

SHAKING OFF THE WINTER BLUES

To beat those winter blues, and perhaps warm your cold bones, there are several places to visit locally. Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum offer a terrific selection of classes throughout the winter. The Conservatory contains a rich collection of plants from around the world. This collection is divided into three houses that reflect three prominent climatic conditions: tropical, warm-temperate, and arid. In total, more than 1,200 species are represented in the Conservatory. A special collection of bromeliads, ferns, cycads, orchids, and succulents help make Matthaei Botanical Gardens a distinctive destination for southeastern Michigan. The Conservatory and Gift Shop are open 10 am to 4:30 pm daily. The grounds are open from 8 am to sunset. For more information call 734.647.7600.

Hidden Lake Gardens offers beautiful scenery in the Irish Hills of Lenawee County, including a lake, ponds, kettle holes, natural woodlands, and meadows that are accessible via hiking trails and paved roads. A wide variety of plants are displayed in the tropical and arid conservatory. A Japanese garden is the setting for an amazing Bosai display. Hidden Lake Gardens is renowned for its Dwarf and Rare Conifer collection. Hosta hillside overlooking the lake is planned and maintained by the Michigan Hosta Society. A large visitor center includes educational displays, classrooms, auditorium and gift shop. Cross-country skiing is allowed on the grounds in the winter.

The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

https://www.canr.msu.edu/lawn_garden/

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