An Environment of Nature-based Learning at Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum

You can help by donating to Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum. Click on our logo above or visit the University of Michigan giving site to find out ways you can contribute, from student support, to gardens and collections, to natural areas, and more.

caring for nature, enriching life

Matthaei Botanical Gardens
& Nichols Arboretum
1800 N. Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Robert E. Grese, Director
Karen Sikkenga, Associate Director

For information:
734.647.7600
mbgna.umich.edu

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Denise Hitch, Birmingham Farms
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
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VICTORS FOR MICHIGAN
serving our future
Interns: In Their Own Words

This past summer we hired over 40 interns. Their hard work and dedication is evident throughout our properties. Here’s what several interns had to say about their experience at Matthaei-Nichols.

**Nick Machinski**

“I love working outside and enjoying the environment every day. It’s something people really don’t do much anymore. My internship, though, gave me a lot of experience and insight in how to run a small business, whether it is on a farm or in another setting.” (Nick’s Campus Farm internship was funded by the Porter Family. He is currently a grad student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment.)

**Andrew Harmon**

“It’s one thing to read about the important services that our native ecosystems provide and another thing entirely to walk out into a fen first thing in the morning when the wildflowers are piercing through a thin veil of fog, when you can feel the value of these natural areas on a visceral level.” (Andy’s internship was funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He is currently a grad student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment.)

**Morgan Wynne**

“As a music student, working at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum this summer really drove home for me that nature helps humans express themselves through art, dance, music, written and spoken word, and more.” (Morgan’s internship was funded by member dollars. She is an undergrad in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.)

**Richard Bryant**

“It was my third summer helping conduct and teach the Michigan Math and Science Scholars class at Matthaei-Nichols, but my first as a graduate instructor. Using the Arboretum and the Gardens to train students to think was thrilling. It’s gratifying for me to see Matthaei-Nichols being used to connect and engage future students in ways they may never forget.” (Richard’s internship was funded by member dollars. He is a grad student in the LSU Department of Political Science.)

**Joel Klann**

“As the Volunteer Services intern this past summer and as a 2+ year student-staff member at Matthaei-Nichols, I was able to interact with and help out those many wonderful people who seek to be involved with our organization. Having been part of the organization for five years, I can feel the value of these natural areas on a visceral level.” (Joel’s internship was funded by member dollars. He is an undergrad in the LSU Department of Political Science.)

**Name That Intern!**

Our members play an integral role in intern support, with significant member dollars funding internships. As we continue to build our internship program, several donors and foundations have stepped forward to create named internships, for example, the Gaffield Children’s Garden internship funded this summer by Marissa Silverberg. We appreciate all of our interns and the names of our donors, but if you’re interested in learning more about our named internships, contact Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu.

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**Matthaei-Nichols by the Numbers**

We continue to attract more people each year who value interaction and learning from nature: people of all ages, including students from across campus and in multiple classes, faculty seeking research spaces, volunteers, members of the public, schoolchildren, and families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student participation and engagement</th>
<th>Etc.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U-M students using our sites</td>
<td>1,389</td>
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<tr>
<td>U-M classes held at our sites</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer interns (’14 &amp; ’15)</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-M volunteer groups</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-M student volunteers</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty and grad student research</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research projects: greenhouse spaces</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New projects added calendar 2015: 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of researchers</td>
<td>16</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children’s education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School tour attendees</td>
<td>2,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer guided-program participants</td>
<td>607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other youth education program attendees</td>
<td>473</td>
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<tr>
<td>After-school/scout program participants</td>
<td>415</td>
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<th>Mission-related groups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission-related programs</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of mission-related groups</td>
<td>23</td>
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**Matthaei-Nichols: A Community of Students Making a Difference**

This summer, 41 students joined our staff for intensive nature-based internships. Next year, without fresh funding, five of those positions will disappear as a grant comes to an end, the University continues annual budget reductions, and two unique, one-time gifts end. With your support we can continue to hire students we need—and who need us. It takes many hands to keep our more than 800 acres thriving. The students we bring on board make that happen. In return, each student receives unique professional learning opportunities. We call this program our “Nature Academy”—a community of students committed to making a difference in caring for the environment and connecting with the public in meaningful ways.

You, too, can name an internship! For more information contact Director of Development Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu.

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On the cover: Summer 2015 intern Ryan Flynn takes a closer look at a Blanding’s turtle discovered at Matthaei. The Michigan DNR lists the Blanding’s as a species of special concern. The presence of the turtle is one indicator of a healthy ecosystem.
Opportunities to interact with and learn from nature abound at Matthaei-Nichols. These pictures illustrate our mission:

**Picturing the Nature Academy**

- At the annual peony concert in the Arb we partner with the new Medicinal Garden at Matthaei.
  - **MEDICINE CABINET IN THE GARDEN:**
    - high school students from around the world to Ann Arbor for a tour of the new Medicinal Garden at Matthaei-Nichols

**SCHOLARS GET A TASTE OF NATURE:**
- Junior Intern Rebecca Liebschutz (standing, right) leads a tour of the new Medicinal Garden at Matthaei-Nichols
- When the garlic mustard gets tough, staff and interns at Matthaei-Nichols get all hands on deck!
  - **OUTREACH:**
    - such as concerts, art and other exhibits, plays, and family programs. ALL HANDS ON DECK!

**Donors**
- at the $250 and above level for fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015) and cumulative lifetime supporters, endowments, and planned giving and bequests.

**Statement of Activity**

**FY2015 Revenues $2.82M**

**FY2015 Expenses $3.12M**

**Cumulative Lifetime Supporters (over $100,000)**
- Robert and Margaret Albert
- The Andrah Foundation
- Anonymous
- Sally and Ian Bund
- DTE Endowment
- Ford Motor Company
- Thomas and Jeanette Gaffield
- Ingrid and Donald Graham
- The Graham Foundation
- The Matthaei Family
- The Nash Family
- Martha G. Farley
- The Post Family
- The Reader Family
- Wilkinson Foundation

**Endowments**
- Wimbley B. Chase Fellowship
- William D. Drake Prize
- Joseph and Mary Laut DuCh
- Campus Farm Fund
- Jean A. Forrest Fund
- Elizabeth Needham Graham Internship
- Great Lakes Gardens Endowment
- Carol Holtzval Memorial Fund
- Nanette R. LaCroix Fund
- John and Margaret Land Fund
- MSUQA Fund
- Mildred Hague Matthaei Fund
- Jerry and Rhona Mostek Bonas Fund

**Nurturing Funds**
- Natural Areas Fund
- Nature Education Fund
- Geoffrey and Marian Norman Memorial Fund
- Julie Norris Post Heathdale Fund
- Research Endowment Fund
- Frances H. Stevens Bonas Fund
- W.E. Upholcy Peony Garden Fund
- Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association, Inc., Michigan Division, Internship Fund

**Planned Giving and Bequest Donors**
- Ann Abdo
- Anonymous
- Carol L. Brandon
- Donald and Kathy Duquette
- Elizabeth and Gary Elling
- Jean Forrest
- Mary Sue Grant
- John and Martha Hicks
- Rebecca Hovars
- Nancy and Robert Kaufman
- Mort and Cedric Richner
- Sally Rutsky
- Frederick E. Shall
- Bill and Sheila Sikkenga
- Lois A. Thiel
- Joan and Jon Wolf

**Estate Gifts Received**
- Anonymous
- $100,000-500,000
- 100,000-99,999
- 10,000-9,999
- Cook Family Foundation

**2015 Revenue Breakdown**
- General Fund $1,842,671
- Gift $397,885
- Activity-based Revenue $583,530
- Transfers to Construction $374,190
- Everything Else $608,256

**2015 Expenditure Breakdown**
- General Fund $1,847,323
- Salaries $1,657,323
- Gift $397,885
- Fringe Benefits $484,063
- Transfers to Construction $374,190
- Everything Else $608,256

**Total Revenue $2,624,086**
**Total Expenses $3,123,832**