

POD-Wake Newsletter #9

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FEATURED PHOTO: Heather Park teepee, a gathering place in all seasons.
Photo Credit: Heather Park CDC

Project News

Volunteer workday at all 8 POD-Wake demonstration centers to take place on May 14.

PLACE ON MAY 14.

Special thanks to Keller Williams Realty for including the POD-Wake project in their annual [RED Day service event](#). Every year on May 14 Keller Williams agents take the day to give back to their communities. **Renew, Energize, Donate** is the theme. Smart Start and NLI staff have been hard at work planning for the day and we look forward to hosting Keller Williams volunteers on May 14.

Note: Orientation for Center Directors will be held April 21 at the Wake Smart Start offices.



Volunteers prepare a new planting bed at Johnson Pond's 2014 workday.

POD-Wake demonstration center web pages

Visit <http://naturalearning.org/pod-wake-participating-centers> to get a sense of the improvements the 8 demonstration centers have been making to their OLEs. Please keep sending photos. We want to stay up to date with your progress.



Bird feeders in foreground on a rare dry day in February.

Mark your calendars for the POD-Wake Demonstration Center Tours departing from the Raulston Arboretum on May 28. This day will be an opportunity to see first hand how these centers are meeting the OLE best practices.

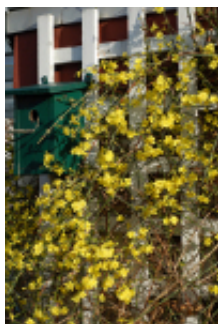
POD-Wake project extended through October 31st.

The end date for the POD-Wake project is now October 31, 2015, which will allow us to continue supporting the demonstration centers through the 2015 growing season. We look forward to following and documenting the progress

growing season. We look forward to following and documenting the progress made in the third year of the project.

The **Early Childhood Physical Activity Institute (ECPAI)** will be held this year **June 1-3** at the **Marbles Kids Museum**. Registration opens April 15. [Find more information here](#). Join Be Active Kids and Diane Craft of Active Play Books for this physical activity training experience focused on early childhood providers.

Resources



March Plant of the Month

Winter Jasmine - Consider this cheerful sign of spring for your OLE. It may offer a solution for erosion control and will stand up to the wear and tear found in the OLE. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Be sure not to confuse this Northern Chinese native with Carolina Jasmine, which is not recommended for the OLE due to its potential toxicity for young children.

[Central NC Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs](#) From our neighbors in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, this guide can help you with ideas for your vegetable garden and when is the best time to plant.



April 12 - 18 is Week of the Young Child (#woyc150). It's not too soon to start planning now. [You can put your event on the map at the NAEYC Website](#). Each day has a different theme, including **Taco Tuesday, healthy eating and fitness at home and school**, April 14.

Project Activites

WEEK OF APRIL 6

Planting Peas and constructing a Pea TeePee/Trellis

WEEK OF APRIL 20

Salad Bar: Planting lettuce, radish, and carrots to spell out Salad Bar

WEEK OF MAY 4

Planting sunflowers in newspaper pots

MAY 14

MAY 17

Keller Williams RED Day (see above for details).

WEEK OF MAY 18

Big planting week! Planting raised beds for summer.

WEEK OF MAY 25

Continue planting summer vegetables.

MAY 28

POD-WAKE Garden Tours

WEEK OF JUNE 1

Planting green beans around a teepee.

WEEK OF JUNE 15

Planting sweet potatoes in grow bags.

JUNE 27 THROUGH OCTOBER

Ongoing site visits.



Preparing seedlings for transplanting after last frost (April 15).



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