



Welcome, Campus Farm and U-M Sustainable Food Program Managers



Inside: A Tree's-Eye View of the U-M Bicentennial • First Nations Visit • Avant Garden •
Fundraising on a Roll • Goodbye, MiSo House • and more

The University of Michigan Campus Farm began in 2012 on a small plot of land near the Project Grow garden at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

The first plants spouted that year, but the idea was long in the making, says Matthaei-Nichols Director and U-M School of Natural Resources Professor Bob Grese. Several faculty members, in particular Catherine Badgley and Ivette Perfecto, introduced a course in sustainable agriculture in the 1990s. Soon, students and faculty began asking for places on campus where food gardens could be located, Grese recalls.

The student gardening group Cultivating Community formed in 2004 as a collaborative effort by U-M and local community members and Matthaei-Nichols to grow vegetables and herbs on campus. As interest in campus food and gardening continued to grow, Grese explains, in 2011 “a group of students developed a proposal for creating a campus farm and approached me about locating it at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens site.” With a grant of \$42,000 from the newly created Planet Blue Student Initiative Fund in hand, the nascent farm began to grow.

New Trend, Old Roots

If the notion of a farm on campus feels like a new idea, it's not. Arguably the country's oldest campus farm started at Berea College in Kentucky, in 1871.

That made sense at a time when the majority of U.S. jobs were in agriculture. It was about training future farmers in a line of work that touches everyone's life.

Today's super-efficient farm methods mean fewer farms can produce more food. But these economies of scale come at a price, as Laura Sayre and Sean Clark explain in their book *Fields of Learning: The Student Farm Movement in North America*. The modern industrial farm relies on steady supplies of fresh water, cheap energy and stable climates, they write, even as those resources decline as we move into the twenty-first century. “We now have to look at new ways to farm that rely more on resilience and ecological principles rather than industrial principles,” according to Sayre and Clark.

The timing is perfect for campus farms. There's a food revolution across the land, one that opens up opportunities for students and would-be young farmers, Sayre and Clark observe. The revolution is driven by concerns about the links between food production and the environment, human health, food safety, and food justice. “The emerging

FARM FORWARD

A passionate student base and strong U-M faculty and administration support help our new Campus Farm and Sustainable Food Program managers take a growing campus food movement to the next level



generation,” they conclude, “fits this food revolution very well since these farmers share many of these same concerns and desires.”

We face complex challenges for transforming food systems toward environmental sustainability and social justice, says Jennifer Blesh, assistant professor in the U-M School of Natural Resources & Environment and a member of the farm manager search committee. New approaches and a new generation of scholars and practitioners are needed who can collaborate in an interdisciplinary way, she adds. “To help students develop these competencies and skills, we need to increase opportunities for engaged and experiential learning about agriculture and all aspects of the food system.”

U.S Farming Fun Facts

Every five years, the U.S Department of Agriculture publishes its “Ag Census.” The last one occurred in 2012. A few facts on farming that may surprise you:

- **What is a farm? The USDA defines a farm as “any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during a given year.”**
- **Number of farms in U.S.: 3,180,000 (down 3% from 2007)**
- **Gender of operators (all farms): 70% male; 30% female**
- **Age (average) of principal operator: 58.3 years**
- **Diversity: Hispanic operators: 67,000; Native American: 37,900; African American: 33,400; Asian: 13,700**
- **Sales share (does not include all income levels):
\$10,000 or less annually: 56.6%;
\$100,000 or more: 18.4%**

Managers Bring Continuity and Experience to the Campus Food Movement

In the crowd-sourcing nature of other great trends, the campus farm coincided with similar food-related initiatives at U-M. This included hiring of new faculty in four different schools and colleges, the creation of an undergraduate minor and a graduate certificate program in Sustainable Food Systems, and growth in a number of student organizations devoted to sustainable food. Given the complexity of the various food-related projects and the regularly changing cast of students, everyone recognized early on the need for experienced personnel to help run the farm and coordinate the student food groups.

In the fall 2016, Jeremy Moghtader and Alex Bryan were brought on board. Both are U-M alumni and bring extensive experience. Jeremy was most recently Director of Programs at the Michigan State University Student Organic Farm. Alex was Director of Agricultural Programs for the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Together they’ll help nurture longer-term relationships with everything from potential markets for the farms produce to faculty teaching courses related to sustainable agriculture, Grese says.

Running a farm is a group effort. Moghtader sees himself as a facilitator and collaborator. “My wish list,” he says, “is to engage openly with people and hear what they have to say. I’m a deeply collaborative person, and that’s one reason that the farm manager job appealed to me.” The Campus Farm is a place where strong student leadership makes a difference, Moghtader says. “I also see the farm as a nexus of coursework and thriving learning opportunities for faculty and students,” he adds.

Alex Bryan’s position as manager of U-M Sustainable Food Program (UMSFP) falls under U-M Dining. Alex was brought in to help coordinate the many student groups on campus that are linked to food-related programs. These include Ann Arbor Student Food Co., Food Recovery Network; Friends of the Campus Farm, Maize and Blue Cupboard, UMBees, and several more. “The dining connection is related to student life,” says Alex. Food touches students’ lives in so many ways, and Alex’s mission is to bring together the several student-driven strands of the food movement on campus.

Want to learn more?

The farm and food-movement stories are too big to fit into this space. For the whole story, visit our blog “Earth Words,” where you’ll find bios, photographs, and more interesting fun facts: mbgna.blogspot.com

PICTURED: Students help farm manager Jeremy Moghtader and Sustainable Food Program manager Alex Bryan assemble the hoop house this fall at the Campus Farm.

The house is a critical piece of the farm. It extends the growing season significantly on both ends, fall and winter, and it allows students to engage with the farm during the academic year.



PICTURED, TOP TO BOTTOM:

A sign for the upcoming Grandmother Tree Walk in celebration of the U-M bicentennial in 2017. The walk features 12 trees in Nichols Arboretum of historic importance to the University of Michigan and to Matthaei-Nichols. The signs and interpretive materials were developed by student intern Meredith Burke. Meredith's internship was made possible by member dollars. **CENTER:** First Nations' representatives gather in the Great Lakes Gardens for a group photograph in August (see story, right). **BOTTOM:** The Michigan Solar House has been a fixture at Matthaei for over 10 years. This fall the house was sold in a sealed-bid process. (See story, right.) **FACING PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT:** A man's jacket made from moss, birch bark, twigs, and other plant materials is one of seven outfits featured in our holiday exhibit, "Avant Garden." The dress to the right of the jacket is made from corn husks, gourds, lacquered leaves, and Spanish moss.

ON THE COVER: The newly hired Campus Farm manager Jeremy Moghtader (left) and U-M Sustainable Food Program manager Alex Bryan in the farm with U-M student farm volunteers.

A Tree's-Eye View of the U-M Bicentennial

As 2017 approaches, preparations are underway all across campus to celebrate the University of Michigan's bicentennial. Planned bicentennial activities range from academic colloquia to live entertainment. Here at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, we've chosen to commemorate U-M's growing history through The Grandmother Tree Walk. The walk will be a living exhibit in Nichols Arboretum that will feature twelve trees and highlight events happening on campus while the trees began to grow. Each Grandmother Tree will be paired with an informational sign that gives the age of the tree along with tree-specific fun facts. Each tree is also connected to a piece of the university's past such as important people, music, architecture, nature and the environment, sports, and others.

Thanks to membership dollars—which support our internship program—we hired U-M student Meredith Burke to create the interpretation and signage for the Grandmother Tree Walk. Meredith worked all summer photographing each of the trees from every angle and researching the lives of the trees and what makes them special. Meredith's beautiful and informative signs represent the culmination of her research. The Grandmother Tree Walk is scheduled to go live in early April. Other bicentennial plans include planting two white oaks, one at Matthaei and one in the Arboretum. We also sprouted hundreds of acorns collected from a white oak tree at Matthaei. Next fall, we'll give away 200 white oak seedlings as part of the bicentennial. Stay tuned on our website and social media as the bicentennial unfolds.

Grant Funds Geospatial Database for Collections Management

The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded Matthaei-Nichols a 2-year, \$148,000 grant for some long-awaited improvement to our collections-management and research. The project will fundamentally shift us to a geospatial database and records system that helps faculty, students, and future citizen-scientists of all ages monitor plant and animal species as well as natural-community changes. The grant will allow us to open and enhance our deep resources for teaching, research, and citizen engagement—all strategic goals—say curators Mike Kost and David Michener. National issues and priorities for IMLS include preservation and care of collections, national digital platforms, accessibility in museums and libraries, and access to collections, among others.

First Nations Members Visit Matthaei

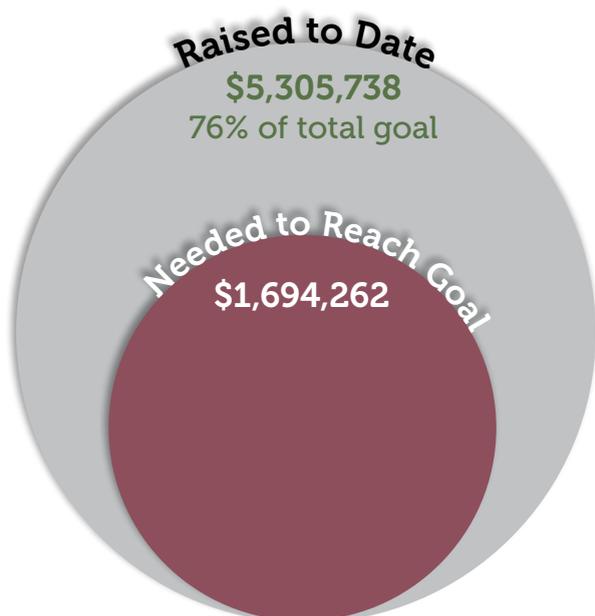
Fifty-seven participants, representing diverse Anishinaabe, additional tribal, and U-M perspectives, visited Matthaei for a day-long series of working meetings on August 29, 2016. The strengthened relationships, years in the making, are allowing us to plan collaborative projects at the intersections of stewardship, sustainability, and survival. As funding allows, look for updates on projects like Heritage Seeds, Anishinaabe-based interpretation of Michigan Native Plants, and more. (For a list of participants visit our website, mbgna.umich.edu.)

Fundraising Campaign: Quite a Year!

Fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016) was our second-best year ever for fundraising—close to \$1 million raised. Because more people see us as an indispensable part of the university and community, we've expanded our donor base significantly. You gave us twice as many major gifts in fiscal 2016 as in any previous year. Where do we still need support? Endowments to protect our spaces and nature education! Ready to give? Use the envelope inside this newsletter. Or contact director of development **Gayle Steiner: 734.647.7847; gayles@umich.edu**. For more details on individual goals within the campaign see story on next page.

Campaign Goal: \$7,000,000

Campaign Dates: July 2012–Dec. 2018



Goodbye, MiSo House

Everything has its day in the sun. After seeing a deterioration in our MiSo (Michigan Solar) House exhibit's condition and a steady rise in repairs, OSEH declared the structure off limits to the public. Sadly, the decision was made to put this popular exhibit up for sale in a sealed bid process. The futuristic-looking metal-skinned dwelling was built for the 2005 U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon competition that challenged college teams across the country to design and build solar-powered houses. Students and faculty from across the U-M designed the house, which was displayed on the National Mall in 2005 before moving to Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Until recently we had offered public tours of MiSo conducted by volunteers. The house will have a happy future under individual ownership.

Winter Publication Combines Newsletter and Annual Report

If the newsletter you're reading right now looks bigger than usual, it is. We've combined the winter newsletter with the annual report. The winter newsletter, which covers January through April, gets published around the same time as our annual report. We thought it made sense to combine the two publications and give you a one-stop shop for end-of-year news, new year events, and a snapshot of our numbers and accomplishments.

City to Work on Arboretum Utility Infrastructure Project

This January the City of Ann Arbor will begin repairs to a sewer line in Nichols Arboretum. Work is anticipated to be completed by late March, according to project manager Michael Nearing. The work will extend from the Nichols Drive entrance to the Arb to the amphitheater area and consist of cleaning and inspecting an existing sanitary sewer and installing a liner inside the sewer, as well as installing a gravel maintenance path and working pad at the downstream end of the siphon.

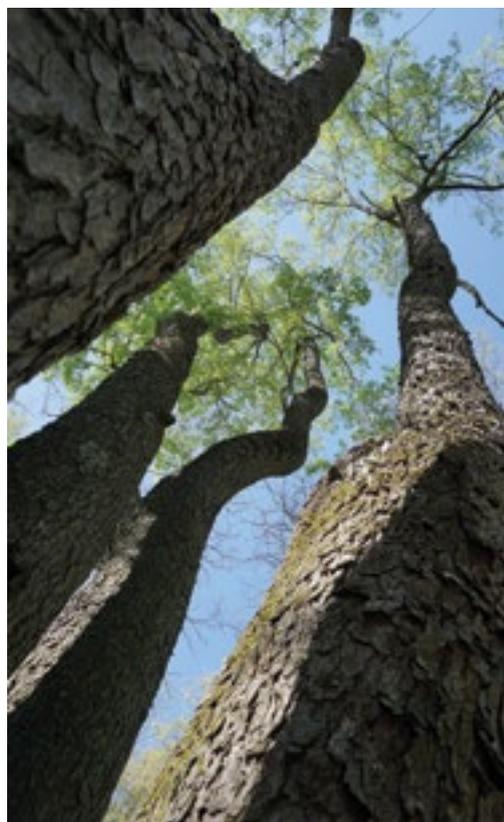
Be Aware of Surroundings When Visiting Your Favorite Local Arboretum

Remember that the Nichols Arboretum is open sunrise to sunset, so please do not enter the Arb before or after those times. U-M has placed call boxes throughout campus and in the Arb. If you see something, say something. The DPS tip line is: 734.763.9180; for emergencies dial 911.

Exhibit Looks at Fashion and Plants

Don't miss our holiday conservatory exhibit "Avant Garden: Weaving Fashion & Nature Together." The display reveals the powerful influence plants have on fashion and textiles, including colors, designs, and patterns. Avant Garden runs through January 8.





Endowments Keep Us Growing

These targeted funds for financial sustainability are anything but garden-variety

When we think of endowments, mostly we think *big*. Like Yale University's \$25 billion endowment or Harvard's eye-popping \$35 billion nest egg, as recently reported in *The New York Times*. Such mammoth funds create the perception that all endowments are large. But in fact, endowments—whatever their size—may consist of hundreds or thousands of individual accounts, each with its own purpose. For example, the Michigan Division of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association (WNFG) created an endowment at Matthaei Botanical Gardens in 1983 with a modest gift. Today that endowment stands at more than \$153,000—enough to fund nearly one full student internship each summer.

The Michigan division has been a long-time supporter of horticulture education, dating back to 1928. The Ann Arbor Branch was founded in 1946 and within a year awarded its first scholarship. The first—and founding—president of the Ann Arbor Branch was Mildred Matthaei, who in 1957 with her husband Frederick C. Matthaei, Sr., donated the 200 acres on which Matthaei Botanical Gardens was built.

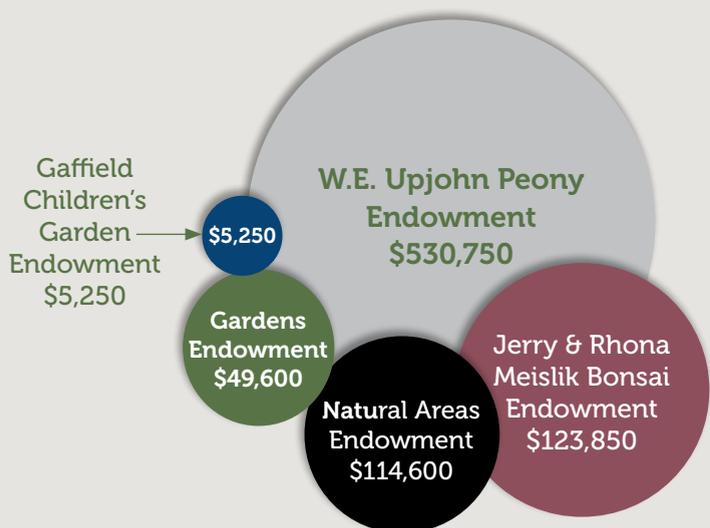
Mildred, the Michigan division, and the Ann Arbor Branch helped establish the long tradition of Farm and Garden's educational support and collaboration with the University of Michigan. In 1962, the Student Revolving Loan Fund provided low-interest student loans and was replaced by the WNFG Endowment Fund in May 1983. Claudia Scioly, treasurer of the Ann Arbor WNFG, says that the University of Michigan's sound money management and regular contributions from many

branches have helped the endowment grow significantly. "I'm really impressed that it's more than \$153,000!" she notes.

Today Matthaei-Nichols has several endowments that total \$3.2 million. The funds are designed to yield long-term income streams that help support gardens and natural areas, research, and student scholarships. Endowment funds are managed and invested by U-M and most recently enjoyed a 10-year annualized return of 8.4 percent and annual distributions of 4.5 percent. Matthaei-Nichols endowments grew by nearly \$1M since June 2014. To contribute to or learn more about our endowments, use the enclosed envelope or contact Development Director **Gayle Steiner: gayles@umich.edu or 734.647.7847**. Note: To be processed by year end, credit card gifts must reach U-M by Dec. 16.

Help Us Keep the Momentum Going!

Make a contribution to one of our endowment funds:



Compare & Contrast:

University of Michigan Endowment Stats

- Endowment valued at \$9.7B in June 2016; comprised of approximately 9,800 separate funds for U-M's three campuses and the Health System;
- Ninth largest endowment among all universities in the country;
- Endowment dollar amount per student ranks 84th;
- Donors who contribute to the endowment do so because they want to support the U-M and positively impact students and academic programs well into the future.



The Membership Story

Why our members—and their support—matter so much

Why are memberships and the dollars they generate so important to us, you may wonder? They're unrestricted dollars. We can use these funds for all the lively programs you've come to expect that aren't covered by U-M appropriations or donations earmarked for specific projects.

A passion for nature is one thing our members share with us. We figure you love to learn and talk about plants, gardens, birds, Shakespeare, peonies, and the environment, to name a few. It's what keeps you coming back.

Member dollars helped fund these great projects:

- A conservatory exhibit showcasing a collection of large-scale ceramic sculptures of pollen;
- Member dollars helped match a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to digitally document the historic landscapes in the Arb;
- New plantings in the Medicinal Garden at Matthaei. The garden helps people understand the huge role plants play in human medicine.

The next time you upgrade to a higher membership level, renew your membership, or give a membership as a gift, know that your dollars keep our programming and places educational and fun.

BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT - ROAM

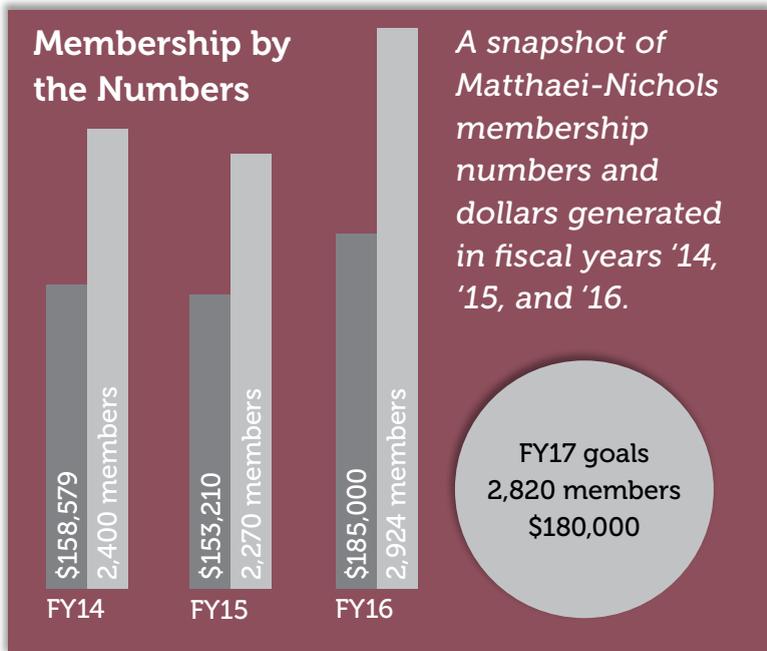
ROAM Opens Doors to More Benefits

Speaking of upgrading, kick your membership up a notch to the Sustaining level (\$100+), where you'll enjoy participation in the ROAM program (Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums).

ROAM gives you free admission or other benefits at partner museums and cultural centers across the U.S.

Peter Batra is one of our sustaining level members. Peter, a survey specialist in the U-M Institute for Social Research, says he's made great use of the ROAM benefits. With ROAM in his wallet, Peter and family visited museums like the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto; the San Diego Museum of Art; the Walker Art Center in Milwaukee; and the Detroit Institute of Arts. **"We've really gotten a lot out of being members!"** Peter says.

Remember to bring your Matthaei-Nichols membership card with you on the road. You'll need it to enjoy benefits at participating museums, gardens, and cultural centers. Since every participating institution offers slightly different opportunities to ROAM members, we recommend calling ahead before you visit for more information.



Participating ROAM Museums in Your Neighborhood

- Detroit Institute of Arts
- Grand Rapids Art Museum
- Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
- DuSable Museum of African American History, Chicago

- Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame
- Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati
- Milwaukee Art Museum

Pictured, above: Members enjoy a special preview hour before the spring plant sale opens at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The preview hour is one of several benefits our members enjoy. **RIGHT:** A large-scale ceramic sculpture of motherwort pollen (*Leonurus cardiaca*). The sculpture, by U-M art professor Susan Crowell, was part of an exhibit in March 2016. The unique exhibit was made possible by member dollars.



Winter 2017 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

All programs and classes unless noted are free and take place at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

* denotes offsite program.

For complete program information visit our online calendar at mbgna.umich.edu or the "Come Learn" section of our website.

Remember: we are open New Year's Day 10 am-4:30 pm

Start your new year right!

Also, join us for Winter Wednesdays at Matthaei Jan. 25; Feb. 8 & 22

The conservatory at Matthaei is decked out in special lighting and open until 8 pm on Wednesdays. Warm up the cold days with a tropical alternative to staying home. Programs may feature films, swing dancing, yoga, and other activities. All free.

Programming to be determined. Watch for announcements in our e-news and social media soon: [facebook.com/mbgna](https://www.facebook.com/mbgna)

JANUARY

Tues., Jan. 10, 7 pm **Native Gardens at Home**

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Matthaei-Nichols director Bob Grese explores approaches for using native plants in home gardens and providing habitat for pollinators. In the second half of the program, MSU research specialist Julia Brokaw gives a presentation on mason bees and building nest boxes for them.

Wed., Jan. 11, 6-7:30 pm **Catching Your Breath**

Presenter: MI 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. Also Feb. 13, March 13, and April 12.

Wed., Jan. 11, 6:45 pm **Seed Cleaning and Exchange**

Presenter: Wild Ones Ann Arbor
Come and celebrate a new growing season with a demonstration of seed cleaning techniques (includes ritual fire for the milkweed). Bring your own native plant seeds to share or just leave with what you need. All welcome. 734.604.4674.

Thurs., Jan. 12 **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. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Mon., Jan. 16, 7:30 pm **Wildflowers of Michigan Nature Association Sanctuaries**

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
A discussion by Michigan Nature Association staff member Rachel Maranto.

Tues., Jan. 17, 7:30 pm **Public Funding and the Environment**

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron 2017, Valley
In Michigan, some rural and urban communities have found that publicly-funded projects can foster economic growth while prioritizing the environment. Courtney Bourgoïn, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's State Budget Organizer, discusses the positive outcomes associated with investing public funds in key issue areas to improve infrastructure and environmental safeguards.

Wed., Jan. 18, 7:30 pm **Washtenaw Audubon Society**

A monthly program that covers topics such as birds and birding or other seasonal and timely issues. Info: washtenawaudubon.org.

Sat., Jan. 21, 11 am **Miniature Orchids**

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)
A presentation by Great Lakes Judging Center accredited judge Dennis Seffernick on the growing trend of miniature orchids.

Sun., Jan. 22, 2 pm **Ann Arbor Orchid Society**

This monthly program presented by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society includes a presentation on a timely orchid topic along with a show and tell, raffle, orchids, and related items for sale. Info: aaosonline.org.

FEBRUARY

Thurs., Feb. 9 **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. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Mon., Feb 13, 10-11:30 am **Catching Your Breath**

Presenter: MI 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.

Tues., Feb. 14, 7 pm **Bee Nutrition and Bee Health**

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Eastern Apicultural Society master beekeepers Earl & Carol Hoffman discuss the important topics of bee health and nutrition. In the second half of the program, U-M grad student Austin Martin discusses his academic research on the native bee populations in Detroit.

Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 pm **Washtenaw Audubon Society**

A monthly program that covers topics such as birds and birding or other seasonal and timely issues. Info: washtenawaudubon.org.

Sun. Feb. 19, 2 pm **Ann Arbor Orchid Society**

This monthly program presented by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society includes a presentation on a timely orchid topic along with a show and tell, raffle, orchids, and related items for sale. Info: aaosonline.org.

Holiday 2016 Events

Through Jan. 8, 2017

Exhibit: Avant Garden - Weaving Fashion & Nature Together

Avant Garden explores the role of plants as the source of raw materials for textiles and the inspiration for fashion's designs, colors, and shapes. Featuring a collection of "living dresses" on display in the conservatory.

Sat., Dec. 10, 10 am-noon

Annual Holiday Greens Workshop

Presenter: Ann Arbor Garden Club
Make a traditional wreath, fireplace mantelpiece design, or table decoration for the holidays.. \$20 class fee (free for Ann Arbor Garden Club Members) includes materials and a light brunch. Registration required. Contact Nancy for information or to register nhartgreen@aol.com.

Sat., Dec. 17, noon-2 pm

A Visit with Father Christmas

A great opportunity for kids and their families to visit with and get their photos taken with the real Father Christmas, in town for one day only! Free.

Mon., Feb. 20, 7:30 pm

Ferns of Southeast Michigan

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
A presentation by Carol Clements of the Wayne County Parks Nankin Mills Interpretive Center.

Tues., Feb. 21, 7:30 pm

Citizens' Climate Lobby: Grassroots Action for Energy Alternatives

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron 2017, Valley
Volunteers from Citizens' Climate Lobby present CCL's proposal for legislation to address climate change, outlining the proposal's effectiveness and feasibility and how it would benefit the environment and the economy.

Wed., Feb. 22, 6:30-9 pm

Demonstration of Bonsai Grafting Techniques

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
Jon Genereaux, a propagator at Michigan State University's Hidden Lake Gardens, offers practical hands-on experience, demonstrating root cuttings and grafting techniques related to woody material.

Sat., Feb. 25, 1:30-3 pm

Creative Natives for Rock Gardens

Presenter: Great Lakes Chapter North American Rock Garden Society
Rising rock-gardening star Kenton Seth from Paint Brush Gardens talks about innovative uses for native plants of dry climates beyond simply xeriscapes. Info: reznicek@umich.edu.

MARCH

Wed., March 1, 7 pm

Ann Arbor Garden Club

Garden Club members will explore the topics of Korean gardening and Korean cuisine, container gardens, and landscaping with flowering bushes for its March and April programs.

Mon., March 6, 7 pm

Herb Seed Giveaway

Presenter: Herb Study Group
Herb Study Group president and advanced master gardener Madolyn Kaminski hosts this giveaway of herb seeds that includes handouts on seed starting and choosing transplants. Seeds are given out first-come, first-served.

Thurs., March 9

Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging

Presenter: Ann Arbor Ikebana Intl. Chapter
Create your own seasonal Ikebana arrangement with guidance by a certified instructor. \$20 which covers flowers and instructor. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Mon., March 13, 10-11:30 am

Catching Your Breath

Presenter: MI 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.

Tues., March 14, 7 pm

Biodynamic Beekeeping

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers
Cindy Schroeder of A2B2 talks about biodynamic beekeeping, a natural beekeeping approach that treats the colony as a unit rather than as separate parts. Also, "The Hour of Decision," documentary about a beekeeper who devotes his life to saving the honeybee.

Sat. & Sun., March 18-19,

10 am-4:30 pm

Ann Arbor Orchid Festival

Presenter: Ann Arbor Orchid Society
A two-day orchid extravaganza with orchid displays, orchids in bloom, and regional commercial vendors. Tropical and hardy orchids and orchid-growing supplies and related items for sale. Free informational talks and demos. Info: aaosonline.org.

Mon. March 20, 7:30 pm

DNA - Just Why Are So Many Plant Names Changing?

Presenter: Michigan Botanical Club
A presentation by University of Michigan Herbarium assistant director Tony Reznicek.

Tues., March 21, 7:30 pm

Local & Long Distance Osprey!

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron 2017, Valley
Ospreys in southern Michigan have made an incredible comeback, from zero nests to 60+ in less than 20 years. Barbara Jensen, of Michigan Osprey, will guide us through the process of hacking nestlings in the late 90s to the current satellite imaging of juvenile migration.

Wed., March 22, 6:30-9 pm

Things I Didn't Know as a Bonsai Beginner 50 Years Ago

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
A presentation by Jack Wickle, a long-time member of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society and a nationally respected bonsai artist who pioneered the technique of raising bonsai indoors under fluorescent lights.

Winter 2017 Community/Adult Programs and Classes

Sat., March 25, 1–3:30 pm

2017 American Dahlia Society New Dahlia Introductions

Presenter: Michigan Dahlia Association

A video presentation on new introductions at 1 pm; auction of society members' 2017 dahlia tubers at 2. Free dahlia-growing handouts. Info: 734.429.5796.

APRIL

Sun., April 2, 2 pm

Ann Arbor Orchid Society

This monthly program presented by the Ann Arbor Orchid Society includes a presentation on a timely orchid topic along with a show and tell, raffle, orchids, and related items for sale. Info: aaonline.org.

Mon., April 3, 7 pm

Easy Herb Garden Ideas

Presenter: Herb Study Group

Herb Study Group president and advanced master gardener Madolyn Kaminski discusses some easy herb garden ideas and shows participants how to make moth-repellent sachets using herbs.

Wed., April 5, 7 pm

Ann Arbor Garden Club

Garden Club members will explore the topics of Korean gardening and Korean cuisine, container gardens, and landscaping with flowering bushes for its March and April programs.

Tues., April 11, 7 pm

Helpful Hive Management Tips and Techniques

Presenter: Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

Mike Risk, president of the Center of Mich. Beekeepers club, discusses hive management. Program also includes a presentation on Integrated Pest Management and a discussion about what to do with the laying worker bee.

Wed., April 12, 6-7:30 pm

Catching Your Breath

Presenter: MI 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.

Thurs., April 13

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. Reservations required. Info: a2ikebana@gmail.com.

Sat., April 15, 11 am

The Blue Orchid

Presenter: Great Lakes Judging (Orchids)

A presentation by Great Lakes Judging Center accredited judge Alex Challis on the Vanda coerulea, an orchid from India and southeast Asia that's also called the blue orchid or blue vanda for its striking bluish-purple color.

Mon., April 17, 7:30 pm

Michigan Botanical Club

This regular program features speakers presenting on timely topics and the latest in botanical research. Tonight's program to be announced.

Tues., April 18, 7:30 pm

Climate Change & Its Effect on Health

Presenter: Sierra Club Huron 2017, Valley

We observe differences in the environment as our climate is changing, but what outcomes can we anticipate with respect to our health? For an opportunity to think through the issues, join us and Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers Robbi Duda and Larry Junck as they lead us through a discussion of the jeopardy that we face as our climate heats up.

Sat., April 22, 1–4 pm

Annual Dahlia Tuber Sale

Presenter: Michigan Dahlia Association

Also includes a video on growing and caring for dahlias and free dahlia-care literature. Info: 734.429.5796.

Wed., April 26, 6:30–9 pm

Bonsai Group Planting

Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

David De Groot illustrates and discusses placement and balance, perspective, branch arrangement, and single species or mixed plantings, followed by the creation of a group planting. De Groot served for 25 years as curator of the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection/Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way, Wash.

Thurs., April 27, 6–9 pm

Hinoki Cypress Workshop

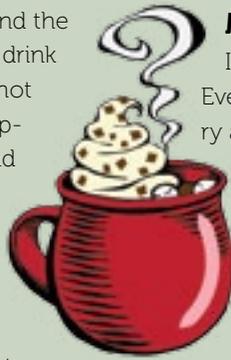
Presenter: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

David De Groot leads this workshop on hinoki cypress. Participation limited to 8-10 people. This workshop is intended for intermediate to advanced participants. Cost to participants: \$120. Registration through the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society: aabonsaisociety@gmail.com.

NOTE: Occasionally, program dates or topics change after the newsletter is printed. Visit our website (mbgna.umich.edu) or Facebook page (facebook.com/mbgna), or call ahead (734.647.7600) to check on the status of a program.

Feb. 4, Hot Chocolate, 2 sessions

Hot cacao has been a happening drink for thousands of years. Mayan people drank it 1,500 years ago, and the Aztecs sipped it as a spicy bitter drink in the 1400s. What we call "hot cocoa" didn't become popular until the 1700s—and we're still drinking it today! Afterwards, stroll through the conservatory to discover the cacao tree, the source of chocolate.



Faerie Garden Workshop – March 11, 2 sessions

It's time for the wee faeries to visit Matthaei again! Every year, faeries find their places in the conservatory and lend their beauty to the Gardens. Join us for a morning of creative fun and make a faerie door to welcome faeries and sprites to your home. Plant and decorate a container faerie garden too! Afterwards, stroll through the conservatory to find all the beautiful faeries tucked away in secret places.

Register for one of two time slots.

Classes fill quickly; pre-registration suggested.

9:30-11 am (17-YE-03) \$12/child;

12:00-1:30 (17-YE-04) \$12/child

Winter Adventure Saturdays!

Our Adventure Saturdays make winter mornings fun. All Saturday classes held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Fees include activities and materials. Limited class size—pre-registration requested!

Register for one of two time slots. Classes fill quickly; pre-registration suggested.

9:30-11:00 (17-YE-01) \$10/child;

12:00-1:30 (17-YE-02) \$10/child

Wolverine Pathways Returns to Matthaei for a Winter Visit

In March, Wolverine Pathways' youth and educators will return to Matthaei for an exploration of medicinal, food and spice plants. During the school year, these students are engaged in diverse curriculum that enriches and supports classroom learning. A unit of the winter curriculum developed by Deborah Turnquest-Jagers in the U-M

Wolverine Pathways program titled "Fast Food Forensics" investigates diet as it relates to obesity, hypertension and diabetes. Students will visit the College of Pharmacy for integrated activities. The visit will include an investigation into the cultural and scientific importance of medicinal, food and spice plants, and we will prepare a few easy

dishes using fresh herbs, fruits, and veggies. Wolverine Pathways youth and educators will conclude the program at Matthaei by making small "windowsill wonders" filled with herb and greens seeds that may be an introduction to exploring small scale gardening practices at home.

Little Green Thumbs

Kids' gardening classes at Matthaei with an emphasis on growing green things. Fees cover materials and activities.



Sat., April 8, 10 am-noon

How Does Your Garden Grow

Explore how soils, water, and nutrients are important to seedlings and gardens big and small. Children will leave with a plan for their own garden and plant a selection of seeds sure to sprout at home!

17-YE-07 \$10.00; recommended age 6+

Make Way for Spring! School Break Getaway, April 3-7

Looking for something fun to do while the kids are on school break? We've got spring themed programs and self-guided activities for the whole family. Make Way for Spring coincides with National Garden Month, so join us for a garden themed activity!



Choose your own adventure

Visit the Gardens any day and any time. Grab an activity backpack and explore on your own. Scavenger hunts, activity sheets, nature themed books and more.

Self-guided activities are free.

Tues. April 4, 10 am-noon

Super Seeds!

Investigate all the secrets of plants from seeds to fruits. Become a Seed investigator and explore the life of a plant starting with a seed. Children will dissect seeds to examine all the parts and will sample some of the seeds that we eat. Then make a seed pot to take home!

17-YE-05 \$8.00

Thurs., April 6, 10 am-noon

Flower Press

Pressed flowers can be used to make beautiful cards. Join us for a fun activity turning pressed flowers into beautiful cards or bookmarks to take home. Registration is limited to 12 people, so register early!

17-YE-06 \$8.00 recommended age 5+

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. Pre-registration required for all trainings. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator for more information: **734.647.8528**.



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
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Visit our website for more information: **mbgna.umich.edu**.

Visitor Engagement – Ambassador Trainings (preregistration required)

Garden Ambassador Training

Sat., April 22, 9 am–4 pm

Training provides an introduction to the Visitor Engagement department, best practices for working with the public, and an overview of the most popular points of interest in the display gardens, Gaffield Children's Garden and beyond. We seek volunteers with a love of learning and interest in working with a diverse population of visitors, including children and families.

Monthly garden tours/talks are led by our horticulturists throughout the season. Shifts are available daily, May–October.



Above: Peony ambassadors and curator David Michener (back right, in hat) ready for another season in the Nichols Arboretum Peony Garden. Peony ambassadors not only get to spend time in the largest collection of heirloom peonies in North America; they also enjoy learning about this important collection and sharing their knowledge with visitors.

Peony Ambassador Training

Tues., April 25, 6–7:30 pm,
Arb/Reader Center

Learn more about the largest public collection of heirloom herbaceous peony cultivars in North America. Ambassadors greet and guide visitors to points of interest in the peony garden during peak bloom time. The training session includes an overview of the peony collection history, horticultural basics and tips for working with the public. Ideal volunteers will have a genuine interest in the collection and an ability to work independently with a diverse array of visitors. Evening and weekend shifts available late May/early June.

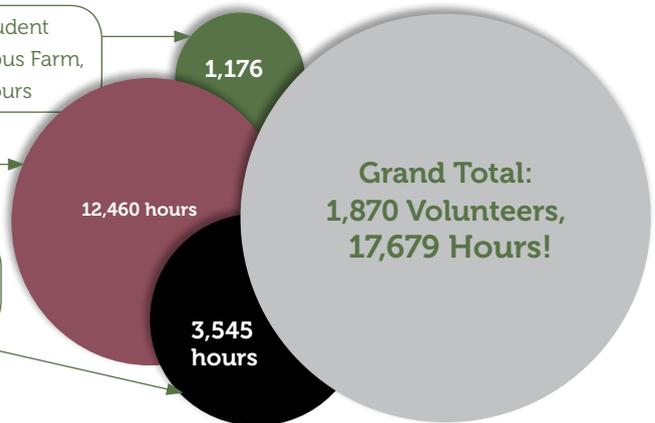
Wow! Our volunteers work an impressive number of hours each year:



506 volunteers logged hours with our student programs (Cultivating Community, Campus Farm, Wild About Nature) for a total of **1,176** hours

344 regular volunteers logged nearly **12,460** hours of service!

1,020 volunteers (U-M students, community and corporate, private and public) helped with group workdays (a total of **3,545** hours!)



From left: Volunteers gather October 20 at Matthaei for the annual volunteer recognition event; floral centerpieces designed by Matthaei horticulturist Adrienne O'Brien graced the tables; the dessert board groaned under the weight of all the sweet treats brought by Matthaei-Nichols staff.



Fall 2016 Volunteer Appreciation Gathering

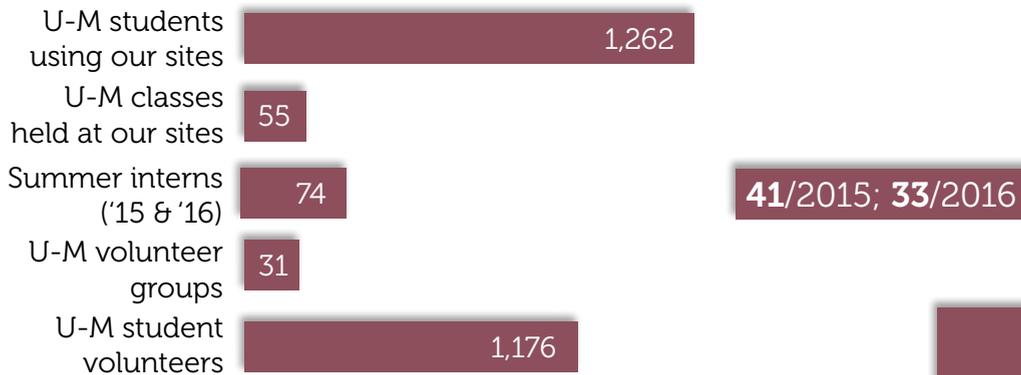
A huge thank you to our volunteers and staff in celebration of another abundant year of volunteer contributions!



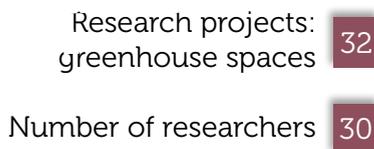
A Year at Matthaei-Nichols by the Numbers

We continue to attract more people each year who value interaction and learning from nature: people of all ages, including students from across campus and in multiple classes, faculty seeking research spaces, volunteers, members of the public, schoolchildren, and families.

Student participation and engagement

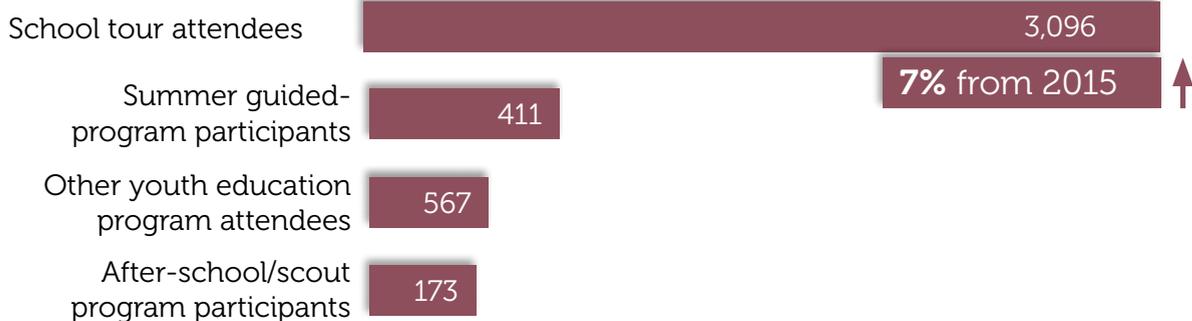


Faculty and grad student research



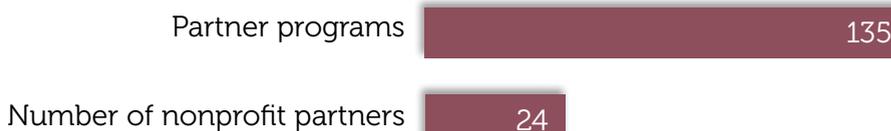
25:
Public nature-based programs sponsored by Matthaei-Nichols (Shakespeare; art & other exhibits; concerts; workshops; family events)

Children's education



Nonprofit partners

(e.g. Audubon Society, Michigan Botanical Club, Herb Society, Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers)



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