



4th Annual Grow Gardens Conference



Hillsborough TPO
Transportation
Planning Organization

**4th Annual Grow Community Gardens & Garden Steps Conference,
October 22, 2021
Conference Program**

10:00 WELCOME: Cris Legner, Dean Student Services, Lead Dean for Recruitment, Hillsborough Community College, Plant City

Opening Remarks: Michele Ogilvie, Director, Coalition of Community Gardens, Garden Steps Project Chair

Keynote Address: The Honorable Nikki Fried, Florida Commission of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Nikki Fried, Florida's 12th Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, is a lifelong Floridian, attorney, and passionate activist. Born and raised in Miami, Commissioner Fried graduated from the University of Florida, where she received her bachelor's, master's and juris doctor degrees. While at the University of Florida, she served as student body president – the first woman to hold the position in nearly two decades. As an attorney, she was head of the Felony Division at the Alachua County Public Defender's Office and worked in private practice in South Florida, defending homeowners against foreclosure during the 2007-2008 housing crisis. Prior to being elected, Fried worked at law firms as a government consultant, advocating on behalf of clients before the Florida Legislature. In 2017, she formed her own firm to advocate in Tallahassee for at-risk children, the Broward County School Board, and for the expansion of patient access to medical marijuana. Throughout her career she has served with numerous organizations including the Young Lawyers Board of Governors, Chair of the Broward Days Board of Directors, Legal Needs of Children Bar Committee, LeRoy Collins Institute, Girls Scouts of Southeast Florida, University of Florida Governmental Relations Advisory Committee, University of Florida Board of Trustees, Florida's Children First, and others. Fried is a member of Florida Blue Key, the oldest and most prestigious leadership honorary in the state of Florida.

10:30 Session 1: Community Gardens – Panel discussion

FACILITATOR: Kitty Wallace,

PRESENTER: Paula Olesen, Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden

Paula Olesen is the President of the Apollo Beach Garden Club, Inc. since 2018. A garden enthusiast all her life, it was a natural move to work with a small group of club members to bring the dream to fruition as the Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden.

For more information: apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com.



PRESENTER: Carla Bristol, St. Pete Youth Farm

The St. Pete Youth Farm was established after the two grocery stores in the area closed. The city of St. Petersburg initiated this unique project. The goal of the St. Pete Youth Farm is not just about providing fresh fruits and vegetables to those in the area, it's also education. They are hoping to educate kids on composting, gardening, and how to eat healthy. There is also an emphasis on giving back to the community. For more information: pcs.bristolc@pcsb.org,



PRESENTER: Jennifer Grebenschikoff, VISTA Gardens, Carrollwood Village

After over thirty years of serving healthcare organizations with their physician executive and consulting needs, Jennifer closed her and her husband's consulting firm at the end of 2014. They now pursue other interests, both personal and professional. Jennifer continues to teach a few days each year for the American Association for Physician Leadership, and has recently taken the reins from VISTA Gardens' founder, Bill West, and is President of VISTA. For more information: jengreb@gmail.com.



11:30 Session 2: Gardening Impacts HEALTH

FACILITATOR: >>>>>>>>

Gardening benefits MENTAL HEALTH:

PRESENTER: Kyaien Conner, LSW, MPH, Ph.D

Dr. Conner, USF Dr. Kyaien Conner, LSW, MPH, PhD is an assistant professor in the department of Mental Health Law and Policy. Her research investigates the factors that influence disparities in mental health service utilization and treatment outcomes for African American elders with depression.. For several years Dr. Conner has worked as a licensed community-based mental health practitioner in predominantly low-income African American communities, where she witnessed disparities in mental health diagnosis and treatment, mistrust in the mental health service delivery system and negative attitudes toward seeking mental health treatment. For more information: koconner@usf.edu.



Nutrition and Chronic Diseases.

PRESENTER: Laura Rangel Laura Rangel is a health educator and lifestyle coach with the Florida Department of Health. Past professional experiences include working with the Tampa Museum of Art as an educator, where she taught children and adults about healthy living through art. Currently, her professional interest is about how healthy lifestyle behaviors—particularly food intake— can reduce or eliminate the risk of type 2 diabetes. For more information: laura.rangelorellanos@flhealth.gov.



12:30 – Lunch;

poster presentation by lemonGraft

William Cook, william@lemongraft.com.

Zachary Correa, zach@lemongraft.com.

1:00 Session 3: Policy impacts community gardening

FACILITATOR: Wade Reynolds, Transportation Planning Organization

PRESENTER: Toni Young, Ph.D.



Toni Young is a former communications consultant and founder of Young Editorial Group. She has a Ph.D. from the University of South Florida where her research bridges her knowledge and experience in communication with community, sustainability and global citizenship. For more information: tpowelly@usf.edu.

PRESENTER: Dell deChant

Dell deChant is the Associate Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of South Florida. He is a Master Instructor and has served at USF since 1986. The author of three books, and many articles, deChant's specialization is religion and contemporary cultures. His current research focuses on religious, literary, and ecological expressions of Agrarianism as they manifest in American popular culture. deChant is Chair of the Environmental Committee of the City of New Port Richey, a founding member of Food Policy Council of Pasco County, a member of the Florida Food Policy Council and the Board of Directors of Ecology Florida. Mr. deChant will discuss how food policy impacts community gardening, recognizing the role of food sovereignty. For more information: ddechant@tampabay.rr.com.



2:00 Session 4: Growing a Community of Gardeners:

FACILITATOR: Monica Petrella,

Food System Program Coordinator, Hillsborough County

Lisa Hickey: Plant-a-Pail



Lisa Hickey is a Sustainable Ag and Food Systems Extension Agent for the University of Florida, Manatee County Extension Services. She has worked at the Manatee Extension Office since March 2007. Currently in her role as an educator, Lisa works with the commercial fruit and vegetable producers. She offers diagnostic assistance, commodity resources, and pesticide safety training to assist the producers. Her outreach focuses on positive environmental impacts through sustainable farming. For more information: lisa.hickey@ufl.edu.

Karen Elizabeth Bornstine: Garden Steps – Front Yard Gardens

Karen Elizabeth Bornstine is president and founding member of Plant City Commons Community Garden. Originally from the Akron, Ohio area, she has lived in Plant City since 2002. She has certification as a Holistic Health Counselor from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition. She is the program Coordinator of the Coalition's Garden Steps project. For more information:

12circle8@gmail.com



3:00

Session 5: Travels with Chris and Joni: Tour of Urban Agriculture with Chris & Joni on the East Coast and Mid-Atlantic States

FACILITATOR: Travis Malloy

Chris Kenrick- Board President and Director at Sweetwater Organic Community Farm, Owner and Operator of Cooperative Housing in St Pete, St Pete Tiny Home Festival Founder, Urban Agriculture Policy Advocate, Father of Three, Community Housing Builder, World Traveler.



Joni Spencer - Board Member and Farm Manager at Sweetwater Organic Community Farm, Owner and Operator of Cooperative Housing in St Pete, Urban Farmer (Jordan Park, Oakdale Community Garden, St Pete Eco Village), Urban Agriculture Policy Advocate, Mother of Three, Community Housing Builder, World Traveler. For more information: chriskerrick195@gmail.com, algaepond@yahoo.com.

Garden Tour: All are welcome to attend the reception & garden tour at the Plant City Commons Community Garden, across the street.

Thank you to our sponsors:

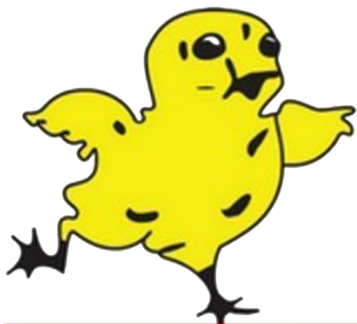
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