Volunteers make our world go round! From the top: Audience ushers at Shakespeare in the Arb; a dedicated pair of plant sale helpers; sprucing up the Herb Knot Garden.

Get Involved—Volunteer!
We welcome volunteers to get involved in every season at MBGNA. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 734.647.8528 (tgriffit@umich.edu) to request a volunteer application and to learn more about current opportunities. New volunteer orientations are offered monthly, with additional trainings required for some assignments.

*Please note: preregistration is required for all orientations

30th Annual Spring Plant Sale & Fundraiser
Set Up Days: Mon.–Fri., May 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Plant Sale Days: Fri.–Sun., May 7, 8, & 9
Celebrate spring’s return and lend a hand at our biggest fundraiser of the year! This annual event provides a great opportunity to share your passion for gardening, support the mission and work of MBGNA, mix and mingle with other garden lovers—and pick up some great plants for yourself.

It takes hundreds of volunteers to help this event run smoothly before, during, and after the sale, so there’s an opportunity for everyone. Please visit our website for a full list of volunteer jobs, shifts, orientation schedule and event information.

Preregistration and attendance at a Spring Plant Sale Volunteer Orientation is required.
Volunteer interest forms and job descriptions are available online, at the Gardens & Arb, and via mail upon request.

Nichols Arboretum Collections—Volunteer Orientation
Thurs., May 13, 3–5 pm
Calling all Arb lovers! Join horticulturist Adrienne O’Brien as she introduces new opportunities for volunteers in the collections at the nationally renowned Nichols Arboretum. Everyone knows about the famed Peony Garden, but during this orientation Adrienne will focus on some of the lesser-known jewels of the Arb that nevertheless need tending: the Centennial Shrub Collection, Laurel Ridge Trail, and others. Great opportunity for those who can take public transportation or who live near the Arb.

Gaffield Children’s Garden Ambassador Orientation
Sat., May 22, 9 am–noon
Back by popular demand, this is a new opportunity for volunteers to help make our wildly popular children’s garden a great place to visit. Individuals and families are invited to join us as we create a welcoming atmosphere in this new garden designed especially for young visitors—and the young at heart! Volunteers will learn about basic visitor etiquette and the different elements of this unique, interactive landscape. Minors are welcome to volunteer with adult supervision. Weekday and weekend shifts available.

NEW! Weekend Display Garden Workdays
You asked for it—you got it! We’ll be hosting volunteer workdays in the display gardens at Matthaei on Saturdays from 9 am–noon. If you work traditional weekday hours and have missed out on gardening with us in the past, now’s your chance to get involved. Please contact the volunteer office for the spring/summer weekend schedule!

2010 Shakespeare in the Arb—A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream
June 3–27, Thurs.–Sun. evenings; shows start at 6:30 pm
*Please note: 4 weeks of shows this June

Join us in celebrating the 10th season of this magical Ann Arbor theater tradition. It takes many volunteers to support the behind-the-scenes and upfront elements of this beloved LSA Residential College production, whose performances literally move through different areas of the Arb throughout each play. Volunteers assist with everything from ticket sales to ushering the audience from scene to scene, all the while enjoying the play (for free) and the scenic beauty of the Arb, of course. Volunteers also receive a cool Shakespeare t-shirt!

*Preregistration and attendance at an orientation is required for this event. Volunteer forms are available on line.