



Taking Root: Montana Farm to School Conference

August 16 -17, 2012

Workshop Presenters

Patti Armbrister, Hinsdale High School, Hinsdale raised in Southern Michigan, Patti has many years of experience in food processing, teaching agriculture education, and actively participating and leading 4-H. She has played significant roles in writing for various grants including Montana Farm to School, Valley County Foundation, and in the past year Future Farmers of America (FFA) Living to Serve, Food for All, and NRCS Milk River Flood Plain Restoration. Currently, she is working on projects that include the Passive Solar Greenhouse, No-Till School Garden, outdoor classroom and raised vegetable beds, and raising food for the school lunch program. Patti's other interests include gardening, genetics of beef cattle and plants, and progressing with these interests towards a sustainable future. She can be reached at:

parmbrister@metnet.mt.gov

Katie Bark Montana State University, Bozeman is a registered dietitian and the Team Nutrition Education Specialist for the Montana Office of Public Instruction. She coordinates statewide training activities to support school districts in creating healthy school nutrition environments. A major focus of her work is directed to training school food service professionals in serving healthy and nutritious meals, promoting nutrition education, including farm to school programs. She and her colleagues provide support for the HealthierUS and Healthier Montana Menu Challenge Award Programs as well as promote pleasant and positive mealtimes for children from preschool through high school. Katie values the opportunity to help motivate children and adults to enjoy a variety of nutrient-rich foods and beverages. She can be reached at: (406) 994-5641; kbark@mt.gov or www.opi.mt.gov/MTeamNutrition.

Duane Burkenpas, Bozeman, has sixty years of experience as a manager, team-leader, administrator, business owner, volunteer and confidant. Duane was born in Bozeman, MT, raised on cattle ranches and grain farms west of Four Corners on Norris Road. After ranches were sold in 1952, Duane began work as a bookkeeper for the local John Deere farm equipment dealer. Duane, with his brother and another partner, were given the opportunity and purchased the local John Deere farm equipment dealership in Bozeman in 1961. In 1974, they built a new facility in Belgrade to allow for increased business and contracts with the John Deere Company. He has served on several agricultural boards and committees. Duane continues to share his knowledge and time in career and technical education for the improvement of community, state, and well-being of others. In 2003, Duane developed and coordinated the "Farm Fair" project as a part of the Gallatin Valley Agriculture Committee. He truly lives by the quote from Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." He can be reached at: dkburkenpas@gmail.com.

Alyssa Charney, MT FoodCorps, Red Lodge, is a FoodCorps member serving in Red Lodge, Montana with the Red Lodge Area Food Partnership Council. She grew up in Massachusetts and has a degree in Environmental Studies from Vassar College. Although Montana's land and people have easily won over her heart, after serving her second year as a FoodCorps member, Alyssa will travel back east to pursue a combined degree in

Public Health and Agriculture, Food, and Environment from Tufts University. She can be reached at: redlodge.foodcorps@gmail.com.

President Waded Cruzado, Montana State University, Bozeman, took office as Montana State University's 12th president on Jan. 4, 2010, and in less than three years has significantly reshaped the face and future of the Treasure State's first land-grant institution. President Cruzado has consistently reaffirmed the importance of a campus environment that places student success as the top priority. To that end, she has made student retention a major priority of the university by funding numerous programs and appointing an executive officer to oversee related initiatives in increasing students' financial literacy, helping more students graduate in four years and providing more student support services such as tutoring, mentoring and advising. Prior to coming to MSU, President Cruzado served as executive vice president and provost at New Mexico State University, the nation's only land-grant university that is also a research-extensive and Hispanic-serving institution, a post she held since Sept 1, 2007. NMSU is a comprehensive research, liberal arts and sciences institution, home to a multicultural population of more than 31,000 students. In March 2012, President Cruzado was honored as the 2011 Michael P. Malone Educator of the Year from the Montana Ambassadors for demonstrating outstanding accomplishment, excellence and leadership in the field of education.

Angelyn DeYoung, Montana Department of Agriculture, Helena, works as a Marketing Officer for the Montana Department of Agriculture, helping Montana food and agriculture-related companies to start-up and meet their marketing goals. Since starting there in 2000, she has helped Made in Montana companies promote through local fairs, farmers' markets, billboards, web sites, local and national trade shows, and social media. Angelyn also works closely with the Made in Montana program. Angelyn graduated from Montana State University – Bozeman in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business – Marketing. She can be reached at: adeyoung@mt.gov.

Anna Diffenderfer is the marketing and operational manager for the Townes Harvest Garden located at Montana State University, Bozeman. She can be reached at anna.diffenderfer@montana.edu or at the garden web site located at: www.townesharvest.montana.edu.

Aubree Durfey, MT Team Nutrition, MSU, Gallatin Valley Farm to School, and National Farm to School Network, Bozeman serves as Child Nutrition Education Coordinator with the Montana Team Nutrition Program, Program Manager for Gallatin Valley Farm to School, and Montana State Lead for the National Farm to School Network. Through her positions she supports schools in the purchase of farm fresh foods and the implementation of nutrition education opportunities through Farm to School programs. This spring, Aubree received her M.S. degree in Sustainable Food Systems at Montana State University. She can be reached at: aubree.durfey@montana.edu or (406) 994-5996.

Bobbi Geise, Learning by Nature, Bozeman, has been teaching in outdoor and indoor classrooms with children and adult audiences for twenty years. She has formal training in science education, natural resource management, and landscape design. Bobbi has also traveled internationally and throughout the United States researching natural and adventure playgrounds, gardens and outdoor classrooms and learning from internationally recognized leaders in the field. Her extensive research, experience, education and

community organizing skills offer a blend of expertise unique to the industry; seamlessly integrating learning, play, and safety into curriculum, site design and function while emphasizing natural elements, culture, community, and sustainability. She can be reached at: bobbi@learningbynature.org or (406) 599-1770.

Sean Hill, RS, MBA, MPH Environmental Health Specialist, Gallatin Health Department, Bozeman, is a registered sanitarian who works as a program manager for the Gallatin City-County Environmental Health Department. His Program is responsible for the oversight of all food and consumer safety within Gallatin County. He holds a Bachelors of Food Science from the University of Wyoming along with an MBA and a Masters of Public Health from Walden University in Baltimore Maryland. Sean holds credentials from the National Environmental Health Association, Department of Homeland Security, FDA, USDA, National Restaurant Association, and the National Swimming Pool Foundation among many others. Most recently Sean's interests have included teaching environmental health and public health perspectives from a global sense and has partnered with Montana State University to address these issues on an international level. In his free time, Sean enjoys all the natural beauty that Montana has to offer along with volunteering with Big Sky Ski Patrol and other organizations. He can be reached at: sean.hill@gallatin.mt.gov.

Charles D. Holt, Townes Harvest Garden, MSU, Bozeman is the Production Manager for the Townes Harvest Garden at Montana State University, Bozeman. He can be reached at charles.holt@montana.edu or visit the web site at: www.townesharvest.montana.edu .

Travis Isaacs, Malta High School, Malta has been the Agriculture Education Instructor and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Advisor at Malta High School for the past five years. Travis is a graduate of South Dakota State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, majoring in Agricultural Education and minoring in Animal and Range Science. He will share about their FFA chapter's school garden, a journey the Malta FFA Chapter started 3 years ago. Travis may be reached at: tisaacs@malta.k12.mt.us or at (406) 654-2002.

Denise Juneau, Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena became the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on January 5, 2009. Her teaching career began in New Town, North Dakota on the Fort Berthold Reservation. Denise served as Indian Education Specialist for OPI before attending law school. Graduating from the University of Montana Law School gave her an understanding of how the law influences and affects our education system. In 2004, she became Supreme Court Clerk. Working in the legal profession has sharpened her principles for fairness, integrity and respect for others. Juneau is the first American Indian to serve in a statewide executive level office. She graduated from Browning High School, in Browning MT. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English from Montana State University; her Master's of Education Degree in "Risk and Prevention for School Aged Children" from the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Montana. While at MSU, she received a Rockefeller Brother's Foundation Fellowship. Denise credits Montana teachers with showing her that she could achieve her dreams and goals, and is grateful for their lessons. She is honored to serve as Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction and looks forward to continuing her work with Montana's schools and education community, for the benefit of all students.

Brad King, Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena is an agriculture education specialist. Brad has worked at the Montana Office of Public Instruction for six years. He supervises and provides guidance to all 85 secondary agriculture education programs within Montana. This includes communication with 90 teachers and over 4,500 students. He has served twelve years as an agriculture teacher for Stevensville schools as a department head and Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor. He also served six years as an instructor for the University of Minnesota. He can be reached at bking2@mt.gov.

Jodi Koterba is an Agriculture Education educator in Great Falls Public Schools in Great Falls.

Christine Lux, Ed. D., MSU, Department of Health and Human Development, Bozeman is an Assistant professor of Early Childhood Education. She is also the Director of the MSU Child Development Center, a year-round preschool program that is a university laboratory site for teaching, research, and service. The preschool is licensed by the State of Montana and is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). She can be reached at: Christine.lux@montana.edu.

Jason Mandala, Garden City Harvest, Missoula, is originally from Ohio and has lived in Montana since 2004. He has worked with Garden City Harvest since 2006. He is a lover of all things kale and garlic, and is devoted to working with kids at the farm, in school gardens, or in the classroom. He has a Master's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana with a focus on place-based education and sustainable agriculture, and has helped start seven school gardens in Missoula. He can be reached at: Jason@gardencityharvest.org.

Bernie Mason, MSU Extension Service, Yellowstone County, Billings. Bernie Mason has been the FCS Extension Agent for MSU/Yellowstone County for the past 23 years. With a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics Education, a Minor in Health Education and a Masters in Adult Education, Bernie is a resource for all topics that relate to the home and family. She has taught many workshops for Early Childhood workers in the area of Food & Nutrition, including hands-on cooking classes. Bernie also conducts classes on Food Preservation, Family Finance & Estate Planning, Home Maintenance, Clothing & Textiles, and Family Relationships as well as working on many community boards. She can be reached at: bmason@montana.edu

Reese McAlpin is the Agriculture Education educator for Ronan Public Schools in Ronan.

Crissie McMullan, Montana FoodCorps, Missoula is the Montana FoodCorps Project Director for the National Center for Appropriate Technology. McMullan is a proud co-founder of national FoodCorps, which has already reached over 40,000 children in ten states through school garden, nutrition education, and Farm to School programs. Before FoodCorps, McMullan co-founded The University of Montana's Farm to College program, which has now brought over \$3 million in revenues to local and regional food producers. She has been a farmhand, a Sierra Club field organizer, and a Kinship Conservation Fellow. While earning her masters in Environmental Studies, she spent her summers traveling Montana with a slap-stick comedy troupe about how and why to buy locally-grown food, The Local Yokels. She can be reached at crissiem@ncat.org.

Heather Musselman, Bozeman is a mom of three children, ages 11, 7 and 5. She has been an avid gardener with no formal training for 20 years. Heather loves what the garden teaches her and she is humbled and surprised in so many ways each growing season. She is passionate about local, fresh foods, possibly because she grew up on processed foods. She believes it is important to teach children about growing their own food, what good fresh food tastes like, and the importance of being outside to learn. Heather believes that planting a garden where the kids can see and taste the results empowers them and can create healthy habits for a lifetime. For these reasons, she has chosen to be the volunteer who runs and coordinates the Irving School garden. The children's response to the garden has been incredibly positive and keeps her motivated to do more.

Greg Owens, Bozeman Youth Initiative, Bozeman is a published playwright whose work has been produced around the country and in London. His work with youth has included directing theatre productions at Bozeman High School, working with young gang members in northern Indiana on a radio documentary, and the development of the greenhouse bus and other successful programs with the Bozeman Youth Initiative since 2008. He can be reached at: greg@bozemanyouth.org.

Mary Stein, MS, Bozeman, is the Associate Director of the National Farm to School Network, an advocacy organization with representation in all 50 states working toward the vision of a nation in which Farm to School programs are an essential component of strong and just local and regional food systems. This program ensures the health of all school children, farms, the environment, local economies and communities. Mary began with National Farm to School Network in late 2011, bringing 20 years of experience in university classroom teaching, nutrition education and outreach, Farm to School, and sustainable food systems work at Montana State University. Although Mary now travels around the country working on Farm to School, her area code is still (406) and that, she is happy about. She can be reached at: mary@farmtoschool.org.

Molly Stenberg, Montana Team Nutrition, MSU, Bozeman is a registered dietitian and an Education Training Coordinator for the Montana Team Nutrition Program. Molly has worked with school food service staff, school administrators, teachers, parents, child care providers and children in promoting healthy lifestyles, healthy school environments, school wellness policies and food safety. She loves her job and the opportunity to work with a variety of people around the state. She is the parent of 3 young children and strives to put a fun, positive and realistic spin on health and nutrition education. She can be reached at Stenberg@montana.edu or (406) 994 -7217.

Robin Vogler, Somers/Lakeside School District, is the Food Service Director/Wellness Program Coordinator for Somers/Lakeside MT Dist #29 on the north shore of beautiful Flathead Lake. She is a certified teacher and teaches a nutrition elective class for seventh and eighth grade students. She is a Farm to School supporter and big fan of FoodCorps-VISTA AmeriCorps. She is also a Food Service Peer Mentor with Montana Team Nutrition. Some of her favorite things are spending time with family and friends including

her five dogs, hiking in the mountains, gardening, traveling and enjoying great food. She can be reached at: vogler_robin@yahoo.com

Theresa Walker, Bozeman is the owner of a family day care in Bozeman with 20 plus years as a child care provider. Theresa and her husband Jerry are also avid gardeners. Having faced the challenges of gardening throughout the state of Montana, Theresa was involved in the startup of The Yellowstone Valley Farmers' Market in Billings, Montana. She has also taught "Gardening With Kids" classes for CACPF Child Care Connections in Bozeman. She can be reached at: tmr.walker406@gmail.com.

Todd Wester is the curriculum director for Livingston Public Schools in Livingston. Todd Wester (*B.A. Philosophy, Stanford University, 1988; B.S. Elementary Education, Montana State University, 2002; M.Ed. Educational Leadership, MSU, 2008*) worked 20 years as a fly fishing outfitter, writer and woodworker before becoming a middle-school science teacher in 2002. He became K-12 curriculum director at Livingston Public Schools in 2008, where he currently works with staff to develop effective, engaging, standards-based instruction, including many project- and place-based units and lessons. He has three children, ages 20, 9, and 7, who learn with him at school and through exploration of the outdoors. He can be reached at twester@livingston.k12.mt.us.

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Check out *First Lady Nancy Schweitzer's* Math and Science Initiative for educational resources on gardening and locally grown Montana foods.

She has Nancy's Garden (fourth grade garden curriculum) Kit and Math and Science Trading Cards (on 20 Montana grown foods) available free to Montana school staff. The web site: is www.mathscience.mt.gov