

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 23RD ANNUAL

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM



JULY 9-11, 2015 • AUSTIN, TX



WELCOME






AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

We invite you to join us in Austin, Texas, in a region rich with gardening history and innovation, for three days of sharing best practices and achievements in the field of youth gardening education. The American Horticultural Society's National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS), now in its 23rd year, is a one-of-a-kind event for educators, landscape architects, program coordinators, community leaders, and others dedicated to connecting kids to plants and the natural world.

NCYGS 2015 is co-hosted by the International Junior Master Gardener Program and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, with sessions held at the Radisson Austin Downtown. Featuring over 50 workshops and lectures by national and regional youth gardening professionals, highlights include expert keynote presentations, a special evening event at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and an outstanding offering of pre- and post-symposium field trips.

Gardens can be endless sources of wonder, fun, and imagination for children, as well as invaluable resources for learning about the world around them. Join us as we work to make gardens a vital and accessible part of every child's life experience.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

2015 NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM				
	MORNING	EARLY AFTERNOON	LATE AFTERNOON	EVENING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8	Pre-Symposium excursion to San Antonio Botanical Garden <i>(pre-registration required)</i>			
	Pre-Symposium tour of Austin school & community gardens with the Sustainable Food Center <i>(pre-registration required)</i>			
THURSDAY, JULY 9	Welcome & Opening Remarks  Concurrent Sessions	KEYNOTE: Lisa Whittlesey & Dr. Alexandra Evans	Concurrent Sessions	Evening on your own
FRIDAY, JULY 10	Concurrent Sessions	Growing Good Kids Book Awards  Introduction to the JMG Korea Program  KEYNOTE: Whitney Cohen	Overview and self-guided exploration of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <i>(included with registration)</i>	Dinner in the Luci and Ian Family Garden at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <i>(included with registration)</i>
SATURDAY, JULY 11	Concurrent Sessions	KEYNOTE: Nate Erwin	Post-Symposium excursion to the Thinkery children's museum and Alta's Café at the Waller Creek Boathouse for dinner <i>(pre-registration required)</i>	

KEYNOTES

KIDS IN THE GARDEN – IT IS A GOOD THING!

LISA WHITTLESEY & DR. ALEXANDRA EVANS



Lisa Whittlesey has served as Director of the International Junior Master Gardener Program for the past 13 years. Part of the university Cooperative Extension network, this organization provides young people all over the country and world with hands-on learning experiences that promote a love of gardening. She is the author/co-author of nine award-winning youth environmental curricula.

Dr. Alexandra Evans is an Associate Professor of Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

She has over 15 years of experience developing and evaluating nutrition and physical activity health interventions targeting children and families, with a focus on underserved families.

THE POWER OF REDISCOVERING OUR ROOTS: HEIRLOOM VARIETY EDUCATION

WHITNEY COHEN



Whitney Cohen is a teacher, trainer, and author with a focus on place-based education, student-led inquiry, strategies for engaging a diverse student population, school gardens, and the intersection between environmental education and the public school system. As the Education Director at Life Lab, a California-based nonprofit organization and national leader in garden-based education, Whitney leads educator workshops nationwide and has written various activity guides, including *The Book of Gardening*

Projects for Kids and *Kids' Garden: 40 Fun Indoor and Outdoor Games*. Prior to working with Life Lab, Whitney taught Earth, Life, and Physical Science and Introductory Spanish in a low income, public middle school.

PLANT IT OR NOT, THEY WILL COME: INSECTS

NATE ERWIN



Nate Erwin is an entomologist, natural history communicator, museum consultant, and habitat rehabilitator residing in Alexandria, VA. His experiences include 20 years managing the O. Orkin Insect Zoo and Butterfly Pavilion at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, work as a staff scientist for the Rachel Carson Council, and fieldwork studying and collecting insects from all over the Americas. Nate enjoys sharing his experiences exploring the natural world of insects and plants

with others and has served as a consultant for the IMAX *Bugs!* and *Flight of the Butterflies* movies, and has appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered* and CBS's *Late Show with David Letterman*.

HIGHLIGHTS

GARDEN EXPLORATIONS AND AN EVENING AT LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER



On Friday the Symposium will head to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, known for its gardens highlighting Texas native plants and its focus on sustainability. Attendees will have the chance to enjoy an overview of the center, garden explorations, and dinner in the recently opened Luci and Ian Family Garden. Education staff will be on hand to answer questions about the Family Garden and share activities used to encourage nature play and opportunities for learning for kids and their families. *(included in registration)*

GROWING GOOD KIDS BOOK AWARDS



The recipients of the 2015 “Growing Good Kids – Excellence in Children’s Literature Award” will be announced Friday afternoon at the Radisson Austin Downtown. Presented jointly by the National Junior Master Gardener Program and the American Horticultural Society, these awards recognize 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 Awards are presented annually to qualifying titles published in the previous year.

JANE L. TAYLOR AWARD



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 2015 winner of the Jane L. Taylor Award is City Blossoms. Founded in 2003, City Blossoms is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., devoted to developing child-driven, community-engaging, and creative green spaces. Since its inception, it has developed more than 40 green spaces throughout Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Maryland, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 2013, City Blossoms published an ebook and hardcopy format Spanish/English bilingual early childhood curriculum, providing garden and nutrition-based lesson plans to educators.

Copies of City Blossoms’ Spanish/English bilingual, early childhood, year-round curriculum, *Our First Harvest/Nuestra Primera Cosecha*, are available for purchase in the symposium book store.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

PRE-SYMPOSIUM: FULL DAY AT SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 7:15AM–5:00PM



Join us for a day of discovery at the San Antonio Botanical Garden! The garden provides inventive educational programs for children and adults, and is in the midst of a major expansion effort that will increase its offerings. We'll learn about the garden's master plan and plans for the future Family Adventure Garden from landscape architects Cameron Campbell and Cindy Tyler. We'll have time for touring the garden before experiencing firsthand how the garden's resources are used for education by investigating some of the patterns, angles and symmetry in the plants all around us with a hands-on "math in the garden" workshop.

PRE-SYMPOSIUM: TOUR OF AUSTIN SCHOOL & COMMUNITY GARDENS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 8:00AM–12:30PM



Staff from the Sustainable Food Center's Grow Local program will lead attendees on a tour of school and community gardens throughout Austin that the organization works with to provide residents knowledge and resources to grow their own food—part of the SFC's larger work toward a food-secure community where all children and adults grow, share, and prepare healthy, local food. We'll start at the J.P.'s Peace, Love, and Happiness Foundation Teaching Garden, SFC's home garden for classes, student field trips, and tours. Then visits to Blackshear Elementary School Garden, Kealing Middle School Garden, and Festival Beach Community Garden will highlight more of the exciting and inspiring local growing projects sprouting up all over Austin like Blackshear Bridge, a unique neighborhood-school partnership that supports the Blackshear Elementary School Garden program, and Festival Beach's collaboration with the Multicultural Refugee Coalition to provide refugee families with garden plots at no cost.

POST-SYMPOSIUM TRIP

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2:00PM–7:30PM



Capping off the symposium experience will be a trip to the Thinkery, an evolution of the Austin Children's Museum "where people connect with ideas by doing, making and experiencing". The Thinkery integrates learning and play with a number of hands-on, interactive exhibits and educational programming. Thinkery education staff will lead attendees in a "Plant Lab" workshop dissecting a flower and then using the dissected parts to create a unique piece of artwork, and the group will also have time to explore the museum and exhibits. The evening will wrap up with a meal sampling some of the offerings at Alta's Café at the Waller Creek Boathouse, a restaurant on the shores of Lady Bird Lake that partners with local artisans to provide a unique, environmentally conscious, and delicious menu.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015

2:30pm – 4:30pm

Check-in and on-site registration at the Radisson Austin Downtown

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015

6:45am – 8:00am

Check-in at the Radisson Austin Downtown for pre-symposium excursions

7:15am

Bus for San Antonio Botanical Garden pre-symposium excursion departs Radisson Austin Downtown

7:15am – 5:00pm

Pre-symposium excursion to San Antonio Botanical Garden (*lunch provided*)

8:00am

Bus for Austin school & community gardens pre-symposium excursion departs Radisson Austin Downtown

8:00am – 12:30pm

Austin school & community gardens pre-symposium excursion with the Sustainable Food Center

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

All symposium activities are on the second floor of the Radisson Austin Downtown

7:30am – 2:00pm

Check-in and on-site registration

7:30am – 12:50pm;
2:10pm – 3:00pm

Book store open in Waller Creek

7:30am – 9:15am

Breakfast in Riverside South Ballroom

8:30am

Welcome and Opening Remarks: *Tom Underwood, Executive Director, American Horticultural Society; Amy Bolton, Board Chair, American Horticultural Society; and Kazique Prince, Ph.D., Senior Policy Advisor & Education Coordinator, Office of the Mayor, Austin, TX*

9:30am – 10:30am

Session Block A-Lecture (*see session descriptions packet for more information*)

A1 | Riverside West

Is Our Garden Working? Assessing Children's Learning and Engagement,
Dr. Mary Legoria, Dr. Pam Blanchard

A2 | The IPO Room

Creating and Sustaining School Gardens,
Sam Ullery, John Fisher, Kyla Van Deusen, Nathan Larson

A3 | Riverside East

Big Impact, Small Footprint: Strategies for Maximizing Small Play Spaces, *Susan England*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(continued)

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015 (continued)

10:45am – 12:15pm

A4 | Riverside North

Garden Lab: Inquiry Science Learning in School Gardens and Classrooms, *Sara Epstein*

A5 | The RPM Room

Schoolyard Habitats-Inspiring Inquisitive Minds and Academic Success, *Marya Fowler*

A6 | Silicon Hills

Cool Season Growing and School Gardens: A Natural Fit, *Jennifer Grabner*

A7 | The Green Room

Collaborating Classrooms: Connecting Year Round, *Dr. Norm Lownds*

A8 | SoCo

Bread & Roses Food Hub, *Donna Hoffman*

Session Block B-Workshop (see session descriptions packet for more information)

B1 | Riverside West

Learning through Nature AND Play!, *Anjoli Fry, Gretchen Antill*

B2 | The IPO Room

School Garden Support Organizations Unite!,
Sam Ullery, John Fisher, Kyla Van Deusen, Nathan Larson

B3 | The Green Room

Role Modeling Healthy Behaviors Through Youth Gardening and Nutrition Programs,
Heather Buritsch

B4 | SoCo

Gardening for Water Quality and Sustainability, *Sara Heilman, Jessica Gordon*

B5 | Riverside North

The Science Behind How Nature Works in Your Garden, *Angela Brisson, Britta Culbertson*

B6 | Silicon Hills

Kids DIG (Design Interesting Gardens), *Dr. Todd Beasley*

B7 | Riverside East

Garden-Themed Day Camp Ideas, *Dr. Shelley Mitchell*

B8 | The RPM Boardroom

Creating and Teaching in an Insect Paradise!, *Bonnie Martin, Elizabeth Brown, Vicki Blachman*

12:30pm – 2:00pm

Lunch in Riverside South Ballroom

1:00pm

Keynote: Lisa Whittlesey & Dr. Alexandra Evans — Kids in the Garden – It Is a Good Thing!
in Riverside South Ballroom

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(continued)

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015 (continued)

2:15pm – 3:15pm

Session Block C-Lecture (see session descriptions packet for more information)

C1 | The Green Room

A Family Garden on a Shoe-String Budget, Lori Mowad, Lynn Zocolo

C2 | Riverside North

Sowing the Seeds for Integrated Garden Education in Schools,

Jennifer Cregar, Dr. Sherry Lepine, Anne Muller, Ilya Shmulenson

C3 | SoCo

Privet, Pollination and Preservation: Teaching about Conservation, Cora Keber

C4 | Riverside East

Helping Kids OWN It!, Amy Nau Zellweger

C5 | The RPM Boardroom

Grey to Green, Dr. Lolly Tai

C6 | Riverside West

Lost Parent in the Woods, Cindy Tyler, Beth Spieles, Marilyn Brink

C7 | The IPO Room

Partnering with Non-Garden Organizations for Successful Programming, Eileen Prendergast

C8 | Silicon Hills

Growing in Hay Bales? Really? Really!, Bonny Hajducko

7:00pm

Second floor mezzanine open for informal gathering – you are welcome to bring instruments, stories, and come unwind with new and old friends (Refreshments available on first floor at Starbucks and in the hotel restaurant)

*** EVENING ON YOUR OWN ***



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(continued)

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015

All symposium activities are on the second floor of the Radisson Austin Downtown
(excluding field trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center)

7:30am – 2:00pm

Check-in and on-site registration

7:30am – 1:30pm

Book store open in Waller Creek

7:30am – 9:00am

Breakfast in Riverside South Ballroom

9:15am – 10:15am

Session Block D-Lecture (see session descriptions packet for more information)

D1 | Riverside West

Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! – Youth Gardening and Classroom Curriculum,
Lisa Whittlesey, Caren Walton, Randy Seagraves

D2 | The RPM Boardroom

School Garden Leadership Training, *Bianca Bidiuc, Sari Alborno*

D3 | Riverside East

Reading a Garden: Discovering Plant Biology in Great Children's Literature,
Dr. Mark Lubkowitz, Dr. Valerie Bang-Jensen

D4 | The IPO Room

Horticultural Design Fostering Youth Engagement in the Family Garden,
Andrea DeLong-Amaya

D5 | SoCo

Gardening with Special Needs Groups, *Lori Mowad, Lynn Zocolo*

D6 | Silicon Hills

Seeds of Change: Public Education and the School Garden Movement,
Jane Hirschi, Sam Ullery, Rachel Pringle, Scott Feille

D7 | Riverside North

Incorporating Unstructured Nature Play into Structured Programs, *Eileen Prendergast*

D8 | The Green Room

Grow Indoors! Classroom Gardens that Spark Inquiry, Teamwork, and Stewardship,
Rick Block, Susan Jorgensen

10:45am – 12:15pm

Session Block E-Workshop (see session descriptions packet for more information)

E1 | Riverside West

Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! – Health and Nutrition Components,
Lisa Whittlesey, Rusty Hohlt, Alice Kirk

E2 | SoCo

REAL Teaching Tools for Garden-Based Educators, *Logan LeCompte*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(continued)

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015 (continued)

E3 | Riverside North

Engaging Activities for Informal Programming for Ages 2-10, *Amanda Segura*

E4 | The RPM Boardroom

Composting Zebra Mussels: Learning About Invasive Species and Environmental Stewardship, *Maria Dimengo*

E5 | The Green Room

Birds, Books, Butterflies, and American First Ladies, *Dr. Steve Rich*

E6 | Silicon Hills

Designing and Planning Edible Gardens & Container Vegetable Gardening, *Ellen Orabone, Sari Albornoz*

E7 | The IPO Room

Growing Great Education Volunteers, *Kris Koch*

E8 | Riverside East

Gaining STEAM with Seed Starting!, *Kim Bailey*

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Lunch in Riverside South Ballroom

12:50pm

Presentation of the 2015 Growing Good Kids-Excellence in Children's Literature Book Awards winners

1:05pm

Introduction to the Junior Master Gardener Korea Program

1:30pm

Keynote: *Whitney Cohen* — **The Power of Rediscovering Our Roots: Heirloom Variety Education** in Riverside South Ballroom

3:00pm

Buses board and leave for Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for explorations and dinner (*included in registration*)

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Introduction and overview of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Self-guided exploration of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

6:00pm

Dinner in the Luci and Ian Family Garden at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (*one drink ticket provided — please bring cash for additional beverage purchases*)

7:00pm – 8:00pm

Buses depart Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and return to Radisson Austin Downtown

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(continued)

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015

All symposium activities are on the second floor of the Radisson Austin Downtown

7:30am – 11:00am

Check-in and on-site registration

7:30am – 12:20pm;
1:40pm – 2:00pm

Book store open in Waller Creek

7:30am – 9:00am

Breakfast in Riverside South Ballroom

8:15am

Introduction of NCYGS 2016 location: Columbia, SC

9:15am – 10:15am

Session Block F-Lecture (see session descriptions packet for more information)

F1 | Riverside West

Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! – Mobilizing Schools and Volunteers, Lisa Whittlesey, Caren Walton

F2 | Silicon Hills

Good Growth: Extending the Impact and Reach of Gardening Programs, Toby Adams

F3 | Riverside North

Natural Pest Management Using Essential Oils, Mechel Wall

F4 | The IPO Room

Innovative School Gardens, Rick Sherman, John Fisher

F5 | SoCo

Connecting Kids to Nature: Design Strategies at Multiple Scales, Astrid Sykes, Margot Jacobs

F6 | Riverside East

FIT for Kids: A Systems Approach to Garden-based Nutrition Education, Dr. Grace Peterson

10:30am – 12:00pm

Session Block G-Workshop (see session descriptions packet for more information)

G1 | Riverside West

Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! – Building Community Coalitions, Lisa Whittlesey, Alice Kirk

G2 | Riverside East

Collegiate Planting Design Class Exercises for Secondary Education Students, Joshua Beblo

G3 | Riverside North

Roots, Leaves, STEM: Teaching Science and Math in the Garden, Meredith O'Reilly

G4 | Silicon Hills

Kids Dig Gardening with Kitchen Scraps, Erin Hoffer

G5 | The IPO Room

Fabulous Books and Websites to Make Your Garden Program Grow!, Pam Hosimer

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(continued)

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015 (continued)

G6 | SoCo

What's Bugging You: Learning the Buzz About Insect Activities, Candice Miller, Lisa Hepker

G7 | The Green Room

Growing Food on Earth and in Space: Bringing Science Alive, Dr. Craig Wilson

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Lunch in Riverside South Ballroom

12:30pm

Keynote: Nate Erwin – Plant It or Not, They Will Come: Insects in Riverside South Ballroom

2:00pm

Bus for post-symposium excursion departs Radisson Austin Downtown

2:00pm – 7:30pm

Post-symposium excursion to the Thinkery children's museum and dinner at Alta's Café at the Waller Creek Boathouse

SYMPOSIUM LOCAL CO-HOSTS



SYMPOSIUM PARTNERS



MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



FRIEND SPONSOR

KidsGoods LLC/Twigz

Thanks for additional support from Waller Creek Boathouse and Way Better Snacks

AUSTIN, TX • JULY 9–11, 2015

LOCAL CO-HOSTS:

International Junior Master Gardener Program & Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

NATIONAL
CHILDREN
& YOUTH
GARDEN
SYMPOSIUM



AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SAVE THE DATE
FOR NCYGS 2016!

COLUMBIA, SC
July 14–16, 2016