Our Passion for Plants

Tara Griffith, Volunteer Coordinator

Over the years I have been fortunate to work in a variety of settings that allowed me to observe interactions between people and plants. The benefits of interacting with the natural world seemed to be the same whether it was an elderly man happily teaching children how to sow seeds, a troop of volunteers tackling invasive shrubs to ensure the return of wildflowers, or a teenager from juvenile court eagerly harvesting an ear of corn for the first time. The simple joy experienced in each case may speak to the greater meaning behind our love of plants. Perhaps it invites us to reflect on our own motivation as gardeners so that we may better understand the true origin of our passion.

The People-Plant Connection

As nature lovers and gardeners, most of us would probably agree that there are some very basic and universal benefits that lead us to tend the soil or meander down a wooded trail. Many of us would report that our contact with plants provides us with a sense of mental and physical restoration. When we are in a garden or natural setting we simply feel better. It may be no coincidence that we also offer flowers or plants to those who are sick or grieving to make them feel better. To better understand this relationship, researchers in the field of environmental psychology have been examining the interrelationship between environments and human behavior. Studies have shown that human contact with plants and natural settings can benefit human well-being through hands-on participation as well as passive observation. Active participation in gardening activities can be therapeutic for the body and mind. The act of planting a seed and being responsible for fostering the life of the plant can also give a sense of hope and purpose to the individual. Even weeding can take on a meditative quality allowing the participant to focus on the task at hand, clearing the mind of worries and distractions.

Passive observation of plants and natural settings can bring similar benefits. We don’t have to physically tend a garden to have the full sensory experience that plants offer through beautiful sights, fragrance and textures. A backyard flower garden or a visit to a botanical conservatory can provide a peaceful and rejuvenating retreat from our often fast-paced lives. Research has even shown that a simple view of nature through a window can help reduce stress.

Continued on p. 2
Reaping the Benefits

When we consider all of the wonderful benefits that the plant world brings to the human world it is no wonder that we have figured out a way to apply them in our personal and professional lives. For example, healthcare professionals have adapted these benefits to complement traditional rehabilitation programs to serve a variety of patient populations. It is not uncommon to find “wellness” gardens in hospitals and long-term care facilities. These green spaces can offer patients and caregivers a much-needed retreat from the often sterile environment of these institutions. Taken a step further, plants can become a direct tool in the healing process through Horticultural Therapy programs.

The same kind of benefits can be observed on the community level. In urban settings, residents have put the power of plants to work in the form of community gardening and beautification projects. This mighty volunteer spirit can transform a vacant city lot into a productive green space that provides fresh food and an inviting gathering place for neighbors. Some urban plant endeavors have taken to the roof tops—literally! The integration of plants and city buildings can provide improved air-quality and a welcome retreat from the polluted and stressful environment.

A Joy Shared

When we experience the benefits of the green world on an individual level we are often inspired to put our passion for plants to work as a volunteer. Volunteering can provide a creative outlet for individuals who want to share their ardent love for plants and nature with others. Perhaps the most popular outlet for plant enthusiasts is the Master Gardener Program. Each year anxious home gardeners send in applications to the local Extension Agent expressing their green thumb devotion and thirst for horticultural knowledge. After completing the course, these students venture out into the community to spread the word about gardening through public outreach and educational activities. The projects that have been tackled by Master Gardeners never cease to amaze!

Here at MBGNA, we have a long history of passionate volunteerism. You don’t have to be a Master Gardener to lend your time and passion for plants to one of our many volunteer opportunities. Whether you seek a restorative space to plant and prune or a more interactive outlet to inspire future generations about the natural world— we have just the job for you! Please visit page 18 for a current listing of volunteer opportunities.

Just in case you need a reference:
Luxuriously Fragrant Aztec Flowers for Your Michigan Garden

Scott Kunst

One of my all-time favorite flowers is woefully uncommon today – despite a fragrance that has enchanted gardeners for centuries. Read on and, with the help of an Aztec goddess and a colonial botanist, I’ll try to convince you that you’d be a fool not to plant a few this spring.

It’s the tuberose I’m raving about, *Polianthes tuberosa*. It’s not a rose but a tender bulb that you plant in the spring to bloom in summer. Only two forms are commonly available today, the luxurious double ‘Pearl’ and my favorite, ‘Mexican Single’ with starry white flowers that bloom on stalks three-to-four feet tall over mounds of grass-like foliage. Both forms have a ravishing fragrance. Some compare it to vanilla, others to orange blossoms, gardenias, chocolate, or even buttered popcorn. And it’s richer in the evening, making it perfect for gardeners who are gone during the day. Millions of pounds of tuberose blossoms are harvested annually in Provence for the perfume trade, and all are picked at night.

The tuberose has a long history in gardens. In 1893, C. L. Allen of Boston wrote, “Everyone who has a garden, or a taste for flowers, knows the tuberose,” and that had been true in America for centuries. It was domesticated by the Aztecs who held it sacred to Xochiquetzal, “the Aztec Aphrodite,” goddess of the earth, flowers, music, dance, beauty, and especially love. It was brought to Europe by 1530, and Parkinson included it in his great florilegium of 1629 as the “Indian knobbled Iacinth.” By 1730 it was thriving in Williamsburg, and in 1777 pioneering American botanist William Bartram reported it on a plantation near Baton Rouge where the flower stalks were a prodigious “five to seven feet high in the open ground, the flowers being very large and abundant.” Despite this long history, though, *Polianthes tuberosa* has never been found in the wild and it’s believed to be extinct there – all the more reason to grow it in your own backyard.

Though subtropical, tuberoses are easy to grow and bloom almost anywhere. In the north it’s important to start with big bulbs, about the size of a man’s thumb. You may need to search a bit for these, since smaller bulbs – which need a much longer growing season to bloom – are the norm. Plant your bulbs in pots to provide warmer soil over a longer growing season than they’d get in the ground here in Michigan where soils warm slowly and start cooling again before summer is over. And then give them the three things C.L. Allen recommended for them in 1893: “heat, water, and manure” – or any garden fertilizer.

Growing tuberoses in pots allows you to move them when they bloom to where you can best enjoy them. Since they love heat, they thrive in pots on decks and paved areas. Keep them well-watered, though. They may be from Mexico, but they’re not desert plants.

When blooming is done, allow to dry and store them in a cool place. Four to six weeks before frost date, replant everything or just the thumb-sized daughter bulbs in fresh soil. Regular, hearty feeding and watering should result in re-blooming.

Tuberoses are easy, fragrant, deeply historic, and you won’t see them in everyone else’s yard. Plant a few this spring and you’ll soon discover for yourself why so many gardeners through the centuries have loved them.

Scott Kunst is the owner of Old House Gardens (www.oldhousegardens.com), an Ann Arbor-based mail-order source devoted to heirloom flower bulbs. You can meet Scott and pick out your own big, fat tuberose bulbs at the Spring Plant Sale, May 2-4.
Commmunity Gardens
return to MBG

The first Project Grow community garden was a huge hit last year and will be returning in the spring of 2008. The garden at MBG is an organic garden where all the gardeners practice environmentally safe, sustainable growing techniques. The plots are 25’ x 30’ (half size plots are also available). If you would like to "garden at the Gardens" or at any of other Project Grow location visit their website www.projectgrowgardens.org, or call 734-996-3169 for more information and an application. Or pick up a paper application located in the Project Grow pre-season newsletter at the Project Grow office (1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor), Ann Arbor City Hall, Ann Arbor (main) library, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation administration building, Whole Foods, Downtown Home and Garden, People’s Food Co-op, and the Washtenaw County Extension office as well as at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

This partnership with Project Grow is just one more way that MBGNA provides gardening experiences for folks of all ages and abilities.

Welcome Liz Glynn

Liz Glynn, a former Docent, has recently joined our staff as Children’s Program Coordinator. She is expanding our school tours program to provide materials to teachers to use both in preparation for a field trip to the Gardens or Arb and to consolidate the learning the students achieved. She is also updating our tours to best reflect the current learning goals of the Michigan curriculum for all grade levels. In this way, our tour program will be more relevant to both students and teachers. Additionally, she is looking at ways to offer more opportunities for Scouts of all levels to learn more about nature and the environment. Finally, she is exploring family friendly activities.

Liz is a graduate of the School of Natural Resources program in Environmental Education. Prior to joining us, Liz worked at the Wild Flour Community Bakery (where she taught a class, Rolling in Dough, for kids to learn how to bake bread) and the People’s Food Co-op here in Ann Arbor. When she decided that she needed a change of pace from the cooperative world, she thought that she'd use some of her newly found free time to reconnect as a Docent. At the same time, we were revising our education team and had an opening for a children's educator. The rest, as they say, is history.

Plant Sale

On May 2-4 we will once again be holding our annual plant sale. It just wouldn't be spring without it, would it? We'll have top-quality plants for sale in two tents. Some changes are in store. We are pleased that Korzon Landscapes, 10000 Villages, Michigan Public Television and Michigan Radio are joining us as corporate sponsors. In addition, two local volunteer organizations – Growing Hope and Project Grow – and two local businesses – Old House Gardens and Native Plants Nursery – will be selling plants also. Plants that we grow on the premises will be potted in new compressed paper pots. While “these pots are not plantable, they are compostable” and environmentally friendly. We are also using some new potting mixes that do not rely on non-renewable peat moss as the basic medium, but on bark which is a byproduct in many sawmills and other lumbering operations.

Our vendors, sponsors, docents and staff will be hosting a variety of demonstrations throughout the sale. Topics include Heirloom Vegetables, Edible Container Gardening, Dahlias, ‘Be Green’ Ground Covers, Principles of Good Garden Design, Ikebana from Your Garden, Gardening with Native Plants, among others. Times and details will be posted on the website mbgna.umich.edu if you'd like to attend any of these while you are here shopping.

Shakespeare in the Arb

This perennial favorite performed by the Residential College under the able direction of Kate Mendeloff is scheduled for June 5-8, 12-15 and 19-22. At press time, Kate had not yet selected which of the Bard’s work will be this year’s selection.

Peony Peaking Party

Come to the Arb on Saturday, June 7, to enjoy the glorious blooms of our hundreds of peonies. In case of rain, this will be postponed to June 14.
Profile  Erin Allen

Erin Allen learned to love nature on canoeing trips with her family in her home state of Louisiana. When she was seven the family moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina and she had a whole new environment to explore. Some of her favorite outings as a high school student were hiking and camping trips with her dad along southern sections of the Appalachian Trail.

Four years ago she came to Michigan to pursue a degree in environmental science from the Program in the Environment – and to explore the great outdoors in more northern climes. Last summer Erin began working as an intern with our Education Team. One of the projects the interns worked on is “Go Blue, Discover Green” (see sidebar). Erin has continued to work with us throughout the school year coordinating student volunteers from throughout the University as the program expanded. “I am so excited about the Mott program because we are bringing together students with interests in health, education and the environment. By building on the different strengths that our volunteers bring to the table, we can create a rich and diverse program.”

At first, she shied away from the idea of becoming a teacher. Being in a classroom was not the way she envisioned spending her working life. During her internship last summer, she began to discover another approach. She says, “My internship at MBGNA has had a huge impact on my career goals. As an intern I have had the chance to gain hands-on experience and see the positive impact of our education programs. The experience has taught me invaluable skills and renewed my commitment to work in environmental education.”

Then this fall, she took a class on environmental education and her eyes really opened to how she could bring her enthusiasm and love of nature and her passion to share this love together in a career. She would enjoy working in a museum, botanical garden, or nature center sharing her love of the natural world with students in those settings. At the end of last year, she also began working at the U-M Exhibit Museum of Natural History as the Outreach Facilitator for the family science and reading program. This program travels to over 40 libraries throughout southeast Michigan. Erin is learning yet another way of connecting kids and families to nature.

Erin also enjoys cooking, sewing and making jewelry. After graduation this spring she’s planning on learning how to reupholster furniture. She knows just the couch and chair to practice on.

Go Blue, Discover Green

A team of students working with our education staff is developing a series of games and activities related to nature, the environment and science. Every month they bring these activities to Mott’s Children’s Hospital and share them with children who face often lengthy hospitalizations. They’ve developed a deck of cards that can be used for playing “Go Fish” or “Memory.” There’s a game based on “Sorry” in which children can explore plants and biomes. Other activities teach the parts of a flower and all about food chains and invite the child to “Build a Flower” or “Create a Food Chain.” An arts and crafts project focuses on leaf textures. Currently being developed is an exploration of aquatic science.

The students are artists, educators, scientists and more. Each brings unique skills, talents and interests to this program. What binds them together is a desire to share their own love of nature with those who are younger. They also give the parents and visiting siblings information about the Arboretum where they can go for breaks or to pass time while the patient is off for tests or treatment.
Curator’s Corner
Lawns, alternatives, and American values

David C. Michener

Few garden and landscape topics arouse such intense passions as do lawns. American lawns have symbolized civic virtue for several generations. Let the grass grow too long, and you’ll hear from neighbors or local ordinance enforcers. Let weeds grow – or worse let the lawn die of drought and you’ll be accused of running down the neighborhood. What is the offence? You have broken social norms that have become symbolic of high property values, good citizenship, and civic virtue. Poor lawns are perceived as secular heresy.

Lawns cover about 25% of American suburbs, and the total load of fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide (weed killer) runoff from them is staggering. American lawnmowers are estimated to contribute over 20% of our national air-pollution. Likewise, this vast acreage of turf is a major water drain. Another issue is that grass (a monoculture) reduces local native biodiversity in insects, birds, and much more. [Statistics from several sources in google.scholar.com]

**Lawns, however pleasant around your house, are quite costly to society in terms of environmental degradation.**

Lawns are great for play spaces, kids, dogs and beautiful garden paths. But does every lawn need to be as perfect as a golf course putting green? Putting greens are uniform so that the golf balls roll somewhat predictably - the look is not necessarily an aesthetic appropriate for every domestic lawn context.

Before the mid-20th century, lawns were typically mixed plantings that required no chemicals. Spring bulbs, violets, clover (a natural source of nitrogen), and scattered other low plants helped add ecological diversity and reduced the need for water.

We’ve planted such a traditional lawn at the Gardens in the Mall between the native Michigan trees. Going a step further, why use European and Asian grasses at all (Kentucky bluegrass is a cleverly-marketed exotic species)? Around the Alexandra Hicks Herb Knot Garden at the south end of the Mall, you’ll see four demonstrations of native lawn alternatives. Here are panels of buffalo grass (*Bouteloua dactyloides*), Penn sedge (*Carex pennisylvanica*), purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*), and sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina*). These are now in their second year, so come on out and critique them.

The question isn’t “to lawn” or not – rather it’s about where lawns (and what kind) are appropriate given their monetary, social, and environmental costs.
**Come Learn - A Quick Glance**

**Take a Hike:**
*Wednesday A.M. Hiker, Spring*
9 am – noon, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, and 21

**Arb Ramble**
10 am – noon May 10

**Mix Art and Nature**
*Yoga at the Gardens* with Janine Bennett
Noon – 1 pm, 6 week sessions on Mondays

*Macro and Close-up Photography*
with Mark O’Brien
7–9 pm, June 3 and 5 and 9–11 am, June 8

**Explore Michigan**
*Drummond Island*
with Ellen Weatherbee
June 26-29

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**Wednesday A.M. Hiker, Spring**
*Five Wednesdays: April 23, 30, May 7, 14, and 21, 9 am – noon*

Weekly hikes take the inquisitive plant seeker to the more remote habitats of woods and wetlands. Edible plants and mushrooms, as well as the interesting plants and intriguing habitats of little-known and out-of-the-way places, are emphasized in our usual academic, but playful, atmosphere. Potluck lunch the last day. This class fills early!

Instructor: Ellen Elliot Weatherbee
Fee: $120 Members and U-M Students ($150 Non-Members)
#08-AE-18

**Arb Ramble**
*Saturday May 10, 10 am – noon*

Join Robert Ayotte for a Spring walk through the Arboretum. Instructor: Rob Ayotte
Fee: Free for members and U-M students ($5 non-members)
#08-AE-28

**Yoga at the Gardens**
*Session D*

*Six Mondays: May 12, 19, June 2, 9, 16, and 23, noon – 1 pm*

*Session E*

*Six Mondays: June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, and Aug 4, noon – 1 pm*

Vinyasa-style, Hatha Yoga for those who enjoy a flowing sequence of sun salutations and postures coordinated with music. Class will be at a moderate pace with instruction in postures. For students with some yoga experience. Class will be held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium. Please enter from the west entrance near the large parking lot. Bring a yoga mat and towel.

Instructor: Janine Bennett
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students, ($60 Non-Members)
#08-AE-21

**Macro and Close-up Photography**
*Tuesday and Thursday, June 3 and 5, 7–9 pm and Saturday, June 8, 9–11 am*

Learn how to get better close-ups with your camera using a variety of methods and accessories. This class is aimed at the person that knows something about photography and how to use a camera, but needs instruction on how to achieve better results in macro-photography and close-ups with the camera they have. Lighting, accessories, and techniques will be a large part of the class. Students should bring their camera(s) to the class whether film or digital, it does not matter, as most of the techniques are applicable to either. Although some of the techniques are applicable to point and shoot cameras, a digital or film SLR user will benefit the most from this class. Lectures will be followed by discussion and hands-on activities.

Instructor: Mark O’Brien
Fee: $ 48 Members and U-M Students, ($60 Non-members)
#08-AE-23
Drummond Island

**June 26 -29, Thursday late afternoon-Sunday morning**

Drummond Island, located at the eastern tip of the Upper Peninsula is a favorite botanical and hiking site of instructor Ellen Weatherbee. This is the perfect time to investigate the early summer flora, including the flat, limestone areas of alvar flora with prairie smoke and specialized grasses and sedges; the purple cliff brake of the limestone beaches; the orchids of the woods and roadsides; the sundews and pitcher plants of the bogs; the northern plants that are also found in the boreal areas of Canada; and the St.-John’s-wort, shrubby cinquefoil, and silverweed of the fens and fen-like beaches. Plants that were used for food and medicine by the Native Americans are still present and will be examined.

Base for the trip is private property with ample place to put up a tent (easy to rent in Ann Arbor or use your own). Much of the island is in public domain, so there are endless places to hike, including the Maxton Plain, an impressive site owned by The Nature Conservancy. Although the island has a small village, including a grocery store, it is still very wild in most areas and a challenge to find your way around without a local guide. Trip information sent after registration, including a class list to facilitate carpooling arrangements. The drive to DeTour to catch the ten-minute ferry is about 340 miles (no reservations needed for the ferry; fee is about $15 for vehicle and driver).

There will be potlucks both Friday and Saturday nights.
Instructor: Ellen Elliott Weatherbee
Fee: $295 Members and U-M students ($354 Non members)
Please note there is a minimum enrollment of 9 students. Please invite friends to join you on this adventure.
#08-AE-24

**Wasteland Weeds**

**July 14–17, Monday evening - Thursday afternoon**

Join Ed Voss, author of the 3-volume *Michigan Flora*, for a tasteful tour of dumps, gravel pits, construction sites, roadsides, and other places in the Straits of Mackinac region where some rather rare native plants live with many plants of foreign origin — including noxious invasive species. There will be good opportunity to use these plants to illustrate characters and terminology as found in keys and descriptions. We will camp 3 nights at a rustic State Forest campground on Burt Lake (20 miles south of the Mackinac Bridge).

Participants are responsible for their own camping fees and meals (potluck dinners are easy & fun), starting with dinner and orientation Monday at 6 pm and ending mid-afternoon Thursday. Further details and suggestions will be sent to all participants.

Each person (or party) will pay (at the campground) their State Forest campground fee which is currently $15 per night.
Instructor: Edward G. Voss
Fee: Lectures and Field Trips $148 Members and U-M Students ($185 Non-members)
Field trips only $96: Members and U-M Students ($120 Non-members)
#08-AE-26 Lectures and Field Trips
#08-AE-27 Field Trips only

**Michigan Mushrooms**

**Lecture: Tuesdays, September 9, 16, 23, and 30, 7:15 – 9:15 pm**

**Field Trip: Saturdays, September 13, 20, 27, and October 4, 9 am to noon**

Wild mushrooms are studied through slide lectures that concentrate on their natural history, identifying characteristics, and edible and poisonous qualities. The course also includes field trips to collect mushrooms in four different natural areas. Each trip ends with display, identification, and discussion of the morning’s finds, plus sautéing and tasting some of the edibles. Former students may register either for the complete course or for the field trips only.

Instructors: Robert Shaffer, Ph.D. and Jocelyn Shaffer
Fee: Lectures and Field Trips $148 Members and U-M Students ($185 Non-members)
Field trips only $96: Members and U-M Students ($120 Non-members)
#08-AE-26 Lectures and Field Trips
#08-AE-27 Field Trips only

**STEWARDSHIP NETWORK EVENTS HOSTED AT U-M MBGNA**

PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK call 734-996-3190 or visit the Stewardship Network website at: www.stewardshipnetwork.org
All classes at Matthaei Botanical Gardens
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## Outdoor gardens and trails
Open every day 8 am - dusk, free admission

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens Conservatory**

- **Mon. closed**
- **Tues. 10 am - 4:30 pm**
- **Wed. 10 am - 8 pm**
- **Thurs. - Sun. 10 am - 4:30 pm**
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Outdoor gardens and trails open every day 8 am - dusk, free admission.

The Reader Center at Nichols Arboretum
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Matthaei Botanical Gardens Conservatory
Mon. closed
Tues. 10 am - 4:30 pm
Wed. 10 am - 8 pm
Thurs. - Sun. 10 am - 4:30 pm

July 2008
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<td><strong>Event</strong>&lt;br&gt;10 am – 4:30 pm Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Show and Sale</td>
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<td><strong>Tour / Walk</strong>&lt;br&gt;8 – 10 am Audubon Society Fall Migration Bird Walk in the Arb&lt;br&gt;<strong>Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;4 pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society</td>
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Here’s How to Register:  
(form on reverse side)

Phone: 734 - 647-7600
Tuesday, Thursday - Sunday: 10 am - 4:30 pm
Wednesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Mondays: Closed

Fax: 734 - 998 - 6205. Send completed registration form with credit card information.

Mail: MBGNA - University of Michigan
1800 N. Dixboro Road
Ann Arbor MI 48105

On-line: www.mbgna.umich.edu

In Person: Stop by the Information Desk at Matthaei Botanical Gardens during the hours listed above.

Make checks payable to “MBGNA.”
Class spaces will be reserved when registration form and payment are received and processed.

Note: Adult Education classes are open to those at least 16 years of age. Classes meet as designated at Matthaei Botanical Gardens or Nichols Arboretum. Classes may meet off-site (call for location and directions if you miss a class). Field trips may be physically challenging – call the Gardens if you have questions about the difficulty of any class or trip. Classes are popular and fill quickly – early registration is suggested.

Are You a Member?
To become a member of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, send a separate check made out to “MBGNA.” Fees are $55 for a family membership, $45 for a single membership, and $20 for University students.

Refunds:
To be eligible for a refund:
Adult Education: Withdrawal notification must be received seven days prior to first class and two weeks prior to a trip. Refunds are subject to processing fees of $15 per class and $35 per trip (no refunds for single date classes or lectures).
Youth Education: Withdrawal notification must be received three days prior to the class and is subject to a processing fee of $4/class. We are sorry but refunds are not available for any class with a fee of $5 or less.

Assessing Natural Areas: Rapid Ecological Assessment
Saturday, May 10, 10 am - 4 pm
You can help identify high-quality natural areas for protection. At this workshop new volunteers for the Huron River Watershed Council will learn to conduct a rapid ecological assessment of grasslands, forests, wetlands, and aquatic habitats. Trained volunteers are then certified to be sent out in groups to work together on site assessments throughout the spring, summer, and fall (an expected time commitment of four hours per site). Participants will gain broadly applicable skills in ecological assessment. (Please bring a sack lunch. The workshop includes hands-on practice outdoors, so please come prepared for weather, mud, etc.)
Instructor: Kris Olsson, Huron River Watershed Council
Cost: Free

Green Roofs
Wednesday, July 23, 6 - 8 pm
Green Roofs help to detain and filter rain water. They offer a green oasis in a sea of roof tar and asphalt shingles. They look pretty darn neat, too. This hands-on workshop will show you the steps and materials needed to complete your own home project.
Instructor(s): tbd
Cost: $10 for Stewardship Network Members, $15 for Non-members

How Global Warming Will Affect Michigan’s Natural Areas
Sunday, September 28: 1 - 5 pm
Most scientists agree that the global climate is changing, but there are still uncertainties about how those global trends will translate into ecological impacts at regional and local scales. What are some potential effects on Michigan’s natural areas? What signs of global change might we start to detect in our local stewardship work? And what management strategies make sense now - what steps can we take despite the uncertainties? This workshop will feature a lecture by University of Michigan botanist Tony Reznicek –who has advised The Nature Conservancy on potential effects on plant communities in Michigan–followed by a hike to consider the issues in the field.
Instructor: Tony Reznicek, U-M Botanist
Cost: $10 for Stewardship Network Members, $15 for Non-members
Community Education
Spring, Summer 2008

And Through a Private Partner:

**Yoga & Nature Summer Camp for Girls at Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

**Session I: July 14-July 18, 9 am - 1 pm**
**Session II: July 21-July 25, 9 am - 1 pm**

Our girl empowerment summer camp is a holistic program that combines yoga, hiking, nature-based crafts, and development of self-esteem and emotional intelligence skills. This interactive educational program expands children’s knowledge and appreciation of nature, encourages a life-long habit of exercise (strength and flexibility through yoga, tai chi, etc.), and empowers girls to live consciously while balancing mind, body and spirit harmoniously. We will have picnic lunches in the gardens. Some of the activities the girls will be engaged in include drawing outdoors, pressing and drying flowers, making herbal butter, and journaling. All this within the beautiful environs of Matthaei Botanical Gardens! This camp is for girls, ages 7-10.

**Fee for each session is $210, including cost of materials.** Only two one-week sessions are offered.

To register call 734-268-6008 or visit www.radiantnow.org.

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**Our Instructors:**

**Robert Ayotte:** Adjunct Forest Ecologist, Southeastern Michigan Land Conservatory.

**Janine Bennett:** Certificate: White Lotus Foundation, Santa Barbara CA; Instructor: Inward Bound, Ann Arbor, MI

**Mark O’Brien:** M. S., U-M entomologist; photo professional (view his work at http://www.flickr.com/photos/mfohobrien

**Robert Shaffer:** Ph.D., Curator Emeritus of Fungi, U-M Herbarium

**Edward G. Voss:** Ph.D. Curator Emeritus, U-M Herbarium; Author Michigan Flora

**Ellen Elliott Weatherbee:** M.A., wetland and protected plants consultant; author of Guide to Great Lakes Coastal Plants, published by The University of Michigan Press.

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Name: ____________________________ Home Phone: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________ Work Phone: ____________________________

Parent’s name (if student is under 18): ____________________________

Address: ____________________________ City: ____________________________ State: ________ Zip: ________

☐ Member of Friends of MBGNA (Member Exp. Date ________________ )

☐ Non-member

☐ U-M student: (Student ID Number ________________ ) Is this your first class? ☐ Y ☐ N

☐ New Address

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<th>Also attending (if family class)</th>
<th>U-M Student or Member Fee</th>
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Total

Payment: ☐ Check made payable to: MBGNA

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card # ____________________________ Exp. Date ________________

Cardholder Signature ____________________________
Fall Bulb Sale changes

Scott Kunst, New Sales Vendor

To expand the Fall Bulb Sale and allow MBGNA staff to focus on other priorities, Old House Gardens has been invited to handle this year’s sale. And we’re thrilled! We love the Gardens and Arb, we’ve spent fifteen years delivering exceptional bulbs to thousands of customers across the country, and we’re eager to support MBGNA by serving our fellow members.

This year’s Fall Bulb Sale will be a little different, and further changes are sure to come in future years as we talk with members and sale volunteers to learn what you want the sale to be and how we can best serve you. What won’t change is the basic structure of the sale. We’ll still take advance orders starting in the spring and deliver the bulbs to the Gardens in the fall. Loyal volunteers will then bag the bulbs and assemble orders for customers to pick up at the Gardens.

For this first transitional year, the Fall Bulb Sale will include:

1. a 20% discount on the 169 fall-planted bulbs we offer in our Old House Gardens catalog (which you can preview now at www.oldhousegardens.com) and
2. a specially-priced list of your favorite bulbs (based on total sales) from the last five years of the MBGNA Sale.

The list of Favorites should be ready by mid-April, and we’ll send an order form to all members then, just as it’s been done in the past. For those of you who appreciate the convenience of online ordering, we’ll also have the Favorites posted on our website.

If you’re too eager to wait till then, you can place a preliminary order from our website at www.oldhousegardens.com anytime. To get your 20% discount, simply mention in the “Special Requests” box near the end of our online order form that you’re a current MBGNA member and we’ll subtract both the 20% discount AND ALL SHIPPING CHARGES before we process your order. You can always add to this order later when we get the list of MBGNA Favorites finalized and posted online.

In case we’ve never met, Old House Gardens is the country’s only mail-order source devoted entirely to heirloom bulbs. At our website you’ll find time-tested favorites dating from pre-history to the 1960s, including several best-sellers from recent Fall Sales: ‘Thalia’ daffodil, ‘Prinses Irene’ tulip, and snake’s-head fritillary, among others. We also offer very rare (and admittedly pricey) heirlooms such as the simple “Lent lily” daffodil of colonial gardens and the flamboyant “dragon tulip” ‘Amiral de Constantinople’ of 1665.

We’ll be selling our SPRING-planted bulbs – dahlias, glads, cannas, tuberoses, and more – at the MBGNA Spring Plant Sale in May. Please come by our booth, pick up a free catalog, and tell us what we can do to make the Fall Bulb Sale even better. We’re excited about the possibilities, and we’re looking forward to serving you! 🌸

Ask the Experts

With guest expert, Madelynn Korzon, from our new Plant Sale sponsor, Korzon Landscapes

Q: What are the best economical ways to improve your landscaping and increase the value of your house?

A: First, hire a designer who will be able to work with you to give an overall unified look to your landscape. This person should be attuned to your needs, the way you and your family use the property, the degree of care and upkeep you are willing to put into the landscape yourself or hire out. He or she will be able to suggest plants, bed arrangements, ways to overcome the difficulties of your landscape (the south facing wall that bakes any plant nearby, that low spot this is always squishy, etc.), and bring an artist’s eye to the job.

If shrubs are old and overgrown, either prune them severely or remove entirely. Don’t know how to prune? Mark Korzon of Korzon Landscapes will be demonstrating pruning techniques on Saturday, May 3, at the Annual Spring Plant Sale. Remember that the appearance of a shrub or tree is important year round, not just during its bloom time.

Incorporate new groundcovers or low perennials to unify the beds. Plant in drifts or large scale groupings, restricting the number of different kinds of plants: Avoid one of this and that and that and that. Spread double shredded bark 2-3” deep in spring to cover the beds until the groundcovers fill in; refresh in the fall (keep shredded bark from touching the bark of the trees or the constant moisture can damage the tree’s bark).

Add a focal point (only one per area): a multi-stemmed tree, sculpture, bird bath, or bench are some possibilities. Highlight two or three interestingly shaped trees or large shrubs for night time enjoyment. Remember that pleasing landscapes do not strictly follow the hard lines and angles of your architecture. Expand beds around the walk and the corners of your house to soften the look and feel using sweeping curves. 🌸
It is that time of year again. The time of year when the days get longer and warm days will show up unexpectedly.

At Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, it is the time of year when the Gardens begin to burst with color, the Arboretum is full of people taking a stroll, and multiple events bring people to both places.

In March, while winter was still upon us, spring was in full bloom in the Conservatory with the “Passion for Spring” bulb display. For the first time, Runciman Landscapes was presenting sponsor of this display. Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Runciman Landscapes have had a long history together. In 2001, they designed the Urban Pocket Garden, and in 2006, they designed the beautiful Steiner fountains in the Gateway Gardens of New World Plants. When asked why they chose to sponsor the “Passion for Spring” display, Max Finkbeiner, designer, said, "Basically, we felt that it is important for us to support MBGNA because it promotes exactly what we do to make a living as horticulturists with Runciman Landscapes. From a business point of view we feel it is beneficial to be involved in the community we work in.”

In May, the summer opens with a bang with our 28th Annual Plant Sale, where we are expecting over 8,000 plant enthusiasts to stop by and shop. This year we will be featuring ten demonstrations on many interesting plant and ecology related topics, and we are proud to have Korzon Landscapes, Ten Thousand Villages, Michigan Public Television and Michigan Public Radio as sponsors.

For more information about our upcoming events and sponsorship of events, contact Sarah Dunn at 734-647-9679 or email, dunnsara@umich.edu.

Welcome New Members

November 07 – February 08

Stephen & Tracy Aris
John & Beth Ballbach
Ryan Bowles & Lori Skibbe
Lois Burk
Bruce & Carly Campbell
Ronald & Victoria Camper
Sean Carter
Edward & Stephanie Chang
Neal & Rita Clinthorne
Lloyd Coleman
Kate DeRuiter
Darlene Drury
Carole Dubritsky
George Elkington
Linda Eye
Stephen & Rosamund Forrest
Mike Fry & Arika Lycan
Gordon & Tamara Garwood
Deborah Gibson
Bob & Lisa Goldstein
Mark & Cheryl Good
Alan & Sara Gosman
Jeffrey & Ellen Halter
Matt Hewmann & Tessa Benziger
Mark Hodesh
Raburn Howland & Katherine Kurtz
Howard & Martha Hublein
Anne Hudon
Dale & Helaine Hunscher
Kim Jacobson
Dick Jacoby
Pete & Leslie Kim
Ken & Kathie Knight
Bridget Weise Knyal
Joel & Barbara Kohler
Carole & Christine Kuzara
John Langmore & Robyn Burnham
Glenn & Melissa Levine
Richard & Carol Leighton
David Lillie & Elizabeth Thomas
Gay MacGregor
Michael Magnier
Raymond Marino & Brandy Brink
Scott Masterson & Kim Kochanek
David & Marjorie Mastie
Ben McAlteer & Jeska capling
Daniel McNerny & Erin Gatenby
Jo Ellen Mogelgaard
Carilee Moran
Keith Mullins & Lindsay Pierre
Alex Porbe & Lisa Spindler
Bill & Nancy Powers
John & Sandra Rae
Mark Roberts & Mary Ramirez
Georgiana Sanders & Joseph McCune
Benedikt Schell & Susanne Nehren
Ron & Karolyn Schofield
Julia A. Shauder
Alice Simsar
Michael & Patricia Sluder
Pringle Smith
Richard & Pamela Smith
Philip & Kate Soper
Ken Sparkman & Maureen Johnston
Eric Stamper
Evan & Brie Stosick
Sayaka Terada
Susan Torrible
Les & Carol Ulrich
Joseph & Susanne Upton
Sandra Vallie
Brian Warner & Casey Hermoyian
Brian White & Laurie Smith
George & Patricia Williams
Linda Williams & Candyce Sweda
Jacquelyn Wright
Deborah Yeary
Get Lost in the Arb and Gardens!

Get Lost!

In the Arb

April Pickrel

Take just a step or two inside the Geddes Gate at the Nichols Arboretum and let the view take you to a special place. Have a seat! Through the magic of topography and great landscape design, visitors can take in the full width of the Huron River valley. Lurie Tower on North Campus helps to anchor the view, but on either side you see Cornelian Cherries and blooming lilacs and all manner of stately trees. A trail beckons, down the hill and into the valley.

A walk in the woods is always a good thing, but from this vantage point there’s plenty to see without taking another step! Can you Get Lost?

Take a stroll and enjoy the view.

18th Annual Ann Arbor Garden Walk™
June 14, Artistic Garden Expressions

The Annual Ann Arbor Garden Walk™, Saturday, June 14, 2008, 10 am - 4 pm, will benefit Growing Hope and fund the greenhouse and demonstration garden at their new Education Center. Growing Hope helps people improve their lives and their communities through gardening. The greenhouse and demonstration garden will provide hands-on training and education for low-income students and families in Washtenaw County. We are proud to be their partner in this important initiative!

The gardens on this year's Garden Walk, all demonstrate our home-owners' vision in creating an artistic expression of their lives and their work. Six private gardens depict unique, creative landscapes that will inspire, educate and empower most viewers. The seventh garden is public, but out of the way and possibly overlooked by many. The County Farm Park’s Octagonal Garden was designed by Polokowski & Brown with award winning local artist Lynda Cole in 1987. It is maintained by a volunteer organization, mainly Master Gardeners, who love it and will be on hand to answer questions.

Just minutes from the west side gardens, a special treat will be available to all Garden Walk ticket holders — lunch at the Firefly Jazz Club, from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm for $14. Enjoy a gourmet box lunch while listening to THE PAUL KELLER TRIO. Please reserve a box lunch by calling 734-668-2025 or by emailing lunchjazz@comcast.net.

Garden Walk tickets will be on sale May 10, at Downtown Home & Garden, Nicola’s Books/ Westgate, Dixboro General Store, and Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Garden Walk tickets are $12. For more information you may call 734-663-2867 or visit www.annarborfarmandgarden.org after May 12.

The Ann Arbor Branch, Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association is a 501(c)3 and proceeds benefit local and national horticulture scholarships and grants; we build community gardens.

Women’s National Farm & Garden Association says “Thanks”

This past year the Ann Arbor Branch, Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association moved its 61st Greens Market to Matthaei Botanical Gardens and we were delighted to have over 1,100 guests walk through the doors, we hope all making purchases of greens and gifts. The Greens Market was a huge success, we enjoyed the new space and had a lot of fun, and we hope it establishes a new tradition for the next 60 years. From the Greens Market proceeds we were pleased to make three U-M awards: $2,000 to the MBGNA for the School Bus Subsidy; $1,500 to support a Graduate Student at the Biological Station; and $1,500 for a SNRE student.
Dig into some volunteer activities this season at MBGNA!

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY
- **Display Gardens** - plant, prune & help maintain one of our theme gardens.
- **Greenhouse** - assist with propagation for our gift shop and special projects.
- **Conservatory** - help with sweeping, pruning, planting and watering.
- **Collections** - care for orchids, bromeliads, bonsai, ferns & woody plants.
- **Natural Areas Restoration** - help maintain & restore our native woodlands, wetlands & prairies. Individuals & groups are welcome to join our monthly public workdays - 2nd & 3rd Saturday of the month from 9 am - Noon.

SOW THE SEEDS (special training required)
- **Docent** - provide interpretative tours & educational activities for the public, school groups and scouts.
- **Ambassador** - greet & guide visitors to points of interest in the Conservatory, gardens and on the trails.

SHARE THE JOY
- **Membership** - work behind the scenes and at public events to spread the word about member benefits.
- **Special Events** - Assist with planning the Spring Plant Sale, Earth Day, Shakespeare in the Arb, Flora & Fauna Art Show, Greens Market, and more!

For more information contact volunteer coordinator **Tara Griffith at 734-747-8528** or tgriffit@umich.edu.

A Gathering of Gardens

**For small and large spaces.**
**For the old and the young.**
**A place to grow, to interact with nature,**
**to share stories, to find sanctuary, to heal,**
**to honor the earth, to leave a mark.**

Along the Conservatory wall, new exhibit gardens are being developed with the help of many volunteers. The design, created by U-M Intern Sara Turner, combines elements of traditional community gardening methods with more accessible garden structures. This unique combination will demonstrate the many ways that gardens can be adapted for a variety of settings and physical abilities. We will periodically change the look & feel to keep the space exciting and vibrant.
Stunning new art at the Gardens

An eight-panel mosaic featuring native Michigan ecosystems is scheduled for installation at Matthaei Botanical Gardens this May. The mosaics were designed by acclaimed mosaic artist Yulia Hanansen of Mosaic Sphere Studios. Volunteer groups of all ages have been hard at work this winter helping to construct the mosaic with vitreous and stained glass tiles and smalti. Volunteers have been helping to glue the tiles to cement boards, grout the tiles and insert the mosaics into metal frames, using Ms. Hanansen’s stunning designs.

“This installation will be a lovely splash of color in every season,” says MBGNA associate director Karen Sikkenga. “The designs showcase the natural beauty of our own Michigan ecosystems.”

Ms. Hanansen’s studio, Mosaic Sphere, is located in Ann Arbor. The studio produces fine art mosaics in a variety of traditional and experimental techniques. The mission of the studio is to raise public awareness about the fine art mosaics and to demonstrate superb quality of mosaic techniques. Mosaic Sphere mosaics have been installed in various locations across the United States. Mosaic Spheres welcomes volunteers of all ages, Tuesday evenings from 6 – 8 p.m.
For information
734 647-7600
www.mbgna.umich.edu

Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 N. Dixboro Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Nichols Arboretum
1610 Washington Heights
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

U-M Regents
Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor
Laurence B. Deitch, Bingham Farms
Olivia P. Maynard, Goodrich
Rebecca McGowan, Ann Arbor
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Farms
S. Martin Taylor, Grosse Pointe Farms
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Mary Sue Coleman (ex officio)

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Demonstrations by local experts throughout the sale!

Invasive Plant Removal with a focus on garlic mustard
– Aunita Erskine, Prairie Steward

Heirloom Vegetables – Jacqueline Venner Senske, Project Grow

Gardening with Native Plants
– Greg Vaclavek, Native Plants Nursery

Easy Dahlias; Divide, Plant and Pick Small Flowered and Hardy Glads; Tips for Tuberoses: Fragrant Flower of the Aztec
– Scott Kunst, Old House Gardens

Container Gardening with Edible Plants
– Amanda Edmunds, Growing Hope

Companion Planting: Vegetable Garden
– Sandra Westley, Project Grow

‘Be Green’ Groundcovers – David Michener, MBGNA staff

Rain Barrels – T.J. Smith, MBGNA staff

Principles of Good Design – Mark Korzon, Korzon Landscapes

Ikebana from your Garden – Madelyn Korzon, Korzon Landscapes

Prescribed Burn in your Backyard
– Jeff Plakke and Connie Crancer, MBGNA staff

Wildflowers – Dr. Sylvia Taylor

Please check the website for updated information
www.mbgna.umich.edu

28th Annual
SPRING
PLANT SALE
May 2-4, 2008
At the Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Friday, May 2 13 - 7 pm | Members’ Pre-Sale and Party
Saturday, May 3 9 am - 4:30 pm
Sunday, May 4 1 Noon - 4:30 pm

Become a member at the event. Members receive a free plant and 10% off!

Sponsors: