



# News from the Delta Garden Study

*Addressing Childhood Obesity in the Central and Delta Regions of Arkansas*

*Headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas*

**June 2010**



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## First Teacher Training at Mabelvale June 9th, 2010

The Delta Garden Study held its first teacher training on June 9th. Mabelvale science teachers and administration, as well as the Mabelvale Garden Club Co-

Sponsors gathered together to spend the day learning and reflecting on Delta Garden Study lesson plans and the overall outline for the 2010-2011 academic year. They hunted worms, learned proper technique for working with garden tools, and incorporated science frameworks that focus on soil erosion and the water cycle into the construction of a rainwater harvesting structure. All in all it was a very successful day that had everyone laughing, sweating and shouting out creative ideas for engaging kids in gardening!

## Mabelvale Garden Progress

The garden at Mabelvale is looking beautiful! Chris has been working super hard to get it into shape before the students come back to school in the fall. He has a great summer crop of tomatoes, eggplant and peppers in the ground. Zinnias should be blooming soon and green beans, okra, and summer squash will be planted for late summer harvesting.

While part of the garden is being planted this summer to provide inspiration and garden-fresh produce for the students to see when they return to school, the other half will be waiting for them to create their own garden throughout the academic year. Check out the website for [progress pics](#) of the Mabelvale Garden!



## Quick Links

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## Many thanks to our Mabelvale Garden Interns and Volunteers!

Chris has received a great boost in the garden from two new garden interns and lots of garden volunteers. On June 15th, Ashley Robinson, Amber Kaufman, Kate E. Pitts, Wayne Hartlerode, Megan McCaghey, Rosemary Richter, and Heather Kowalewski, AmeriCorps volunteers from Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, spent the morning working on trellising tomatoes, preparing beds for new plantings, and digging trenches to protect beds from encroaching bermuda. Zach Steiber and Ben Frazier, two AmeriCorps volunteers from HEAL AR (Home Energy Affordability Loan, through the Clinton Climate Initiative-Arkansas) also came out on June 18th to help turn in the buckwheat cover crop. In addition, Kyle Svilar, a University of Central Arkansas student and Shana Ricks, a University of Arkansas at Fayetteville horticulture student, are working with Chris in the garden this summer. Many thanks for all of their hard work in this heat!! Academic credit is available through the [internship](#) program and all [volunteer](#) hours help the Mabelvale Garden Club meet their required quota for community involvement!



## Curriculum Development is Coming Along

Led by Delta Garden Study staff Rachel Schichtl, the garden curriculum development is making its way towards completion. With the help of Technical Writer, Claudia Utley, Graphic Designer, Kathrine Kuo, Dietetic Interns from UCA, Mabelvale and other LRSD teachers and DGS staff, Rachel and her team are creating garden-based lesson plans that meet the 6th, 7th and 8th grade state frameworks in science, math, health/PE, and language arts. The lessons will be used throughout the school year in the twice-weekly 45 minute garden exposures. They'll cover everything from the scientific method to soil components to plant reproduction while students are building, planting, cooking and more!

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## **School Recruitment Visits to Resume in the Fall**

School recruitment visits will be gearing up again in the fall to identify up to ten schools to participate in the 2011-2012 full-scale study year. During the summer, we've been busy getting ready for the launch of the pilot year but come September we'll be on the road again. We hope to have decisions made for next year's schools by late fall! If your school is interested, please visit our [school recruitment page](#) and [get in touch with us](#) soon to set up a visit!

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Thank you for your interest in the Delta Garden Study.

