

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 31st ANNUAL NCYGS



NCYGS 

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

JULY 12-15, 2023 • KNOXVILLE, TN
AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY



This year, the American Horticultural Society's National Children & Youth Garden Symposium examines how gardening both relies on and creates community. From July 12 to 15 in Knoxville, hundreds of educators from around the country will unite to explore ways that community support for youth gardening promotes cultural understanding and accessibility, physical and emotional health, and career and business development for the next generation

Our 2023 symposium offers 26 interactive learning sessions, from basic building blocks to advanced topics, addressing pre-K-12 learning. Personalized visits to the area's impressive and relevant gardens will offer opportunities to apply new concepts and connect with fellow youth garden educators from a diversity of communities. Come for the fun and learn skills, ideas, contacts, and resources to bring back to your own community!

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

	MORNING	EARLY AFTERNOON	LATE AFTERNOON	EVENING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12	Pre-symposium visit to Asheville: Biltmore Estate and North Carolina Arboretum <i>(Additional registration required, meals provided)</i>			Opening reception at Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum
THURSDAY, JULY 13	Breakfast - Welcome & Opening Keynote: Chris Battle - Session Block A	Lunch with presentation of Jane L. Taylor Award and Growing Good Kids Book Awards - Session Block B	Reception at University of Tennessee Gardens, Knoxville	Open evening to socialize with colleagues
FRIDAY, JULY 14	Breakfast - Field experiences	Lunch - Session Block C	Networking and Affinity Groups	Reception at private estate <i>(For all attendees)</i>
SATURDAY, JULY 15	Session Block D - Closing Keynote: Michael Craig	Closing lunch - Post-symposium volunteer opportunity at BattleField Farms <i>(Additional fee and registration required)</i>		

MOBILE WEBSITE & MESSAGING



You can scan or text to access the mobile-friendly version of the Symposium schedule! Either text **AHS** to **56512** or **scan this QR code** with your phone's camera to access the full Symposium information. The mobile website offers a mobile-friendly version of the NCYGS 2023 schedule as well as important timely updates from the event organizer throughout the Symposium.



WIFI ACCESS

The UT Student Union offers **free and open wifi** access, with no special configuration required.

GET SOCIAL

Tag your posts with **#NCYGS2023** on social media to follow along and share your favorite symposium moments!



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Chris Battle

Cultivating Community through Gardening

Chris Battle, Knoxville community leader Pastor, will share about his journey to create BattleField Farms & Gardens, which, with its city-wide network, addresses food justice issues and provides hundreds of underserved households with garden-grown produce. His project is an inspiring example of how gardening can cultivate community at both small and large scales. Battle will offer guidance for how attendees can identify needs in their own communities and organize to address those needs through gardening. Chris Battle is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, whose life trajectory changed when he began a community garden across the street from Tabernacle Baptist Church where he served as pastor. With that garden, he started understanding the effect of food disparity in his community. In addition to starting a farmers' market at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Battle works with other churches seeking to establish gardens on their grounds and has recently begun utilizing a food truck to distribute fresh excess product to underserved communities. Pastor Battle has served as the Co-President of Justice Knox, and as a representative of Creation Care to the national organization on how environmental issues affect our community lives. He presently is the Lead Pastor of the Harvest Fellowship and he and his wife, Tomma, are the parents of 19 children.



Michael Craig

Inspiring and Nurturing Future Gardeners

Michael Craig, Special Education Teacher and Horticulture Program Director, winner of the AHS Jane L. Taylor Award, will share the innovative techniques designed to accommodate students with disabilities. Using differentiated methods and adaptive equipment carefully chosen for the students, these techniques are specialized to provide each student the opportunity to participate and gain valuable vocational horticulture skills leading to possible employment. Winner of the 2021 Grand Prize National Magna Award, this comprehensive program showcases the transition process through hands-on experiences producing food products for fine dining establishments in Detroit, retail outlets, food pantry donations and sale at our nation's largest and oldest food hub, Eastern Market. He will highlight the techniques and plans for creating what is the nation's largest Farm to School/Table program, including the development of corporate and educational partners to aid and maintain the program's viability and sustainability, obtaining grant funds, and staff/community involvement. Craig is a special education teacher and horticulture program instructor at the Charles R. Drew Transition Center in the Detroit Public School Community District in Michigan, where he runs and supervises the Gardens at Drew.

HIGHLIGHTS



GROWING GOOD KIDS BOOK AWARD

The recipients of the 2023 "Growing Good Kids — Excellence in Children's Literature" awards will be announced Thursday during lunch. Presented jointly by the National Junior Master Gardener Program and the American Horticultural Society, these awards recognize engaging and inspiring works of plant-, garden-, and ecology-themed children's literature. The Growing Good Kids — Excellence in Children's Literature awards are presented annually to qualifying titles published in the previous year.



JANE L. TAYLOR AWARD RECIPIENT: MICHAEL CRAIG

The American Horticultural Society's Jane L. Taylor Award recognizes an individual, organization, or program that has inspired and nurtured future horticulturalists through efforts in children's and youth gardening. This year, AHS is proud to honor Michael Craig with the Jane L. Taylor Award, part of the AHS's annual Great American Gardener Awards. A special education teacher and horticulture program instructor at the Charles R. Drew Transition Center in the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) in Michigan, Michael runs and supervises the Gardens at Drew that have become a national model of excellence for its interactive teaching methods and community outreach programs. In addition, he leads the Science/Food Nutrition/School Horticulture curriculum to support school garden programs and gardening curricula at 82 DPSCD elementary and middle schools. Michael Craig is the closing keynote speaker for this year's NCYGS.

University of Tennessee Student Union

The 2023 Symposium Sessions will be held in partnership with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, at the University of Tennessee's beautiful Student Union. Throughout the 2023 Symposium, the Student Union will provide ample space for learning, socializing, and networking, as well as plenty of natural light and common spaces. Located at the heart of the UT Knoxville campus and only a short distance from the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the newly renovated Student Union serves as the 2023 Symposium headquarters.



PRE- & POST- SYMPOSIUM OPPORTUNITIES

Transportation is provided to and from all Symposium opportunities and field trips for all attendees.

PRE-SYMPOSIUM TOUR

Asheville, North Carolina Wednesday, July 12, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Additional fee required which includes bus transportation, lunch, and tour fees.

Boxed breakfast to be provided for attendees at 6:30 a.m.

Join us on an exciting excursion to nearby Asheville, North Carolina! Participants will have a private morning tour of the Biltmore Estate gardens with the director of horticulture. The Biltmore Estate, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and spanning 8,000 acres is considered America's first managed forest. In the afternoon we will explore The North Carolina Arboretum, a 434-acre public garden situated in the Southern Appalachian Mountains that offers extensive cultivated landscapes featuring the region's diverse plants. This full-day trip departs from Knoxville at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m.

POST-SYMPOSIUM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

BattleField Farm & Gardens Saturday, July 15, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Additional fee required which includes bus transportation and volunteer materials.

Join us for an afternoon volunteer opportunity at BattleField Farms & Gardens. Battlefield Farms is an urban farm founded by Opening Keynote speaker Chris Battle, with the mission of transforming the community's relationship to land and food in East Knoxville's underserved communities. The Farm is working to end food insecurity by partnering with community members to make fresh food accessible and to cultivate land-based sovereignty through education, workforce development, and direct relationships to land. This trip departs the UT Student Union at 2:00 p.m. and returns at 4:00 p.m.



RECEPTIONS WITH TOURS

Included in full symposium registration and in registration for respective days.

Transportation is provided to and from all receptions and field trips for all attendees.

Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum

Wednesday, July 12, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Wednesday evening reception will take place at Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum in the spectacular, American Architecture Award-winning Dogwood Center. The Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum is located on 47 acres of former Howell Nurseries and features walking trails, display gardens, unique & historic horticulture, and over two miles of distinctive stone walls and timeless buildings.

University of Tennessee Gardens, Knoxville

Thursday, July 13, 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The Thursday afternoon reception will take place at University of Tennessee Knoxville Gardens. This flagship location of the UT Gardens functions as an outdoor laboratory, teaching and research facility, and public garden. The UT Gardens cultivates thousands of plants and is recognized as an official All America Selections test site for evaluating new plants for the ornamental market. Garden staff and volunteers will lead tours for attendees. The reception will also feature remarks by UTIA's senior leadership on their mission to provide Real.Life.Solutions.™ to many of society's most pressing issues.

Private Knoxville Estate

Friday, July 14, 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The Friday evening reception will take place at a beautiful private estate in Knoxville that features gorgeous greenspaces and gardens, in addition to a greenhouse. Many thanks to the generosity of the host!



FIELD EXPERIENCES

Friday, July 14, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*Select one of the following tours to get a closer look at garden spaces around Knoxville, Tennessee.
Included in full symposium and Friday registration, transportation provided to and from for all attendees*

Community Farm

This tour will visit CAC Beardsley Community Farm, which provides culturally relevant produce, accessible education, and land and resources for gardening. Beardsley manages 30 community garden sites, grows 10,000 pounds of produce each year, coordinates a food pantry, offers services for refugees and seniors, and holds gardening classes for youth. The tour will additionally visit two of the South Knoxville school farms that Beardsley manages: Dogwood Elementary School and South Knoxville Elementary School.

School Gardens

This tour will visit the Episcopal School of Knoxville and Hardin Valley Academy Elementary School in the far western reaches of Knoxville. The Episcopal School, which highlights outdoor engagement in its curriculum, demonstrates the range of school garden biodiversity possibilities, from tree scanning to rain collection to animal and pollinator monitoring. Hardin Valley Academy, which is maintained in collaboration with master gardeners, explores different approaches to garden design (such as emphasizing accessibility, colors, and the senses), as well as to the science of composting and plant life cycles.

Urban Parks

This tour will visit the Ijams Nature Center and Lakeshore Park along the Tennessee River. Ijams Nature Center encourages stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. It showcases over 300 acres of conserved land and counts among its uses a nature preschool and a playscape restoration. Lakeshore Park is a 185-acre general recreation public park that is enjoyed by a million visitors every year. It features an accessible woodland play area, a demonstration vegetable garden, wildflower plantings, and beautiful views of the Smoky Mountains.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY JULY 12, 2023

- 6:30 a.m. - 7:15 a.m.** Check-in and onsite registration for pre-symposium tour
- 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Pre-symposium tour: Asheville, North Carolina
(Breakfast and lunch provided, additional registration required)
- 5:45 p.m.** Bus departs from Crowne Plaza Hotel
- 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Opening reception, Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum

THURSDAY JULY 13, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.** Breakfast, check-in and onsite registration
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.** Welcome and Opening Keynote: Chris Battle
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Session Block A
(Sessions run concurrently, thirty-person capacity per session)

SESSION BLOCK A		
TITLE	PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
Vocational Horticulture and Transition with Exceptional Students: Drew Horticulture Program	Michael Craig	Ballroom
Celebrating Culture in the Garden	Noel Nicholas	262A
Bringing the Farm to School: Connecting Communities Through Gardens	Julie Brewer	262B
Universal Learning in Gardens and Natural Spaces	Liana Yirka	262C
Planting Ideas...Harvesting Success!	Chris Fleming	270
Teaching Communication and Interpersonal Skills through Youth Horticulture Programming	Anna Duncan	362A
Sparkling Curiosity with Plant Heroes	Jeanette Henderson, Tyler Hale	362B
Engaging Learners through Theme Gardens	Mary Hellen Butler, Gina Harris	362C

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY JULY 13, 2023 (cont.)

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch during the presentation of Jane L. Taylor Award and Growing Good Kids Book Awards

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Session Block B
(Sessions run concurrently, thirty-person capacity per session)

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Reception at University of Tennessee Gardens, Knoxville
(Transportation provided)

SESSION BLOCK B		
TITLE	PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
Ecology of Practices: Resourcing our Learning Communities in Regenerative Futures	Mallory Craig, Georgia Faulkner, Rosa Karim	262A
From A(rborist) to Z(oo Horticulturalist): Horticulture Career Exploration Summer Camp	Kathleen Salisbury	262C
Anti-Racism and Garden-Based Learning	Scott Morrison, Dani Toma-Harrold	270
How I Quit Panicking and Learned to Love Grant Writing	Kelly Sauskojus	362A
Fun with Food in the Classroom (and Beyond!)	Maryl Burke, Sarah Heizenroth, Amber Ford	362B
Social Emotional Learning in the Garden	Amy Bowman, Doug Vernon	362C

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 14

- 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast, check-in and registration
- 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Field experiences (*Transportation provided*)
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch at UT Student Union
- 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.** Session Block C
(*Sessions run concurrently, thirty-person capacity per session*)
- 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.** Networking and Affinity Groups
- 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Reception at Knoxville private estate (*Transportation provided*)

SESSION BLOCK C		
TITLE	PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
Grow Thriving Gardens and Kids: Learn, Grow, Eat, & GO!	Randy Seagraves	262A
Growing a Youth Agricultural Economy	Jenny Totten, Meredith Miller, Karrina Finley	262B
Grant Funding for Youth Garden Programs: Advice from National Grantmakers	Sarah Lane, Stephanie Porto, Laura Thompson, Liz Morris	262C
Gardens as Therapeutic Learning Spaces	Stacey Shriner	270
Sticks and Stones Will Teach You Math!	Deborah LaBelle, Eduardo Recinos, Scott Morrison	362A
A Creative Spin on Botany and Horticulture Assignments in School	Cecilia Campbell	362B
Culturally Responsive School Gardens and Self Determination: Theory and Practice	Moses Thompson	362C

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, JULY 15

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Breakfast, check-in and registration

9:45 a.m. -10:45 a.m. Session Block D

(Sessions run concurrently, thirty-person capacity per session)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Closing Keynote: Michael Craig

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Closing lunch

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Post-symposium volunteering: BattleField Farms *(Transportation provided)*

SESSION BLOCK D		
TITLE	PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
It Takes a Village: Tapping into Your Local Gardening Community	Pam Hosimer	262A
Introducing Young children to Gardening Without a Garden	Jane Hirschi	262B
Gardening with Children with All Abilities	Julia Hudak-Salvat	262C
Master Gardener TK-8 Curriculum Aligned to Next Generation Science Standards	Kim Coon-Leonard	270
Farmpreneurs: Cultivating the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs with School Gardens	Christy Carlson, Diana Marutyan	362B

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