



friends newsletter • winter 2013

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M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Matthaei Botanical gardens
and Nichols arboretum

Caring for nature, enriching life

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens
& Nichols Arboretum**

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Taking Care of the Caregiver



by Joseph Mooney

An innovative program from the University of Michigan Health System aims to address the needs of care-partners of adults living with memory loss

Each Catching Your Breath session is unique and may include instructions and guidance in meditation practices; mindful perspectives such as mindful eating, walking, and breathing; visualization; art projects; and book or poetry readings. Spring and summer 2012 guest speakers facilitated discussions for maintaining balance and cultivating wellness while caregiving, and for the November session Rice-Oeschger coordinated a discussion and activity around preparations for wellness during the holiday season to help members create a holiday stress-management plan. “For any new members,” Rice-Oeschger explains, “the practices and discussion are simple and open. For folks who are returning, it’s an opportunity to deepen the commitment to self-care and revisit old skills.”

A Holistic Approach

Catching Your Breath is part of MADC’s larger mission to improve the life experiences of caregivers, their families, and those who have cognitive impairment, says Dr. Henry Paulson, Professor of Neurology at

the University of Michigan Medical School and the Director of Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center.

MADC’s three-pronged mission includes research, care, and education for the public and health care professionals alike about the causes and treatment of dementia, and Catching Your Breath “is an exciting new component of our growing effort to help caregivers understand and deal with the issues they might face as this complex, chronic disease goes through its many phases,” Paulson notes.

Inspiring and enriching people’s lives through contact with nature forms a core mission of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum, and the Catching Your Breath program speaks to that principle, says Matthaei-Nichols’ Director Robert Grese. “Catching Your Breath recognizes the restorative value of nature and beautiful gardens in people’s lives, particularly for those dealing with much emotional stress,” he says. “As medical care shifts to recognize the need to treat the whole person as well as to provide support for family members who serve as caregivers, places like our Conservatory, gardens, or nature trails become more important as settings that provide critical respite.”

Working with MADC also underscores how the Arb and Gardens continues to find new ways to collaborate with other units at the University, adds Grese. “Catching Your Breath is a perfect fit, in part because of the medical campuses’

A Sense of Calm

Last fall I joined participating caregivers and MADC program coordinator Laura Rice-Oeschger in the conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens for the October Catching Your Breath, which included an art project for attendees. As we sat waiting for the program to begin I spoke with two caregivers who’d signed up for the session. I asked them to describe what Catching Your Breath means for them. One participant, Diane, eloquently summed up how Catching Your Breath has helped her:

“Being a caregiver has its own very particular stresses and worries and fears. In this program I feel cared for in a calm place, and being at Matthaei Botanical Gardens just adds to that sense of calm. The combination of nature and beauty is like a transformation. We’re looking for peace in our lives at a time when we truly need it and the natural beauty of the Gardens together with the peace that participating in this program provides makes a perfect combination.”

For more information about Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center or Catching Your Breath visit the MADC website: med.umich.edu/alzheimers/ or call **734.936.8764**. Interested in attending a session in 2013? Catching Your Breath winter/spring 2013 schedule:

Jan. 16, 6:30–8 pm • Feb. 13, 10–11:30 am

March 20, 6:30–8 pm • April 17, 10–11:30 am

proximity to the Arboretum and the Gardens but also because it’s natural that we should look for ways to improve physical access to our properties and institute programs here that engage medical staff, patients, and their families.”



Above left: A participant in the Catching Your Breath program draws in the arid house of the Conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The October 2012 session featured an art project for caregivers.



PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

The Peony Advisory Committee and Matthaei-Nichols’ staff worked to identify hundreds of blooms from the Peony Garden last June.

An Arb road gets a new compacted gravel surface and swale last August.

A November 2012 image of the Bonsai Garden under construction shows the central pavilion going up.

Pearl Fryer’s garden, Bishopville, N.C., from Vaughn Sills’ *Places for the Spirit*.

Peony 2.0

We took a national treasure and made it even better. Thanks to a grant of nearly \$80,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services we’ve transformed how we restore and manage the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. In addition to restoration and peony identification efforts, a new website dedicated to the garden is up and running, making it a one-stop clearinghouse for information on the Peony Garden. At the heart of the new site is a comprehensive database for identifying each plant in the garden by name, form, color, cultivar, breeder, and season. There’s also an incredible wealth of information on peonies including history of the garden, peony videos, care calendar, glossary, peony societies and organizations, volunteer opportunities, and much more. Check out the website: mbgna.umich.edu/peony/.

Groundbreaking Gardens

As the newsletter went to print two spectacular gardens were taking shape at Matthaei, thanks to gifts totaling \$1 million from an anonymous donor. The Bonsai and Penjing Garden, located behind and to the west of the Conservatory, sprouted cedar fences and a central studio area with a beautiful, hand-finished roof. The garden is set to open spring 2013 and will allow us to display much more of our bonsai and penjing collection, recently augmented with purchases from renowned local bonsai artist and teacher Jack Wikle.

Just a short walk from the Bonsai Garden, earth-moving equipment lumbered through the cooling fall days to lay the footprint and hardscape of the Great Lakes Gardens, a series of spaces devoted to displaying native Great Lakes flora. What sets this garden apart from similar installations in other botanical gardens will be its recreation of Great Lakes habitats such as dune, alvar, and cobble beach—environments in which much of the Great Lakes’ unique native flora is found. The garden will feature five Great Lakes region habitats, including the Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden, made possible through a gift from U-M alumnus Richard C. Wilson in memory of his wife.

The Warren H. Wagner Fern Collection, named for a former director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and professor at U-M, will be interspersed throughout the gardens. Like the Bonsai Garden, the Great Lakes Gardens are set to open next spring, making 2013 a watershed year for the Botanical Gardens.

Township Water Flows at Matthaei

Among the many welcome changes happening at the Arb & Gardens one in particular has brought immediate environmental, economic,

and palate-pleasing benefits to Matthaei Botanical Gardens in particular—we’re now hooked up to Ann Arbor Township water. Along with the township connection, new water fountains with bottle-filling stations have replaced the old, inefficient fountains, and all bathroom fixtures have been upgraded. Additionally, three new fire hydrants now provide protection to the historic buildings.

The new system brings several benefits, the most notable being environmental. The fixtures reduce our environmental impact by significantly lowering the volume of water the facilities consume. The township water connection saves money, too; a cost benefit analysis revealed a lower one-time charge for connection to township water over the dollars spent on frequent repairs to the antiquated system. Perhaps the most striking change will be for our member and visitors. While well water has its fans, we think the township water just tastes better, and city water makes it easier to keep our fixtures, floors, and windows clean.

Arb Road Reconstruction

Thanks to your member dollars and gifts and to matching funds from the University, a multi-year project to rebuild several of the Arb’s degraded road surfaces began last summer. Many of the Arb’s roads had not been improved since their construction in the early twentieth century. Over the years the original gravel surfaces eroded, with each heavy rain sending loads of sediment to areas below. The reconstruction is both aesthetic—improved road surfaces—and structural, with much of the heavy lifting going on underground as water is redirected to bioretention basins that essentially slow the speed of runoff, allowing it to filter through vegetation and then into the soil, with overflow directed under the road and then into the Main Valley. Road edges and swales are being planted with a mixture of native grasses, sedges, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. The old asphalt road surfaces have been replaced by smooth, compacted gravel surfaces, and wherever possible we’ve kept the historic width of the roads to maintain as much of their original character as possible.

Places for the Spirit

An exhibition featuring black and white photographs of southern United States African American gardens by fine art photographer Vaughn Sills opens January 18. Traveling through seven southern states, Sills captured indelible images of these quintessentially American gardens that are uniquely placed within African American outsider and folk art traditions.

Youth & Kids' Classes and Programs—Winter 2013

Winter Adventure Saturdays!

Our Adventure Saturdays make winter mornings fun. All Saturday classes are 10 am–noon at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Fees include activities and materials. Limited class size—preregistration requested!

Hot Chocolate Jan. 26
Mmmm. . . chocolate! Get a head start on Valentine's Day with our Hot Chocolate program. Explore the rich history of chocolate, learn about why we need to protect the ecology of the cacao tree, and create delicious chocolate treats to warm up a January day. Class fills quickly; register early to reserve your spot! **\$8.00/child 13-YE-01**



Fairie Gardens and Doors Workshop March 9

Join us for two yearly fairie and troll garden workshops this year. Make a garden for fairies to visit and build a fairie door to invite them into your home or garden. Class fills quickly, pre-registration suggested. **\$10.00/child 13-YE-06**

Fairie Gardens and Doors Workshop March 23

Back by popular demand! Join us for the second of two yearly fairie and troll garden workshops. Make a garden for fairies to visit and build a fairie door to invite them into your home or garden. Class fills quickly, pre-registration suggested. **\$10.00/child 13-YE-07**

Camp Winter-Break, Feb. 18-22

Looking for a tropical oasis in town during the school break? Matthaei Botanical Gardens is your HQ for beating the midwinter blues. Visit the Botanical Gardens during the school winter break for guided activities and do-it-yourself fun. All programs 10 am–noon.

Mon., Feb. 18 Self-Guided Story Packs

Pick up a story pack and spend a cozy day in the Conservatory. Each bag has a story-based activity inside. Outdoor adventure backpacks are available too! Inside or out, spend the day with us—the way you want to! **Free**; no registration required.

Tues., Feb. 19 Bathtub Bouquets

Cold nights call for a hot bubble bath! Learn how to make your own special bubble bath and potpourri based on natural scents. **\$5.00/child 13-YE-02**

Wed., Feb. 20 Folktales and Fantasy

Special plants are always part of stories and legends. Listen to folktales about some of the plants here and then create your own story collage and legend about your favorite conservatory plant. **\$5.00/child 13-YE-03**

Thurs., Feb. 21 Eco-Kids

Kick start your eco-conscience this year with three easy ways to reduce your environmental impact. Turn recycled newspaper and dried flowers into beautiful cards, make a kitchen compost bucket, and learn how to save water for the garden. **\$5.00/child 13-YE-04**

Fri., Feb. 22 Can You Eat That?

Come explore the exotic plants in our warm, green conservatory. Learn which plants provide us with food, building materials, clothing, and more! Taste food from plants that can be found in the conservatory. **\$8.00/child 13-YE-05**



Make Way for Spring! School Break Getaway

Join us for week of fun during school spring break. All programs 10 am–noon at Matthaei. Fees include materials and activities.

Mon., April 1 Who Are You Fooling?

Join us for an April Fool's special activity day. Make paper masks, play games and find out which plants play tricks! **\$5.00/child 13-YE-08**

Tues. April 2 Self-Guided Activity Day

Experience the trails and conservatory at your own pace with an adventure backpack full of self-guided activities. **Free**; no registration required.

Wed., April 3 Sketchbook Detectives

Explore how scientist-detectives unlock the mysteries of ecosystems. Find clues hidden throughout the conservatory and learn sketching techniques for capturing nature. **\$5.00/child 13-YE-09**

Sat. April 13 Super Seedlings

Discover the magic of seeds! Some seeds are only as big as a grain of sand and others are gigantic! How does a tiny sunflower seed grow to 8 feet tall? Learn how the sun, water, and warm spring days encourage little seeds to become big seedlings and full-grown plants. Explore the types of seeds that will grow well in your home garden and plant seeds to take home. **\$8.00/child 13-YE-12**

Thurs., April 4

Is It Spring Yet?

Hit the outdoor trails to look for signs of spring. Then warm up inside with hot cocoa and make your own special blend to take home. **\$5.00/child 13-YE-10**

Fri., April 5

Windowsill Wonders

Learn how some plants make wonderful kitchen herb gardens, and make one to take home. **\$8.00/child 13-YE-11**

Sat. May 18 How Does Your Garden Grow?

Growing something you can harvest and eat is a delightful and tasty experience. Seedlings need the right soil, sun, water, and care to grow into delicious fruits, vegetables, and beautiful flowers. Learn how to make a beautiful vegetable garden anywhere! Decorate a small pot and transfer seedlings to take home. **\$8.00/child 13-YE-13**

Winter 2013 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

All programs and classes unless noted are free 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.

JANUARY

Tues., Jan. 8, 7 pm

So You Want to Be a Beekeeper?

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)
This month's program answers any questions aspiring beekeepers may have. Info: rimendel@sbcglobal.net.

Wed., Jan. 9, 6:45 pm

Native Seed Cleaning Workshop

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter
Help with the new Great Lakes Garden at Matthaei through this informative evening with Matthaei-Nichols staff horticulturist Connie Crancer. Tools provided. Bring native seeds to share; leave with seeds to take home.

Sun., Jan. 13, 2 pm

Landscaping with Roses

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A video about landscaping with roses plus Q&A and refreshments. Program open to all those interested in growing roses.

Tues., Jan. 15, 7:30 pm

Climate Science as Culture Change

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
Hear Andrew J. Hoffman, Director of the U-M Erb Institute discuss how the use of increasing amounts of climate change data without attending to social values of the people or groups being addressed will increase resistance to the message and make a social consensus even more elusive.

Fri., Jan. 18–Sun., March 10

Places for the Spirit: Traditional African American Gardens

A photography exhibition featuring images of African American gardens and their creators captured by photographer Vaughn Sills. In the spirit of "outsider" and folk art traditions, these gardens conjure their own unique aesthetic and cultural significance. Gardens from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina are represented.

Sat., Jan. 19, 11 am

Paphiopedilum hangianum

Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
A presentation and discussion of this recently discovered, large *Paphiopedilum* species that is beginning to show up in hybridizing and judging. Info: freesprit@pleurothallids.com; 517.546.8303.

Sat., Jan. 19, 1:30 pm

Rock Garden Vignettes

Presented by Great Lakes Chapter, N. American Rock Garden Society
A presentation from our widely traveled membership about wild plants from around the world suitable for rock gardens, visits to botanical gardens, and specific groups of special plants suitable for rock gardens. Info: reznicek@umich.edu.

Sun., Jan. 20, 2–5 pm

Lycaste, the Beautiful Sister of Helen of Troy

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A discussion about the culture of *Lycaste* orchids, and a discussion about *Anguloa*, or tulip orchids. Also, show and tell, orchid raffle, and orchid-related items for sale.

Mon., Jan. 21, 7:30 pm

The Flowers of Kirk Fen

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club
Matthaei-Nichols horticulturist Connie Crancer discusses the flowers of Kirk Fen and other highlights of Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Wed., Jan. 23, 7 pm

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society program

Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Discussion of seasonal topics TBD. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

FEBRUARY

Sun., Feb. 10, 2 pm

Romantic Rambling Roses

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A Powerpoint program on rambling roses. Also, Q&A and refreshments.

Tues., Feb. 12, 7 pm

Beekeeping Equipment: What You Need, Part I

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)
A conclusion to January's topic also kicks off the topic of equipment requirements. Info: rimendel@sbcglobal.net.

Wed., Feb. 13, 6:45 pm

Going 100% Native: A Home Landscape Transformation

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter
A presentation on the transformation of Ann Arbor resident Drew Lathin's yard from traditionally landscaped to 100% native. Lathin explains the process and the results, which include a backyard prairie and pond, traditionally designed native perennial beds, three rain gardens, and more.

Sun., Feb. 17, 2–5 pm

Photographing Native Orchids in the Field

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Tips and tricks from Ann Arbor-based fine art photographer Matthew Cook for photographing our native orchids in the field. Also, show and tell, orchid raffle, and orchid-related items for sale. Info: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Mon., Feb. 18, 7:30 pm

Coneheads

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club
A discussion about conifer biology.

Tues., Feb. 19, 7:30 pm

Great Lakes Estuaries - Keys to the Health of the Great Lakes

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
Hear MDNR Fisheries Research Scientist Jeff Schaeffer discuss the latest studies and provide insight to what the future holds for the important and little-understood Great Lakes river estuaries.

Wed., Feb. 27, 7 pm

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society program

Discussion of seasonal topics TBD. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

MARCH

Mon., March 4, 7 pm

Annual Herb Seed Giveaway & Growing Herbs from Seeds

Presented by Evening Herb Study Group
Free seed packets for attendees and information on how to grow herbs from seeds.

Sun., March 10, 2 pm

Roses for the Garden & the Smaller Garden

Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
Also, Q&A and refreshments.

Little Green Thumbs

Spring 2013 kids' gardening classes at Matthaei. All programs 10 am–noon. Fees cover materials and activities.



Winter 2013 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

Tues., March 12, 7 pm

Beekeeping Equipment: What You Need, Part II

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)

A continuation of February's topic and a demonstration of the proper method of assembly and questions pertinent to peculiarities with equipment. Info: rimendel@sbcglobal.net.

Wed., March 13, 6:45 pm

Wildlife in Urban Landscapes

Presented by Stewardship Network and Wild Ones Ann Arbor

A panel discussion about how wildlife in our neighborhoods thwarts our gardening efforts, has implications for human and animal safety, and fits into the bigger biodiversity picture.

Sat., March 16, 11 am

Get to Know My Orchid

Presented by Great Lakes Judging (Orchids) Bring in an orchid in bloom to discuss. Presentation covers any or all of the following: history; culture judging criteria; what the parents of a hybrid contribute (or not). Info: reespirit@pleurothallids.com.

Sun., March 17, 2013

Introduction to Philippine Orchid Species

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society A discussion and slide program by Mac Rivenbark, owner of a business specializing in Philippine orchids, about the natural history of Philippine orchids. Also, show and tell, orchid raffle, and orchid-related items for sale. Info: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Mon., March 18, 7:30 pm

Botany and Restoration at Ives Rd. Fen

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club A discussion about the botany of Ives Road fen and the fen's restoration for The Nature Conservancy.

Tues., March 19, 7 pm (also Tues., March 26 & Tues., April 2)

Orchid Culture Class (three parts)

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchids Society
Part I: March 19: Introduction to orchids; orchid ecology; growing orchids; basic culture of several varieties; fertilizer; and more.
Part II: March 26: Basic culture of medium to bright-light loving orchids; orchid growing media; water, fertilizer, light, and humidity; pests and diseases; and more. **Part III: April 2:** Hands-on training in potting and mount-

ing orchids; selection of pots & media; and more. Each participant will take home four different types of orchids. \$30 materials fee. Info and to register: email: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com; 734.971.6186.

Tues., March 19, 7:30 pm

Bird Migration Basics

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Ornithologist Dea Armstrong explains the mysteries of migration and discusses what happens with local birds and those just passing through.

Sat., March 23, 10 am-4 pm

Michigan State African Violet Society Show and Sale

Presented by Michigan State African Violet Society African Violets and Gesneriads. Free seminar at 11:30 am. Experts on hand all day to answer questions.

Wed., March 27, 7 pm

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society program

Discussion of seasonal topics TBD. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

APRIL

Mon., April 1, 7 pm

Fifteen Herbs to Grow in Your Garden

Presented by the Evening Herb Study Group Handout available; all invited. Interested in becoming a member of the Herb Study Group? April is membership dues month.

Tues., April 9, 7 pm

Hands On Inside the Hive

Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers A "hands on," CSI (crime scene investigation) look inside a hive that didn't make it through the winter to determine why. How to introduce packaged bees to a hive will also be discussed. Info: rimendel@sbcglobal.net.

Wed., April 10 at 6 pm.

Visit to a Spring Woodland Garden

Presented by Wild Ones Ann Arbor Chapter Enjoy the first burst of spring with a visit to Joan Lansdell's woodland ephemerals. Tour starts at the Lansdell property. Visit the Wild Ones website for details and address: wildones.org/chapters/annarbor/.

Tues., April 16, 7:30 pm

Trees to Ethanol

Presented by Sierra Club Huron Valley Group If a massive wood-to-ethanol plant being

built in the Upper Peninsula to convert millions of tons of trees into ethanol is proves commercially viable, forests will be "feedstock" and under tremendous new pressure. Pat Egan, retired journalist and UP resident, describes the pending project.

Sat. & Sun., April 20-21, 10 am-4:30 pm

Ann Arbor Orchid Festival

Presented by Ann Arbor Orchid Society The Society is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2013. Tropical and hardy orchids for sale, orchid-growing supplies, and related items. Also, free educational talks and demonstrations both days. Hours: Sales – Sat. & Sun., 10 am-4:30 pm; display area open noon-4:30 Sat., 10 am-4:30 pm Sun.; photographers' hour 9-10 am in the auditorium. Info: AnnArborOrchids@aol.com.

Mon., April 15, 7:30 pm

Soil Fungi

Presented by Michigan Botanical Club

Wed., April 24, 2013, 7 pm

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society program

Discussion of seasonal topics TBD. Info: annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Tuesdays, May 14, 21, & 28;
June 4, 11, & 18, 6:30-8:30 pm

4-H Junior Master Gardener Program

A hands-on program for youth ages 9-11 to explore various gardening topics and plant a large garden. Garden maintenance and community volunteer activities continue through the summer, including a Summer Harvest Salad Party and a Fall Harvest Party. Program fees include a personal copy of the Junior Master Gardener Reference book, materials for all class projects, and a t-shirt. Apply in person at 705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor; or download application at extension.ewashtenaw.org. All applications with payment due Mon., April 23, 5 pm. Info: botte@anr.msu.edu or call 734.222.3936.

NOTE:
Be sure to call ahead (734.647.7600) or check our website—mbgna.umich.edu—in advance of any program. Due to speaker availability or other reasons beyond our control, program dates or topics occasionally change after the newsletter is printed.

Get Involved—Volunteer at Matthaei-Nichols

Our volunteer program offers diverse opportunities to learn, 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 more information: 734.647.8528; tgriffit@umich.edu.

Visitor Services – Ambassador Trainings (preregistration required)



Michigan Solar House Ambassador Training

Sat., March 23, 9 am–noon, Matthaei

If you have an interest in or firsthand 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.

Above: MiSo House ambassadors Armgard Ruckert and Bud Collins in the MiSo House. Right: Volunteer Ambassador Angela Hellis in the Gaffield Children's Garden.

NEW! Garden Ambassador Training

Two options: Wed., April 24 or Sat., April 27

Each training session is 9 am–4 pm with lunch break

For 2013 we're creating a single group of ambassadors who can speak to all of the display areas at Matthaei, including the new bonsai and Great Lakes Gardens and the Gaffield Children's Garden. Training provides an overview of visitor service etiquette, general way-finding, and our most popular points of interest. We're looking for people with a love of gardens who enjoy working in a lively environment with visitors of all ages.

Monthly garden tours/talks will be led by our horticulturists throughout the season. 3-hour shifts available 7 days per week, 2 shifts per month, May–October.



THANK YOU!

To all of the 1,443 community members, master gardeners, students, and corporate groups who logged nearly 14,330 hours of volunteer service last year.



Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall – Matthaei-Nichols Volunteers Do It All!

Volunteers and staff gathered last October for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Open House to celebrate the many wonderful contributions made in the past year. Special service awards were given out in each department, including the "Iron Man Award" for Natural Areas Volunteer Tim Schafer who logged the most hours—576 to be exact! Other awards included the "Golden Flash Drive Award" for photography volunteer Michele Yanga, and the "Many Hats Award" for those volunteers who contributed their time to multiple departments.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

A scene from the 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Open House; Volunteer photographer Michele Yanga shows off her Golden Flash Drive Award with Matthaei-Nichols marketing manager Joe Mooney;

Demonstrating just how many ways they help make things run smoothly here, volunteers pose with their "Many Hats Awards"; Tim Schafer in full regalia as the winner of the 2012 Iron Man Award for most hours logged.



Gift Launches Fund for Care of Bonsai Collection

Jerry and Rhona Meislik, who first joined the Matthaei Botanical Gardens Friends in 1988, have donated initial funding for a new endowment to care for our extensive collection of bonsai trees. The gift of \$20,000 will open the Jerry and Rhona Meislik Bonsai Fund, kicking off an \$800,000 campaign to protect Matthaei's most time-intensive—and one of its most beautiful—living collections.

Jerry was an active member of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society before he and Rhona moved to Montana in 2000. They stayed in close touch with their friends and fellow bonsai enthusiasts in Ann Arbor, and in 2010 Jerry stepped forward to lead the successful campaign to fund a first-ever bonsai garden at Matthaei. That garden will open next spring.

Rhona graduated from the University of Michigan with a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the School of Natural Resources & Environment (MLA '88) and has an intense interest in native plants. Jerry has been creating bonsai for over 35 years and has traveled extensively in Asia studying the art. Bonsai clubs throughout the United States, Canada, and Africa have invited him to lead bonsai workshops and lectures. He is well known for his book, *Ficus: The Exotic Bonsai*, as well as over 50 published articles.

Jerry and Rhona both find great pleasure and serenity in the artistry of bonsai. "We look forward to the bonsai garden at Matthaei bringing that same sense of joy and satisfaction to your visitors as bonsai has brought us over the years," Jerry says. "As we watch the bonsai garden at Matthaei become a reality we urge others who appreciate the collection and the art of bonsai to join us in helping to ensure the garden's care for future generations."

Above: Jerry and Rhona Meislik in their Montana home.
Above right: Jean Avis Wilson in her garden.

Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden

Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering Richard C. Wilson (Industrial & Operational Engineering Ph.D., 1961) has made a gift commitment in memory of his wife that will create the Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden within the Great Lakes Gardens. Construction of the Great Lakes Gardens is underway at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

The idea to fund a garden first came from Christy Klim, Dick and Jean's daughter and a Matthaei-Nichols *Friends* member. Christy grew up hearing her mother tell stories about Jean's childhood in Morenci, Michigan, playing outdoors at Bean Creek. For a number of years, Jean and Dick lived next to Florence and Herb Wagner, renowned for their work at U-M in biology, field research, and conservation. Herb knew and appreciated Bean Creek, too, because of the many rare plants that grew there. Hearing about the significance of Bean Creek from one of the best-known botanists ever to work at the University of Michigan tickled Jean.



"Jean would be so happy to know that her name was part of a garden that celebrates the state and region she loved so much," says Dick Wilson. His daughter Christy Klim and son Rick Wilson agree. "Our mother would be thrilled that she was being memorialized long after her passing in the same gardens that will include a Warren H. Wagner Fern Collection showcasing the Wagners' work. It's a beautiful way to honor her memory."



... and Counting

The year 2012 has been a banner one for our *Friends* membership program. For the first time ever, nearly 2,200 members provide much needed support of our environmental stewardship, programming, and education efforts.

Bragging rights: Congratulations! Your membership and continued loyalty make us one of the largest membership programs at the University of Michigan. Thank you!

A Gift for All Seasons

A holiday Matthaei-Nichols membership package for a friend, family member, or colleague is a gift of nature-inspired beauty and serenity throughout the year. Our gift membership provides twelve months of discounts, special events, reciprocal privileges at participating botanical gardens around the country, and more. Pick up a special gift membership package at the Garden Store today. Each holiday gift membership is tax-deductible and includes a logo mug and certificate. Perfect for the holidays, newlyweds, birthdays, or for anyone who loves nature. All current members receive 10% off each gift membership purchase.

