Even gardeners devoted to growing native plants might be surprised to learn that 57 species of native orchids are found in Michigan—and that many of these orchids grow in remote or relatively inaccessible habitats, such as fens or bogs. Thanks to a $12,000 grant and an ingenious orchid-cultivation concept, visitors will soon enjoy a rare view of some of those native orchids in the Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden.

The grant comes from Ann Arbor Farm & Garden, a longtime Matthaei-Nichols supporter whose founder Mildred Hague Matthaei was, along with her husband Frederick Matthaei Sr., the driving force behind the gift that provided the land for what became Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Jean Avis Wilson was a local gardener and active participant in the University of Michigan’s Continuing Education for Women program. Her husband Richard Avis Wilson and daughter Christy Klim contributed the initial funds for the garden. (As we went to print we learned that Richard Wilson had recently passed away.)

The orchid garden is one of five spaces within the Great Lakes Gardens at Matthaei. This unique garden concept showcases not only the plants native to the region but the habitats in which they live. Touring the garden, visitors see and learn about our native plants and gain a new appreciation for these often rare plants’ one-of-a-kind habitats.

Initial plans for the orchid garden called for planting the orchids directly in the ground along with background vegetation to allow visitors to see the orchids and their related flora, says Matthaei-Nichols’ director Bob Grese. “The site has natural groundwater seepage throughout the year, which led us to think this would be a good site for featuring native orchids,” he explains. When the site flooded several years in a row, Grese realized a different strategy was required to ensure the orchids’ success.

Mike Kost, Matthaei-Nichols’ curator of native plants, helped design the garden and choose the native orchids. Kost initially thought of planting the orchids in tree stumps or on hummocks. But that wouldn’t solve the problem of future flooding, he says. “Then I came up with the idea of individual boxes.” After he and Grese designed the orchid planters, Matthaei-Nichols’ Collections and Natural Areas Specialist Tom O’Dell determined the best materials to use and how to build them. When the design and materials were complete, volunteers extraordinary Tim Schafer and Richard Vix began building the cedar-wood boxes. The varying-size boxes will elevate the orchids above the level of future flood waters. The boxes also make it easier to control the complex soil variations that some orchids need, Kost explains.

“Many of our rare and most beloved native wildflowers are seen as off-limits for horticultural gardens,” Grese says. While many people have long enjoyed photographs of these rare wildflowers, he adds, fewer have been able to experience them firsthand because so many of them grow in fragile wetland environments that are hard to reach. “This is a conservation garden in the truest sense,” says Grese. “It’s meant to inspire visitors by the beauty of these unique and rare plants and to build support for conserving the special places where these plants still exist.”

**Grant Invigorates Native Orchids**

A grant makes possible an elegant solution for rebuilding and restoring the Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden.

What’s Growing in the Orchid Garden?

Orchids aren’t just tropical denizens. Many orchid species are native to Michigan and the Great Lakes. Dozens of species can be found in Michigan, many of them growing in wetlands such as fens and bogs. Here’s a partial list of the 57 native orchids we’ll feature in the Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden at Matthaei:

- Cypripedium acaule (pink lady-slipper)
- Cypripedium reginae (showy lady-slipper)
- Calopogon tuberosus (grass pink)
- Pogonia ophioglossoides (rose pogonia)
- Platanthera ciliaris (orange-fringed orchid)
- Liparis liliifolia (lily-leaved twayblade)
- Spiranthes cernua (noding ladies’-tresses)
- Galearis spectabilis (showy orchis)

**Above, clockwise from upper left:** Cypripedium acaule (pink lady-slipper); Cypripedium parviflorum (yellow lady-slipper); Calopogon tuberosus (grass pink). All photos by Tony Reznicek. **Bottom photo:** Some of the boxes on-site in the Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The boxes will protect the young orchids from potential flooding from nearby Fleming Creek.
Hiking and Biking Trail a Go!

By Karen Sikkenga, Matthaei-Nichols Associate Director

At last, it’s really happening! We’re building a safe, scenic, hiking-biking trail that will connect Matthaei Botanical Gardens and the U-M campus, downtown Ypsilanti, Gallup Park and—almost—the Arb. It was an amazing and sometime arduous journey, with curves, jogs, and the occasional bump in the road, just like any path. This is the story of how the trail project went from idea to reality:

1) Dixboro Rd. is not healthy for bicyclists and other living things. I rode my bike to work for years along Dixboro, a road with no shoulder and traffic whizzing by at 50 miles per hour. It’s no place for walkers or bikers.

2) Nature is a great inspiration for a trail. Seeking an alternate route to work after Dixboro Rd. closed for resurfacing one summer, I took to detouring through Radrick Golf Course. It turned out to be a picturesque trip. One morning I thought, wouldn’t it be great to turn this route into an official bike path?

3) Sustainable transportation to the botanical gardens for U-M students, staff, and members of the community is a strategic priority. So is inclusivity—and if you can only get someplace by car, then that place can’t be inclusive.

4) There are no new ideas. But that doesn’t make an idea less great. A Dixboro Rd. trail project had been fully planned prior to 2005, but fell through when the parties couldn’t agree on the details. The trail idea originated with donors Helen and Norris Post and was picked up by Washtenaw County Parks, who explored earlier versions for the trail.

5) Support and collaboration are good things. When I approached Bob Grese, our director, to ask for his thoughts about a trail, he threw his support behind the idea. The U-M Adventure Leadership Program and Radrick Golf Course were also on board: all of us occupy U-M-owned land that the trail will cross.

6) Ann Arbor Township is a key player. Most of the funding comes from federal, local, and state government grants, and only AAT was eligible to receive the grants. Mike Moran, AAT supervisor, provided key advocacy and fundraising assistance, and the AAT trustees provided significant direct funding. The U-M provided key easements as well.

7) It takes a village to build a trail. Thank you to Ann Arbor Township and the dozens of donors, advocates, and dedicated stakeholders at the U-M, the township, corporate neighbors, nearby schools, and state and local governments whose contributions helped make it happen.
The Grandmother Tree Walk: a Journey through Michigan Time
The University of Michigan celebrates its bicentennial throughout 2017. We're doing our part to honor this 200-year milestone with a look at history from the perspective of trees. Take a self-guided tour any day of the week, sunrise to sunset, in Nichols Arboretum. Maps will be available at the Arb’s Washington Heights entrance, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and online (download and print). The tour features 12 trees and their stories, and how they connect with events happening at the U-M when the tree started growing. It’s informative, easy, and free. Also, to welcome the next 200 years, this fall we’ll be planting two native white oaks and giving away 200 white oak seedlings grown from acorns harvested from a tree at Matthaei. Stay tuned for dates and times.

Trail Construction Underway
Construction began in March on a paved hiking and biking trail connecting the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens with a network of trail systems throughout the area. See story on preceding page. You can also read the complete story on the Arb & Gardens’ blog of how the trail journeyed from idea to reality: mbgna.blogspot.com.

Accessible Ramp a Boon to Matthaei Visitors and Staff
In March workers completed a long-awaited ramp that connects the lobby and west hallway at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and provides wheelchair and stroller access. One major benefit for visitors: we no longer have to send people outdoors to get from one end of the building to the other. The lack of a ramp affected many people, including staffer Linda Neely’s granddaughter Maddie, who uses a wheelchair wherever she goes. “Before the ramp went in,” Linda says, “when Maddie visited the conservatory she’d have to wait in the lobby to see me, while her sister Natalie could run up the lobby stairs to my office. Now, anyone in a wheelchair or with a stroller or rolling walker can take the new ramp. ‘They’ll all be helped tremendously thanks to the ramp!’” The ramp debuted right before the annual Orchid Festival, one of the biggest visitor weekends on the Matthaei Botanical Gardens calendar.

Arboretum Sewer Renovation Update
The timeline for completion of work to repair a sewer line in Nichols Arboretum has been moved back about a month later than its original projection of late March, according to Matthaei-Nichols Facilities Manager Jeff Walters. Sewer line upgrades like this one are important for ensuring access to clean water in our community. The work consists of cleaning and inspecting an existing sanitary sewer and installing a liner inside the sewer. The later date, likely in April, won’t affect access to the Arb or overlap with programs such as Shakespeare in the Arb, the Nichols Arboretum Peony season, or the Ann Arbor Marathon scheduled for March 26.

Peony Garden Champion Dies
Martha Parfet, the last surviving granddaughter of Dr. W.E. Upjohn, died February 20 in Kalamazoo. In 2013 Martha established the W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden Fund with a gift of $500,000 to Matthaei-Nichols. The fund was intended to help care for the historically and internationally significant Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. The peony garden itself began in 1922 with a gift of 280 peony varieties from Dr. Upjohn, founder of the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo and an avid peony collector.

At the time she made her gift for the Peony Garden, Parfet noted the deep support from the Upjohn family at the University of Michigan. Dr. Upjohn and five of his siblings earned degrees from Michigan in medicine or pharmacy between 1871 and 1886. That began a nearly 150-year-old connection with U-M that has included degrees and gifts across the university.
In 2013, Matthaei-Nichols Director Robert Grese proposed a multi-year initiative to restore the peony collection and garden at Nichols Arboretum as a center for the study of peonies and peony culture and a visitor destination in the state of Michigan. Thanks to Martha’s gift and other donations to the garden fund, we’ve made tremendous progress in recent years, including: preparations for the 2022 garden centennial with the planting of historically appropriate cultivars; the addition of beds for tree peonies and intersectional peonies (crosses between herbaceous and tree peonies); and the creation of interpretive beds dedicated to the floral forms of historic herbaceous peonies. We are continuing to add the remaining cultivars referenced in Upjohn’s *Brook Lodge Peonies*, create beds for key historic peonies from China, Japan and Korea, and further develop international collaborations around the study of peonies.

Martha’s generosity was legendary in her community and beyond. Her gift continues to transform the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden and solidify its reputation as one of the great collections of peonies worldwide.

**Insights from Student Volunteer Survey Revealed**

We’re always seeking ways to engage University of Michigan students: through classes held at our sites, field trips, internships, and volunteering. A grant from ReDirect funded a survey of U-M student volunteers at Matthaei-Nichols in 2015-16. ReDirect is an Ann Arbor-based nonprofit, founded by U-M faculty Stephen and Rachel Kaplan, that helps nonprofits strategize ways to effectively engage their staff, volunteers, and their communities. The survey sought to measure student attitudes about volunteering with the Arb and Gardens at our regular weekdays. Analysis of survey results provided some important insights about our student volunteers:

- Juniors and seniors are more likely to volunteer;
- Most students came as part of a student group and used the volunteer time to build relationships among group members;
- Student volunteers prefer working with plants and outdoors in nature rather than in customer service environments.

**Recommendations and action steps:**

- Provide volunteers with a sense of clarity about the work they perform;
- Show the impact that a group can have in a short period of time;
- Teach enough skills at the beginning of a workday to give students a sense of autonomy;
- Conduct an outreach campaign to U-M students, many of whom have not heard of Matthaei or the Arb.

**Shakespeare in the Arb & Member Benefits**

*The Tempest* is this year’s play for the seventeenth season of Shakespeare in the Arb. Performance dates are Thurs.-Sun., June 8-11; 15-18; 22-25. Last year we started a ticket-reservation program for our members and it proved so popular that we’re bringing it back for 2017. Matthaei-Nichols members can reserve tickets online and pick them up at will call before the show. Look for information, ticket prices, and more information on our website in May: mbgna.umich.edu.

**Michigan Peony Society Holds Cut-Flower Show**

The first peony show of the Michigan Peony Society will take place at the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden on Sunday, June 4, in part concurrent with the Peony Blossoms and Pure Melodies Concert. This will be a judged, cut-flower show. For information about the still-forming Michigan Peony Society, exhibition schedule, or entries, please contact David Michener at dcmichener@gmail.com.

**Students Prize Winners**

Annual prizes recognize creative work and scholarship related to the Matthaei-Nichols mission. These include the Nanette R. LaCross and William D. Drake prizes for School of Natural Resources & Environment (SNRE) or Program in the Environment (PitE) students who link their studies with us. The Winifred B. Chase Fellowship helps students in systematic botany research, plant geography, and other phases of botany requiring field study. Congratulations, students! This year’s winners:

- **Nanette R. LaCross Prize (all $2,000)**
  - Julia Belke
  - Taylor Landeryou
  - Margaret Lindman

- **William Drake Prize (all $2,000)**
  - Etienne Herrick
  - Ann Elise Stratton
  - Jordon Tourville

- **Winifred B. Chase Prize**
  - EEB-PITE soph.
  - Tabitha Faber
  - $1,243 for study on health of Iris versicolor populations

**Greening of the Hoop House**

Campus Farm Manager Jeremy Moghtader gathered a diverse group of students on March 24 to inaugurate the hoop house with spring plantings. The hoop house is a critical piece of the farm: it extends the growing season significantly on both ends and allows students to engage with the farm in the fall and winter semesters. (See photo opposite page.)

**Transitions**

Please welcome several new staff members: Maricela Avalos, our plant systems and collections data specialist. For the past 16 months, Maricela has served as a geographer and GIS technician with the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service in Atlanta, Georgia. Sharyn Falls Dennis, volunteer coordinator. Most recently Sharyn was the director of a military aid society that was staffed almost entirely by volunteers. Heather Hunter, human resources coordinator. Heather comes to Matthaei-Nichols from University of Michigan Photography. She developed an interest for working in nature while performing ecological restoration as an AmeriCorps Volunteer. Several staff members also retired or left for other positions.

Jan Stearns retired in December 2016 after 15 years with us. Jan had been our human resources coordinator. Gayle Steiner, our director of development, retired at the end of April this year. Turn the page to read Gayle’s reminiscences about her years working with donors, students, members, and volunteers. Yousef Rabhi left in December to begin his work as a state representative for the 53rd House District, which includes parts of the city of Ann Arbor and portions of Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, and Scio townships.
Longtime Members Love Our Mission

Nearly 180 of our members have been giving annually in support of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum for over a decade. While we know that free parking at Matthaei is a draw for new and current members, the recent member survey revealed that 65% of respondents are inspired by and strongly support our conservation and restoration efforts. Three long-time members, when asked how a Matthaei-Nichols membership has positively impacted their lives, reveal how we are truly fulfilling our mission of caring for nature and enriching life.

“Whether I’m there for a work day in the children’s garden, engaging with staff and other volunteers, or soaking up the colors and aromas of the conservatory, I always come away refreshed and reenergized.”
—Carrie Riedeman, member for 16 years

“Both sites mean a great deal to me in terms of beauty, restoring mental health, and opportunities for new understanding.”
—Jane Hayes, member for 16 years

“Matthaei Botanical Gardens is truly a place for all seasons. Whenever I need time to be quiet and restore myself, I go to Matthaei.”
—Sally Rutzky, member for 13 years and Vision Leader Committee Member

Gardens of Memories

As she prepared to retire, Matthaei-Nichols Director of Development Gayle Steiner recalled the people and places that made a difference throughout her tenure.

One of my fondest memories of working at Matthaei-Nichols is the visit to the peony garden I shared with Martha Parfet and her son Don in 2016. Martha, who died in February this year, was the last surviving granddaughter of W. E. Upjohn. Dr. Upjohn donated part of his collection of peonies to the University of Michigan in 1922, and more than 100 of those same peonies are still growing nearly a century later. Gardens carry memories, and Martha’s recollections of W.E. Upjohn were especially meaningful.

As I retire in July after eight years serving as development director, I reflect with gratitude on the accomplishments of donors, staff, students, volunteers, and the University during that time. So much is wonderfully visible, including imaginative new gardens—the Great Lakes Gardens, Campus Farm, and Bonsai and Penjing Garden, the extensive restoration of the iconic Peony Garden—and a two-mile hiking-biking trail now under construction. We’ve worked together to make Director Bob Grese’s vision of beautiful gardens and healthy ecosystems a reality. Today these spaces are living, memorable destinations for families, the campus community, the region, and beyond.

These successes provide the foundation for our future. In the years ahead, the significant challenge will be to preserve the excellence of our results. Robust endowments make for stronger collections and gardens, internships, and hiking trails. Your investment in endowments for our Nature Academy promotes scientific literacy, which is key to our future. And these endowed gifts will work in concert with the essential foundation of the income provided by our members, which today totals some $200,000 of our $2.7 million budget.

Reflecting on our time together, I am confident that you will defend our vibrancy not only in 2017, but also into an important centennial year like the 2022 anniversary of Dr. Upjohn’s gift of peonies. I have no words to express what a privilege it has been to work with you over the past eight years. My thanks to everyone for their support and enthusiasm.

A brief history of membership at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum:

1974 - Friends of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens was formed to support programs and activities at the Botanical Gardens. Membership stood at 90 in June of that year.
1991 - Friends of the Arboretum was established to provide support for the Arboretum.
2004 - Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum combined as one administrative unit within the University.

DID YOU KNOW?
An average of one out of four dollars of expendable donations comes from membership contributions.

25%
Volunteer Spotlight: Karen Mikus

Last summer the Gaffield Children’s Garden at Matthaei was abuzz with interactive children’s play, thanks in large part to the efforts of Karen Mikus. Karen is a retired psychologist and early childhood special education teacher. Her love for children and nature intersected perfectly in the children’s garden, where Karen led the nature pop-ups each Monday morning.

The philosophy behind the pop-ups is that children need to touch, feel, and taste nature. Karen created pop-up sessions with the support of Lee Bravender, the children’s garden project coordinator. The pop-ups immersed children in nature by allowing them to manipulate found natural materials. Of course, the sessions didn’t always go as planned. “The beauty of pop-ups is that they are child-led,” says Karen. “So I learned early on to just go with the flow.”

Such unintended outcomes made the program even more enjoyable, Karen recalls. “After a sandbox session, it occurred to one of the visiting grandparents that they could incorporate nature play at home by providing a small sand tray, as opposed to committing to a large sandbox.”

Karen started volunteering with Matthaei-Nichols three years ago as a conservatory ambassador, eventually finding her way to the children’s garden and the nature pop-ups, which are “a labor of love,” she says. The Arb and Gardens has a truly passionate and talented group of volunteers, and Karen Mikus is just one example of how our volunteers impact the community and further our mission. Look for more nature pop-up programs in the children’s garden this summer. See next page for a list of the pop-ups.

Dig into Our Garden Teams

Contact volunteer coordinator Sharyn Dennis: mbgna.volunteer@umich.edu; 734.647.8528.

Matthaei Garden Team
Learn new gardening techniques and help maintain a variety of display and exhibit gardens. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 am–noon.

Nichols Garden Team
Help maintain the horticultural collections at the Washington Heights entrance, including the Peony Garden, Gateway Garden, and Laurel Ridge. Monday & Friday, 9 am–noon.

Gaffield Children’s Garden Team
Enjoy this playful space and help tend the veggie and fruit garden, the pollinator garden, and faerie and troll knoll. Must enjoy working in a kid-friendly environment. Friday, 9 am–noon.

Natural Areas Team
Explore and learn about the many natural areas, trees, trails, and native landscaping at the Arb and Gardens while helping with seasonal maintenance, removal of invasive species, and eco-restoration.

Native Plant Team
Tend a variety of native landscapes at Matthaei including the Great Lakes Garden. Responsibilities include general gardening maintenance. Weekdays, AM, and PM shifts.

Nature Pop-Ups at the Gaffield Children’s Garden
Help children explore the gardens through nature play. Weekly nature pop-ups encourage children to explore the garden by touching, tasting, and creating. Monday 9–11 am.

Horner Woods Eco-Restoration Workday
Trip Leader: Sylvia Taylor
April 22 & May 20, 1–4 pm

Join volunteers from the Michigan Botanical Club and Matthaei-Nichols to scout for invasive garlic mustard and help with light trail maintenance at Horner Woods, a wildflower sanctuary northeast of Matthaei.

Please dress for physical, outdoor work. Sturdy closed-toe shoes required. We provide tools and orientation. Minors are welcome with permission forms; those under 16 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Meet in the Matthaei Botanical Gardens west lobby, 1800 North Dixboro Rd., to caravan to Horner Woods.

Above: Karen Mikus at Matthaei Botanical Gardens this winter. Right: The Wednesday Garden team takes a break in the Great Lakes Gardens at Matthaei last fall.
Sensational Nature Spring-Summer 2017
Discover, learn, and play at Matthaei and in the Gaffield Children’s Garden. Sensational Nature programs are 10 am-noon. Ages 5-10.

Wed., May 26: Pollinator Power!
National Pollinators Week: June 19-25
Pollinators come in all different shapes, sizes, and types and we simply couldn’t live without them. Over 80% of flowering plants in the world require a pollinator.

Discover how different types of pollinators interact with the flowering plants at Matthaei and learn about plants you can grow at home to attract pollinators in your yard! $8/child Includes activities & materials. 17-YE-07

Wed., July 19: Wetland Explorers
Summertime is a great time to investigate wetlands and explore the places frogs, birds, and crayfish call home. Put your boots on and bring your binoculars and let’s head out to investigate the streams and wetlands at Matthaei.
$8/child includes activities & materials. Appropriate footwear for wet areas recommended. 17-YE-08

Wed., Aug. 9: Trail Treks
Explore the less-well-traveled trails at Matthaei. Learn the names and stories about some of the special plants on the trails. Spend some time in a shady spot and make a sketch or watercolor to remember the day’s hike. $8/child includes activities & materials. 17-YE-09

Free Family Program:
Sun., July 30, 1-4 pm
Things with Wings
Celebrate our winged friends! This special annual event includes Monarch Watch with live butterflies and information on monarch migration; Leslie Science Center, and face-painting. Fun for the whole family! Free.

Children’s Summer Pop-Up Activities Are Back!
Gaffield Children’s Garden is hosting weekly hands-on Nature Play Pop-ups this summer. On Monday mornings, 10–11:30 am, June 5–August 28, a volunteer will lead a hands-on, exploratory nature play activity. Activities will be centered in the Nature Art area of the Gaffield Children’s Garden. Young children will have hands-on fun while taking a closer look at nature. Parents may be reminded of simple ways to encourage creative nature play at home. Free; no registration. First to arrive, first to play. Kids can join in as spaces open during the pop-up time frame. Suggested ages 3-7.

June 5: Seashell Dig
June 12: Pond Dipping
June 19: Building Wee Fairy Houses
June 26: Bubbles!

July 3: Nature Painting
July 10: Digging for Treasure
July 17: Stacked Stones Towers

July 24: Cutting Garden Bouquets
July 31: Insect Clay Play
August 7: Soil Insect Exploration
August 14: Leaf Safari
August 21: Cutting Garden Bouquets

Wolverine Pathways Returns to Matthaei-Nichols
Last July more than 200 students from Ypsilanti and Southfield schools visited Matthaei-Nichols to study wetlands, watersheds, ecology, and other nature-based subjects at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The students were participants in the University of Michigan’s Wolverine Pathways program, which selects up to 120 middle- and high-school students each from Southfield Public and Ypsilanti Community school districts. The Wolverine Pathways program returns to Matthaei this summer, and we’ll be welcoming students from Detroit schools along with Southfield and Ypsi. Intern Annemarie McDonald will lead the program and help develop a syllabus, with help from intern Sabrina Mastroianni.

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
Spring Plant Sales at Matthaei-Nichols
Three great weekends you won’t want to miss. Join us this May and June and help support the Arb and Gardens and Cultivating Community, the U-M student gardening group.

SPECIAL MEMBER HOUR: Mother’s Day Weekend Plant Sale
Sat., May 13, 9–10 am
Matthaei-Nichols members enjoy a special pre-sale discount this morning. Join us for coffee, tea, and breakfast munchies, then shop the sale of containers and hanging baskets. Receive an additional 10% off purchases (20% total).

Mother’s Day Weekend Plant Sale
Sat. & Sun., May 13 & 14, 10 am–4:30 pm
Hanging basket and container plantings—perfect for Mom!—grown and designed on site by staff and volunteers. All proceeds benefit Matthaei-Nichols.

Mother’s Day Weekend Artisans Market
Sat., May 13, 9 am–4:30 pm
Local artisans and craftspeople offer their unique items for sale. A great opportunity to discover the perfect, one-of-a-kind gift for Mom. (No member discount on merchandise.)

SPECIAL MEMBER HOUR: Kitchen Favorites Sale
Sat., May 20, 9–10 am
Matthaei-Nichols members enjoy a special pre-sale discount this morning. Join us for coffee, tea, and breakfast munchies, then shop the sale of herbs and vegetables. Receive an additional 10% off purchases (20% total).

Kitchen Favorites Sale
Sat. & Sun., May 20 & 21, 10 am–4:30 pm
A sale of heirloom vegetables and herbs grown by U-M student volunteers in the student group Cultivating Community. Proceeds benefit Cultivating Community. Plus, Herb Study Group on hand with herb samples and information on growing herbs.

Herbs with Madelyn
Sat. & Sun., May 20 & 21, 10 am–4:30 pm:
Herb Study Group president Madelyn Kaminski answers questions about herbs and plants during the annual Kitchen Favorites herb and heirloom vegetable sale. Info: m.kaminski@comcast.net.

SPECIAL MEMBER HOUR: Peonies Galore Sale
Sat., June 3, 9–10 am
Shop the hour prior to the public peony sale and get first dibs on vintage peonies. Members also receive 10% off their purchase.

Peonies Galore Sale
Sat., June 3, 10 am–4:30 pm (or until peonies run out)
Bring some vintage beauty to your garden with our heirloom varieties of peonies. Sale held adjacent to the historic Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. Peonies sell out quickly; arrive early!
Spring-summer 2017 community/adult programs, classes, and events

Wed., May 24, 7 pm
The Transcendent Gardens of Japan
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Carlos Diaz, Ann Arbor Bonsai Society member and professor of photography at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, discusses and shares photos from his trip to Japan.

JUNE

Peony Garden Season
Memorial Day through mid-June
The largest collection of heirloom peonies in North America. The garden, which began with a 1922 gift from Michigan alumnus W.E. Upjohn, comes alive in spring with as many as 10,000 blossoms at peak. Free. Call or visit our dedicated peony website for seasonal daily bloom updates: mbgna.umich.edu/peony.

Magnificent Miniatures: Azalea Bonsai in Bloom at Matthaei Botanical Gardens
June 3-11 (bloom time approximate)
For one week only, see a breathtaking exhibit of azalea bonsai in bloom on loan from renowned Ohio collector and University of Michigan alumnus Dr. Melvyn Goldstein. Open to the public in the Bonsai and Penjing Garden. Details to come in our May print and digital newsletters. Free.

Peony Blossoms & Pure Melodies
Sun., June 4, 2 pm (rain date: June 11)
A popular annual concert featuring Chinese flower songs performed by local musicians and singers. Sponsored by the U-M Confucius Institute & Matthaei-Nichols. Free.

Fri., June 9, 10 am–2 pm
Caregiver Wellness Day
Presenter: MI Alzheimer’s Disease Center
This free program for learning skill essential for continued health and well-being is designed for caregivers of adults living with memory loss. Registration required by Nov. 4. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

§ Shakespeare in the Arb:
The Tempest
Thurs.-Sun., June 8-11, 15-18; 22-25, 6:30 pm
Now in its 17th year, Shakespeare in the Arb is directed by Kate Mendeloff of the U-M Residential College and performed by U-M students and community players. Members receive a discount on tickets. For more information and ticket prices visit our website: mbgna.umich.edu.

Shakespeare in the Arb Member Benefit
Friends members may reserve tickets through our Friends Online Box Office. Reserve tickets for any performance up to 24 hours before show time and pick up at will call. Look for more information on our website in May: mbgna.umich.edu.

Sat., June 10, 10 am-4 pm
27th Annual Ann Arbor Garden Walk
Hosted by Ann Arbor Farm & Garden, the 2017 walk features seven gardens (two with open home tours) plus artisans and vendors. Tickets $15 in advance, $20 day of walk. Tickets available at Matthaei and other venues May 1. Info: annarborfarmandgarden.org.

Sun., June 11, 10 am-2 pm
Hosta Stock Exchange
Presenter: Hosta Hybridizing Group
An opportunity to trade your no-longer-used hosta breeding stock with other hybridizers. Plus, hosta seedling competition. Plants must be at least two divisions and in unmarked black nursery pots, free from disease and debris.

Workshop cost $45. Contact aabonsaisociety@gmail.com.

Tues., June 13, 7 pm
Mini-Nucs: How to Make and Use Them
Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2BB)
Beekeeper Steve Tillman discusses nucs, small honeybee colonies created from larger colonies. Plus, Michael Nardelli discusses cut-outs—removing bees from a structure such as a house or tree.

Mature for Learning Skill
Presented by the U-M Confucius Institute & Matthaei-Nichols, Free.

Tues., June 20, 7:30 pm
Michigan Prairies: Concept and Application
Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
The practice of prairie restoration has become popular and widespread. However, evaluating the success of these restorations is an important scientific and social challenge. Eastern Michigan University Assistant Professor of Biology Emily Grman explores different potential landowner goals that could shape approaches to tallgrass prairie restoration.

Thurs., June 29, 6 pm
Natal Ficus Workshop with Jerry Meislik
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Jerry Meislik is a renowned expert on Ficus bonsai and author of Ficus, The Exotic Bonsai. He will be discussing exposed-root style tropical bonsai.

Tues., July 4, 7 pm
Picnic at the Arb: American BBQ
Presenter: Friends of the Arb
Join us for an American BBQ on the Arb's Central Lawn featuring beer, wine, and a menu that celebrates local produce and ingredients. Cost is $20 for Friends members and $25 for the general public, which includes organic and local produce. Tickets available online and at the Arb's Box Office. Space is limited.

JULY

Mon., July 10, 7-8:30 pm
The Milkweed Community
Presenter: Herb Study Group; Michigan Botanical Club; Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Everyone knows about the monarch-milkweed connection. But many other creatures also make their home in the milkweed community. Join Michigan naturalist and photographer Don Drif as he presents a program on the organisms that feed on and among the different species of milkweeds, and those that make passing visits.
Spring-summer 2017 community/adult programs, classes, and events

Wed., July 12, 6–7:30 pm
Catching Your Breath
Presenter: 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., July 18, 7:30 pm
Practicalities of Modern Electric Cars
Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
Electric cars give us the promise of reduced greenhouse emissions and less reliance on fossil fuels. When buying a vehicle, many consumers are also concerned with costs, maintenance, reliability, etc. Tonight’s presentation explores some of these questions along with other areas to consider when purchasing an electric vehicle.

Sun., July 23, 10 am–2 pm
Hosta Round Table Discussion and Annual Plant Auction
Presenter: Hosta Hybrizing Group
Come prepared for a lively discussion about plant material, goals, making crosses, methodology, surprises, disappointments, successes, seed growing and plant management. Plus, a fundraising auction of rare or unusual hosta seedlings.

Wed., July 26, 5:30 pm
Bring Your Own Bonsai Workshop
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Jack Sustic, AABS member and former curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington DC., will host a bring your own tree discussion and workshop. Individual trees will be discussed, and there will be time for working on trees as well. This is a good opportunity to get ideas for trees that are under development.

Sun., July 30, 1–4 pm
Things with Wings
A family-friendly program featuring crafts, face-painting, butterflies, birds of prey, and more. Free.

NOTE: Call ahead or check our website in advance to confirm programming: 734.647.7600; mbgna.umich.edu.

AUGUST

Sun., Aug. 6, 1–2 pm
Open House & Intern Presentations
Members and the public are invited to this annual open house, where our interns present and discuss the projects they’ve worked on all summer.

Tues., Aug. 8, 7 pm
Showcasing the Beauty of Bees: The Basics of Macrophotography
Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2)
Michigan State University Associate Professor of Entomology Zachary Huang discusses varroa mite control and associated diseases, especially nosemata. Huang is an outstanding photographer of bees, and his photographs grace beekeeping internet sites and publications.

Tues., Aug. 15, 7:30 pm
No Dinosaurs in Heaven
Presenter: Sierra Club Huron Valley
Join us for a documentary about the ongoing battle over how we teach science in America. The film, featuring Dr. Eugenie Scott, Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education.

Sat., Aug. 19, 11 am
Cattleya Orchid Species
Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
Diane Burton, accredited American Orchid Society judge, reviews important Cattleya species as they occur in nature. Monthly orchid judging takes place at 1.

Mon., Aug. 21, 10–11:30 am
Catching Your Breath
Presenter: 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.

Wed., Aug. 23, 6 pm
Images of Japan
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
AABS members Jack Wikle, Diane Faust, Cathy Strachan, Cyril Grum, and Kurt Smith share photos and impressions from their 2016 trip to Japan with renowned bonsai expert William Valavanis.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 26 & 27
Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show & Sale
Includes a display of over 100 bonsai, demos in the bonsai and penjing garden at Matthaei, bonsai accessories and materials, Peoples’ Choice awards, and more. $3 admission per adult (12 and under free) payable at the door.