

Welcome to...

Food for Thought!

an e-newsletter to promote agricultural, environmental, and garden-based learning enrichment for youth and families in El Dorado County.

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1. "Art in the Orchard" Saturday, September 20, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
at Rainbow Orchards, 2569 Larsen Drive, Camino; free admission --- enjoy a day of art and agriculture in beautiful Apple Hill! Local art and artists will be scattered among the apple trees with music, storytellers, dance, wine grape and tomato tastings, and family art activities for your enjoyment throughout the day. Local food, wine and beer will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the El Dorado Arts Council, Ag in the Classroom and Rainbow Orchards, in support of art and agriculture educational programs in El Dorado County.

2. School Garden Professional Development and Workshop Opportunities:

Funding Your School Garden Program Workshop – Mark you calendar!

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. FREE!

Hosted by the School Garden Network of El Dorado County at the El Dorado County Office of Education. The nuts (it is Fall!) and bolts (we're always building these programs, aren't we?) of organizing a Farmer's Market at your next school event, grant writing, community/parent group/site council sponsorships and donations --- come hear the "how-tos" from local experts! Watch for an email soon with additional details and registration information!

Life Lab Garden Classroom in Santa Cruz:

Life Lab's mission is to inspire learning and conservation by engaging students and educators in the natural world.

- Discovering the Garden in Early Childhood Education - August 22, 2008
- School Garden Bus Tour - September 26, 2008
- The Growing Classroom - October 2-3, 2008
- Plant It, Grow It, Eat It! - October 23, 2008
- Math and Science In the Garden - February 27, 2009
- The Growing Classroom - March 13-14, 2009
- Plant It, Grow It, Eat It! - March 27, 2009
- Discovering the Garden in Early Childhood Education - April 4, 2009

More information and registration available at: <http://www.lifelab.org>

UC Davis Children's Garden Program at University of California-Davis:

The UC Davis Children's Garden Program offers training for parents and educators to support school garden programs. All workshops include hands-on activities in the Ecological Garden at the UC Davis Student Farm.

- Creating and Sustaining Your School Garden: full-day workshop for school garden teams--Saturday, September 6th OR Saturday, October 25, 2008
- The Power of Perennials: half-day workshop (teams not required)-Saturday, October 4, 2008
- Where the Wild Things Are: Insects and Other Garden Critters: half-day workshop (teams not required) – Saturday, October 4, 2008

Information and registration at: <http://childrensgarden.ucdavis.edu/school-gardens>

3. Master Gardeners Offer Assistance for Youth Garden Programs

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners – El Dorado County offer a Youth Garden Consultant program. If you are interested in planning and starting a school garden, or maintaining an existing garden at your school, trained Master Gardeners are available to assist you. Contact the UCCE Master Gardeners at (530) 621-5512 or go to the Youth Garden Consultants web page at <http://ucanr.org/mgyouthgarden> to request assistance.

4. "Fruitful Classroom Exchanges" at KidsGarden.org

Now is a good time to find other classrooms to connect with in the school year to come. This National Gardening Association website is rife with requests to exchange stories, seeds, project ideas, and more --- go to:

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/School/searchform.asp>

5. Funding Opportunities

Flower Power – 50% profit selling flower bulbs and plants for fall planting! More info at www.flowerpowerfundraising.com

Grants

Disney Minnie Grants ~ Deadline: August 30, 2008

Youth Service America and Disney are pleased to launch a second round of Disney Minnie Grants to engage children and youth, ages 5-14 as community volunteers. The selected applications will receive \$500 to support their youth-led service projects.

Projects must take place October 15-November 15, 2008. www.ysa.org

Captain Planet Foundation ~ Deadline: September 30, 2008

Committed to supporting hands-on environmental projects for young people, the foundation provides grants from \$250 to \$2,500 to school and community groups.

<http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html>

2008 Hooked on Hydroponics Awards ~ Deadline: September 15, 2008

Classroom hydroponics offers eager students loads of opportunities to explore concepts across the curriculum, from biology to economics.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/hoh.asp>

Kids in Need Foundation ~ Deadline: September 30, 2008

Grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to K-12 teachers working to provide innovative learning opportunities to their students. <http://www.kidsinneed.net/grants/index.php>

Healthy Sprouts Awards ~ Deadline: October 15, 2008

These awards support school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>

2009 Youth Garden Grants ~ Deadline: November 1, 2008

(Black Oak Mine Unified School District was a 2008 recipient of this award!)

NGA is happy to announce that The Home Depot has returned to sponsor our Youth Garden Grants for 2009. For this cycle, NGA will award 125 grants.

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp> .

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Fund ~ Deadline: November 15

This nonprofit gives small grants to schools and other educational organizations committed to creating natural landscapes using native plants. <http://www.for-wild.org/sfecvr.html>

Mantis Awards ~ Deadline: March 1, 2009

Mantis sponsors this award program in support of charitable and educational garden programs that enhance the quality of life in their host communities. NGA will select 25 gardens to receive a Mantis Tiller/Cultivator. We welcome applications from all nonprofits; past winners include community gardens, schools, ministries, colleges, master gardening groups, and hospices. <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/mantis-criteria.asp>

Outdoor Classroom Grant Program ~ Deadline: Rolling

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper, and *National Geographic Explorer!* classroom magazine have partnered to create an outdoor classroom grant. The goal is to provide schools with additional resources to improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom.

<http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLoves/outdoor/index.html>

6. Agricultural, Environmental and School Garden Curriculum Resources:

- The activities identified in Chapter 3 of the *Gardens for Learning* guidebook from the California School Garden Network (CSGN) have been aligned to California state standards. Many of you may be familiar with this guidebook, which the School Garden Network of El Dorado County has utilized at our local school garden workshops. Download the alignment at: <http://www.cfaitc.org/gardensforlearning>.
- National Garden Association – check out the ideas in “Digging Deeper” in the Teacher’s Room at www.kidsgardening.org
- California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom www.cfaitc.org
- *Teach Beef* California Beef Council’s newsletter and curriculum resources at: <http://www.calbeef.org> (click on “Teachers and Kids” on the left)
- California School Garden Network at www.csgn.org
- Resource list for High School garden-based learning ideas at: http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu/Agriculture_and_Environmental_Literacy_-_School_Gardens

7. Farm to School Program

Camino School is planning to launch a “Farm to School” program this Fall to incorporate local produce into the school lunch program. Watch for more information soon on the “how-tos” for this exciting program!

Please pass this e-newsletter along to anyone that might be interest!
If you would like to be added or deleted from this e-newsletter list please contact Wendy West at University of California Cooperative Extension at wkwest@ucdavis.edu or call (530) 621-5533.