

May-June, 2018

MUCH TO DO ABOUT GARDENING WITH YOUTH

Dig, Plant and Grow these youth gardening resources – books, internet websites, models for youth gardens, crafts and grants. OH MY!

Children are born with curiosity, a sense of wonder and a hunger to learn. For us adults, children often become the garden teachers and show us how to learn through the senses.

- ❖ Smell the basil and thyme
- ❖ Touch the smooth tomato or prickly squash leaf. See the monarch butterflies.
- ❖ Taste the juicy tomato and green pepper
- ❖ Hear the bees buzz around lavender
- ❖ Feel the silky corn silk or lily pollen on their cheek.

Through children's magic in gardens with us, we pause and become less focused on weeds, bugs, harvests and perfection. They teach us the splendor of small things in our often, frantic lives. If we want a positive attitude, talk to a three year old as we walk through the gardens with the child full of curiosity with no prepared agenda. They teach us!

Internet Resources for Youth Gardening Programs:

ALLOW the youth to google these companies and learn how to write grant proposals, follow guidelines, HEED Deadline dates and more. Begin planning and writing NOW to meet deadlines for grant proposals.

- ❖ Check out these companies for grants: Schultz Fertilizer, Scotts, Bayer, Tree Top, Miracle Gro, Northrop King, Mantis (tillers), Jumba Juice, Ferry Morse Seeds, Burpee Seeds, Park Seeds, Harris Seeds, and Seeds of Change. The youth will learn about all the gardening-related companies, their products and if they are community partners by donations of seeds, plants, equipment, supplies and funds for youth gardening.
- ❖ Pollinators are "all the buzz" and resources abound for you to learn what plants, veggies, herbs, trees, and more attract the bees. Garden for the Bees! We all need them more than you realize.

- ❖ Resources for YOUTH to learn more and help.
- ❖ www.ahsgardening.org/gardening-resources/planting-for-pollinators.
- ❖ www.millionpollinatorsgardens.org
- ❖ Pollinator Partnership at pollinator.org works to help folks in United States and Canada to protect bees and other pollinators.
- ❖ Xerces Society at xerces.org is a non-profit working to protect bees and their habitats. See their book, "100 Plants to Feed the Bees," by Storey Communication, 2016.
- ❖ The Great Sunflower Project at greatsunflower.org to participate in bee research and see how you can help.
- ❖ The Bug Guide at bugguide.net provides help in identifying all types of bees and other insects.

I will attend the June 27-29 TGOA Convention in Fort Wayne. I would welcome questions about youth gardening resources.

Until next thyme, Sheila Hamilton-Taylor, Member of TGOA Youth Gardening Committee and AMG.

Contact me at: lavenderlady@comcast.net

