Get Involved—Volunteer!

We welcome new volunteers in every season at the Arb & Gardens. Orientations introduce new volunteers to current opportunities and include an overview of the program and a tour of our facilities. Interested? Visit us online to submit an application at mbgna.umich.edu or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528; tgriffit@umich.edu to register for an upcoming orientation.

Fall 2010 Volunteer Training Opportunities

*Preregistration required for all trainings

Save the Dates!
2011 Docent Training Information Sessions

Tues., & Thurs., Dec. 14 & 16, 1–2:30 pm, Botanical Gardens

Inspire future generations of environmental stewards as an Arb and Gardens docent!

During the academic year, docents work in small teams to lead guided interpretive programs for school groups and also to lead evening and weekend activities for youth and family events. Docents develop skills in interpretation and active learning while sharing enthusiasm and knowledge of the natural world with learners of all ages.

If you’re interested in learning more about this unique volunteer opportunity we ask that you attend an information session prior to the training.

The 2011 docent classes will run for eight weeks beginning Mon., Jan. 17. Classes will be held on Mondays from 9 am–noon at the Gardens.

Conservatory Assistant Training

Mon., Sept. 13, 9–11 am, Botanical Gardens

Escape to a green oasis when the winter winds begin to blow. Join staff horticulturist Paul Girard to learn how you can lend a helping hand in the conservatory this winter—and year round! Volunteers will learn about general conservatory maintenance and the special care required for the many plants that live there. Volunteers are scheduled in the mornings; weekday and weekend shifts available.

Conservatory Ambassador Training

Sat., Oct. 16, 9 am–noon, Botanical Gardens

After the blossoming glory of the display gardens has faded our visitors can find a welcome botanical retreat in the conservatory. Ambassadors greet and guide visitors to points of interest and informal learning opportunities. The conservatory orientation will introduce volunteers to the Visitor Services department and cover the basics about the tropical, temperate, and arid biomes and the many fascinating plants found in each. Ambassadors commit to two shifts per month and attend ongoing educational sessions regarding special collections exhibits and events. Preregistration required.

Prescribed Burn Crew Training

Thurs., Oct. 21, 1–3 pm, Botanical Gardens

We’re looking for new recruits to join the volunteer burn team so if you enjoy the natural areas at MB-GNA and would like to help maintain them this is a great service learning opportunity. Volunteers are on call for weekday, afternoon burns (1–4 pm) during the spring and fall. The orientation will provide basic information about the use of prescribed fire as a restoration tool and the basic volunteer duties. A tour of past burn sites and hands-on demonstration will be provided, weather permitting.

Docent Mickey Barley (left) with intern Ariane Reister

From the top: Conservatory Assistant Evan Stosick; Ambassador Carol Figarra; Natural Areas volunteer Tim Schafer