



News from the Delta Garden Study

Addressing Childhood Obesity in the Central and Delta Regions of Arkansas

Headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas

July 2010



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Mabelvale Garden Progress

The initial garden planting is complete and ready for kids! Chris and crew have now started on the



Delta Garden Study Staff Visit California Gardens

Dr. Weber, Chris, Rachel, and Emily recently went on a whirlwind tour of a few of California's amazing educational gardens and attended the American Horticultural Society's 2010 National Children and Youth Garden Symposium in Pasadena. The top picture was taken at the [Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems](#) at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The other photos provide a glimpse of the gardens and many people who met with us and shared their experience and wisdom: Marsha at [Edible Schoolyard](#), Lauren Anderson at [Produce to the People](#) and the [Free Farm](#), Audrey at [Urban Sprouts](#), Anna and Meghan at [Full Circle Farm](#), Stew and Beth at [Life Lab](#), and Jim at [Camp Joy](#). Many thanks to each of them! Between their expertise and the wealth of information we learned at the Symposium, this experience will serve to strengthen our gardens and curriculum, as well as guide us towards ensuring their sustainability.



School Starts August 19th!

We are gearing up to launch the program in mid-September and we'd like to welcome Mabelvale's new Principal, Rhonda Hall. She is very supportive of the program and we look forward to working closely with her this year! In order for students to participate in the study parents must provide their consent, so during the Little Rock School District's Returning Students Registration Days on August

greenhouse. [Growing Power](#)-inspired raised beds are being built and fall propagation begins next week. Many thanks to Kyle, our summer intern, for watching over the garden while Chris was away and to Ben and Ryan for their construction and garden expertise, as well as to our great [WRI](#) volunteers! The garden is full of eggplant and peppers and gorgeous summer zinnias and sunflowers. [Progress pics](#) are updated weekly on our website and the whole process can be seen from the beginning in the [archives](#)!



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4-5 we'll be meeting parents and students to discuss the study and establish our first connection with them. Training for data collection staff starts the last week of August and baseline measurements begin in early September. The curriculum for the first nine weeks is completed and will begin after baseline measurements are taken. Everything is rolling and we couldn't be more excited to see it all unfold!



DGS Partnering with Clinton School Practicum Team

The Delta Garden Study is pleased to announce that we will be working with a group of students from the [Clinton School of Public Service](#) for the 2010-2011 school year. In the first year of their Master of Public Service program, Clinton School students participate in a team field service project. Four students will be working with the DGS staff and

Mabelvale to design a resource manual that will assist the garden schools in creating a plan for sustainability following the funded research year. This will include everything ranging from financial and infrastructure sustainability to building and sustaining social capacity. The Clinton school students will be working with us from mid-September 2010 through mid-March 2011.



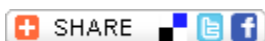
Applications Being Accepted for Research Associate Position

The Delta Garden Study team is accepting applications for a Research Associate with experience in data collection. Responsibilities of this position include coordination of all field data collection activities and corresponding protocol development. More details can be found on the [DGS website](#) and an application can be completed online through [UAMS](#). The job number is #50010256 and the title is Research Associate - PEDS CARE. Applications are being accepted now through August 23rd and a September 1 start date is anticipated.

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