This past year marked the tenth anniversary of Shakespeare in the Arb. What began as a three-year project with funding by Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services has become a cherished annual tradition over the past decade. To celebrate, Director Kate Mendeloff returned to *A Midsummer Night’s Dream,* a production that’s particularly suited to the rolling hills, open glades, and woodlands of Nichols Arboretum. For the entire month of June the Arb was transformed into a magical kingdom of fairies ruled by Oberon and his queen Titania and the stage for many evenings of mischief and fun.

A unique partnership between the University’s Residential College and Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, Shakespeare in the Arb is but one example of the many outreach programs that help connect us with the broader community of Southeast Michigan. In early June, our new Gaffield Children’s Garden was featured on the annual “Garden Walk” held by the Ann Arbor branch of the Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association (WNFGA). Hundreds of people experienced the Children’s Garden for the first time, and funds raised by ticket sales helped make possible our program for summer interns. Between the summer garden walk, the fall 2010 follow-up walk, and a gift from the state chapter, WNFGA donated a total of $17,160 toward the interns’ salaries and to our internship fund that will support summer interns for the garden in the future.

On the following page, you’ll see more examples of our outreach activities, all of which make for deep connections with people in our community and at the University, enriching their lives in very special ways and making a big University of Michigan difference. Thank you for your support in all of these efforts!

**Over the past decade, Shakespeare in the Arb has become a cherished annual tradition for students, members, and visitors alike.**

**On the Cover**

The front of the annual report features a photograph of a Yew (*Taxus baccata*) in the Arb and Gardens’ bonsai collection. The photograph was taken by Carlos Diaz, renowned photographer, artist, and Professor at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit.

We invited Carlos to photograph bonsai both as a record of our amazing collection and to help with fundraising efforts for a formal bonsai garden we're planning to build near the conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Please stop by for a visit to the conservatory, where we currently hold a rotating display of bonsai trees year-round in the temperate house.
Edible Estate’s Rich Harvest

Marthaui Botanical Gardens, where we’ve been raising vegetables as the trees and shrubs along our garden “commons” mature. Additional food this summer also came from the food gardens that are part of the grounds of the Michigan Solar House and the "Grower’s Garden" portion of the Gifford Children’s Garden.

For the past several summers, we’ve participated in another type of community outreach. In fiscal year 2010 alone we contributed over 800 pounds of fresh produce to Food Gatherers, a community-based organization committed to alleviating hunger in Washtenaw County. Where did all this food come from? Our “Edible Estate” display garden at

Docents Inspire Thousands of Visitors Each Year

Our robust program of volunteer docents inspire tomorrow’s environmentally aware citizens. Docents also enjoy a lifelong learning opportunity and develop interpretation skills while sharing their enthusiasm for the natural world with school groups, youth, and families. Last year, Arb and Gardens’ volunteers logged close to 16,000 hours, while nearly 4,000 children visited MBGNA on docent-led tours.

Conservatory Exhibits

Our many exhibits and displays throughout the year draw thousands of visitors—many of them children and their families—to the Arb and Gardens for education and fun. Events such as “Apples, Peas, and Pumpkin Pie” last November; “Wild, Wonderful Winter” in December; and the “Healing Garden” this past spring brought the deep satisfaction of connecting with nature to the next generation of environmental stewards.

During last February’s school break, we sponsored the “Make Way for Spring School-Break Getaway” that attracted hundreds of children to Marthaui Botanical Gardens for a variety of hands-on activities. Then, this summer we featured a wide assortment of fanciful flames transformed by U-M students, members of the community, and local schoolchildren into all sorts of whimsical creatures in the display garden just east of the Conservatory. Throughout the summer, we found that this exhibit brought lots of smiles and laughter.

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