, Bob wrote an essential book on Jensen and his work and thinking in landscape design. He has also written extensively about the connection between children and nature, on conservation and restoration, on native landscapes, and on the role of volunteers in environmental stewardship.

As director Bob has taken these lessons from nature to heart and put them into practice, developing programs and spaces that tell the story of our natural heritage and the key connections between humans and nature. Bob oversaw the installation of multiple garden spaces in recent years. At Matthaei, the Medicinal Garden reflects the history of the university’s first botanical garden and the indispensable role that plants play in human health. The Great Lakes Gardens, opened in 2014, is unique among gardens nationwide with its series of contiguous spaces that showcase Great Lakes regional plants—often rare and little-seen in the wild—growing in specially recreated habitats. The Bonsai & Penjing Garden at Matthaei shows how these living works of art link and uplift us across history and culture with their lessons about art, design, horticulture, and meditative gardening. The Gaffield Children’s Garden at Matthaei, opened in 2009, powerfully demonstrates the importance of children’s engagement in nature and how that early exposure helps transform them into environmental stewards later in life.

In the Arb, Bob has guided the beloved peony garden into a national treasure that’s set to celebrate its one hundredth anniversary in just a few short years. Shortly after Bob joined the University in the mid-1980s he began working to restore the prairie and oak openings habitats at Dow Field, which led to other restoration efforts throughout the Arb. Many other projects evolved under his direction—creation of the River Landing area and reclamation of the riverbanks of the Huron, renovation of the Heathdale area and creation of Laurel Ridge collections, rejuvenation of the Centennial Shrub Collection at the Geddes entrance, creation of the Gateway Garden at the Washington Heights entrance, and various examples of creative stormwater management throughout the Arb.

Underlying all of these projects is Bob’s vision of the power of nature and its capacity to change our lives if we listen, look, and fully immerse ourselves in it. Bob’s commitment to connecting people with nature has launched a robust nature education program that will continue to engage the next generations of problem solvers and innovators in creating a sustainable future. As Bob prepares to leave we couldn’t find ourselves better prepared to pursue an ambitious vision for Matthaei-Nichols.

—Joseph Mooney, Editor, Matthaei-Nichols newsletter
All the ways our programs, places, and people intersect and engage with nature

Pictured, both pages: For Bob Grese, the spaces in Matthaei and Nichols must tell the story of our natural heritage and the key connections between humans and nature. The Bonsai & Penjing Garden at Matthaei, above, showcases our ever-growing collection of bonsai. In June this year, donor Melvyn Goldstein’s satsuki azalea took center stage. Satsuki azalea, revered in Japan, offer the contemplative qualities sought after in great bonsai along with the beauty of delicate spring blossoms that capture the fleeting nature of life. For University of Michigan staff and students and for members of the community, Nichols Arboretum is a living stage. People visit to refresh, to exercise, meditate, relax, and engage with nature. When Shakespeare in the Arb’s in high season and the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden blooms (right, top), visitors revel in a moment made for the mind and the senses. True to its name, the Campus Farm, below right, attracts students from all over the university to dig in the dirt and grow things in this living, learning laboratory for sustainable practices. (Photos by Michigan Photography.)
Nature Education at Matthaei-Nichols

In 2015, Matthaei-Nichols launched the Nature Education Initiative with the goal of raising $4M to permanently fund the educational mission at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. Since that time, we’ve secured a combination of expendable and endowment funds totaling $3,594,513!

Over the years, we’ve shared with you stories about the Nature Education Initiative and how our gardens, farm, and natural areas provide an immersive setting for a variety of educational programs including:

- **Engaging youth in hands-on, nature-based activities**
- **Providing leadership development opportunities for U-M students**
- **Attracting cutting-edge research that advances our understanding of environmental issues**
We engage the next generation of problem solvers and innovators in creating a sustainable future:

- Exceptional students from across campus contribute to our core work in our Nature Academy summer internship program while participating in an intensive field-based learning and leadership development program.

- Interns develop leadership and professional skills through collaborative project planning, implementation, and assessment. These experiences prepare students to be effective leaders, advocates, and environmental stewards.

- Field trips at Matthaei-Nichols are one way we provide positive experience for youth to explore the natural world and make connections between classroom science learning and real-world examples.

- Our many spaces invite independent, unstructured immersion in nature. Youth are given the opportunity to explore these natural settings and have hands-on experiences that make learning relevant and personal.

- In 2018-2019, more than 3,800 students participated in Matthaei-Nichols field trips, including 2,400 students from Title One schools.

- Campus Farm is a convergence point where theory and practice come together in a physical space, functioning as a site for class visits, student engagement and leadership, and research projects in a wide range of fields, including sciences and the arts.

- A critical piece of the nature education ecosystem, the Campus Farm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens is a living, learning laboratory, connecting faculty and students with nature in ways they might never have experienced before.

- We encourage use of our properties for field teaching and research about plants, ecosystems, and environmental stewardship. This includes the creation of a shared database of field inventory and research activities as well as the development of apps to engage both students and the general public in field study of our plant collections.

The Bob and Susan Grese Nature Education Fund

When the Nature Education Initiative launched, long-time supporters Ian and Sally Bund seeded the initiative by establishing the Nature Education Endowment Fund with a challenge gift of $200,000. In honor of Bob’s retirement, Ian and Sally have chosen to re-name this fund the “Bob and Susan Grese Nature Education Fund” in the hopes that others will be inspired to continue Bob’s legacy of supporting nature education by making their own personally significant gift to the fund.

Your unrestricted gift to this fund will allow us to respond to our highest educational priorities and allow us to invest in innovative ideas over time.
**Freight Farm Harvest Part of a Larger Effort to Understand the Environmental Impact of Farm Products**

Shown here standing in the eerie glow of LED lights is Jocelyn Marchyok (BS, Chemical Engineering 2019), an MDining intern this summer and soon-to-be master’s student in the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS). Jocelyn recently harvested lettuce greens from a freight farm that’s installed on the Campus Farm. Freight farm devotees tout this vegetable-growing method as “greener” than conventional growing methods because the plants are bathed with cool LED light and are fed hydroponically without need of sunlight or soil, allowing for hyper-local, year-round production virtually anywhere. The freight farm at our Campus Farm is part of a collaborative research project involving the U-M units SEAS, the Center for Sustainable Systems, MDining & Sustainable Food Program, the Campus Farm, and the Michigan Farm to Institution Network. The goal of this project is to collect life cycle assessment production data on water-use efficiency and carbon footprint of lettuce from the freight farm and compare it with lettuce grown in the Campus Farm’s passive solar hoophouses and with product shipped from California and Arizona. Lettuce is 96% water and CA and AZ are desert environments experiencing chronic water shortages. This research will help us understand the relative sustainability of the different options as it pertains to food sourcing for institutional foodservice operations such as MDining. Working on this project are Dr. Marty Heller (Life Cycle Assessment Research Scientist from SEAS/CSS), Dr. Leslie Hoey (U-M Urban and Regional Planing), Alex Bryan (MDining and U-M Sustainable Food Program) and Campus Farm Program Manager Jeremy Moghtader. Produce grown as part of the project will be sold to MDining as part of the Campus Farm offerings. Stay tuned for updates on this fascinating project.

**A Place for Pollinators at the Campus Farm**

By Kat Shiffler, Campus Farm intern

This spring, the Campus Farm took steps to boost healthy populations of both wild resident bees and honeybees by planting a fruit tree orchard and wildflower meadows around the perimeter of the farm fields. Because the Campus Farm is a living-learning lab for students and researchers, we designed a trial of various chemical-free site-preparation methods to understand what works best. We seeded the prepared areas with a mix of over 40 species of forbs and grasses from the Michigan Wildflower Farm and from our own properties. We’re starting to see many wildflower species pop up as the summer progresses, but the establishment of a wildflower meadow is a long-term project. The species mix will evolve to be dominant over time, looking like a colorful, diverse linear meadow in a few years. The orchard planting is comprised of 80 apple and pear trees. This will not only provide a food source for bees in the spring, but also a fruit crop that the farm hopes to offer one day to the U-M community.
A Living Wall at Matthaei Botanical Gardens

A living wall by former intern and student Shawn Farrell is set to be installed this fall and planted in the spring of 2020. The project is sponsored by the U-M Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund, which offers grants of $5,000 to $50,000 for student-initiated projects that promote environmental sustainability on the University of Michigan campus. Shawn is currently working on selecting the right plants. The installation will be located on the north side of the main entrance of Matthaei Botanical Gardens. At its simplest, a living wall is a wall covered in plants. Beyond that, the benefits of a living wall are many and can include everything from recycling and cleaning water to aesthetics to food production. “The project will provide visitors with the opportunity to learn about living walls and their applications along with U-M sustainability goals,” Shawn explains. “My hope is to inspire students, staff, and visitors and educate them about the many different ways that we can create a more sustainable environment.”

Go Volunteers!

Thanks to the groups who came out or hosted a volunteer eco-restoration workday this spring and early summer. We couldn’t do it without you.

- DTE Energy
- Ford Volunteer Corp
- Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
- South Arbor Academy
- Huron Valley Chapter, Michigan Botanical Club
- U-M Beta Alpha Rho Pre-Law and Public Service Fraternity
- U-M Bros United
- U-M Business Engagement Center
- U-M College of Pharmacy Graduate Students
- U-M M-Stem Summer Program
- U-M Medical School
- U-M Ross Business School Alumni Association

Want to be part of a similar story? Matthaei-Nichols welcomes volunteers to help our efforts. For more information about our many volunteer opportunities contact Volunteer Coordinator Christine Chessler-Stull: 734.647.8528; cmchess@umich.edu. Or visit our website: mbgna.umich.edu.

Local Club Honors Long-Time Matthaei-Nichols Associate and Botanist Ellen Weatherbee

The native plant society Michigan Botanical Club recently presented its Special Recognition Award to Ellen Weatherbee. The club established the award to recognize those who’ve made important contributions to understanding the botany of Michigan and the Great Lakes region. Ellen wrote and co-authored many books, and she was the director of our adult education program. “Ellen was a tremendous force in developing public education programs for the botanical gardens, engaging botanists and horticulturists in the region to help us offer meaningful programs for the general public,” says Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese. “She has continued to be devoted to getting people into the field and making botany fun and practical, teaching people how to identify plants, see them in their native habitats, and know more about their traditional uses.”

Association in Nichols Arboretum; honeybee photo by Oscar Brubaker. On the cover: A bench overlooking the Huron River in Nichols Arboretum. (Photo by Scott Soderberg/Michigan Photography.)
Volunteer Docents: A Passion for Nature, a Commitment to Sharing Knowledge

By ChristineChessler-Stull, Volunteer Coordinator, and Liz Glynn, Visitor Engagement - K-12 Education

Key to our education team, docents spark curiosity about and love of nature in kids of all ages. Through our school and youth programming, docents promote nature education to engage tomorrow’s environmental leaders.

Many of the docents say it’s the combination of personal interest and educational development that inspires them to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. In the last fall-winter term and this spring, docents generously gave 2,250 hours of their time!

Docents engage youth in field trips that are rooted in Next Generation Science Standards—and in discovery and wonder. Programs run the gamut from water quality and ecosystem exploration to paper making and faerie door construction.

Our robust training and ongoing education equip docents as nature educators for K-12 children in all of our youth programs.

We hope these stories inspire and excite you to learn more about this program. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator: cmchess@umich.edu to discuss ways to get involved.

For docent photos and a list of our active docents, visit our website: mbgna.umich.edu/blog/. Pictured above: docents and student interns, summer 2019.
SEPTEMBER

Wed., Sept. 4, 7 pm
Gardens & Gardening at the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor Garden Club
Dr. Anton Reznicek, research scientist & curator of vascular plants at the U-M, shares his knowledge of the many garden museums on campus. Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

Mon., Sept. 9, 10-11:30 am
Catch Your Breath
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.

Tues., Sept. 10, 6:30-8:45 pm
How to Prepare for a Honey Contest
Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Everything a beekeeper needs to know about honey contests. Members invited to bring honey samples. (Note: program does not include honey contest.)

Wed., Sept. 11, 6:30 pm
Tree ID Walk in Nichols Arboretum
Ann Arbor Wild Ones & Matthaei-Nichols
Join us for an advance look at a new tree identification app developed specifically for Nichols Arboretum. Meet at the Reader Center and take a walking ID tour of the trees in the Arb.

Sept. 14 & 15, 10 am-4:30 pm
Exotic Plant Show and Sale: Cacti, Succulents, and Bromeliads
A large selection of cactus, succulents, and bromeliads, including air plants. Plants for sale range in size from seedlings to mature. Also growing supplies, books, prints, and note cards available.

Sun., Sept. 15, 2 pm
Workshop: Orchid Doctor
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Alan Koch conducts a workshop for attendees who bring in their own orchids for evaluation and assessment.

Mon., Sept. 16, 7 pm
Preserving Your Herbs
Herb Study Group
Advanced Master Gardener and Herb Study Group President Madolyn Karnowski gives a presentation on preserving herbs, including new ideas and recipes.

Mon., Sept. 16, 7:30 pm
Discover Our Underwater Forests—Michigan’s Aquatic Plants
MI Bot. Club Huron Valley Chapter
MSU’s aquatic ecologist Dr. Jo Latimore discusses the variety of submerged and floating native plants found in our lakes and rivers and shows how to identify invasive aquatic plants.

Tues., Sept. 17, 2019, 7:30 pm
What Is the Best Way to Stem Climate Change? Green New Deal and/or Carbon Tax and Dividend
Sierra Club Huron Valley
Join Richard Barron of the Citizens Climate Lobby to learn about initiatives that seek to stem climate change.

Wed., Sept. 18, 7:30 pm
Endless Forms Less Beautiful: Asian Prinia Species
Washtenaw Audubon Society
MSU assistant professor of zoology Pamela Rasmussen discusses the birds in the Prinia genus, found in India and other Asian countries.

Thurs., Sept. 19, 1-2:30 pm
$ Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own Ikebana arrangement with help from certified instructor. $20 fee covers flowers and instructor. Email 2 weeks prior for e-invite. Attendance limited to 25. a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Sat., Sept. 21, 11 am
National Orchid Training Trends
Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
A presentation on how other judging centers are educating their new and accredited judges. Includes a 1 pm orchid judging.

Wed., Sept. 25, 7-9 pm
Annual Bonsai Club Auction
Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Members will offer trees, pots, and other bonsai-related items for sale. There will be both a live auction and a silent auction. Non-members may purchase items in the auction, but only members can offer items for sale.

Sat., Sept. 28, 1-4 pm
Community Dahlia Competition
Mich. Dahlia Assoc. (MDA)
Entries judged purely for garden decoration and consist of a single dahlia flower in a vase supplied by MDA. Entries accepted 11-12:30; judging at 1.

Mondays Sept. 30-Nov. 18, 10 am-noon
Mindfulness-based Dementia Care
MI Alzheimer’s Disease Center
A free, 7-week program designed for family caregivers of persons with dementia. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

OCTOBER

Wed., Oct. 2, 6-7:30 pm
Catch Your Breath
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.

Wed., Oct. 2, 7 pm
Scottish Gardens
Ann Arbor Garden Club
Bonnie & Patrick Ion share their experience visiting the many lush gardens of Scotland, including Cluny Gardens near Edinburgh and others. Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

Sat., Oct. 5, 10 am-3:30 pm
African Violets, Gesneriads, Terrarium and Fairy Garden Plants Display and Sale
MI State African Violet Society
Free leaf propagation workshop: 10:45.
Mon., Oct. 7, 7 pm
House Cleaning with Herbs, Essential Oils & Eco-friendly Formulas
Herb Study Group
A presentation by Herb Study Group President Madelyn Kaminski.

Tues., Oct. 8, 6:30-8:45 pm
Beekeeping with Ross Conrad
Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
This Vermont beekeeper shares knowledge of his craft, including apitherapy.

Sat., Oct. 12, 8-10:30 am
Conservatory Ambassador Volunteer Training
Ambassadors greet & guide visitors. Contact cmchess@umich.edu to pre-register interest in attending the training required for all new volunteers to this program.

Tues., Oct. 15, 7:30 pm
Preserving Farmland and Open Space in Washtenaw County
Sierra Club Huron Valley
Local land-preservation experts discuss their efforts, which have resulted in the preservation of over 10,000 acres of farmland and open space in Washtenaw County over the last several decades.

Wed., Oct. 16, 7:30 pm
Birding in Ghana
Washtenaw Audubon Society
International birder Bryn Martin gives a visual tour of this West African nation, which has over 750 bird species and a number of interesting fauna.

Thurs., Oct. 17, 1-2:30 pm
§ Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own Ikebana arrangement with help from certified instructor. $20 fee covers flowers and instructor. Email 2 weeks prior for e-invite. Attendance limited to 25. a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Sat., Oct. 19, 11 am
Awarded Phalaenopsis Orchids
Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
See what judges across the country have selected as the finest Phalaenopsis orchids so far in 2019.

Sun., Oct. 20, 2 pm
Repotting Paphiopedilums
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Presenter to be determined.

Mon., Oct. 21, 7:30 pm
Eyes on the Forest: What You Can Do to Help Prevent New Forest Pest Invasions
MI Bot. Club Huron Valley Chapter
A presentation by Georgia Peterson of MSU on how citizen scientists can become more adept at identifying the warning signs of potential new invaders.

Wed., Oct. 23, 7-9 pm
The Chinese Art of Penjing – Taking Bonsai to a World Stage
Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Chicago bonsai artist Jennifer Price discusses the art of penjing. Jennifer has apprenticed with multiple renowned bonsai artists and was the first female artist invited to Generation Bonsai.

Fri., Oct. 25, 5:30 pm
§ Zombie Run - Run for the Arb, Run for Your Life!
Nichols Arboretum is an obstacle course marked with the cross and your name) Bring your hosta seeds (packaged and marked with the cross and your name) to trade. Plus, a presentation on greenhouse operations from a local operator.

NOVEMBER

Sun., Nov. 3, 10 am-2 pm
Annual Hosta Seed Exchange
Hosta Hybridizer Group
Bring your hosta seeds (packaged and marked with the cross and your name) to trade. Plus, a presentation on greenhouse operations from a local operator.

Mon., Nov. 4, 7 pm
A Holistic Approach to Better Gardens
Herb Study Group
Herb Study Group President Madelyn Kaminski discusses ways to improve your garden including soil improvement, choosing plants, and more.

Wed., Nov. 6, 7 pm
Primulas
Ann Arbor Garden Club
Susan Haddock, local garden enthusiast, discusses growing the many varieties of primula (primrose). Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

Holiday Programs & Events
Nov. 30, 2019–Jan 5, 2020
Small: A Big Look at Little Holiday Conservatory Exhibit
Our holiday exhibit features small things that make a big difference. From bonsai to terrariums to viewing stones, tiny plants and natural objects recreate the natural world in miniature and conjure new ways of looking at nature. 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. Note: Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year’s Eve. Open New Year’s Day.

Sun., Dec. 1, 10 am-4:30 pm
Holiday Artisan Market
Our third annual holiday artisans market. 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.

Sat., Dec. 7, 10 am-noon
Small Woodland Wonders
Learn how plants and animals get ready for winter and create a miniature winter scene that tells the story of winter using natural woodland materials. Class # 19-YE-10. Cost: $12/person.

Sat., Dec. 14, noon-2 pm
Father Christmas
The annual visit by the real McCoy, Father Christmas. In town for one day only. A great photo opp. Free.

Tues., Nov. 12, 6:30-8:45 pm
Styrofoam Nuc Mini Workshop
Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A workshop conducted by Center of Michigan Beekeepers member Steve Tillman. Also included is a presentation on bees in New Zealand.
Sat., Nov. 16, 2 pm
Bromeliads A-Z, Part 1
A presentation by the Bromeliad Society International Media Library highlights the incredible diversity of bromeliads.

Sun., Nov. 17, 2 pm
Workshop: Orchid Doctor
Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Gary Meyer conducts a workshop for attendees who bring in their own orchids for evaluation and assessment.

Mon., Nov. 18, 7:30 pm
Big Weeds and Tiny Microbes: How Do Microbes Influence Invasiveness?
MI Bot. Club Huron Valley Chapter
A presentation by Wes Bickford, a PhD candidate in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the U-M, on the role of microbes in growth and performance of native and non-native Phragmites (a perennial grass).

Tues., Nov. 19, 7:30 pm
§ Ypsi Night!
Sierra Club Huron Valley
Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum, 100 E. Cross St. (in Depot Town)
Come to the Car Museum to learn the latest about what’s new in Ypsi. We hope to make Ypsi Night an annual HVG event. NOTE: Off-site location.

Wed., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm
Birding Belize
Washtenaw Audubon Society
Join Keith Dickey for a program on birding in the Central American country of Belize. With over 600 species on its bird list, Belize boasts some sought-after birds and mammals such as keel-billed toucan, agami heron, and the jaguar.

Thurs., Nov. 21, 1-2:30 pm
§ Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own Ikebana arrangement with help from certified instructor. $20 fee covers flowers and instructor. Email 2 weeks prior for e-invite. Attendance limited to 25. a2ikebana@gmail.com.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 7, 10 am-noon
§ Holiday Greens Workshop
Ann Arbor Garden Club
A demonstration of holiday decorations such as wreaths and centerpieces. Bring your own garden clippers. All other materials provided. Cost: $15. RSVP: Nancy Hart, nhartgreen@aol.com. Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

Tues., Dec. 10, 6-9 pm
A2B2 Fourth Annual Holiday Gala
Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Join Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers for a silent auction and mead tasting. Admission to the silent auction is free; mead tasting is $15 for five one-ounce pours. Visit a2b2club.org.

Thurs., Dec. 12, 1-2:30 pm
Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own Ikebana arrangement with help from certified instructor. $20 fee covers flowers and instructor. Email 2 weeks prior for e-invite. Attendance limited to 25. a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Mon., Dec. 16, 10-11:30 am
Catching Your Breath
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.

Tues., Dec. 17, 7:30 pm
Tales and Travels of the Huron Valley Group
Sierra Club Huron Valley
Join our annual review of members’ explorations. Ten minutes per presenter. Send your photos in digital format to Jaime Magiera: jaime@jaime4a2.org.

Sat., Dec. 21, time TBD
§ Christmas Bird Count
Washtenaw Audubon Society
More information at the Washtenaw Audubon Society website closer to the date: washtenawaudubon.org.

Sat., Dec. 21, 11 am
Great Lakes Orchids
Judging Annual Christmas Get-Together
Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
All invited to this pot-luck that includes snacks and orchid-related auction. Includes a 1 pm orchid judging.

Youth & Family Programs

Oct. 18 & 19
Pumpkins, Lanterns & Leaves
§ Two after-hours, family-friendly Halloween celebrations that includes crafts, magic, make your own lantern, and more. Ticketed event; member discount applies. Events are the same; Saturday repeats Friday. Registration available in September at mbgna.umich.edu.

Nov. 9, 10 am-noon
§ Kids are Chefs: Baker’s Dozen
How many is a Baker’s Dozen? Bring your apron and explore 13 plants from around the world that are important to bakers. Learn how these plants became so important world wide and make a treat from some of these ingredients to take home. This class contains wheat, dairy and chocolate allergens. If your child has sensitivities please contact Liz (lizglynn@umich.edu) for options. Parents accompany children. Class #: 19-YE-09. $10/child includes materials.
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
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Ann Arbor MI 48105

Nichols Arboretum
1610 Washington Hts.
Ann Arbor MI 48109

Fall 2019 newsletter

Robert E. Grese, Director

friends newsletter
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U-M Regents

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Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor
Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor
Shauna Ryder Diggs, Grosse Pointe
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms
Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Mark S. Schlissel (ex officio)