



Gardens
THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE
 INSTITUTE of AGRICULTURE

Gardening with Children Symposium

Aug. 24, 2013
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 UT Gardens, Knoxville

"Time in nature is not leisure time; it's an essential investment in our children's health."

— *Richard Louv*

Research shows that getting children active and in nature has many benefits. Gardening is an easy way for children to interact with nature no matter where they live. This symposium is designed for teachers, parents, grandparents and home-schooled families who are interested in learning more about gardening and how it can impact children's education. Teachers will acquire techniques to enhance their curriculum using garden-based learning. Parents and grandparents will learn how to garden at home with children. Children's activities will be available while adults are in educational sessions. Come and learn how local gardening programs can assist you in the classroom or at home.

Experts from Beardsley Community Farm, Knoxville Botanical Gardens – Every Child Outdoors program, UT Extension Knox County, Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, and UT Gardens will be presenting at this symposium.

Join us!

Registration forms and a complete schedule are available at <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu>.

Cost to attend is \$30 per adult and \$15 per child.

For more information, contact Derrick Stowell at 865-974-7151 or dstowell@utk.edu.

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Session and Speaker Information

Aquaponics — A Fun Way to Teach the Nitrogen Cycle

Join the Every Child Outdoors garden staff to learn how to use aquaponics in the classroom. Learn how to repurpose an aquarium to create a mutualistic system where fish provide nutrients for plants, and plants clean water for the fish. Lessons and activities focus on the nitrogen and water cycles.

Speakers:

Wendy Prothro Howard is the Every Child Outdoors (Knoxville) program coordinator and school liaison for the UT Human Dimensions Research Lab's Every Child Outdoors gardening in the classroom program.

Amanda Plante is the Every Child Outdoors (Knoxville) garden manager and school aquaponics consultant.

Children and Nature: The Emergence of a Threatened and Endangered Species

How did we get to a place where children are less and less connected with nature? How does a child's experience of nature compare to your own as a child? What are the implications of this nature deficit to the well-being of children and the adults they will become? In this session, we will discuss why getting children involved in nature is so important and our role in reversing this trend.

Speaker: Mark Fly is a professor and environmental psychologist in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries where he studies the interrelationships between people and nature. His current research focuses on programs related to the Every Child Outdoors program.

Exploring Gardening with Cucumbers

We will take a look at how cucumbers grow, how they contribute to a healthy diet, and what students can learn from a cucumber! Correlation with Tennessee Common Core standards as well as proposed Next Generation Science Standards will be provided. The participants will get to walk through a lesson activity and receive copies of the activity to take with them.

Speaker: Phyllis Hodges is the director of the LEA/SFA Support Team School Nutrition Program for the Tennessee Department of Education. She also is involved with the National Farm to School Network, which connects schools with local farms.

Growing a Fall Salad Garden

Join Beardsley Community Farm as they show you how plan your fall garden projects. Learn about planting radishes, lettuce and spinach from seed and from seedlings.

Speaker: John Harris is the director of Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee Green Thumb program. He is in charge of the community gardens for CAC.

How to Grow a Youth Garden Club

Speaker: Emily Gonzalez interned at the Bellevue Botanical Garden while studying at the University of Washington. She completed her Master of Science in natural resource education and extension from Oregon State University in 2007. She interned for extension in Oregon before becoming a joint UT/Tennessee State University extension agent in 2008. Her program areas in Extension include home horticulture, Master Gardener coordination and 4-H Youth Development and youth gardening.

No Yard, No Problem

Want to garden but don't have space? This session will give you some ideas of how to maximize space and grow vegetables in containers. We will look at what vegetables

and herbs grow well in containers. Find out how to reuse common items to grow plants in and other unique ways to grow in small spaces.

Speaker: Derrick Stowell is the HGTV-UT Gardens educator. He is responsible for coordinating educational programming for gardeners of all ages.

Square Foot and Container Gardening Basics

Get ready to make learning about garden vegetables and a few of the basic principles of horticulture a really fun experience for yourself and for the children you teach. This program is meant for fourth grade students, teachers and youth leaders who want to learn about the beauty of gardens and the care involved in planning, nurturing and enjoying the benefits of gardening in a variety of spaces and places.

Speaker: Bucky Smith is the museum garden manager and educator for the Kids Go Green Program at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge. He oversees all areas of garden care, including working with landscaping companies, UT Extension offices and 4-H programs, Tennessee Master Gardeners, and volunteers to coordinate garden maintenance, planting and harvesting. Bucky works with UT Extension 4-H staff and county agents to create environmental and healthy living curricula and materials for use in museum classes, camps, after-school club programs, youth advisory council, and events and outreach programs utilizing the various aspects of the garden.

Worming Your Way Through Standards Across the K-5 Curriculum

Come see how a worm bin can help students meet Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards at any grade from K through 5. Take away a how-to guide that makes worm ranching easy and fun!

Speaker: Mary Ball retired last year after teaching biology and elementary education at Carson-Newman College for 27 years. Since retiring, she has become a Tennessee Master Gardener and volunteers as much time as possible promoting edible school gardens and Project Learning Tree's GreenSchools program.

