Last summer, I gave the after-dinner address at a national botanical society meeting in Chicago where I spoke about the Great Lakes. Standing an arm’s throw from Lake Michigan and next to T. rex Sue in the Field Museum, I thought to myself, “What better way to call people’s attention to the lakes that surround us than to show them examples of how we have (mis)treated them over the past centuries?”

I told them about the epidemics of cholera, dysentery, and typhoid fever in the late 1800s caused by the waste from the huge beef and pork slaughterhouses being dumped into the Chicago River. The city leaders began monumental efforts to dig tunnels miles offshore to bring clean water to the city. Unfortunately, the effluents reached the intake valves. Determined to provide Chicago with clean water they constructed a second, larger ship and sanitary canal between Chicago and the Illinois River and simply reversed the flow of the Chicago River. Then Chicago’s unclean water became St. Louis’ problem.

There have been definite improvements in sanitation since then, but we are now faced with issues that impact the entire Great Lakes region, not just cities like Chicago or Detroit. Since the early 1800s, over 140 species of exotic organisms have been brought into the Great Lakes. These include everything from rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon to destructive sea lampreys, gobies, white perch, zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, Eurasian watermilfoil, and the virus that causes hemorrhagic septicemia. Over a third of these species have entered the Great Lakes within the last 30 years, after the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. In recent years we have seen massive fish kills in the lower Great Lakes due to pollution, as well as predation, disease and competition caused by these introductions. We have lost diversity of the lakeside wetland flora, which is now largely dominated by invasive cattails and Phragmites grass.

Excessive input of phosphorus from agricultural runoff and municipal discharges have also contributed to algal blooms and oxygen depletion. Stemming the influx of toxic chemicals and other contaminants, mitigating the effect of invasive species, preventing new invasives from entering the Great Lakes, and restoring wetland habitats along the Great Lakes shorelines have now become foci of attention at all levels of government.

While the imbalance of lake-associated organisms is an important component of the overall health of Great Lakes ecosystems, the quality and the quantity of water in the Great Lakes loom large as issues critical to our
Great Lakes ecosystems

Tony Reznicek

When you drive north from Ann Arbor to Lake Superior, you can see, in a relatively short time, three great, wide-ranging vegetation formations of eastern North America—the deciduous forest, the mixed forest, and the boreal forest or taiga. These large temperate vegetation formations are the matrix within which the many ecosystems of the Great Lakes region occur. While these vegetation formations seem to present a sea of uniformity, if you drive like a botanist—constantly looking at the plants and vegetation—you can see many ecosystems, including some which make the Great Lakes region unique. You can see, in the south, bits and pieces of prairie if you know exactly what to look for. As you cross the larger rivers, you can see plainly that the forest along the rivers is different than the uplands, and can even see some of the characteristic trees of river bottom ecosystems, such as the white-barked sycamore. Farther north, in Lower Michigan’s “sand country,” you can see the extensive jack pine systems, with its unique plants and animals, including Michigan’s most famous bird, the endemic Kirtland’s warbler. This is a very special ecosystem characterized by extremes of drought because of the deep, sandy soils, and dependent on fire. But everywhere, as you drive, you can see that differing slopes and soil types have their own ecosystems reflected in specific combinations of species fine tuned to their environments.

When you get to The Straits of Mackinac, and see the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron displayed beneath you as you cross the Mackinac Bridge, you can finally see the rarest of the Great Lakes region ecosystems, those confined to the shores of the Great Lakes themselves, and most especially the calcareous shores and nearshore areas of northern Lakes Huron and Michigan. There are beaches, and even low dunes, with very extreme conditions of bare, moving sand where only a few special species can live. These form the habitat for a number of the Great Lakes region’s special plants, such as the endemic Pitcher’s thistle and Houghton’s goldenrod. Pitcher’s thistle, an unusual, non-spiny thistle is unique in the Great Lakes region in having creamy, not purple flower heads. It is specialized to occur on beaches and dunes with a certain amount of sand movement, because the seeds require a specific amount of burial by sand in order to germinate. Occurring on beaches and depressions in dunes where sand movement is less, and the soil is moister, Houghton’s goldenrod is one of the rarest endemics in the Great Lakes region, occurring virtually nowhere else except the vicinity of the Straits of Mackinac. Back of the dunes and beaches, the landscape becomes dark with thickets of conifers; eastern white cedar and ground junipers, as well as tamarack and spruce. In open areas of this ecosystem occurs Michigan State wildflower, the dwarf Lake Iris, famous for carpeting the nearshore areas with blue around Memorial Day.

Crossing The Straits presents sights of limestone and dolomite rock outcrops, as you approach and drive over the Niagara Escarpment. These are in the form of cliffs in some areas, a highly unusual ecosystem with many specialized plants, and in a few areas, rock is in the form of
Profile  Paul Berry

Karen Sikkenga

Paul Berry is getting used to gardening in Michigan. He discovered last summer that deer wisely wouldn’t touch his castor bean plants, but they mowed down all but one of his sunflowers. His five acres in northeast Ann Arbor aren’t as heavily forested as he’d like (his fantasy is to live in a dense beech grove), but after a year-and-a-half here, he now knows that he needs to cage each new tree he plants.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Berry serving in the role of interim director during Bob Grese’s sabbatical. Paul and his wife, Lois, moved to Ann Arbor from Madison, where they both spent seven years at the University of Wisconsin. One of his charges at U of W was to modernize its herbarium; he accomplished this in part through encouraging the development of an extensive public website on native plants (http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/). Paul also came to Ann Arbor to help revitalize plant evolutionary studies at U-M. One other faculty member, Chris Dick, was also hired for this purpose, and the University is hoping to add a fungal biologist and perhaps another plant person at the Herbarium and EEB. Paul’s immediate goal is to strengthen connections between units on campus, taking advantage of overlapping interests to make all of our programming more effective. His dual role this year as director of both the Herbarium and the Botanical Gardens is a step toward this goal.

Paul spent eight years as a curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where he devoted most of his energy to tropical plant research. His focus on tropical plants – which began with twelve years living and studying in Venezuela – didn’t keep him from learning about the basic operations of MBG, and we here at MBGNA are eager to benefit from his experience in St. Louis.

Paul misses the time he spent in a botanically diverse tropical country like Venezuela. His most special times there involved trips to remote tributaries of the Orinoco River, bordering the upper Amazon basin, where a week or two could go by without seeing another human being outside of his party. He continues to do field work and plans to spend part of the winter semester in Venezuela and then in South Africa collecting euphorbias. Although Lois often gets stuck with snow blower duty back home, she sometimes returns to her earlier days as a lichenologist and accompanies Paul on some of his shorter trips.

Paul’s research focuses on the evolution and classification of plants like Fuchsia and Euphorbia. The latter includes 2000 species of plants called spurge, including many cactus-like Old World succulents that bleed white latex when cut. The famous Christmas poinsettia also belongs to Euphorbia. This year, our traditional December poinsettia display and interpretive exhibit will be enhanced by Paul’s knowledge about the relationships of poinsettias to other spurge around the world. Stop by!

Above: Fuchsia denticulata is a species native to the Andean slopes of central and southern Peru.

Left: Euphorbia punicea is a tree species native to Jamaica that has some resemblance to the cultivated poinsettias, although they are distant cousins.

Above: Fuchsia brevilobis is a species from southeastern Brazil that I described as new in 1989.
Development Matters
Great new gardens

Ericka Bigelow

“Treat the earth well; it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

- Ancient Indian Proverb

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum lives this proverb every day. You see it at our Natural Areas Restoration Days. You see it when children discover trails for the first time with our docents. You see it through our generous donors who have given to conservation causes.

In the last few years, we have received funds from donors to protect our natural areas, especially the areas that surround our water. In 2004, Tom Porter and Kathleen Crispell, and Drs. Rebecca and William Horvath, helped fund the restoration of the Riverfront Landing. Last year, Dr. Herb Sloan helped fund a boardwalk that protects a fragile wetland ecosystem at the Arboretum. These gifts have helped us protect the water and its ecosystems for our children.

We are continuing this mission with the addition of the Great Lakes Garden. This garden, which is in its fundraising stage, will include a series of gardens that displays the many unique habitats found in the Great Lakes region. (see Great Lakes ecosystems, p. 2)

Imagine a garden with the rocky landscape of the shores of Lake Huron, native lady’s slipper orchids, and the beauty of the wildflowers found in Great Lakes ecosystems. Matthaei Botanical Gardens is in a unique position to be at the forefront of the study, research and educational messages of the plants of the Great Lakes.

We are currently seeking $750,000 for construction and education for the Great Lakes Garden. This project will engage our community in the mission of conserving Michigan’s most important natural resources: the Great Lakes – now that is a promise to our children! 🌸

Sarah Dunn is the most recent addition to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum staff. She received her B.S. in horticulture from Colorado State University, where she originates. Sarah began her career as the Garden and Volunteer Supervisor at Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail, CO, the highest botanic garden in North America located at 9,200 ft. After life at 9,200 feet, Sarah decided to join the Peace Corps where she was a natural resources volunteer in Guatemala for two years.

Once her service was completed, Sarah decided to move to Chicago where she was the Director of Membership at Friends of the Parks, a Chicago park-advocacy organization. While she enjoyed advocacy work, Sarah’s desire was to return to a botanic garden setting, which she did when she became a Senior Development Officer at the Chicago Botanic Garden. At MBGNA, Sarah will divide her time between developing marketing and communications strategies and developing a corporate relations program. Welcome Sarah! 🌸
What do these words have in common besides a relationship with water?

Water literally carved our landscape at the end of the glacial period. Today, water’s availability in the soil guides our reorganization of the MBGNA collections. Rather than add irrigation or drainage, we’re emphasizing a ‘natural water availability’ program. As we descend through the Arboretum, see how many of our quiz words you notice.

The watershed that meets the Huron River at the River Landing has an upper boundary along Geddes Avenue. On the west side of the Centennial Shrub Collection the flash erosion from neighborhood runoff is being quelled and used in a new rain garden. This fall we began planting appropriate perennials as asters (Aster) and blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium). At the outfall, we are planting the Appalachian moisture-loving sweetshrub (Calycanthus). On the east side, along the steep path below the shrub collection, you can’t miss the soggy seepage slope. As we rework this part of the trails and collection, and the nearby intermittent rivulet, we’ll plant other moisture lovers. Continue downhill on the footpaths (take one of the side paths) and you’ll enter the Main Valley. Notice how another tributary comes from the neighborhood above, and has dropped quite a sediment load into the Arb. If you come after a rain, either rivulet flows noisily—but where is the water in the main valley? The active rivulets literally sink below the turf. (Now you know why it’s green all summer!) This area is scheduled to be re-worked for moisture-loving maples—our Sapindales collection.

At the lower end of the Main Valley, near the water-loving sycamore trees, another seepage forms where the subterranean water resurfaces. We’re clearing invasives for revitalized plantings that prefer this year-round moisture. Make your way to the Sloan Boardwalk where a creek flows much of the year. The added water comes from Heathdale and the valley above Magnolia Glen. Here the wetland is relatively narrow, but the seasonal richness of the woodland wildflower display is wonderful. We’ve just planted masses of native pawpaws (Asimina), spice bushes (Lindera), and bladdernuts (Staphylea) to naturalize. As you get closer to the river, the creek opens into a small marsh and then darts through a culvert built for the old railroad right-of-way along the river. The man-made ditches on the inland side are so old and filled with water-loving plants that casual visitors probably don’t hear the echoes of thundering trains.

Aesthetically grouping our plants in conditions where they will thrive is ecologically sound and helps us devote our resources to our mission, not watering. To see this approach in a highly constructed setting, come visit the formal gardens at the Gardens site—there’s much more to learn than can fit one column.

So, what do those words have in common besides their relationship to water? You will find all of them at MBGNA where we actively manage them for best plant and environmental health.
Karen Sikkenga

The Conservatory Is Open!

Come see our sparkling new glass (so beautiful) and revisit all your favorite plants! In celebration, we have rolled back our suggested admission fee to 1998 levels: $3 for adults and $1 for children. The new glass not only provides greater safety, it also provides better care and keeping of the plants. The installation provides greater energy efficiencies, both with the new glass itself as well as the retractable energy blanket that keeps out heat in the summer and keeps it in during the winter.

Display Garden Entrance Changed

We are asking all visitors to the Botanical Gardens to enter the formal display garden area through the lobby. This will help us count visitors, which in turn assists us with obtaining grant funding as well as planning staff coverage.

Centennial Year Draws to a Close

This was a remarkable year at a remarkable institution. An incredible group of dedicated volunteers helped us celebrate our Centennial year in style with two great public events—audio the Arb and one at the Gardens—and four informative exhibits. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Updates

Staff Transitions

Sarah Dunn joined our development team in October. Please see her introduction on page 4. Elizabeth Glynn joined the education team in early December as our Children’s Program Coordinator. Her time will be spent on the school and scout tour programs as well as developing new interpretation and programs for children and families.

On a sadder note, Robyn Robeson is retiring from her role as Membership Coordinator. Robyn has been deeply dedicated to our members for many years. We hope to enjoy her enthusiasm and dedication as a volunteer at events in the future. Thank you, Robyn!

Wayfinding Signs at the Arb

Have you ever gotten lost at the Arb? Our new wayfinding signs will help you find the way! Designed by student Chris Smith and implemented by our own ed team and Arb staff, these signs are not all oriented to the north; instead, they are oriented to you, the visitor. They are easy to interpret and give distance information for our main trails. Also new at the Arb: lots of plant labels throughout the Arboretum, with a concentration of labels in the Centennial Shrub Collection near the Geddes Avenue entrance. The Centennial Shrub Collection is easier to trek now, too, with the addition of a landscape drain to prevent water build-up on the trails.

Gaffield Children’s Garden

Gifts to the children’s garden continue to flow in. We are grateful to Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association for $15K—the proceeds from the annual Garden Walk—to build the sensory garden. We received a generous $80K gift from an anonymous donor, as well as gifts from many of our docents and other community members.

For more information about giving opportunities, please contact our development director, Ericka Bigelow (ebigelow@umich.edu).

Come see the improvements in the conservatory for yourself.
Community Education

Winter 2008

January - April

Come Learn - A Quick Glance

Take a Hike:

Arb Ramble
10 am - noon, January 5, February 2, March 1 and April 12

Wednesday A.M. Hiker, Winter
9 am - noon, January 23, 30 and February 6

Wednesday A.M. Hiker, Spring
9 am - noon, April 23, 30, May 7, 14 and 21

Attend a Lecture:

Great Lakes, Plant Passions lecture series
Biogeography of the Great Lakes: a talk by Anton Reznicek
1 - 3:30 pm, February 10 and 17

Great Lakes Wildflowers: a talk by Fred Case
1 - 3 pm, February 23 and March 1

Wilderness Preservation on Lake Huron’s Bois Blanc Island:
a talk by Sylvia Taylor
1:30 - 3 pm, March 2

Native Orchids: a talk by Fred Case
1 - 3 pm, March 16

Trilliums: a talk by Fred Case
1 - 3 pm, April 6

Coastal Plants of the Great Lakes: a talk by Ellen Elliot Weatherbee
TBD

Mix Art and Nature

Winter in Black and White: photography with Mark O’Brien
1:30 - 4:30 pm, January 20

Botanical Drawing with Colleen Guy Mallone
7 - 9 pm, March 5, 12, 19 and 26

Yoga at the Gardens with Janine Bennett
Noon - 1 pm, 6 week sessions on Mondays

Build your Botanical Knowledge

A Basic Botany Course with Gita Ramsay
6:30 - 8:30 pm, January 23, 30, February 6, 13 and 20

Plant Identification with Ellen Elliot Weatherbee
6:30 - 8:30 pm, March 31, April 7 and 14

A Little Latin Lesson with Dorothea Coleman
7 - 9 pm, April 17

Get your green thumb on!

Gardening for Arthropods with Adrienne O’Brien
6:30 - 9:30 pm, March 11

Ornamental Grasses with Mike Palmer
6 - 8 pm, March 18

Training Mums into Cascade and Tree Forms with Adrienne O’Brien
7 - 9 pm, April 8 and May 20

Arb Ramble

Saturday, January 5, 10 am - noon
Walk through Nichols Arboretum examining “Snowcology:” tree dormancy and adaptations to freezing.
Instructor: Robert Ayotte
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students
($5 Non-members)
#08-AE-01

Yoga at the Gardens

Six Mondays: January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4 and 11, noon - 1 pm
Following Vinyasa Yoga, this 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
Two additional sections are offered: February 18 - March 24 and March 31 - May 5.
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students ($60 Non-members)
#08-AE-02a

Winter in Black and White: photographing the winter landscape

Sunday, January 20 1:30 - 4:30 pm
This indoor and outdoor class will examine the nuances of lighting and form in the winter landscape. Digital and film cameras will be covered, as well as techniques for winter photography.
Instructor: Mark O’Brien
Fee: $24 Members and U-M Students ($30 Non-members)
08-AE-04

A Basic Botany Class

Five Wednesdays, January 23, 30, February 6, 13, and 20, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
How do plants grow? Why flowers are so varied? Exactly what role plants have in climate change? These questions and more will be answered. Topics include: plant structure, growth, photosynthesis, reproduction and pollination. Learn like our docents in a combination of lecture and hands-on lab. Course-book and lab materials included.

Enjoy hiking and botanizing at various locations. Tips for appropriate (and inexpensive) clothing for comfortable winter hiking will be shared. First class meets at the Gardens; locations for others will be given then.
Instructor: Ellen Elliot Weatherbee
Fee: $72 members and U-M students ($90 Non-members)
08-AE-04
Instructor: Gita Ramsay  
Fee: $96 Members and U-M Students  
($120 Non-members)  
08-AE-05

Arb Ramble  
Saturday, February 2, 10 am - noon  
Walk through Nichols Arboretum examining “Flakes in the Arb” - winter tree identification.  
Instructor: Robert Ayotte  
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students  
($5 Non-members)  
#08-AE-06

Great Lakes Plant Passions Lecture  
Biogeography of the Great Lakes: A talk by Anton Reznicek  
Two Sundays, February 10 and 17, 1 - 3:30 pm  
Michigan and the Great Lakes region were once buried under glacial ice. Today we have a complex flora, many rare species, and plants found nowhere else in the world. How did plants migrate after deglaciation, how were modern plant communities formed, why do rare species occur in certain habitats, how did Great Lakes endemics evolve, how to best conserve them, and what might the future bring?  
Instructor: Anton Reznicek  
Fee: $20 Members and U-M Students  
($25 Non-members)  
#08-AE-07

Yoga at the Gardens  
Six Mondays February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, noon - 1 pm  
See previous description  
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students  
($60 Non-members)  
#08-AE-02b

Great Lakes Plant Passions Lecture  
Great Lakes Wildflowers: A talk by Fred Case  
Two Saturdays, February 23 and March 1, 1 - 3 pm  
A grower, gardener, teacher and author shares his knowledge of wildflowers found in the Great Lakes region. Have a look at the natural habitats that are home to many of the showiest wildflowers. Cultivation and conservation of wildflowers will also be discussed.  
Instructor: Fred Case  
Fee: $20 Members and U-M Students  
($25 Non-members)  
#08-AE-08

Arb Ramble  
Saturday, March 1, 10 am - noon  
Walk through Nichols Arboretum examining “Coneheads” (evergreens).  
Instructor: Robert Ayotte  
Fee: $4 Members and U-M Students  
($5 Non-members)  
#08-AE-09

Great Lakes Plant Passions Lecture  
Wilderness Preservation on Lake Huron’s Bois Blanc Island: a talk by Sylvia Taylor  
Sunday March 2, 1:30 - 3 pm  
Bois Blanc Island is a 12 mile long island in the Mackinac Island chain. Almost half its area is in the State forest but summer home development in the rest is increasing. Learn how residents are balancing the need for preservation with the need for tourist income.  
Instructor: Sylvia Taylor  
Fee: $10 Members and U-M Students  
($15 Non-members)  
#08-AE-10

Botanical Drawing: an introductory course.  
Four Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, 7 - 9 pm  
Do you want to try your hand at capturing the wonder of plants onto paper? This class will explore media and techniques for drawing botanical subjects. A material list will be sent upon registration.  
Instructor: Colleen Guy Mallone  
Fee: $64 Members and U-M Students  
($80 Non-members)  
This course is offered in partnership with the Ann Arbor Art Center, members of AAAC also receive the member rate.  
#08-AE-11

Plant Identification  
Mondays, March 31, April 7 and 14, 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Learn to use field guides and more complicated botanical texts to improve your skills identifying wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Texts will be furnished for use during class.  
Instructor: Ellen Elliot Weatherbee  
Fee: $48 Members and U-M Students  
($60 Non-members)  
#08-AE-14

Gardening for Arthropods and Other Wildlife  
Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 - 9:30 pm  
Normally the only insects we think of attracting to our gardens are bees and butterflies. Many others should be welcomed to nourish a healthy ecosystem. Learn which, and how to entice many creatures to visit and live in your garden. Learn how to discourage (or tolerate) the pests.  
Instructor: Adrienne O’Brien  
Fee: $24 Members and U-M Students  
($30 Non-members)  
#08-AE-12

Great Lakes Plant Passions Lecture  
Native Orchids: a talk by Fred Case  
Sunday, March 16, 1 - 3 pm  
Join a much-honored world expert, author and teacher for an extraordinary slide journey and discussion of native orchids, including their conservation and cultivation.  
Instructor: Fred Case  
Fee: $10 Members and U-M Students  
($15 Non-Members)  
#08-AE-13

Ornamental Grasses  
Tuesday, March 18, 6 - 8 pm  
Ornamental grasses are hardy, low maintenance, drought-tolerant plants that provide drama and
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<td>Adult Education Noon - 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens</td>
<td>7 pm Ann Arbor Garden Club Wild Ones</td>
<td>6 – 7:30 pm Discover the World of Plants</td>
<td>9 am – noon at the Arb Meeting 9:30 am Washtenaw County Garden Club Alliance</td>
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<td>11 am Meeting 11 am Great Lakes Orchid Judging</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
- Tues. 10 am - 4:30 pm
- Wed. 10 am - 8 pm
- Thurs. - Sun. 10 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
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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

**Mattigaei Botanical Gardens Conservatory**
Mon. closed
Tues. 10 am - 4:30 pm
Wed. 10 am - 8 pm
Thurs. - Sun. 10 am - 4:30 pm
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<td><strong>Conservatory Closed</strong></td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Adult Education Noon – 1 pm Yoga at the Gardens</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>Adult Education 9 am – noon Wednesday A.M. Hiker</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

**April 2008**
Would you like to create mum forms like the pros? Learn how. We’ll supply the plants, lots of twist ties, the framework, and instructions. For pictures of the mums, visit our website and click on the link to Community Education Programs. Class size will be limited, please register early to assure your spot.

Instructor: Adrienne O’Brien
Fee: $32 Members and U-M students
($40 Non-members)

#08-AE-15

Arb Ramble
Saturday, April 12, 10 am - noon
Walk through Nichols Arboretum examining signs of spring - “Early Bloomers.”

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

#08-AE-16

A Little Latin Lesson
Thursday, April 17, 7 – 9 pm
Do you suffer from BNAD (Botanical Name Anxiety Disorder)? You will be amazed at how many botanical names you already use without knowing it. By the end of the class, you will feel more confident about using botanical names. This class delighted students last term, it also filled last term, please register early to assure your spot.

Instructor: Dorothea Coleman
Fee: $16 Members and U-M Students
($20 Non-members)

#08-AE-17

Wed. A.M. Hiker, Spring
Five Wednesdays, April 23, 30, May 7, 14, and 21, 9 am - noon
Search some out of the way places for edible plants and mushrooms, along with other plants that grow with them. Potluck lunch the last day.

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.
Community Education

This class fills early!
Instructor: Ellen Elliot Weatherbee
Fee: $120 Members and U-M Students ($150 Non-members)
#08-AE-18

Great Lakes, Plant Passions Lecture
Coastal Plants of the Great Lakes: a talk by Ellen Elliot Weatherbee

Tentatively scheduled at the end of April please call or check our website for updated information.
The shores of the Great Lakes are home to many rare and protected plants. Many have evolved unique methods of dealing with often harsh conditions. You will learn not only about these plants, but how regulatory policies affect their survival.
Instructor: Ellen Elliot Weatherbee
Fee: TBD
#08-AE-19

What is coming up?

June 26 - 29 we have a camping trip to Drummond Island with Ellen Elliot Weatherbee. We also have a Macro and close-up photography class with Mark O'Brien in June. In September the annual favorite Michigan Mushrooms class will begin.

Our Instructors:
Robert Ayotte: Adjunct Forest Ecologist, Southeast Michigan Land Conservatory
Janine Bennett: Certificate, White Lotus Foundation, Santa Barbara CA; Instructor, Inward Bound, Ann Arbor, MI
Fred Case: MS Botany; Wildflower authority; Author, Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region and Trilliums
Dorothea Coleman: B.A., Master Gardener, MBGNA and APGA editor
Colleen Guy Malone: Art Instructor Ann Arbor Art Center

Adrienne O'Brien: Horticulturist, MBGNA, U-M
Mark O'Brien: Entomologist and photo professional (see his work: http://www.flickr.com/photos/mfobrien/)
Mike Palmer: Horticulturist, MBGNA, U-M
Gita Ramsay: MS Biology, PhD candidate, U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment
Sylvia Taylor: PhD Botany, Adjunct Assistant Professor U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment
Ellen Elliot Weatherbee: M.A.; former head of Adult Education Program, MBGNA, U-M; wetland and protected plants consultant; author of Guide to Great Lakes Coastal Plants, published by The University of Michigan Press

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 ____________ )
☐ Non-member
☐ U-M student: (Student ID Number _______________ ) Is this your first class? ☐ Y ☐ N
☐ New Address

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Mark O'Brien: Entomologist and photo professional (see his work: http://www.flickr.com/photos/mfobrien/)
Mike Palmer: Horticulturist, MBGNA, U-M
Gita Ramsay: MS Biology, PhD candidate, U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment
Sylvia Taylor: PhD Botany, Adjunct Assistant Professor U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment
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As our state retools its economy away from a largely manufacturing base, we need to factor in the long term economic value of promoting a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem, the pivotal role the lakes serve in global climate issues, our shared border with Canada, and how we will protect this great natural legacy from the short-term needs of a thirsty world.

At Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, we are trying our best to be effective stewards of the streams and rivers that cross our lands and drain into Lake Erie. We are beginning to focus more keenly on native habitats through our new Great Lakes Gardens initiative, which will highlight the plants and habitats that are characteristic or unique to our region and the shorelines of the Great Lakes. We wish to combine this display with associated research projects and conservation efforts that will ensure that we understand and appreciate the role of these plants and habitats in our midst.

“pavements.” Botanists call these areas alvars, the term used in Scandinavian countries for such formations. Even though very rare and restricted in occurrence, alvars support many different ecosystems. Some are bare rock with very little plant cover, others are essentially grasslands, with very little rock visible, and others support many trees and shrubs, with scattered openings. Alvars are essentially unique to the Great Lakes region, and are most diverse and extensive in the northern Lake Huron region, especially in Ontario. They are often in areas that were covered by postglacial stages of the Great Lakes, and are second only to the dunes and beaches of the present shores in the number of endemics and rare plants. One of the showiest of the Great Lakes endemics, the brilliant gold Lakeside Daisy, in fact, occurs almost exclusively on alvars, and is known in Michigan only from a single tiny occurrence not far from The Straits. Before too long now—especially if you veer to the west and don’t go to “the Soo,” you will hit Lake Superior, and can go no further. This cross section of Michigan’s natural heritage is worth visiting to see all that Michigan offers.

If you can’t travel to the UP, you can visit the Great Lakes Garden at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens in the near future to enjoy some of Michigan’s unique ecosystems.
New Members

Welcome New Members
June – October 2007

Jacquelyn Aanes
Alfred Ackerman & Nancy Schieb
Arun Agrawal & Rebecca Hardin
Jennifer Balis & Barbara Wyckoff
Bill & Mary Barsan
Mark & Janine Bennett
David & Kumiko Berger
Ray & Susan Berger
Paul & Pauline Blunt
Barbara Boughen & William Hassel
Cathy R. Bowerman
Peter & Ianna Breese
Janice Burnham
Moray & Mary Callum
Loma Campbell
David Collins & Ann Bell
Jacqueline Courteau & Paul Graham
Myan Dang
William & Marilyn Daniels
Brian & Meg Delaney
Paul Distelzweig & Sara Witherrill
Amy Donoghue
Kathryn Drogowski Bryce Hansen
Pat Durack
Jeremy Easter & Denise Johnson
Matthew Fiems & Wendy Lukianoff
Timothy & Cynthia Flanigan
Michael & Carol Flannagan
David Flesher & Carol Gagliardi
Jon Fleszar & Stacey Schenker
John Floyd
Ann Garvin
Miriam Geronimus & John Bound
Phoebe Gloeckner
Brad Goodwin
Karl Gordon
Robert & Elaine Greene
Kimberly Helmick & Matthew Scott
Peter Hinman & Elizabeth Young
Jane & Daniel Hinshaw
Alice Holderby
Brian Hufnagel & Shirley Cooke
Bharath Iyengar & Sarah Monje

Ask the Experts

Q: If there is an ice storm this winter, what should I do to protect my trees and shrubs?

A: Honestly, the best thing you can do is nothing. Trying to knock or break the ice off will cause more damage to woody plants than leaving it in place. As temperatures warm, the ice will gradually melt and so will any frozen plant tissues. If small branches break, prune them properly. For directions, go to this US Forest Service site: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/hr_prune/prun001.htm. Larger branches, those high in the tree, and split trunks are best left to the professionals. If a bent tree does not recover its upright position, it may be necessary to stake it for the next growing season.
Thanks to our Volunteers

Individuals
(on a regular basis)

Ann Abdo
Darlene Almburg
Mary Ellen Anglewicz
Carol Archer
Jane Armstrong
David Arnold
Diana Arnold
Allison Arscott
Robert Ayotte
Pat Baker
Susan Ball
Ruth Barnett
Joe Bauer
Kathy Bauman
Alex Bayoff
Susan Beecher
Peggy Behrendt
Irini Beister
Patricia Belluci
Steve Black
Barbara Black
Lois Bienlien
Bill Bienlien
Sandi Bialdwicz
Sara Bertsch
Bill Biedenweg
Ann Biedenweg
Barbara Black
Steve Black
Vicki Blayney
Dorothy Bloom
Mary Bond
Cheryl Bord
Ingrid Bowman
Perry Bowman
Kathryn Bowring
Chris Brabbs
Kimberly Bredow
Cheryl Bremer
Bob Bricault
Peggy Britt
Peggy and Louis Britt
Marian Brockie
Marie Brooks
Suzanne Brousseau
Mary Bruening
Trudy Bullkey
Carole Buttrum
William Campbell

Volunteer!

If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito.  
- Betty Reese

In 2006-07, MBGNA Volunteers continued to have a positive effect on our ability to carry out our mission. We extend our thanks to the 362 individual volunteers who helped out with everything from plant propagation to school tours. We also give thanks to the 563 individuals representing local service organizations, U-M student groups, corporations and members of the local community provided hands-on restoration work in our natural areas.
Thanks to our Volunteers

Continued from p. 17

Bee Mukimba
Elizabeth Munsell
Gerry Munsell
Dennis Nagle
Margaret Nance
Max Nemazi
Mary Nix
JoAnn Nowlan
Sharon Obeler
Allen Odell
Dee Oliverio
Joan Overmire
Mona Pankioli
Jan Paris
Gayle Parkinson
Judith Parsons
Jill Peek
Ann Marie Peskowski
Geraldine Peters
Sara Perh
Cindy Pertigrew
Marilyn Pobanz
Tatiana Pocsatko
Barbara Powell
Sally Proehl
Angela Puente
Mary Pulick
Dennis Purcell
Ann Pyman
Judith Rady
Lelia Raley
Ginger Raymond
Alsande Read
David Read
Michaele Reeves
Gene Regenstreif
Dianne Richards
Sharon Richards
Cedric Richner
Carrie Riedeman
Marilyn Rintamaki
Victoria Roberts
Barbara Robeson
Chris Rochman
Linda Rodgers
Peggy Rogers
Christine Rorabeck
Judith Rose
Betsey Rosenberger
Sylvia Rozian
Anne Rubin
Natalie Ruff
Amy Rundquist
Mary Sallee
Gem Sano

Rhonda Sarkisian
Judy Scanlon
Ellen Scavia
Gail Scherer
Libby Schick
Peter Schick
Cindy Schmid
Barb Schommer
Linda Schremser
Claudia Scioy
Claudette Serpetti
Karen Sheets
Thomas Shohe
Bill Sikkenga
Sheila Sikkenga
Barbara Sinclair
Jay Sinclair
Mary Singer
Andrea Smith
Judith Smith
Michael Smith
Nancy Smith
Susan Smith
Robin Sprague
Cheryl Stawizky
John Stawizky
Terri Stone
Melissa Strahley
Jeanette Sullivan
Mary Switzer
Shakuntala Tambimuttu
Sylvia Taylor
Betty Tedder
Alfonso Tercero
Bob Thatcher
Joan Thompson
Caroll Thomson
Laura Tillman
Lewis Tillman
Sue Tons
Faye Traskos
Marcella Trautmann
Cheryl Turetzky
Ellie Unterbrink
George Valenta
Sue Van Appledorn
Jane Van Bolt
Debi Vaught
Carol Vega
Raquel Vega
Sandra Vencil
Karen Veve
Lisa Vogel
Donna Wagner
Mary Wakefield

Marianne Watkins
Sandra Watts
Elaine Weider
Joan Wheeler
Ann Willhite
Daniella Williams
Jo Ann Williams
Teri Williams
Tessa Williamson
Jean Willing
Diane Willis
Regina Wilson
Dorothy Winter
Harry Winter
John Wirh
Edith Wolfinger
Jean Wong
Richard Wyatt
Mary Beth Wyllie

Groups

Alpha Phi Omega
Alpha Pi Mu Honor Society
Alternative Spring Break
Ann Arbor Academy
Bates Residential Staff
Circle K
Computer Engineering
Engineering Council
Engineering Society

Plant Sale Opportunities

Do you have a passion for plants?

We have a remedy for this common garden fever – lending a hand at our annual plant sale, May 2-4. Volunteers are needed throughout the winter and early spring for planning and implementing this great event.

- Cashiers
- Garden gurus
- Gift shop
- Logistics
- Plant propagation
- Membership table
- Parking
- Restocker
- Rover
- Runner
- Signage
- Set up
- Tear down
- and many more

Contact volunteer coordinator Tara Griffith at 734-747-8528 or tgriffit@umich.edu and let her know you'd like to help.
Get Lost in the Arb and Gardens!

Get Lost!

In the Conservatory

April Pickrel

Where in the world could this be? This Get Lost feature location doesn’t require a long hike through winding woods, or a trek to some tiny corner of a garden. This time, let your mind do the wandering!

Here, cool dark waters hold brightly colored fish swimming in serene circles. You’ll find them complemented by cool green ferns, a cascade of both leaves and water to the surface. Instead of a thunderous rumble of water, just a tinkling trickle masks surrounding noises.

Find a seat on the brick wall and let your senses do the walking. Can you Get Lost?

The magnificent Cattleya percivaliana ‘Alberts’ in the conservatory

Swimming fish enchant young and old alike.

Awards

Last December one of the MBGNA orchids, Cattleya percivaliana ‘Alberts’ was awarded a CCM/AOS score of 84 points by the Great Lakes Judging Center which meets monthly at the Botanical Gardens. A CCM is a Certificate of Cultural Merit which recognizes the grower more than the flower quality. Each year the trustees of the American Orchid Society (AOS) presents 15 special awards to the orchids given awards through the year. Our Cattleya percivaliana ‘Alberts’ will be given two of these special awards: the Ann and Phil Jesup Botanical Trophy and the Masatoshi Miyamoto Cattleya Alliance Award.

This plant was an anonymous donation to the Gardens in 1995. The orchid collection is maintained by staff horticulturist Connie Crancer and a group of dedicated orchid volunteers: Borah Bender, Marilyn Couture, Judy Lobato, Michel Smith, and Dorothy and Harry Winter. An article about all the special awards and who won them will be printed in the February Orchids, the magazine published by AOS. Intrigued that our collection has a strong volunteer aspect, Orchids will be printing another article dedicated to our collection and the volunteers who care for it.
Events Winter 2008

At the Gardens unless otherwise noted

Michigan African Violet Society Show and Sale

March 22, 10 am – 4 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.

Members Only Brown Bag Lunch

April 3, noon – 1:30 pm

Join our horticultural staff and learn how we care for our natural areas. Learn how you can better care for your own land. If weather is conducive, we might even take you out to a prairie burn. Bring your own lunch. Beverages will be provided.

Ann Arbor Orchid Society Festival

April 12, noon – 4:30 pm
April 13, 10 am – 4:30 pm

Enjoy the beauty and diversity of the largest plant family. Vote for your favorite. Members of the Ann Arbor Orchid Society will be available to answer your questions. Plants and supplies will be available for purchase.

Spring Plant Sale

May 2, 3 – 7 pm (Members Only)
May 3, 9 am – 5 pm
May 4, noon – 5 pm

Open to the general public. Great plants and eco-friendly items to buy, gardening demonstrations, experts to answer your questions can all be found at our 28th sale.

Now in two tents!

Memberships are available at the door throughout the sale. Members receive a 10% discount on plants and Gift Shop items.