Computers once occupied entire rooms. Now worlds fit into a computer the size of a pizza box—or smaller.

If that floppy disk of an observation is showing its age like last season’s cell phone, it’s worth remembering just how far and how fast the virtual world has come in a few short years.

So fast, indeed, that the digital invasion has many of us wondering if the information age has moved us forward or back, away from important experiences such as contact with nature and relationships with fellow humans and the larger “real-world” community. Parents in particular worry that children especially may suffer the effects of digital overload. The good news: for kids, being online is a great place to learn about the natural world and can inspire them to get “back to nature.”

Go Online, Get Outside?
Is there anything that won’t be online in the future? Dr. Philip Myers, a U-M Professor of Zoology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and director and founder of Animal Diversity Web, a U-M educational online database of animal natural history, distribution, classification, and conservation biology, believes that “learning is shifting strongly in the direction of the World Wide Web,” and that soon, probably within ten years, “everything will be available on the Web.” This suggests there are plenty of ways for kids to learn online and to connect with others sharing similar interests.

If we're willing to accept that being online actually promotes social interaction, we can also imagine that the Internet and digital technologies might inspire kids to get outside.

Despite the ever-increasing amount of information online, Myers notes, we really know very little about many animals. “There are a lot of blanks,” he says. “So I hope to inspire people to go outdoors to discover for themselves” and to help fill in some of those blanks.

New educational opportunities for technologies beyond just the Internet are out there, too, ones that take kids outside to collect data from their own locales. Dr. Nancy Butler Songer, a U-M Professor of Science Education and Learning Technologies and project director of BioKIDS, a curriculum and parallel site to Animal Diversity Web, wrote in an email that she created BioKIDS in part to “test the theory that if we systematically develop, and implement, technology-rich science units that promote...
Spring-Summer ‘09: Chock Full of Events!

The 29th Annual MBGNA Plant Sale

If you’ve been to our spring plant sale, you know it’s one of the best places in the area to select from a huge offering of more than 1,000 varieties of perennials, woody plants, and unique annuals.

This year we’ve made it even better. Friday night, expect a gala preview party for members complete with wine from Sandhill Crane Vineyards of Jackson, Michigan (where you’ll be able to meet the winemaker), and food from Angel Food Catering, a time during which you’ll be able to get first dibs on your favorite plants. Also, Saturday and Sunday during the sale we’ll have fascinating and informative gardening demos on subjects such as gardening with perennials, rain barrels, raising butterflies, and more.

Nonmembers are welcome to join at the door Friday afternoon and evening during the members party. Oh, and don’t forget to bring mom on Sunday—Mother’s Day!


Shakespeare in the Arb

“Why, this is very midsummer’s madness”
—Olivia, from Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night, Shakespeare’s story of love and identity, mistaken and otherwise, brims with some of the bard’s most well-loved speeches and songs. Kate Mendeloff nimbly directs U-M students and a host of community members to make this mobile production a success. Wear your walking shoes!

June 11-14, 18-21, 25-28. Box Office opens at 5pm to members of MBGNA; 5:30pm general admission at the entrance at 1610 Washington Heights. All performances start 6:30pm; please allow 10 minutes to walk to the first act. Mobility assistance can be provided; please call 734.647.7600. Tickets: $10 U-M students and children 12-18; $15 MBGNA members; $18 general admission.

Gaffield Children’s Garden

Ribbon Cutting—September 13, 1-4pm

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for an afternoon of entertainment and exploration as we officially open the Gaffield Children’s Garden at Matthaei. Our goal: provide a place for kids of all ages to explore and experiment in a natural setting, a place that engages all their senses.

Last season we added a kid-sized bird nest, straw-bale maze, and fairy and troll area, along with a gourd tunnel, storage shed, digging pit, and more.

This season, construction continues with plans for a butterfly and hummingbird garden, a builders’ garden, a water play zone, a picnic plaza, plantings to indulge your senses, nature art gallery, and a habitats hiking trail, to name a few. Also featured Sunday afternoon: entertainment from musician Joe Reilly, plus hands-on activities, snacks, and beverages.
complex thinking in science with Detroit 4-6th graders that we could help these kids raise their test scores in science.”

In Songer’s program, kids use Cyber-Traker—handheld software originally developed by professional animal trackers in Africa—to collect data in the schoolyard. “The handholds are used in the outdoor/real world setting,” Songer writes, “while the data analysis and explanation building . . . occur within the classroom.”

The ubiquitous digital camera has a role in kids’ learning as well. Digital cameras are now the norm, and kids can use them easily on their own or in a classroom setting to get outside and explore nature—without waiting for results or paying for film development.

Lisa Matlock, an education specialist with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, incorporates digital cameras into her classroom curriculum. Digital nature photography, Matlock responds in an email, “has lessons integral to it as an activity, but first and foremost it is a tool to get kids into nature on their own terms.”

Matlock is sold on the experience of digital cameras as a lead in getting kids outside who wouldn’t normally venture out. “Several of the campers in my sessions were at first tentative—talking about not wanting to get muddy or out of sight of the camp. But they very quickly left these issues behind once the cameras caught their attention. It is a beautifully effortless way to break through barriers to getting kids outside,” observes Matlock.

Digital Values

Opinions as to the value of a life lived if even partially online run from the strident to the nuanced. Some are convinced that the Web and new technologies, online social communities, and computer games isolate and separate us, especially children, from the real world and from nature—to our detriment.

In Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, author Richard Louv explores “the increasing divide between the young and the natural world,” a divide brought about in part by the Internet and new technologies. We work too much on “Internet Time,” as Louv calls it.

It’s hard to escape the Internet clock. And the breakneck pace of digital advances challenges us to keep up with what’s new today, never mind tomorrow. Even so, research has shown that digital media may have a positive effect on children and young adults.

A three-year digital media and learning study by University of Southern California and University of California-Berkeley released in late 2008 explores the ways in which “digital media are changing how young people learn, play, socialize, and participate in civic life,” according to the website of the MacArthur Foundation, which supported the study.

In a press release about the study, lead researcher Mizuko Ito of UC-Irvine notes that “it might surprise parents to learn that it is not a waste of time for their teens to hang out online. There are myths about kids spending time online—that it is dangerous or making them lazy. But we found that spending time online is essential for young people to pick up the social and technical skills they need to be competent citizens in the digital age.”

The study uncovered several interesting and surprising results, among them: 1) there’s a generation gap in how young people and adults view the value of online activity; 2) youth “are navigating complex social and technical skills that they need to fully participate in contemporary society;” 3) young people are motivated to learn from their peers online; 4) most young people aren’t taking full advantage of the learning opportunities of the Internet.

And if adults lament the warp speed of digital transformation, the study also found that young people, too, struggle to keep up with the rapid rate of change.

Many adults and parents fret that online gaming has a corrosive effect on kids and teens. The typical stereotype of online games is that they’re violent and by extension predispose children to the same sort of destructive behaviors they see in the games.

A survey conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project suggests the opposite. According to a summary of the Pew survey, “virtually all American teens play computer, console, or cell phone games and that the gaming experience is rich and varied, with a significant amount of social interaction and potential for civic engagement.”

The survey’s goal, according to the Pew website, was “to test concerns that gaming might be prompting teens to withdraw from their communities.” There is clear evidence, the survey goes on to say, “that gaming is not just an entertaining diversion for many teens,” and that “youth have many experiences playing games that mirror aspects of civic and political life, such as thinking about moral and ethical issues and making decisions about city and/or community affairs.”
Most of us relish nature and delight in its diverse beauty. Perhaps less appreciated are the profound psychological benefits of having nature close at hand. Even very small doses of nature can make a big difference in our lives.

A common theme in much of the research on nature’s role in human well-being is the notion of mental fatigue and how nature may counteract it. Almost everyone is familiar with mental fatigue; it’s the stuff of life for nearly every human at one time or another.

But what is experiencing fatigue? If it were the mind we’d find it difficult to perform some things that are fairly easy to carry out even when mentally fatigued. To understand mental fatigue better, we turned to the writings of the nineteenth-century psychologist and philosopher William James. In his research James distinguished between two kinds of attention. One of these is in constant demand as we tend to the many tasks that fill our days. Mental fatigue, we contend, indicates a depleted capacity to use such directed attention. So it is our attentional capacity that is fatigued.

The other kind of attention operates very differently. It doesn’t require effort, but is instead activated by things or activities that are fascinating. That’s where a visit to a garden, arboretum, or other natural setting comes in. These wild or natural places offer fascination in subtle ways and allow our depleted attentional resources to replenish. We call this framework Attention Restoration Theory (ART).

Research based on ART has been carried out for some time now. Among the landmark studies is the work of Dr. Bernadine Cimprich in the U-M School of Nursing. Dr. Cimprich has shown that the difficulties from work and home demands recovering cancer patients face are greatly reduced with as little as twenty minutes of contact with nature, three times a week. Two other U-M alumni, Drs. Frances Kuo and William Sullivan, have shown that residents of a grim public housing facility in Chicago were less likely to settle disputes with violence when there are a few trees growing near their building. And a recent U-M graduate, Dr. Rodney Matsuoka, looked at high school campuses. Regardless of demographics, Dr. Matsuoka found that when nature is nearby, even if only viewed from a cafeteria window, students performed better academically and significantly fewer disciplinary problems occurred.

The lesson is clear: the simple beauty of nature is beneficial. To make the most of its restorative effects, however, we urge you to get out into nature as often as you can.

Rachel Kaplan is a U-M Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment as well as Professor of Psychology. Stephen Kaplan is a Professor of Psychology and a Professor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Michigan. They are renowned for their research on nature’s salutary effect on human relationships and health.
We’ve long known our Peony Garden at the Arboretum is a treasure. Until recently, however, we didn’t fully recognize just how unique it is nationally or internationally. It’s certainly the largest collection of Chinese peonies (Paeonia lactiflora) in North America—and quite possibly the largest outside of China. It also includes many distinctive historical cultivars no longer generally available. Conserving this national treasure for future generations is one of our highest priorities. How to do it well has been one of our challenges.

Few models exist in North America for tending historic collections of garden-plant cultivars. The best strategy is to keep people actively growing them. For a specific collection like ours it’s important to grow the peonies in multiple locations so that if one plant dies, others are available for division. The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens in Great Britain (nccpg.com) provides a useful model for backing up plants in other garden locales through a registry system.

Efforts have been underway in recent months to develop a long-term conservation strategy for the Peony Garden. With assistance from landscape architect Linda Cody, of Linda Cody Design in New Jersey, we have created a helpful planning framework to guide our stewardship efforts over the next few years.

What have we done so far? We have applied to the National Plant Conservation Consortium of the American Public Garden Association to have our Peony Garden named as the national collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Chinese peony cultivars. We’ve also created a national advisory board for our initiative. This board is made up of knowledgeable peony experts from the U.S. and Canada: representatives from the American Peony Society, the Canadian Peony Society, the Midwest Peony Society, the Heartland Peony Society, well-respected growers of peonies, and leaders in the conservation of historic plants.

Over the next several years, we’ll work to verify the identification of each plant in the collection, to divide and back up plants in other locations, and to collaborate with nurseries interested in bringing heirloom varieties back to the market. We’re also developing a Web-based clearinghouse for information on peonies and their culture and history. Additionally, we continue to pursue funding for improvements to the Peony Garden space to improve accessibility, to provide greater interpretation, and to diversify our collection to include more tree peonies (as intended by Aubrey Tealdi, the original designer of the collection) as well as species peonies from China and newer cultivars. Finally, we’ll be making enhancements to the Garden’s appearance during off-bloom periods with additional plantings and other improvements.

We hope you’ll visit the Peony Garden this June and enjoy its dazzling display. As you walk among the thousands of blooms, give some thought to the uniqueness of this treasure and our ongoing efforts to protect its future!

We appreciate the generous support for the Peony Garden Initiative by Ian and Sally Bund, Barbara Joyce Kaye, the Porter Family Foundation, and Philip and Kathleen Power. More giving opportunities exist. If you would like to become involved, please let me know (bgrese@umich.edu; 734.763.0645).

Bob Grese
Director
Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum
Updates
Karen Sikkenga

Open for Business (but Pardon Our Dust)
Matthaei Roads to be Repaved This Summer

Over the years, many of you have requested improvements to the roadway at Matthaei. At last, this summer the entire driveway into Matthaei Botanical Gardens, along with the main and west parking lots, will be repaved, considerably enhancing the look—and feel—of the road. Before the roadwork begins, however, portions of Willow and Parker ponds need to be dredged. This environmentally friendly project will create more area to capture sediment before it flows out to Fleming Creek, thereby improving the creek’s quality. This project is being done with support from the University’s Occupational Safety and Environmental Health unit.

As with any projects of this scope, start and finish dates are hard to predict. Still, we’re aiming for an approximately June through August range for completion of both jobs.

Most important: during repaving and dredging the Conservatory, gardens, and trails will be open for business.

Look for more information on our website and in our e-newsletter as time goes on.

Deconstructing the Deconstructed Landscape

Designed and installed by John Hollowell and Associates, Inc. as the 1999 Gardenscape for a New Millennium, the Deconstructed Landscape has been a signature landmark along the Gardens’ main drive. Starting this season visitors will see this area, including the adjacent old juniper collection, integrated into the oak woodlands and savanna plantings planned for this area. In addition to the removal of the constructed elements of the Hollowell commission, all the non-native trees, shrubs, and grasses planted in the area since 1963 are being removed, making way for native trees, grasses, and flowering perennials. All the Gardenscapes were conceived as temporary installations and have served us well. Our heart-felt thanks for the years we’ve enjoyed the Deconstructed Landscape.

Peony Peaking Party
June 7, 1-4pm

With their wide variety of shapes and their huge blooms in shades of pink, red, and white, peonies are everyone’s favorite. The world-renowned Peony Garden at the Arboretum features dozens of beds of peonies arranged by season and color. It’s a sight to behold in late May/early June when the blooms are at their peak, and a great gathering place for friends and al fresco picnics. This spring, be sure to visit during our Peony Peaking Party on Sunday, June 7. We’ll be offering informative tours where you can learn about the history of the garden and its magnificent collection of antique and heirloom peonies. For more information on specific initiatives regarding the peony garden, read the Director’s message in this issue (p. 3).

Welcome and Farewell

Abdi Gure joined our horticultural staff in November 2008. He has a background in agricultural education and plant pathology.

Cathy Husted and Debi Vaught can be found at the front desk, stocking the gift shop, answering phones, and otherwise assisting our visitors.

Joe Mooney joins us from the University of Michigan Press as our new marketing and development coordinator. He’ll be working on marketing education, events, website, newsletter, and more.

Director of Development Ericka Bigelow left MBGNA late December 2008 to take a position with the U-M Theater Department. We thank Ericka for her efforts here and wish her all the best in her new job.

friends
Spring-Summer 2009

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum Newsletter
Dorothea Coleman, Editor
theacole@umich.edu

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum
University of Michigan

Robert E. Grese, Director
Karen Sikkenga, Associate Director

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**May**

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<td>29</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>9am-noon: Wed. AM Spring Hiker</td>
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<td>7-9pm Yard Hens 2</td>
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<td>4-7pm Master Gardener</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>6-9pm Ann Arbor Garden Club Annual Potluck and Speaker</td>
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<td>9am-1pm Plant Sale</td>
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<td>Volunteer Orientation</td>
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<td>10-11am Huron River Watershed Council Rapid Field Assessment</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>11am-2pm Beekeeping, Intro Session</td>
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<td>Noon-12pm Yoga at the Gardens</td>
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<td>Noon-1pm Lunch &amp; Learn: Stay Safe</td>
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<td>8-10am Audubon Society Spring Migration Walk in the Arb (meet at Riverview cul-de-sac)</td>
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<td>Noon-1pm Lunch &amp; Learn: Matthaei Wetland Walk &amp; Pond Dredging</td>
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<td>8-10am Audubon Society Spring Migration Walk in the Arb (meet at Riverview cul-de-sac)</td>
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<td>Noon-1pm Lunch &amp; Learn: Green Solutions for Your House</td>
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<td>11am-2pm Beekeeping, Class 2: building hive boxes</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>All day Wildflowers &amp; Morels in Mid-Michigan begins offsite</td>
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<td>Noon-1pm Lunch &amp; Learn: Stay Safe</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Until noon Wildflowers &amp; Morels in Mid-Michigan continues offsite</td>
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<td>8am-10am American Orchid Society Great Lakes Judging Meeting</td>
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<td>1pm-3pm Engineered Restored Floodplain Walk</td>
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<td>Noon-1pm Yoga at the Gardens</td>
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<td>6:30-8:30pm Junior Master Gardener</td>
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<td>Noon-1pm Lunch &amp; Learn: Matthaei Walking Tour—History of Matteson Farmstead</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>8-10am Audubon Society Spring Migration Walk in the Arb (meet at Riverview cul-de-sac)</td>
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**June**

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<td>10</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>6-8pm Activity Evening in the Gaffield Children’s Garden</td>
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<td>Noon-1pm Lunch &amp; Learn: Arb Peony Tour with David Michener</td>
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**Key**

- Adult activity: see listings in Education Brochure
- Youth/family education: see listings in Education Brochure
- Class by outside organization
- Volunteer opportunity
June, continued

19 Fri.
Shakespeare in the Arb: 5pm member ticket sale; 5:30pm general ticket sale; 6:30pm performance begins

20 Sat.
9am-noon Volunteer Eco-Restoration Workday at the Gardens ●
10am-4pm Great Lakes Judging Meeting ●
Shakespeare in the Arb: 5pm member ticket sale; 5:30pm general ticket sale; 6:30pm performance begins

21 Sun.
1:45pm Huron Valley Rose Society Rose Show ●
Shakespeare in the Arb: 5pm member ticket sale; 5:30pm general ticket sale; 6:30pm performance begins

22 Mon.
6:30-7:30pm Shakespeare Volunteer Training at the Arb ●
6-8pm Celebrate Pollinators Youth Activity ●
7-8:30pm Understanding Forest Ecosystems Lecture ●
7-9pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Meeting ◆
● Free admission to the Conservatory, noon-8pm

24 Wed.
10am-1pm Children's Hike at the Arb ●

26 Fri.
Shakespeare in the Arb: 5pm member ticket sale; 5:30pm general ticket sale; 6:30pm performance begins

27 Sat.
10am-1pm Approaching Forest Ecosystems Field Trip ◆
10am-noon Celebrate Pollinators Youth Activity ◆
Shakespeare in the Arb: 5pm member ticket sale; 5:30pm general ticket sale; 6:30pm performance begins

28 Sun.
10am-1pm Approaching Forest Ecosystems Field Trip ◆
Shakespeare in the Arb: 5pm member ticket sale; 5:30pm general ticket sale; 6:30pm performance begins

July

6 Mon.
7-9pm Evening Herb Study Group Meeting ◆

8 Wed.
5-8pm Eco-Restoration Workday at the Arb's Oak Openings ◆
6-8pm Children's Hike at the Arb ●
● Free admission to the Conservatory, noon-8pm

9 Thurs.
Noon-1pm Lunch & Learn: The Global Garden: Best Practices from Our Peer Gardens around the Country ◆

11 Sat.
9am-noon Volunteer Eco-Restoration Workday at the Arb ◆
9am-noon Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Photography Workshop ◆
10am-noon Children's Hike at the Gardens ■

14 Tues.
7:30-9:30pm Huron Valley Rose Society Meeting ◆
15 Wed.
● Free admission to the Conservatory, noon-8pm

16 Thurs.
Noon-1pm Lunch & Learn: Arb Walking Tour: Historical Tour of the Arboretum ◆

18 Sat.
9am-noon Volunteer Eco-Restoration Workday at the Gardens ◆
10am-4pm Great Lakes Judging Meeting ◆

20 Mon.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆

21 Tues.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆
6:30-9:30pm Sierra Club Potluck and Meeting ◆◆

22 Wed.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆
6-8am Harvest activities in the Gaffield Children's Garden ◆
7-9pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Meeting ◆
● Free admission to the Conservatory, noon-8pm

23 Thurs.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆
Noon-1pm Lunch & Learn: Matthaei Walking Tour: Bug Walk ◆

24 Fri.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆

25 Sat.
10am-noon Harvest activities in the Gaffield Children's Garden ◆

27 Mon.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆

28 Tues.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆

29 Wed.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆

30 Thurs.
9am-1pm Yoga and Nature Day Camp for Girls ◆◆

August

2 Sun.
Noon-3pm Herb Fest ◆

5 Wed.
● Free admission to the Conservatory, noon-8pm

8 Sat.
9am-noon Volunteer Eco-Restoration Workday at the Arb ◆

11 Tues.
7:30-9:30pm Huron Valley Rose Society Meeting ◆

12 Wed.
6-8pm Butterflies and Moths for Kids at the Gardens ◆

15 Sat.
9am-noon Volunteer Eco-Restoration Workday at the Gardens ◆
10am-noon Butterflies and Moths for kids at the Gardens ◆
10am-4pm Great Lakes Judging Meeting ◆
10:30-4pm Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale ◆

16 Sun.
10:30-4pm Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale ◆

18 Tues.
7:30-9:30pm Sierra Club Meeting ◆

19 Wed.
● Free admission to the Conservatory, noon-8pm

26 Wed.
7-9pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Meeting ◆
● Free admission to the Conservatory, noon-8pm

27 Thurs.
Noon-1pm Lunch & Learn: Matthaei Walking Tour; Gaffield Children's Garden ◆

29 Sat.
10am-4:30pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show and Sale ◆

30 Sun.
10am-4:30pm Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show and Sale ◆

Key

$ Adult activity: see listings in Education Brochure
$ Youth/family education: see listings in Education Brochure
◆ Class by outside organization
◆ Volunteer opportunity
La Vida Local—New “Locavore” Series

When you buy local you know where your food comes from and how it's grown, your support of local food businesses keeps money in the community, and you help food production's carbon footprint tread lightly by reducing the energy needed to grow and ship food from one place to another. Beginning this year, MBGNA is offering a new series of classes designed to address the growing interest in and need for buying, growing, and raising food locally, sometimes even in your own backyard!

Spring Plant Sale Demos

Sat., May 9

General topics
9:30-10am: TBD
10:15-10:45am: Edible Gardens with Karleen Shaffer, Landscape Design & Associates
11-11:30am: Container Gardens with Nicole Lloyd, Landscape Design & Associates
11:45am-12:15pm: Pruning with Kris Adler, Local Arborist
12:30-1pm: TBD

NEW! Kid-Friendly Activities during the Plant Sale

1:15-1:45pm: Kids Grow! Demo
Create a bean teepee garden. Plant the seeds and learn how to set up your teepee.

2-2:30pm: Fairy Homes & Container Gardens
Create beautiful tiny structures from natural materials to be left in the Gaffield Children’s Garden. Build fairy container gardens with natural materials and plants to take home.

2:45-3:15pm: Build a Butterfly “Zone” at Home
Learn which plants provide food for caterpillars and butterflies and how to grow them at home.

3:30-4pm: Big Bullies!
Go on a hunt for invasive plants, learn how they got here, and why they are “big bullies” in natural areas. We’ll work together to remove these plants and create space for native species.

Sun., May 10

12:30-1:30pm: Perennial Combinations with Janet Macunovich
Garden writer and designer Janet Macunovich offers her insights on terrific perennial combinations, what makes them shine in the garden, and how you can develop your own variations.

Note: This is a ticketed event. Preregistration is required.

Fee: MBGNA members and U-M students: $3; nonmembers: $5.
Class code: #09-AE-20

2:45-3:15pm
Rain Barrels: Use it or lose it

Yard Hens II
Raising and Keeping Happy, Healthy Hens at Home

Wed., April 29, 7-9pm

Part II of our wildly successful Yard Hens class takes an in-depth look at how to raise and care for happy, healthy birds at home. The class will cover poultry health and maintenance with a special focus on heirloom breeds. Learn where to get chicks, receive valuable resources, and connect with a community of poultry fanciers. Instructor: Andy Sell.

MBGNA members and U-M students: $16; nonmembers: $20.
Class code: #09-AE-19

Willow Furniture: Art, Nature, Function

Mondays, April 27; May 4, 11, 18; June 1, 8, noon-1pm

For those who enjoy a flowing sequence of sun salutations and postures coordinated with music. Moderately paced, with emphasis on the integration of breath and movement to increase strength and flexibility, this is a class for students with an understanding of yoga fundamentals. Please enter at the west entrance; bring a yoga mat and bath towel. Drop-ins welcome; $10/class. Instructor: Janine Bennett

MBGNA members and U-M students: $48; nonmembers: $60.
Class code: #09-AE-18

Raising and Keeping Happy, Healthy Hens at Home

Sun., May 9

General topics
9:30-10am: TBD
10:15-10:45am: Edible Gardens with Karleen Shaffer, Landscape Design & Associates
11-11:30am: Container Gardens with Nicole Lloyd, Landscape Design & Associates
11:45am-12:15pm: Pruning with Kris Adler, Local Arborist
12:30-1pm: TBD

NEW! Kid-Friendly Activities during the Plant Sale

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2:45-3:15pm: Build a Butterfly “Zone” at Home
Learn which plants provide food for caterpillars and butterflies and how to grow them at home.

3:30-4pm: Big Bullies!
Go on a hunt for invasive plants, learn how they got here, and why they are “big bullies” in natural areas. We’ll work together to remove these plants and create space for native species.

Sun., May 10

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Garden writer and designer Janet Macunovich offers her insights on terrific perennial combinations, what makes them shine in the garden, and how you can develop your own variations.

Note: This is a ticketed event. Preregistration is required.

Fee: MBGNA members and U-M students: $3; nonmembers: $5.
Class code: #09-AE-20

2:45-3:15pm
Rain Barrels: Use it or lose it

Vinyasa Yoga at the Gardens

Mondays, April 27; May 4, 11, 18; June 1, 8, noon-1pm

For those who enjoy a flowing sequence of sun salutations and postures coordinated with music. Moderately paced, with emphasis on the integration of breath and movement to increase strength and flexibility, this is a class for students with an understanding of yoga fundamentals. Please enter at the west entrance; bring a yoga mat and bath towel. Drop-ins welcome; $10/class. Instructor: Janine Bennett

MBGNA members and U-M students: $48; nonmembers: $60.
Class code: #09-AE-18

La Vida Local—New “Locavore” Series

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Willow Furniture: Art, Nature, Function

Sun., May 17, 1-5pm. Class code based on project selected.

Willow furniture once graced front porches, gardens, and summer homes. Today, creating furniture from willow branches is a traditional American art form that combines function and form with natural materials. For our willow furniture classes, bring your hammer and a sense of fun; leave with a unique heirloom. Join Master Furniture Builder Bim Willow in this hands-on workshop. Learn the basics of willow-working and create your own piece of willow art. All materials are provided; just bring a small hammer (8 oz.) and sharp pruning shears. Select from one of the projects listed below; sizes are estimated. Preregistration required two weeks in advance so materials can be gathered prior to the class date. Example photos of projects listed below are available on our website.

Project 1: Trellis (Flat and Tripod). 84” x 24” (trellis); 36” (tripod).
MBGNA members and U-M students: $16; nonmembers: $20.
Class code: #09-AE-19

Project 2: Garden Bench. 48” x 40” x 14”
MBGNA members and U-M students: $100; nonmembers: $120.
Class code: #09-AE-21a

Project 3: Bent Willow Loveseat. 46” x 50” x 28”
MBGNA members and U-M students: $230; nonmembers: $276.
Class code: #09-AE-21b

Project 4: Bent Willow Loveseat. 46” x 50” x 28”
MBGNA members and U-M students: $320; nonmembers: $384.
Class code: #09-AE-21c

Project 5: Garden Arbor (3 pieces/arch top). 84” x 40” x 40”
MBGNA members and U-M students: $260; nonmembers: $312.
Class code: #09-AE-21d

Green Note: When properly harvested willow continues to grow year after year.
Rain Gardens and Xeric (Dry) Gardens

Sat., June 6, 10am-noon

Rain gardens redirect rainwater away from impermeable surfaces such as driveways and into the ground, instead of flowing into storm drains and surface waters. And rain gardens help improve the water table by “recharging” it. Xeric or dry gardens make the most efficient use of water and drought-tolerant plants. Both types of gardens are often more environmentally friendly, or “green,” than the typical garden. Join Patricia Pennell, founder and director of Rain Gardens of West Michigan (raingardens.org) for this informative pairing of green garden topics.

MBGNA members and U-M students: $16; nonmembers: $20.
Class code: #09-AE-22

Spring Wednesday Morning Hikes with Ellen Weatherbee

Five Wednesdays: April 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27, 9am-noon

Wetland and protected-plants expert and consultant Ellen Elliott Weatherbee leads inquisitive plant seekers on weekly hikes to the more out-of-the-way woodland and wetland habitats. An emphasis on edible plants and mushrooms make these perennially popular hikes educational yet fun. Potluck lunch the last day. Don’t delay—this class fills early.

MBGNA members and U-M students: $124; nonmembers: $155.
Class code: #09-AE-17

Wildflowers and Morels in Mid-Michigan: Weekend Trip with Ellen Weatherbee

Fri., May 15 after 4pm through Sun., May 17 after lunch

During this weekend trip you’ll take an in-depth look at spring in the “transition zone,” the area between the southern and the northern plant habitats of the Lower Peninsula. Spring wildflowers are peaking, morel hunting is usually excellent, and birds such as loons and pileated woodpeckers are frequently sighted. These trips are a combination of fun and serious plant and mushroom identification. Camping will be near the leader’s cottage, located on Chippewa Lake in Mecosta County, 35 miles southwest of Clare. The cottage is about a 3 1/2 hour drive from Ann Arbor. There will be a potluck supper on Saturday night. Share rides, if you wish. An equipment list will be sent upon registration.

MBGNA members and U-M students: $256; nonmembers: $320. Class code: #09-AE-24

A minimum of 8 participants are needed to hold this course.

Understanding Forest Ecosystems

Lecture: Wed., June 24, 7-8:30pm
Field trips: Sat. & Sun., June 27 & 28, 10am-1pm

Why is there a beech-maple forest here, an oak-hickory forest there? This and many other questions are covered in this class where you’ll learn to recognize, describe, and predict forest ecosystems. The role of humans and fire will form a significant part of the discussion. Instructor Robert Ayotte holds an M.S. in Forest Resources (Forest Ecology) and is the author of *A Template for the Description of Forest Ecosystems within the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.*

MBGNA members and U-M Students: $48; nonmembers: $60.
Class code: #09-AE-23

Youth & Family Programs

Big Bullies (both days at the Gardens)

Wed., May 13, 6-8pm. Class code: #09-YE-16A
Sat., May 16, 10am-noon. Class code: #09-YE-16B

Invasive plants—ones that are not native to a particular region—are considered the “bullies” of the plant world, crowding and pushing out native plants until, sometimes, the bullies take over. In this class you’ll learn about these big bullies. Explore secret spaces at Matthaei, search for, and help make room for native plants by removing garlic mustard.

Free for children ages 7-12; preregistration required.

Special Gaffield Children’s Garden Planting Day

Sat., June 6, 10am-noon

Whether you started seeds in March or just want to participate in planting and watching things grow, it’s time to plant the seedlings in the Gaffield Children’s Garden. Also, learn how to prepare a garden bed and take home seedlings to plant in your own garden. After, enjoy a snack and admire the newly planted garden.

For children ages 6-12. Class size limited to 12. Dress for the weather, we’ll plant even in light rain (plants love it!).

Fee: $3 per participant. Class code: #09-YE-17

Gaffield Children’s Garden Activity Days

Wed., June 10, 6-8pm
Sat., June 13, 10am-noon

On Wednesdays and Saturdays during the summer, we’re hosting activity days and special programs for children at Gaffield Children’s Garden. Check out backpacks and discovery kits with your family, create a work of art in the Art Gallery garden, explore the Growers Garden’s bounty or go on a guided adventure hike. There will be lots of fun activities and things to do, and places to explore all summer long at Gaffield Children’s Garden. Free.

Celebrate Pollinators Week, June 22-28

Learn all about native pollinating animals vital to our North American ecosystems and agriculture.

Visit www.pollinator.org

Discover What Makes Fruits and Vegetables Possible!

Wed., June 24, 6-8pm at the Arb. Class code: #09-YE-18A
Sat., June 27, 10am-noon at Matthaei. Class code: #09-YE-18B

If you love fresh strawberries in June, raspberries in July, and tomatoes in August—thank a pollinator! Discover why pollinators are so important to us and search for different kinds of insects that make fruits, vegetables, and seeds happen. We’ll take insect nets, bug boxes, and sketch pads on our search for the different creatures that pollinate the flowers and other plants at Nichols Arboretum and Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Fee: $2 per participant
Here’s How to Register:

**Phone:** 734 - 647-7600  *(During Conservatory hours: Tues & Thur.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm; Wed., 10am-8pm.)*

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

**Mail:** MBGNA - University of Michigan
1800 N. Dixboro Road
Ann Arbor MI 48105

**On-line:** www.mbgna.umich.edu

**In Person:** Stop by the Information Desk at Matthaei during Conservatory hours: Tues & Thur.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm; Wed., 10am-8pm.

Make checks payable to “MBGNA.”

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**Treasure Hunt and Hike at the Arb**

**Wed., July 8, 6-8pm at Nichols Arboretum**

Take a guided hike through the hills and valleys at the Arb. Discover how the changing evening light creates special shadows and colors, and listen for summer evening sounds. Come explore the hills, woods, and wetlands. Go on a treasure hunt for flowers, or make a paper flower or leaf garland to take home.

**Fee:** $2 per participant. **Class code:** #09-YE-19A

**Treasure Hunt and Hike at Matthaei Gardens**

**Sat., July 11, 10am-noon at Matthaei**

Take a guided hike at the Gardens along the Sam Graham Trees Trail. Look for the nooks and crannies where plants and animals take refuge from the summer heat. Explore the constructed wetland and the creek trail.

**Fee:** $2 per participant. **Class code:** #09-YE-19

**Harvest in Gaffield Children’s Garden**

**Wed., July 22, 6-8pm**

**Sat., July 25, 10am-noon**

Come see what’s in bloom and what’s ready to harvest in the Grower’s Garden at Gaffield Children’s Garden. We’ll check on the progress of our spring plantings and sample some of the tasty treats right off the plant. Free.

**Winged Beauties: Butterflies and Moths at Gaffield Children’s Garden**

**Wed., Aug.12, 6-8pm. Class code:** #09-YE-20A

**Sat., Aug. 15, 10am-noon. Class code:** #09-YE-20B

Gather at Gaffield Children’s Garden and hike along the butterfly trail. Explore plants that adult butterflies and moths and their caterpillars use for food. Make your own butterfly stamp book to take home.

**Fee:** $2 per participant

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**Girls’ Yoga & Nature Summer Day Program at Matthaei Botanical Gardens**

Amid the stunning setting of Matthaei Botanical Gardens, experience a holistic program especially for girls that combines yoga, hiking, outdoor exploration, and developing spiritual and emotional skills. Activities will include keeping a journal, drawing, and having lunch outdoors in the gardens. This interactive educational program expands appreciation of nature, encourages a lifelong habit of exercise (yoga and tai chi), and empowers girls to live life fully while balancing mind, body, and spirit. **For registration call 734.268.6008 or visit radiantnow.org.**

**Session I for ages 11-14: July 20-July 24, 9am-1 pm** **Fee:** $210

Additional activities for this age group include learning how to take care of your skin and hair, making natural face masks and moisturizers (take sample home), and making bread from scratch.

**Session II for ages 6-10: July 27-July 31, 9am-1 pm** **Fee:** $220

Additional activities for this group include drawing outdoors, pressing and drying flowers and using in art projects, origami, and making herbal butter.

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**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 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. (See form page 12.)

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**Spring-Summer 2009 Community Education**

**Grow Your Mind at MBGNA!**

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**Outdoor gardens and trails are open and free every day sunrise to sunset. For more information on Conservatory and Reader Center hours, please visit our website, mbgna umich.edu or call 734.647.7600.**
Lunch & Learn
Thursday Noon Programs at Matthaei and the Arb
Join MBGNA staff at our informal noon-hour Thursday sessions and discover something new about a variety of topics. These ongoing sessions—a mix of lecture and onsite tours—offer valuable information about gardens, gardening, sustainability, land management, history, and more. Bring a bag lunch. Registration requested—pay when you come. Fee for inside lectures only; outdoor tours free. Lectures: free to members; $3 nonmembers. For more information call 734.647.7600.

May 14: Matthaei Wetland Walk & Pond Dredging Project Overview. Join MBGNA grounds coordinator Mike Hommel and project manager Sarah Weiss on a walking tour of wetland areas at Matthaei. Also, learn about the pond dredging project slated for this spring and summer. Free.

May 21: Matthaei Walking Tour: Helen V. Smith Woodland Wildflower Garden & Sam Graham Trees Trail. Visit these areas at Matthaei with MBGNA horticulturist and collections specialist Connie Crancer. Free.

May 28: Green Solutions for Your House. Hear MBGNA information technology manager T.J. Smith discuss practical ways to improve the energy efficiency and water management practices in your own house. MBGNA members and U-M students: free; $3 nonmembers.

June 4: Matthaei Walking Tour. History of Matteson Farm Barns and Farmstead. Get a glimpse into the past as MBGNA grounds coordinator Mike Hommel discusses the history of the old Matteson farmstead. Free.


June 25: Matthaei Walking Tour: Fossil Discovery on the Sue Reichert Discovery Trail. MBGNA education coordinator Catriona Mortell takes participants on a walk through the Sue Reichert Trail to uncover fossil remnants from ages past. Free.


Name: ___________________________________________ Phone: ________________________________
email: ___________________________________________ Parent’s name (if student is under 18): ____________
Address: ________________________________________ City: ____________________ State: ____________ Zip: ____________
☐ Member of Friends of MBGNA (Member Exp. Date ____________ )
☐ Non-member
☐ U-M student: (Student ID Number ____________ ) Is this your first class? ☐ Y ☐ N

Student’s Name Class Code Also attending (if family class) Member Fee Non-member Fee

List additional classes on a separate sheet and include with original form. Total

Payment: ☐ Check made payable to: MBGNA
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover
☐ American Express

Card # ____________________________ Exp. Date ____________
Cardholder Signature ____________________________
Readers often ask how to use the Web for reliable information about plant characteristics as hardiness, invasiveness and other qualities. It’s a jungle out there, and the Web is full of (mis)information on plants and just about everything else. Ferreting out authentic data is simplified with a few straightforward protocols.

First, begin with an advanced search restricted to websites ending in .org, .edu, or .gov. These organization, education, and government sites are generally more reliable than the random—and often inaccurate—commercial and personal websites, which are best taken with skeptical respect.

The org sites have their limits, however. Many users falsely assume wikipedia.org is a font of truth, which it is, mostly. Since anyone can edit a Wikipedia page, thereby introducing errors, it’s essential to verify the information on an educational or governmental website, using Wikipedia to confirm the correct key words, concepts, or even common names of plants.

Now to specific topics. The USDA maintains the plant hardiness zone map usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html, where you can click on the map to go to a region. But once there, the map only shows each hardiness zone location, with nothing about individual species or cultivar hardiness. Nurseries sometimes give incorrect hardiness information. For example, recently a visitor asked about an intriguing listing of “Zone 5” perennials but couldn’t find a local source. Indeed not. The requested plant is thriving in our Tropical House—and is almost certainly not hardy in Zone 5! A quick .edu Web search found it on some deep-South plant lists with the hardiness rating, and it didn’t take long to find it indexed as a houseplant, too. Mystery solved and money saved here in Zone 5.

Lists of invasive plants are relatively easy to find on the Web, but are of necessity fairly local. For Ann Arbor, go to a2gov.org and do a search using the words “invasive species Ann Arbor.” This brings up a profusion of helpful links, including a PDF of invasive plants for Ann Arbor. For broader geographic regions one can often search .gov links for the DNR of a state and many federal agencies with superb lists and links. Don’t overlook .org for such reputable institutions as the Nature Conservancy. Just be certain to include the geographic range in your advanced search.

Poisonous plants present a special case. If you’re simply trying to find out which plants are toxic, then you need to understand what you’re really asking. Do you mean skin irritants? Upset stomach if chewed? Fatal if eaten in abundance? These are radically different issues. To learn about plant toxicity, use the .org restriction and play with key words such as “poisonous plants” or “plant rashes.” Note you’re searching for the plant’s effects on humans, otherwise you may get, for example, plant diseases. Also try including geographic location like city or state. Links to photographs from the field (not herbarium specimens or historic images) are best. One example of a useful site is: poison.org/prevent/plants.asp; another for pets is: aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/. And one useful link for evaluating websites is: guides.lib.umich.edu/content.php?pid=30524.

Your comments and questions are always welcome. Feel free to email me at michener@umich.edu.
The Michigan Difference fundraising campaign final count has been calculated. More than 365,000 donors made gifts totaling over $3.2 billion—128% of the original $2.5 billion goal. As part of that campaign, Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum raised nearly $5.1 million—137% of our original $3.7 million goal! We are very grateful to our donors and members of our Friends Boards and Advisory Council for your important contributions to this stunning success.

More important than the astounding total is what donors have already accomplished and will accomplish with these gifts. Projects that were funded and completed at Nichols Arboretum during the campaign include the Gateway Garden, Centennial Shrub Collection, the River Landing Project, an Amphitheatre, and Boardwalk. In addition, a new Peony Garden initiative is underway for the long-term care of this unique garden.

At Matthaei Botanical Gardens we have implemented the Sue Reichert Discovery Trail and major portions of the Sam Graham Trees Trail. A generous anonymous donor provided the funding for a deer enclosure protecting our display gardens and making it possible to plan a Great Lakes Garden and Bonsai Garden. We installed the new Steiner Fountain in the Gateway Garden of New World Plants, and named benches and trees along the new Commons. We also installed a new Conservatory roof with mechanical improvements. During this period we began the Gaffield Children’s Garden which will be dedicated in September 2009.

In addition, extensive trail and sign improvements have been completed at both locations. Other important accomplishments were the creation of new student intern endowments and the enhancement of established endowments. This combined with generous planned gifts and bequest intentions totaling $1,112,500 will help ensure our successful future.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum began the campaign as two distinct entities, then reorganized and completed it as one University unit. We’re very proud of all we’ve been able to accomplish with your important help. Thank you to everyone who made a true Michigan Difference at the Gardens and Arb!

As a member of MBGNA you’ll become part of our family of friends eager to enjoy all that MBGNA has to offer. Plus, you’ll receive exclusive members-only benefits:

- Free Conservatory admission all year round
- Subscription to our newsletter, Friends
- Free entrance to over 200 reciprocal gardens and arboretas all over North America
- 20% off all Matthaei educational classes
- Invitations to members-only events
- Special discounts on ticketed events and bulbs
- 10% discount at the Spring Plant Sale and Gift Shop

Your contribution will help us continue to care for gardens and plant collections, restore ecosystems, create public access and interpretation of natural areas, and offer more exciting arts and educational program opportunities.

Memberships

- Student (please include photocopy of ID) $20—Basic Benefits
- Individual $45—Basic Benefits
- Family (2 adults, plus children under 18, living in the same household) $55—Basic Benefits
- Sustaining $100—Basic benefits + invitation to Curator’s Tour
- Sponsor $250—All benefits above plus perennial plant from Spring Plant Sale
- Benefactor $500—All benefits above plus 2 free tickets to a ticketed event
- Director’s Circle $1000—All benefits above plus invitation to Director’s Evening

If your company matches gifts, please include their form.

Memberships are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Mail to: MBGNA
1800 N. Dixboro Rd.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Fax credit card orders to: 734.998.6205
Order by phone: 734.647.7600
Or join us online at: mbgna.umich.edu

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Total $ __________________

Payment:  _____ Check made payable to: MBGNA
  _____ Visa  _____ Mastercard  _____ Discover  _____ American Express

Card # __________________ Exp. Date __________________

Cardholder Signature __________________
Thank you to all our donors who gave to our annual appeal or other fundraising priorities. Please note that the following list reflects membership gifts only from Oct. 1, 2008–Jan. 31, 2009. All donations will appear in our annual report.

**Director’s Circle $1,000**
- Marianne and Bill Udow-Phillips
- Tom and Kay Huntzicker
- Linda Irvin and James Goebel
- Marc Johnson and Amy Weaver
- Joyce Kafere
- Daniel and Lisa Klionsky
- Patsy Knopf
- Christopher and Katarzyna Kojuro
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- Jocelynne Rinker
- Elizabeth Robinson
- Richard Rohrer and Mary Loeffler
- Margie Rudd
- Richard and Norma Sarns
- Judy Scanlon
- William and Katie Stebbins
- Jeffrey Takacs and Helen Chang
- Sara Thomas and Richard Goble
- Don Tinson and Annette Shaffer
- Zee Weisfeld
- Robert and Darragh Weisman
- John and Teri Williams
- Ann Woodward

**Benefactor $500**
- Jim and Anne Duderstadt
- Hal and Donna Estry
- Budge and Anne Gere
- Warran Linton and Elyce Sobczak
- Larry and Rowena Matthews
- Stanley and Robin Mendenhall
- Bertram and Elaine Pitt
- Bill and Sheila Sikkenga
- Jack and Jerry Weidenbach
- Rosemary Hughes

**Sponsor $250**
- Prasanta Datta
- Linda Dimtenfass and Ken Wisinski
- Keturah T. Haab
- Bob and Betsy Herbst
- Richard and Myra Klarman
- Joe Lum
- Tim and Nancy Schafer
- Cynthia Smith
- Phillip and Susan Smith
- David and Karen Ufer
- Thomas and Wendy Vacek
- Paul and Karen Wingert

**Sustaining $100**
- Mary and Pat Ardner
- Burt and Lenora Barnes
- Ernest and Janet Bell
- Doug and Vicki Blayney
- Dorothy Bloom
- Philip and Mary Borkowski
- Dave and Sharon Brooks
- Richard and Joyce Chestbrough
- Steven Chrypinski and Melly Bell
- Nancy Connell and David Foster
- Peggy Dankert
- Julia D. Darlow
- Teresa D’Arms
- Kathleen B. Diggs
- Richard and JoAnn Dionne
- Sandy and Betsy Dugan
- Don and Kathy Duquette
- Richard and Diana Dyer
- Morgan and Sally Edwards
- John and Margaret Faulkner
- Tom and Janet Fisher
- Stephen and Rosamund Forrest
- Paul and Judy Freedman
- David and Cheryl Garrett
- Christopher and Elaine Graham
- Daniel and Norma Green
- Samuel R. Gross and Phoebe Ellsworth
- Murray Hanna
- Cynthia Harrison
- Awori Hayanga and Diana Hynes
- Stephen Hiyama and Sarah Zearfoss
- Raburn Howland and Katherine Kurtz
- Rosemary Hughes

**Family $55**
- Jim and Mary Allor
- Tom and Linda Annesley
- Eric and Patricia Appleberry
- Stephen and Tracy Aris
- Don and Shirley Axon
- Catherine Bach and Brian Hazlett
- Milton and Ruthanne Baker
- John and Beth Ballbach
- John and Jill Barker
- Tim Barnes and Jody Obvyan
- Mike and Carol Barnhart
- Max and Borah Bender
- Kathryn E. Benford
- Bryce Billings and Emily Progar
- Paul and Pauline Blunt
- Ryan Bowles and Lori Skibbe
- Thomas and Sally Brush
- Lois Burk
- Marc and Karis Burkett
- Tony and Bernadine Byk
- Kathleen M. Campbell and Robert Summers
- Robert and Jeannette Carr
- Bill and June Carter
- John and Barbara Chamberlain
- Peter and Linda Cherry
- Reginald and Beverly Ciokajlo

**Sustaining $55**
- Kent and Mary Johnson

**Sustaining $50**
- Dick Jacoby
- Patrick and Bonnie Ion
- Dick Jacoby
- Kent and Mary Johnson

**Benefactor $250**
- Marnie and Bill Udow-Phillips
- Tom and Kay Huntzicker
- Linda Irvin and James Goebel
- Marc Johnson and Amy Weaver
- Joyce Kafere
- Daniel and Lisa Klionsky
- Patsy Knopf
- Christopher and Katarzyna Kojuro
- Bob Kuehne and Kim Bayer
- Barbara Lauzon
- Dean and Gwen Louis
- Richard and Kathie Mahn
- Donald and Lila McMechan
- Katherine McSparran
- Glenn and Anne Morrison
- Randall and Janet Peacock
- Joe and Zoe Pearson
- Rudolph Petrmichl and Silvana Graf
- Richard and Diane Pierce
- Jocelynne Rinker
- Elizabeth Robinson
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- Bill and June Carter
- John and Barbara Chamberlain
- Peter and Linda Cherry
- Reginald and Beverly Ciokajlo
Scott Johnston and Michelle Carter
Richard and Kathleen Johnston
Ann Jones
Laurie Jones and
Stanley Szymanski
Charles and Judith Judge
David and Jennifer Kangas
Fred and Norah Karsch
Keith and Leslie Kellman
Sam and Elaine Kennedy
William and Diane Kennedy
Joe and Linda Kern
Don and Kathleen Kersten
Barbara Kessler and Dick Soble
Chris and Carolyn King
Valerie Kivelson and Timothy Hofer
Amy Klettner and Joe Arosarena
Ken and Kathie Knight
Tim and Kate Knott
Andrew and Mary Ann Koran
Alan and Sandra Kortesova
Kate Korte-Turnbull and Mike Turnbull
Jim and Meghan Kovalak
Admir Kreso and Andrea Scampa-Kreso
Carole and Christine Kuzara
Jennifer and Mark Laffata
Tom and Mia Laporte
Roger Lauer and Ellen Stone
Dan Lawrence and Monica Blair
Katherine Lawrence
Edward LeBaron and Nancy Moncrieff
James and Barbara Leonard
Glenn and Melissa Levine
Donald and Carolyn Lewis
Richard L’Heureux and Lisa Kaberna
Thomas Longworth and Carol Cramer
Debra MacGregor and
Richard Posthumus
Ryan and Danielle Mahoney
Ted and Marilyn Marek
Andrew and Kathy Marsh
Norma Marshall
Dennis Martz and Deborah Deitch
George and Jane McCarthy
John McCauley and Virginia Weingate
Charles and Janice McDavid
Catherine McGavran and Andrew Horning
Laurence and Susan McGee
Winston and Ainsley McAulghlin
Robert and Nancy Meader
Kathleen Meggison and
Donald Schroeder
Richard and Karen Meints
Sara Memmott and Donavin Benns
Don and Lee Meyer
Sue and Cliff Miller
Robert and Denise Milton
John and Olga Moir
Bruce and Cathy Moorman
Nardi and Margaret Nance
Peter and Martha Northrup
Stephen Nose and Aura Glaser
Paul and Brandy Novak
Carolyn O’Neill
Matthew Osborne and Melissa Huey
Gordon and Colette Peckham
Elizabeth Petty and Karen Millner
Patricia Peyster and Kent Joselyn
Vicki Pierzynski
Joe Piotrowski and Anna Yaffe
Alise Portnoy and Mark Rothstein
Wayne Potter and Mariella Mecozzi
Waddy and Robin Pothoff
Bill and Diana Pratt
Stanley and Laurie Raden
Russ and Nancy Raney
Maxwell and Marjorie Reade
Steve and Robin Reisig
John and Mary Remmers
Jason Revoir and Whitney Lupo
Chris and Gwen Reynolds
Nancy Reynolds
Terry and Jill Rheinheimer
Marlin and Dorothy Ristenbatt
Mark Roberts and Mary Ramirez
Milton and Chris Rochman
Robert and Vicki Rodriguez
Keith and Janith Rolston
Jonathan Rothman and
Jaquelyn Grisdale
Glen and Marge Rutula
Irv and Trudy Salmeen
Joshua and Michal Samuel
Lynn Sandmann and
Sandy Maconochie
Ken and Diane Sautler
Justin Saylor and Kate MacDougall
Benedikt Schell and Susanne Nehren
Charles and Judy Scheltema
James Scheys and
Donna Ellingham Scheys
Curt and Polly Schneider
Mark Schneyer and Deborah Field
Mark and Leslie Schoof
James and Linda Sebwa
Caroline Serfass and Paul Vandevort
Leititia Shapiro and Richard Conto
Cliff and Ingrid Sheldon
Dan and Karen Sheridan
Michael and Patricia Sluder
Fred and Priscilla Smith
Mary Smith
Philip and Katharine Soper
Ted and Elizabeth St. Antoine
Thomas and Patricia Stein
Jackie and Phyllis Stengel
Thomas and Kathleen Stephens
Addison Stone and Joanne Carlisle
William and Janet Stower
Kathy and Anna Stroud
Daniel and Rita Stuart
Dion Sullivan and Melissa Peet
Marilyn Swanson and
Savvas Giannakopoulos
Jeremy and Liza Taylor
Robert Teicher and Sharon Gambin
James and Mary Thomson
Cecilia Tomori and Kerry Boeye
John and Margaret Torrance
Valerie Traub and Brenda Marshall
David and Leah Tremonti
George and Nancy Trudell
Joe and Suzanne Upton
Sandra Vallie
Lucy Waskell and George Kenyon
John and Carol Weigel
Donald and Christine Wilcox
Pete and Patricia Wilcox
Steve and Nancy Wiley
George and Patricia Williams
Lawrence and Rosemary Wooden
Henry and Dorothy Zelisse

Individual $45

Sharon Balbis
Patricia Belluci
Sharon Benton
Robert Beulher
Nancy W. Bielak
Cathie Bloom
Diane Brady
Elizabeth S. Brater
Edith Burney
James Campbell
Felicia Cathey
Roxanne Chang
Doreen Crane
Jean Dale Cundiff
Mary Ann Daane
Barbara Davies
Swati Dutta
Fay Edwards
Karen Eisenbrey
Nancy Elliott
Ann S. Epstein
Nanette Esker
Linda Eye
Sheila Feld
Dawn Foerg
Janet Frank
Lois Gamble
Penny Garthwaite
Ann Garvin
Deborah Gibson
Anne F. Ginn
Tom Glaser
Dunnie A. Greiling
Iris Gruhl
Elise Hagy
Marcia Hallstrom
Sarah Hanif
Louise S. Hauenstein
Gail E. Haynes

Leslie Healy
Peggy Heffner
Sandy Hewitt
Millicent Higgins
Elaine Hovey
Patricia Hriczak
Kim Jacobson
Belle Janizewski
Joseph Jaworski
Martha Johnson
Shirley Jones
Rosalie Karunas
Luke Kremer
Drew Lathin
Leslie Lazzerin
Robin Little
Marjory Luther
Natalie Matovinovic
Doris Melvin
Catherine Morgan
Glenn Muhr
Zigi Niki
Kate Noll-Greene
Janet Nord
Lynn Ogilvie
Bert Ortiz
Dariusz Piot
Barbara Powell
Leslie Quint
Beverly Rathcke
Brian Rice
Jeri Rosenberg
Mary Salle
Ina Sandalow
Tina Schneider
Phyllis Schroeder
Anna Schroeder
Eleanor Shaw
Lucy Shinozaki
Susan Silagi
Lynn Sipher
Sharon Smith
Pringle Smith
Christine Sommer
Mary Stevens
Brad Swan
Amy Thomas
Penny Tully
Annette van der Schalie
Dawn Van Hoek
Edward Voss
Florence Wagner
Bev Walters
Mary Ellen Weakley
Mary Wishiewski
Jacquelyn Wright

Student $20

Edward Cable
Brittany Keene
Yen-Chu Weng
Get Involved – Volunteer!

We welcome new volunteers throughout the year. Please contact Tara Griffith, Volunteer Coordinator, at 734.647.8528 for a phone interview. During the interview you’ll be asked to register for one of our upcoming volunteer orientations.

Spring Plant Sale
Welcome spring’s arrival and join us for this annual volunteer-supported event! Lend a hand and pick up some new plants, too. There are opportunities for everyone—before, during and after!

Important: All new and returning volunteers must submit a volunteer interest form and register for one orientation session (forms available online or at Matthaei):

Sat., May 2, 9-11am or
Mon., May 4, 6-8pm

Eco-Restoration Workdays
Join one of our public workdays and take part in the natural-areas restoration efforts at MBGNA. Groups welcome with advance notice.

Second Saturday of every month at the Arb, 9am-noon
Third Saturday of every month at the Gardens, 9am-noon

Additional workdays led by our Natural Areas Stewards:

Workday at Horner Woods, led by the Michigan Botanical Club
Meet in the west lobby at Matthaei for orientation and directions to this site.
Sat., May 16, 1-4pm

Workday at the Arb’s Oak Openings Garden, led by the Wild Ones
Meet at the Reader Center, located at 1610 Washington Heights.
Sat., May 30, 1-4pm
Wed., July 8, 5-8pm

Garden Ambassador
Ambassadors welcome visitors on weekends during the peak bloom season and at special events. As an ambassador, you’ll enjoy the beauty of the many MBGNA display gardens and invite visitors to take a closer look! Ambassador training sessions provide an overview of basic ambassador duties and you’ll also learn about our most popular spring/summer destinations. Session 1 will introduce you to the Peony Collection at the Arb—just in time for early-June peak bloom. Session 2 covers the early blooming gardens at Matthaei. Additional garden tours will be led by our horticulturists as the season unfolds—TBA.

Two basic training sessions (both required):
Sat., May 16, 9am-noon Nichols Arboretum-Reader Center
Sat., May 30, 9am-noon Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Shakespeare in the Arb
Become part of a unique tradition in the Ann Arbor community! It takes many volunteers to support this moving theater production of the LSA Residential College held during three weekends in June. Volunteers enjoy the play while assisting with ticket sales and ushering the audience through the Arb as the scenes unfold. Orientation to the script and venue provided along with a cool Shakespeare T-shirt for an extra perk!

Orientation required (choose one):
Mon., June 8, 15, or 22, 6:30-7:30pm
Heirlooms are older varieties (introduced before 1951) that are not in commercial production today. They are open-pollinated. This means that they breed “true,” so you can collect the seeds from an heirloom plant, replant them next year, and the flower or fruit will be the same as what you planted this year. This is not true of hybrids. Save hybrid seeds to replant and the resulting plants can be vastly different than the original. Modern hybrids have been selected for their ability to withstand shipping, long periods of storage, large-scale agricultural practices, long-blooming periods, etc. Quite often traits such as flavor and aroma have been lost—think tasteless winter tomatoes or scentless roses. Heirlooms are more likely to be flavorful in a wide variety of ways and to have glorious scents, but they are also more fragile and can't withstand long trips from the field to your home. And heirlooms vary in their resistance to disease while hybrids are selected for increased disease resistance.

If you’d like to give heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants a try, Project Grow and Growing Hope, our gardening partners, sell several varieties at the Spring Plant Sale.
The Last Word....

**Annual Garden Walk**
The Ann Arbor branch of the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Association will hold its annual Garden Walk on June 13 from 10am-4pm. Five private gardens will be featured as well as Growing Hope's gardens and the Agrarian Adventure at Tappan Middle School. Proceeds from the walk will support the Agrarian Adventure, an organization that partners with K-12 schools to enrich students’ connections between the foods they eat, their personal health, and the health of their communities and the environment. Tickets are $12 and available after May 15 at Downtown Home & Garden, Dixboro General Store, Nicola’s Books, and Matthaei Botanical Gardens. (Cash or checks only accepted at Matthaei.)

**All about Bromeliads**
The Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Annual Show and Sale will be held on Aug. 15 and 16 from 10:30am-4 pm at Matthaei Botanical Gardens auditorium. Be sure and attend a lecture and demonstration about bromeliads and their care from 12:30-1:30 pm. Vendors will offer a wide range of tillandsias (airplants) and other bromeliads in all sizes; a selection of cacti and succulents; books, note cards, and prints; and cultural supplies. Free.

**Bonsai Show and Sale**
MBGNA members and the general public are invited to the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Annual Bonsai Show and Sale, Aug. 29 and 30, 10am-4:30pm. Over 100 beautiful trees from Bonsai Society members’ collections will be on display. Learn more about the ancient Japanese art of bonsai at workshops and demonstrations. Vendors will be on hand to sell plants and equipment. $3 adults; kids 17 and under free! For more information please visit the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society’s website: annarborbonsaisociety.org.