**Exploring Food in Your Backyard!**

**Grow it. Hunt it. Find it.**

**October 11-17, 2020**

**A partnership between the Vermont Department of Libraries, Rooted in Vermont, and Your Local Public Library!**

Note: Given uncertainties about gatherings later this year, we encourage libraries to schedule online, asynchronous, or other types of programs that allow for distancing.

* General:
	+ Backyard scavenger hunt ideas: [Here](https://www.google.com/search?q=backyard+scavenger+hunt&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS748US748&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=tCjn99L8-5R7tM%253A%252CHiLam1xjuygi8M%252C_&usg=__WC8gxRhUYRS_vLXMXlTXeEHbbaY%3D&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiCuu7YzoDcAhWhzVkKHbDVApMQ9QEILTAB#imgrc=_)
	+ Art displays (post art online/on social media) – hunting/fishing, gardening, foraging – and host an online discussion (either through an online program or through social media postings
	+ Have kids color pictures of their “Food in the Backyard” to post around library and on social media
* Non-Virtual Ideas
	+ Ask patrons to contribute their recipes using locally sourced ingredients. Interview them over the phone about their recipe. Ask for pictures of the food. Create a publication featuring community recipes, pictures, and stories.
	+ Host a late harvest/root veggie swap at the library.
	+ Create a harvest-themed story walk.
	+ Create a [Zine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zine) of local stories centered around food, the harvest, foraging, and hunting
	+ Have handouts for pickup that feature articles (found online or written by local hobbyists/experts) on canning, hunting, fishing, and foraging.
	+ Outdoor/bundled-up storytime about food. Invite attendees to bring their own cider.
	+ “Outdoor Art Project” where patrons take pictures that the library features on social media or in a Zine. Example: beet painting, vegetable stamps, mushroom spore prints, or a collage of the beautiful leaves, veggies from the garden, and other things found in the backyard.
* Hunting and Fishing
	+ Vermont author discussion/presentation online
		- Example: VT author Megan Price – *Vermont Wild* books
	+ Hunting regulations presentation online
	+ Local Hunter sharing expertise through an online program, the library’s column in the local paper, the library’s posts on Front Porch Forum, etc.
		- Example (from a library outside VT): Looking for some deer hunting tips and techniques? If you are, you won’t want to miss Jeffrey Foytek’s free program on whitetail deer hunting at the Library! Foytek, who has never missed an opening day, will share some of the wisdom that he has acquired during over 40 years’ experience successfully hunting deer. He will be talking about his deer hunting strategies and tracking techniques, demonstrating hunting aids, and sharing some hunting stories.
	+ Local Park Ranger presentation online – on fauna in local nature area, K9 use for Park Rangers
		- Highlight State Park Pass (available for free at Public Libraries in VT)
	+ Online/Outdoor Program on tracking – track identification in both snow and mud
	+ Hunter’s Dinner
		- Invite community to a potluck featuring wild game (if such gatherings are permitted this fall)
		- Partner with local organization to do a game dinner (if such gatherings are permitted this fall)
		- Have a local organization do an online program about sources for obtaining and preparing local game at home
	+ Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Programming online
	+ Bow Hunting presentation online
	+ Local sporting equipment store owner online presentation on fishing gear or hunting gear
	+ Local Fish and Game Club presentation online or outside
	+ Gun safety course with local/state police or VT Wildlife Hunters Education instructors
	+ Wildlife Management lecture & discussion online
* Gardening
	+ Food and Garden Story time and discussion online
		- List of some books to possibly include:<http://greenmountainfarmtoschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Gardening-Nutrition-Story-Books-1.pdf>
	+ Cooking with Kids online program
	+ Nature Storywalk
	+ Seed Exchange or Seed Saving Workshop online
	+ Produce exchange – harvest celebration where admission is a piece of locally-grown produce (if such gatherings are permitted this fall); harvest celebration where community members leave produce at the library for pick up/exchange by others (a Little Free Library for produce!)
	+ Potluck celebration – everybody brings in a dish featuring their favorite local vegetable with recipe and perhaps some sample veggies (if such gatherings are permitted this fall)
	+ Community Potluck Recipe Sharing and/or Cookbook Creation
	+ Apple taste test/cider taste test (if gatherings are permitted this fall)
	+ Introduction to Organic Farming program online
	+ Composting workshop online
	+ Gardening tips for the end of the season – or prep to do now for next year (online program, social media postings, Front Porch Forum postings, library column, etc.)
	+ Gleaning your Garden online program
	+ Canning Demo online
	+ Fermenting Demo online
	+ Drying/dehydrating Demo online
	+ Medicinal Herbs online program
	+ Root Plants online program
	+ Harvest Bingo/Trivia online
	+ Weeds - beneficial plants thought of as weeds - online program or social media posts
	+ Maple Sugaring Prep, Making maple syrup at home tips or online program
	+ Vermont Harvest of the Month program for communities
		- [www.vermontharvestofthemonth.org](http://www.vermontharvestofthemonth.org)
	+ KidsGardening.org
		- <https://kidsgardening.org/>
	+ Contact Local UVM Extension for home gardening information, pest management, etc.
		- <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/about_us> &
		- <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/contact_us>
	+ Beekeeping or Pollinator workshops online
	+ Backyard Chickens online or social media information
	+ Other resources for possible activities:
		- [Green Mountain Farm-to-School Garden Activity Guide](http://greenmountainfarmtoschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/GMFTS-Summer-Activity-Guide-2011.pdf)
* Foraging
	+ What is Foraging and Wildcrafting? Presentation online
	+ Wild food ethics discussion online
	+ Wild mushroom identification and hunting - online or outside
	+ Foraging wild edibles lecture/demo outside
	+ Cooking with foraged materials online
	+ Soil evaluation online or outside
	+ Edible flowers online
	+ Tree identification and discussion outside
	+ Vermont Foragers Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/659158184130867/>
	+ Foraging and feasting program ideas
		- (<https://www.amazon.com/Northeast-Foraging-Flavorful-Wineberries-Regional/dp/1604694173/>; <https://www.amazon.com/Foragers-Harvest-Identifying-Harvesting-Preparing/dp/0976626608/>)
	+ Sterling College – Foraging articles:
		- <https://sterlingcollege.edu/?s=foraging>

Need help contacting an expert? Want to ask someone to come in but don’t know who? Let the Rooted in Vermont project manager Shane Rogers know, and he will do his best to connect you to the right person. You can contact him at shane@vsjf.org.