

Librarians Venture Outside: Lifelong Learning through Gardens and ecoEXPLORE

NC Live Annual Conference, Monday, May 13, 2019

Description: Learn how librarians form partnerships with local and state organizations to support lifelong learning outdoors. Becky Schneider will discuss how her library supports gardening and gardeners through classes, a seed exchange, and a teaching garden. The library is able to do this work through partnerships with the Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation District, and area farms, businesses, and nonprofits. Libbie Dobbs-Alexander will discuss the N.C. Arboretum's ecoEXPLORE initiative, and how it is being used to support lifelong learning outside everywhere from Madison County Public Libraries - Library Journal's 2018 Best Small Library in America -- to the Greensboro Public Library. This panel will be facilitated by Noah Lenstra of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Speakers: Becky Schneider, Person County Public Library, bschneider@personcountync.gov
Libbie Dobbs-Alexander, North Carolina Arboretum, edobbs@ncarboretum.org
Noah Lenstra, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, lenstra@uncg.edu

Stay involved and connected at **LetsMoveLibraries.org!**

Additional Resources:

ecoEXPLORE – An initiative of the North Carolina Arboretum. See what libraries are already participating and get involved at <https://www.ecoexplore.net/>

N.C. State Extension – The cooperative extension system, including county agents, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists, frequently partner with libraries for nature-based programs. Find your local agent and get involved at <https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/>

North Carolina State Parks – a frequent partner of local public libraries for nature-based programs. <https://www.ncparks.gov/>

Children & Nature Network – A Minneapolis-based non-profit currently developing a template for Nature-Smart Libraries. Read more: Richard Louv, June 9, 2015, The Essential Role of Libraries in Creating Nature-Rich Communities. <https://bit.ly/2UHbZCU> and Saint Paul Public Library <https://sppl.org/nature-smart-library/>

ParkRX – A D.C. based non-profit with deep connections to Maryland – “In October 2013, the National Recreation and Parks Association, with support from the National Park Service, convened a group of practitioners to discuss the emerging trend of prescribing nature to improve mental and physical health.”

John Henderson, Executive Director, 202.549.8233, john@parkrxamerica.org, **very** interested in how public libraries can help support movement to get more people experiencing the health benefits of being in nature.

Association for Library Service to Children – Children’s Learning Garden (blog post highlighting library garden in Cleveland, Ohio, funded by ALSC) -

<https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2018/08/childrens-learning-garden/>

American Libraries Magazine – Out of the Branches, Into the Woods Libraries and state parks collaborate on backpacks for patrons.

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2018/01/02/hiking-backpacks-branches-woods/>

American Libraries Magazine – Walking History: Library-Led sightseeing tours bring local stories to life. <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2017/09/01/walking-history-library-sightseeing-tours/>

Kellogg-Hubbard Library – StoryWalk® – Official homepage of StoryWalk, a movement in “50 states and 12 countries,” with the majority in part sponsored by public libraries.

<https://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk>

CityLab - How StoryWalk Gets Kids Reading and Parents Moving – September 24, 2018, One of the best news articles on this international movement - <https://bit.ly/2Q0Z2Sq>

American Library Association Editions – Libraries and Gardens: Growing Together. New book published in 2019, written by Brooklyn Public Library’s Inclusive Services Librarian, Carrie Scott Banks, <https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/libraries-and-gardens-growing-together>

Seed Libraries – “Why So Many Public Libraries are Now Giving Out Seeds,”

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/public-seed-library>

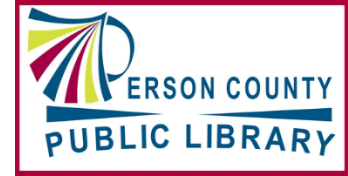
National Park Service – Public Libraries to Public Lands initiative -

<https://www.nps.gov/goga/mylibrary.htm>

Program initially developed with San Francisco Public Library. Lots of potential to collaborate!

San Francisco Public Library – Learn how and why this library made “active experiences in nature” one of the three pillars of its summer learning program, alongside “reading enjoyment” and “STEM learning” - sfpl.org/summerstride/

Sample Budget



Garden

Raised Beds: 4' x 4' x 2' (3) and 4' x 8' x 2' (2)

- 2" x 8" x 8' treated lumber (18), 4" x 4" x 8' treated lumber (7)
Donated by Lowe's Roxboro (total value for lumber about \$400)
- Garden soil – 8 cubic yards
\$350 from landscaping supply including delivery, no discount
- Fastenings
Donated by Person County Schools. Otherwise, 200 5/16 5.5" lag screws
- Landscaping fabric
Donated by Rolling Hills Garden Supply
- 1 truckload mulch (about 3 cubic yards)
\$150 including delivery, discounted price from Southern States Roxboro

Tools and Miscellaneous

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| • Transplants / seeds | Donated by local businesses & organizations |
| • Hoses | Already owned |
| • Watering nozzle | Donated by reference librarian (\$15 if purchased) |
| • Garden tools | Donated/lent by reference librarian (\$75 if purchased) |
| • Watering can | Donated by reference librarian |
| • Plastic bins for harvest | Donated by reference librarian |
| • Stakes and ties | Purchased (\$30) |
| • Rocks for garden labels | Purchased (\$10) |
| • Deer spray | Purchased (\$12) |

Seed Library

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| • Seeds & 1000 seed envelopes | \$100–\$140 / year |
| • Card Catalog Cabinet | \$220, purchased on Amazon |
| • 4" x 2" Labels | \$9.90 for 500 |

Partners



Bayer CropScience

Donated pollinator-friendly wildflower seeds

Beekeepers Association

Taught classes

Cooperative Extension

Taught classes and helped with planning

Friends of the Library

Donated funds

Garden Club

Donated funds

High school agriculture program

Provided volunteer labor and expertise to build and fill beds, donated transplants

Local history museum

Spearheaded seed library and helped with heirloom seed selection

Local organic farm / local businesses

Provided extensive input and donated transplants and supplies

Nonprofit serving disadvantaged youth

Taught classes, volunteered in garden, and helped with planning

Soil & Water Conservation District

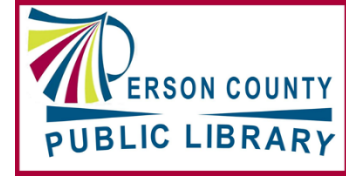
Taught classes and helped with planning

More ideas: 4-H, farmers market, historical society, Master Gardeners, Future Farmers of America, elementary/middle schools, colleges & universities with agriculture departments, county/municipal maintenance department, health department, parks & recreation department, botanical garden, nonprofit community garden, food banks, medical clinic, community health partnership/food council, environmental groups, urban beautification groups, Boy/Girl Scouts, faith organizations, homeschooling groups

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Resources



Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

www.carolinafarmstewards.org

Advocacy/membership organization for sustainable farming

Community Food Strategies

communityfoodstrategies.com

Network of North Carolina food councils

Farm to School Coalition of NC

farmtoschoolcoalitionnc.org

Organization for school gardens and farm partnerships

NC Cooperative Extension Publications

content.ces.ncsu.edu

Planting guides and more

NC Department of Agriculture: Agronomic Services

www.ncagr.gov/agronomi

Information about soil tests in North Carolina

North Carolina Community Garden Partners

www.nccgp.org

Directory and resources for community gardens

Seed Libraries

seedlibraries.net

Toolbox for running a seed library

Seed Savers Exchange: Gardening and Seed Saving Resources

www.seedsavers.org/learn

Features a great seed-saving chart

Southern Exposure

southernexposure.com

Good source of open-pollinated/heirloom seeds from Upper South

Webjunction: Growing Library Garden Programs

www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/growing-library-garden-programs.html

Extensive list of resources and articles related to library gardens and seed libraries