

San Diego Regional School Garden E-Newsletter, February 2010

Hello San Diego Garden Educators,

How do you sustain a school garden over multiple years, after that one passionate parent has “graduated”, or your grant money ran out? Several schools have found ways to fund their programs and to actively engage children and teachers in using the garden year after year.

To read more about how seven San Diego County schools have sustained their garden programs for more than 5 years, visit www.rcdsandiego.org and read “Plant Good People and Cultivate Relationships” (will be posted by 2/12). This article is based on interviews of staff, parents, and volunteers.

Local resources and opportunities

Spring Plant Giveaway!

Tuesday, April 13 – Register now

The School Garden Resource Center organizes an annual give-away of herbs and veggie seedlings from Altman Plants of Vista. This year's giveaway will take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. One hundred teachers will receive a flat of robust warm season seedlings including peppers, tomatoes, herbs, and more. Download and complete the registration form (available on the RCD website) and fax/email by April 2. Pick-up locations throughout the county. First come, first served!

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: A Centerpiece for a Healthy School Environment

Part II – Spring/Summer Season

Thursday and Friday, February 18 and 19 - San Diego training

A FREE, two-day training for school personnel and community partners. This training will provide tools to support an increase of fresh fruits and vegetables on school campuses through fun, interactive, and skill-building activities. You do not need to have attended Part I to attend this training. To see more details and to register, go to www.healthyschoolenvironment.org

Kids in the Garden Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 13

This month's Kids in the Garden session will feature a nature treasure hunt, planting for nutrition and our music in the garden with my autoharp. Time will again be from 10 to 11 a.m. at Alta Vista Gardens in Brengle Terrace Park, Vista. Parents need to call to pre-register (760) 822-6824 or e-mail to nanbudzjones@gmail.com.

The Road to Healthy School Meals with Chef Ann Cooper, a.k.a. "The Renegade Lunch Lady"

Thursday, February 18

Explore how San Diego County schools can make simple yet significant changes to improve their lunch programs. As the leader of the school lunch revolution, Chef Ann Cooper is on a mission to ensure that every child in America receives healthy, delicious food every day in school. She is the author of *Lunch Lessons: Changing the Way We Feed Our Children*. Lecture to take place at San Diego Natural History Museum at 6:30 PM. Pre-lecture reception at 6PM with local food artisans and community food groups. Advance registration is recommended; tickets are \$5 and can be [purchased here](#).

Workshop: Understanding School Lunch Policy

Saturday, February 20

Jill Richardson, author of *Recipe for America: Why Our Food System is Broken and What We Can Do To Fix It*, will teach a workshop from 10:30AM to 1:30PM explaining the ins and outs of school lunch policy, as well as the current school lunch debate based on Congressional hearings, & recent news. There will be time allotted to write letters to local Representatives and Senators to advocate for better school lunch policy. \$10 per person to cover materials. Meet at the corner of 6th & Quince (on the side near Balboa Park). Dress appropriately for the weather & bring a blanket to sit on if you'd like. Please RSVP to OrangeClouds115@gmail.com so Jill can contact you to make alternate (indoor) plans if it rains. More information [here](#).

Master Gardener Spring Seminar

Saturday, March 27

Strengthen your gardening skills at this educational event for home gardeners, taking place at the University of San Diego. Proceeds from the seminar are used to pay related expenses and to support Master Gardener public education activities.

<http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/spring/index.php>

Register now! **11th Annual “Gardening with Class!” - San Diego Regional School Garden & Nutrition Conference**

Saturday, April 24

Workshops on wellness policies, wildlife, worms, and more! Teachers may elect to tour the garden at Ocean Knoll School as one of their workshop options. Registration fee is \$50. Attendees receive a continental breakfast and lunch and generally walk away with armloads of educational resources and giveaways. Sponsored by the UC Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners of San Diego County, and Del Mar Fairgrounds. [Read on](#) for more information. Download the program and registration information at the [SD Master Gardeners](#) website.

Online Professional Development – NGA’s From Seed to Seed

From Seed to Seed is a professional development course presented online by the National Gardening Association for K-8 teachers who already incorporate botany and gardening (indoors or out) into their science curriculum and for teachers who would like to start doing so. In addition to the core botanical information, activities and experiments that address K-8 national standards in various disciplines are provided. The course content is divided into two parts: *From Seed to Seed* and *Exploring Plant Topics*. The first part follows the life cycle of a plant from seed to seed and lays the foundation for more complex and fascinating topics in plant biology in the second part. Cost is \$60. [Learn more](#)

Funding Resources

Seeds of Change Seed Donation Program

Seeds of Change shares seeds with organizations that promote education and sustainable living through organic gardening projects. Donation requests are accepted from January 1 to March 1 each year. The donation shipping season is from February until April, or until supplies run out. For an application, click [here](#).

Lowe’s Toolbox for Education

Due Date: Feb. 12, 2010 (or sooner, once 1,500 applications are received)

Nonprofit public schools for grades K through 12 may apply for grants that cover a variety of education projects. Suggested projects include turning an outdoor space into an inviting reading garden with benches, walkways, shady trees and flowers or planting a vegetable garden where history, social studies, math and science all come together in an active way. \$2,000 to \$5,000 per school. More info at [Lowe’s Toolbox for Education](#)

Celebrate Urban Birds Mini-Grant

Due Date: February 15, 2010

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is offering mini-grants of \$250 to \$500 to support the organization of community Celebrate Urban Birds events. Event participants spend 10 minutes watching birds in their neighborhood and report their observations online. This information helps scientists better understand how birds survive in cities and make use of green spaces. Connecting the arts, music, dance and gardening with birds and science is an important part of a successful Celebrate Urban Birds event. Organizers working in underserved communities are strongly encouraged to apply. [Learn more](#)

Mantis Awards

Due Date: March 1, 2010

Mantis sponsors this award program in support of charitable and educational garden programs that enhance the quality of life in their host communities. NGA will select 25 gardens to receive a Mantis Tiller/Cultivator. We welcome applications from all nonprofits; past winners include community gardens, schools, ministries, colleges, master gardening groups, and hospices. [Learn more here](#).

Next round of [Captain Planet Foundation](#) Grants due on March 31.

[Nature Hills Green America](#) Grant due April 1.

Would you like to volunteer 1 to 10 hours a week to help sustain school gardens throughout San Diego County? If so, please contact Diana Bergman at Diana.bergman@rcdsandiego.org or call (619)562-0096 x106 for more information.

If you have received this email as a forward and would like to sign up to receive these monthly announcements directly, or if you would like to remove your email address, please email diana.bergman@rcdsandiego.org. The San Diego Regional School Garden Resource Center is a program of the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County in partnership with the California Department of Education.