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Myriad Gardens to present #OptOutside Oklahoma Event on April 22 Plus more events for children and adults in the Gardens

Oklahoma City, OK -- #OptOutside Oklahoma, presented by Fowler Toyota, is a new event at the Myriad Botanical Gardens on Sunday, April 22, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. that aims to inspire people to get outside, breathe in some fresh air and reconnect with Mother Nature and all her splendor. The event on the Great Lawn and Band Shell of the Gardens is designed to help people reconnect with each other and with the great outdoors by featuring some of the best options for camping and RV life. The #OptOutside movement was started by REI Co-Op last year over the holidays. It has since expanded to finding ways to enjoying the outdoors all year-round.

Visitors can even come Saturday, April 21 at 7 p.m. to camp out in a fully furnished-tents! (See the information below). Visitors on Sunday will get to explore new and vintage trailers and airstreams on the Great Lawn, where outdoor life vignettes will include tents, chairs, cooking gear and bikes to bring along on your journeys. Water sports enthusiasts will enjoy the paddle boarding demonstration on the lake. Fly fishing demonstrations, bike lessons with Spokies/Ride OKC, SUP Yoga demonstrations with This Land Yoga, compass reading techniques and a fantastic group of vendors will bring outdoor living to the center of the city. Vendors to date include Homma Camp Co., En Root Barbershop, Sierra Club, This Land Yoga, Metz & Daughters, face painting with Moonflower Face and Body Art and more.

Unplugged at the Gardens, #OptOutside Kick Off Night

Saturday, April 21, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. for overnight guests
Great Lawn and Band Shell

Come kick off our #OptOutside Oklahoma weekend by unplugging at the Gardens for an evening. There are eight tents provided by Homma Camp Co. for people to sleep in for the evening. We will provide new friends, board games, live music with Jason Scott, indoor restroom access and additional security for the evening. A chili dinner provided by Pitchfork in the Park, which includes corn bread, dessert and beverage of your choice: beer, water or tea. We suggest bringing a side dish to share with your new friends! Make it a communal dinner—a vegetable would be good to complete the meal. Guests staying overnight will also get to sleep in a tent provided graciously by Homma Camp Co. We do not encourage guests to bring pets to this event unless they are necessary for assistance. You will also get a first look at some of our vintage trailers that will be onsite for our #OptOutside Oklahoma Expo the following day. Join us for a morning coffee and bagels donated by Panera Bread.

For the overnight stay cost is \$50 for members, \$55 for nonmembers. Cost includes dinner and fully-furnished tent overnight stay to sleep in. Cost for dinner only is \$20 for members, \$25 nonmembers. Advance registration is required and space is limited. Register online at myriadgardens.org

April in the Gardens

FOR CHILDREN

Reading Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Crystal Bridge South Lobby

FREE

Best for ages 2 to 5

Bring your youngster for story time each Wednesday at 10 a.m. Books are nature-themed and selected based on the season. We'll begin with an interactive song and children will enjoy creating a small craft after the story. For groups of 10 or more, please call Kodi Clifford at (405) 835-6789.

Family Workshop: Cheerful Garden Markers

Friday, April 13, 10 to 11 a.m.

2nd Floor Conference Room and Outdoor Grounds

Member \$5; Nonmember \$7

Best for ages 5 to 11

Register by Tuesday, April 10 online at myriadgardens.org

Learn how to decorate your garden or small-space planters using unique items, from rocks to spoons. We'll start with a walk around the garden grounds looking for inspiration, and then create our own plant markers and colorful decorations to take home.

Budding Artists

Saturday, April 14, 10 to 11 a.m.

Garden Room and Outdoor Grounds

Jeanne Parkhurst, art teacher extraordinaire
Member \$8; Nonmember \$10
Best for ages 7 to 11
Register by Tuesday, April 10 online at myriadgardens.org

Welcome spring by creating colorful painted masterpieces of the garden grounds. Jeanne Parkhurst will get the art experience started by leading participants in practicing observational skills and basic drawing techniques. Then, the group will explore together, seeking of signs of spring and inspiration and then painting the things discovered.

Family Workshop: Flower and Leaf Pressing
Friday, April 20, 2 to 3 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room
Member \$10; Nonmember \$12
Best for ages 6 to 11
Register by Tuesday, April 17 online at myriadgardens.org

Preserve your favorite leaves and flowers and turn them into art, bookmarks and cards at this creative workshop. Participants will learn how to press leaves and flowers, look at some already pressed samples and try their own hands at the art. Each child will leave with their own flower press to continue the harvesting and crafting at home.

Sprouting Chefs: Pasta Primavera
Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room
Member \$11; Nonmember \$14
Best for ages 7 to 11
Register by Tuesday, April 24 online at myriadgardens.org

Kids will learn about different vegetables and how to prepare them as the class creates a fresh and flavorful pasta primavera. Participants will get to practice proper knife techniques, learn how to boil water and how to make perfectly-cooked pasta. The session will conclude with participants eating the tasty creations for a delicious and healthful learning and lunch experience.

Jackson Pollock Seed Bomb Garden
Saturday, April 28, 1 to 3 p.m., come-and-go
Children's Garden
Member \$2; Nonmember \$3
Abigail Curry, Children's Garden Manager
Best for ages 5 to 9, but all ages welcome
Register online at myriadgardens.org

Jackson Pollack was an artist whose canvases looked like color explosions. Young artists will make their own color explosion flower gardens using homemade seed bombs. We'll make wildflower seed bombs and then we'll toss them into a freshly dug garden bed. Later, come back to watch the 'composition' grow! Kids will also make a few of your own seed bombs for their home gardens.

ADULTS

Yoga Series in the Gardens
Sponsored by Tinker Federal Credit Union
Tuesdays, 5:45 p.m.
Late arrivals not accepted after 5:50 p.m.
Meet in the South Lobby for Check-In
Member \$5; Nonmember \$10
Must be 16 and older

This is a great, all-levels class led by Lisa Woodard from This Land Yoga. Class participants should bring a yoga mat and water. Class participants will meet in the south lobby for check-in each week. Drop in for a session or two, or enjoy the entire series!

Soil: the Key to a Healthy Garden
Saturday, April 7, 1 to 3 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room and Garden Grounds
Member \$8; Nonmember \$12
Instructor: Malarie Gotcher, the City of OKC Water Utilities Department; Allen Parlier, Closer to Earth
Register by Tuesday, April 3 online at myriadgardens.org

Soil is the foundation of any good garden and a healthy soil is essential in having healthy plants. In this interactive program you'll learn the basics of soil and the simple steps to creating great compost. Malarie Gotcher will teach us about soil structure, how to conduct and understand the results of a simple soil test, how to amend your soil and the 10 most common garden weeds (and their solutions). Allen Parlier will then delve into the key ingredients in any compost, taking you through the steps of starting and maintaining your own compost pile so that you can add this essential ingredient to your soil.

All About Starting Seeds
Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m. to Noon
2nd Floor Conference Room
Member \$17; Nonmember \$21
Register by Tuesday, April 10 online at myriadgardens.org

Starting your own plants from seed is fun, easy and a great way to save money on plants for your garden. In this hands-on workshop, you will learn how to start annual flowers, vegetables and herbs, both indoors and outdoors. You'll also hear care tips for when the seeds germinate and grow and other tips, techniques and tools helpful in seed starting. All participants will plant up several containers of a variety of seeds to take home and grow on.

Myriad Kitchen: Herbal Butters
Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room
Member \$15; Nonmember \$22
Lori Coats, My Raggedy Herbs
Register by Tuesday, April 17 online at myriadgardens.org

Herbal butters are simple to create, yet taste like a special treat and are a great way to preserve fresh herbs, like cilantro and rosemary, which can lose some of their flavor when dried. Join herbalist, Lori Coats as she discusses some of the benefits we can enjoy from culinary herbs. She'll then walk you through the steps of creating your own herbed butter.

Introduction to Growing Plants for New Gardeners

Tuesday, April 24, 6 to 7 p.m.

Crystal Bridge 2nd Floor Conference Room

Member \$5; Nonmember \$7

Register by Friday, April 20 online at myriadgardens.org

This three part series serves as an introduction to the basics of growing ornamental garden plants including trees, shrubs and perennial flowers and grasses. Each class includes handouts on plant lists and maintenance guidelines. Part 3 will discuss perennial flowers and grasses, focusing on the best varieties for our tough climate that add color and interest each season. We'll discuss easy maintenance tips for these great plants.

Gardens Walking Tour

Saturday, April 28, 10 to 11 a.m.

South Lobby and Garden Grounds

FREE

Walkups Welcome

Expand your Oklahoma plant knowledge and get inspiration for your garden with our educational walking tours. Each month will feature different plants from our outdoor collection that make great choices for our region – from spring color to drought tolerant and more. Self-guided plant tour handouts are also available in our South Lobby.