Teach your children about garden wonders

Children love to get their hands dirty when they play outside - but how often is it a learning experience, feeling the texture and smelling the aroma of healthy planting soil? Sussex County Master Gardeners will supply such an opportunity as they introduce the new Children's Garden during their Annual "Day in the Garden" Open House on Saturday, July 12, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parents and their children can watch the caterpillars enjoy fine dining at the Caterpillar Café. Flit and flutter along with the butterflies! How many different kinds can be found and what are their favorite flowers? Families will learn how to start and pot a new plant to take home. Teepees planted with gourds and vines will provide the perfect backdrop for young explorers. Feel fuzzy Lamb's Ears and experience the aromas that leaves and flowers produce.

Don't forget to bring a camera!

In addition to the new children's feature, "A Day in the Garden" will feature horticulture demonstrations and advice the public has found so informative over the years. Approximately 25 Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions, examine patients at the sick plant clinic and share their love of Delaware horticulture.

The Children's Garden is part of the Master Gardener's Demonstration Garden located behind the University of Delaware's Elbert N. and Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway in Georgetown. It is a quarter of a mile west of Sussex Tech High School and on the same side of the road.

The blue and gold tent marks the entrance to full sensory experience that only nature (and some expert green thumbs) can provide.

 lettuce. There is ample parking and the event is free to the public.

For more information about "A Day in the Garden" or the Sussex County Master Gardeners, and full directions, please visit their Website at www.rec.udel.edu or contact Tracy Wootten at 856-7303, ext. 538 or Karen Adams, ext. 540.

Master gardeners to host open house on July 12

The Sussex County Master Gardeners, of Delaware Cooperative Extension for both Delaware State University and the University of Delaware, are pleased to announce they are hosting an open house in their Demonstration Garden. This special event entitled 'A Day in the Garden' is scheduled for July 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Master Gardener's Demonstration Garden is located at 16483 County Seat Hwy., Route 9, and west of Georgetown. Traveling west, it is about 4.5 miles from the intersection of routes 113 and 9, just past the Sussex Tech High School, on the right. Turn right just after the gazebo at the Elbert N. & Ann V. Carvel Research & Education Center.

Day in the Garden Highlights

Tour the Gardens: Meet the Master Gardeners and tour the Demonstration Garden with them. The garden is planted with annuals, perennials, herbs, shrubs, vegetables, and shade loving plants. Come and enjoy our containers, raised beds, water garden, and bog garden. Be sure to see our newly planted butterfly garden and the progress made on our new Native Plant garden.

Children's Garden and Activities: The Master Gardeners have started a Children's Garden. Bring the kids and join the Master Gardeners in this new area; to look for and learn about insects, and to see, smell and touch plants. The kids will also enjoy painting projects and planting pots. Bring a camera for photo opportunities (see more above).

Information Stations: The Master Gardeners will man information stations located throughout the garden. Learn about composting, lawns, proper techniques for taking a soil test, and the "Livable Delaware" program. If you are "New to Delaware" stop by this station to obtain valuable information about gardening in Sussex County.

Sick Plant Clinic: If you have a plant with a problem, bring a sample to our Plant Clinic for identification and recommended remedies.

Demonstrations: Master Gardeners will give several demonstrations during the day; Worm Composting at 10:30 a.m., Growing Moss at 11:15 a.m., Container Planting at 11:30 a.m., and Decorating With Herbs at noon.

Bring a brown bag lunch and eat in our shaded picnic grove.

There is no rain date set. For more information contact Tracy Wootten at (302) 856-7303, ext. 538 or Karen Adams, ext. 540.

Visitors at the 2007 "A Day in the Garden" enjoyed the display, seminars and free advice provided by Sussex Master Gardeners in Georgetown. This year's event will be held on July 12.