

Community Read 2020 Partner Programs for Libraries

Chester County Historical Society: *Weird Plants: An Escape Room in a Box*

The year is 1848, and you are a member of West Chester's Horticultural Society. Just back from a trip to Australia, Dr. Seymour is presenting her newly discovered plant, the *balanophora*, in West Chester's Horticultural Hall. Her new plant is under lock and key, and it will be revealed once all members arrive. But Dr. Seymour can't find her keys! After some detective work, you find the keys, open the plant's box, and...NOTHING! Dr. Seymour blames you for the missing *balanophora*. Now, you must find the plant and the perpetrator!

In this program, students will become detectives, using primary sources from the Chester County Historical Society's library and archives to solve clues and uncover the mystery. This program is suitable for: libraries, school groups, scout troops, and homeschool groups.

Cost: \$50 box rental

Length: 60 minutes

Maximum: 40 participants

Contact: To rent the Escape Room in a Box contact the Education Department at education@chestercohistorical.org The rental period is one week, and the box can be picked up/returned to the Chester County Historical Society. All pieces of the activity will be provided in the box, including guides and explanations for educators.

Delaware Center for Horticulture: *Mysterious Plants*

Unravel unusual unique plant secrets from around the world. Discover weird and wonderful plants prior to unlocking a surprise through dissection. Schedule your outreach program by contacting Helen Fischel at 658-6262 x103 or Hfischel@thedch.org. This program is ideal for libraries, school groups, home school groups, and garden clubs.

Cost: \$150

Length: 45 minutes

Maximum: 40 participants

Delaware Center for Horticulture: *Enormous Potato Planting Party*

Enjoy reading the story *Enormous Potato* before planting a 5-gallon potato garden to leave at the site. Will your potato grow to be ENORMOUS? Schedule your outreach program by contacting Helen Fischel at 658-6262 x103 or Hfischel@thedch.org. This program is ideal for libraries, school groups, home school groups, and garden clubs.

Cost: \$150 (Programs in March only)

Length: 45 minutes

Maximum: 40 participants



Delaware Museum of Natural History: Mobile Museum Outreach -*The Enormous Potato*

In the children's book, *The Enormous Potato*, how does the family pull the prized potato from the ground? Teamwork! Even the dog and cat help out! Just like the family, there are many animals in the wild that work together to find their food and survive. In this hands-on program, you'll get the chance to successfully work together like they do in the animal kingdom.

Cost: \$125 per program (maximum of 40 participants)

Length: 1 hour **Audience:** All ages

Contact: Cathleen Perrotto cperrotto@delmnh.org

Delaware Nature Society: *The Enormous Potato*

What will a farmer do when his harvest is too large to manage on his own? After planting a potato, a farmer realizes that it has grown too large and he can't pull it out on his own! How many helpers will the farmer need and what will they do with such an enormous harvest? Dig into delicious discoveries both above and below ground by unearthing the world of roots, fruits, stems, leaves, flowers and seeds. Learn hands on what it takes for farmers to grow our favorite fruits and vegetables. Sort familiar foods and discover how many different plant parts you can eat! Leave with a potted seed that might just produce an enormous *tomato*!

Cost: \$150

Length: 1 hour

Contact: To schedule a presentation please contact Ashley Harrell at Coverdale Farm Preserve, (302) 437-5597 or Ashley@DelNature.org

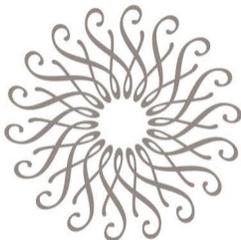
Delaware Nature Society: *Weird Plants*

A 5-foot wide, 20-pound vampire flower. A 10-foot tall inflorescence that smells like rotting fish and sweaty socks. A plant that is pollinated by... lizards!? Are these nightmares? Science fiction? Believe it or not, these are just a few of the uncanny, yet real-life denizens of Chris Thorogood's book *Weird Plants*. Learn the stories of their bizarre adaptations, savor Thorogood's spectacular illustrations, then use a variety of materials (plus your logic and imagination!) to construct entirely new plant species adapted to some strange and diverse environments. Recommended for 5th grade and older.

Cost: \$150

Length: 1 hour

Contact: To schedule a presentation please contact Sheila Vincent at Ashland Nature Center, (302) 239-2334 x 125 or Sheila@DelNature.org



Mt. Cuba Center: Fatal Attraction

Inspired by the “carnivores” of Chris Thorogood’s *Weird Plants*, join Mt. Cuba Center educators as they explore the exciting and bizarre world of carnivorous plants! Peek inside a real pitcher plant to see what it’s been eating and learn about the various ways these plants attract, trap, and digest their favorite insects. After examining pitcher plant parts, kids can craft their very own sundews complete with a finger puppet bug to land on their plant’s sticky hairs! This program is suitable for kids 5 and up, school groups, libraries, homeschool groups, and scout troops.

Cost: \$150

Length: 45-60 minutes

Maximum: 25 participants

Contact: To schedule this program, please contact Caroline Fazzini at cfazzini@mtcubacenter.org or 302-239-8830.

Nemours Estate: *The Enormous Potato*

After reading *The Enormous Potato*, we’ll talk about how difficult it was to move that potato! Using simple machines can make big tasks easier. At Nemours Estate there are many simple and complex machines that helped people to work, play and live. Let’s learn about and build a pulley that will help us move heavy objects!

Cost: \$125/session, 4 sessions available.

Length: 60 minutes

Contact: To schedule this program, please contact Annie Thomas-Bubel at (302) 651-6917 or annie.thomas-bubel@nemours.org

Tyler Arboretum: *The Enormous Potato*

The book *The Enormous Potato* by Aubrey Davis tells the story of people working together to harvest and enjoy potatoes. In this program, we will learn how a garden ecosystem similarly works together to support the growth of the potato. Student scientists will explore the importance of soil and the critters that live in it as we explore our live worm bin. Then we’ll discover how all of the parts of the potato plant work together too. We’ll do an illuminating experiment to discover the power of potatoes and how this nutritious food can help us grow. Each student will wrap up the program by planting their very own potato eye to grow and experiment with at home.

Cost: \$150

Length: 1 hour

Maximum: 30 students per class, appropriate for students in grades K-5th

Contact: To register, e-mail Rebecca Silvey at rsilvey@tylerarboretum.org or call at 610-566-9134 ext. 306.



