Inside: Climate Station Moves to Matthaei • The Farm’s Got GAP • Open for Research • Who Lives in the Arb?

October Opening for Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail • 200 Years, 200 Oaks
Dear Friends,

We cannot solve the serious environmental problems we face without engaging all people with nature and inspiring them to care about the environment. That’s why nature education is at the heart of what we do.

We offer a rich variety of educational opportunities for the general public and for members of the University of Michigan community. With visitation to our properties topping hundreds of thousands per year, we touch lives at all ages. Our youth education programs engaged over 4,200 children last year including school tours, family programs, and summer activities. In addition, our Gaffield Children’s Garden provides hands-on learning for children and families.

Walk through our gardens and natural areas and you’ll see the impact our Nature Academy interns make. They provide critical care for our spaces, while we engage them in rigorous nature-based learning experiences that prepare them to be good stewards of the environment in their professional and personal lives. This summer, we were able to support 40 Nature Academy interns.

Your support directly impacts our ability to build, enhance, and steward our gardens, farm, and natural areas so that they can continue to engage a broad range of people in nature-related experiences. For example, this year private support allowed us to significantly expand the infrastructure of our Campus Farm. These changes helped get farm-grown food into U-M dining halls, introducing nearly every student to sustainable food systems.

The graphic on the right illustrates our nature education ecosystem and what kinds of opportunities there are for students, visitors, members, and the community to learn about, care for, and enjoy nature.

Matthaei-Nichols is the nexus between people and nature. By working together to support nature education, we have the ability to inspire change.

Sincerely,

Bob Grese, Director

The Nature Education Challenge

Nature education is an important part of the mission of Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. During his tenure as director, Bob Grese has stressed nature education, working with staff to expand nature-based programs and collaborations for the U-M community, and as outreach to students and families throughout Michigan.

Despite the central role of nature education to Matthaei-Nichols, it has never been permanently funded to ensure long-term continuity. Recently, to address this need, Bob joined hands with long-time supporters Ian and Sally Bund to launch the Nature Education Initiative with a plan to raise $4 million. The Bunds have seeded the Nature Education Initiative with a gift of $200,000.

“Without a society that deeply cares about the environment, the next generation faces an uncertain world. To know nature is to love it, and to love it knowledgeably is to save it. Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum has the power to equip children, students, and community members with the resources they need to be advocates for the planet.”

—Ian and Sally Bund

To learn more about supporting our nature education efforts, contact Meredith Olson, director of development: 734.647.7847; merolson@umich.edu.

Why We Need Nature-Based Learning Today

Youth Education: Science-based programs help kids from across southeastern Michigan develop a deeper appreciation for nature.

Michigan Math & Science Scholars: Preparing high-school students for college with science-based classes and programs.

Wolverine Pathways/ Duke Scholars: Partner programs that provide learning experiences to help students succeed in school, college and future careers.
Nature Education: at the Heart of What We Do

Providing immersive experiences that connect people to nature is key to our mission. Check out some of the ways we support nature education with the University of Michigan community and the public at large.

Nature Academy: Students provide care for our spaces and engage in a rigorous nature-based learning experience that prepares them to be good stewards of the environment.

Campus Farm: A living, learning laboratory that introduces nearly every student to sustainable food systems.

Volunteer Program: Opportunities for students and the community to participate in a two-way learning experience while providing support for the organization.

Display Gardens: Places to learn about native or medicinal plants, art, culture, and design; places to wander and de-stress.

U-M Classes: Students gather here to study in classes from many different units on campus.

Research Opportunities: Unique spaces for faculty and students to conduct projects.

Michigan Math & Science Scholars

Wolverine Pathways/Duke Scholars: Partner programs that provide learning experiences to help students succeed in school, college and future careers.

To learn more about all of our nature education opportunities, visit our blog at: mbgna.blogspot.com
Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail Opens October
The long-awaited Matthaei Botanical Gardens trail opens October 14. The two-mile paved trail runs from Matthaei Botanical Gardens over varied landscapes to Geddes and Dixboro roads, where it connects to Parker Mill County Park, the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border trail system, central campus, Nichols Arboretum, and beyond. Come on out to the botanical gardens this October and be one of the first to bike or walk along the trail.

Who Lives in the Arboretum Houses?
If you’ve ever wondered who keeps the Arboretum looking great, or who lives in the houses on the Arboretum property, the answer is student caretakers. They are the eyes and ears of the Arb, helping out with volunteer workdays, facilities maintenance, and special events. One of our current caretakers and a Nature Academy intern is Katie Hammond. A recent U-M School of Social Work grad, Katie will be leaving this fall to pursue her career in social work. Asked what she might say to an incoming caretaker Katie observes that she especially loves seeing the interactions among the Arb and the plants, animals, and people that inhabit it. “The full spectrum of life and emotions can be experienced in the Arboretum. It’s been almost spiritual to witness,” she says. This fall the Arb caretakers are Derrell Griffin, Sara Peterson, Jack Pritchard, and Jordon Tourville, who are all pursuing master's degrees in the School for Environment and Sustainability. Lexi Brewer, another caretaker, is currently a Nature Academy intern and is working on her master's in environmental policy and planning.

Hundreds of Thousands of People Visit the Arb Each Year
Intern and caretaker Katie Hammond has been parsing the numbers collected for an important Nichols Arboretum visitor count. Katie reports: “Visitor counts are crucial and help determine maintenance and staffing schedules and inform funding decisions. For this count, we were particularly interested in how events such as peony bloom time or Shakespeare in the Arb might affect the number of people who visit the Arb. Beginning in late 2015, Matthaei-Nichols tasked the caretakers with recording the number of people entering and exiting the Arb at each of the four main entrances on given days. This process continued through the end of 2016. As a summer intern and Arb caretaker, I’ve been involved in the count since mid-2016. After we captured the raw data, I was tasked with organizing and making sense of it. No surprise: June is the busiest month, and thousands of people visit the Arb on any given day during peony season. This adds up to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. We continue to refine the count and will issue a final report in the near future.”

Staff-Authored Books Are This Season’s Must-Haves
The University of Michigan Bicentennial and peonies are subjects of two books featuring contributions by Matthaei-Nichols’ staff members. Associate Curator Dr. David C. Michener and Carol Adelman, member of our peony advisory board and owner of Adelman Peony Gardens in Salem, Ore., have written a beautiful book on one of the world’s most-treasured flowers. *Peony* features not just hundreds of luscious photos but plenty of informative content including types of peonies available, growing information, a list of best places to buy peonies, and more. The book, published by Workman Publishing, is due in December and available for pre-order on several online retail websites. Michener and Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese are also contributing editors to *Object Lesson and the Formation of Knowledge*. The book showcases the university’s museums, libraries, and collections and coincides with the bicentennial. U-M Press is the publisher; the book is due this fall.

Two Hundred Years, Two Hundred Oaks
For the last year we’ve been pampering 200 white oak seedlings sprouted from acorns collected from a tree at Matthaei. The seedlings—which will be given away during our fall native sale on October 7—are part of our plans to celebrate the U-M Bicentennial. In the meantime, treat yourself to the Grandmother Tree Walk, a self-guided tour of trees in Nichols Arboretum. The walk tells the story of U-M from the perspective of trees and is our main event for the bicentennial. Visit the Arb: 1610 Washington Hts., Ann Arbor. Open daily sunrise to sunset. Free admission.
The Campus Farm’s Got GAP
This summer MDining chefs visited the Campus Farm to check out the produce that the farm can now sell to University dining services, thanks to the farm’s GAP certification. That stands for Good Agricultural Practices, “a voluntary audit that [verifies] that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled, and stored as safely as possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards,” according to the USDA. Bringing Campus Farm produce to student dining takes one goal for the farm to the next level, explains farm manager Jerry Moghtader: “Food grown by students, prepared by students, and consumed by students.” Vegetables such as lettuce, kale, summer squash, and tomatoes have been on MDining’s menu since July. Plans are to install at least one more hoop house to increase the production capacity of the farm.

University of Michigan Climate Station Moves to Matthaei
The University recently gave the green light to moving the Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering historical climate station to Matthaei Botanical Gardens. “This will allow us to maintain our continuous data record, which dates back more than 130 years,” says Frank Marsik, associate research scientist for the department. The U-M station is believed to be one of the longest continuous records in the state, Marsik says. The station’s location at Matthaei ensures a stable site that will remain relatively free of human-built structures that could negatively impact the readings. We’re pretty excited to be hosting such a storied weather station, says Matthaei-Nichols Director Bob Grese. “As someone who’s used historical weather data in my own research, I’m delighted to have the weather station at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Having accurate local climate data clearly enhances the value of our property as the setting for field research.”

Matthaei-Nichols: Open for Research
It might be the best-kept secret on campus. With our unique venues we offer research spaces not available on central campus—a plus for faculty and students looking to set up projects in a welcoming place. In the last year more than 20 projects have come online, with several more already ongoing. The following partial list of some of these relevant and cool projects gives a sense of the diversity of research at our sites. Looking to begin your next project or need more information? Contact Academic Programs Team Lead Catriona Mortell-Windecker: 734.615.9474; catriona@umich.edu.

- Snake-population genetics at rural-urban borders;
- Testing robotic exoskeletons for gait rehabilitation;
- Effects of environmental factors on monarch butterfly wing shapes and flight;
- A comparative study of seasonal bird feeder use;
- The impact of crop diversification on soil fertility;
- Effects of plasma treatment on the germination and development of soybeans;
- Black soldier fly composting of MDining and local business food waste.

Correction
An article on the Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden in the summer 2017 newsletter incorrectly named Richard Avis Wilson as the source of funding for the garden. It was University of Michigan Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering Richard C. Wilson who made the gift in memory of his wife to create the Jean Avis Wilson Native Orchid Garden. Our apologies for the error.

Transitions
Meredith Olson began in May as the director of development. Meredith was most recently the director of development for Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio and prior, the chief advancement officer for the University of Illinois School of Social Work. Visitor Services Front Desk & Events Supervisor Allison Correll left in late June for a job in the Office of the President at U-M. We miss her but wish her well. Also departing this summer was Jeff Walters, Matthaei-Nichols facilities coordinator. Jeff was one of our long-time staff members, starting 27 years ago. He’s now at a new position in the Bentley Library at U-M. Good to know former staffers are still in the university system! Coming on board to replace Allison is Sydney Richards. Sydney joins us following her work as the education coordinator for the Lansing Art Gallery & Art Education Center. Jeff’s replacement is Steve Erskine. Steve was previously the facilities engineer for McMurdo Station in Antarctica.
Challenge Yields Funds for Farm

Talk about growing your investments: Campus Farm’s first GAP-certified (good agricultural practices) batch of produce for MDining was chopped for serving within 20 minutes of leaving the farm. “Short of eating it in the field, it doesn’t get any fresher than that,” says Jeremy Moghtader, farm manager.

At the Campus Farm earlier this spring, local businessman Tom Porter, who’s also head of Matthaei-Nichols’ campaign council, issued a challenge to raise $30,000 in start-up funds for the farm. With the success of this campaign, the Campus Farm is adding a new hoop house and is improving watering systems that will allow the hoop houses to grow nearly year-round.

These changes to the infrastructure will increase production capabilities of the farm to help keep up with campus dining’s insatiable appetite for sustainably grown food.

More importantly, students will enjoy opportunities to participate in research, projects, and experiential learning activities at the farm. By aligning the growing season with the academic calendar, Campus Farm becomes a year-round, living, learning laboratory for sustainable food.

To learn more about supporting the Campus Farm start-up, contact Meredith Olson: merolson@umich.edu; 734.647.7847.

The Nature Effect: a Two-Way Street

Nature Academy interns are supported with membership dollars and by individual donors who have created income-generating funds to help pay their salaries. The interns put in a lot of time and effort every day to get their work done. They also take with them some amazing experiences and life lessons that will serve them well later on. Three interns share how their work here has impacted them:

Joel Reyes-Klann (Julie Norris Post Heathdale Collection intern): Working at Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum turned my interest in environmental issues and stewardship from an abstract idea into something real that finds its way into my daily life. Every time I look up at the trees, or see lush landscapes or notice a neat or unfamiliar species, I peer into it with greater interest and excitement than most people around me understand. Unless I’m at work.”

Madison Montambault (Visitor Engagement intern): “What can a master’s student in opera performance learn from working at the botanical gardens and arboretum? A lot. I’ve taken in so many valuable lessons and skills during my time working here and for that I’m very grateful. I had the unique opportunity to work across multiple departments this summer. This experience not only widened my skill set; it also sharpened my skills in time and conflict management and organization—things that come in handy working here and in my life as a music student. I’ve also learned a lot about nature, which has deepened my appreciation for the environment and our place within it.”

Connor Kippe (Campus Farm intern): “This summer has been different than any other job I’ve had because it hasn’t felt like a job at all. I have learned so much about farming and about the intersection between it and nature, and the connection of both to people. Nature is the water that sustains the plants. Nature is the soil that nourishes the plants. Without nature and its services, there would be no farming. And with no farming, there is no food for people.”

The Long View: Building Funds for Future Income

Most of us want wow in our gardens—and we want it now. But every gardener knows that great things take time to grow and nurture. Campus Farm Manager Jeremy Moghtader’s position was made possible when the University of Michigan provided the funds to support a farm manager for the long term (you might say U-M is our biggest donor). Jeremy is already putting the pieces in place for the farm to succeed for years to come. That same long-term approach is a good lens through which to view many of our operational priorities. For example, thanks to descendants of Dr. William E. Upjohn and other enthusiastic supporters, the W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden Fund today stands at more than $570,000. The contributions you make to our endowment funds help diversify and stabilize our revenue stream. To learn more about endowments or to begin a conversation, contact Director of Development Meredith Olson: merolson@umich.edu; 734.647.7847.
New Volunteer Management System Debuts

This summer we launched our new volunteer management system. The system, called Volgistics, raises the standard of the volunteer program at Matthaei-Nichols, says Volunteer Coordinator Sharyn Dennis. “One of the greatest features of Volgistics is that it enables us to more accurately track our volunteer hours, which account for more than 20% of the labor at Matthaei-Nichols,” she explains. The improved accuracy will allow us to create a volunteer recognition program that will give us the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the immense impact our volunteers make on our organization. Some of our volunteer teams are also utilizing the Volgistics scheduling feature, with more teams to follow in the coming months. The system will also help reduce redundancies for the staff, creating a more efficient administration for our organization.

Special Events

Exotic Plant Sale
Sept. 16-17, 10 am-4:30 pm
Native Plant Sale
Oct. 7-8, 10 am-4:30 pm

Zombie Run 5K, Oct. 13, 6 pm
Volunteers needed to serve as course marshals, hand out water, and dress up as ZOMBIES!

Pumpkins, Lanterns, and Leaves, Oct. 20
Volunteers needed to set up, way find, and help with craft tables in this seasonal family program.

Trainings

Prescribed Burn Crew Training
Fri., Oct. 13, 1-3 pm, Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Join the Burn Crew and learn about the history and use of prescribed burns to maintain and restore our natural areas. Pre-registration required.

Conservatory Ambassador Training
Sat., Oct. 28, 9 am-noon, Matthaei
If you miss the beauty of summer blooms, and enjoy working with the public, volunteer to be a conservatory ambassador. Ambassadors greet and guide visitors to points of interest in the conservatory. Shifts available seven days a week. Training introduces volunteers to the fascinating plants that make up the tropical, temperate, and arid biomes in the Conservatory. Pre-registration required.

Volunteer Spotlight: Ron Heames

Almost any day of the week you can find Ron Heames outside in one of the gardens, taking pains to keep these demanding spaces looking tip-top. Ron, who is (in)famous among staff and fellow volunteers for his annual “Bad Joke Day,” has been volunteering here since 2000, amassing over 4,500 hours since 2005 alone.

The people—and the learning opportunities—keep him coming back. Ron says, “I’ve been able to work with many different staff, volunteers, and students. Good people work here, and I’ve learned a lot.” So much so that “with my experience and what I’ve been taught, I can go into a garden alone and do what needs to be done.”

Ron recalls his first time at Matthaei to sign up as a volunteer. “The front desk sent me to Barb Major, the volunteer coordinator at the time. I told her that I’d like to work outside and that my qualifications were that I could probably identify eight flowers. ‘You’re hired!’ she said.”

Ron recently held his 8th Annual Bad Joke Fest, a celebration of puns and original one-liners he puts on for students, volunteers, and staffers. A couple of Ron’s choice jokes:

“The invisible man and the invisible woman make a great couple, but their kids aren’t much to look at.”

A teddy bear walks into a bar. The bartender asks, “Can I get you anything?” The teddy bear replies, “No thanks, I’m stuffed.”

Wanted: Docents to share the beauty of nature with kids

We’re recruiting new docents to lead nature-themed field trips for pre-K-12 youth.

Docents engage youth in educational programs with themes such as ecosystems, adaptations, plant parts, and sensory exploration.

New docents complete a 9-week training course which meets once per week and covers topics including nature education, plant ID and informal science learning.

New docent training begins Tuesday, January 16 through March 13. Information sessions will be held in December. Info: dsharyn@umich.edu; 734.647.8528.
SEPTEMBER

Sun. & Mon., Sept. 3 & 4, 5:30 pm
Welcome Week Shakespeare Performance for Students
A revival of this summer’s play The Tempest. Directed by Kate Mendeloff and performed by students and faculty. Free for students with ID. Performances start 5:30 pm. 1610 Washington Hts. entrance to the Arb.

Wed., Sept. 6, 7 pm
Composting with a Twist
Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
Compost happens. And there are many ways to make it. Join Master Gardener Mary Fowler as she shares her own recipe for home composting. Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

Sat., Sept. 10, 2 pm
Phragmipediums with Glen Decker
Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Galway, N.Y. orchid nursery owner Glen Decker gives a presentation on the orchid classic, Phragmipedium.

Mon., Sept. 11, 7 pm
Preserving Your Herbs
Presenter: Herb Study Group
Advanced Master Gardener and Herb Study Group President Madelyn Kaminski give a presentation on preserving herbs, including new ideas and recipes. A non-alcoholic sangria will be served.

Tues., Sept. 12, 6:30 pm
The Evolution of Beekeeping: History, Making & Use of Skeps
Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A presentation on skeps by Roger Sutherland, professor emeritus at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Skeps are beehives made of coiled straw, with a single opening at the bottom. This technique for making beehives has been largely discarded because of the difficulty of accessing the bees and hive for inspection.

Wed., Sept. 13, 6-7:30 pm
Catching Your Breath
Presenter: Mich. Alzheimer’s Disease Center
A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 16 & 17, 10 am-4:30 pm
Cactus & Succulent Society
Exotic Plant Sale
Presenter: Mich. Cactus & Succulent Soc. and SE Michigan Bromeliad Society
Cacti and succulents are enjoying a surge of interest thanks to their unusual forms, colors, and easy care. This annual show features a large selection of cactus, succulents, bromeliads, and air plants for sale in a variety of sizes. Books, growing materials and a broad selection of plants are also available for purchase. Plus, free presentations on bromeliads and how to grow and care for them at 1 pm on both days of sale. Info: 248.380.7359

Mon., Sept. 18, 7:30 pm
Using Non-natives and Native Plants in Art
Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
Local artist Jane Kramer talks about her installation Foreshadowing – Endangered & Threatened Plant Species and how she uses native and non-native plant material in her art by placing shadow images of native plants onto paper made from invasive plants.

Wed., Sept. 20, 7:30 pm
Birds of India
Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Society
Join Washtenaw Audubon member Amurthur Ramamurthy for a look at some of India’s 1,266 bird species, among the most interesting and colorful birds on the planet. Dr. Ramamurthy is a native of India and an avid birdner and photographer.

$ Thurs., Sept. 21, 1-2:30 pm
Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Presenter: Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Cost: $20, which covers flowers and instructor. Please bring your own containers. No experience needed. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com

Sun., Sept. 24, 1 pm
Hypertufa Trough Demo
Presenter: Great Lakes Chapter N. American Rock Garden Society
Get in on the hypertufa trend! Members of the local rock garden society demonstrate how to make a hypertufa trough planter. This lightweight variation of concrete is easy to make and can be formed into organic-looking pots for growing rock garden plants or succulents. Finished examples of hypertufa troughs will be on display.

Wed., September 27, 6:30 pm
Annual Club Bonsai Auction
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
A live and silent auction of members’ bonsai and bonsai-related supplies and tools. Non-members are welcome to attend the auction and purchase items.

OCTOBER

Sat., Oct. 7, 9-10 am
Native Plant Sale Member Hour
Matthaei-Nichols members enjoy a special one-hour sale of native plants prior to the public sale opening. Join us for coffee, tea, and breakfast munchies.
Mon., Oct. 2, 7 pm
Wild Herbs
Presenter: Herb Study Group
Advanced Master Gardener and Herb Study Group President Madylyn Kaminski presents a slide show and presentation on wild herbs. Herb tea will be served.

Wed., Oct. 4, 7 pm
Winter Seed Planting
Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
Get ready for spring with Glenda Perry, master gardener and flower show judge. Glenda shares tips on best practices for starting seeds in your home throughout the winter. Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

Sat., Oct. 7, 10 am–4 pm
African Violet Show and Sale
Presenter: MI State African Violet Society
African violets and other flowering plants in the Gesneriad family are on display and sale. Learn how to keep these popular houseplants in bloom all year long by attending a free hands-on growing skills workshop at 11:30 am.

Tues., Oct. 10, 6:30 pm
Beekeeping Resources, Education, and Programs for Military Veterans
Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
A presentation by Army veteran and MSU entomologist Adam Ingrao about options for veterans to keep bees. Presentation covers grants vets can apply for, education programs such as Heroes to Hives, labeling and marketing programs for veterans, and other resources like the USDA-NRCS program for pollinator habitat seed.

Sat., Oct. 14
Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail Opening
Grand opening of the long-awaited trail connecting the botanical gardens with Parker Mill Park and the Washtenaw County Border-to-Border trail system. Details to come.

Sat., Oct. 15, 2 pm
Growing Cymbidiums in Michigan
Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A presentation by Oxnard, Calif., Cymbidium grower George Hatfield.

Mon., Oct. 16, 10-11:30 am
Catching Your Breath
Presenter: Mich. Alzheimer’s Disease Center
A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803

§ Fri., Oct. 13, dusk
Zombie Run - Run for the Arb, Run for Your Life!
Nichols Arboretum is an obstacle course of marauding zombies in this 5K run/walk over the Arb’s trails. Can you survive to the finish line? Registration now open. Member discount on registrations.

Mon., Oct. 16, 7:30 pm
Restoring Michigan Prairies and Seed Mix Experimentation
Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
A presentation by Eastern Michigan University Assistant Professor of Biology Emily Grman.

Wed., October 18, 6:30 pm
Wiring Your Bonsai Plants
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
A workshop by award-winning bonsai artist Mauro Stemberger, who provides a wiring demonstration and works hands-on with attendees. Attendees encouraged to bring trees to be wired.

Wed., Oct. 18, 7:30 pm
Birding in Spain
Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Society
Join Washtenaw Audubon’s field trip organizer Bryn Martin for a report on the society’s recent trip to Spain. From desert to high in the Pyrenees, we visited various habitats and saw over 200 species of birds, including the elusive wallcreeper.

§ Thurs., Oct. 19, 1-2:30 pm
Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Presenter: Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Cost: $20, which covers flowers and instructor. Please bring your own containers. No experience needed. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com

Holiday Programs & Events
Nov. 25, 2017–Jan 7, 2018
Sacred Plants - Holiday Conservatory Exhibit
Focusing on plants in our conservatory collection, the holiday exhibit explores how certain plants figure in myth, lore, and ritual for cultures around the world. This annual winter/holiday event also features seasonal flowers, decorated trees, kids activities, holiday items in the Garden Store, and more. Discounts in the Garden Store for Matthaei-Nichols members. Free. Note: Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year’s Eve. Open New Year’s day.

Nov. 25, 2017–Jan 7, 2018
Holiday Art Exhibit
A display of art created by U-M students, faculty and staff, and members of the local and regional community. Stay tuned for exhibit details later in 2017. Free.

Sat., Dec. 2, 10 am-noon
Holiday Kids Program
A special holiday program for kids and family that’s part of the winter exhibit at Matthaei. Per-child program fee; details TBD.

Sun., Dec. 3, 10 am-4:30 pm
Holiday Artisan Market
Our first holiday artisans market was such a success we’re offering it again in 2017. This year, dozens of local artists as well as U-M students and staff are selling their high-quality crafts and art. No member discount on merchandise. Free.

Sat., Dec. 9, 10 am-noon
Kids Holiday Greens Workshop
Our annual holiday greens/craft program for kids. Choose from a selection of evergreens and ribbons and decorate a bough for the door or mantle. Make winter-related crafts to take home. Class fee $10 per child.

Sat., Dec. 16, noon-2 pm
Father Christmas
The annual visit by the real McCoy, Father Christmas. In town for one day only. A great phot opp. Free.
Fri., Oct. 20, time TBD
Pumpkins, Lanterns, & Leaves
Join us after hours in the gardens with pumpkins, masks, and other harvest-themed fun. Then top off the evening with a parade of lanterns that kids and families make and take home. This is a ticketed event; member discounts apply. Ticket information and reservations available in September.

Sun., Nov. 5, 10 am-2 pm
Annual Hosta Seed Exchange
Presenter: Hosta Hybridizers
All invited to participate in the seed exchange. Bring planned or open-pollinated seeds from your garden and trade with other attendees. Bring 25-30 seeds in small coin envelopes marked with the cross and your name.) Also, a presentation on red traits in hostas by Doug Beilstein.

Mon., Nov. 6, 7 pm
Herb Garden Winter Prep
Presenter: Herb Study Group
A presentation by Advanced Master Gardener and Herb Study Group President Madolyn Kaminski on overwintering herbs, extending the gardening season, and the best autumn and winter tasks to ensure a healthy herb garden in spring. Herb tea will be served.

Tues., Nov. 14, 6:30 pm
Comb and Nest Architecture
Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Presentations by organic beekeeper and teacher Chris Harp and organic beekeeper Grai St. Clair Rice on “reading” your hive and on comb and nest architecture, including naturalist and biodynamic methods and unique hive designs.

Wed., Nov. 15, 7:30 pm
Birding Panama
Presenter: Washenaw Audubon Society
A presentation by retired U-M professor Lathe Claflin on the birds of Panama, with over 250 species seen, included rarities such as crowned eagle, harpy eagle, and streaked xenops.

§ Thurs., Nov. 16, 1-2:30 pm
Ikekana: Japanese Flower Arranging
Presenter: Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. Cost: $20, which covers flowers and instructor. Please bring your own containers. No experience needed. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com

† Sat., Dec. 17
Christmas Bird Count
Presenter: Washtenaw Audubon Society
The Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is sponsored by the Washtenaw Audubon Society, and it is open to birders of all skill levels. The CBC is a continent-wide effort that’s coordinated by the National Audubon Society. For information and to register: washtenawaudubon.org.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 9, 10 am-noon
Holiday Greens Workshop
Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club

‡ Sat., Dec. 17
Christmas Bird Count
Presenter: Washenaw Audubon Society
The Ann Arbor Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is sponsored by the Washtenaw Audubon Society, and it is open to birders of all skill levels. The CBC is a continent-wide effort that’s coordinated by the National Audubon Society. For information and to register: washtenawaudubon.org.

Wed. Dec. 20, 6-7:30 pm
Catching Your Breath
Presenter: Mich. Alzheimer’s Disease Center
A free monthly program for caregivers of adults with memory loss. Designed for learning skills for continued health and well-being. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

Mondays, Oct. 23-Dec. 18, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Mondays, Oct. 23-Dec. 18, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Mindfulness-based Dementia Care
Presenter: Mi Alzheimer’s Disease Center
A free 7-week program designed for family caregivers of persons with dementia. Learn how the practice of mindfulness can help you cope with the challenges and stresses of dementia care, and also greatly improve the experience of the person in your care. Program time slot listed is tentative. Info and to register: 734.936.8803.

Wed., Nov. 1, 7 pm
Dutch Spring Flowers
Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
Club member Betty Bishop shares pictures from her trip to Holland and the bulb fields of Keukenhof. This show garden features over 7 million spring bulbs. Part of Ann Arbor Garden Club’s Hands-on Home Gardening series.

Sun., Nov. 19, 2 pm
South American Orchids
Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
Centerville, Ohio, orchid grower Eric Sauer give a presentation on orchids from south and central America.

Mon., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm
What, My Herbicide Did That?!
Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
A presentation by David Roberts, Ph.D. on the variety of herbicide uses and their unexpected aftereffects.
Homemade Heritage Programs

Explore the late-summer and fall season with self-guided activities and hands-on crafts.

September Stroll - Self-Guided Saturday Hikes
Grab a discovery backpack in the lobby of Matthaei, hit the trails, and enjoy scavenger hunts, maps, and activity guides for the whole family to enjoy the late-summer critters that make their final visits to Matthaei before heading south or hibernating. Free! Recommended for all ages, free, no registration required. Sat., Nov. 11, 10 am-noon

Kids are Chefs, Too! World Grains Harvest
Wheat, rice, oats and quinoa are the seeds of plants in the grass family. Many of these grains have been eaten for thousands of years. Explore a variety of healthy grains and their origins, learn how those grains are used today, and sample tasty grain treats. Children will follow a recipe and make a grain-based treat to take home. Ages 6-10. $10.00/child includes activities and materials. Registration requested. 17-YE-11

Sat., Dec. 9, 10 am-noon
Woodland Wonderland
Nature plays an important role in the traditions of the winter season. Explore the sensory experience of winter by making sachets, evergreen swags, and decorations to welcome the shorter days and longer nights of winter. Ages 6-10 or younger with parental guidance. $10.00/child includes activities and materials. Registration requested. 17-YE-12

Second Summer of Wolverine Pathways Program a Success, Interns Report

Youth education interns Annemarie McDonald and Sabrina Mastroianni write about their experience conducting the second summer of Wolverine Pathways:

On July 24-26, Wolverine Pathways returned to Matthaei for programs that emphasized the scientific method and science communication. The University of Michigan-sponsored program is designed to help students in specific Michigan school districts prepare to continue their education at U-M.

Although planning for Pathways gave us a new understanding of the process of program development, was it the time spent with the students that we found most meaningful. Our role as educators is not only to present scientific information, but also to facilitate an experience in which students can explore new environments, think critically, and make meaningful connections between their lives and the natural world.

Two hundred 8th- and 11th-grade students from Ypsilanti, Southfield, and Detroit schools participated in the program this year. The 8th-graders learned about water quality and ecosystem health by visiting multiple sites along Fleming Creek, where they conducted chemical testing and macroinvertebrate sampling. They followed up on their data collection by analyzing their results and creating their own water quality reports to communicate their conclusions to a broad audience. The 11th-graders studied the effects of climate change on Michigan’s native plant species and communities. They visited the conservatory to learn about the greenhouse effect, plant adaptations in different biomes, and conservation status of a select group of plants. Then they headed out to the trails to sketch and record notes on native tree species in their field notebooks. After lunch, they used predictive models from the US Forest Service to research the effects of climate change on the species they identified in the field.

We hope that the Wolverine Scholars’ time at Matthaei gave them an opportunity to envision themselves as scientists whose work has the power to change the world.

Planning for and participating in Wolverine Pathways gave us new insights into the power of strong inquiry-based science programs to build students’ confidence as scientists, communicators, and leaders.

Annemarie McDonald is a master’s student in the conservation ecology track at the U-M School of Environment and Sustainability. Her internship is made possible by a gift from Ian and Sally Bund to provide continued support of current and future nature-based educational programming at Matthaei-Nichols. Sabrina Mastroianni is attending the U-M-Dearborn majoring in Environmental Science with a biology concentration, and pursuing a GIS certificate. Her internship is made possible by Matthaei-Nichols members and individual donors.
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