

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

A Walk in the Woods – Carol Sowers

You will learn simple things to enhance children's observation skills during a walk in the woods. Organisms in forest and stream ecosystems will be highlighted.

Around the World on Our Plate – Moe Hemmings

Where does our food come from? Some sources say that on average it travels 1400 miles to reach us. Beyond that, where did it originate? Let's learn to capture the attention of tweenagers by taking them to the kitchen to discover around the world origins of our food. This session will include an overview of the two-week cooking camp for middle schoolers at Atlanta Botanical Garden. Attendees will learn ways to tailor those camp lessons for use at home, at school, or in garden settings.

Art in the Garden – Jill Haack

Jill invites you to "join me as we create art and learn some art history in the garden." You will learn how to use color pencils while learning about Vincent VanGogh's "Sunflowers." Jill says that color pencils are the perfect choice for sketching in "plein air," a French phrase meaning "painting in the open air." You, too, will learn some painting techniques, as well as science and games using art. You'll see that an art journal is a great way for children to capture images and record facts.

Chopped Challenge – Trae Cown / Sara Sheridan

If you're one of those parents eager to find new ways to get your child to eat healthy food, this class is for you! Your creativity will be put to the test as you create delicious, nutritious masterpieces that are sure to have child appeal.

Composting – Dave Rusk and Linda Sloyer

At the compost bin at Gardens on Green you'll learn what we teach. You'll then enjoy making edible compost, a simulation of compost materials that help children remember how compost is made.

Fairy Dust – Betsy Williams

Children love hearing stories of fairies in their gardens! And, if you've never found any fairy dust in your garden, come to this fun class where you'll learn about many flowers and how to make fairy dust. Be ready for a magical time.

Gardening by the Book - Jane Taylor

This year we celebrate several anniversaries of beloved authors and books of childhood: Beatrix Potter, 150th; Roald Dahl, 100th; Winnie-the-Pooh, 90th; and Make Way for Ducklings, 75th. You will get suggestions of what to grow to make the stories come alive, along with theme garden ideas and descriptions of plants kids love—especially the plants kids love to eat. You will receive a list of seed sources and references.

Gardening for Pollinators – Patti Lewis

Enjoy a tour of the Pollinator Garden at Gardens on Green, where thousands of students have experienced growing for butterflies and other pollinators. You, too, will make a simulation of the butterfly cycle, a fun craft for children of many ages.

Gardening Grows Leaders – Morgan Smith Conner

“Gardening grows good kids” is the Junior Master Gardener motto. That’s because it grows optimism, respect, a sense of wonder, an understanding of the connections of all life, and a sense of responsibility. Morgan Smith, middle school ag teacher, will focus on these and share concrete ways it, too, grows leaders. This session is designed for parents, leaders, and teachers of upper elementary students. Discover how FFA is a great option for middle school students.

Growing a School Garden –Kristi Crumpton

Join us to learn tips for beginning a new school gardening program. We will discuss different types of gardens, organization, getting support from staff and administration, lesson ideas, soliciting help from volunteers, as well as explore funding options.

Incredible Insects—Ginny Barber /Robbie McCormac

Join us as we investigate the world of insects, creatures that directly affect gardens and whose numbers surpass all other living things on Earth. Discover unique ways of presenting age-appropriate information and create excitement in your students through journaling, hands-on learning, and the direct investigation of topics such as how insects eat, body parts, camouflage and mimicry, collection, and life cycles. We'll also cover the new requirements for the GSE Standards for Science. Learn how to remove the “ick” factor in even the most hesitant “student entomologists.”

Knowing and Growing What We Eat –

Dr. Danny Askew and Lee Lovett

In the Children's Vegetable Garden at Gardens on Green you'll have the kind of experience thousands of children have had—learning about seeds, parts of plants, and plant needs. You'll learn what has worked successfully in our weekly “Growing with 2nd Graders” program during the school year. As is true with the children, everyone will plant a seed.

Let's Make Fairy Houses – Betsy Williams

Fairy houses have increased in popularity in recent years. Betsy Williams, host in 1987 of the first Fairy House Festival in the country, can be given much credit for that. Under her guidance at Gardens on Green participants will immerse themselves in the world of magic, using a myriad of natural materials to build fairy houses throughout the Gardens. Her *book Are There Fairies at the Bottom of Your Garden?* will definitely inspire you to say, “Let's Make Fairy Houses.”

Let's Play in the Dirt – Claire Coates

Almost every young child loves to play in the dirt. Gardening provides a somewhat structured way of playing in the dirt while learning to know and grow what we eat and discovering miracles and beauty in the garden. We will look at ways gardening contributes to the physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and social development of a preschooler. You will leave with new ideas and concrete instructions for playing in the dirt with the youngest gardeners.

Local Food Concepts for Kids – Andrew Linker

This session will focus on the local food movement, showing ways to inspire young farmers. Activities will lead to discovering the answer to this question: Where does real food come from? (map study and information about different kinds of farms/gardens) The goal will be to learn how to inform, inspire, and instruct elementary children so that they discover they can grow food like a farmer, knowing a lot of “cool stuff” about plants, soil, bugs, weather, and animals.

Monarch Butterflies: Journey North – Mark & Rose Barton

These monarch enthusiasts, and retired teachers, will share their own experiences in integrating monarch butterflies into the curriculum. Discover resources available to link student learning and participation into citizen science opportunities. You’re sure to enjoy learning more about the flight of this butterfly.

Read! Learn! Grow! – Jill Kelly and Robin Friedman

What’s in the garden?, I f You Love Honey, and Zora’s Zucchini, are only a few of the children’s garden books you’ll enjoy in this session. Hands-on activities related to the books will be presented for use with preschoolers through second graders.

SPROUTS – Robin Friedman

MG SPROUTS is a great program for libraries, Brownies, Cub Scouts, after-school centers, and schools without gardens. It is a six-session horticulture project for youth ages 5 to 8 structured around six “Big Ideas” about plants, soil, and stewardship. Each session uses a children’s story book to present the “big idea” and supporting hands-on horticulture activities. Complete with games, a journal, and take-home newsletters, SPROUTS is perfect for introducing our youngest to the natural world through literature and hands-on garden experiences.

Teaching Science in the Garden – Gayla Pierce

A garden is a natural science lab. Gayla will be sharing from her many years as a school science curriculum coordinator and as a K-5 hands-on science lab teacher. She says: “I am currently blessed to have the Enota Smartville Gardens as my classroom.”

Variety: The Spice of Life – Trey Cown/Sara Sheridan

Young children love discovering that we eat roots, flowers, leaves, and stems of some plants. You’ll learn ways to help them make connections from the garden to the table, focusing on colorful fruits and vegetables and the nutritional importance of variety in the diet.