

February 21, 2019

The Gardens at Elm Bank
900 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA
www.MassHort.org

Mass Hort's Fifth Annual School Garden Conference

8:30-9 Check-in
9-9:10 Welcome
9:10-10 Keynote Address

DRAFT

No Time, No Money, No Help

Lara Lepionka, Founder of Backyard Growers

Sound familiar? Get inspired to realize your school garden dreams by keeping it real and working within existing systems. Hear tales of Backyard Growers' collaboration with the Gloucester Public Schools—the challenges and the successes. And take away some highlights from our innovative school garden program model, Salad Days and Fall Harvest Days. Ultimately it's all about children having the opportunity to grow their own food!

10:10-11:40 Workshop Session B

Addressing Science Misconceptions

Ana Maria Caballero, Nature Education Specialist at the Arnold Arboretum

First, participants will learn about children's most common misconceptions about plants, and how these misunderstandings come to be. Then I will suggest many strategies to help support accurate student scientific learning. Participants will have an opportunity to share their ideas as well.

Seed Saving and Managing a Seed Library

Hannah Traggis, Senior Horticulturist of Mass Hort

Saving seed provides a valuable lesson for our children in both strengthening our food system and creating stronger ties to our cultural heritage. Saving seed is also a lot of fun and provides an entire growing season worth of lessons for students. It provides tangible and delicious results they can share with friends and family. Hannah will discuss considerations for selecting appropriate crops for school gardens, proper maintenance, packaging, and sharing of seeds.

Using and Teaching in a School Garden

Melissa Pace, Lifetime Master Gardener and Garden Educator at Mass Hort

Let's address your hesitations in using school gardens and brainstorm ideas on how to overcome them. Melissa will discuss how to adapt most any lesson to being taught in the school garden, such as weights and measures, technical writing, and poetry. We'll use some time to workshop solutions for specific challenges of those in attendance.

11:50-12:50 Workshop Session A

Garden Inquiry: Using your school garden to teach the Mass State Science Standards

Judith Sumner, Botanist, Author, and Educator

Explore ways to move STEM instruction into the school garden! In this workshop we will examine the Massachusetts State Science Standards (and Next Generation Science Standards) for topics that involve plants – including life cycles, form, function, and ecology. Then we'll look at inquiry-based investigations and projects that can involve hands-on science in the school garden, from seed columns and fertilizers to survival in nature and engineering projects.

Monarch Come Play with Me

Brenda Walker-Homan, Certified Master Gardener and retired Teacher

Brenda will share best practices on rearing Monarch butterflies in the classroom. She'll have images and a bibliography to support this classroom activity, as well as a plant list for installing a pollinator garden that will be sure to attract butterflies.

Make it Easy: Recommended Models for School Gardens

Kate Lacouture, Landscape Architect, and Owner Green Circle Design

Set your school up for success by planning and planting a garden that maximizes the growing season and minimizes summer maintenance while providing endless learning opportunities for students.

The Soup Garden and Other Themed School Gardens

Leann Shamash, former Education Director at Congregation Beth Elohim

Create a school garden that benefits others. This project extends from the spring where you plant, through the summer when you tend to the autumn when you pick and make soup. This soup is sold and proceeds from the soup go to a food charity such as Project Bread.

12:50-1:30 LUNCH

1:40- 2:40 Workshop Session C

Growing Food and Youth

Christine Schell, School Coordinator at Natick Community Organic Farm

Tour starts 1:40 and takes one hour. Come tour the Natick Community Organic Farm and learn how the Farm uses its resources (flower and vegetable gardens, farm animals, bee hives, and maple sugaring) to support school curriculum and meet MA Curriculum Standards. This program meets at the farm, 107 Eliot St, Natick (turn left on Route 16 and drive 1.2 miles). Turn into the drive for Memorial School, the farm is off of Ailinger Drive). **Space is limited – Must Sign Up ahead of time at the Registration Table.**

Garden Resources for Elementary School Science Programs

Cindy Jaczko, Wellesley Elementary School Garden Volunteer

Cindy will be share her experience and the resources she used when creating a

garden program that tied to the K-3 science programs at Wellesley Elementary Schools. The garden and program connected to seeds, plants, and animals in the school yard gardens.

A Garden of Wonder: Cultivating awareness

Leora Mallach, Co-founder of Beantown Jewish Gardens

Using the garden as our guide, we'll explore different ways to use the garden to teach our students awareness and appreciation for the natural cycles. The garden eco-system is a launching point for learning about our food system. We'll start with strengthening a sense of wonder and curiosity at what it is. Join us for curriculum sharing, stories and personal exploration.

Developing a Curriculum-based School Garden Program (without overwhelming teachers)

Kim Foster and Harriet Wong, Burbank Elementary PTA

Even if you don't have a Garden Coordinator, it can be done! Hear how one school sustains a parent team-led program model that provides curriculum-related garden activities to all students. Discuss ways to overcome common challenges such as shortages of time, funding, or garden space. Kim and Harriet will share lessons learned and tips on partnering with teachers, involving volunteers, and designing hands-on learning activities to engage large classes in small gardens.

2:50-3:50 Workshop Session D

Raised Bed School Gardens: What Works Best and Why

Caitie Dwyer-Huppert, Education Manager at Green City Growers

What is important to consider to site, build, and maintain a raised bed garden at your school? Come learn the best practices that Green City Growers has developed over ten years of fine-tuning garden bed systems that support successful education programs and bountiful harvests. We will also touch on how to engage students with the garden through NGSS aligned K-12 curriculum connections.

Composting and Worm Bins: How to make it happen

James Tiberii of Mass DEP's Green Team

Jim will introduce you to basic composting methods that you can use inside and outside of your classroom. He'll even show you how to start your own bin using worms, and have you make a small bin to take with you.

Salad Days – Plant School Garden Seeds, Harvest and Prepare a Cafeteria Treat

Janice McPhillips and Lauri Swart, Holly Hill Farm

Eating the delicious results of a math or science lesson helps students make powerful and lasting connections to their curriculum. This workshop will present several easy lessons that can be taught in a school garden where students plant seeds that will grow into in food that can be simply prepared and served in a school cafeteria as part of a meal.

Lessons Learned in the Willett Garden: A Journey of Growth

Kim Gattoni, First Grade Teacher and Willett Garden Co-Chair and Founder

This workshop is designed to follow the firsthand development and journey of a school garden from an idea to the creation of an outdoor classroom. It will consider details of mapping and layout, community resources and connections, available funding, educational experiences, and sustainability.

3:50-4 Closing

DRAFT: Mass Hort reserves the right to make adjustments and changes to this schedule.