A mild winter like the one we just had heightens our expectations for an early spring, and when the season finally arrives, we’re always thankful. It’s the busiest time of year for us as we prepare gardens and natural areas, plan our many events, and put out the welcome mat for over thirty student summer interns.

As Matthaei-Nichols comes to life we’re thankful to members like you who are such an important part of everything we do here. Each annual membership helps our programs, events, and environmental initiatives thrive. Your dollars make it possible for us to restore more acres of threatened regional habitat, provide students with an enriching, hands-on learning internship, and support community-wide events. You make a difference!

Take a moment to look through this Friends Member Guide. You’ll find a catalog of our upcoming events, a calendar of not-to-be-missed seasonal destinations, and plenty of reasons to rediscover our trails and gardens again and again.

We invite you to share the season with us!

Thanks for your support,
Imagine/Align Daffodil Line
A half-mile-long line of daffodils emerges in April and blooms into May. Created by U-M alum Susan Skarsgard, MFA ’04.

Wetland Boardwalk
Spring-blooming native wildflowers abound at this site. You’ll find skunk cabbage, trilliums, and more!

Laurel Ridge & Heathdale
A stunning display of rhododendrons, azaleas, and other flowering shrubs - the Julie Norris Post Collection - blooms from April to late May.

Peony Garden
The largest collection of antique and heirloom peonies in North America blooms late May to mid-June. Note: A warm March put our peonies on the fast track this year. Call, visit our website, or Facebook us for bloom updates.

Magnolia Valley
Several species of magnolias—some with large and magnificent flowers—bloom late April to early June.

Centennial Shrub Collection
Clusters of old-fashioned shrubs and trees such as lilacs, spirea, and many others bloom in profusion May through June.

Riverfront Landing
Escape a hot August day with a visit to the banks of the Huron River in the Arb. Bring a lunch and lounge in the nearby picnic grove.

The Main Valley
Surrounding hills and trees create a hideaway from busy Ann Arbor just beyond. Enjoy a summer picnic or play a game of Frisbee in this oasis of green.

The Prairie at Dow Field
Late summer and fall are peak times to visit this magnificent prairie, where the grasses grow taller than most humans!

Heathdale
Return to the Heathdale area in fall for a relaxing afternoon surrounded by changing leaves.

Sam Graham Trees and Trail
See hundreds of Michigan native trees and plenty of blooming goldenrod and asters from July to September.

MISO House & Edible Estates
Take a weekend tour of the Michigan Solar House (MiSo), a “green” structure built by U-M students and faculty. Learn to grow your own food in the Edible Estates garden.

The Conservatory
Escape a cold winter day and visit the tropical, temperate, and desert houses of the conservatory. See collections of orchids, bromeliads, cacti, and more.
2012 Event Guide

**Michigan Dahlia Association Tuber Sale**
Sun., April 29, 1–4 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

**Spring Fever Member Party**
Fri., May 11, 5–8 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
A members-only presale of hanging baskets, patio containers, seasonal refreshments, youth and family activities, and more. RSVP by Tues., May 1 to Andy Sell: sella@umich.edu; 734-615-9475
Our thanks to: Grizzly Peak Brewing Co. & Lone Oak Vineyard Estate for their event support!

**American Rhododendron Society Sale**
Sat., May 12, 10 am–4 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens; West Parking Lot

**Mother’s Day Weekend**
**Plant Sale & Fundraiser**
Sat. & Sun., May 12–13, 10 am–4:30 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
A large selection of hanging baskets and containers filled with a variety of colors and textures and grown and designed by Matthaei-Nichols staff and volunteers.

**Shakespeare in the Arb:**
**The Merry Wives of Windsor**
Thur., June 7 – Sun., June 24 (Thur., Fr., Sat., & Sun.)
Nichols Arboretum; Washington Heights Entrance
Ticket presales for Friends members: 5–6 pm*
Performances start at 6:30 pm
*Tickets only sold at the performance

**Friends members enjoy a ticket presale and $5 off adult admission.** Call 734-647-7600 for more information.

**Garden Store Summer Sale**
Wed., August 29, 10 am – 8 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Enjoy the gardens in full bloom and receive an additional 10% off merchandise (20% total) during this event.

**Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show & Sale**
Sat. & Sun., Aug. 25–26, 10 am–4:30 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Check out the construction progress on our new Bonsai and Penjing Display Garden next to the Perennial Garden!
Heirloom & Water-Wise
Spring Plant Sale & Fundraiser
Sat. & Sun., May 19–20, 10 am–4:30 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
A great selection of perennials for shade and sun that adapt well to drier regional summer conditions and stand up to the season’s heat. Also, heirloom herbs and vegetables grown and sold by Cultivating Community, the U-M student volunteer gardening group.

Peonies Galore Sale & Fundraiser
Note: Different location and date for 2012
Sat., May 19, 10 am–4:30 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
A rare opportunity to purchase some of the same varieties of antique and heirloom peonies that grow in the U-M Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. This is a popular sale; be sure to arrive early!

Friends members receive 10% off all plant sale purchases

Herb Fest
Sat., May 19, 10 am–4:30 pm
Demos at 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Nichols Arboretum Peony Festival
Mid-May to early June (TBD; weather dependent)
Nichols Arboretum; Washington Heights entrance
With an unseasonably warm March, the peonies are early this year. But the festival is still on! Help us celebrate the 90th anniversary of the largest collection of heirloom peonies in North America. For updates, visit the Matthaei-Nichols website or Facebook page, follow us on Twitter @MatthaeiNichols, or call the Reader Center at Nichols Arboretum (734.647.8986).

Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society & Southeast Michigan Bromeliad Society Show & Sale
Sat. & Sun., Sept. 8–9, 10:30 am–4 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Greenhouse 3

Music in the Arb
Sun., Sept. 16, Time: TBA; look for your invite in August!
Nichols Arboretum
A free music festival featuring U-M faculty and student performances throughout the Arb.

Run for the Arb: 5K Family Fun Run & Walk
Sat., Sept. 29, 9 am
Nichols Arboretum

Holiday Open House
Sat. & Sun., Nov. 24 & 25, 10 am – 4:30 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Celebrate the opening of the Winter Conservatory Exhibit with music in the conservatory and other seasonal activities. Shop the Garden Store Holiday Collection, green your home with fresh-cut wreaths and swags, and receive an additional 10% off Garden Store purchases (20% total) during this special event.

Spinner’s Flock Holiday Sale
Sat., Nov. 24, 10 am – 4:30 pm
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Friends members receive 10% off all plant sale purchases