Research Funding Available for Conservation-related Studies

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum (MBGNA) has received a gift to support studies of natural history and to promote the preservation and biodiversity of and/or encourage studies of rare and endangered species. This gift will allow MBGNA to offer grant support ($2,500-5,000) for studies related to a rare species or habitat found on its four properties (Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Nichols Arboretum, Mud Lake Bog, and Horner-McLaughlin Woods). These funds would be particularly appropriate for students working on an honor's thesis, master's thesis or practicum, or PhD.

MBGNA has proposed a list of high-priority topics. Applicants interested in pursuing a study related to one of these topics should contact MBGNA Director Bob Grese (bgrese@umich.edu; 734.763.0645) or Matthaei-Nichols Natural Areas Manager Jeff Plakke (jplakke@umich.edu). For information on our properties visit the natural areas data resources page on the Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum website.

**Deadline: March 10 or as available until funds are exhausted.**

Study of one or several of the rare animal species found or potentially found on our properties and/or management of their habitat. These include:

a. Massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*)
b. Blanding's turtle (*Emys blandingii*)
c. Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*)
d. Duke's skipper butterfly (*Euphyes dukesi*)
e. Redside dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*)
f. Indiana brown bat (*Myotis sodalis*)

Study of one or more of the rare or conservative plant species found on our properties such as:

a. *Dichanthelium leibergii* (Leiberg’s panic grass)
b. *Hypoxis hirsuta* (yellow star grass)
c. *Jeffersonia diphylla* (twinleaf)
d. *Ranunculus fascicularis* (early buttercup)
e. *Sanguisorba canadensis* (American burnet)
f. *Taenidia integerrima* (yellow pimpernel)
g. *Trillium flexipes* (nodding wake-robin)
h. Several orchid, ladyslipper or related species
i. Various rare sedges
j. Several gentian species

**Dynamics and/or management of habitats such as**

a. Floodplain forest
b. Poor conifer swamp
c. Hardwood-conifer swamp
d. Inundated shrub swamp
e. Southern wet meadow
f. Prairie fen
g. Dry mesic prairie
h. Oak openings/savanna
i. Dry mesic southern forest
j. Stream or other aquatic habitats—streams such as Fleming Creek or the Huron River or Mud Lake Bog