

The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Students from Cleveland Academy of Leadership learn gardening from Steve Patton, the Goodall Center's buildings, grounds, and garden manager.



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Growing Greener at Goodall



Emkjer uses Glendale Shoals as an outdoor classroom to educate the students in science, history, and the environment.



Dr. Telligman's ENVS334 Sustainable Agriculture students have been soil sampling in the Goodall garden to learn about the soil ecosystem.

Students from The Cleveland Academy of Leadership's chapter of the Boys & Girls Club are meeting at the Goodall Center for the next six weeks to learn about farming and growing a garden with plants native to our region. Under the direction of program instructor Melisa Emkjer, and assistance from the Goodall Center's garden manager, Steve Patton, the students are exploring the land and learning science in a fun and active setting.

This spring class brings third-graders to enjoy beautiful Glendale Shoals Preserve while immersing themselves in the Carolyn Fawcett Converse Garden. This group is already excited as they are keeping an eye on the strawberries, mulberries, and apples that are off to an abundant start thanks to the great spring weather so far. They'll be focusing on container planting (check out the deck!) this spring while planting carrots, beans, and radishes. Most of all, these 8 and 9 year olds will be exploring nature and having fun-no batteries needed! During class they spend time writing, drawing, and reflecting in gardening journals, creating nature-themed crafts, tasting

foods available locally and from the garden, and exploring the contents of the garden's educational out-building, the Aldo Leopold Shack (constructed in 2013 by Environmental Studies students Rob Kennedy, Rob Richardson, and Steven Bearden as part of their senior capstone project).

Emkjer founded the program in 2012 as the *Three Sisters Garden* project. In 2015, Wofford partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Upstate to receive grant support from TD Bank Foundation, developing the *Growing Greener* project, designed to enhance outreach efforts in environmental education. The *Growing Greener* project welcomed three six-week sessions of 3rd-5th graders in 2015-16 to learn about planting and harvesting traditional crops, SC and Native American history, the sciences, healthy living, and caring for their environment. The fruits of that grant led to current support by the SC Department of Education. We're proud to continue our partnership while deepening the roots of this outstanding educational program!

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

April 20th

2:30-5:30pm

Anna Todd Wofford
Center

Senior Capstone Presentations: ENVS seniors, Madison Jones, Garrett Heath, and Liam Maley, will each present a 10-minute talk on their capstone projects. Please feel free to drop in as your time allows or stay for the whole program. A poster session will highlight the rest of the seniors' projects. Light refreshments served.

April 22nd

1:00pm-5:00pm

The Horseshoe

Earth Day with Wofford Outdoor Club: Come celebrate Earth Day! There will be a climbing wall, slacklining, food trucks, music, skills stations, and kayaking in the fountain. *It's Your World: Protect It!*

April 22nd

9:00am

Spartanburg March for Science: Starts at Bethel United Methodist Church (245 S. Church St - parking in Henry St. lot). The march will follow sidewalks on Henry Street to the Spartanburg Earth Day Festival at the Unitarian Universalist Church.



April 22nd

10:00am-4:00pm



Spartanburg Earth Day Festival and Spartanburg Soaring: The Unitarian Universalist Church and Chapman Cultural Center will host these two events on Earth Day 2017. The Earth Day Festival will have vendors, informative booths, music, and family-friendly activities (210 Henry Place). A walkable scavenger hunt will connect this event with the Chapman Cultural Center's International Kite Festival happening blocks away.

April 22nd

10:00am-3:00pm

Discover Your Watershed at Lyman Lake Lodge: Paddle, play, and learn about the Tyger River Watershed. This family event is designed to raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding our water resources for future generations. Register and receive a free lunch: http://www.uscupstate.edu/academics/arts_sciences/wec/Default.aspx?id=47067

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Ohio State University – Environmental Sciences Graduate Program

The Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (ESGP) at Ohio State University emphasizes research and applied teaching that will contribute to solving the world's environmental problems.

ESGP is comprised of many departments within the OSU community providing an interdisciplinary education across physical, biological, and social sciences that deal with environmental issues.

ESGP students can pursue and obtain either a MS degree (thesis or non-thesis) and/or a Ph.D. degree. These students can select from four program

options: general study with no specialization; agroecosystems, a whole system approach to sustainable agriculture and food systems; climate change science and policy, research at both the scientific and policy-making level that can bridge the gap between social and natural sciences; and water issues, addressing global change, water quality and consequences of human activities.

Visit the school's website for more information on their program and how to apply:

<https://esgp.osu.edu/>