

BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS

MVHS Garden, Ghse & seed saving Tour – Neil Lash, Food Corp Service Member Genna Cherichello and students will lead you through the MVHS gardens, greenhouse, arboretum and seed saving facility.

Bees & Pollination are Essential to your Garden! The Bee Whisperer, Peter Cowin and Penobscot County Beekeeping Association Director, Caitlyn Barker

Albert Einstein is reputed to have said, “If bees should disappear from the face of the Earth, mankind would follow within four years.” 33% of everything we eat depends upon pollinators for its reproduction, without them, that food would disappear. The vast majority of pollination is carried out by honeybees. Pollinators of all kinds are in decline around the world. Pesticides and loss of forage are blamed for much of this decline. When planning a garden project consider the value of including rich and diverse pollinator feeds and better still establish a colony of pollinating honeybees in a small garden or observation hive.

Garden Structures - Eden House Hoop Houses – David Tidwell - Eden House LLC is a Maine based company dedicated to providing affordable greenhouses for northern growers and school gardening programs with a unique sturdy design that makes them strong enough to withstand our “unique” northern climate with minimal owner care. The majority of hoop houses require pipe to be pounded into the ground. In New England, the challenge is our famous rocky soil. Eden House has designed a floating base that requires no pounding of pipe or unnecessary digging. The design drastically simplifies setup and allows for greater portability. Each unit comes complete with framing for poly ends, vinyl door and aluminum shutters and includes installation on your pre-prepared site. David comes highly recommended by one of our Maine School Garden Network board members (she loves the one he installed at her school) and with all the questions we get each season about greenhouse structures, we are pleased that he can present the system he has designed and answer your questions.

Keeping School Gardens Healthy, Beautiful and Pest Free without Pesticides – Kathy Murray, Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Yes, bugs, weeds, and other garden ‘pests’ can be a challenge but they are also a wonderful opportunity to engage students in scientific problem-solving. With a little information, a bit of polyester row cover and some mulch your gardens can be healthy, beautiful and productive without harmful chemicals. Learn the tricks of the trade in this workshop. This program will focus on creating pollinator-friendly gardens, attracting natural enemies, recognizing and eliminating important pests, controlling weeds and plant diseases, and outsmarting Peter Rabbit and his pals.

GRANT WRITING Made Easy – Willie Grenier, MAITC Executive Director

Maine Ag in the Classroom has offered grants since 2009 for Ag Awareness, Ag Leadership and School Garden & Greenhouse. This year \$60,000 will be available for Maine Ag literacy initiatives. Grant writing is not as difficult as it seems. With a few basic techniques, you too can feel confident when writing grants for MAITC and many other funders.

Lessons to use with your garden program – Christine Gall This workshop will focus on how to incorporate your school garden as a space for hands-on learning with K-5 students. Explore how to connect gardening to multiple subject areas while fulfilling Maine Learning Standards in an outdoor setting. FoodCorps service Members Christine Gall, Laura Fralich, and Kyle Plummer will highlight lessons from Food, Land, People and other engaging curriculum resources.

Growing Mushrooms in Maine – Candice Heydon, Oyster Creek Mushroom Company will demonstrate the Shiitake growing kit Shiitake translates as 'Oak-mushroom' which it's optimum wood to grow on, but any hardwood will work. Shiitake Mushrooms are delicious and healthful mushrooms that grow wild throughout the Far East, found on decaying trees. Cultivation on oak logs has been practiced for centuries in Japan. The Japanese believe in eating 'Shiitake each day' much like Americans who believe in 'eating an apple a day'. Studies have shown that eating Shiitake lowers blood serum cholesterol in people. Shiitake is an excellent mushroom to add to your diet, and now you can grow your own in your school garden.

Online Garden Design – Ryan Martin, Islesboro Central School

Horticultural Science teacher Ryan Martin will discuss garden design within the context of the school garden program. This workshop will walk-through a powerful, cloud-based program that can be used (by students) to manage the garden's overall layout, crop rotation, and succession plantings. There will also be a peer-lead discussion of how this tool, and academic concepts like crop rotation, can be used in agricultural based curricula.

Permaculture for Schools - Rachel Lyn Rumson, Permaculture Designer and Educator with The Resilience Hub. Learn about Permaculture as a design method and set of techniques that schools and green teams can use to help knit together gardens, composting, orchards, renewable energy and many types of curriculum into more sustained and successful programs.

Cooking with Kids - Wondering what to do with produce from your garden? Looking for a way to better engage your students and encourage healthy eating habits? FoodCorps Service Members Nick Geer, Molly Sauvain, and Andrea Snow will be sharing their tips and tricks of cooking with kids in this hands-on workshop. Participants will create a few seasonal, easy, and affordable recipes that have been taste tested and kid approved by Maine students.

Experiential Learning in the Garden Classroom: This workshop will focus on how to incorporate your school garden as a space for hands-on learning with K-5 students. Explore how to connect gardening to multiple subject areas while fulfilling Maine Learning Standards in an outdoor setting. FoodCorps Service Members Christine Gall, Laura Fralich, and Kyle Plummer will highlight lessons from Food, Land, People and other engaging curriculum resources.