friends newsletter  •  fall 2013

Inside: Cherry tree plantings honor 1912 gift  •  Museums on call  •  The healing power of plants  •  and more

Prairie magic
The cherry trees also enrich our collections of culturally significant plants, such as the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden, the Julie Norris Post Collection of Ericaceous and Appalachian Plants, and the Centennial Shrub Collection in the Arb.

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A National Event that Nearly Wasn't

Today a pilgrimage to see the cherry trees in bloom is a bucket-list essential, with millions of visitors flocking to Washington each year to capture a lasting memory of an ephemeral flower. Yet it took 24 years of letter writing by Elizah Scidmore—an American writer, photographer, and geographer who had lived in Japan—to get the U.S. government to plant them in the first place. The original proposal to plant cherry trees in Washington was Elizah's brainchild. Beginning in 1885, she embarked on her long letter-writing campaign to convince the U.S. government to plant cherry trees in the capital. Finally, in 1909, Scidmore's letter to first lady Helen Taft bore fruit when Taft promised to make the trees a reality.

Unfortunately, when the first shipment of trees from Japan arrived the following year, a USDA inspection team, which included nematologist Nathan Cobb (see sidebar), discovered that the trees were infested with nematodes. The trees had to be destroyed.

In 1912 Japan sent new cherry trees that passed inspection, and several were planted around the Tidal Basin. Workmen continued planting trees there for the next seven years, but it wasn't until 1954 that the National Cherry Blossom Festival officially began.

In a 1946 letter, Harlow Whittemore wrote to A.C. Marshall, Detroit Edison's past president, "We have had inquiry recently from Tokyo with regard to the donation made some years ago . . . for a Japanese cherry collection given by the University alumni in that city." Whittemore, a Professor in the University of Michigan Department of Landscape Architecture from 1914-1958 and then U-M Chairman of City Planning, envisioned "a great collection of flowering trees" donated by Michigan alumni, one of which is the magnificent weeping Higan cherry near the Alex Dow Field (pictured above). Today Arb visitors make their own yearly pilgrimage to see the nearly 60-year-old tree. In a few short years, new cherry blossoms will grace the Gardens and Arboretum, dazzling visitors with nature's display of renewal and transformation.

What are those trees? The Japanese name of the cherry tree seedlings is Prunus jamasakura Siebold ex. Kiduzumi (common name: Yamazakura). The western species name is Prunus serrulata var. spontanea (Maxim.) E. H. Wilson (common name: Japanese mountain cherry).
The Healing Power of Plants

So much depends upon plant-derived medicines. According to the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (nigms.nih.gov), “over half of the world’s population still relies entirely on plants for medicines, and plants supply the active ingredients of most traditional medical products.” The College of Pharmacy established the first botanical garden in the late 1800s on central campus. In honor of that legacy and to educate visitors about the origins of many of our current and historical medicines, a new medicinal garden will open soon at Matthaei. Collaborating with university units is key to our mission; for the Medicinal Garden we’re partnering with Dr. Leslie Shimp from the U-M School of Pharmacy and Dr. Sara Warber of the U-M School of Medicine/Center for Integrative Medicine. Uniquely, the garden will be organized by the system of the body that the medicines are used to treat—for example, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, and cardiovascular. Tours, interpretive signage, and materials will be available at the front desk and in the garden, located just east of the Conservatory in a space previously devoted to themed displays. Look for more information on our website soon.

Campus Farm, a Living Classroom

Campus Farm Manager Parker Anderson is a gardener on a mission. Anderson, a dual degree master’s student at U-M (Sustainable Systems and Landscape Architecture), has been hard at work at the Campus Farm this summer creating a laboratory of sustainable agriculture in a modest plot on the Botanical Gardens property. The farm fills an educational gap, Anderson observes. “Students have a need to connect to local food,” he says, “and our farm offers the side benefits of learning and community,” desires borne out in a recent survey of U-M students. Anderson has incorporated the principles of permaculture into the Campus Farm. A significant goal of permaculture is the development of agricultural systems based on natural ecosystems. You can see that in the area devoted to honeybees and pollination Anderson calls the “bee sanctuary,” and the future plans for a “food forest”—a plot of food-producing and nutrient-enhancing plants—near the farm. Other elements, like the herb spiral and potato snake, are as much about artful delight as they are horticultural, says Anderson. And soon, he hopes, the farm will grow enough herbs to supply the U-M Dining Services. If you haven’t been out to the farm yet, stop by any time the Botanical Gardens is open. Look for announcements about seasonal farm-related celebrations and events on our website or on the U-M Sustainable Food Program site, umsp.com, later this year.

Museums on Call

Botanical gardens, museums, and zoos are fun and educational to visit, and it turns out they’re good for your health, too. On June 17 a congressional briefing in Washington organized by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) revealed in a national report how museums are playing a key role in health-care issues with programs geared toward disease prevention, mental health, and memory loss, to name just a few. Matthaei-Nichols is listed in the report, and through our partnership with the Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center (MADC) we’re contributing to this important work by hosting programs for caregivers of adults living with memory loss and for those with cognitive impairment. Regular contact with nature is vital to our well-being, one reason the MADC chose our site for their programs. Given the evolving role of museums in American culture, those health-inducing properties make places like botanical gardens even more indispensable. You can read the AAM’s report, “Museums on Call: How Museums Are Addressing Health Issues,” on their website, aam.us.org.

Welcome, Hort Therapy Group

The case for regular contact with nature just got stronger with the addition of the Michigan Horticultural Therapy Association to our mission-related group roster. Mission-related groups share Matthaei-Nichols motto of “caring for nature, enriching life” and offer regular programming—usually free—of interest to our members and visitors. A position paper published by the American Horticultural Therapy Association defines HT as “the engagement of a client in horticultural activities facilitated by a trained therapist to achieve specific and documented treatment goals.” That could include community horticulture, restorative gardens, healing gardens, vocational horticulture, and other ways to improve human well-being and health through horticulture. Look for the Michigan chapter’s programming in our newsletter and web calendars in the near future. And welcome, MHTA!

Save the Date (See pp. 4-5 for details.)

Sun., Sept. 15; 1-2:30 pm  
Matthaei-Nichols New Member Orientation

Sun., Sept. 22; 6-7:30 pm  
Music in the Arb

Sat., Sept. 28, 9 am, Nichols Arboretum  
3rd Annual Run for the Arb

Sat., Oct. 12-Sun., Nov. 10  
Art exhibit: Legacy of the Land Through Art  
Sponsored by Legacy Land Conservancy

Nov. 30-Jan. 5  
Exhibit: 50 Shades of Green - A Dynamic Look at the Color of Nature
Fall 2013 Youth & Kids’ Classes and Programs

**Sign Up!**
For our **Homemade Heritage** kids’ workshops listed below. Fees are per child and include activities and materials. For more information call 734.647.7600 or visit our website, mbgna.umich.edu, where you can also subscribe to our free monthly e-newsletter. All programs below held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens unless otherwise noted.

Sat., Sept. 28, 10 am-noon

**September Stroll**
Kids and their are parents invited to take a walk on the trails, in the conservatory, or in the Gaffield Children’s Garden. Self-guided tours and activities focus on late-summer flowers, butterflies, beetles, and more. Each child receives a mini-magnifying lens to take home! A Homemade Heritage program. **Free!**

Sat., Oct. 26, 10 am-noon

**Halloween Spooktacular—Vexing Vines and Batty Flowers**
Join us for a morning of (not so) scary fun. Make a mask and take a spooky trip through the conservatory to learn about vines that just might reach out and grab you, critter-munching leaves, and bat-shaped flowers. Complete the morning by decorating a mini pumpkin to take home. A Homemade Heritage program. **$8.00 per child includes activities and materials. 13-YE-19**

Sat., Nov. 23, 10 am-noon

**Kids Are Chefs, Too!—Warm Winter Spices**
Shorter, cooler days put us in the mood for food and drinks that make us feel warm inside. With our spices from around the world you can create your own signature apple sauce, pumpkin pie filling, and stuffing. **$8.00 per child includes activities and materials. 13-YE-20**

Sat., Dec. 7, 10 am-noon

**Winter-Green**
Ever wonder why we say ‘spruce’ up the house for the holidays? Discover the magical power and history of greens in wintertime and create an evergreen decoration to take home. Design a card and make star- and snowflake-themed decorations to celebrate the start of the winter season. **$8.00 per child includes activities and materials. 13-YE-21**

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**Scout Programs**
Scouting programs at Matthaei provide Girl and Boy Scouts with new experiences and opportunities to meet many different journey, badge, and patch requirements. Please contact children’s ed coordinator Liz Glynn for questions about meeting your troop or den’s specific badge and patch goals: 734.763.6667; lizglynn@umich.edu

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**Exploration Nature**
Uncover botanical treasures!
Learn the roles plants play and why they’re important. Also, build a terrarium to take home.

**Trail Treks**
Discover tracks and trees
Discover Michigan’s unique trees along the Sam Graham Trees and Trail. Plus, receive a booklet to make leaf rubbings and learn what makes Michigan ecosystems so special.

**Eco-Kids**
Go green and make a difference
Kids can make a difference when it comes to the health of the planet! Make paper, learn how composting works, or plant a tabletop garden to explore ways you can change the world.

**Sketchbook Detectives**
Put the world on paper
Find out how artists and scientists uncover the secrets of nature through close observation. In this workshop, paints, pastels, and colored pencils are your tools for rediscovering the natural world.

**Wetland Explorer** *(Offered May/June & early October)*
Clean water is important to everyone and everything! Explore ponds and streams to discover and learn about creatures and plants and their role in wetlands. This program counts toward the following badges: Junior Girl Scout-Outdoor Creativity & Outdoor Surroundings, and Cub Scouts.

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Pictured: an Eco-Kids patch
All programs and classes unless noted are free, open to all, and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. For complete program information visit our online calendar at mbgna.umich.edu or the “Come Learn” section of our website.

SEPTEMBER

Mon., Sept. 9, 7 pm How to Keep Herbs Indoors during Winter
Presented by the Evening Herb Study Group

Tues., Sept. 10, 7-9 pm Fall Hive Management I
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A pre-winter review of hive health, pests and pathogen status, and hive survival interventions.

Tues., Sept. 10, 7:30 pm
IPM in the Rose Garden
Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A presentation by Baldo Villegas on integrated pest management.

Wed., Sept. 11, 5:30 pm
Landscaped Prairie Garden Tour
Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter
Tour a prairie garden scaled to fit a suburban setting. Offsite: 8850 Hidden Woods Dr., Dexter.

Wed., Sept. 11, 6:30-8 pm
Catching Your Breath
Presented by Mich. Alzheimer’s Disease Center

Sat., Sept. 14, 1-4:00 pm
Tree & Woody Plant ID Lab at Matthaei
Presented by Stewardship Network
Covers several ecosystems. Stewardship Network members $10; nonmembers $15. To register: stewardshipnetwork.org.

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 14-15, 10 am-4:30 pm
Exotic Plant Sale
Presented by Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society & the SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
Cactus, succulents, and bromeliads for sale in all sizes. Also supplies, prints, & books, and art. 248.380.7359.

Sat., Sept. 14, 1 pm
Bromeliads, the Awesome Houseplants
Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
An introduction to the bromeliad family illustrates its diversity, survival strategies, and more.

Sun., Sept. 15; 1-2:30 pm
Matthaei-Nichols New Member Orientation
New members enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of Matthaei. Space limited; please preregister with membership manager Andy Sell by Sept. 1: sella@umich.edu; 734.615.9475.

Sun., Sept. 15, 1 pm
Yes, You Can Grow Bromeliads in Michigan
Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
Tips on choosing bromeliads that suit your needs in all seasons, as well as a discussion of potting mix, fertilizing, watering, and more.

Mon., Sept. 16, 7:45 pm
Biodiversity of Aquatic Plants—Temperate Versus Neotropics
Presented by Michigan Botanical Club
Dr. Garrett Crow discusses the question of whether northeastern North America is the Amazonia of diversity for aquatic plants.

Tues., Sept. 17, 7:30 pm
Localization: What’s in it for Us?
Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Chapter
U-M Assoc. Prof. Raymond De Young discusses adapting-in-place, whose goal is sustaining or improving natural systems that support our communities while advancing society’s well-being. michigan.sierraclub.org/huron.

Wed., Sept. 18, 6:30 pm
Native Companion Plantings for Rhododendrons
Presented by Ann Arbor Rhododendron Society
A meet and greet social hour at 6:30, followed by a presentation by Rick Meader on native companion plantings for your rhododendrons.

Wed., Sept. 18, 7:30 pm
Birding in the ‘Cloud’
Presented by Washtenaw Audubon Society
Local startup Ornicate founder Russell Conard discusses how his company is changing the connection between land and people—a key component of both organizations’ missions. Info and preview: mbgna.umich.edu.

Sun., Sept. 22, 2-5 pm
Growing Orchids to Their Potential
Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Clown Alley Orchids offers several types of orchids for sale. Also, orchid show & tell, raffle, and sale of plants and supplies. annarbororchids@aol.com.

Sun., Sept. 22, 6-7:30 pm
Music in the Arb
Classical music with local professional chamber orchestra group Arborata. Bring a picnic dinner (no alcohol, please) and a blanket or chair to enjoy this free concert in the Arboretum’s amphitheater. Weather permitting.

Wed., Sept. 25, 6:30 pm
Annual Auction – Bonsai and Supplies
Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
All invited to bring surplus bonsai and related materials to either a silent or a live auction. annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Sat., Sept. 28, 9 am
Run for the Arb 2013 – 5K Family Fun Run
A dog-friendly run/walk through the Arboretum. All proceeds support the Arb & Gardens. Pre-registration $25/members $20; dog registration $5. Participants receive a Run for the Arb t-shirt; space limited! Register: mbgna.umich.edu.

OCTOBER

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 5-6, 10 am-4:30 pm
Great Lakes Gardens Fall Festival & Native Plant Sale
Celebrate our natural heritage! Featuring hardy Great Lakes native woody plants and shrubs for sale. Plus, guided tours, live music with Joe Reilly Sunday at 2, and activities that highlight ways we can protect our region’s botanical bounty. 10% Matthaei-Nichols member discount. mbgna.umich.edu.

Mon., Oct. 7, 10-11:30 am
Catching Your Breath
See September 11 listing.

Mon., Oct. 7, 7 pm
Evening Herb Study Group
Join us for a program about herbs that usually includes recipes, planting tips, and samples. Tonight’s topic TBA.

Tues., Oct. 8, 7-9 pm
Fall Hive Management II
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Determine hive honey supply for winter survival, how to conduct a hive survivability survey, and some practical anti-mouse methods.

Tues., Oct. 8, 7:30 pm
Winterizing Roses
Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A presentation on the latest techniques.

Sat., Oct. 12-Sun., Nov. 10
Legacy of the Land Through Art
In collaboration with the Legacy Land Conservancy, Matthaei-Nichols presents an exhibition of art in an array of media that celebrates the connection between land and people—a key component of both organizations’ missions. Info and preview: mbgna.umich.edu.

Tues., Oct. 15, 7:30 pm
The State of Michigan State Parks
Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Chapter
Chief of MI State Parks and Rec. Ron Olson reviews our state park system and answers questions. michigan.sierraclub.org/huron.

Wed., Oct. 16, 7:30 pm
Some of My Favorite Birds
Presented by Washtenaw Audubon Society
Join birder and photographer Doug Leffler for a program on some of the most beautiful birds you’ll ever see. washtenawaudubon.org.
Fall 2013 Program Calendar—U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum

Sat., Oct. 19, 10 am-4 pm
Display and Sale: African Violets, Gesneriads and Terrarium Plants
Presented by Mich. State African Violet Society
Also, free growing skills seminar at 11:30 am.
LynnAllen0413@comcast.net.

Sat., Oct. 19, 11 am
Orchid Species Identification
Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
This task-force exercise program documents physical characteristics for proper species identification.

Sun., Oct. 20, 2-5 pm
Orchid Photography by Matthew Cook
Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Tips from this Ann Arbor photographer, who specializes in native orchids. Also, supplies and orchids for sale, show & tell, and raffle.
annarbororchids@aol.com.

Mon., Oct. 21, 7:30 pm
Native Bees and Honey Bees
Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter & Michigan Botanical Club
Hear Julianna Wilson discuss native bees, honeybees, their ecology, and the pollination of native plants and crops.

Wed., Oct. 23, 6:30 pm
Bill Cadmen on Bonsai
Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Society member Bill Cadmen shares the progress he’s made working with celebrated bonsai artist Ryan Neal. annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Sun., Oct. 27, 1-5 pm
Caregiving Wellness Gathering
Presented by Mich. Alzheimer’s Disease Center
This program for learning skills essential for continued health and well-being is designed for caregivers of adults living with memory loss. To register: 734.936.8803.

Mon., Oct. 28, 7:30-9 pm
High Rise and Time Share
Presented by Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society
Noted Scottish author and gardener Ian Young discusses his garden and how he maximizes planting space. reznicek@umich.edu.

Mon., Nov. 4, 7 pm
Evening Herb Study Group
Join us for a program about herbs that usually includes recipes, planting tips, and samples.
Tonight’s topic TBA.

Sun., Nov. 10, 2-5 pm
Miniature Cattleyas
Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
New Vision Orchids offers several different types of orchids for sale. Also, orchid show & tell, raffle, and sale of plants and supplies.
annarbororchids@aol.com.

Sun., Nov. 10, 2 pm
David Austin English Roses for the North
Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A presentation by Mary Peterson and a discussion of new roses.

Sun., Nov. 10, 2:30-5 pm
HeARTful Care Partnering
Presented by Mich. Alzheimer’s Disease Center
Designed for adults living with mild memory loss and their partners, this program is an opportunity to gather and enjoy the gardens together. To register: 734.936.8803.

Tues., Nov. 12, 7-9 pm
Winter Management of the Hive
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Practical approaches to winter hive prep methods and to managing internal condensation.

Wed., Nov. 13, 6:30-8 pm
Catching Your Breath
See September 11 listing.

Wed., Nov. 13, 6:45 pm
Potluck, Slide Show, & Bob Grese Deep Roots Award
Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter
A celebration of ideas and food along with a photo gallery of the Wild Ones efforts to replace lawns and invasives with natural landscapes.

Sat., Nov. 16, 11 am
Recent Orchid Awards with Ed Cott
Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

Sat., Nov. 16, 2 pm
Life as an Epiphyte
Presented by SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
Learn about the survival strategies of some 30,000 species of tree canopy-dwelling bromeliads—many of them well-known houseplants.

Mon., Nov. 18, 7:45 pm
Three Months in the Forest
Presented by Michigan Botanical Club & Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter
Field botanist Amanda Klain recounts her time in the Manistee National Forest.

Tues., Nov. 19, 7:30 pm
Isle Royale: Lake Superior Protects a National Treasure
Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Chapter
Author and long-time Isle Royale visitor Vic Foerster shares his insights into this archipelago and its fascinating blend of people, wildlife, and object lessons. michigan.sierraclub.org/huron.

Wed., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm
Delaware: Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs
Presented by Washenaw Audubon Society
Haehnle Audubon Sanctuary Stewardship Committee members Gary Siegrist and Lathe Claffin discuss one of North America’s most important migratory spots. Info: washtenawaudubon.org.

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 10 am-4:30 pm
Holiday Open House Member Appreciation
Holiday festivities, including live music, holiday items, and fresh greens. Additional 10% Matthaei-Nichols member discount all weekend.

Sat., Nov. 30-Sun., Jan. 5
Special Exhibit - 50 Shades of Green: A Dynamic Look at the Color of Nature
Using examples from the conservatory’s collection and touching on art, science, psychology, research, environmental issues, and literature, “50 Shades of Green” illuminates the many meanings of “green.”

DECEMBER

Mon., Dec. 9, 10-11:30 am
Catching Your Breath
See September 11 listing.

Tues., Dec. 10, 7-9 pm
Alternative Hives and Beekeeping
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A presentation on the pros and cons of alternate hive shapes and construction and the difference between organic and biodynamic beekeeping.

Tues., Dec. 17, 7:30 pm
Great Adventures from Around the Globe
Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
An annual presentation of travel adventures. Send a PowerPoint presentation or 10-15 photos with captions to lighthawkpilot@gmail.com. Info: michigan.sierraclub.org/huron.

Sat., Dec. 21, 11 am
Annual Bizarre Bazaar
Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
An auction of orchid supplies and unusual orchids and recent orchid awards presented by Dennis Seffernick.

NOTE: Occasionally, program dates or topics change after the newsletter is printed. Call ahead (734.647.7600), or visit our website (mbgna.umich.edu) or Facebook page (facebook.com/mbgna) to check on the status of a program.
Get Involved—Volunteer! Fall 2013

Fall is the perfect time to dig into some great volunteer opportunities at Matthaei-Nichols. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528 or tgriffit@umich.edu for more information.

Special Events 🎵

Music in the Arb
Sun., Sept. 22, 6-7:30 pm
Nichols Arboretum

An outdoor evening of classical music by local group Arborata in the Nichols Arboretum amphitheater. Volunteers are positioned at key locations in the Arb to greet and direct audience members to the amphitheater. Note: concert cancelled in case of inclement weather.

Run for the Arb
Sat., Sept. 28, 9 am
Nichols Arboretum

Join us for the 3rd Annual Run for the Arb, a special fundraising run/walk/stroll through the trails of Nichols Arboretum. All proceeds benefit Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum. Volunteers help out with registration, way-finding, refreshments and finish line.

Native Plant Sale & Festival
Sat. & Sun., Oct. 5 & 6, 10 am-4:30 pm
A sale of native woody plants and shrubs. Plus, guided tours, live music Sunday at 2, and activities. Volunteers will help with set up, greeting and directing visitors, and selling plants. Other positions TBA.

Trainings

Prescribed Burn Crew Training
Thurs., Oct. 10, 1-3 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

If you enjoy the natural areas at Matthaei-Nichols and would like to help maintain them this is a great service learning opportunity. Volunteers are on call for weekday, afternoon burns (1-4 pm) during the spring and fall. The training will provide basic information about the use of prescribed fire as a restoration tool and the basic volunteer duties. A tour of past burn sites and hands-on demonstration will be provided, weather permitting. Pre-registration required.

Conservatory Ambassador Training

two options
Wed., Oct. 23, 1-4 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

After the blossoming glory of the display gardens has faded our visitors can find a welcome retreat in the Conservatory. Ambassadors greet & guide visitors to points of interest and informal learning opportunities. This training will introduce volunteers to the Visitor Services department and cover the basics about the tropical, temperate, and arid biomes and the many fascinating plants that are found in each. Ambassadors commit to two, 3-hour shifts per month and attend ongoing educational sessions. Phone interview and pre-registration is required.
A Nature Lover’s Legacy Helps Trees, and Students, Grow

Elizabeth Needham (Betty) Graham (A.B. ’46) was a force for nature at Matthaei Botanical Gardens from the early ’80s until her death this past February. The first of more than 50 donors to honor her were Donald C. (B.S.E. ’55, M.S.E. ’56) and Ingrid A. Graham (B.S.Des. ’57), Betty’s former brother-in-law and his wife. They committed $200,000 to create the Elizabeth Needham Graham Internship in her memory. Thanks to this generous memorial, an Elizabeth Needham Graham Intern will oversee an ambitious collection of native Michigan trees that Betty envisioned years ago.

Don and Ingrid had originally breathed life into the collection by joining with other family members to fund the new Sam Graham Trees and Trail in 1999. The tree collection and trail, running through multiple ecosystems along the entrance to Matthaei Botanical Gardens, was named in honor of Samuel Alexander Graham, Betty’s father-in-law and Don’s father. Sam was a leading ecologist and forest entomologist at U-M from 1927 to 1961.

Betty’s obituary noted how much her involvement at Matthaei as a docent and then as a member of the Friends and Gardens advisory boards meant to her. Resulting donations in Betty’s honor, with the enthusiastic agreement of her son Christopher and daughter-in-law Elaine, will fund the first Elizabeth Needham Graham Intern in 2014, a year before proceeds from Don and Ingrid’s endowment become available. Other gifts made in memory of Betty’s son Peter will also support the internship.

What a perfect legacy for Betty, who, in the words of her obituary, “wholeheartedly loved the outdoors and took every opportunity to include interpretations of its plants and animals and birds and design to others.” Betty’s annual gifts helped to support Matthaei Botanical Gardens without fail for more than 30 years, and gifts in her memory will continue that work without end.

2014 Marks Friends Member Campaign

In 2014, the Friends membership program turns 40. What have those years meant to us? Literally and figuratively, an opportunity to put down roots, send up branches, and grow into an indispensable part of the University and local community. Next year, we’re honoring those decades of tradition and looking to the next 40 years of Matthaei-Nichols with the launch of a major membership campaign.

Formed in 1974 with 90 founding members, the Friends of Matthaei Botanical Gardens began with a mission of creative and educational programs for the benefit of the University and surrounding communities. Similarly, the Friends of Nichols Arboretum formed in 1991 with over 100 charter members.

Today we’ve blossomed to over 2,000 members who believe in our mission of caring for nature and enriching life. That support is evident in the amazing progress we’ve made over the years, progress that includes many new gardens and living collections, dozens of trail improvements, hundreds of student interns, and thousands of elementary school tours.

Each year we bring thought-provoking exhibits, educational offerings, and compelling programming to Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum—for example, Places for the Spirit, an exhibit of photos by nationally recognized artist Vaughn Sills; family festivals like last July’s Things with Wings, a fun, educational, and collaborative event that brought together several of our University, local business and community, and mission-related partners; and Shakespeare in the Arb, which just completed its thirteenth season. We couldn’t offer all the great things we do without the support of members like you.

Our goals for the Friends campaign are to significantly grow our membership numbers and, with your help, increase commitments from our current members. Throughout 2014, look for expanded member benefits and discounts, a special campaign celebration, and member “pop-up” learning opportunities.

A Nature Lover’s Legacy Helps trees, and Students, Grow

Elizabeth Needham (Betty) Graham (A.B. ’46) was a force for nature at Matthaei Botanical Gardens from the early ’80s until her death this past February. The first of more than 50 donors to honor her were Donald C. (B.S.E. ’55, M.S.E. ’56) and Ingrid A. Graham (B.S.Des. ’57), Betty’s former brother-in-law and his wife. They committed $200,000 to create the Elizabeth Needham Graham Internship in her memory. Thanks to this generous memorial, an Elizabeth Needham Graham Intern will oversee an ambitious collection of native Michigan trees that Betty envisioned years ago.

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What a perfect legacy for Betty, who, in the words of her obituary, “wholeheartedly loved the outdoors and took every opportunity to include interpretations of its plants and animals and birds and design to others.” Betty’s annual gifts helped to support Matthaei Botanical Gardens without fail for more than 30 years, and gifts in her memory will continue that work without end.

2014 Marks Friends Member Campaign

In 2014, the Friends membership program turns 40. What have those years meant to us? Literally and figuratively, an opportunity to put down roots, send up branches, and grow into an indispensable part of the University and local community. Next year, we’re honoring those decades of tradition and looking to the next 40 years of Matthaei-Nichols with the launch of a major membership campaign.

Formed in 1974 with 90 founding members, the Friends of Matthaei Botanical Gardens began with a mission of creative and educational programs for the benefit of the University and surrounding communities. Similarly, the Friends of Nichols Arboretum formed in 1991 with over 100 charter members.

Today we’ve blossomed to over 2,000 members who believe in our mission of caring for nature and enriching life. That support is evident in the amazing progress we’ve made over the years, progress that includes many new gardens and living collections, dozens of trail improvements, hundreds of student interns, and thousands of elementary school tours.

Each year we bring thought-provoking exhibits, educational offerings, and compelling programming to Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum—for example, Places for the Spirit, an exhibit of photos by nationally recognized artist Vaughn Sills; family festivals like last July’s Things with Wings, a fun, educational, and collaborative event that brought together several of our University, local business and community, and mission-related partners; and Shakespeare in the Arb, which just completed its thirteenth season. We couldn’t offer all the great things we do without the support of members like you.

Our goals for the Friends campaign are to significantly grow our membership numbers and, with your help, increase commitments from our current members. Throughout 2014, look for expanded member benefits and discounts, a special campaign celebration, and member “pop-up” learning opportunities.

Help protect the future of your beloved Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum by including a gift to us in your will or trust. Planned giving offers ways for you to substantially increase your support to the Gardens and Arb you love and achieve your financial goals and family objectives at the same time. To learn more, contact Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu, or Donna Parr in the University of Michigan Office of Gift Planning: 734.647.6061; dmparr@umich.edu.

Save the Date

Sun., Sept. 15; 1-2:30 pm
New Member Orientation


Tour is free. Space limited. Preregister with membership manager Andy Sell by Sept. 1: sella@umich.edu; 734.615.9475.