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March 17: Growing A Green Generation Children's Gardening Conference

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February 20, 2007

DURHAM, N.H. -- Early childhood educators, teachers, parents, and others who work with young children will gather for the third annual Growing a Green Generation conference on gardening with children Saturday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the nationally acclaimed Child Study and Development Center (CSDC) on the University of New Hampshire campus in Durham.

Packed with hands-on workshops led by early childhood teachers and plant science educators, the conference will offer tips for stimulating young children to learn and grow through year-round gardening experiences. The intimate and interactive conference is an outgrowth of the nine-year collaboration at UNH and the resulting Growing a Green Generation curriculum supported through the Anna and Raymond Tuttle Environmental Horticulture Fund.

New Hampshire landscaper and permaculture expert Lauren Rowell-Chase will be the keynote speaker and will share her experiences in using permaculture methods in gardening with children. She will also address connecting children to the outdoor environment.

Participants will learn from the experts during hands-on sessions in the UNH Horticulture Research Greenhouses during the morning: UNH cooperative extension educator Margaret Hagen will explain the use of charts and tables from the Growing a Green Generation curriculum, extension program coordinator Dot Perkins will focus on integrative pest management, and Rowell-Chase will engage participants in the actual process of permaculture methods.

Afternoon workshops by CSDC early childhood teachers Diane Bertrand, Sarah Leonard, Beth Hallett and extension educators include Gardening in an Urban Environment; Gardening with Infants and Toddlers and Creating a Community Garden.

Registration fee is \$75 before March 1 and \$85 after March 1. Fee includes breakfast, lunch, all morning sessions and two of the afternoon workshops. To register or learn more about the conference, download a brochure at <http://horticulture.unh.edu/ggg.html>, or call 603-862-3200. For more information on the Child Study and Development Center at UNH, go to <http://csdc.unh.edu>.

Photos are available to download here:

<http://www.unh.edu/news/img/ToddsSept18th071.jpg>

<http://www.unh.edu/news/img/ToddsSept18th085.jpg>