

“Young Sprouts in the Garden”
(A kids gardening event)
Saturday, May 31 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Updated 3.19.08

Possible partnering agencies: Springfield Parks Dept., Master Gardeners, Springfield Ad Club (for Ozarks Harvesting Hope). May approach ClearChannel and Springfield Parent & Family.

LOCATION:

Nathanael Greene Park

Contact: Ben Kellner, bkellner@springfield.mo.gov

Booking info for NG is Ellen Painter, 841-1051, epainter@springfield.mo.gov

TENTED AREA:

- Tents for All Events, Hoang, 476-5032 or 866-518-6900, 30x60, fits 12 8-foot gate-leg tables, \$475
- PRT Tents, Tasha, 30x40 \$365, 40x40 \$395, tables \$7 ea.

PURPOSE:

A community educational event to promote and encourage an interest in gardening for children ages 2 to 15. To also foster an appreciation and respect for how we relate to plants and our environment. To raise awareness about the Ozarks Harvesting Hope program. No admission fee.

POTENTIAL PARTICIPATING BOOTHS:

1. Master Gardeners & Greene County 4-H
2. Parks Department & Rutledge-Wilson Farm
3. Ozarks Harvesting Hope (Ozarks Food Harvest)
4. National Weather Service – information about growing seasons and weather
5. James River Basin Partnership – rain barrels, importance of clean water
6. Baker Creek Seeds
7. Discovery Center
8. Campbell’s Farm
9. (Bugs/Insects)
10. Show Me Yards & Neighborhoods
11. Nature Center
- 12.

Other: MSU Horticulture Club (Patrick Byers)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- James River Basin Partnership, 901 S. National, Monroe Hall, Springfield MO 65804, 836-8878 or 836-4847, melissabettes@missouristate.edu
- Master Gardeners,
- National Weather Service, Steve Runnels, steve.runnels@noaa.gov, 863-8028, 5805 W. Hwy EE, Spfd, 65802
- Discovery Center, Charlotte McCoy, cmccoy@discoverycenter.org, 862-9910 ext.713, 438 E. St. Louis, Spfd, 65806
- Greene County 4-H, Byron Morrison, 833 Boonville, Spfd, 65802, 862-9284, morrisonb@missouri.edu
- Casey Jo Kellner, Plant Protection Specialist, program on bugs
- Rutledge Wilson Farm, Amy Dooley, 837-5944

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES:

Each booth would have an interactive kid & garden related activity, or a garden related give-away. The child would have a punch card and present it at each booth. The representative would mark off their booth. After filling the 12 spaces, the child could exchange the card for a prize. Perhaps a t-shirt, garden gloves or something along those lines.

- Kids paint a rain barrel (JRBP)
- Tour of the demonstration gardens at Nat. Greene
- MG Coloring sheets (have artwork, just need to have printed)
- Library will provide gardening bookmarks
- Garden related craft projects
 - Plant a flower pot, get an annual flower to put in it
 - Basket and veggies, construction paper pattern
 - Butterfly headband
 - Origami fold-up sheet
- Good garden bugs (ladybugs, butterflies, caterpillars, etc.)
- Basics of life of a seed, plant a lima bean or pumpkin in a cup
 - Ask family-friendly restaurants to provide the plastic cups (Incredible Pizza, Andy's, etc.)
- Ask Veggie Tales from Silver Dollar City if they would like to attend
- Veggie or flower cut outs for kids to have their photo made (see their face through the hole)

HANDOUTS:

- Information about careers in gardening, horticulture (Park Rangers, Landscapers, etc.)
- Online or book resources for gardening with children

FOOD VENDORS:

- Ask for donation from McAlister's (tea and lemonade)
- Snack type food vendor

Notes: need availability to potable water

AMENITIES:

- Rent portable restroom with hand sanitation area

PROMOTION:

- Use media resources through Springfield Ad Club membership.
- Banner at NG entrance
- "Backpack" program through Spfd schools (have contact/approval information)
 - Rack card or postcard size
- Kids Directory calendar (due April 4)
- Online community calendars
- Springfield Parent/Family calendar
- Weather crawl on MediaCom
- Press releases
- Posters to garden or kid related centers/stores such as Wickman's, Children's Orchard, etc.
- Information to children's agencies or community programs

Register now for Little Sprouts, Garden Buds, Garden Kids, or Oaks and Acorns childhood programs. Explore the amazing world of nature at the Garden with your child. Little Sprouts and Garden Buds are 90-minute sessions for preschoolers that include a walk in the Garden or Shaw Nature Reserve, an activity, song or story, and a snack. Garden Kids is for ages six through eight. At Oaks and Acorns, make a botanical craft project with your grandchild. Fee. Limited class size. Advance registration required. Go to www.mobot.org; click on Education. To register, call (314) 577-9506 during weekday business hours.

Young Sprouts - Springtime in the Garden

Date: Thursdays, March 6 - April 3

Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

This five-session program provides a fun introduction to the natural world for children ages 3-5 and their parents. It will include storytelling, hands-on activities and rambles in the Garden (weather permitting).

Fee: \$55/child (Members \$45/child)

Registration Deadline: March 2

Sustaining Interest: Grades 3-5

Question: How do I get Grade 3-5 children interested in the garden beyond the seed-planting day?

Answer: This is an age of some independence. It is helpful if the garden is close to the classroom so that the more motivated students can easily check on the garden. Understanding what motivates the kids to work in the garden is very important at this age. For some, it is a way to "avoid schoolwork"; for others, it is a way to be outside more than they would otherwise be allowed. For others, it is an opportunity to explore, observe, and learn to ask interesting questions. Children of this age are very capable of planting but need to have clear visual clues as to where to stand and where the plants are. Having the children make labels for plants allows children to personalize the garden and "mark their territory." The more the students believe that their involvement makes a difference, the greater the likelihood of their sustained interest. Subdividing the garden into team areas or even personal "square feet" is one way to give individuals feelings

of being needed. They develop a personal nurturing relationship with the plants and take pride in their growth. It is best if each has more than one plant so that if a plant is killed with devotion, there are backups.

[\http://www.kidsgardening.com/](http://www.kidsgardening.com/)