Inside: Grant Paves Way for Dixboro Rd. Trail • Exploring the Children and Nature Connection • Provost Funds Campus Farm Manager • A Shared Love of Nature Inspires a Gift
Hosting the Wolverine Pathways Scholars
A New Generation of Environmental Stewards

By Benjamin Tupper

Matthewi-Nichols children’s education intern Ben Tupper writes about our participation in the summer Wolverine Pathways program. It was an amazing and collaborative learning experience for everyone, he says, and it offered the opportunity to design, implement, and reality-test a program that will help kids connect the theme of stewardship to their own lives.

Summer is a busy time for everyone at Matthaei-Nichols and the Children’s Education department is no exception. Transitioning from school-year to summer programs, we fervently prepared for the arrival of the Wolverine Pathways Scholars. This groundbreaking new program is the brainchild of U-M associate professor Robert Jagers. The pathways moniker U-M associate professor Jagers designed the Wolverine Pathways program, says Matthaei-Nichols director Bob Grese. “The opportunity for us to participate in Wolverine Pathways fits squarely within our Nature Education Initiative to bring diverse, underserved audiences to Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum and provide them with exciting opportunities to learn about nature and environmental stewardship,” he explains. The four-day program held at Matthaei was a learning experience for everyone. For the scholars, it was an opportunity to explore a new area, learn about stewardship, and contemplate the importance of becoming environmental stewards in their own locale. For staff and interns, it was an opportunity to see a design in action, to work with new people, and to be a part of something that has the potential to impact hundreds of youth from the local area.

WHAT IS WOLVERINE PATHWAYS?
Dr. Robert Jagers, a developmental psychologist at the U-M School of Education, designed the Wolverine Pathways program, which launched in January 2016. A major goal of Pathways is to give young people early opportunities that will help them see possibilities and cultivate their fullest potential. It also gives the kids a sense of what it’s like to be a U-M student. University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel has called the Wolverine Pathways program an “important step for the U-M as we continue to look for ways to identify talented students and cultivate applicants from all parts of our state.”

—U-M President Mark Schlissel

WHAT WE OFFER

• Is free and currently open to students who live within the Ypsilanti and Southfield public school districts.
• Features hands-on and project-based learning activities that extend and integrate core English-language arts, math, and science content.
• Offers a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to students who complete the program, apply to the University of Michigan, and are accepted.

For more information on how you can contribute to our Nature Education Initiative, contact Matthaei-Nichols Director of Development Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu or use the enclosed envelope.

The first round of scholars arrived on Monday morning, July 18. Day one, 8th-grade youth from the Ypsilanti school-district headed out to Fleming Creek, got their feet wet and their hands dirty, and determined creek health based on what species of macro-invertebrates they found. While groups conducted surveys in the creek, others were busy working on chemical tests looking for things like dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and phosphates. While the 8th graders were busy in the creek, the 11th graders worked with Matthaei-Nichols staff on service-learning projects of the terrestrial type. After a quick lunch and respite from the heat of the day the scholars were back at it. The 8th graders crunched numbers, analyzed data, and made determinations of creek health based on their morning findings. The 11th graders headed out to the display gardens, learning about interpretation techniques and how to convey information to the public. With day 1 complete, the scholars headed home and the staff frantically prepared for the next day.

WHAT WE LEARNED

The four-day Wolverine Pathways program proved to be a learning experience for everyone. The student scholars explored a new area, learned about stewardship, and contemplated the importance of becoming environmental stewards in their own locale. For staff and interns, it was an opportunity to see a design in action, to work with new people, and to be a part of an initiative that has the potential to impact hundreds of youth from the local area.

Moving forward, we’d like to get student participants’ insights to help us better understand their experience of the program. It would be also be interesting to study the design process and to gain insights into the intended, taught, and learned curriculum. This will help us in the future with the design and implementation but perhaps most important, it will help us discover what the students actually learn, whether we intended those lessons or not.

I want to thank everyone involved with this program. Our children’s education coordinator Liz Glynn was a guiding light, and my fellow intern Sam Pilon also helped put the program together. It was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic Matthaei-Nichols staff participating and giving their precious time and energy to make a lasting impact on youth. To everyone who helped plan, implement, and participate, thank you!

WHAT’S NEXT

Pictured: Facing page, top: Ready to hit the trails; children from the Southfield, Michigan, school district pose in front of the Botanical Gardens entrance. More than 200 students from Southfield and Ypsilanti school districts visited Matthaei-Nichols this July. The students conducted water-quality assessments and participated in eco-restoration and other activities. Above: Well-stocked with clipboards, collecting cups, and testing kits, students gathered macroinvertebrates such as crayfish in Fleming Creek. The presence or absence of these creatures is one indicator of the creek’s health. Above center: Intern Ben Tupper, left, helps a student collect water from Fleming Creek for testing. Above right: Using information they gathered on their visit to Matthaei the students developed stewardship-themed posters that they presented to their peers and to staff. The poster session was a huge success and the kids enjoyed an opportunity to share their innovative, creative, and entertaining projects. Left: The Matthaei-Nichols education team that developed the four-day program. From left: intern Ben Tupper, Children’s Education Coordinator Liz Glynn, intern Sam Pilon.
Call for Art: For Exhibit "Nature by Design"

Announcing a call for art from the U-M and local communities. We’re seeking art for the gallery exhibition “Nature by Design” at Matthaei. We’re inviting all members of the U-M and local communities to consider submitting works inspired by nature that are created by natural colors, patterns, shapes, and colors. Works can be in a variety of media including textiles, photography, sculpture, painting, and others. We’ll display the works in the gallery spaces at Matthaei throughout our winter exhibit “Avant Garden.”

For more information visit our website or email events coordinator Allison Correll: acorrell@umich.edu.

Submission Deadline: Sunday, October 2, 2016
Submission Details: Visit our website mbgna.umich.edu and click on the “Call for artists” banner on the home page.
Exhibition Dates: November 26, 2016 – January 8, 2017

Hort Couture Comes to Matthaei

Fashion is blazing a runway straight through Matthaei Botanical Gardens this winter in our holiday conservatory exhibit, “Avant Garden: Weaving Fashion and Nature Together.” Beginning the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the exhibit will feature dresses made from living plants, nature-inspired fashion, and a look at the science of plants. This entertaining event will include food, drinks, and activities for the whole family.

Donor-Funded Nature-Play Study a Boon to Many

Public gardens need younger generations to stay relevant in a fast-paced, attention-grabbing society. And children need the environment and green space for their physical and mental well-being. That’s the context in which Matthaei-Nichols director Bob Grese and student Andy Sell are helping build an important study of the Gaffield Children’s Garden at Matthaei. Sell, a former intern and staff member at Matthaei-Nichols and now a grad student in Landscape Architecture at the School of Natural Resources and Environment, also hopes the study will help shape the discussion around early-childhood experiences and encourage more children to garden and become environmental stewards.

“The project includes designing methods to evaluate the children’s garden and its spaces and use by visitors, while finding ways to quantify how nature play is perceived and used in home landscapes,” says Andy. The study design includes a survey of children’s gardens across North America, interviews with garden managers, a survey of Matthaei-Nichols visitors, and workshops focused on nature play at home. “In terms of nature play research, the field has uncovered plenty of work being done to help schools convert playgrounds into more engaging and imaginative nature play spaces for children,” he explains. One example is the work being done by the Natural Learning Initiative through North Carolina State University in collaboration with the National Wildlife Federation. The study will benefit many entities, says Andy: Matthaei-Nichols itself, other public gardens who may use the input to edit or design their own children’s gardens and parents, grandparents, and child-caretakers who may not know the importance of integrating nature play into residential landscapes.

The project will serve as the culminating thesis of Andy’s master’s degree at the U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment. He is working closely with director Grese to design the surveys and conduct interviews. Over the next six months, the team will collect, record, and analyze the data. Donor Leanne Miller, a Michigan alum, is funding the project and naming the wellness garden collection of the medicinal garden after her mother, Gretchen Jones Miller (see story on following page).

Fall Burn Season Begins

Fire good! In this case, we mean fire from fall prescribed burns conducted at the Arb and Gardens. While prescribed or controlled burning might sound like a modern invention, indigenous peoples in pre-settlement North America used fire as a land-management tool. Today, the prescribed burn is the most effective and efficient land-management tool at our disposal, according to Jeff Plakke, Matthaei-Nichols superintendent of field services.

“This is a key component of our ongoing stewardship efforts to encourage native ecosystems and minimize the impact of invasive species,” he adds. We welcome volunteer participants or those who’d simply like to observe. To participate as a volunteer, contact our volunteer coordinator at 734.647.8528. For general information, contact Jeff Plakke at 734.274.1809.

Observers are welcome. Burns are weather dependent so call ahead or check our Facebook page for updates: facebook.com/mbgna.

MiSo House Closes

The space-age silhouette of the Michigan Solar House (MiSo) will soon disappear from Matthaei Botanical Gardens. MiSo is being sold through the U-M’s property disposition office later this fall in a sealed bid process. The 660-square foot, solar-powered home was designed and built by a team of architecture, engineering, and urban planning professionals and community volunteers.

We will be sending out a notice when the sale is scheduled, says Matthaei-Nichols facilities manager Jeff Walters. At that point, the sale will be open to the public. Pictured: MiSo House with volunteers in 2015.
**Second Nature**

A mother and daughter’s shared love of nature inspires a unique dual tribute project.

“Some passions reveal themselves early in life. For Leanne Miller, nature has been a touchstone for as long as she can remember,” says her father, Jack Miller. “Leanne was born hard-wired with a love of nature,” he recalls. “When she was very young she decorated her room with posters of different kinds of animals, and her mother painted a wall in Leanne’s bedroom with flowers and her name.” Gretchen Jones Miller—Leanne’s mother—loved nature herself and was an enormous influence on her daughter’s lifelong dream of a world where nature takes center stage. And though she wasn’t with the children for very long, says Jack, “I can hear her speaking through them.”

Today, Leanne is returning to the theme of nature with a gift to Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum that celebrates and shares her mother’s love with a unique dual tribute project.

As a child, Leanne said her mother “was an enormous influence on her and her family and her father. The wellness garden is a special place I can go when I return to visit the University of Michigan and share with those who will never have a chance to meet my mother.”

Recently, Leanne has been thinking about ways to honor her mother’s memory and love of nature. Both graduated from U-M—her mother with a degree in art and Leanne’s in resource ecology and management from the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Celebrating her mother in the University of Michigan botanical gardens made perfect sense. “The tribute in the gardens and my pride as an alum of the University of Michigan are where I feel the strongest connection to my mother, and that makes this gift especially meaningful,” says Leanne.

While the plaque dedicating the Wellness Collection to Gretchen Jones Miller is something that the family can return to whenever they want, the children’s garden project uncovers the universal theme of kids’ innate love of nature. The nature and backyard play project was an idea Leanne wanted to develop because of how her mother’s gardens inspired an interest in nature at a very young age, she says. “I like that there’s a learning component, too. Helping give children and families that kind of exposure is a fitting tribute to my mother.”

**Special Events**

**Native Plant Sale & Festival**

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 1 & 2, 10 am-4:30 pm

A sale of native woody plants and shrubs. Volunteers will help with set up, greeting and directing visitors, and selling plants. Other positions TBA.

**Run for the Arb**

Sun., Oct. 16, 9 am, Nichols Arboretum

Join us for the 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.

**Trainings**

**Prescribed Burn Crew Training**

Fri., Oct. 14, 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.

**Conservatory Ambassador Training**

Two options: Sat., Oct. 8, 9 am-Noon; Wed., Oct. 12, 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 educational sessions. Phone interview and pre-registration required.

**Volunteer Spotlight:**

**Ruth Person**

A former chanceller at the University of Michigan and now a Professor of Management there. Ruth Person says volunteering is about always learning something new and helping people, too.

By her own account, Ruth Person has done a lot of volunteer work in her long career in university administration.

As a volunteer at Matthaei-Nichols, however, “I wanted to do something different, to be around plants and gardens, and to be outside,” she says. “And my dad was an avid gardener, so this is my way of reconnecting with him,” she adds.

Volunteering is also an opportunity for continual learning. Ruth says, and it brings out her love of helping others and problem solving. “I was a librarian at the Detroit Public Library,” she recalls.” Thanks to that job, she says, “I can almost always tell when someone is lost. That’s a good skill to have as a volunteer”.

**Get Involved—Volunteer! Fall 2016**

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

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**YOUR VISION, OUR EXPERTISE:** Considering a gift to celebrate and honor the memory of a friend or family member? We’re here to listen and explore options that support your values and advance our mission. Contact Director of Development Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayleas@umich.edu or Director Bob Grese: 734.763.0645; bgrese@umich.edu.

**Pictured clockwise from top:** Leanne Miller and family visit Matthaei July 2016. From left: father Jack Miller; Leanne, boyfriend J.J. Tijero, brother Tim; Tim’s wife Megan and daughters Maze and Mia. Bottom row: Gretchen Miller, Tim and sister Leanne in the garden at their childhood home; Leanne in her bedroom with walls painted by Leanne’s mother Gretchen Miller.

Above left: Matthaei-Nichols volunteer coordinator Housef1 Rabhi (left, with hat) preps student volunteers the morning of the 2015 Run for the Arb. Above right: Garden and conservatory ambassador Ruth Person poses in the conservatory at Matthaei. Above: Matthaei-Nichols staff and volunteers conduct a spring 2016 prescribed burn at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.
**September**

**Sept. 8, 1-2:30 pm**

**Create Your Own Seasonal Ikebana**
Presented by Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Local bee nursery owner Mike Connor discusses bees for planters and gives planting advice and recommendations. All-Bee member Sherry Marcy also discusses overwintering techniques.
Program includes trees for sale.

**Sept. 11, 2 pm**

**Raising Native Mason Bees for Pollination**
Presented by Ann Arbor Garden Club
Chris Lapinski, master gardener, land-scape consultant and volunteer for the BeeCap program, discusses how easy it is to raise beneficial mason bees and get the maximum reproduction rate with the best survival rate for this hard-working native insect.

**Sept. 11, 7 pm**

**Flower Arranging**
Presented by Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Workshops are the second Thursday of each month. $20 fee covers materials and instructor. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

**Sept. 17, 7 pm**

**African Violet Display and Sale**
Presented by Mi State African Violet Society
Join members of the society as they display their favorite orchids. The sale displays include plants, soil and complementary materials. Recipes available. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

**Oct. 1, 10 am–4 pm**

**Catching Your Breath**
Presented by Ann Arbor Garden Club
An informal evening of sharing by members of the Ann Arbor Garden Club. The event will include video presentations of individual gardens by master gardeners in the club and the sharing of novels/books/articles on gardening. Refreshments and gardening gift ideas for the holidays.

**Oct. 1, 7 pm**

**The Garden Experts Speak Up**
Presented by Ann Arbor Garden Club
An informal evening of sharing by members of the Ann Arbor Garden Club. The event will include video presentations of individual gardens by master gardeners in the club and the sharing of novels/books/articles on gardening. Refreshments and gardening gift ideas for the holidays.

**Oct. 2, 6-7:30 pm**

**Summer’s Last Flora**
Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

**Oct. 3, 1-2:30 pm**

**Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging**
Presented by Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Workshops are the second Thursday of each month. $20 fee covers materials and instructor. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

**Oct. 11, 7 pm**

**Birding in Guatemala**
Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Learn more about how orchids are judged for the American Orchid Society at the Great Lakes Judging Center’s informal program. Program usually includes an educational component as well. Today’s session presented by Dave Miller. Great Lakes Judging Center probation judge.

**Oct. 17, 7:30 pm**

**Dune Ecology and Restoration**
Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A monthly program that covers topics such as birds and birding or other seasonal and timely environmental issues.

**Oct. 22, 7 pm**

**Herb Study Group**
A presentation or discussion about herbs and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

**Nov. 2, 7 pm**

**Annual Bonsai Auction**
Presented by Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
All-Bee member Austin Martin talks about the planned Dixboro Rd. trail.

**Nov. 9, 7 pm**

**Improving Trail Connectivity in Ann Arbor**
Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A free annual program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

**Nov. 10, 1-2:30 pm**

**Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging**
Presented by Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Workshops are the second Thursday of each month. $20 fee covers materials and instructor. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

**Nov. 10, 7 pm**

**Catching Your Breath**
Presented by Mi Alzheimer’s Disease Center
A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

**Nov. 13, 2 pm**

**What’s New in Roses**
Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A monthly program that covers topics such as birds and birding or other seasonal and timely environmental issues.

**Nov. 17, 7:30 pm**

**Cruising the Deep South: The Falklands and Beyond**
Presented by Sienna Club Huron Valley
David Brooks, longtime member of the Sienna Club Huron Valley Group member, will describe his tour of the South Seas, traveled by those hardy mariners from across the ages. He is ready for his tales of penguins, waves, ice, and more.

**Nov. 17, 7:30 pm**

**Honey Labeling and Michigan Cottage Food Laws**
Presented by Huron Valley Rose Society
A free annual program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

**Nov. 21, 7:30 pm**

**Soil Fungi Effects on Plant- Insect Interactions**
Presented by Michigan Botanical Club
A monthly program that covers topics such as birds and birding or other seasonal and timely environmental issues.

**Nov. 27, 7:30 pm**

**Herb Study Group**
A presentation or discussion about herbs and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.
**December**

**Thurs., Dec. 8, 1-2:30 pm**

* Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
  Presenter: Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
  Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Workshops are the second Thursday of each month (no $20.00 which covers flowers and instructor. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

**Sat., Dec. 10, 10-11:30 am**

* Annual Greens Workshop
  Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
  Make a traditional wreath, fireplace mantelpiece or table decoration for the holidays. $20 class fee (free for Ann Arbor Garden Club Members) includes materials and a light brunch. Registration required through Ann Arbor Garden Club. triciaing@hotmail.com.

**Mon., Dec. 12, 10-11:30 am**

* Catching Your Breath
  Presented by MI Alzheimer’s Disease Center
  A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

**Tues., Dec. 13, 7-9 pm**

* Nest Boxes
  Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
  Julia Brokaw, an entomology research technician at Mich. State Univ., and Logan Rowe, an MSU entomology graduate student, give a presentation on the mason bee, which uses mud to build compartments in their nests and are avid pollinators of fruit trees.

**Sat., Dec. 17, 11 am**

* Holiday Orchid Party and Bazaar
  Presenter: Great Lakes Judging Center (Orchids)
  An auction of orchid plants, books, and related items, plus "Orchids at the Chelsea Flower Show, England and Wales," a presentation by Great Lakes Judging Center student judge Gordon Griffin. Lunch provided; all are welcome.

**Ann Arbor Garden Club: tricialin@hotmail.com.**

**Flower Arranging**

Sat., Dec. 12, 10-11:30 am

Make a traditional wreath, fireplace mantelpiece design, or table decoration for the holidays. $20 class fee (free for Ann Arbor Garden Club Members) includes materials and a light brunch. Registration required through Ann Arbor Garden Club. triciaing@hotmail.com.

**Sun., Dec. 4, 10 am-4 pm**

* Annual Greens Workshop
  Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
  Denise Locker leads a workshop on holiday greens. Cost: $15. Wreath/arrangement materials provided. Registration appreciated (please register through the Garden Club only): 734.255.7912. Potluck brunch.

**Hort Couture - Wonders of Winter Kids Program**

Sat., Dec. 3, 10 am-noon

Help us celebrate our holiday conservatory exhibit, “Avant Garden” in this annual Wonders of Winter kids ed program. Throughout history plants have been used for fabrics and dyes and have inspired patterns in art, design and textiles. Explore the influence of plants from cultures around the world in this hands-on family program and make a decorated textile to take home.

Sat., Dec. 17, noon-2 pm

* A Visit with Father Christmas
  A great opportunity for kids and their families to visit with and get their photos taken with the real Father Christmas. in town for one day only!

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**DIY Nature Adventures**

Sat. Sept. 17, 10 am-noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens

**September Stroll - Self-Guided Hike**

Pick up activity sheets from the Visitor Center and create your own Autumn Adventure. Explore the woods and fields for late wildflowers. Look for seeds, fruits and colorful leaves, and enjoy the coming fall. Free, drop-in program; no registration necessary.

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**Upgrade to A Family Tree Membership**

... and receive six youth and family free passes for fee-based classes. You also get $65 off Matthaei Birthday Party programs. A great value at $75. Visit our website for details: mbgna.umich.edu

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**Holiday Exhibit - Avant Garden**

“Avant Garden - Weaving Fashion and Nature Together,” is the featured exhibit this season in the conservatory at Matthaei. The event includes a special children’s program on December 3 (see listing at left), seasonal flower display, and decorated holiday trees themed to the exhibit.

Exhibit is free and open to all. (December 3 kids programming is fee-based.) Also, don’t miss the Open House on Saturday, November 26 featuring seasonal items in the Garden Store and our annual holiday artisan’s market, featuring local artists with hand-crafted items for sale. Free admission.

Sat., Dec. 17, noon-2 pm

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

**A Visit with Father Christmas**

The one and only, authentic Father Christmas makes his annual visit to Matthaei today. Great photo op, and free!