

Kids Korner

Kids Work In Garden

JINNY WILT

Adams Co. Correspondent

The hot summer sun shines brightly on a group of youngsters hunkered down in an herb patch — parents in tow — pulling weeds.

The youngsters are some of 80 taking part this summer in Ashcombs Farm and Greenhouses' Childrens' Gardening Program at its facility on Grantham Road near Mechanicsburg.

These particular children are in the 9-10:30 a.m. Peter Rabbit Class. Others will join class coordinator and instructor Charlie Fogelman in the Flower Class and Herb Class later in the day.

Ben Kelly, 6, comes to the free classes from his home in Hagerstown, Md., so that he "can learn how to plant." While his parents, Erin and Linda Kelly, shop in the bake shop, deli and garden center across the street, Ben is busy pulling weeds because he "likes to work in a garden."

Meeting the second and fourth Saturday of each month — rain or shine — the classes have planted gardens named Peter Rabbit, Mr. McGregor, Sunflower House, nasturtium, pizza, bean teepee and traveling herb.

Fogelman said they have completed such projects as Petunia Pig, made from a large soda bottle, learned to collect and dry material such as herbs, flowers, grasses and weeds, planted a pair of their old shoes and made a topiary ivy wreath.

In the next weeks they will make a flower note card, harvest potatoes and sunflowers, do terrarium plantings and enjoy pumpkin and apple time.

Kymerlie Davenport, 4, of Steelton, talks about the shoes she planted several weeks ago. "I water them every day and at home I have sunflowers growing," she said.

Four sisters — Katelyn Grumbine, 8, and Bethany Grumbine, 11, both of Middletown, and Tara Grumbine, 6, and Hilary Grumbine, 4, both of Hummelstown — are taking part in their class followed by dad, Jeff Grumbine of Mount Joy.

Katelyn said she particularly

likes the classes because "We get to make stuff like the pig with cloth ears and a tail and a soda bottle and we planted old shoes."

At Fogelman's call the youngsters sprint from the weeds and herb garden to an area where picnic tables are set among a garden of flowers and arbors. Here they are assisted by volunteer helpers Bonnie Rhodes, who is a master gardener, and Sylvia Braderman, a Harrisburg Civic Garden Club volunteer.

Other volunteers who help with the classes are Betty Smith, Jane Ciuffetelli, Joanne Ward, Pat Gramm, Patty Kuhns, Patty Suchocki, Janell Oldack and Cyn-di Staats.

Rhodes said she is helping with the group because she wants to pay back the support given to a Harrisburg inner city project at Foose School by Ashcombes and Fogelman. "Charlie's a friend and I learn too," she said.

Braderman, who is on the board of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania and past president of the Garden Club of Harrisburg, enjoys her volunteer work with the youngsters, adding, "I have a love for herbs."

And, she adds, "I love kids. Anything a child is involved in I love to do."

Active in gardening projects, she also notes that through the help of the Garden Club of Harrisburg, Ashcombes, and Friends of Riverfront Park, 900 herbs were planted at the Sunken Garden by the Harvey Taylor Bridge. The garden was destroyed several years ago when the Susquehanna River flooded.

Fogelman further explains that the youngsters also learned about tool safety, the parts of a plant, companion plants, how to plant seeds, plants and potatoes and the dangers of hazardous plants.

They have already tasted carrots, radishes, cucumbers, and mint tea and are expected to have a French fry party and a pizza party.

The goal of the program is to involve young people in gardening and to teach them that working in a garden can be fun and is not all work, Fogelman said.

Ashcombes developed the program to give something back to the community and to introduce children to herbs and vegetables.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 23, Ashcombe is having an Herb Fest. The event features herbs and their uses. Displays will be located in tents and seminars will be held in the meeting room at the facility. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the dried flower counter at the center.

The children will display some of their projects made during the summer classes.

At 11 a.m. Aug. 23, "Cooking with Game and Fish" is scheduled when Wendy Plowman will teach how to use herbs in cooking venison, goose, moose, duck and salmon. Cost is \$7. The class is 1½ hours long and advance registration is necessary.

At 2 p.m. the same day "Historic Uses of Herbs" will be presented by Kalman Markus who will present a program on using medicinal herbs.



Youngsters taking part in Ashcombe Farm and Greenhouses' Childrens' Garden Program busily repotted ivy plants to make topiarles. The project was just one of many the children enjoyed during the summer program.

Kalman along with his wife, Dawn, are the owners of The Herb Corner. He is a certified natural health professional.

Cost for the 1½ hours class is \$7. Advance registration is necessary. For information or to register call (717) 766-7611.



Children pull weeds from the herb garden at Ashcombe Farm and Greenhouses near Mechanicsburg, sponsors of free classes for kids 5-12 years of age.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why does lightning strike?

Thunderclouds form when warm, wet air surges upward and then cools. Cooling air inside these clouds freezes some of the water, and strong winds inside the clouds bump the ice and water droplets together.

Ice, water and everything else around you are made up of atoms. An atom has two parts: a center that contains particles called protons and neutrons, and outer rings — like the rings around the planet Saturn — that have particles called electrons.

Protons have a positive charge, and electrons have a negative charge. Atoms usually have the same number of protons and electrons, so the charges cancel out. But when water and ice molecules in a thundercloud start bumping into each other, electrons break away from their rings and move to nearby atoms. The atoms that gain electrons have a negative charge, and the ones that lose them have a positive charge. All this is the making of electricity.

Negative atoms build up at the base of a cloud during a thunderstorm. The Earth's surface and nearby clouds have a positive charge. The negatives want to find positives, so they stream down toward the ground or up toward the top of the cloud or even over to a nearby cloud. When the negative atoms get about 300 feet away from the nearest positive charge, a stream of positive atoms rush to meet it.

When the positives and negatives connect, electricity flows the whole length, flashing brightly. This whole process is usually repeated two or three times in one lightning strike, all in less than a second!

Scientifically yours, Twig

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Have a question?
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