Connecting Kids to Nature

Bob Grese, Director

Sadly, many children today learn much of what they know about nature from television and computer screens. At MBGNA, we’re committed to providing hands-on places and programs that help to connect kids to the natural world.

We have a long tradition of introducing hundreds of school-children to nature along our trails and to plants from around the world in our conservatory. We are also creating new opportunities for children to discover nature on their own through both play activities and more structured learning.

Looking back on my own childhood in East Tennessee, I was fortunate that my family lived on almost three acres of land that provided for endless exploration. We had mowed spaces for a wide variety of trees (including many great for thicketts, an old dump full of magical cast-offs from previous residents, woods, and an intermittent creek. We even had a chicken house where we created a club-house of sorts with the old furniture my folks stored there. As kids (and there were many in my family), we had free rein (with some adult and older sibling support) to explore, experiment, dream, and learn about the world in our backyard. I planted dozens of sticks hoping they would grow; when they didn’t, I learned something about how plants need roots. Later, I discovered that I could take cuttings from many of the shrub roses in our yard, and they would root, if I carefully tended them. One year, my younger brother and I cleared an area for a vegetable garden and were delighted to help provide the family with a supply of tomatoes, green peppers, squash, and pumpkins. After rainstorms, we loved playing in the cool water of the creek, creating temporary dams and in the process learning something about stream hydrology. I soon learned that the runoff from our roofs and driveway was always several degrees warmer than the rain. These were all lessons that helped me understand something about how the world works and our role as humans within it.

In today’s world, fewer children routinely have the space or time for such direct experiences with nature. At the Botanical Gardens and Arboretum, we’re creating a series of gardens, trails, and programs to help fill this need. We

Continued on inside back cover
100 Years, 100 Views
A Celebration of 100 Years at the Arb
Saturday, September 29

8 am Immigrant and Native Birds
Enjoy a bird walk with Michael Kielb, author of *The Birds of Washtenaw County, Michigan*, and learn about the changes in bird populations in the Arb over the last 100 years.

10 am – 2 pm Hidden Huron River Water Creatures
The Huron River Watershed Council will be at the River Landing with some of the fascinating critters that live in the river. They will also share information about water quality in this important natural resource.

10 am A Naturalist’s Look at the River
Canoe or kayak with a naturalist from Argo Dam to Gallup Park. Leaves Argo Dam at 9 am. Naturally, there is a stop at the Arb to join in the festivities. Limited to ten vessels: preregister by calling the Gallup Park Canoe Livery (734)662-9319. Canoe rental is $17.

10 am O.C. Simonds Revisits the Arboretum: An Historical Walk with the Arb’s Landscape Gardener
Director Bob Grese will assume the role of O. C. Simonds and lead a tour through the Arb, looking at original design elements that have stood the test of time. Simonds’s landscape has matured and functions well. Learn about Bob’s vision of restoring more of the Arb to that original vision.

11 am A Centennial Arb Ramble: Trees, Rings and Other Things
Join Robert Ayotte, naturalist, as he takes a look at tree rings… and more!

11 am – 1 pm Tree and Leaf
Make a leaf rubbing, and then go in search of the tree it came from! We’ll have guides on hand if you need help.

12 pm Take a Hike into the Arb’s Ancient Past
Explore the forces that created the Arboretum’s land forms with geologist Carola Stearns.

1 pm Tales Under the Trees
Sassafras and Witch Hazel provide the backdrop, storytellers are on stage! Mother Goose and Beatrix Potter will start us out, followed by tales for older children by local storytellers.

2 pm O.C. Simonds Revisits the Arboretum
(please see 10 am listing for detail)

The following activities will be going on all day throughout the Arb:

Washington Heights Entrance area
• Riverbank Rescue – This film, made by three U-M students, won first prize in the 2007 Mallet’s Creek Film Festival. It will be shown in the James D. Reader, Jr. Urban Environment Education Center.
• Eat an Apple - Feed a Worm - We’ve got buddies in recycling and you can meet some.
• Kiwanis Food Cart

Main Valley
• Ultimate Frisbee – anticipated contestants U-M vs EMU
• Mountain of Bubbles – Join the fun of blowing huge and funny bubbles that will float down the hill or up to the trees!

Alex Dow Field
• Prairie Fun

Various Spaces
• Memory Book – Share your favorite Arb stories with us and others.

Friends
Fall 2007 / Vol. 4, No. 1

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum Newsletter
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Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum
University of Michigan
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The Royal Garden Trio at the Gardens Centennial Fair.
The Sue Reichert Discovery Trail

Sarah Weiss, Project Coordinator

Intrigue, adventure, ancient artifacts, and active critters await your exploration on a trail loop just beyond the parking lot at the Botanical Gardens. The Sue Reichert Discovery Trail winds around Willow Pond for about a quarter of a mile, through a handful of habitats and among numerous features to delight the senses and inspire the detective in us all. Additionally, the slopes and surfaces have been carefully modified to better accommodate wheelchairs and strollers, so bring your whole family.

This exciting new addition to the outdoor adventures at MBG (for more kid friendly activities, see cover story) is named in honor of former docent Sue Reichert, who introduced decades of schoolchildren to the wonders of our natural areas. Inspired by Sue’s desire to share her experiences with other generations, this project was made possible by a generous contribution from her husband Rudy and their family.

Designed with an emphasis on exploration and discovery, the main highlights along the trail were implemented over the past two growing seasons by summer interns, mainly from the university’s School of Natural Resources and Environment. The design evolved with input from the Reichert family, MBGNNA staff, U-M faculty and students. The Willow Lodge was planned as part of a construction course, and implemented in 2006, along with the initial Bug Meadow Planting and spotting scopes. Closest to the gravel parking lot you will enter the Norman Picnic Grove, with tables from recycled plastic, many of which are wheelchair accessible. Heading clockwise around the pond starts you on the Sensory Trail – including a designated area of “No Touch” plants – as well as other labeled plants with interesting textures and fragrances. The Story Circle area can host a small group on tree-stump seats, with a new story posted monthly. Animal Tracks can be found near the mud flats by Parker Brook Bridge, which arches up and over the weir - look for the giant snapping turtles in the big pond. Just past the modern sundial (itself a memorial to MBG Collections Botanist Jane La Rue) is the start of a spur of the trail through the richly planted (and lovingly weeded) Bug Meadow which includes spotting scopes to view animal activity in the pond below. The trail then winds along a recent engineering feat, the Great Block Wall, thanks to some expert stone placing and leveling by our skilled interns this summer. Here visitors begin their brush with history - to encounter the collection of trees we have with relatives found in fossil records, starting with the recently planted oaks and sassafras, through the shady sycamore grove and other lowland species found near the pond’s southern edge and up toward the ginkgos that are grouped near the entrance of the “secret spaces” island.

In addition to its limitless appeal and accessibility for so many visitors, this project has been a joy to develop and implement over the past two seasons and to have participation from so many realms. Thanks are due current docents and friends for enriching the offerings, numerous staff for their technical expertise in areas such as plants, animals, construction and interpretation, and especially to the interns for their hard work to make this a success.

Please take a break and take in the sights, sounds, smells, textures and rich offerings along this dynamic walk.
**Development Matters**

**Giving is in our nature**

Ericka Bigelow

I’ve been a Michigan dweller for a little more than six months now and there are a few things I’ve noticed. First, people were right when they told me to stick around for the summer because it makes those dreary February days seem okay. I’m in awe of Michigan’s lush beauty. First it was the lilacs, then the viburnum, then the peonies...the blooming kept going, and my appreciation of Michigan kept growing deeper.

There is something else I’ve noticed about Michigan, in particular the patrons and supporters of the University of Michigan and MBGNA: you care deeply about your community. You are committed to see the growth of Matthaei and Nichols – and there is a lot of growth.

In the next few years, we will construct many new display gardens. The Sue Reichert Discovery Trail and Sam Graham Trees and Trail will be finished this summer. From the Gaffield Children’s Garden to a Bonsai Display Garden, MBGNA will be a place to enjoy our common surroundings and explore new worlds.

Every one of these new gardens and features was made possible by generous support of our friends and members. Just as the Matthaei and Nichols families left a legacy, so are you. By supporting our present, you make the future possible.

I’m proud to be a new Michigander and I’m proud to work at an organization with supporters like you.

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**Burnham House Stories**

Beth Covitt

Reprinted from Tree Line

Vol. 11, No. 1, Spring 2001

“The building fever struck the lower village in 1830 under the leadership of Anson Brown who thought the town ought to be built on that side of the river. He died of cholera in 1833 (sic), or we might all be living over there now.”

– Cornelia Corselius, 1909

Anson Brown, the aspiring “William J. Levitt” of 1830s Ann Arbor, didn’t live long enough to turn Lower Town into the bustling hub of our city. He came to an unfortunate end in 1834, after contracting cholera which may have been moved through the Erie Canal to Detroit in oysters. However, his death did not signal a complete end to development in the Lower Town area just north of the Huron River. After Anson’s death, his wife Desire remarried, and with her new husband, Caleb Ormsby, began selling house lots in Lower Town. In June of 1837, Desire Fuller and Caleb Ormsby sold lots 10 and 11 on Wall Street to Nathan Burnham for $600. Burnham built a house, and in 1838, sold the property and house back to Fuller and Ormsby for $1000.

So begins the story of the Nathan Burnham House, formerly 947 Wall Street, then 940 Maiden Lane, and lately 1610 Washington Heights. The Nathan Burnham House, which now serves as the James D. Reader, Jr. Urban Environmental Education Center for the Arboretum, has seen various tenants and many changes over the years. For the most part, the residents of the Burnham House have been working-class Ann Arborites. The building has been home to a butcher, kitchen worker, and die-maker, as well as a police officer, carpenter, chauffeur, fireman, bartender, florist, and several doctors’ offices.

One well-known owner of the Burnham house was Dr. Edward Pierce, a former mayor of Ann Arbor, who for some years had his medical office in the house. Dr. Mark Hildebrandt was another doctor who owned the house and had his office there. In 1975, Dr. Hildebrandt replaced a 19th century porch on the Burnham House with a beautiful and more historically appropriate Greek Revival entryway that he salvaged from another Lower Town house. Dr. Hildebrandt purchased the entryway from the demolition company for a case of beer!

In the mid-1990s, the Burnham House almost became a victim of demolition itself. As historic houses on Wall Street fell to the University’s insatiable need for parking spaces, the Burnham House came very close to being destroyed. However, through the cooperation and diligence of many concerned citizens including Dr. Pierce, Mary Culver, Susan Wineberg, Jan Onder and Sally Bund, the Burnham House was eventually relocated to the Washington Heights entrance of the Nichols Arboretum in 1998. The Burnham House is now home to a classroom and offices of the Arboretum and to several lucky graduate students including myself! To learn more about the Burnham House stop by during one of our regular open houses on Saturday and Sunday or come to the Burnham House talk that will be presented on March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

(Editor’s Note: The Burnham House, or Reader Center, is now open weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Stop by and visit.)
We Moved it Without a Crack!

Inger Schultz  
Reprinted from Tree Line, Fall 1998

It was a clear and cold morning. We waited patiently for the telephone cables to be dropped and the wheels to start rolling. Burnham House would soon start the journey to its new site in Nichols Arboretum.

Preparation over the previous month had included putting a cinch belt around the house with wooden braces at the corner. Deitz Movers, from Muskegon, had their crew begin the tedious task of getting the solid brick house onto wheels.

Wall Street was closed to traffic, street signs removed, tree limbs trimmed, traffic lights moved, telephone, electric, and television cables were removed. Everything was ready, and as 200 onlookers watched, the move began.

At 9 a.m. the house was set in motion. It would ultimately take nine hours to travel a little over one mile to the house’s new home.

By 6 p.m. the house was safely at the Arb. Everyone, including the onlookers, was exhausted. Warm smiles abound as we enjoyed the juxtaposition of the 160-year old house and the ultramodern hospital, realizing why this project was so important – history had been saved for the future.

Burnham House and the James D. Reader, Jr. Urban Environmental Education Center

Dianne Chang  
Reprinted from Tree Line, Spring 1999

After years of hard work, the anticipated opening of the James D. Reader, Jr. Urban Environmental Center is upon us, barely six months before the new millennium.

In preparation for celebrating the opening of the Center it became clear that we had to reflect on the efforts of several sponsors who made this project a reality. The Center is named in honor of James D. Reader, Jr. who was born in Ann Arbor, was among the first graduating class of Huron High School in 1970, a graduate of Albion College, and the victim of a fatal car accident in 1979 two days before Christmas. His parents, James, Sr. and Helene, thought that the idea of an Urban Environmental Education Center in Ann Arbor, housed in one of the oldest single-dwelling buildings, itself of historic interest, was a worthwhile project. This would become a community resource used by adults and children in the hometown that was so important to their son. Through their efforts Burnham House was moved to its current location.

With the moving of the old house the project was literally just off the ground. There would be many more hurdles to jump, and more help would be needed. It was at this point that the Detroit Edison Foundation stepped in. Through a generous Foundation Grant many of the final steps in completing the Center were accomplished.

James D. Reader, Jr. Urban Environmental Education Center surrounded by the Gateway Garden in its current location at the Washington Heights entrance of the Arb.
Updates

Karen Sikkenga

Conservatory

The Conservatory closed in early July for a much needed facelift after 42 years. My imagination is full of the sparkling beauty of the new glass roof come September. Come join us after we reopen in late September and see for yourself the mist machine, clear glass and enhanced environmental controls courtesy of the University, the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services, and private donors.

Arb Boardwalk

Each week during the summer brought an extension of the Arb boardwalk. With it, we will enable visitors to enjoy fragile wetlands without damaging them. The boardwalk team was careful to rescue native wetland plants as they went. Some were replanted along the edges of the boardwalk, and you’ll see others in the native wetland garden we are creating within the deer enclosure at the Gardens. Enjoy a few moments relaxing in the teaching area at the Arb boardwalk, where you can hear frogs and insects, smell the skunk cabbage and other earthy scents, and see the beauty of a unique Michigan ecosystem up close.

Display Gardens

We have made many changes this summer to the Display Garden area east of the buildings. Come explore our new sitting garden, the Mall of Michigan Trees, and our temporary display of some of Michigan’s important agricultural crops. We are continuing to place the rocks to create a simulated beach area for our garden of Great Lakes endemic plants, to plant the new prairie and woodland wildflower gardens, and to rework the Marie Azary Rock Garden. We have begun the first phase of the Gaffield Children’s Garden. Our staff and interns are to be congratulated on these many new additions!

Sue Reichert Discovery Trail

We dedicated the Sue Reichert Discovery Trail early in August. The week before, at our Centennial Fair hundreds of community members enjoyed the trail’s bug meadow, animal footprints, story area, living willow structure and spotting scopes, and other features to delight and inform children and adults alike.

Exhibits and Interpretation

If you visit the Arb and Gardens these days, you’ll notice lots of interesting signs and exhibits. Who was Linneas and why was he important? What has happened here at the Arb and Gardens these past 100 years? What are pollinators? What would be a good trail walk for me? What’s going on with this construction in the Conservatory and outside? Six University of Michigan student interns contributed their quick minds, broad-ranging experience, and education in art and the environment to help us create lively, lovely and informative exhibits.

Transitions

With sad hearts, we said goodbye to Barb Major as our volunteer coordinator on August 1, and hello to Barb as our new volunteer coordinator. (See Profiles, p. 15.) On August 20, we welcomed Tara Griffith as our new volunteer coordinator. Please stop by her office to say hello. (See Welcome, p. 15.)

Our director, Bob Grese, began a much-deserved sabbatical in August. He’ll spend the year focusing on publications and research, though he promises to be available for consultation. Paul Berry, director of the U-M Herbarium and faculty in the Department of Ecological and Environmental Biology, joins us on an interim basis this year. Dr. Berry is an experienced plant curator who has worked with the Morton Arboretum. We look forward to adding to our knowledge under Dr. Berry, as well as establishing greater collaboration with the Herbarium.

Centennial

Centennial celebrations continue. This summer, we opened our second exhibit on the history of our two organizations. We celebrated the history of the Gardens with the Centennial Fair at the end of July, featuring backstage tours of our collections, storytelling on the Sue Reichert Discovery Trail, and visits with a historic farmer (really a docent in costume) at our Michigan agriculture display. At the end of September, we’ll celebrate in the Arb with a canoe flotilla, bird walks, tours and an ultimate Frisbee contest. (See p. 2 for more details.)

News

Greens Market

In our expanding partnership with the Women’s National Farm and Garden Association, their 61st Greens Market will be moving to Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Thursday, November 29. This will merge with our former Holiday Extravaganza to bring you more shopping opportunities in one place, with easy parking. Members can shop early from 11 to noon that day; then it opens to the public from noon to 6 pm. In addition to Oregon greens, blooming Christmas bulbs, and our gift shop merchandise, you will be able to purchase home-made crafts and home-baked goodies, as well as antiques and collectables.
Community Education

Introduction to Aquatic Plants
Monday evening – Thursday evening
August 20 – 23
This is a hands-on feet-wet survey of the habitats and lifestyles among higher plants of lakes, streams and marshes in northern Michigan. This residential program is held at the U-M Biological Station, east of Pellston, where simple lodging and excellent meals are included.
Instructor: Edward G. Voss, Ph.D.; Curator Emeritus, Herbarium; Author Michigan Flora
Fee: $400 Members and U-M Students, ($480 Non-members) Includes lodging, meals, lab and instructor fees.
#07-AE-41

Arb Ramble
Saturday, September 1, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Join local naturalist Robert Ayotte on a walk through Nichols Arboretum examining the full flush of summer leaves.
Instructor: Robert Ayotte
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students ($5 Non-members)
#07-AE-42

Forest and Landscape Ecology
2 classes – dates below
We’ll focus on studying forest ecosystems and their woody plant communities, past, present and future. The landscape ecosystem approach is emphasized. In this approach, we examine the geology, landform, and soil of the area and relate these ecosystem components to the occurrence of vegetation of each ecosystem. As ecological detectives, we’ll look for the effects of natural and human disturbances of windstorm, fire and fire exclusion. The presence of forest regeneration by seedlings and sprouts will allow us to estimate successional trends for the future. We’ll visit old-growth ecosystems and second-growth forests on outwash plain, moraine and ice-contact landforms.
Instructor: Burt Barnes, Forest Botanist, Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Forest and Landscape Ecology, Class 1
Saturday, September 8, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Saturday, September 15, 9 am – 1 pm
This class is for those who are new to Dr. Barnes’ field classes. The first session will include an introduction to forest and landscape ecosystems and will then move to Radrick Forest and Fen. The second session will meet at the Eddie Discovery Center in the Waterloo Recreation Area. Specific location, map and description of the area will be provided at the first class meeting.
Fee: $64 Members and U-M Students ($80 Non-members)
#07-AE-43

Forest and Landscape Ecology, Class 2
Sundays, September 9, 16, and 23, 1–4:30 pm
This class is for those who have taken Dr. Barnes’ Fall 2006 Forest Ecology class through MBGNA. The first session will meet at the Botanical Gardens for an orientation and drive to Miller’s Woods. This woodland near Plymouth is the only old-growth remnant of beech-sugar maple forest ecosystem that once occupied most of the mesic landscapes in our vicinity. The second session will be held at the Waterloo Recreation Area. We will examine ice-contact terrain of swamp kettles and upland features. Boots or shoes to get wet in are recommended. The third session will visit a remarkably diverse wetland and upland sites west of Dexter. (Maps, specific locations and brief descriptions will be provided at the previous session.)
Fee: $84 Members and U-M Students ($105 Non-members)
#07-AE-44

Yoga at the Gardens
This Vinyasa Yoga class is a flowing sequence of sun salutations and postures coordinated with music. Class will be at a moderate pace. For students with yoga experience. Held in the auditorium of Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Please enter from the west entrance and bring a yoga mat and bath-sized towel. Instructor: Janine Bennett, Certificate from White Lotus Foundation, Santa Barbara CA; Instructor of Inward Bound, Ann Arbor, MI

Section 10
Mondays, noon – 1 pm
September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8, and 15
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students ($60 non-members)
Drop-ins welcome, $10/class
#07-AE-45

Section 11
Mondays, noon – 1 pm
October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, and 26
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students ($60 Non-members)
Drop-ins welcome, $10/class
#07-AE-46

Michigan Mushrooms
Lecture: Tuesdays, September 11, 18, 25, and October 2, 7:15 – 9:15 pm
Field Trip: Saturdays, September 15, 22, 29, and October 6, 9 am – noon
Wild mushrooms are studied through slide lectures which concentrate on their natural history, identifying characteristics, and edible and poisonous qualities. The course also includes field trips to collect mushrooms in four different natural areas. Each trip ends with display, identification, and discussion of the morning’s finds, plus sautéing and tasting some of the edibles. Former students may register either for the complete course or for the field trips only.
Instructors: Robert Shaffer, Ph.D., Curator Emeritus of Fungi, Herbarium, U-M; and Jocelyn Shaffer
Fee: Lectures and Field Trips $148 Members and U-M Students ($185 Non-members)
Field trips only $96 Members and U-M Students ($120 Non-members)
#07-AE-47 Lectures and Field Trip
#07-AE-48 Field Trip only
Beginning/Gentle Yoga
This class is for students new to yoga, or those who prefer a gentle pace. Class will focus on yoga fundamentals including basic stretching, postures, relaxation and integration of breath and movement. Held in the auditorium of Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Bring a yoga mat and bath-sized towel. Instructor: Janine Bennett, Certificate from White Lotus Foundation, Santa Barbara, CA; Instructor at Inward Bound, Ann Arbor, MI.

Section 3
Wednesdays, noon – 1 pm
September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10 and 17
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students ($60 Non-members)
#07-AE-49

Section 4
Wednesdays, noon – 1 pm
October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21 and 28
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students ($60 Non-members)
#07-AE-50

Wednesday A.M. Hiker- Fall
September 19, 26, October 3, 10 and 17, 9 am – noon
Weekly hikes take the inquisitive plant seeker to the more remote habitats of woods and wetlands. Edible plants and mushrooms, as well as the interesting plants and intriguing habitats of little-known and out-of-the-way places, are emphasized in our usual academic but playful atmosphere. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and sturdy shoes. Stay the last day for a potluck lunch.
Instructor: Ellen Elliott Weatherbee, M.A., former head of Adult Education Program, MBGNA; wetland and protected plants consultant.
Fee: $120 Members and U-M Students ($150 Non-members)
#07-AE-51

Shrubs of Southeastern Michigan
Wednesday, September 19, 7 – 9 pm and Sunday, September 23, 1 – 4 pm
Shrubs are some of the most interesting (and least known) of the common woody plants. They provide food and cover for wildlife; they heal disturbed areas by acting as pioneers in woody plant succession; they prevent erosion along edges of waterways; and they contribute a natural buffer to woodlots. With the help of this knowledgeable and enthusiastic instructor, shrubs will take on a new importance.
Instructor: Sylvia Taylor, PhD. Botany
Fee: $40 Members and U-M Students ($50 Non-members)
#07-AE-52

Arb Ramble
Saturday, October 6, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Join local naturalist Robert Ayotte on a walk through Nichols Arboretum examining the Nuts of the Arb: Walnuts and Butternuts.
Instructor: Robert Ayotte
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students ($5 Non-members)
#07-AE-53

Prairie Walks
Saturday, October 6
At Matthaei Botanical Gardens from 1 – 3 pm
At Nichols Arboretum from 4 – 6 pm
Join us on this informative and enjoyable tour with a passionate guide. Discover the richness of the prairie – its plants and history. This tour is offered at two locations: Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. The prairies at these sites are very different. Take both tours and discover for yourself!
Instructor: Aunita Erskine, MBGNA Docent, Master Gardener, City of Ann Arbor Park Steward, Furstenberg Prairie Demonstration Garden
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students ($5 Non-members)
#07-AE-54 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens
#07-AE-55 at Nichols Arboretum

Fall Color Walk at MBG
Saturday, October 13, 10 am – noon
Fall’s colors are truly spectacular. Spend a relaxing morning on a guided walk observing this seasonal show of color. Learn a bit about the physiology of trees that signals the advent of winter.
Instructor: Judy Dluzen, MBGNA staff
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students ($5 Non-members)
#07-AE-56

In-Between Seasons
Wednesdays, October 24 and 31, 9 am – noon
Take a relaxing break from holiday preparations to keep botanically sharp and in shape for invigorating hikes to little-known nature areas, state land, or turn-of-the-century classic botany localities. Plants, habitats, and people encountered will be identified and enjoyed. Come dressed to be outdoors for both sessions. Stay the last day for a potluck lunch.
Instructor: Ellen Elliott Weatherbee, M.A., former head of Adult Education Program, MBGNA; wetland and protected plants consultant.
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students ($60 Non-members)
#07-AE-57

Indoor Bulb Forcing
Section 1: Saturday, October 27, 10 am – noon
Section 2: Monday, October 29, 7 – 9 pm
One of the many ways to combat winter dreariness is to force bulbs for continuous color and fragrance. Learn how easy it is to grow perfect pots of flowers. Several pots of bulbs will be planted including amaryllis, daffodils, hyacinths, paper whites, and tulips. Bring a box to take home the pots; everything else is supplied.
Instructor: Adrienne O’Brien, MBGNA staff
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students ($60 Non-members)
Section 1: #07-AE-58
Section 2: #07-AE-59

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<td>8 am - 4 pm 100 years, 100 views Centennial Celebration at the Arb</td>
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**Outdoor gardens and trails**

- Open every day 8 am - dusk, free admission

**The Reader Center at Nichols Arboretum**

- Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

** Matthaei Botanical Gardens Conservatory**

- Closed for improvements. Watch website and listserve for reopening date.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
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| 1      | Conservatory Closed  
Adult Education  
Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens  
7 - 9 pm Friends Evening Herb Study Group - Roses | 2 | Adult Education  
7:15 - 9:15 pm Michigan Mushrooms Lecture | 3 | Adult Education  
9 am - noon Wednesday A.M. Hiker  
Noon - 1 pm Beginning / Gentle Yoga | 4 | Scouts & Youth  
6 - 7:30 pm Discover the World of Plants | 5 | Events  
5 - 8 pm Flora and Fauna Outdoor Art Show Members Preview | 6 | Events  
10 am - 5 pm Flora and Fauna Outdoor Art Show  
10 am - 4:30 pm Michigan African Violet Society's Show and Sale | 7 | Event  
11 - 4 pm Flora and Fauna Outdoor Art Show  
11 am - 2 pm Michigan African Violet Society's Show and Sale | 8 | Conservatory Closed  
Adult Education  
Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens | 9 | Meeting  
7:30 - 9:30 pm Huron Valley Rose Society | 10 | Adult Education  
9 am - noon Wednesday A.M. Hiker  
Noon - 1 pm Beginning / Gentle Yoga | 11 | Scouts & Youth  
6 - 7:30 pm Discover the World of Plants | 12 | Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens  
1 - 3 pm at the Gardens  
4 - 6 pm at the Arb | 13 | Adult Education  
10 am - noon Fall Color Walk at the Gardens  
1 - 4 pm Wild Ones native plant workshop at the Arb  
Workday  
9 am - noon at the Arb | 14 | Family, Scouts & Youth  
1 - 4 pm Prairie Explorer Walk  
Meeting  
2 - 4 pm Ann Arbor Orchid Society | 15 | Conservatory Closed  
Adult Education  
Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens  
Meeting  
7:45 - 9:30 pm Michigan Botanical Club | 16 | Meeting  
7:30 - 9:30 pm Sierra Club | 17 | Adult Education  
9 am - noon Wednesday A.M. Hiker  
Noon - 1 pm Beginning / Gentle Yoga  
Meeting  
7:30 - 9:30 pm Audubon Society | 18 | Scouts & Youth  
6 - 7:30 pm Discover the World of Plants | 19 | Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens  
1 - 3 pm at the Gardens  
4 - 6 pm at the Arb | 20 | Meeting  
11 am - 4 pm Great Lakes Judging  
9:30 am - 3:30 pm Rock Garden Society | 21 | Meeting  
10 am - 1 pm Hosta Hybridizers | 22 | Conservatory Closed  
Adult Education  
Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens | 23 | | 24 | Adult Education  
9 am - noon In-Between Seasons  
Noon - 1 pm Beginning / Gentle Yoga  
Meeting  
6 - 7:30 pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society | 25 | Scouts & Youth  
6 - 7:30 pm Discover the World of Plants | 26 | Adult Education  
10 am - noon Indoor Bulb Forcing  
Family, Scouts & Youth  
Noon - 3 pm Fall Leaf Rallies  
Workday  
9 am - noon at the Gardens | 27 | October 2007 | 28 | Family, Scouts & Youth  
Noon - 3 pm Fall Leaf Rallies  
Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens  
7 - 9 pm Indoor Bulb Forcing | 29 | Conservatory Closed  
Adult Education  
Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens  
7 - 9 pm Indoor Bulb Forcing | 30 | | 31 | Adult Education  
9 am - noon In-Between Seasons  
Noon - 1 pm Beginning / Gentle Yoga |
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<td>9:30 - 11:30 am Arb Ramble</td>
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<td>6 - 7:30 pm Discover the World of Plants</td>
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<td>A Little Latin Lesson</td>
<td>11 am - 12 pm Ann Arbor Fiber Arts Guild Holiday Sale</td>
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**Outdoor gardens and trails**
open every day 8 am - dusk, free admission

**The Reader Center at Nichols Arboretum**
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

**Matthaei Botanical Gardens Conservatory**
Mon. closed
Tues. 10 am - 4:30 pm
Wed. 10 am - 8 pm
Thurs. - Sun. 10 am - 4:30 pm
**Arb Ramble**

**Saturday, November 3, 9:30 - 11:30 am**
Join local naturalist Robert Ayotte on a walk through Nichols Arboretum examining the Oak Hickory Forest.

Instructor: Robert Ayotte
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students ($5 Non-members)
#07-AE-60

**A Little Latin Lesson**

**Thursday, November 8, 7 – 9 pm**
Do you suffer from BNAD (Botanical Name Anxiety Disorder)? If so, this is the class for you. You will learn why using botanical names is important. You will be amazed at how many botanical names you already use without realizing. Even more common names are simply anglicized versions of the Latin. Then we'll explore some of the botanical names for plants commonly found in home gardens, woods, cityscapes, etc. By the end of the class, you will feel more confident about using botanical names. No memorization, drill work or other drudgery will be involved.

Instructor: Dorothea Coleman, MBGNA staff
Fee: $16 Members and U-M Students ($20 Non-members)
#07-AE-61

**Arb Ramble**

**Saturday, December 1, 9:30 - 11:30 am**
Join local naturalist Robert Ayotte on a walk through Nichols Arboretum examining the Glacial Landforms of the Arb.

Instructor: Robert Ayotte
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students ($5 Non-members)
#07-AE-62

Note: Early registration is encouraged and appreciated. Most classes take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, field trips occur at various locations. Car pooling is encouraged.

**Families, Scouts, & Youth Groups**

**Prairie Explorer Walk at Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

**Sunday, October 14, 1 - 4 pm**
Interpretative guides and a Prairie Activity booklet will lead you on a fascinating exploration of Matthaei Botanical Gardens’ Demonstration Prairie. Discover the amazing range of native plants and animals that call this unique habitat their home. Discover how a prairie is different from a forest or a field.

For children ages 7-12 with an adult. Registration required.

Instructors: MBGNA Docents
Fee: $4.80 per child or adult Members ($6 per child or adult Non-members)
#07-YE-4

**Discover the World of Plants at Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

**Thursday Evenings, October 4 through December 6, 6 – 7:30 pm**
Explore our conservatory with plants from around the world, follow a scavenger hunt, and create a simple terrarium. This is a great way to introduce everyone to the world of plants.

For groups of 5 to 12 children ages 6 to 10 with an adult.

Fee: $6.40 per child Members ($8 per child Non-members)

**Fall Leaf Rally at Nichols Arboretum and Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

**Saturday, October 27, noon – 3 pm or Sunday, October 28, noon – 3 pm**
Does your child have an assignment that involves collecting and identifying leaves? We can help. Join us at either the Botanical Gardens or Arboretum, follow one of our recommended trails, use a simple tree leaf trail guide and collect fallen leaves. If you need help identifying some of the leaves, we will be on hand to help with tips, ID tricks and references. Registration required – a special permit will be issued by our Director for collection of leaves. For any aged child with an adult.

Fee: $6 per child Members ($7.50 Non-members)

#07-YE-5 October 27 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens
#07-YE-6 October 27 at Nichols Arboretum
#07-YE-7 October 28 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens
#07-YE-8 October 28 at Nichols Arboretum

**Rapid Ecological Assessment in the Huron River Watershed**

As part of its Biosphere Reserve Project, the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) has identified over 1700 sites in the watershed that contain potentially important natural areas. HRWC has developed a rapid assessment procedure to evaluate the ecological status of these. Participants in this class will learn to conduct a rapid ecological assessment of areas including wetlands, grasslands, forests, and aquatic habitats, and will gain broadly applicable skills in ecological assessment. Sessions will include an introduction to Michigan's natural plant communities, outlines of what to look for in different community types, field trips to practice assessments, and some basics of plant identification. Following the class, participants may choose to volunteer for the HRWC project, but the class is open to anyone interested. Experience in plant identification or field biology is helpful but not required.

Instructor: Jacqueline Courteau, Ph.D., ecological consultant to the Huron River Watershed Council.

Class time and instructor/material fee to be determined. Most likely 3 to 4 class sessions of two to three hours each will be offered evenings or weekends in September or October. Please check our web site for more information.

Collaboration continues with the Ann Arbor Art Center. Please check our web site for soon to be scheduled classes.
Here’s How to Register:

**Phone:** 734-647-7600  
**Fax:** 734-998-6205. Send completed registration form with credit card information.

**Email:** MBGNA – University of Michigan  
1800 N. Dixboro Rd.  
Ann Arbor MI 48105

**On-line:** [www.mbgna.umich.edu](http://www.mbgna.umich.edu)

**In Person:** Stop by the Information Desk at Matthaei Botanical Gardens during the hours listed above.

**Make checks payable to “MBGNA.”**

Class spaces will be reserved when registration form and payment are received and processed.

**Note:** Adult Education classes are open to those at least 16 years of age. Classes meet as designated at Matthaei Botanical Gardens or Nichols Arboretum. Classes may meet off-site (call for location and directions if you miss a class). Field trips may be physically challenging – call the Gardens if you have questions about the difficulty of any class or trip. Classes are popular and fill quickly – early registration is suggested.

**Are You a Member?**

To become a member of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, send a separate check made out to “MBGNA.” Fees are $55 for a family membership, $45 for a single membership, and $20 for University students.

**Refunds:**

To be eligible for a refund:

**Adult Education:** Withdrawal notification must be received seven days prior to first class and two weeks prior to a trip. Refunds are subject to processing fees of $15 per class and $35 per trip (no refunds for single date classes or lectures).

**Youth Education:** Withdrawal notification must be received three days prior to the class and is subject to a processing fee of $4/class.

We are sorry but refunds are not available for any class with a fee of $5 or less.

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Name: ___________________________  Home Phone: ___________________________

Email: ___________________________  Work Phone: ___________________________

Parent’s name (if student is under 18): ___________________________

Address: ___________________________  City: ___________________________  State: ________  Zip: ________

- Member of Friends of MBGNA (Member Exp. Date ___________)
- Nonmember
- U-M student: (Student ID Number ___________)
- New Address
- Is this your first class?  ☐ Y  ☐ N

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**Payment:**  ☐ Check made payable to: MBGNA  
☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard  ☐ Discover

Card # ___________________________  Exp. Date ___________

Cardholder Signature ___________________________
Profile Barbara Major

Karen Sikkenga and April Pickrel

Almost 30 years ago, Barb Major missed a master gardener class to deliver her third child. She loved gardening, and went on to run a 20 acre farm along with her husband and three kids. They grew Christmas trees, sold bagged and burlapped trees, and raised hogs and sheep. “One year, we had the 4H champion sheep,” Barb recalls proudly.

Little did she know that she would spend eleven years at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Her love of gardening caused her to apply for a receptionist position back in the mid-90s. It was her degree in social work, though, that caused Paulette Brown to offer her the volunteer coordinator position when it came open a few months later. Over the years Barb continued to build the volunteer program to include a diverse population of helpers who can be found throughout MBGNA. Docent Martha Claus says, “Barb’s a natural at matching the right volunteer with the job that needs doing, and you can bet that she’s thought of every detail that needs to be done.”

Barb’s skill in motivating others shone especially bright when it came to big events. “Why is it that Barb attracted so many worker bees willing to stay up late, wake up early and get filthy-dirty to volunteer for Matthaei? Barb is like a fragrant rose; she attracts people who care about grace, beauty and fortitude. In working with Barb to create the children’s corner for the plant sale, I found Barb to be a hard worker with a gentle spirit; she is thoughtful and goes the extra mile. It takes tenacity to lead a new project, and she got us all working as a team to get it done. We will miss her!” Sandy Heng, plant sale volunteer.

Barb has never stopped using her social work degree to do something else that is near and dear to her heart: tutoring dyslexic children and adults. “When I get a student, I commit for one, two or even three years,” Barb says. She’s tutoring three students twice a week now, and she’ll likely increase her tutoring after she’s left the volunteer coordinator position as of the first of August.

What does the future hold? Barb talks about social advocacy. Peace. World hunger. “I’ll see what doors open up and be ready to walk through them.”

Welcome New Volunteer Coordinator

Tara Griffith joined the MBGNA staff as the new Volunteer Coordinator on August 20. Her background in social work and community organizing has led her to work with volunteers in a variety of settings since 1998. Most recently she coordinated the volunteer program for Neighborhood Seniors Services, a local non-profit agency serving older adults in Washtenaw County. Her other volunteer related experience has included work with the Ann Arbor Parks Department of Natural Area Preservation Division and Project Grow Community Gardens. Although each of these programs was uniquely different, the common thread for has been the volunteer spirit - a constant source of inspiration and hope no matter what the mission may be!

Please stop by her office (Room 130) and say hello.

Flora & Fauna Art Show

Fri Oct 5, 5 - 8 pm Member Preview
Sat Oct 6, 10 am - 5 pm
Sun Oct 7, 11 am - 4 pm

A juried Art Show presents the nature art of over 75 artists and U-M students in a variety of media and styles. Browse, enjoy and buy. The show is run in partnership with Integrity Shows.

Tara and Wolfgang Hauer, a gardener in Project Grow’s Wise Roots program.
The poetry of ancient trees

David C. Michener

An arboretum should have majestic trees—grand trees. It also needs a rich tapestry of younger trees to become grand in their own time. Planning and managing such a living collection is no mean feat, and our history is relevant to our future.

What value are trees? Answers by woodlot owners, wildlife managers, park planners, developers, and poets will differ. Let’s consider O. C. Simonds’s design of the Arboretum in that broad cultural context—the value of trees to pioneers and to settled citizens. What we now take for granted was, a century ago, a bold declaration. What do we declare in 2007?

The axe leaps!
The solid forest gives fluid utterances
They tumble forth, they rise and form
Hut, tent, landing, survey,
Flail, plough, pick, crowbar, spade,
Shingle, rail, prop, wainscot, jamb,
lath, panel, gable,…¹

Whitman celebrates 39 more daily objects made from the “solid forest.” America’s great bard had mystical ties to the woods and forest, but he reveled in its domestication. One scan of Song of the Redwood Tree (1873) where the trees whisper ‘To disappear, to serve’ indicates the context of the era. These were poems befitting manifest destiny, not the establishment of an arboretum.

When Whitman composed his lyrics, the kames* along the Huron River, now a core part of the Arboretum, had been substantially cleared for nearly a generation for the quickly-growing burgs of Ann Arbor and Lower Town (“Shingle, rail, prop, wainscot, jam, lath, panel, gable…”). Unsuitable for farming (“Flail, plough, pick, crowbar, spade”), smaller trees, red and black oaks left after initial lumbering, were allowed to grow.

Simonds, planning University Botanical Gardens in 1906, recognized these forest remnants as a significant and vanishing part of American heritage, one that would soon be lost forever unless active steps were taken. He included them knowing they would increase in significance in the decades to come. A new era was beginning, in which Kilmer stated:

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree…²

But it was not to be just native trees at the Botanical Gardens; newly discovered, hardy species from around the world were to be included. It is evident that adequate planting sites were found as the exotic trees have thrived.

Which native tree is the tallest or largest? Two candidates are the sassafras in Heathdale, and the tulip tree in the Lower Valley. Amongst the trees planted before 1930, the conifers, the grand walnuts at the west end of the Main Valley, the signature hawthorns of East Valley, the ancient-looking yellowwood near the peony garden, the sweet gums off of Locust Knob, and the solitary persimmon in the work yard area also vie for title as largest, tallest tree.

As to age, based on Tepley’s study (see illustration), the 159 year old pignut hickory found on Laurel Ridge Trail is the oldest native tree. The oldest “ornamental” plantings are not our exotic trees, but our shrubs. The records document that spiraea and lilacs were being planted in 1908: their heritage is celebrated in the Centennial Shrub Collection.

A great arboretum is never “done.” Each generation must rejuvenate the collections within its own cultural context. We are doing the same: re-propagating key specimens, removing old, worn out plantings, and developing new collections (River Landing, Oak Openings, Sapindales [maples and horse chestnuts] and amelanchier collections) while respecting Simonds’s design. (Here I do hear echoes of ‘To disappear, to serve.’)

Who will be inspired by the poetry of our trees? What trees will we leave as our link from the present to the future? Our tribute tree fund and planting funds are essential to this work. We need your help renewing the Arb. Give me, or our development staff, a call to discuss current and upcoming collections projects. Visit the Arb and watch our progress. And don’t forget to tell me – or a poet – which trees you think are largest, tallest or grandest. ✽

* Kame – a short ridge, hill or mound of stratified drift deposited by glacial meltwater
1 Song of the Broad-Axe, verse 9, lines 186-192. from Leaves of Grass. Whitman, Walt. Self-published, 1856, revised 1867.
Ask the Experts

Q: My peonies need dividing. How do I do it?

A: The best time to divide or move peonies is in late September and early October. If the ground is dry, soak the area a day in advance to minimize root damage. Prune all stems to 2-4” to expose the crown. The crown is the center of the plant from which root and stem growth arises. You should see next year’s growth, the eyes, which are usually pink and conical. Using a spade, cut through the center of the crown - this makes it easier to dig and also serves as the first division. Next, cut around the plant with the spade and carefully remove the two sections from the ground. Let the plant sit exposed for a few hours so the roots are not so brittle. Wash the soil off so you can see what you’ve got. Cut the larger roots to 8”. Next, cut, or twist at a weak point, each section into two or more pieces. Be sure that each section has both roots and at least three to five eyes. Usually, the center of the crown is not actively growing, and divisions from the outer edge will be more vigorous.

Peonies need at least six hours of sun a day but are otherwise very undemanding, although they will always grow better in well-prepared soil. Start with a large hole – 15” deep and 30” wide – and add compost as needed to improve your soil. Backfill the hole, water thoroughly, and then plant the divisions so that the eyes are no deeper than 2” below the soil. Water again and as needed throughout the fall. After the ground freezes, cover loosely with mulch to prevent the newly planted crown from freezing and thawing, which can make it heave out of the ground the first year. Peonies are slow to recover from dividing - expect it to take three years before it is at its best, although if it is a vigorous plant, it may surprise you and bloom the first year.

Q: My peonies don’t bloom. What’s wrong?

A: In general, peonies are very easy plants to grow. However, they sometimes will not bloom. The main reason could be that there is not enough sun. Peonies need at least six hours of sun per day. If the crown was planted too deep, more than 2” below ground level, the plants often will not flower. If the plant is new and planted bare root, it will often take two to three years for it to bloom. If none of these is applicable, you may just have a dud. Get rid of it and try something different.

The Dahlia Party

On September 6 from 5:30 – 8 pm
the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association will host The Garden Walk, Part II – The Dahlia Party at 1515 Ottawa Street in Ann Arbor. Come enjoy over 126 heirloom dahlias in full bloom.

The $5 fee will benefit the Gafffield Children’s Garden at MBG. For more info, call Claudia Scioly at 995-8441.

In the field at the Arb

April Pickrel

While the forests will be full of color this fall, the trees won’t be the only things to look at for magnificent color and fall interest. Far from the Reader Center at the Arb, the tall grasses at the Alex Dow Field host more than just yellows and golds. Asters and goldenrods, bergamot and bee balms, prairie crab apples, gentians, and wild parsnip bring a rainbow riot to the wide open space. Stems, seeds, leaves, flowers and fruit all contribute to the scene, so wander out and find your view among the grasses and forbes. Take your choice of trails: one wanders all around the edge of the native prairie, the other takes you right through the middle, where the big bluestem reaches high overhead. If conditions are just right, just perfect, you might even catch a prairie burn!

Maps from the Reader Center can help you find your way, but with all the natural beauty to be found in the prairie, can you Get Lost?
Welcome New Members
March 1 – June 30 2007

R. Aditya & Heather Fitzgerald
Mike Adler
Varkey Albin & Anita Joseph
Mark & Sue Alexander
Michelle Anderson
Sharon Andrews
Jennifer Balis & Barbara Wyckoff
William & Carol Barringer
Bill & Mary Barsan
Kathleen Baxter
Joel & Patricia Beals
Elizabeth Becker
Lora Beckwith
Susan Beecher
Sally Bender
R. Jeffrey Benko
Patricia Bentley
David & Kumiko Berger
Scott Bertsch
Pete & Ericka Bigelow
Marilyn Birckelbaw
Susan Blaisdell
Reva Bornstein
Dana Boudrie
Barbara Boughen & William Hassel
Chris Brabbs
Victor & Sally Brandtners
Peter & Janna Breese
James Bretz & Kathy Zhu
Jerry & Audrey Bricker
Bob & Donna Burk
Moray & Mary Callum
Trish Campbell
Sean & Kelly Campbell
Matt & Susan Cantillon
Thomas & Mariou Capo
Allysa Caulk
Susan Chisnell
Gina Claeyss
Brian Collins
Elisa Collins
David & Shelly Cooke
Jacqueline Courteau & Paul Graham
Kimberlee & Sharon Cutler
Ann Damon
Myan Dang
Conrad & Huda Davillier
Jim Dean & June Howard
Kevin Decker
Lee & Collen DeKay
Brian & Meg Delaney
Jaap & Margaret Delevie
Leo & Cheri Deng
Tom Dodson
Gordon & Patricia Eddy
Maher El-Awar
Neal & Ellen Elkin
Laurel Fields
Matthew Fiens & Wendy Lukianoff
David Fleisher & Carol Gagliardi
Kathleen Foshee
Ben & Shari Fox
Lisa Frederick & Norwood Catron
Jason Frenzel
Kathrine Frisinger
Doley Garfield
Diana Gasek
Miriam Geronimus & John Bound
Paul & Linda Girard
Phoebe Gloeckner
William & Karen Godfrey
Suzanne Goodrich
Joan Green
Craig & Laura Gronda
Karen Haigh
Kathleen Harrigan
Tresa Harrington
Bill & Ousa Hawkins
Kimberly Helmick & Matthew Scott
Sandy Heng
Yoshiko Hill
Jane & Daniel Hinshaw
Liam Hoekenga & David Sterling
Geraldine Hofer
Alice Holderby
Kathie Hudson
Jeffrey Insko & Kathryn Bodenmiller
James Jackson & Marsha Conway
Robert & Sherri Jameson
Kay Jensen
Masahito & Mitsuko Jimbo
Delia Johnson
Laura Joan Joe
Robert & Aimee Kay
Dennis Kinchen & Johanna Yuchas
Dick & Pat King
Jame & Jane Kister
William & Betty Knapp
Jacob Knickerbocker
Steven Kokelaar
Ken & Maria Laberteaux
Alesia Lapinsky & Anthony Collings
Leslie Larkins
Linda Lawrence
Paul Lenhard
Ann Levenick & Ben Thompson
John Long & Diane McMahon
Amanda Lotz & Wesley Huffstutter
Lin Lin Lu
David & Aviva Lubman
Carol Lundy
Christine Mabley
Tom & Lisa Maletic
Ron & Karola Mallinger
Steven & Abigail Mankouche
John & Julie Margerum-Leys
Susan Matthews
Jonathan & Wendy Maybaum
Judy McArthur
Charles & Teri McCarthy
Austin McCloe
David & Jill McIntyre
Nancy McKay
Maureen McNeely
Eva Mayer-Meek & Phyllis Meek
Roger & Dee Miles
Albina Miller
Karen Moore & Paul Shapiro
Cynthia Morianti
Adele Muench
Denise Negrea
Peter & Elizabeth Nelson
Matt Newman & Kerri Mose
Meg Nortley
Mark & Dianne O’Connor
Anthony & Theresa Oipipari
Melinda Orzulak
Scott & Janice Paris
Meghan Peake
Ann Marie Peskowski & Paula Knight
Robert & Mary Ann Pierce
Julianne Pinsak
Hope Platt
Mari Pledl & Bananas Mosley
George & Joan Price
Jack Pyle & Linda McMahan
Ann Pymain
Mike Rabe
Louise & Peggy Rabbi
Margaret Rappaport
Robert & Jeanne Rash
Kathryn Ray
Arvind Reddy
Ronald Reed & Lauren Bigelow
Dan & Julia Retherford
Steve & Jeanie Retherford
Mary Ann Richelmann
Jared Richter
Michael & Janice Riggs
Dennis & Sandra Ritter
Stephen & Joan Rosenthal
Jon Rothman & Jacquelyn Grisdale
Helen Roush & John Szabo
Libby Ryerson
Randi Sack
Leonard & Mae Sander
Dennis & Michelle Santillian
Sven Sawin & Jessica Bailey
Richard & Patricia Schmidt
Gloria Scicli
Kenneth Sedlak
Matt Shuster & Alyssa Cairo
Bill & Leslie Sievert
T.J. & Alison Smith
Toni Spears
John & Cheryl Stawizky
Douglas Stout
Tom & Janifer Strane
Esther Summers
Daniel & Dawn Szekely
Shakuntala Tambimuttu
Sorin & Sheryl Teodoru
Chad Thomas & Susan McLeary
Craig & Carol Timko
Mary Topham
Ellie Unterbrink
Willem & Kristin Van Reesema
Thomas & Sarah VanderMeulen
Barbara Varani
John Visel
Geoffrey & Gloria Voght
Orren & Johanne Walters
Dan & Mary Ann Wenger
Matt Wenner
Barbara Wiggins
Nancy Wilkerson
Jo Ann Williams
Deborah Wilson
Mark Winchester
Kay Windram-Brown
Susan Wineberg
Laura Wood
Gillian Woodroofe
Blakie Worth
Claire Zimmerman & Christopher Ratte
want children and families to come explore, have fun, and learn. We also want them to be inspired to think about how they can make their own backyards richer, more magical places while also encouraging wildlife and promoting a notion of environmental stewardship.

Our Sam Graham Trees and Trail is one of two new accessible trails devoted to interactive learning about nature. When complete, the trail will feature nearly all major trees found in Michigan and their associated habitats. Each of the major trees is identified with a raised shape of the tree’s leaf on a metal plate on a post at child’s height near the tree. A coloring book available in our gift shop or on our website, has a story and information about each tree species and a space for making a crayon rubbing of the tree’s leaf. By the end of the trail, children will have their own guidebook to Michigan’s trees. The trail currently features 21 trees and others will be added in the near future. The trail celebrates the life and contributions of Sam Graham (1891-1967), a U-M Professor of Forestry who was a pioneer in ecologically-based forest management.

The Sue Reichert Discovery Trail (see article p. 3) encircles our Willow Pond and was dedicated in early August. This trail honors Sue Reichert (1927-2004) who served for many years as a docent at the Botanical Gardens and loved sharing nature with children. This accessible trail features plants known from the fossil record and challenges children to match fossils in stepping stones along the trail with living trees. Many sensory plants are found along the trail and labels encourage children to touch, smell or avoid certain plants. Other features include a living willow lodge, story circle (with paw prints of the animals frequenting the area), a bug meadow, spotting scopes overlooking the pond, and a tree stump where children can count the rings of the tree.

Our planned Gaffield Children’s Garden will be the third of these projects specifically dedicated to children. The garden will provide an abundance of activities and places to explore and will acquaint children with a rich variety of both cultivated and native plants.

The whimsical garden design will hopefully inspire changes families could make in their own yards.

When complete, the garden will include many smaller gardens and spaces: Butterfly Flutter Garden (plants to attract butterflies), Growing Garden (a vegetable garden in collaboration with EarthShare Farms), Recycled Garden (featuring planters and sculptures made of recycled materials), Sensational Garden (featuring plants with interesting smells and textures), Natural Builders Garden (featuring natural materials for make-believe play and construction), Groovy Grove (child-sized grove of small trees), Art Gallery Garden (showcasing children’s artwork), Fairy and Troll Garden (place for making small houses out of natural materials), Hillside Classroom (small amphitheatre), Wayfinder’s Maze (with an eagle sculpture at the center), and a series of “secret” spaces throughout the garden. One of the key features of the garden will be an accessible Tree House, allowing children to get up in the canopy of trees around the edge of the garden. Construction of the garden began this summer and will be done in phases. We are still seeking funding for various parts of this garden. If you’d like to help, please contact our Development Director Ericka Bigelow at 734 - 647 - 7847.

Finally, at Nichols Arboretum we will be transforming a section of woods near the Peony Garden into a magical woodland fairy village. We will provide a supply of bark, twigs and stone and will encourage children visiting the Arboretum to construct small houses within the village or to remodel or add to houses other children have constructed. Similar to other such projects around the country, we hope this village will engage children to observe and care for wild places.


Events  Fall 2007

At the Gardens unless otherwise noted

Garden Walk II – the Dahlia Party
September 6, 5:30 – 8 pm
See page 17 for details.

100 Years, 100 Views
Centennial Celebration at the Arb
September 29, 8 am - 4 pm
See page 2 for details of the day’s activities.

Beaties in the Garden
September 29, Noon – 4:30 pm
A Small Standard Flower Show presented by the Ann Arbor Garden Club.

Flora and Fauna Outdoor Art Show
October 5, 5 - 8 pm member’s preview
October 6, 10 am - 5 pm
October 7, 11 am - 4 pm
See page 15 for details.

Michigan African Violet Society’s Show and Sale
October 6, 10 am - 4:30 pm
October 7, 11 am - 2 pm
African violets and their kin will be shown and available for sale. Society members will be on hand to answer all your questions about growing this family of favorite houseplants.

Ann Arbor FiberArts Guild Holiday Sale
November 10, 10 am - 4 pm

Spinners Flock Holiday Sale
November 24, 10 am - 3:30 pm

Greens Market
November 29, 11 am – noon (members only)
noon – 6 pm, public sale
The always popular Woman’s National Flower and Garden Association’s annual Greens Market moves to the Gardens this year.