

Little Green Thumbs (LGT) Breakfast

Little Green Thumbs teachers are invited to join us for a breakfast of sharing of LittleGreen Thumbs program updates, news and resources, as well as an opportunity to ask questions and share challenges and success.

Little Green Sprouts (LGS) Breakfast

We invite teachers registered in our Little Green Sprouts program to join us for Saturday breakfast, as an opportunity to collect their materials and receive an introduction to facilitating the program.

Sharing Sessions

We invite you to learn from the real-life successes and challenges of garden-based educators in Saskatchewan. Teachers will share their lessons learned and experience with Community Connections, Tying the Garden to Curriculum or Inspiring Change through Gardening.

Friday February 3

1:30 Registration
2:00 Welcome from AITC
2:15 Breakout Session
3:15 Coffee break
3:30 Sharing Session 1
4:00 Breakout Session
5:00 Break
5:30 Supper
6:30 Bill Swan
8:00 Wrap up

Saturday February 4

8:00 LGT/LGS Breakfast
8:45 Non-LGT Registration
9:30 Wendy Haperlin
12:00 Sharing Session 2
12:30 Lunch
1:15 Vanessa Young
2:30 Coffee
2:45 Sharing Session 3
3:15 Breakout Session
4:30 Wrap

All meals included in conference registration.

School Gardening Conference

Explore Garden-Based Education



Keynote Presenters



Bill Swan

Groundswell Network Society
Friday February 3

Be inspired about what is possible in the world of garden-based education! Gardens are much more than food production: they are vibrant hubs, interconnecting opportunities for the enhancement of local social, economic and environmental learning. Bill was the Project Team Leader in the development of Groundswell's Community Greenhouse and served as Executive Director from 2011-2016.



Wendy Anderson-Haperlin

Project Curiosity
Saturday February 4

"Study the science of art. Study the art of science." Leonardo Da Vinci

Learn to draw plants because you can and your students will love it. Children's book illustrator Wendy Anderson Halperin will guide you through step by step drawing instructions and amaze yourself. All materials will be included, including 64 Crayola crayons and Wendy's recommended pencil for all children. We will explore botanical drawing and the science it shares,



Horticulture Therapy
Vanessa Young
University of Saskatchewan

Vanessa is a horticulturist, program coordinator, and instructor at the University of Saskatchewan. Working primarily in community outreach and professional development programming, including the Master Gardener and Prairie Horticulture Certificate programs, she can be found in her office, in the classroom, sometimes on the radio or out in the community. Never one to be bored, she's always got a project on the go. Recent projects have included editing several gardening books, working in hort therapy for corrections, and developing garden focused curriculum materials for a variety of organizations.

Breakout Session Presentations



Fostering Resiliency through Land Based Education
Dallas Pelly
University of Saskatchewan

In this session participants will learn about opportunities to engage in holistic learning about decolonizing food systems in the classroom and the community. Through the art of storytelling about his own "connection to the land", Dallas will illustrate the possibilities of land-based education. The presentation will be informative, invitational, interactive, and Indigenous!

Dallas Pelly is a Indigenous educator, community builder, and social innovator. His passion for gardening stemmed from his desire to find out where his food came from, which led him to start his own community garden. Dallas was involved in creating The Ask'y Project at CHEP Good Food Inc, and has had the position of Education Coordinator at the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Center Garden Patch.



Get Your Hands Dirty: Soil Science
Rick Block
Canada's Foodgrains Bank

Dig deeper into the soil ecosystem, the foundation of any healthy garden! Rick will inspire the use of your garden as a context for exploring earth and life science. Hands-on, engaging resources will be shared to help connect science to the garden through soil.

Rick was raised on a small farm near Waldheim, and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a BSc and MSc in Soil Science. He has worked as Prairies Program Manager for Heifer International and Program Director for Little Green Thumbs National.

Each session will include an activity resource or materials for takeaway.



Gardens as Nature: Integrating curricular outcomes
Janet McVittie
University of Saskatchewan

In this session, we will define gardens, nature, learning affordances, and provocations. Research regarding the role of gardens/nature in healthy living will be presented. The bulk of the time will be consideration of how to integrate learning of curricular outcomes as students create and interact with/in gardens.

Janet McVittie is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Foundations, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. She has a background in science curriculum, but her research focus is sustainability, which includes both social and ecological justice.



Connecting Kids to Agriculture
Sara Shymko
Agriculture in the Classroom

Sara will explore how you can connect kids to agriculture using garden-based education. She will share tried-and-tested, practical resources to engage students in the exploration of food and farming in Saskatchewan.

Sara is the Executive Director of Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan. Sara is a passionate leader who gets energized by new ideas and is a graduate from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics.



Plant it, Grow it, Eat it: Connecting Nutrition
Ray Fontaine
Agriculture in the Classroom

Nutrition is an essential building block for student success! For many educators, the garden seems to be a natural environment for nutrition education. As a former dietician and teacher, Ray will demonstrate practical resources that can be used to engage diverse learners.

Ray is the Program Manager of Little Green Thumbs National. Ray spent 7 years working as a Registered Dietitian before pursuing a MSc. in Childhood Education from Dr. Youville College and was fortunate to obtain first-hand experience teaching in classrooms in Saskatoon.



Building Relationships: School-Community Gardens
Gord Androsoff
CHEP Good Food Inc.

What about summer vacation for your garden? Sustainable gardens are those that forge relationships, inviting the community to participate. Gord will speak to the infrastructure required, as well as provide real-life success stories and challenges for school-community gardens.

Gord Androsoff is the Community Garden and Urban Agriculture Coordinator for CHEP Good Food Inc., as well as a Professional Agrologist. Gord has an extensive practical background in development, environmental restoration, citizen investment and neighbourhood renewal.