

Georgetown Students Experience Healthy Living with Experts

Several dozen fifth and sixth-grade students made the trip from Georgetown to visit the Sherwood Demonstration Garden and Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony Farm in Placerville for a day of unique healthy living lessons. At the Demonstration Garden, children learned about native plants, crushed grapes with their hands, and took interesting pictures to express themselves in a PhotoVoice project. The trip was facilitated by teacher, Annie Brown, and Monica Drazba of U.C. CalFresh. "It is great for them to gain this type of knowledge outdoors and with their hands. Students have been working on their photo projects and are using tablets to capture images of their ideas on healthy choices," explained Mrs. Brown.



Georgetown School students crush grapes with a Master Food Preserver at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden in Placerville.

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden was created in 2008 in a partnership between U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of El Dorado County and the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE). Their goal was to build and maintain a public, outdoor learning facility on property owned by EDCOE – project that would not only beautify a local area but would provide important educational and science-based horticultural programs to residents. This beautiful garden is located next to the Community Observatory at the El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College.



Master Gardener Native Plant station

Robin Stanley, Sherwood Demonstration Garden Publicity Coordinator, noted, we have been thrilled to have so many school groups touring the garden, some on a regular basis. Our tour guides get the kids hooked from the moment they enter the garden, with observations of critters large and small that live in the garden, and plants that the kids have never seen, such as succulents. Tours are tailored to the age of our visitors, but we believe that all kids leave the garden with a better understanding of their food, their backyards, and their environment."

Later that day at the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony, students learned about local culture and history, restoration and maintenance of natural resources, and sustainable agricultural practices. The spectacular 272-acre Placerville farm, at 941 Cold Springs Road, is a fascinating part of El Dorado County history. Listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places, the Wakamatsu Community Farm is a unique part of California's agricultural legacy.

Campaign and Communication Manager, Melissa Lobach, noted, “The American River Conservancy is looking forward to expanding educational programs at the Wakamatsu Community Farm. Learning opportunities on this historical working farm are practically endless. For more information about field trips and programs for learners at Wakamatsu, please contact wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org or 530-621-1224.”

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