

# DEBRA BAILEY MITCHELL

242 Tawnyberry Dr. Athens, Ga 30606 mitchelld@clarke.k12.ga.us (706) 254-5975

## Instructor / Garden Curator

Accomplished Instructor with more than 20 years of experience as a Teacher in Clarke County and as a Curator and Educator at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia seeks the opportunity to serve, maintain and promote the Founders Memorial Garden at The University of Georgia. Notable strengths include plant identification and instruction of cultivated gardens, native flora, historic landscapes, pollinator and bird habitat as well as landscape maintenance and management, project management and communication.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Instructor:** Teacher of AP Environmental Science, Biology and Agricultural Science  
Clarke Central High School, Athens, Ga. (2018-present)  
*Teacher of biological and agricultural science courses designed to merge science and engineering practices with crosscutting concepts through engagement in medical phenomena.*
- Teacher of Agricultural Science  
Clarke Middle School, Athens, Ga. (2013-2018).  
*Teacher of agricultural science and engineering; FFA chapter advisor; co-advisor of Sustainability Corps; co-advisor of Summer Kitchen Garden Corps; and co-founder of CMS Sustainability Squad.*
- Curriculum Development, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. (2015-2016).  
*Consultant for field trip curriculum for the Latin American Ethnobotanical Garden and for botanically-based science and social studies K-12 lesson plans.*
- AmeriCorps VISTA School Gardens, Athens, Ga. (2013).  
*Coordinator of volunteers, materials, and curriculum for gardens at 22 schools in Clarke County School District.*
- Education Specialist, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Ga. (2009-2011).  
*Curriculum writer for Garden Earth Naturalist, a guide for investigating school ecosystems; interpretation designer for designated Important Bird Area.*
- Education Coordinator, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Ga. (2005-2007).  
*Coordinator of environmental education programs for adults and children, including summer camps, field trips, professional development workshops for teachers, symposia, and family festivals.*
- Garden Curator:** Curator of Heritage Garden, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Ga. (2011-2012). *Horticulturist of heirloom fruit, vegetable, and ornamental plants important in the history of Georgia; coordinator of volunteers; designer and instructor of educational programs focusing on Georgia's horticultural heritage; overseer of garden maintenance and seasonal plant propagation.*
- Garden Curator:** Curator of Herb, Physic and Native American Collections, State Botanical Garden of

Georgia, Athens, Ga. (2001-2003).

Curator of International Garden, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Ga.  
(1999-2001).

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Science Education, 2013 - University of Georgia

Dissertation: *Action Gardening: Sowing Seeds of Change through Cornel West's Prophetic Pragmatism in Science Education*

M.A. in Science Education, 2009 - University of Georgia

Thesis: *A Philosophical Analysis of David Orr's Theory of Ecological Literacy: Biophilia, Ecojustice and Moral Education in Middle School Learning Communities*

B.S. in Biology, 1989 - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2018-Spring 2021; AP Environmental Science, Biology

& Agricultural Science

Clarke Central High School, Athens, Ga.

Instructor

Fall 2013-Spring 2018; Exploring AgriScience

Clarke Middle School, Athens, Ga.

Instructor

Fall 2012

ECOL 1000 & ECOL 1000L

*The Ecological Basis for Environmental Issues*

Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia.

Graduate Assistant

Spring 2012

EFND 8080

*Contemporary Philosophies of Education*

Department of Social Foundations, College of Education, University of Georgia.

Co-Instructor

Spring 2011

ESCI 3450

*Practicum in Science Education*

Department of Mathematics and Science Education, College of Education,  
University of Georgia.

Co-Instructor

Spring 2011

ESCI 4450/6450

*Methods of Science Teaching*

Department of Mathematics and Science Education, College of Education,  
University of Georgia.

Co-Instructor

Spring 2011

ESCI 4460/6460

*Science Curriculum and Learning*

Department of Mathematics and Science Education, College of Education,  
University of Georgia.

Co-Instructor

Fall 2010	ESCI 5480/7480	Co-Instructor
<i>Philosophy and Leadership in Science Classroom Practice</i> Social Foundations, College of Education, University of Georgia.		
Spring 2010 & Fall 2010	AESC 4920S/6920S	Graduate Assistant
<i>FOCUS (Fostering Our Community's Understanding of Science): Service-Learning Experience</i> College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia.		
Spring 2010	ESCI 4420	Teaching Assistant
<i>Science for Early Childhood Education</i> Department of Mathematics and Science Education, College of Education, University of Georgia.		
Spring 2010 & Spring 2011	ISCI/PBIO 2001L	Teaching Assistant
<i>Integrated Science for Early Childhood Education Majors</i> Department of Plant Biology, Franklin College, University of Georgia.		
Fall 2008	Clarke Middle School, Athens, Ga.	Student Teacher
Department of Mathematics and Science Education, College of Education, University of Georgia.		
Fall 2007	Russell Middle School, Winder, Ga. & Winder-Barrow High School, Winder, Ga.	Practicum
Department of Mathematics and Science Education, College of Education, University of Georgia.		
Summers 2006, 2009, 2010, & 2011		Camp Director
State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Ga.		
2005-2012		Field Trip Guide
State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Ga.		

### **Workshops**

Tedrow, A., Smith, S. & Mitchell, D. B. (2014, February). *Starting Seeds for Spring School Gardens*.  
Workshop for Clarke County teachers. Clarke Middle School, Athens, Ga.

Mitchell, D. B. (2013, June). *Forensics in the Classroom*. Workshop for middle school and secondary  
science teachers. College of Education, UGA.

Luther, R. A. & Mitchell, D. B. (2010, November & 2011, April). *Forensics in the Classroom*, Workshop  
conducted for elementary prospective teachers, College of Education, UGA.

Mitchell, D. B. (2010, June). *Aliens, Ghosts, and Plant Lore: Defining Science through Scientific Anomalies*,  
Workshop for secondary science prospective teachers, College of Education, UGA.

Luther, R. A. & Mitchell, D. B., (2010, July 26 – 31). *CSI Academy*, Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Weeklong workshop for middle school youth, UGA.

Shenk, A., Ceska, J., & Mitchell, D., (2006, March). *Endangered Plant Stewardship Network*, Environmental Education Alliance Conference, Workshop for environmental educators, Duluth, Ga.

Shenk, A., Hoffman, C., & Mitchell, D. (2005, September). *Garden Earth Naturalists After School Ecology Club*, Workshop for elementary teachers, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

### **Workshop Evaluations**

Garden Earth Naturalist Summer Workshop for Teachers, June 2-6 2014, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

Garden Earth Naturalist Summer Workshop for Teachers, June 3-7 2013, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, GA.

### **Refereed Journal Publications**

Mitchell, D.B. (2017). Deeper than rhizomes, becoming decalcomaniacal: A reflexive response to Murakami and Siegel's "Becoming Bermuda Grass". *Cultural Studies of Science Education*. doi: 10.1007/s11422-017-98242

Mitchell, D.B. & Alley, H. (2016). Botanical Guardians: Educator Volunteers Restoring Resilient Roots. *Roots*, 13(2), 31-33.

Mueller, M.P., Pattillo, K.K., Mitchell, D.B., & Luther, R.A. (2011). Lessons from the tree that owns itself: Implications for education. *International Journal of Environmental and Science Education*, 6(3), 293-314.

Mitchell, D.B., & Mueller, M.P. (2010). A philosophical analysis of David Orr's theory of ecological literacy: Biophilia, ecojustice and moral education in school learning communities. *Cultural Studies of Science Education*. DOI: 10.1007/s 11422-010-9274-6.

Mitchell, D.B., & Mueller, M.P. (2008). The role of ecological literacy in middle school learning communities. *Tennessee Association of Middle Schools Journal*, 39, 1-9.

### **Book Chapters**

Mitchell, D.B. (2019). Unearthing inequality in a middle school garden. In A. Gitlin, *Reinventing Teacher Education: Challenges for Our Troubled Times*. Dubuque: Kendall Hunt, 127-135.

Mitchell, D.B., Tippins, D.J., Kim, Y A., Perkins, G.D., & Rudolph, H.A. (2016). Last Child in the Woods: An analysis of Nature, Child, and Time through a lens of eco-mindfulness. In M. Powietrzynaka & K. Tobin (Eds.), *Mindfulness and Educating Citizens for Everyday Life*. Rotterdam, the Netherlands: Sense Publishing.

Kim, Y.A., Perkins, G.D., Rudolph, H.A., Mitchell, D.B., Tippins, D.J. (2016). "I walk in nature more confidently": Using photoessays to understand ecological mindfulness in pre-service teachers. In M. Powietrzynaka & K. Tobin (Eds.), *Mindfulness and Educating Citizens for Everyday Life*. Rotterdam,

the Netherlands: Sense Publishing.

Rudolph, H., Mitchell, D.B. & Tippins, D.J. (2015). Authentic gardening experience, community connections, and action! A web of supports and constraints for urban middle school agricultural science learning. In G. M. Barnett & A. Patchen (Eds.) *STEM Learning through Urban Agriculture and Gardens*. Springer: the Netherlands.

Tippins, D. J., Neuharth-Pritchett, S. & Mitchell, D.B. (2015). Connecting young children with the natural world: Past, present and future landscapes. In K.C. Trundle & M. Sackes (Eds.), *Research in Early Childhood Science Education*. Springer: the Netherlands, 279-297.

### **Presentations**

Bisceglia, A., MacMillan, T., Mitchell, D. B., Zimmerman, H., Thomas, J. & Prichard, P. W. (2017, October). Clarke Middle Farm to School. A presentation for the Georgia Organics Farm to School Summit, Augusta, GA.

Mitchell, D. B. (2017, March). *Environmental Ed in Middle School Ag: The Weird, the Nasty and the Awesome*. A presentation for the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Research Symposium, Buford, GA.

Acheson, H., Bonaparte, D., Gallant, A., Mitchell, D. & Zimmerman, H. (2015, February). *Not Your Mama's Home Ec*. A panel discussion presentation for the Georgia Farm to School and Pre-school Summit, Athens, GA.

Mitchell, D. B. (2014, October). *Knowing Your Soil: Place-Conscious Education through Garden-Based STEM*. A presentation for the Georgia STEM Forum, Athens, GA.

Mitchell, D. B. (2014, March). *Action Gardening as EcoJustice*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for Science Teacher Education, Pittsburgh, PA.

Mitchell, D. B. & Tippins, D. J. (2013, January). *Action Gardening: Connecting Science Education and Engaged Citizenry through Prophetic Pragmatism*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Science Teacher Education, Charleston, SC.

Mitchell, D. B., Luther, R. A., & Mueller, M. P. (2012, March). *Lessons from the Tree: How the Tree that Owns Itself Taught Its Town*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, Indianapolis, IN.

Mitchell, D. B., Luther, R.A., & Mueller, M.P. (2012, February). *If Trees had Rights: Lessons to Guide the Integration of Theory and Practice from the Tree that Owns Itself*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southeast Philosophy of Education Society, Birmingham, AL.

Luther, R. A., Mitchell, D. B., & Mueller, M. P. (2012, January). *Lessons on Plant Rights from The Tree That Owns Itself: Implications for Science Education*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Science Teacher Education, Clearwater, FL.

Mitchell, D. B., Luther, R. A., Tippins, Mueller, M. P., D. J., Zeidler, D. L., & Sadler, T. D. (2012,

January). *The Confluence of EcoJustice, Socioscientific Issues & Socioscientific Reasoning in Science Teacher Education*. Paper set presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Science Teacher Education, Clearwater, FL.

Mitchell, D. B. (2010, October). *Learning to Dwell: Weaving Ecological Literacy, Biophilia and Ecojustice to Establish Place in Science Education*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association for Science Teacher Education, Decatur, GA.

Mitchell, D. B. (2010, February). *Ecological literacy: Linking science education and morals through Biophilia, EcoJustice and experiences in nature*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Eastern Educational Research Association, Savannah, GA.

Mitchell, D. B. (2010, February). *Ecological literacy: Learning science and community from nature*, Georgia Science Teacher Association Conference, Savannah, GA.

Mitchell, D. B. (2007, July). *Our Shared Forests*, Georgia PTA Conference, Atlanta.

Shenk, A. and Mitchell, D. B. (2005, July). *The power of plants: Medicinal plants in the classroom*, American Horticultural Society Youth Gardening Symposium, Atlanta, GA.

### **Papers Accepted for Presentation**

Mitchell, D. B. (2012, November). *Action Gardening: Unlearning for Justice through Prophetic Pragmatism*. Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Studies Association, Seattle, WA.

Mitchell, D. B. (2011, February). *Science, Identity, and Ethics: Lessons from the Thrift Store*. Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association, Sarasota, FL.

Mitchell, D. B. (2011, February). *Ethics and Place in Science Education*. Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association, Sarasota, FL.

### **Funded Grants and Awards**

Outstanding Middle School Teacher, Athens Clarke County School Garden Champion Awards, 2018.

UGA Office of Sustainability, Eugene Odum Environmental Grant, Hand-washing Station, Principal investigator: D. Mitchell, 2017-2018, \$275.

Clarke County School District Foundation for Excellence in Public Education, Todd Cooper Memorial Grant for Technology and Equipment, Connecting to Nature through Landscaping Skills, Principal investigator: D. Mitchell, 2016-2017, \$500.

Oconee River Soil and Water Conservation District, Clarke Middle Farm Water Collection and Drainage, Principal investigator: D. Mitchell, 2016-2017, \$900.

UGA Office of Sustainability, Eugene Odum Environmental Grant, Sail Shelter, Principal investigator: D. Mitchell, 2015-2016, \$250.

Sandy Creek Nature Center Founders' Award, Learning through Cross-Curriculum Collaboration, \$300.

Clarke County School District Foundation for Excellence in Public Education, Eve Carson Service Learning Grant, Clarke Middle School Table to Farm Composting Project: Bringing Nutrition Full Circle, Principal investigator: D. Mitchell, 2014-2015, \$1000.

CSX & FFA Living to Serve: Environmental Grant, CMS Table to Farm Composting Project, Principal investigator: D. Mitchell, 2014-2015, \$2000.

UGA Office of Sustainability, Eugene Odum Environmental Grant, Garden Harvest Sink, Principal investigator: D. Mitchell, 2013-2014, \$300.

Office of International Education, A Cross-cultural Dialogue on the Environment, Food, Equity, and Sustainable Science Education: A Case-based Approach to Internationalizing Science Education Curricula, Curriculum Internationalization Grants Program, Co-principal investigators: D. Tippins, M. Mueller, R. Luther, & D. Mitchell, 2010-2011, \$3,500.

### **Professional Affiliations**

Georgia Association of Teachers of Vocational Agriculture  
National Association for Research in Science Teaching  
Association for Science Teacher Education  
Southeastern Association for Science Teacher Education  
National Science Teachers Association  
Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia  
Future Farmers of America Alumni

### **Professional Service**

Governor's Honors Program Selection Panel, Clarke Central High School, 2019  
Future Farmers of America Advisor 2013-2018  
*Cultural Studies of Science Education*, Journal Reviewer, 2015, 2016, 2017  
National Association for Research in Science Teaching; Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2014 & 2015  
*Cultural Studies of Science Education*, Best Paper Award Reviewer, 2014  
*Science Education*, Journal Reviewer, 2013  
*Cultural Studies of Science Education*, Journal Reviewer, 2012  
American Educational Research Association; Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2010  
*Environmental Education Research*; Journal Reviewer, 2010 & 2011  
National Association for Research in Science Teaching; Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2010

### **Community Service**

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)  
Clarke Middle School Sustainability Initiative Sanford Stadium Recycler  
Clarke Middle School Sustainability Squad co-founder  
Clarke Middle School Sustainability Corps co-advisor  
Clarke Middle School Parent Teacher Association member  
Chase Street Elementary Parent Teacher Organization garden mentor  
Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance volunteer  
Hands On Athens  
State Botanical Garden Children's Garden Creative Team