“The proposed pledged funds would be used and expended in the construction and development of the Botanical Gardens as a beautiful and outstanding facility of its kind, with every effort made toward scientific experimentation and the introduction of a wide range of species of plants, trees, and shrubs, to the end that this facility would compare with or surpass in excellence the finest of such facilities wherever now existing.”

Frederick C. Mattaei, Sr., gift proposal to Regents, September 1957
“... one can foresee that in twenty-five years the farmer’s woodlots will be put under cultivation for timber, the bogs will be drained, and no land will be left where vegetation can be studied in natural conditions,” stated Dr. Frederick Newcombe in remarks to the Regents urging acceptance of a 27.5 acre gift from Walter and Esther Nichols a century ago. That gift was combined with city owned land and other land gifts to create the University Botanical Garden and Arboretum. Today, well over 700 biologically diverse acres are managed as Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. In our centennial year, it’s worth reflecting on some key gifts that helped to shape the places we now enjoy.

Other gifts combined with University support helped to make Nichols Arboretum a cherished community resource. In 1922, Dr. W. E. Upjohn donated a major collection of peonies (see article by Richard K. Meader). Later, Detroit Edison donated 36 acres — Dow Field — one of the largest native prairie remnants in Washtenaw County. In 1997, the University and community rallied together to move the 1837 Burnham House and smokehouse to the Arb to serve as the James D. Reader, Jr. Urban Environmental Education Center. Critical support came from Helene and James Reader, Sr., Forest Hill Cemetery, the Wilkinson Foundation, the Detroit Edison Foundation, the Benard L. Maas Foundation, the University and others. Cultural programs at the Arb got a real boost in 2001 when a major gift from the Ford Motor Company Fund helped establish our annual Shakespeare in the Arb productions in partnership with the Residential College.

The Botanical Garden had split from the Arboretum in 1916 moving to Iroquois Street, but that site was plagued by poor drainage, the encroachment of the city, and lack of biodiversity. In 1957, Frederick C. and Mildred Hague Matthaei donated 53 acres and cash for the purchase an additional 100 acres of the adjoining Matteson Farm. This new site contained a rich diversity of ecosystems along Fleming Creek. Additional gifts, the sale of the Iroquois property, University funds and grants from the National Science Foundation covered the $1,600,000 construction cost of the new facilities. Donors have played a major role in shaping plant collections. Two of the most notable were the gift of cacti and succulents from Professor Elzada Clover and the gift of an extensive bonsai collection from Professor Maurice H. Seegers. In 1999, a generous grant from Ford Motor Company Fund allowed development of five Gardenscapes for a New Millennium. Currently, private donations are funding the array of new display gardens and trails that are transforming outdoor spaces at the Botanical Gardens and Arboretum.

Looking forward, we are building endowment funds to provide stable income. Current endowments include the Julie Norris Post Heathdale Collection Endowment established by Helen and Norris Post and family that supports the care of the Heathdale and Laurel Ridge at Nichols Arboretum, the Geoffrey and Marian Norman Memorial Endowment that supports care of the outdoor collections at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and the Natural Areas Fund that provides on-going stewardship of our natural areas.

As we celebrate our centennial year, I am constantly reminded of how the generosity of donors, both in time and money, has enabled the development of our gardens, conserved key natural lands, and continues to provide critical support as we look to the future. I truly hope you will enjoy this year’s report with its images from our gardens, current and past, and I also hope you’ll join with us as we look towards our second century!

Robert E. Grese, Director
The Peony Garden: 85 years in the Making

Every June, a swarm descends on the Nichols Arboretum. Attracted by the brilliant colors and subtle aromas of the peonies, it is undeterred by the thousands of ants seeking nectar from the flowers. This isn’t a swarm of insects, it’s thousands of human visitors who throng to the garden: to take pictures, to picnic, to ponder. For many it’s an annual ritual, for others it’s a first-time visit, but all who come, on purpose or by happenstance, leave amazed by the sensory splendor.

In 1922, William E. Upjohn (MD, 1875), founder of The Upjohn Company, and peony aficionado donated hundreds of peonies to the University. Arboretum Director Aubrey Tealdi hoped to honor this gift by creating a garden specifically for those peonies. He sculpted the land at the Washington Heights entrance to create a flat area and designed the planting scheme so that there was a flow of color-coordinated bloom from back to front. The original plan called for pairs of 281 cultivars and was surrounded by a fence along which shrub and climbing roses were planted. The Peony Garden opened to the public in 1927, nearly five years after the peonies were donated by Dr. Upjohn. Ten years later, the garden had reached its full splendor and included over 325 cultivars. As with any garden, over the years, varieties were lost and often not replaced or were replaced with modern cultivars not fitting to the original vision.

Recognizing that the garden is in need of revitalization, efforts have begun to restore the original vision of Director Tealdi: climbing roses now grace a split rail fence that mimics the 1932 plan; award-winning, pre-World War II cultivars have been sought in order to give the garden historic significance; and new plants will be added to recreate the wave of color-coordinated bloom. It will become the largest collection of historic peonies in the United States, and a place for students of all ages to learn about this treasured plant.

No other place in the Arb attracts such a varied group of visitors as the Peony Garden. It has been the backdrop for countless wedding, graduation and family photos. It is accessible to visitors of all ages and physical ability and is a favorite spot for hospital patients able to venture outside and enjoy the healing powers of nature.

The next time you visit the garden, we invite you to think about its history, and take a moment to thank Dr. Upjohn for how you, your children, and grandchildren will enjoy this garden in years to come.

Article by Richard K. Meader
“This locally-treasured jewel is emerging as a national resource. Few, if any, institutions in North America, approach our depth in nineteenth and early twentieth century peony cultivars.”

David Michener, Associate Curator

Dr. William E. Upjohn was a prominent collector and grower of peonies. Peony roots have long been used in Chinese and Japanese medicine for pain relief, seizures, “female complaints,” intestinal troubles and more. Dr. Upjohn may have first become interested in the plants from a medical standpoint, but his love of the plants for their own merits overshadowed any medicinal interest. He grew over 1000 varieties of peonies, along with other medicinal plants, at his Brook Lodge country home near Augusta, Michigan. His granddaughter Mary Upjohn Meader recalls that he used to refrigerate the blooms in order to have indoor bouquets for longer periods of time. He was a founder of the American Peony Society. He frequently sent peony bare roots across the country to other enthusiasts. The original plants in the Arb came from Dr. Upjohn’s Brook Lodge Garden.
“I wish that all the children of the present day, as well as their fathers and mothers, could have some place to go where they could sit quietly and enjoy nature, or where they could romp about and play on the grass, or go in wading or swimming; a place where they could become acquainted with the shapes of all the leaves and their habits of growth; with the perfume of the linden and lilac, with the songs of the thrushes and cat-birds, with the motions of the chipmunk, and, in short, all the charms of the country.”

Ossian Cole Simonds, Arboretum’s Landscape Gardener, 1909
Nurturing a Love of Nature

Walter and Esther Nichols gave their land to the University so that “the University students of the future and the school children would have a field within fifteen minutes’ walk of the Campus where practically all the lessons taught by vegetation growth could be learned.” During our first century, we at MBGNA have not forgotten that mandate. We provide many diverse programs to help children of all ages learn about nature through direct experience: school tours, scouting programs, displays in the Conservatory, signs in the gardens and on the trails, internships, work study opportunities, and family and community programs.

As we look forward to another century of teaching children who are increasingly afflicted with “nature deficit disorder,” we are constantly re-evaluating our programs and exploring ways to improve them. We are developing materials to help families explore and discover nature and the environment as they visit our woods, prairies, wetlands and gardens. We are adjusting our school programs so that children at each grade level can enjoy hands-on learning while meeting the state’s curriculum goals.

We are expanding our internship and work study programs to meet the needs of University students as they explore careers in the environment, landscape design and education. We are creating more opportunities for students to volunteer and give back to the community: through our children’s program, “Go Blue, Discover Green,” created by students on our environmental education team; participating in our ecological restoration workdays; or learning about organic gardening and vermi-composting through “Cultivating Community.” Additionally, we continue to support student research projects as well as the faculty’s use of our lands as living laboratories for field studies and artistic expressions of many sorts.

1 Proceedings of the Board of Regents, July 1906.
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Post,

Your generous financial support of the Heathdale Collection at the Nichols Arboretum has greatly enriched my life!

I have always loved the outdoors of the Southern Lower Peninsula. From my childhood studies with a local naturalist to my seven years of employment with private landscaping firms, I have gravitated, time and again, to outdoor employment and recreation. After graduating (...) this June, with a history degree, I realized that I was not content to spend my working life at a desk. On pure dumb chance, I overheard a friend of a friend mentioning an open intern spot in the Nichols Arboretum. Lucky for me, Tom O’Dell, Natural Areas Collection Specialist, thought it fit to hire me. And so, here I am, looking fondly back at a summer of service in Heathdale. I made new friends, learned from wise and thoughtful mentors, and enjoyed numerous other personal benefits.

I cleared enormous patches (small forests, really) of invasive raspberry, blackberry, and thimbleberry plants from Heathdale. I mulched the trails and the rhododendrons, providing protection for the plants’ shallow roots. I laid the forms for concrete bench pads. I pumped water to sustain thirsty azaleas. In so doing, I not only added to my knowledge of this ecosystem, but also strengthened my body.

This internship was very different from previous land management jobs that I have worked. At the private firms, few people really care about the plants, much less the task at hand; at the private firms, the workers are crude, often cruel, and truly anti-intellectual — the emphasis is on brute force to make the job appear done, a.s.a.p. Here at the Arboretum, each and every one of my co-workers (and bosses) spoke kindly and possessed a clear knowledge of, and respect for, the plants with which they worked. Here at the Arboretum, lunch conversation was intellectually rich, and work was done at a safe, deliberate pace. I made friends, and thanks to you, I earned money, my first pay out of college.

Most importantly, this internship has alerted me to a whole new arena of employment. As of now, I plan to explore the field further through continued labor at this or similar collections. Once I am able to isolate the specific areas of expertise that most interest me, I hope to undergo further schooling, and eventually, make a career out of working outdoors. Without the financial support of the Julie Norris Post Endowment, I might still be stranded indoors, aspiring to become a pompous historian.

Your support has changed my life.

Best Regards,

Max Schultz
We have set a new goal for Internship Endowments.
In the next five years, we will be seeking a total of $1,000,000
to support an Internship Endowment.
This program will help us provide hands-on learning experiences
for University of Michigan undergraduate and graduate students.
Financial

MBGNA Revenues - Fiscal Year 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Direct Contribution</td>
<td>1,517,107</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership and Gifts</td>
<td>406,580</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Distribution</td>
<td>59,788</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>95,629</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees, Admissions &amp; Sales</td>
<td>372,820</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$2,451,924</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In-Kind Support

- University Support (Utilities and Plant) $362,074
- Volunteers (6.8 FTE at $50K each) 340,000
- Value of Endowments $861,885

MBGNA Expenses - Fiscal Year 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>1,884,364</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships/Fellowships</td>
<td>14,405</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>271,021</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel/Transportation</td>
<td>28,549</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal and External Services</td>
<td>214,295</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
<td>201,915</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Costs (Conservatory Roof)</td>
<td>647,616</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>$3,262,164</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change in Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U-M Support</td>
<td>251,813</td>
<td>193,227</td>
<td>173,145</td>
<td>(20,082)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsored Programs</td>
<td>3,717</td>
<td>18,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(18,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts*</td>
<td>1,146,816</td>
<td>1,961,734</td>
<td>1,173,011</td>
<td>(788,723)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity-Based Revenue</td>
<td>220,530</td>
<td>244,766</td>
<td>261,760</td>
<td>16,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,622,877</td>
<td>2,418,227</td>
<td>1,607,916</td>
<td>(810,311)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Prior year balances included significant project revenue, particularly the Conservatory roof replacement
When most people think of planned giving, they do not think of a family in the early phases of life. They do not think of a father with young children at home. They automatically think of retirees. We, at MBGNA, are fortunate enough to have a family, who when thinking of their own future plans, thought of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum and its future.

“With the pressures of increased development, the din of our city, and the unique modern phenomenon of ailments such as “nature deficit” in our children, Nichols Arboretum represents a kind of oasis that allows our family to readily reconnect with the natural world at a moment’s notice. It is truly an outdoor learning laboratory that is becoming increasingly scarce. I put Nichols Arboretum in our estate plan because it is a place that was meaningful to my ancestors, is relevant for my family today, and it is a place that I want to know will be educating students, faculty, and families of all kinds for generations to come. The provision I added to my estate plan calls for the Arb to receive a percentage of my estate at the time of my death. In this manner, the greater my estate over time the more impact my gift will have. In the same way that dedicated volunteers and staff are good stewards of the land at both the Arb and Gardens, as well as other natural areas around the University, I feel confident that they are also well qualified to look after financial contributions in their care. By contributing to the Arb, I believe I am not only investing in a great local amenity, but a great University as well…”

Planned Giving can happen at any stage of life. The Richners are a wonderful example of the idea: “it’s never to early to start planning.”
For many years, friends and visitors have expressed an interest in a children’s garden at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. In 2006, Tom and Jeanette Gaffield made a gift that started this dream on its journey to reality. “It is our desire to excite children about our environment. To provide them with the opportunity to not only appreciate the beauty of a garden, but also provide a space where they can learn about how it can be preserved for future generations,” said Jeanette and Tom.

Like ripples in a pond, the Gaffield’s gift has expanded outward through our community. Tom plays the piano at Silver Maples, a retirement community in nearby Chelsea. Many of the residents, upon learning about the planned Gaffield Children’s Garden, made gifts in Tom’s honor. Tom has also been a docent at MBGNA for many years when fellow docents heard about the plans, they too stepped up to the plate and added their donations. The Ann Arbor Branch of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association, where Jeanette has been a long-time member, also came forward. They pledged $15,000 from their annual Garden Walk this past June in support of the Gaffield Children’s Garden.

The generosity of the Gaffields is a symbol of how much can change with one gift. Their gift opened new doors and brought back old friends. We hope you will join them in building this monumental garden.
Alice and R. Bailey
Kim Bailey
Jennifer E. Bandyk
Constance Bank and
David Dugger
Patricia J. Bard
Lisa L. Barley
Phillip and Julie Barr
Kathleen M. Baxter
Elizabeth Becker
Lora Beckwith and
Theodore Curtis
Susan Beecher and
Lee Rosenblum
Whitney J. Begeman
Patricia and Barry Belluci
Sally and Larry Bender
Jeffrey Bennett
Joseph and Jeanette M. Benson
Sharon Benton
Jo Anne M. Bertonzi
Scott Bertsch
Steven and Nancy Bialik
Barbara Bilge
Jean and Albert Black
Ruth and David Blackburn
Susan M. Blaisdell
Francine and Horace Bomar
Joyce J. Bonk
George and Jessica Borel
Reva and Morris Bornstein
Janet M. Bowdick
Chris Brabbis
Dorothy D. Bray
Martha J. Breslow
Lucia and George Brewer
Pamela Briel
Linda M. Briggs
Demita D. Brown
Kay and Vernon Brown
Susan and Gregory Brown
Susan E. Bryan-Hsieh
Robert Bryant, Jr.
Catherine A. Buschur
Karlo L. Butcher
Carole L. Buttrum
Cindy and Donald Byloma
Keara A. Caldorara
Constance Calhoun
Janet I. Calle
Laurel Camen
Cynthia C. Carnevale
Robert G. Carter
Felicia and Alton Cathey
Dorothea I. Cantrell
Kay and Kemp Cean
Tienyu Andy Chen
Anitha J. Chennat
Lanette K. Chisnell
Angela Christie
Bernadine Cimprich
Gina B. Claesys
Nora Clark
William A. and
Catherine B. Clark
Shirley K. Cleveland
Francil C. Cleverger
Jane and Thomas Coates
Marjorie M. Colburn
Elsa T. Collins
Suzanne C. Collins
Comerica, Incorporated
Marge E. Cooper
Jean Corpe
Linda L. Coughenour
Valerie Cournard
Ellie Terreta Cox
Doreen Crane
Marylys Cuthhall and
Chris Klotersema
Mary A. and Roderick K. Daane
Lyubica Dabich
Judith Ann Daltavva
Douglas R. and Ann M. Damon
Myan Dang
Judith and Edward Davidson
Conrad and Huda Davlivi
Alan G. and Luan M. Davis
Charlote Davis
Dayspring Properties
Kevin Decker
Elizabeth U. DeLaney
Maureen Delaney
Sue C. Dempsey
Lisa Denys
Cheryl Depner and John Dolinsky
Paul Desjardins
Diana Deveaureau
Caroline Dieterle
Leo Thomas Dinnan
Thomas B. Dodson, Jr.
Mary and James Dolan
Elizabeth A. Doman
Joan S. Doman
Jennifer H. Dougall
DTE Energy Foundation
Merrill and John H. Dudley, Jr.
Susan H. Dundas
Jacque L. Dunham
Sandra D. Dwyer
Fay E. Edall
Sharleen and William Eisenbeiser
Karen and Arthur Eisenbrey
Mae Engel
Ann S. Epstein
Cynthia Lynn Erickson
Anitra L. Erskine
Nanette Esker
Cecilia and Delano Esselman
Judith and Howard Estes
Jon Pegly
Sheila Feld
Laurel A. Fields
John and Cindy Fink
Marc B. Fishman
Ruth F. Fitzgerald
Gloria Jean Fitzpatrick
Ann Lee Fleckenstein
Kirsty Forebear
Nan-Marie Fox
Lois A. Foyle
Rose Francis
Janet N. Frank
Loretta and Raymond Franzen
Jason Frenzel
Robyn W. Frey
Wendy Laura Frisch
Kathrine and G. Paul Frisinger
Kathy Fulkerson
Ann and Robert Fulmer
Harriet Gales
Diana L. Gasek
David Gendler
Leonore B. Gerstein
Margaret G. Gilbert
Jane B. Gilchrist
Beth Gilford
Beverly Jeanne Gilrow
Linda G. Girard
Jane K. Glass
Shirley A. Glass
Margaret Glazko
Linda Gleichert
Jennifer Goevey
Penrioth Goff
Sandra M. Goldberg
Nancy and Laurence Goldstein
Suzanne D. Goodrich
Mary Sue Grant
Ruth Graves
Thomas G. and Joann Green
Dunne A. Greiling
Iris M. and Frederick Gruhl
Bonnie Guest
Carl E. Guldberg
Cielis E. Guy
Merle Arnt Haanes
Barbara and Jonathan F. Haber
Elise B. Hagy
Karen E. Haigh
Patricia and John Haines
Marc A. and L. Jill Halman
Mary Katherine Hamilton
Sarah Hanifi
Murray K. Hanna
Kathleen Harrigan
Tresa Harrington
Susan Bechtel Harris
Susan S. Harris
Louise S. Hauenstein
Jane E. Hawkins
William P. Hawkins
Gail E. Haynes
Leslie and William Healy
Peggy A. Heffner
Dorothy and Douglas Heilen
Diane M. Helber
Jennifer Hendershot
Sandy Heng
Joyce A. Hennon
Louise Henzimann
Thomas J. Hebert
Jean and Charles Heches
Jacqueline and Edward Heubel
Diane and John Hilfinger
Elizabeth L. Hill
Yoshiko Hill
Michael P. Hladay
Eleanor M. Hoag
Ger, Bonn T. Holzer
Alice K. Holderby
Mike Holik
Sara and Robert Holmes
Vicki E. Honeyman
Patricia A. Honton
Pamela Hoose
Antonina Chromowiski Hopping
Steve Howard
Patricia Hrizcak
Kathie Hudson
Helen and Hubert Huebl
Mary S. Huggins
Gertrude Huntington
Mary L. Jackman
Sund and Kenneth Jacobson
Anne and Anthony Javoroski
Dana and Michael Jeve
Delia D. Johnson
Mary and Jonathan Johnson
Nancy C. Johnson
Margaret V. Johnston
Helen Johnstone
Jean A. Jones
Laura J. Jose
Pascal Jouffrau and
Kristine French
James W. Kadubowski
Jaye Kain
Kathryn and Vernon Kamm
Althea Helen Kaul
Barb Kay
Anne and William Keesor
Nancy E. Keils
Chris M. Klosterman
Lauree A. Kotchenrather
Joanne Kovach
Luke E. Kremer
Ann and Robert Krueger
Kathleen and Joseph Kubis
Julius Kusey
Lee Ann Lack
Lilly LaFollette
Ruth M. Langston
Leslie Kaye Larkins
Susan M. Lass
Barbara J. Lauzon
Earlene M. LaWall
Linda Lawrence
Sarah Lawrence
Joe Lechanski
Cynthia A. Leidal
Heidi E. Leland
Mary S. LeMire
Paul H. Lenhard
Allan S. Leonard
Dorothy L. Leski
Patricia R. and Michael R. Levine
Jacqueline H. Lewis
Hsaiyen Lin
Mary L. Lirones
James T. and Louise Anderson Low
Bette S. Lowe
LinLin Lu
Gregory M. Lukonis
In this fiscal year, volunteers contributed 13,600 hours of their time. That’s equivalent to $340,000. We are grateful for their assistance and support. Volunteers make it possible for us to do more in all aspects of the organization.