

Flower power: Green Artists League to offer workshops

By Staff reports

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Newburyport — Supported in part by a grant from the Newburyport Cultural Council, Green Artists League collage artist Pamela Perkins will conduct five week-day art and science workshops during April school vacation to celebrate Earth Day.

Students from the Newburyport Learning Enrichment Center will work in teams to create four large Art-Pots that will later be planted and installed in a shared community garden at the Griffin Home for Aged Men. This is the beginning of GAL's "Movable Feast: Articulture #3." GAL defines Articulture as "the co-creation of eco-friendly communities through art and horticulture," for this series of ongoing projects.

Called "Flower Power," the workshops utilize drawing, painting, decoupage and collage techniques. Participants will visually explore the world of "plant guilds," permaculture and edible flowers, and when completed, each pot will represent the horticultural science of the plants growing in them - how they're working together to create and sustain a healthy environment.

In collaboration with Ipswich permaculture expert, Charlotte Dion, GAL developed the design and layout of the pot gardens to keep the soil nourished, attract pollinating wildlife and repel unwanted insects. What each plant is doing will be explored and artfully represented. The colors and flavors of the various flowers will also be discussed.

The workshops begin a growing season during which students will be encouraged to keep a garden journal, help harvest the flowers and make collective decisions as to the best use of the bounty; some ideas are to use as garnish in soups and salads, frozen into ice cubes to garnish beverages or make candied petals. The process fosters creativity, teamwork and successful outcomes.

In partnership with the Newburyport Learning Enrichment Center, GAL's "Flower Power" will take place Monday, April 19, to Friday, April 23, noon to 2 p.m., in the Center at 15 Storey Ave.

For information, call Nancy Earls, project director, at 978-884-1343.

For information about hosting a "Flower Power" workshop, e-mail erin@greenartistsleague.org. For information about other GAL Articulture Projects, visit greenartistsleague.org and newedengarden.org

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