Get Involved—Volunteer! Fall 2012

Fall is the perfect time to dig into some great volunteer opportunities at Matthaei-Nichols. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528 or tgriffit@umich.edu for more information. All trainings are held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., unless otherwise noted. Note: Preregistration required for all training sessions and special events.

Natural Areas

Native Plant Team – Fall/Winter Kick Off
Thurs., Sept. 6, 1–3 pm
Expand your knowledge of SE Michigan native plants by helping out with seed collection, processing, and propagation. Future plants will be used in various native gardens and natural areas projects at Matthaei-Nichols. Volunteer workdays occur weekdays 9 am–noon and 1–4 pm; September–March. Volunteers may help weekly or at least two times per month during the season.

Prescribed Burn Crew Training
Thurs., Oct. 11, 1-3 pm, Nichols Arboretum - Reader Center
A great service learning opportunity for those who enjoy the natural areas at Matthaei-Nichols and would like to help maintain them. 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.

Visitor Services

Conservatory Ambassador Training – two options
Sat., Oct. 13, 9 am–noon
Wed., Oct. 24, 1–4 pm
Cooler days and bare branches bring visitors to our conservatory, where ambassadors greet and guide them to points of interest and informal learning opportunities. Ambassador training introduces volunteers to the Visitor Services department and covers the basics about the conservatory’s tropical, temperate, and arid biomes and their many fascinating plants. Ambassadors commit to two 3-hour shifts per month and attend ongoing educational sessions.

Education

2013 Docent Training - Information Sessions
Tues., Dec. 4 and Thurs., Dec. 6, 2–3:30 pm
Inspire future generations of environmental stewards as a Matthaei-Nichols Docent! We are now accepting applications for the 2013 Docent Class. During the academic year, docents work in small teams to lead interpretive programs for school groups and evening and weekend activities for scout, youth, and family events. Docents develop skills in interpretation and active learning while sharing enthusiasm and knowledge of the natural world with learners of all ages. Docent classes begin late January 2013 and run for approximately 8 weeks.

Run for the Arb
Sat., Sept. 29, 9 am, Nichols Arboretum
Join us for the 2nd Annual Run for the Arb, a family run/walk through the trails of Nichols Arboretum. All proceeds benefit Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum. Volunteers help out with registration, way-finding, refreshments, and finish line.

Special Events

Music in the Arb
Sun., Sept. 16, 1–4 pm., Nichols Arboretum
An afternoon of world music from the U-M School of Music and the U-M Residential College. Volunteers are positioned at key locations in the Arb to greet and direct audience members to the performance locations.

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Left: Volunteers help runners at the finish line at Run for the Arb 2011.