

# WINGS, WORMS, AND WONDER



## Author Bio



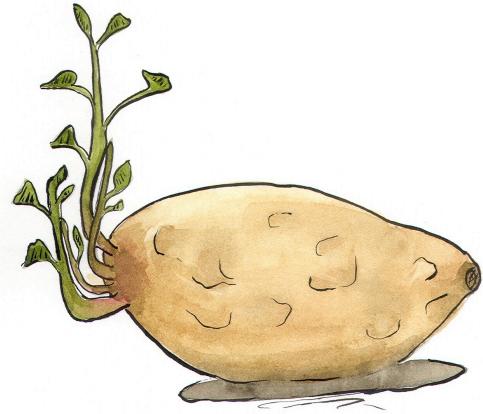
My years teaching children ages birth to 18 in both formal and non-formal educational environments inspired me to delve into the work of reconnecting children and nature. I had a childhood grounded in nature and an adolescence focused on environmental and social responsibility which heavily influenced my adult lifestyle and career in holistic education. I draw from the work and philosophies of progressive educators and am propelled to action by my own experiences with the modern child's disconnection from her food sources and natural environment. This work initially began within the realm of visual art when I received a BFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design in

1998. Since graduating from SCAD, I was an artist in residency for the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and Art Life Productions, which enabled me to bring the joys of art to a wide variety of children while exploring the ways art connects individuals to their natural and built communities. I also paint murals, exhibit my handwork regularly, and create for fun.

Beyond what I learned as a child from my grandparents, I traveled the world volunteering on organic farms where I gained in-depth farming knowledge and techniques in permaculture practices, biodynamics, and nature farming—all which I hone back at home in my own gardens. In 2000, I became involved with Montessori education as an art and classroom teacher. In 2004, I received my American Montessori Society 6-9 credential. In my first year of teaching, I became aware of the modern child's disconnect from nature. I quickly built a classroom garden and began this work of sparking natural childhood wonder through food connections. I decided to expand on my enthusiasm for art, children, and nature by returning to graduate school and focusing on the creation of *Wings, Worms, and Wonder: A Guide for Creatively Integrating Gardening and Outdoor Learning Into Children's Lives*. In summer 2012, I received an MA with a concentration in Environmental Studies from Goddard College and self published *Wings, Worms, and Wonder*. Currently, I write articles; blog; consult on and build as well as develop, coordinate, and facilitate educational programming for school and community gardens; present my work at conferences and events; teach in the University of Richmond's Nature and Sustainability Institute; am education director for DIG Local and BLFN, advise at Montessori Tides School; regularly contribute to the Ecohyphen podcast; and head my environmentally and socially responsible company, Wings, Worm, and Wonder.

Wings, Worms, and Wonder Press Kit.  
Discover more and purchase the book at [wingswormsandwonder.com](http://wingswormsandwonder.com)

## Brief Bio



Kelly Johnson is an artist, surfer, musician, gardener, and seasoned Montessori teacher in Neptune Beach, Florida. A graduate of Goddard College and the Savannah College of Art and Design, Kelly shares her love of art, children, and nature through her book *Wings, Worms, and Wonder: A Guide for Creatively Integrating Gardening and Outdoor Learning Into Children's Lives*. In addition to sharing the book, she contributes articles to education and gardening magazines; blogs; consults on and builds as well as develops, coordinates, and facilitates educational programming for school and community gardens; presents her work at conferences and events; teaches in the University of Richmond's Nature and Sustainability Institute; is education director for DIG Local; is children's garden

coordinator for the Beaches Local Food Network, is an auxiliary teacher at Montessori Tides School; regularly contributes to the Ecohyphen podcast; and heads her environmentally and socially responsible company of the same name, Wings, Worm, and Wonder.

## Book Description



So you have a garden, but now what do you do with it? Peppered with anecdotes and friendly advice, while based in research and experience, *Wings, Worms, and Wonder* answers this question. Above and beyond gardening guidance on topics such as composting and organic pest control, it gives adults the tools to reconnect themselves and the children in their lives to the natural world through holistic gardening experiences. It will ignite your

confidence to create outdoor learning experiences that nurture both wonder and ecological literacy.

Overflowing with tips for successfully gardening with children in school and community settings, as well as including 36 child tested lesson plans, you'll find everything you need to seamlessly integrate gardening into both elementary curricula and daily life. Rooted in scientific and arts based Nature-Study and progressive education models, this guide is invaluable for anyone wanting to grow a thriving children's gardening program. This book will inspire and equip you to sprout a happier healthier generation of children!

Complimenting the book, the author offers a weekly blog featuring research, garden events, and lesson plans. She also consults on various garden projects, hosts workshops for children, parents, and teachers, and presents this work at schools, garden clubs, and both national and international conferences.

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## Brief Book Description

Wings, Worms, and Wonder, the guide and the company, aspires to reconnect children with the natural world and help create future generations of happy, healthy, ecologically literate children who are invested in nature and have a desire to “grow their own.” Through the 40 lessons in the book, the blog, and educational workshops, events, and consultation services, I hope to reach as many students, teachers and parents as possible. Every generation has a right to healthful nutritious food and a beautiful inspiring natural world. Let’s get planting the seeds today

## Testimonials



“*Wings, Worms, and Wonder* is packed with a lot of practical information and facts that are useful whether you’re an educator, parent or both.” ~Go Explore Nature

“We have a lot to learn from the beautiful world around us and this guide is a great place to start! *Wings, Worms, and Wonder* is full of beautiful artwork. Even my children naturally picked up the book and looked through its pages. I loved her well laid out blog, especially her upcoming events widget. ~EcoEtsy

“Although this book is geared to teachers, it will be a boon to parents, grandparents and other adults who want to introduce kids to gardening and nature.” ~Florida Gardening Magazine

“*Wings, Worms & Wonder*” is a masterful book that inspires children to fall in love with fresh food, organic gardening, nature and sustainable living. These fun, easy lesson plans are ideal for schools, homeschoilers or families to enjoy with their children. The book is loaded with colorful illustrations and hands-on lesson plans so easy and fun, your kids will never guess it’s all educational!” ~Sustainable North Florida

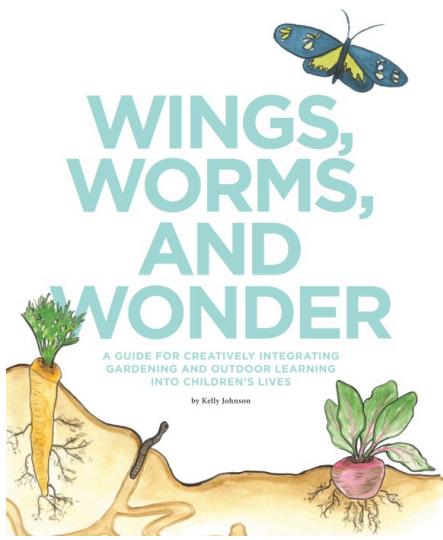
“Your session was inspirational...You embody a sense of wonder that is incredibly refreshing. I appreciated how you grounded your presentation with the past and the level of intention you weaved throughout.” ~Jennifer Jakubecy & Kathleen McIntyre, Davidson Green School, NC

“The workshop you presented for my Education students was wonderful! We enjoyed the ideas you shared and my students took them and used them at their own sites in the following weeks! The workshop was a wonderful balance of inspiration and practicality! Thanks so much!” ~Mimi Folk, Professor, Florida State College at Jacksonville, FL

“The whole school is working on a garden project and...we learned so many facts that will help the garden to be a success. It was an awesome assembly! Inch by inch, row by row, we will make our garden grow!”~ Kathy Streetman, Rivers Edge Elementary, VA

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## Angles and Availability



Contact Kelly directly through the website to explore the variety of presentations, workshops and consultations she offers. These aim to provide the inspiration, confidence, curricular support, and resources needed to enable teachers, community leaders, or parents with any level of experience to integrate experiential, creative, natural history study into children's lives and/or school curricula through organic gardening and fine art. Each workshop, consultation, and education event is developed to meet the site's specific needs and visions for their garden, educational programming, or outdoor learning environment.

Kelly speaks and writes extensively on topics such as: the physical, psychological, and developmental significance of childhood nature connections and preserving a sense of wonder, progressive education's (and specifically on Montessori's) emphasis on natural environment integration, the modern significance of the historic Nature-Study movement, ecological literacy, integrating gardens across classroom curricula, nature journaling and art as means for facilitating nature connection, and the artistic environmentalists and educators Beatrix Potter, Rachel Carson, and Anna Botsford Comstock.

The Book *Wings, Worms, and Wonder: A Guide for Creatively Integrating Gardening and Outdoor Learning Into Children's Lives* is currently available online and at retail locations as well as in person at all conference presentations, events, and workshops.

The website: [www.wingswormsandwonder.com](http://www.wingswormsandwonder.com)

The [Wings, Worms, and Wonder Etsy Shop](#)

The Bookmark, Neptune Beach FL

Moss Home, Garden, Gifts: Jacksonville Beach, FL

The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens Gift Shop: Jacksonville, FL

The Civic Media Center: Gainesville, FL

The Wintergreen Nature Foundation: Wintergreen, VA

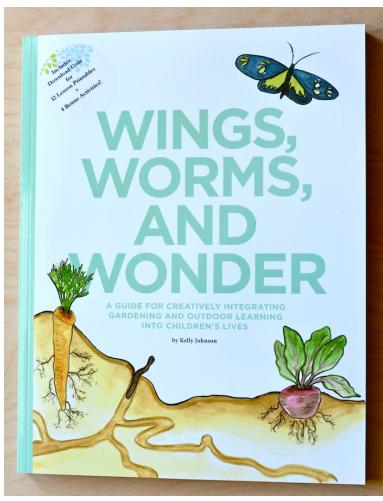
Bluestockings Bookstore: New York City, NY

It is distributed through the [Montessori Services online catalogue](#)

Social Networks: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#)

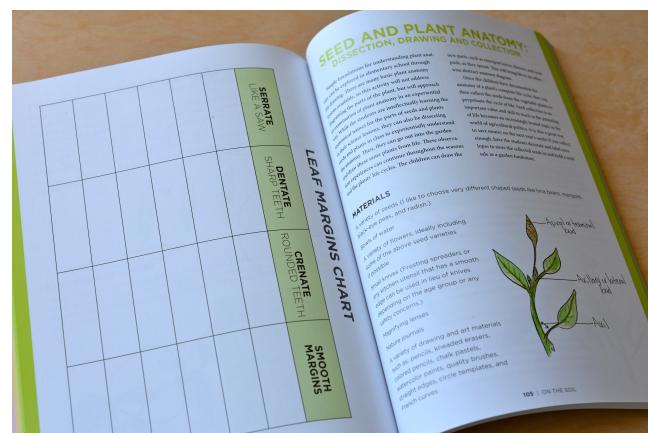
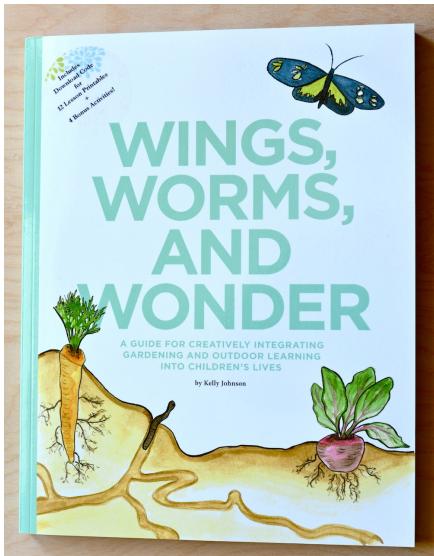
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## Low Resolution Images



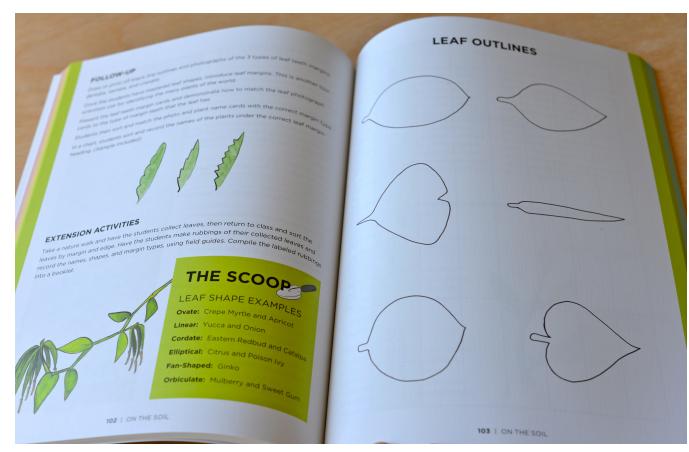
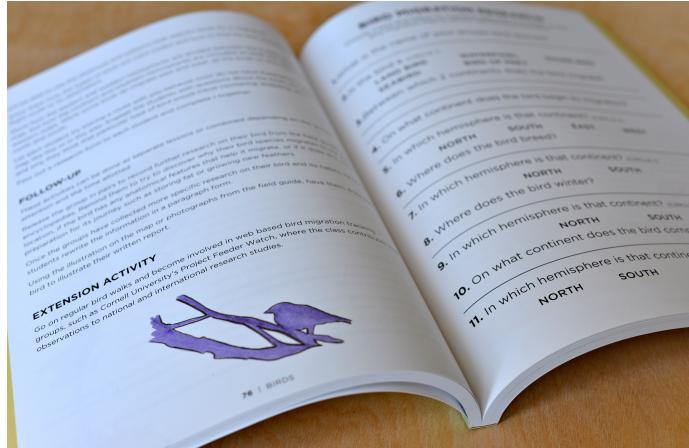
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# High Resolution Images



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# High Resolution Images Continued



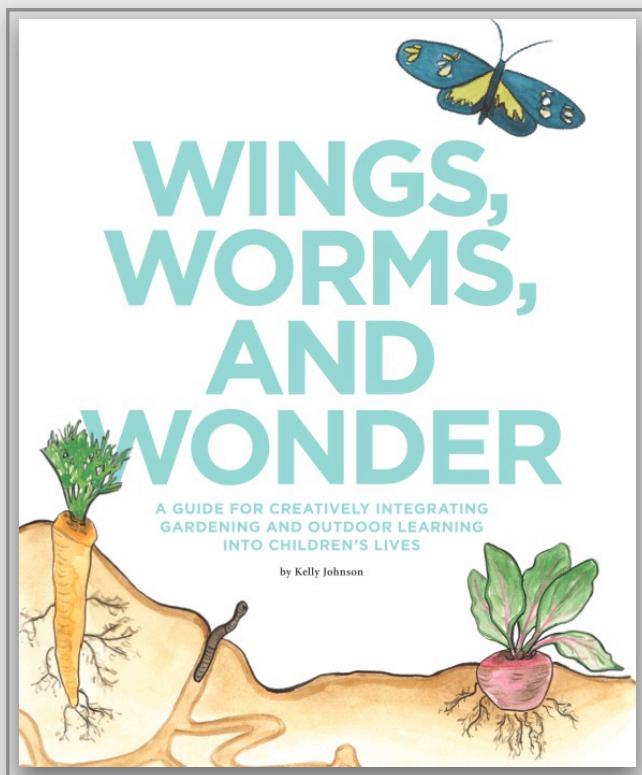
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Announcing a NEW BOOK from Wings, Worms, and Wonder

# Wings, Worms, and Wonder

A Guide for Creatively Integrating Gardening and Outdoor Learning Into Children's Lives

Kelly Johnson. *Wings, Worms, and Wonder: A Guide for Creatively Integrating Gardening and Outdoor Learning Into Children's Lives*. Wings,Worms, and Wonder, August 2012, ISBN 978-0-615-64435-6, 183 pages, 8.5" x 11", \$44.95 plus taxes, shipping and handling



## This full color book contains:

- A creative curriculum with lesson plans, ready-to-use handouts, material templates, and recipes
- Hundreds of inspiring illustrations
- A thorough resource section with bonus PDFs
- A history of the school garden movement including research on the benefits of gardening, nature connection, and how to promote ecoliteracy
- Profiles of innovative educators who integrate nature into schools and children's lives
- And it is printed on recycled paper with vegetable based inks and animal free glues!

**So you have a garden, but now what do you do with it?**

Peppered with anecdotes and friendly advice, while based in research and 12 years experience gardening with children in schools and community settings, **Wings, Worms, and Wonder** answers this question. Above and beyond gardening guidance on topics such as composting and organic pest control, it gives adults with newly green thumbs the tools to reconnect themselves and the children in their lives to the natural world through holistic gardening experiences. It will ignite your confidence to create outdoor learning experiences that nurture both wonder and ecological literacy.

Overflowing with tips for successfully gardening with children in school and community settings, as well as including over **36 child tested lesson plans**, you'll find everything you need to seamlessly integrate gardening into both elementary curricula and daily life. Rooted in the scientific and arts based Nature-Study pedagogy and progressive education models, this guide is invaluable for anyone wanting to grow a thriving children's gardening program.

Complimenting the book, the author offers a weekly blog featuring research, garden events, and lesson plans. She also consults on various garden projects, hosts workshops for children, parents, and teachers, and presents this work at schools, garden clubs, and both national and international conferences.

To order a copy, contact the author, or for more information visit [wingswormsandwonder.com](http://wingswormsandwonder.com)