Get Involved!—Join a Matthaei-Nichols Garden Team as a Volunteer

Volunteers enjoy fresh air, a variety of beautiful garden settings, hands-on learning and the company of fellow gardeners and staff horticulturists. Lend a hand weekly or a few times per month during the growing season. Activities include planting, weeding, mulching, pruning, and other seasonal garden maintenance. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator to learn more: tgriffit@umich.edu or 734.647.8528.

Gaffield Children’s Garden
Enjoy this playful, interactive landscape as you help tend 15 unique garden spaces—including veggie, herb, and butterfly gardens, fairy & troll knoll, and more. Must enjoy working in a kid-friendly atmosphere. Fridays, 9 am–noon.

Matthaei Display Gardens
Learn new gardening techniques while you help maintain a variety of unique display and exhibit gardens. Garden locations vary. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 9 am–noon.

Weekend Weeder
For those who work weekdays this is a great opportunity to dig in and help out in the display gardens at Matthaei. Saturdays, 9 am–noon.

Nichols Arboretum Gardens
Enjoy the beautiful natural setting of the Arb as you help maintain the horticultural collections featured at the Washington Heights entrance including the Peony Garden, Gateway Garden, Laurel Ridge, and heirloom climbing roses. Mondays & Fridays, 9 am–noon.

Native Plant & Seed
Learn more about landscaping with plants that are native to our region as you tend a variety of gardens at Matthaei and Nichols. This group is active year-round and activities include general garden maintenance (April–September) and seed collection/propagation (October–March). Schedule TBA.

Special Events
Looking for a more flexible, one-time only volunteer option? Check out these special events and visit “Get Involved” on our website to register:

Matthaei Spring Plant Sales: May 12 & 13; May 19 & 20
Volunteers help make our annual plant sales hum! May 12 & 13 is our Mother’s Day Weekend Sale & Fundraiser; the following weekend our Heirloom and Water-wise Sale & Fundraiser in Greenhouse 3. For both weekends we have a variety of positions and shifts available morning and afternoon.

Peonies Galore Sale: May 19 (at Matthaei Botanical Gardens)
The warm spring weather has put the Peony Garden and the Peony Sale on a fast track this year, so we’ve moved the sale date and location to Matthaei and incorporated the sale into our May 19 events.

Shakespeare in the Arb: Thurs.-Sun., June 7-24
The 2012 season of Shakespeare in the Arb features The Merry Wives of Windsor, directed by the U-M Residential College’s Kate Mendeloff. Ushers and box office assistance needed (pm shifts only). Orientation required.