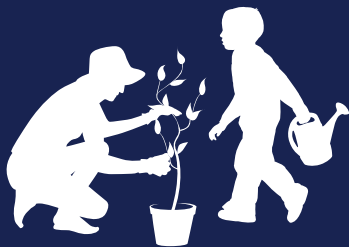


THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 19TH ANNUAL

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM



DIGGING INTO THE ART AND SCIENCE OF GARDENING

JULY 21-23, 2011 • EAST LANSING & GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



Hosted by:

4-H Children's Garden at Michigan State University
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park



SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEES WILL:



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

7931 East Boulevard Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22308

- Participate in the only national symposium that explores the positive impact of gardens in the lives of children and youth.
- Meet and learn from leading youth gardening experts.
- Receive useful and relevant project, curriculum, design, and garden management ideas.
- Explore the gardens and programs of the Symposium hosts.
- Participate in three dynamic days of workshops, lectures, poster sessions, and field trips.
- Network and share your own expertise with like-minded children's gardening advocates from across North America

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, visit www.ahs.org/ncygs, e-mail youthprograms@ahs.org, or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132.



John Fraser
"Sowing—Hope & Prosperity"

Using recent research in the cognitive sciences, conservation psychology, and education theory, John Fraser will illustrate how America has placed its children at the edge of a cliff and is now asking them to fly because they aren't allowed to turn back. He will explore what has brought us to this precipice by drawing on his own national studies of American attitudes

toward child development, common beliefs about health, and political narratives that have influenced the collective consciousness. Then, he will offer a prescription for how nature- and garden-based educational institutions can imagine a better future for today's children, chart a course of action to more effectively nurture young minds, and help foster a more hopeful future for our youth.

Fraser is an architect, conservation psychologist, and educator who has dedicated his career to quantifying and explaining how experiences in the natural environment contribute to an individual's self-identity and the capacity to contribute to democratic decision-making in society. Fraser serves as the director of the Institute for Learning Innovation's New York office. He is an adjunct faculty member in Psychology at Hunter College of City University New York's, and a scientist with the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University. His research into nature experiences includes development of new theories about citizen science with Cornell University and how film influences understanding of environmental conditions with the California University in partnership with a major public broadcaster. In 2010 Fraser co-authored a report for the Children and Nature Network on "American Beliefs Associated with Children's Nature Experience Opportunities."



Jane Taylor
"Celebrating Imagination"

Imagining a world without gardens for children is something Jane Taylor doesn't have to do because she remembers such a world, and it is what inspired her to create the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden in 1993. As this garden's founding curator, she has been at the forefront of the children's garden movement, including being involved with the National Children & Youth

Garden Symposium since its inception. Though she retired from the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University in 1997, Taylor continues to inspire others to keep the momentum going. She will close the Symposium by sharing her insights into how and why the children's garden landscape has changed nationally since 1993, and where she sees the movement going in the future.

Taylor is the recipient of several awards, including the 1995 Silver Seal Award from the National Council of State Garden Clubs and the 1996 Special Recognition Award from the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. In 2000 she was the first recipient of the 'Jane L. Taylor Great American Gardeners Award,' a namesake award from the American Horticultural Society. In 1995 the 4-H Children's Garden design team won the Honor Award for Design of the Year from the Michigan Chapter-American Society of Landscape Architects, and in 1999 the ASLA Medallion Award. She serves on the awards committee for the "Growing Good Kids—Excellence in Literature Awards," administered jointly by the American Horticultural Society and the National Junior Master Gardener Program.

The AHS would like to thank the following Symposium Sponsors:

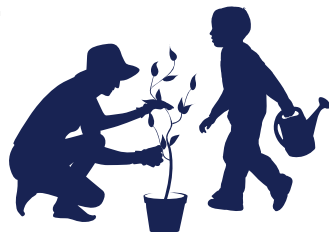
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Gardens provide endless opportunities for unleashing kids' creativity while helping them learn about their world. Discover innovative ways to mine this potential at the 2011 Symposium, where we will dig into both the art and science of gardening (spade not required).

This year's Symposium host gardens also reflect this theme, bringing together the educational resources of Michigan State University and the artistry of the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. They will provide the perfect location for you to pick up new tools, resources, activities, skills, and inspiration to take back to the youth in your communities and schools. Learn how to create and use gardens to provide dynamic environments for experimentation, social engagement, self-expression, and connection to the natural world. Hear from students, teachers, and national experts about the vital role gardens can play in the lives of today's youth.

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

The 132-acre Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is home to Michigan's largest tropical conservatory, indoor and outdoor gardens including an internationally acclaimed permanent sculpture collection, an interactive children's garden, and so much more. Welcoming more than six million visitors since its opening in 1995, the garden is one of Michigan's most popular tourist destinations.

Of particular interest is the five-acre Lena Meijer Children's Garden, which opened in 2004. Consisting of 10 themed gardens, the children's garden was built on the premise that visitors would remember their experience more through doing than seeing. Children can look through viewports to answer questions about sculpture, dig into the sand quarry to uncover information about fossils, and match animal fur to corresponding tracks in the cement. They can explore tree houses, a log cabin, a butterfly maze, a sense garden, and the five Great Lakes filled with water. Highlighting hundreds of plants as well as whimsical, child-friendly sculptures, it is perhaps the only children's garden in the United States with natural wetlands running right through the middle of it.

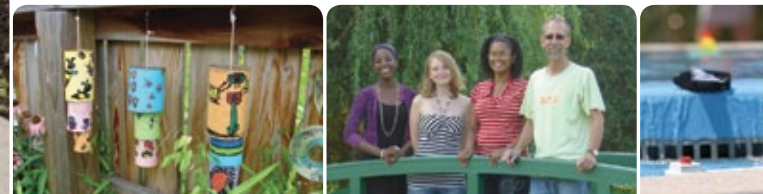


Michigan 4-H Children's Garden

Dedicated in 1993, the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden was the first interactive outdoor garden for children at a public garden in the United States, which now attracts more than 200,000 visitors annually. Since its opening, the garden has received numerous awards for its design, educational programming, and web presence. It has served as a model for the design of many other children's gardens across North America and was one of the first children's gardens to directly incorporate learning objectives into the design: teaching children about the importance of plants, encouraging curiosity and wonder, and providing an enriching aesthetic experience.

Described as "a magical place of learning," the original garden is slightly larger than a half-acre. Over time, the garden has expanded to include the 2,500 square-foot Pete & Sally Smith Schoolyard Demonstration Garden that focuses on school garden themes, the 1,500 square-foot indoor garden, and the exciting and engaging Curiosity Classroom. With nearly 100 different theme areas, the 4-H Children's Garden is full of ideas that you can take back to your school and community—ideas that bring plants and kids together in new and exciting ways.

The 4-H Children's Garden is part of the 14 1/2 acre Horticulture Gardens which include the perennial display, annual trials, vegetable and rose gardens as well as the Clarence E. Lewis Landscape Arboretum.





Thursday, July 25 Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

On Thursday afternoon we will dig into the art of gardening as we explore Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Our behind-the-scenes tour will give you the opportunity to experience the non-public side of Meijer Gardens and meet the experts who make it all happen.

Let your inner child run wild in the Lena Meijer Children's Garden, featuring a delightful assortment of child-friendly sculpture, clever plantings, and engaging activities. One of the best ways to get a sense of how to effectively integrate art and plants is to take a guided tram ride through the 35-acre Sculpture Park. Our visit will end with a festive dinner at Meijer Gardens, during which you can continue to get to know your fellow Symposium attendees.



Friday, July 26 Michigan 4-H Children's Garden

On Friday afternoon at the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, we will dig into both the science and art of gardens. The design of the children's garden is based in research and the garden programming has always focused on science. The focus on connecting science to kids' everyday lives encourages them to be curious and to ask questions about everything. You will also see that science is integrated with the art and stories in the garden. They work together to create rich garden experiences that kids enjoy and learn from. As you explore the many themes in the 4-H Children's Gardens, let them inspire your own imagination and let the kid in you "experience plants". Wrap up the afternoon with a happy hour in the gardens where you can continue your adventures, ask more questions and just have fun in the garden with all your Symposium friends.



Outstanding Achievement in Children & Youth Gardening

In 1999, the Board of Directors of the American Horticultural Society established the Jane L. Taylor Award to recognize an individual, organization, or program that has inspired and nurtured future horticulturists through efforts in children's and youth gardening. The

2011 winner of the Jane L. Taylor Award is Sam Levin a 2011 high school graduate from Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and co-founder of Project Sprout. The first student-initiated and student-run public school garden in the country, Project Sprout is now in its fourth year and has inspired many other student-run gardens in schools nearby and as far away as Uganda. Nominations for the 2012 Jane L. Taylor Award are open through September 30, 2011.



Growing Good Kids—Excellence in Children's Literature Awards

The 2011 "Growing Good Kids—Excellence in Children's Literature Awards" will be unveiled during the Symposium on Friday morning. Presented jointly by

the National Junior Master Gardener Program and the American Horticultural Society, these awards honor engaging and inspiring works of plant-, garden-, and ecology-themed children's literature. This unique book award program debuted in 2005 with the one-time designation of "Classics," which established the best 40 kids' gardening books released in the last 100 years. The Growing good Kids-Excellence in Children's Literature Award annually recognizes qualifying titles published in the previous year.



OPTIONAL EVENTS

Wednesday, July 20, 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm
(pre-registration required)

Pre-Symposium Workshop ***Digging into Science & Technology at the Michigan*** ***4-H Children's Garden***

Spend Wednesday afternoon exploring the intersection of science and technology in the garden. Modeled on Michigan State University's Seeds of Science and Collaborating Classrooms programs, the afternoon will be filled with hands-on explorations that can easily be replicated in your own garden. Activities will include:

- Interactively exploring the scientific process
- Conducting Best Lettuce and Water Quality experiments
- Evaluating Cool Kid Plants
- Using digital microscopes
- Creating iPod Touch-based garden scavenger hunts
- Exploring virtual gardening
- Exercising in the garden using augmented reality games

This workshop is the perfect place to ask questions, share ideas, and become inspired to enhance garden-based learning with science and technology.



Saturday, July 23 2:30 pm – 10 pm
(pre-registration required)

Post-Symposium Trip ***Dow Gardens in Midland, Michigan***

Following the conclusion of the Symposium on Saturday afternoon, you are invited on an optional trip to Dow Gardens in Midland, Michigan. In addition to being the home of the 2010 AHS's Jane L. Taylor Award-winning children's garden program—Growin' Gardeners—Dow Gardens features 110 acres of colorful landscape displays and mature trees. This trip will focus on the Dow Children's Garden and programs.

Built in 1999, the children's garden is unlike any other garden featured during the 2011 Symposium. Designed to be an interactive organic vegetable garden, visitors young and old learn where food comes from and how to grow the food, while harvesting and taste-testing along the way. You will also have time to tour the magnificent grounds that once served as the home of Herbert H. Dow, the founder of the Dow Chemical Company. Following the garden tour, we will enjoy a summer harvest dinner featuring an entertaining presentation by 2008 Growing Good Kid's Book Award winner, Jeffery Schatzer, author of *The Runaway Garden*.



Full Symposium details available at:
www.ahs.org/ncygs

Registration

The early full registration fee is \$330. AHS members receive a discounted rate of \$290. Full registration includes admission to all programs, continental breakfast and lunch each day, and dinner on Thursday. Daily registrations are available. Student rates are also available for full registration attendees, and will need to show proof of current enrollment. Registration for the optional Pre-Symposium Workshop, Friday evening dinner, and the Post-Symposium trip range between \$30-\$60 per event.

Have questions or need more information?

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e-mail youthprograms@ahs.org,
or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132.

