



# Introducing Youth to Careers in Horticulture

*Inspiring students about the rewards and diverse green-collar careers found in the art, science, technology and business of plants.*



A live, virtual presentation at the  
2020 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium  
Friday, July 10, 2020 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm EDT  
Register at: <https://bit.ly/NCYGS20>



## Panelists



### BRAD AUSTIN

Imaginative Florals, Owner, Special Event Florist, and Emmy Award Winning Designer, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico and Los Angeles, CA

For over 20 years Brad was a leading event florist in Beverly Hills. He has taught in Japan and Presented in China. Brad's floral designs can be seen in over 60 films and over 25 TV shows. His work on *The Young and Restless* and *The Bold and the Beautiful* contributed to win four Daytime Emmy Awards. Brads has designed gardens in the USA, Mexico, England, Spain, and Greece.



### COLBY BORCHETTA

The Center for Tree Science – The Morton Arboretum, Drone Pilot and Research Assistant, Lisle, IL

Colby is working to integrate sensors on drones and develop methods to study trees. Colby earned his bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from Florida State University in 2013. He is working on finishing his Ph.D in M.E from the University of Kentucky where his focus is in experimental fluid mechanics. Some of Colby's research interests include turbulence, atmospheric meteorology, aerospace, sensor development, and remote sensing.



### TANNER BURGENDORF

Groundwork Bridgeport, Project Lead – Youth Development Program, Bridgeport, CT

While earning his B.S. degree in Landscape Architecture, Tanner helped manage UConn's student run farm. Despite offers to work as a residential landscape designer, he knew he wanted to work in a setting where he felt he could give back in a way that had more meaning to him. He applies what he learned in college to the work he does by using it to inspire youth. Tanner works with youth who are invested in changing the perception of the city of Bridgeport. The educational model has evolved and adapted to changes over the course of his 5-years with the organization. When it is time to stop playing in the soil however he can often be found at your nearest second-hand shop looking for some piece of furniture to refinish and wood-burn.



**AURELIE de RUS JACQUET, Ph.D.**

Laval University, Ethnopharmacologist, Quebec City, QC, Canada

Aurelie is a postdoctoral scientist/research associate in ethnopharmacology and neuropharmacology, specializing in the study of Parkinson's disease. She focuses on the identification and collection of medicinal plants used in traditional medicine, and the development of collaborations with foreign governments and institutions. She studies Parkinson's disease in iPSC-derived dopaminergic neuron and astrocyte models; medium/high throughput screening of neuroprotective botanical extracts and small molecules; and immunocytochemical, biochemical, and genetic analysis.



**ABRA LEE**

Conquer the Soil, Horticulturist and Garden Clothing Brand Founder and Designer, Atlanta, GA

Abra is a horticultural storyteller, lover of hip-hop, and servant leader with an unwavering commitment to guide current and future generations of horticulture professionals. She is the founder and designer of a garden clothing brand, former landscape manager at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Grounds Superintendent at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport, and Municipal Arborist at the City of Atlanta. She is a Longwood Gardens Fellow.



**MEGHAN WEISBROCK**

Planted Podcast – Finding Your Roots in STEM Careers, Co-host, The Morton Arboretum, Manager of School and Camp Programs, Lisle, IL

Meghan works with students at all places in their journey into STEM. Managing onsite curriculum-based nature programs, she provides exposure to the natural world, builds affinity to protect it and can lead to advocacy towards protecting the environment and by planting and protecting of trees. She is co-host of the Planted: Finding Your Roots in STEM Careers Podcast. Prior to working at the Arboretum, Meghan taught 7th/8th grade science in Berwyn, IL.

**Moderator — SUSAN E. YODER, IOM**

Seed Your Future, Executive Director, Martinsville, IN

For most of her career, Susan has worked with organizations that focus on youth development and providing children, youth and families with opportunities to grow and thrive. She is passionate about the outdoors and the positive impact it can have on physical and emotional health. She is dedicated to finding more opportunities to move the traditional classroom outside, thus providing youth with the opportunity to learn about — and in — the natural world. An avid outdoorswoman and gardener, her personal motto is "Think Outside – No Box Required."



**SEED YOUR FUTURE®**

Resources from Seed Your Future: [www.SeedYourFuture.org](http://www.SeedYourFuture.org)

Horticulture Career Exploration Tool: <https://www.seedyourfuture.org/careers>

Where to Study (US and Canada): <https://www.seedyourfuture.org/where-to-study>

Horticulture Scholarships Search Tool: <https://www.seedyourfuture.org/scholarships>

Horticulture Internships Search Tool: <https://www.seedyourfuture.org/internships>

