

matthaei botanical gardens—  
*Celebrating 50 years on Dixboro Road*



# Celebrating 50 Years on Dixboro Rd.



*The 1957 gift of 200 acres of land by Regent Frederick Matthaei, Sr. and his wife, Mildred Hague Matthaei, inspired their dream of a university botanical gardens “second to none in this country.” A half century later, Matthaei Botanical Gardens continues to fulfill that dream, building on the past and branching out to the future.*

**T**ime is the greatest commodity in any garden. Fred Matthaei must have realized that as he made the gift of land that would one day become Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

As stewards of this beautiful place, we celebrate 50 years on Dixboro Road and the Matthaes’ vision for a garden. Since those early days, the Botanical Gardens has grown into a treasure for the University and for the community.

At the Gardens, the past still informs the present. In an early publication from the mid-1960s, then-director Warren H. Wagner wrote that the Gardens’ mission “relates to the support of instruction and . . . research involving living plants . . . that can be studied by students, class groups, and the public.”

Steve Norman, whose father, A. Geoffrey Norman, was the director of the botanical gardens at the time of the initial gift of 200 acres, remembers his father’s vision. “He understood that to create a truly great botanical garden took decades,” says Norman, and that the most important thing his father could do in his role would be to “put in place a high quality solid foundation”—the initial infrastructure and buildings— “that would support the growth and evolution of the gardens over the ensuing decades.”

In the main, our mission today parallels the goals articulated by Wagner and Geoffrey Norman. Yet times change and while the Gardens retains many of its historical values, the particulars have evolved to address the world we live in today.

It’s a world in which nature—and our connection to it—is threatened on all sides by climate change, development, pollution, economic pressures, and other forces.

“Matthaei Botanical Gardens enhance the University of Michigan academically and aesthetically,” says University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman

More subtle but perhaps as insidious, many of us suffer from what Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, calls “nature deficit disorder.” For a variety of reasons we, and children in particular, are spending less time outdoors—to our detriment.

We address these issues by carrying out our mission of caring for nature and enriching life, and by providing strong educational, collaborative, and outreach opportunities with the

University and local communities. Whether studying our resident population of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes, restoring diversity to our lands by removing introduced species that compete with the natives for resources, or providing an immersive summer internship opportunity for U-M students, we’re stewarding our properties for future generations.

We also fulfill a dual purpose within the University, says University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman. “The Matthaei Botanical Gardens enhance the University of Michigan academically and aesthetically,” Coleman says. “In medicine and science, plants and botany are integral to the process of research, discovery, and invention. Botanical gardens also are indispensable as places where people reconnect with nature, places of beauty and spiritual calm in an increasingly urban world.”

It’s a matter of capturing hearts and minds. And if our mission connects with the past, it also makes room for a future in which stewardship, conservation, and education play prominent roles at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.

We invite you to join us in celebrating 50 years on Dixboro.

## Connecting to Our Core Values Today

The landscape at the Matthaei site has always been ecologically diverse—something that set it apart from the Gardens’ previous locations. Rolling hills, wetlands, river settings, and prairie provided a beautiful site for what was to come. And yet building on this foundation while respecting its natural heritage has always been a part of the Gardens’ mission. Today, a variety of spaces are integrated into that diverse Michigan landscape.

Recurrent themes woven throughout the many projects at the gardens are engaging people with nature and the preservation and care of important ecosystems, in particular



native North American and Michigan plants and natural communities.

Since 1962 Matthaei Botanical Gardens, while rooted in one place, has also branched out significantly in scope and ambition. In 1965, the **Conservatory and auditorium** were completed. The **Friends of Matthaei Botanical Gardens** formed in 1974 and is now an integral part of our network of support for both the Gardens and the Arb and boasts a membership of nearly 2,000. Other displays and art such as the **sundial**, installed in 1986, and the **Erich Steiner pools** in the Gateway Garden, installed in 2001, are now iconic features of the Botanical Gardens.

In the last five years alone many gardens, trails, art installations, and features on the

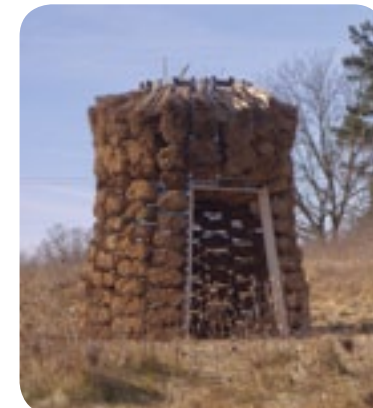
property now exist thanks to the generosity of donors or to the work of various individuals who have made an impact on the institution over the years. Here is just a partial list of these recent projects:



**The Gaffield Children’s Garden** is among the special places here that connect people, especially children, with nature. A generous gift from Tom and Jeanette Gaffield provided the catalyst for the garden, which opened in September of 2009. Today the Children’s Garden is one of the most popular spots at Matthaei and a destination for families and children from across the region.

Plans for the **Bonsai and Penjing Garden** are now a reality. Construction on the garden site—located behind and to the west of the conservatory—has begun. The garden will feature studio spaces and viewing and display areas that will allow us to exhibit much more of our bonsai collection.

**University Connections:** The Gardens continues to partner with university faculty and students on research projects, art and architecture installations, exhibits, and more. Recent collaborative projects include the



**Coombe Structure**, created by U-M architecture professor Vivian Lee and winner of the 2010 *Architecture Magazine* R+D Award.

The structure was made entirely from natural materials such as thatch and grass; and **Spring-Back**, the bent-wood arch inspired by the designs of the nineteenth-century cabinet maker Michael Thonet. Assistant Professor of Architecture Steven Mankouche and Lecturers Joshua Bard and Matthew Schulte entered the arch in the last year’s ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. The arch was named as a top 100 exhibit out of 1,713 entries in the 2010 ArtPrize.

**The Sam Graham Trees Trail** honors the pioneering work of Dr. Sam Graham, the U-M’s first forest ecologist. The trail features Michigan’s native trees, introducing visitors to the diversity of local ecosystems while leading them through floodplain and upland plantings.

A gift from Dr. Rudy Reichert in memory of his wife made possible the **Sue Reichert**



**Discovery Trail.** For many years, Sue served Matthaei Botanical Gardens as a docent, teaching children about nature. Like its name suggests, the trail features kid-friendly interpretative signage and activities along its path. The trail is also specially designed and graded to accommodate wheelchairs so that all may enjoy its features.

**Pictured clockwise from top:**

An artist’s conception of the bonsai garden interior;

Docent Tom Gaffield leads a tour along the Sue Reichert Discovery Trail;

U-M Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning Professor Vivian Lee’s “Hair, Spikes, Cattail, and Turkeyfoot”;

Making music in the Gaffield Children’s Garden.

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### Spring Exhibit

Our spring exhibit celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the Botanical Gardens. The exhibit will feature images that capture the early history of the Gardens, from the dedication day to the building phases to the construction of the conservatory and its first plantings. Visitors will also learn about the many ways the Gardens has since changed and grown, thanks to the vision and generosity of many donors, members, volunteers, and dedicated staff over the years.

### Long Live Peonies!

In 2012 the Peony Garden celebrates its own milestone: 90 years. Donated in 1922 by Dr. W. E. Upjohn, founder of the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company and designed by former Arboretum director Aubrey Tealdi, the garden opened to the public in 1927. Today, the Peony Garden is the largest collection of heirloom peonies in North America and a destination for peony lovers from Michigan and beyond. The peony's significance in Asian culture and art also lends great cultural importance to the garden. Stay tuned for more information on the festivities, and don't miss the Peony Festival, June 2–10.

### The Pleasures of the Peony

Roslyn Hammers, a U-M History of Art alumna and expert on peonies in Chinese culture, will speak March 27 at 7 pm in the Helmut Sterns Auditorium in the U-M Museum of Art on the topic of peonies in Chinese art. Peonies have always stirred passions. According to Professor Hammers, "as early as the Tang dynasty (618–907) the allure of the peony had become obsessive, bordering on mania." We are cosponsoring Dr. Hammers' talk with the U-M Center for Chinese Studies, the Confucius Institute, U-M Museum of Art, and History of Art (LSA). Look for more information soon in our e-newsletter, website, and Facebook page.

### The Native Landscape Reader

A new book of essays edited by director Bob Grese is now available. Collected over many years, the essays shed light on the importance of conservation and native landscaping by some of the country's most significant horticulturists, botanists, and conservationists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For more information visit the Library of American Landscape History website at: [lalh.org/books/reader.html](http://lalh.org/books/reader.html). *The Native Landscape Reader* will also be available for purchase at the Garden Store in Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

### Maize & Blue Grown Here

Matthaei Botanical Gardens' visitors will notice a new garden near the west entrance sprouting dramatic slabs of granite and planted with deer-deterrent, showy native and ornamental plants in the U-M maize-and-blue color scheme. Many thanks to the Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services, which provided \$1,500 towards the cost of the garden and a full day of volunteer labor as part of their Community Building themed Accelerated Action Day last fall. Thanks also to U-M School of Art and Design Professor Emeritus Jon Rush, who donated the granite slabs. Come back this spring to see the show as the plants mature.

### Conservatory Admission and Parking at Matthaei

The Botanical Gardens has long been the only U-M museum to charge admission, but that will soon change. Beginning January 9, 2012 we're ending the Conservatory admission fee. In lieu of an entrance fee, visitors will pay to park much like they do on Central and North Campus. Friends members will continue to park for free.

The move will bring us a stable source of revenue while aligning us with general U-M practices with regard to parking and museum entrance fees. The parking fees will also contribute to our general costs of operation and help spread the expense of upkeep for all of the Botanical Gardens more equitably.

The system will be based on a U-M parking operation, with central pay kiosks. Parking will cost \$1.20 per hour—the University's standard rate—up to a maximum of \$5 for a full day. Friends members will simply enter their parking-space and member numbers at one of two kiosks located near the front entrance of Matthaei and next to the sidewalk past the west entrance portico. If you don't have your member card or number with you, the front desk staff will be happy to look it up.

### Staff Transitions

Please join us in welcoming **Steve Parrish** to our Natural Areas team. Steve will be working for the next year on the Eastern Massasauga Habitat Restoration and Education project funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He comes to us with a degree from the U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment and several years of local conservation work. Also welcome **Nicole Smith**, our new events coordinator. Nicole has a degree from Central Michigan University, where she studied commercial recreation and event management.

**Winter Adventure Saturdays!**  
Our Adventure Saturdays make winter mornings fun. Saturday classes start at 10 am (unless otherwise noted) at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and cost \$5.00 per child, which includes activities and materials. Limited class size—preregistration requested!

## Youth & Kids' Classes and Programs—Winter 2012

January 28

### Herb Power

This winter season, celebrate the soothing, warming, exhilarating power of herbs and potpourris as you make herbal teas, sachets, and more. **12-YE-01**

February 11, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

### Hot Chocolate

Sweet! Discover why we love chocolate so much and learn how to make delicious chocolate treats. Then explore the conservatory on a scavenger hunt for the shapes and colors of Valentine's Day. **12-YE-02.** (Note: Hot Chocolate *is a popular class; please register early to reserve your spot!*)



March 17

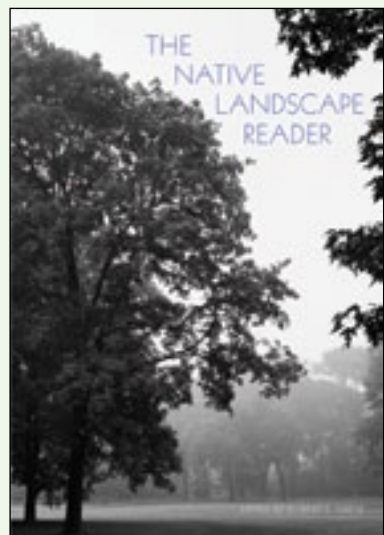
### Blustery Day

As March winds signal spring, take a hike to look for signs of the season. Later, warm up inside while you compose a spring poem, make paper flowers to take home, or decorate a paper kite. **12-YE-03**

March 31

### Fairie Gardens & Troll Houses

Fairies and trolls are visiting us in early spring! Welcome them by helping us construct fairie dwellings for the Conservatory and the Gaffield Children's Garden. Also, build a fairie garden and a troll house to coax fairies and trolls into visiting your home. **12-YE-04**



Pictured, top to bottom:

An early view of the Peony Garden;

Director Bob Grese's new book *The Native Landscape Reader*;

Ford volunteers pause in front of the maize-and-blue garden they helped install at Matthaei last fall.

Front and back covers: Front: An early-1960s photo of the Conservatory construction along with images from the dedication. Back: Workers building one of the greenhouses.



Mon., April 2

### Folktales & Fantasy

Listen to a folktale and then create your own legend story collage, complete with items found in nature. **12-YE-05**

Tues., April 3

### Windowsill Wonders

What can you grow on a windowsill? A lot. Discover the not-so-secret ingredients for starting a windowsill garden of your own. **12-YE-06**

Wed., April 4

### Treasures & Trails

Come ready to spend a few nature-packed hours at Matthaei as you create your own eco-treasure hunt. Choose from different scavenger hunts and adventure backpacks

and explore the Conservatory and Trails. **12-YE-07**

Thurs., April 5

### Potpourris & Bubble Baths

Join us on a guided walk in the conservatory to

learn about herbs and other fragrant plants, then make a potpourri or bubble bath to take home. **12-YE-08**

Fri., April 6

### Sketchbook Detectives

Learn a few basic artistic techniques to capture the wonder of nature. Then, take your sketchbook into the Conservatory or outside to create your own impression of nature. **12-YE-09**

## Make Way for Spring! School Break Getaway

Kids and parents, join us for a week of fun during spring break, April 2-6. Escape to the tropics on a midwinter Conservatory getaway to the Botanical Gardens! All Make Way for Spring classes begin at 10 am and cost \$5.00, which includes materials and activities.



### Little Green Thumbs

Come for one class or all throughout the season and be a Gaffield Growers' Gardener. We'll have scheduled classes and drop-in times throughout the spring and summer. Preregistration required. Classes begin at 10 am at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and cost \$5.00 per child.

April 14

### Super Seedlings

What a great way to celebrate Earth Day! Discover heirloom varieties of seeds that have been passed down from grandparents to grandchildren. Explore how you can create a small garden at home. Plant seeds to take home and sprout and help plant seeds that will grow into seedlings for the Gaffield Children's Garden. **12-YE-10**

May 12

### Down and Dirty - Kids' Composting

Learn the secret to making the most of your vegetable scraps and leaves. Compost makes super soil for the garden. Decorate your own countertop compost bin and start composting today! **12-YE-11**



All programs and classes unless noted otherwise are free and open to the public and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Money collected for fee-based classes covers materials only; no discount offered. Fee-based programs are noted with a \$ and venues outside of Matthaei are marked with a †.

**JANUARY**

Sun., Jan. 8, 2 pm

**Roses of the World**

Sponsored by the Huron Valley Rose Society  
Tonight's program features the video "Roses of the World," narrated by Sean McCann. Refreshments provided, plus Q&A and information sharing.

Mon., Jan. 10, 7 pm

**So You Want to Be a Beekeeper! Part I**

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)  
Interested in learning about the amazing, complex world of honeybees? Tonight's program answers questions for those considering keeping bees. Info: [rimendel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rimendel@sbcglobal.net).

Wed., Jan. 11, 6:45 pm

**Native Seed Cleaning and Exchange**

Sponsored by Wild Ones, Ann Arbor Chapter  
Help clean and share native seeds. Some seeds provided; participation is encouraged for those with or without seeds to share. Info: **734.604.4674**.

Sun., Jan. 15, 2–5 pm

**Tropical Ladyslipper Orchids**

Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society  
Rob Halgren of Littlefrog Farm discusses the history, culture, hybridization, and controversy of *Phragmipediums besseae* and *kovachii*, New World tropical ladyslippers. Also, a show & tell table of members' orchids in bloom, a raffle of orchids and related items, and orchid plants and supplies for sale. Info: [AnnArborOrchids@aol.com](mailto:AnnArborOrchids@aol.com).

Mon., Jan 16, 7:45 pm

**Belle Isle—Then and Now**

Sponsored by the Michigan Botanical Club, Huron Valley Chapter  
A discussion about this Detroit landmark.

Tues., Jan. 17, 7:30 pm

**The Great Lakes Compact: Are There Holes in the Bucket?**

Sponsored by Huron Valley Group, Sierra Club  
Great Lakes Echo commentator Gary Wilson talks about the 2008 Great Lakes Compact and efforts among the bordering states and Canada to protect our freshwater resources. Gary discusses the compact's challenges and other emerging Great Lakes issues.

Wed., Jan. 18, 7:30 pm

**Washtenaw Audubon Society**

For program topic and speaker visit [washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org) or call **734.677.3275**.

Sat., Jan. 21, 11 am

**Unusual Dendrobiums**

Sponsored by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)  
A presentation and discussion of some of the lesser-seen *Dendrobium* species and of *Tolumnia*, colorful species and hybrids of the *Oncidium* alliance of orchids.

Sat., Jan. 21, 1:30 pm

**Dwarf and Unusual Conifers**

Sponsored by the Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society  
A discussion about conifer identification and habitat, including pictures of the many available variations in color, texture, and shape, and options for the use of conifers, with a focus on rock gardening. Info: [reznicek@umich.edu](mailto:reznicek@umich.edu).

Wed., Jan. 25, 7 pm

**Members' Bonsai Collections—A Virtual Tour**

Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
A photographic survey of member collections reveals the nuts and bolts of how a personal collection is displayed and maintained by Bonsai Society members. Info: [programs@annarborbonsaisociety.org](mailto:programs@annarborbonsaisociety.org).

**FEBRUARY**

Wed., Feb. 8, 6:45 pm

**Weed Warriors**

Sponsored by Wild Ones, Ann Arbor Chapter  
Share your strategies, successes, or problems with garlic mustard, autumn olive, and others, and learn about imminent invaders such as Japanese hedge parsley and narrowleaf bittercress. Info: **734.604.4674**.

Sun., Feb. 12, 2 pm

**Discover the Pleasure of Roses**

Sponsored by the Huron Valley Rose Society  
Featuring a slide program by former American Rose Society president Steve Jones on the types of roses, how to plant them, and general basic information for the beginner. Refreshments provided, Q&A, and information sharing.

Tues., Feb. 14, 7 pm

**So You Want to Be a Beekeeper! Part II**

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)  
Interested in learning about the amazing, complex world of honeybees? Tonight's program continues to address questions for those considering keeping bees. Info: [rimendel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rimendel@sbcglobal.net).

Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 pm

**Washtenaw Audubon Society**

For program topic and speaker visit [washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org) or call **734.677.3275**.

Sat., Feb. 18, 11 am

**Size in Judging**

Sponsored by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)  
California grower Harold Koopowitz discusses the positive aspects of smaller flowers and the notion that bigger is better. Also, recent awards and a presentation featuring at least one species and several hybrids recently awarded by the American Orchid Society.

Sat., Feb. 18, 2 pm

**Bromeliads in the Lost World of the Guiana Highlands**

Sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society  
A presentation on the bromeliads and the creatures that abound in the cloud forest of the lofty mesas, isolated from human encroachment until the twentieth century.

Sat., Feb. 18, 2–5 pm

**Paphiopedilums—New Species and Hybrids**

Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society  
University of California professor, orchid grower, and expert Harold Koopowitz discusses his specialty, *Paphiopedilums*. Also, a show & tell of members' orchids in bloom, a raffle table of orchids and related items, and orchid plants and supplies for sale. Info: [AnnArborOrchids@aol.com](mailto:AnnArborOrchids@aol.com).

Mon., Feb. 20, 7:45 pm

**Kirk's Fen—Exploring a Recovering Natural Area**

Sponsored by the Michigan Botanical Club, Huron Valley Chapter  
Tonight's presentation by Matthaei-Nichols staff member Connie Crancer.

Tues., Feb. 21, 7:30 pm

**The Politics of the Environment—2012**

Sponsored by Huron Valley Group, Sierra Club  
Upcoming electoral politics and legislative issues will affect the quality of Michigan's air and water. Mike Berkowitz, chapter organizer, and Richard Barron, political committee chair, speaks on the coming year's key races and issues. Participants will discover ways to make a difference in local, state, and national elections.

Wed., Feb. 22, 7 pm

**How to Look At Your Bonsai—An Artistic Perspective**

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
Hear bonsai artist Martin Schmalenberg discuss "developing a bonsai eye." Martin takes a look at design beyond the textbook approach while seeking drama, balance, and imagination. Info: [annarborbonsaisociety.org](http://annarborbonsaisociety.org).

**MARCH**

Mon., March 5, 7 pm

**Annual Herb Seed Giveaway & Growing Herbs from Seeds**

Sponsored by the Herb Study Group  
Free herb seed packets and information on growing herbs.

Tuesdays, March 6, 13, & 20, 7–9 pm

**§ Orchid Culture Class**

Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society  
A three-week program March 6, 13, & 20 on growing and maintaining orchids. \$25 materials fee. (No discounts.) Info: [AnnArborOrchids@aol.com](mailto:AnnArborOrchids@aol.com).

**March 6:** Introduction to orchids; various types; their ecology and its relation to indoor or greenhouse growing; pollination mechanisms and early to modern hybridization; flower and plant morphology. **March 13:** Culture of the most popular types: *Cattleya*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis*, etc.; orchid growing media; water, fertilizer, light, and temperature; pests and diseases and their control with various methods. **March 20:** Potting orchids: hands-on training in potting or mounting orchids; selection of pots and media; pruning; and dividing. Each participant will take home four different types of orchids.

Sun., March 11, 1 pm

**Repotting Your Plants: A Demonstration**

Sponsored by the Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society  
All invited to hear a discussion about the best practices for repotting plants, followed by a demonstration with live examples. Info: [cuzenlouie73@yahoo.com](mailto:cuzenlouie73@yahoo.com).

Sun., March 11, 2 pm

**A Gardener's Guide: How to Select and Plant Roses Like a Pro (video presentation)**

Sponsored by the Huron Valley Rose Society  
Refreshments provided, plus Q&A and information sharing.

Tues., March 13, 7 pm

**Keeping Honeybees: The Right Equipment**

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)  
Tonight's program introduces the types of honeybee hive equipment, demonstrates the proper method of

assembly, and addresses questions pertinent to peculiarities with equipment. Info: [rimendel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rimendel@sbcglobal.net).

Wed., March 14, 6:45 pm

**Bioreserve Projects**

Sponsored by Wild Ones, Ann Arbor Chapter  
The Huron River Watershed Council's Kris Olson explains the Bioreserve Project, a volunteer-supported effort to assess the Huron River watershed. Olson provides information to landowners and land preservation organizations to protect these areas and help maintain the health of the Huron River system. Info: **734.604.4674**.

Sat., March 17, 11 am

**Recent Awards**

Sponsored by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)  
Student judge Ed Cott discusses and presents at least one species and several hybrids recently awarded by the American Orchid Society (AOS). Also, a discussion and presentation of at least one species and several hybrids recently awarded by the AOS (different from Cott presentation).

Sat., March 17, 2 pm

**The ABC's of Hybridizing Bromeliads**

Sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society  
A slide-show presentation by Paul Wingert on the basic principles of hybridizing bromeliads, his own methods, and how he grows them from seed to bloom. Paul will show parents and progeny and indicate what characteristics species are likely to pass on.

Sun., March 18, 2–3:30 pm

**New Dahlia Introductions**

Sponsored by the Michigan Dahlia Association  
A video presentation from the American Dahlia Society on new dahlias and getting your dahlias ready for a new growing season. Info: **734.429.5796**.

Sun., March 18, 2–5 pm

**Mixed Species of South America**

Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society  
Eric Sauer of River Valley Orchids shares his knowledge of orchids and discusses his orchid travels in Ecuador. Also, a show & tell of Orchid Society members' orchids in bloom, a raffle table of orchids and related items, and orchid plants and supplies for sale. Info: [AnnArborOrchids@aol.com](mailto:AnnArborOrchids@aol.com).

## Winter 2012 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

Mon., March 19, 7:45 pm

### Ann Arbor Schools—Environmental Education Program. Introducing Kids to Positive Nature Experiences

Sponsored by the Michigan Botanical Club, Huron Valley Chapter  
Discussion led by Ann Arbor Public Schools' Dave Szczygiel.

Tues., March 20, 7:30 pm

### A 21st Century Chicago-Area Waterway System

Sponsored by Huron Valley Group, Sierra Club  
Matt Doss, policy director of the Great Lakes Commission, discusses a developing multi-agency plan to prevent the ongoing transfer of aquatic invasive species and improve transportation, water quality, and flood management.

Wed., March 21, 7:30 pm

### Washtenaw Audubon Society

For program topic and speaker visit [washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org) or call 734.677.3275.

Wed., March 27, 7 pm,  
Helmut Sterns Auditorium, U-M Museum of Art

### The Pleasures of the Peony in Chinese Art

A talk by U-M History of Art alumna and Hong Kong University professor Roslyn Hammers on the various facets of the Song-dynasty peony as presented in paintings, poetry, and prose and the complexities and anxieties the peony evoked.

Wed., March 28, 6 pm

### Potluck and Discussion, American Rhododendron Society

Sponsored by the ARS Ann Arbor Group  
Tonight's discussion topic TBD. Check the Matthaei-Nichols website for details soon: [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).

Wed., March 28, 7 pm

### Bonsai Potting and Root Pruning Techniques

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
A presentation and demonstration on potting bonsai, including what to look for when potting. Bonsai Society members will also demonstrate how they pot their bonsai. Info: [annarborbonsaisociety.org](http://annarborbonsaisociety.org).

Sat., March 31, 10 am –4:30 pm

### Michigan State African Violet Society Semi-Annual Display & Sale

Sponsored by the Michigan State African Violet Society  
Free growing skills seminar at 1 pm. Experts on hand all day to answer questions. Free admission.

## APRIL

Mon., April 2, 7 pm

### All about Lavender

Sponsored by the Herb Study Group  
A presentation on the best varieties of lavender to grow in this area. Also, recipes and uses for lavender.

Tues., April 10, 2 pm

### Secrets to Beautiful Roses: How to Prune Many Types of Roses

Sponsored by the Huron Valley Rose Society  
Video presentation. Refreshments provided, plus Q&A and information sharing.

Tues., April 10, 7 pm

### CSI: What Went Wrong Inside the Hive

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)  
Tonight's meeting takes a hands on, CSI (crime-scene-investigation) look inside a hive that didn't make it through the winter to determine why. Also, a discussion on how to introduce packaged bees to a hive. Info: [rimendel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rimendel@sbcglobal.net).

Mon., April 16, 7:45 pm

### The Role of Plants in Ancient Environments

Sponsored by the Michigan Botanical Club, Huron Valley Chapter  
Discussion led by Dr. Selena Smith.

Tues., April 17, 7:30 pm

### Huron-Clinton Metroparks: Care of Our Diverse Ecosystems

Sponsored by Huron Valley Group, Sierra Club  
We know the metroparks for their bike paths and ball fields, but a big part of their mission is land stewardship. Paule Muelle, Director of Natural Resources for Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, presents programs for invasive control and natural land rehabilitation.

Wed., April 18, 7:30 pm

### Washtenaw Audubon Society

For program topic and speaker visit [washtenawaudubon.org](http://washtenawaudubon.org) or call 734.677.3275.

Sat. & Sun., April 21-22

### Ann Arbor Orchid Festival

Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society  
Featuring exhibits with orchids in bloom and plants and supplies for sale. Also, free talks and demonstrations both days. Free admission. Hours: Sale area 10 am–4:30 pm Sat. & Sun.; show hours noon–4:30 pm Sat.; 10 am–4:30 pm Sun.; photographers' hour 9–10 am Sun.. Free admission. Info: [AnnArborOrchids@aol.com](mailto:AnnArborOrchids@aol.com).

Wed., April 25, 7 pm

### The Care, Cultivation, and Maintenance of Tropical Bonsai

Sponsored by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
Bonsai artist Erik Wigert of North Fort Meyers, Florida, discusses tropical and subtropical material and issues related to health, maintenance, repotting, wiring, and general care of tropical bonsai. Info: [annarborbonsaisociety.org](http://annarborbonsaisociety.org).

Sun., April 29, 1-3:30 pm

### Michigan Dahlia Society Annual Tuber Sale

Sponsored by the Michigan Dahlia Association  
Plus, "You Too Can Grow Beautiful Dahlias," a video presentation and handouts for the new grower. Free admission. Info: 734.429.5796.

### Register early for the Spring-Summer 4-H Junior Master Gardener program

A youth gardening program open to children ages 9–11 as of 1/1/2012. Hands-on, project-based classes provide a high-quality, learning experience that helps kids discover the fun of gardening and the importance of volunteering. Six classes, early May to mid-June, followed by two garden sessions per month through mid-September. \$40 per child; application deadline April 23. Info: MSU Extension Office, 4H Department: 734.997.1678.

## Get Involved—Volunteer at Matthaei-Nichols

Our volunteer program offers diverse opportunities to learn and to connect and give back. As a volunteer, you'll develop new skills while supporting our mission of education and stewardship through hands-on service. We welcome new volunteers to join us in every season at the Arb & Gardens.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for the 2012 New Volunteer Orientation schedule and more information about current opportunities: 734.647.8528; [tgriffit@umich.edu](mailto:tgriffit@umich.edu). Additional training may be required for some assignments.

## Visitor Services – Ambassador Trainings (preregistration required)



MiSo House Ambassador Norm Scher and U-M Architecture Professor Harry Giles

### Michigan Solar House Ambassador Training

Sat., March 31, 9 am–noon, Matthaei

If you have an interest in or first-hand knowledge of solar energy, we've got the perfect job for you! Volunteers will be trained to greet and guide visitors as they learn about the MiSo (Michigan Solar) House, a unique "green" structure, designed and built by a team of U-M students. Weekend open-house shifts (3 hours) and special request tours run May–October.



Gaffield Children's Garden Ambassador Pat Conry

### Gaffield Children's Garden Ambassador Training

Two options:  
Sat., April 14, 9:00–noon or Wed., April 18, 1–4 pm, Matthaei

Join us as we create a welcoming atmosphere in this garden designed especially for young visitors. Volunteers will learn about basic visitor etiquette and the different elements of this unique, interactive landscape. 3-hour shifts available 7 days per week, 2 shifts per month May–Oct.

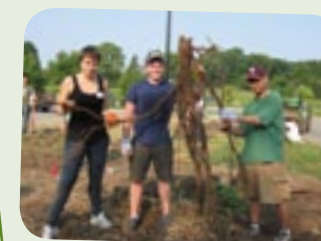
## Garden Ambassador Training

Sat., April 28, 9 am–noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Garden ambassadors welcome visitors during peak bloom season and special events. As an ambassador, you'll enjoy the beauty of the display gardens while you invite visitors to take a closer look. Training provides an overview of the Visitor Services Department, visitor etiquette, and our most popular points of interest. Additional garden tours/talks will be led by our horticulturists as the season unfolds. Weekends; 3-hour shifts, two shifts per month May–October.

## THANK YOU!

To all of the 1,609 community members, master gardeners, students, and corporate groups who contributed nearly 15,000 hours of volunteer service last year.



## CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

U-M Law School students unearth a mega-root;

Docents Mary Bruening & Merrie Malerich prepare for a youth program;

Bill Heston readies a bonsai;

Lynne Echlin & Penrith Goff with the bromeliad collection;

Ambassador and photo volunteer Albert Anthony in the Conservatory;

Rita Daniels and Janet Moilanen working with native plants in the bioswale at Matthaei;

Pete and Pat Wilcox ready to answer questions at the Gateway Garden sale.

## All Gifts Great and Small

As the Botanical Gardens prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2012, we're reminded of the key role our donors and Friends members at every level of giving have played in the growth of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum over the last 50 years, and how much their support will mean in the next half century and beyond.

Over the decades development, pollution, climate change, and other factors have continued to pose an ever-growing threat to the environment here and around the planet. Whatever size gift you make will help us care for, protect, and preserve our unique ecosystems. Here you'll find the endangered American burnet and the rare Blanding's turtle, but also thriving populations of the threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake. Our donors also make possible the preservation of our historically significant plant collections like the Peony Garden at Nichols Arboretum and the Great Lakes Garden planned at Matthaei.

Just as important, every donation demonstrates your commitment to partnering with us in fostering education and learning opportunities for the University community and the public about the importance of ecosystems everywhere, and in providing an invaluable treasure for future generations to enjoy.

Please consider making a gift to help protect another piece of threatened natural habitat, provide an elementary school student with a day of



hands-on learning, make a summer internship possible for a U-M college student, preserve culturally significant plant species, and much more.

Thank you again for your support!

Above: A rare Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) found at Matthaei last summer. The turtle is a state-listed special concern reptile and a great indicator of the value of the natural areas at Matthaei-Nichols to the conservation of rare species.

The **Labyrinth**, officially opened in 2010, is located in a restored prairie area north and east of the main entry off Dixboro Rd. Because of its secluded location, it's the perfect site for visitors to have a calming and restorative experience.



Extensive renovation of the **Conservatory** was made possible through the generosity of Robert and Marge Alpern and through the support of the University of Michigan. The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust helped fund plant labeling and interpretive materials. Conservatory



renovations include glazing with safety glass, installation of retractable energy blanket and mist fogger, automation of vent openers, and south entrance renovations for improved accessibility.

**Deer Fence.** Many of us here love deer, and the deer in turn love many of our plants! Several years ago, an anonymous donor provided the funds to build a deer fence, and since then the amount of damage caused by deer browsing, particularly in winter, has dropped dramatically. The fence is a little seen but invaluable part of operations here at Matthaei.



**Display Gardens:** Several display gardens, many of them clustered around the commons area west of the main building, are beloved by visitors and members alike. These include the **Marie Azary Rock Garden**; the **Alexandra Hicks Herb Knot Garden**; the **Gateway Garden of New World Plants** (a popular wedding spot); the **Perennial Garden** (another wedding favorite); and the **Helen V. Smith Woodland Wildflower Garden**.

**Great Lakes Garden:** The Great Lakes Garden planned for Matthaei will showcase examples of the unique flora of the Great Lakes Region. As a conservation garden, it will provide protection for species that are increasingly rare in the wild along with education about conservation issues for stewarding these species and ecosystems where they are found in nature.

Pictured clockwise from top left:

The labyrinth at Matthaei;

A detail of the deer fence surrounding portions of the property at Matthaei;

A view of the tropical house in the Conservatory.



## Giving Outside the Box

At a time of year when many of us are searching for a lasting and deeply personal gift, Matthaei-Nichols' tribute and memorial gift programs provide a meaningful way to celebrate a special occasion or remember a loved one. You can dedicate a tree or a bench, create a special ceremony to remember a family member or friend, or name a trail or garden. These enduring and tax-deductible gifts support our work to promote environmental stewardship, education, and enjoyment for the local and University of Michigan communities.

## The IRA Charitable Rollover: A Tax-Free Way to Support Matthaei-Nichols

For a way to save on taxes and help support Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum, consider an IRA charitable rollover. Congress has extended through 2011 the opportunity for individuals to make tax-free gifts to qualified organizations from their individual retirement accounts. It's a wonderful way to support our summer student internships, children's education programs, and more. Here's how it works:

- You must be 70½ or older
- Your gift will count toward your required minimum distribution
- Distributions up to \$100,000 can be made in 2011
- Your taxable income is not affected because no taxes are due on the distribution
- It's a simple, one-step distribution

If you have questions or wish to read more about this opportunity, visit [giving.umich.edu/IRA](http://giving.umich.edu/IRA) or call Gayle Steiner, Director of Development, at 734.647.7847.

## Special Membership Offer

Here's a special gift you can't buy in any store: a Matthaei-Nichols membership for family or friends. Even better, current members receive 10% off every gift membership along with a tax-deductible receipt from the University of Michigan. Each gift membership includes a certificate and a full year of benefits. Please phone membership manager Andy Sell at 734.615.9475 to set up a gift membership today.



## Winter Conservatory Exhibit

If you haven't yet seen our Conservatory exhibit, "Pineapples & Pincushions – The Art & Science of Patterns in Nature," make time this season for a visit to Matthaei. The exhibit runs through Sunday, January 8.

Discover the multitude of nature's amazing patterns and how they inspire and provoke us. On display are beautiful, large-scale photographs of nature's patterns; seasonal flower displays; children's scavenger hunts and activities; and U-M student and faculty research and projects on patterns in nature. All in the soothing warmth of a tropical setting!

## Matthaei-Nichols Annual Report

The Matthaei-Nichols annual report is due out in late December and will be available on our website, [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).

If you'd like a hard copy of the report, please email Joseph Mooney at [jfmooney@umich.edu](mailto:jfmooney@umich.edu) or call 734.647.9679.

## Winter Forays

If a wind chill of 78°F is the kind of winter weather you have in mind, come out to our conservatory in the months ahead for a mini tropical vacation. *Friends* members at the Sustaining and above level are invited to one of three guided walks through the Conservatory at Matthaei.

Learn about the history of the Conservatory and the amazing plants that live there. Tour dates will be announced via invitation in December, so renew or upgrade your membership today! Contact membership manager Andy Sell, [sella@umich.edu](mailto:sella@umich.edu) / 734.615.9475 for more information.

*caring for nature, enriching life*

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
& Nichols Arboretum**

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Karen Sikkenga,  
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