Get Involved—Volunteer at Matthaei-Nichols

Our volunteer program offers diverse opportunities to learn, connect, and give back. As a volunteer, you’ll develop new skills while supporting our mission of education and stewardship through hands-on service. We welcome new volunteers to join us in every season at the Arb & Gardens. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information: 734.647.8528; tgriffit@umich.edu.

Visitor Services – Ambassador Trainings (preregistration required)

Michigan Solar House Ambassador Training
Sat., March 23, 9 am–noon, Matthaei

If you have an interest in or firsthand knowledge of solar energy, we’ve got the perfect job for you! Volunteers will be trained to greet and guide visitors as they learn about the MiSo (Michigan Solar) House, a unique “green” structure designed and built by a team of U-M students.

NEW! Garden Ambassador Training

Two options: Wed., April 24 or Sat., April 27

Each training session is 9 am–4 pm with lunch break

For 2013 we’re creating a single group of ambassadors who can speak to all of the display areas at Matthaei, including the new bonsai and Great Lakes Gardens and the Gaffield Children’s Garden. Training provides an overview of visitor service etiquette, general way-finding, and our most popular points of interest. We’re looking for people with a love of gardens who enjoy working in a lively environment with visitors of all ages.

Monthly garden tours/talks will be led by our horticulturists throughout the season. 3-hour shifts available 7 days per week, 2 shifts per month, May–October.

Weekend open-house shifts (3 hours) and special request tours run May–October.

Above: MiSo House ambassadors Armgard Ruckert and Bud Collins in the MiSo House. Right: Volunteer Ambassador Angela Hellis in the Gaffield Children’s Garden.

THANK YOU!
To all of the 1,443 community members, master gardeners, students, and corporate groups who logged nearly 14,330 hours of volunteer service last year.

Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall – Matthaei-Nichols Volunteers Do It All!

Volunteers and staff gathered last October for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Open House to celebrate the many wonderful contributions made in the past year. Special service awards were given out in each department, including the “Iron Man Award” for Natural Areas Volunteer Tim Schafer who logged the most hours—576 to be exact! Other awards included the “Golden Flash Drive Award” for photography volunteer Michele Yanga, and the “Many Hats Award” for those volunteers who contributed their time to multiple departments.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
A scene from the 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Open House; Volunteer photographer Michele Yanga shows off her Golden Flash Drive Award with Matthaei-Nichols marketing manager Joe Mooney; Demonstrating just how many ways they help make things run smoothly here, volunteers pose with their “Many Hats Awards”; Tim Schafer in full regalia as the winner of the 2012 Iron Man Award for most hours logged.