

The Columbus Green Patch

The Conservatory's Growing to Green newsletter | [VIEW IN BROWSER](#)



A note from the Growing To Green Coordinator

Happy May!

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, our community gardens are beginning to come alive with vibrant colors and fresh growth. It's a powerful reminder that even in the midst of uncertain times, nature continues to flourish, and provide us with beauty and sustenance.

In our gardens, we see opportunities of what is possible when we come together with a common goal. Each plant, flower, and vegetable represents the collective efforts of our dedicated volunteers who come together to nurture and care for our shared space.

But our gardens are more than just a place to grow food and flowers. It is a reflection of the strength and resilience of our community. In the face of challenges, we have banded together to create something beautiful and meaningful that benefits us all.

As we continue to tend to our gardens in the coming months, let us remember the power of collaboration and the importance of working towards a common vision. Just as each plant in our garden relies on the support of its neighbors to thrive, so too do we rely on each other for support and strength.

Let's continue to cultivate not only our gardens, but also our community, with love, compassion, and a shared commitment to growth and sustainability. Together, we can create a more beautiful and bountiful future for all.

Sean M. McKay

Meet a Team Member

THIS IS CINDY, COMMUNITY EDUCATION MANAGER

I'm so excited to be a part of this hardworking team. As the Community Education Manager, I oversee the Growing to Green program, as well as Teen Corps, Adult, Culinary, and Outreach programs. I began my career here as a Horticulturist in 2002, then moved on to The Ohio State University to manage academic greenhouses, and have spent the last 15 years at Inniswood Metro Gardens as the Senior Environmental Educator. I grew up on a large-scale grain and swine farm in Northwest Ohio and visit there often. I spend most of my free time outside with my husband and two sons.





Growing to Green Educational Opportunities

GROWING TO GREEN PLANT/SEED SWAP (DURING THE CONSERVATORY'S COMMUNITY DAY)

Welcome the growing season at our community garden plant and seed swap event! Share plants, seeds, and gardening tips with fellow enthusiasts. No need to bring anything, just come ready to learn and exchange.

May 5, 1–3pm

**Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus
at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**

[LEARN MORE](#)



The Growing to Green Communal Garden Series

FROM SPORES TO SUPPER

Instructor: Te'Lario Watkins II

Te'Lario's Intro to the World of Mushrooms. Come explore the fascinating life cycle of mushrooms with TeLario Watkins! Participants will have the opportunity to observe a mushroom kit demonstration and learn about the cultivation process, while also learning about the nutritional benefits of mushrooms. Join us for a mushroom adventure that combines science, nature and delicious discoveries.

May 28, 6–7:30pm

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

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Other Educational Opportunities



Bexley Love Your Alley Festival

May 11, 1–3pm

The Bexley Pool Parking Lot

Swing by for free native plants from Natives in Harmony. Local artists will sell their artwork and the Garden District will offer crafts.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Art as Method- Art as a tool for storytelling in the Food System

May 16, 9:30–11:30am

Virtual Meeting

Please join the In-Between session led by Dr. Niesha Douglas and community partner Santos Flores.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Sow the Seeds

May 18, 12–3 pm

Growing and Growth Collective

3-in-1 program benefitting The Growing and Growth Collective: Celebrate in community.

Walk & serve. Donate.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Gardening For Conservation

May 22, 12–3 pm

Webinar Series

Ticks and the diseases they transmit have been steadily increasing for the past ten years. Learn the state of ticks and tick-borne disease for 2024.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Youth Educational Programming



WE GROW SCIENTISTS!

COSI Community Event

Greater Cincinnati Regional Green Schoolyards Summit



**JUNE 5,
2024
CINCINNATI,
OHIO**

We Grow Scientists! COSI Community Event

May 1, 3–7pm

Waterman Farms

This day of hands-on activities will showcase the many STEM fields CFAES has to offer, including a look at the Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex. This free event is a part of the COSI Science Festival.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Green Schoolyards Summit

June 5, 2024

**5641 Belmont Ave, Cincinnati, Oh
45224**

Green Schoolyards initiative focused on providing equitable access to outdoor learning and environmental educational resources for all students and staff members.

REGISTER BY MAY 20th.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Applied STEM and Sustainability Kids Workshop Series

May 1, 3–7pm

Waterman Farms

Mezzacello Urban Farm

We are also launching our summer camps. 9 camps this year in biotech, bioengineering, biomechanics, biochemistry, and quantum effects in nature. We also have a fundraiser on May 11, at 4pm.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Community Garden Mapping Initiative

Fill out this link for all of your garden spaces to be added to our map? The garden can be marked as private so the general public will not see it, administrators will be able to share resources and upcoming events with these spaces. It only takes 2-3 minutes to fill out.

All participants will be entered in to win a **FREE** family membership to Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Volunteer Opportunities

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities within the community? Growing to Green's Community Connections program is for anyone interested in volunteering within community garden spaces throughout Central Ohio.

Experienced Growing to Green staff will be on-site with expertise and guidance. No garden experience is needed. This is a great opportunity to give back to your community and learn about all of the cool and impactful gardens in our neighborhoods. Volunteers must sign up individually.

Would you like Community Connections to volunteer at your community garden?

Contact Lauren Preston at lpreston@fpconservatory.org

Sign Up to Volunteer at one of these Gardens

Peace & Plenty Community Garden: MAY 4, 1–3PM

AccessABLE Community Garden: MAY 8, 10am–1PM

LSS Community Garden: MAY 13, 9–11AM

South Bexley Community Garden: MAY 31, 9–11AM



Join the Conservatory Community Garden

PLOT HOLDER WAITLIST

Are you interested in joining the Franklin Park Conservatory Community Garden? Sign up here to be on the waitlist.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Need Seeds for Your Garden?

FREE SEEDS

Contact Lauren Preston at lp Preston@fpconservatory.org to schedule a time to look through our seed collection.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Community Garden Resources



Watch this video to learn more about Zoo Brew.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Price Organics Farm

FREE ZOO BREW COMPOST

Through grant funds obtained from the USDA-NRCS Compost & Food Waste Reduction Program, Price Farms Organics, in conjunction with the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is able to provide compost to Non-Profits, Urban, School, and Community Gardens at no cost to the receiving organizations.

Lots of Compassion Grant

Together, Mrs. Meyers Clean Day and KidsGardening designed the Lots of Compassion Grant program to support local leaders looking to transform vacant lots into gardens to help grow compassion in their community. In 2024, 10 grantees will receive \$20,000 each to transform a vacant lot into a garden. A total of \$200,000 will be awarded annually.

LOTS
OF
COM
PASS
ion

[JOIN THE GREATER COLUMBUS GROWING COALITION](#)

Join the GCGC a grassroots organization that supports community and backyard gardeners in Franklin County and beyond. Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month.

COMMUNITY BACKYARDS \$50 REBATE PROGRAM

Tues, May 7, 6–7:30pm

3507 Sunny Glen Pl, Columbus OH 43224

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

KC “The Mothman” will be there with live caterpillars and moths to view!

Plant Sales

37TH ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE & AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

May 9–11

Northwest corner of Lane Avenue and Fred Taylor Drive

Spring into greenery at Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens! Join us for our annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser and dive into a lush world of botanical delights. With over 16,000 fresh, exotic, and time-tested edible and ornamental plants, there's something for every green thumb!

[LEARN MORE](#)

31ST GARDENS AT GANTZ HERB & PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

May 11, 8:30am–2:30pm

2255 Home Road Grove City, OH

Celebrate the 31st annual Gardens at Gantz Herb and Perennial Plant Sale. Browse and shop for a wide variety of plants, vegetables and more. Culinary and landscape herbs, Native perennials, & Rain-garden plants.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NATIVE PLANT SALE FOR MOTHS & CATERPILLARS

Urban Farm Church event, Sweet Fire Nursery,

Sunbury Urban Farm & Sunny Glen Garden

May 18, 1pm–5pm

3507 Sunny Glen Pl, Columbus, OH 43224

Did you know we have over 3400 moths in Ohio!? We hope to encourage you to grow the native plants they need so you can get to know them. KC the Mothman will be there with his live caterpillars, moths, and butterflies and we

will have a couple of vendors as we support these essential creatures.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Franklin Park Conservatory
and Botanical Gardens

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