Get Involved—Volunteer! Fall 2011
Dig into some great volunteer opportunities at Matthaei-Nichols this fall. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528 for more information. All trainings are held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., unless otherwise noted. Preregistration required for all ongoing assignments and special events.

Ambassador Training - Conservatory
Sat., Oct. 15, 9 am–noon
After the blooms of the display gardens have faded our visitors can find a welcome retreat in the Conservatory. Ambassadors greet and guide visitors to points of interest and informal learning opportunities. The Conservatory training will introduce volunteers to the Visitor Services department and covers the basics about the three climates and the plants found in the Conservatory. Ambassadors commit to two shifts per month and attend ongoing educational sessions regarding special collections exhibits and events. Interview and preregistration is required.

Prescribed Burn Volunteer Training
Thurs., Oct. 13, 1–3 pm
Our Natural Areas Manager Jeff Plakke is all fired up about fall burn season! We are looking for new recruits to join the volunteer burn team so if you enjoy the natural areas at the Arb and Gardens and would like to help maintain them this is a great service learning opportunity. Volunteers are on call for weekday, afternoon burns (1–4 pm) during the spring and fall. The training will provide basic information about the use of prescribed fire as a restoration tool and the basic volunteer duties. A tour of past burn sites and hands-on demonstration will be provided, weather permitting.

Service Opportunities for Groups
Volunteers representing community, corporate, college, and youth groups contribute over 2,000 hours of service every year! Group service projects at Matthaei-Nichols are a great way for members to enjoy fresh air and exercise in a beautiful natural setting and work together toward a common goal. Our staff provides education about the work at hand and explains how volunteer efforts support our mission and programs.

Groups are welcome to coordinate a service project at the Arb or the Gardens during the week or weekend; 9 am–noon or 1–4 pm. Activities may include natural areas restoration, display garden maintenance, and other special projects. Advance notice is required for all group projects. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator (734.647.9679) to explore possibilities for the fall.