

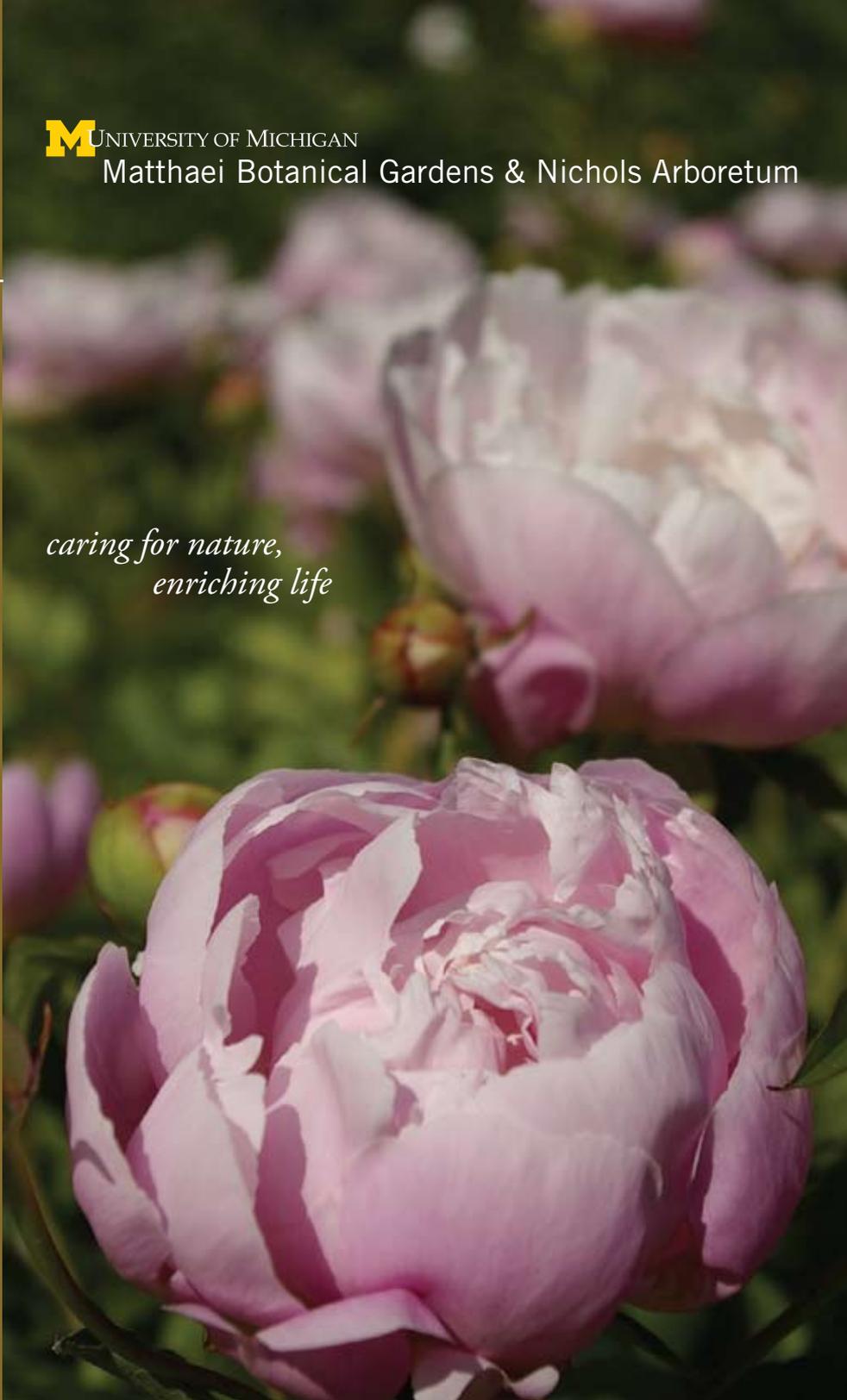


UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum

Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report

*caring for nature,
enriching life*



Caring for nature, enriching life

Several years ago, Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum adopted this motto as a way of describing what we're about. For our staff, this simple phrase has become our way of life. Let's consider what it means.

"Caring for nature" communicates the stewardship ethic that permeates our entire organization. It links to our gardens and plant collections as well as to our urban wilds. We have plant collections gathered from faculty and staff expeditions to places as varied as the southern Appalachians and the desert southwest of the United States and through trade with fellow botanical gardens worldwide.

One of our special collections, the Peony Garden at Nichols Arboretum, has recently been named to the North American Plant Collections Consortium as a reference collection of historical herbaceous peony cultivars (*Paeonia lactiflora*). One of our major initiatives is the long-term protection of this garden and the restoration of our collection of peonies as an innovative model for historic garden preservation.

We're also fortunate that our lands encompass much of the natural heritage that once was southeastern Michigan—oak woodlands, floodplain woods, tamarack swamps, savannas or oak openings, prairies, fens, and bogs. We have significant frontage on the Huron River as well as a major stretch of Fleming Creek, one of the healthiest streams in our area. While it may seem paradoxical, these sites must be carefully managed to preserve their "naturalness" for future generations, as their lands and waters battle constant threats from invasive species, over-population of deer, and changes in hydrology.

The second part of our motto is "enriching life." We accomplish this in a variety of ways—from offering beautiful gardens for the public to enjoy to providing trails and gardens for a restorative walk. Where else



can you escape from one of the busiest medical centers in the country to a native woods or prairie that feels like it's worlds away? Our many programs, educational opportunities, and events foster learning and enrich the lives of participants. University students and members of the community can choose classes on a variety of topics ranging from botany to local agriculture to plein air painting. Each summer, our outdoor performances of Shakespeare's plays—produced in collaboration with U-M's Residential College—transform the way audiences experience the Arb.

Connecting with children and families in our community has long been a major activity for us. With the help of dozens of dedicated docents, we take schoolchildren on excursions to the tropics, the desert, and the temperate biomes of the world—all within our Conservatory. The Sue Reichert Discovery Trail and the Sam Graham Trees Trail offer children and their families an experience of the outdoor world of Michigan and an opportunity to learn something about the natural history of our region. This fall, we dedicated our new Gaffield Children's Garden—a magical place for children of all ages to come explore and enjoy a playful world of nature.

Of course, we can't do all of these things alone. Your generosity in both time and money make them possible. With your help we'll continue caring for nature and enriching life!

I hope you enjoy this year's annual report with its new look that reduces costs on several levels, including paper, production, and mailing. I'm eager to hear your comments!

Bob Grese, Director,

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum

caring for nature . . .

The Peony Garden:

One of the largest collections of antique and heirloom peonies in North America, and a reference collection of historical herbaceous peony cultivars. The long-term protection and restoration of this garden is a major initiative.



Our natural areas and environmental stewardship initiatives:

Our lands contain many of the features of Michigan's natural heritage that were once abundant in an earlier landscape but are fast disappearing today. We're continually working to preserve these areas for future generations in many ways, including the use of prescribed burns to make room for native species; removing invasive species that compete for nutrients, water, and light; seed collecting; and managing streams and water courses to maintain their health.



Left: Prescribed burn in the Arb.

Below: removing invasive plants during an eco-restoration workday.



Above:
Collecting seeds.



Right:
Fleming Creek, one of the healthiest streams in the area.



enriching life

Connecting children with nature; gardens, trails, and natural areas; student interns; volunteers; programs and educational opportunities:

We accomplish the second part of our motto, “enriching life,” in many ways. Beautiful public gardens, trails, and landscapes restore the spirit. A spectacular new children’s garden reconnects kids with nature in a playful way. Classes and programs foster learning and offer food for thought. Volunteer opportunities abound. Our classes, work-learn internship programs, and Shakespeare productions bring community and U-M students alike into close contact not just with each other and nature but our mission, too.





your dollars at work

At Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum, donor and membership dollars help turn ideas into reality. From visitors to students to business groups to volunteers, all who come to the Arb and Gardens see those dollars at work. That's tangible evidence of the value of these generous contributions to the university, the local community, and beyond.

From Annual Appeal & Membership:

- Mosaics \$7,500
- Seasonal Exhibits \$3,500
- Arb stairs \$2,000
- Plant labels \$2,000 (\$6.50 per label)
- Gathering of Gardens \$1,000
- Professional photos of the Arb \$850
- Plotter \$75



Major gifts (cumulative through June 30, 2009):

- Children's Garden \$370,000
- Peony Garden Restoration \$65,000
- Great Lakes Garden \$63,000
- 18 month photo exhibit \$20,000



Endowments:

- 15 internships at \$6,500 each
- Academic awards for five students ranging from \$500 to \$3,500 each



Financials

Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Expenses July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

FUND BALANCE AS OF 7/1/2008

\$1,574,303

Sources

	\$	%
General Fund Appropriations	1,627,783	70%
Membership, Gifts and Grants	347,807	15%
Endowment Distribution	67,271	3%
Investment Distribution	13,302	1%
Program Fees, Admission & Sales	278,005	12%
Total Sources	2,334,167	100%

Uses

Salaries	1,455,247	62%
Fringe Benefits	406,471	17%
Scholarships/Fellowships	13,000	1%
Supplies	249,934	11%
Travel/Transportation	29,855	1%
Internal and External Services	125,313	5%
Miscellaneous Expenses	68,660	3%
Total Uses	2,348,480	100%
Net Change	(14,313)	
FUND BALANCE AS OF 6/30/2009	1,559,990	

IN-KIND SUPPORT

University Support
(Utilities and Plant)
\$356,928

Volunteer Hours
12,769

Volunteer
Dollar Value
(\$20.25/hour)
\$258,572

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

FY 2009 1,363,033