

PRESS RELEASE

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Rain Gardens & Xeriscape: Smart Gardening in a Changing Climate

LIBERTY, NY—These are challenging times for gardeners, according to Barbara Bravo, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Ulster County Master Gardener Volunteer. In the years to come, people will need to be prepared for unaccustomed weather events, be it too much or too little precipitation and long periods of drought conditions.

The public can learn about Rain Gardens & Xeriscape on Monday, April 9, 2018. Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County offers this unique workshop from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at its Extension Education Center on 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty.

Barbara Bravo will present what conditions are needed for both garden types, how to select and prepare a site, as well as plant recommendations.

“Xeriscape, a term first defined in Denver, CO by the Denver Water Department in 1981, is a style of gardening that works naturally with nature and minimizes water use,” says Bravo.

“Plants selected for Xeriscape gardens are capable of thriving without supplemental watering once established. Another important consideration is the practicality of lawns and how we might re-envision our backyards. Rain Gardens are basically a shallow sunken garden designed to capture and retain rainwater. Plants selected for these gardens are chosen for their ability to endure both flooding and dry periods. Rain Gardens process rainwater that has been redirected from impervious surfaces removing pollutants and allowing it to return to ground water, bypassing storm drains.”

Cost is \$ 15 per person or \$10 per CCE Sullivan County enrollee. Anyone can enroll for an annual contribution of \$25 and receive a monthly subscription to the Extension Connection magazine.

Registration can be completed by calling 845-292-6180, emailing sullivan@cornell.edu, or visiting www.sullivancce.org. Payment can be made in advance by check, cash, or credit. Program fees support the cost of instructors, refreshments, materials, and facilities.

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