Rocklanders are Best Blockbusters in the Area

Rockland County invasive species surveyors were recognized by the NY-NJ Trail Conference for their outstanding efforts and results in generating valuable data on the spread and distribution of invasive plants in Rockland. The Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award was presented to Ann Barry, a CCE Rockland Master Gardener Volunteer and her husband Gerald Barry, at a March NY-NJ Trail Conference Volunteer Recognition luncheon at Ramapo College. The award recognizes volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional service and have gone “the extra mile”.

An invasive species is an alien or non-native species that spreads to a degree that its introduction does or is likely to cause harm to the environment, the human economy or human health. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LH-PRISM) contract with the New York – New Jersey Trail Conference to organize and implement the regional efforts to combat invasive species in the lower Hudson Valley. Ann Barry, representing Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland, worked with the Trail Conference on the initiative and coordinated the invasive species surveying efforts in Rockland County.

The Rockland County surveyors, who were primarily CCE-RC Master Gardener Volunteers, collectively generated more data on invasive plants than any other county in the lower Hudson Valley and importantly, produced high quality data that will be valuable to the Trail Conference and the Lower Hudson PRISM in prioritizing the preventive efforts and removal of various invasive plants. This award highlights the value that CCE-RC and the combined group efforts of its many volunteers, contributes to the county and the health of its environment.

Put your Citizen Science Skills to the Test this Summer!
LH-PRISM & NYNJTC present the new Invasives Strike Force Survey program. Whether you're completely new to identifying invasives or a long-time expert, there's a level for everyone! Workshops will be held throughout the Lower Hudson Valley in an effort to offer our awesome volunteers a convenient training location. For more information, visit the NY-NJ Trail Conference's website: [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)
Don't Miss this INP Seminar for Non-Profit Leaders

Creating a Powerful Presentation

Date: Tuesday, June 5, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Most audiences would agree that PowerPoint is where many presentations go to die. PowerPoint can be a great tool to help you deliver your message but, used improperly, it robs your presentation of energy and actually turns your audience off. This workshop will help you change the way you approach your presentation and avoid the pitfalls most people fall into when creating theirs. It will also provide a commonsense framework for you to follow to ensure your audience stays focused, energized, and interested as well as some insights on how to best use PowerPoint to add drama and excitement when delivering your presentation.

Presenter: David Kane, Freelance Writer, Communications Consultant, and Coach

Place: Cornell Cooperative Extension, 10 Patriot Hills Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980
Price: $10.00 per person. (unless otherwise noted)
To register: Contact Jennifer Strianese by phone at (845) 429-7085 x117 or by email Jas946@cornell.edu

Water-Smart Workshop Standing Room Only!

Our Water-Smart Landscapes Workshop on Thursday, May 17th was standing room only! We partnered with SUEZ and Rain Bird Irrigation to help Rockland residents learn how to reduce water usage and keep their landscapes looking healthy. Our Horticulture Lab Technician, Mike Wilson, presented on designing and caring for water-smart landscapes, Chelsea Wulff, Conservation Educator at SUEZ, spoke about SUEZ's rebate programs, and Jay Swanson of Rain Bird shared his knowledge of cutting edge irrigation systems.
Teens Learn to Re-Think their Drink

Sonia McGowan, Eat Smart New York Nutrition Educator, delivered a series of nutrition and physical activity lessons this month to teens in the County. The teens from Ramapo High School after school program played a sugar shocker game and learned how to calculate how much sugar is in some of their favorite beverages. They prepared and enjoyed a water fruit infused beverage and had fun learning about energy balance and the importance of daily physical activity while playing a hula hoop game.

Adding Environment to STEM Fair

Environmental Educator Jennifer Zunino-Smith brought the Don't Flush Wipes’ interactive display to the STEM Fair at North Rockland High School on April 21st. The display was a great hit with all ages. STEM attendant Joshua Williams is learning that when flushed, wipes clog pipes and cause sanitary sewer overflows. The play mat provides a great visual of how overflows impact our community when they occur.

For more information about Don't Flush the Wipes and our other Environmental Education Campaigns, please contact Jennifer Zunino-Smith, the Environmental Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension, at jmz75@cornell.edu or by phone at (845) 429-7085 x 125.
Small Steps, Big Benefits
A Morning of Tips for Saving Money, Energy, & the World

Saturday, June 9th
9 am - 1:30 pm
Dominican College
Casey Hall*

Free to Attend

For more information & to register, visit:
www.RocklandCCE.org/SmallSteps
Registration requested by June 7th

Did you know that conserving resources can save you time and money all while helping the environment? Come discover some life hacks that your budget and the planet will love!

We're presenting a variety of workshops addressing your landscape & yards, energy use, water conservation, and recycling.

* - Casey Hall parking lot is located on Orangeburg Road in Orangeburg, NY. Detailed directions available on event website.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. Please contact the office in advance with any special needs. (845) 489-7085 | rockland@cornell.edu
Rockland Youth Succeed at District 4-H Public Presentations

On April 28, two Rockland 4-H'ers presented at the annual District 4-H Public Presentations Event among 64 youth ages 5-18 from the Southeast District (Rockland, Orange, Dutchess, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, Putnam, and Suffolk Counties). Harrison Gay, 15, from Suffern presented *Save People, Not Guns*, and Dana Osgood, 16, from Pearl River presented *Hurricanes*. Both scored exceptionally well, and were selected as two of the seven delegates to represent the District at the NYS Communications Institute, which will take place at Cornell University in June. At this event, youth throughout the state will attend workshops led by Cornell’s Department of Communications, the Theatre Department, and professionals from Civic Ensemble, and will receive valuable feedback on their presentations to further their public speaking skills.

2017-2018 Teen Leadership Rockland Class Graduates

On Monday, April 30, Teen Leadership Rockland hosted a graduation ceremony at the Casa Mia Manor House in Blauvelt, to recognize thirty sophomore students who participated in the Teen Leadership Rockland program. TLR represents a long-standing collaboration between Leadership Rockland and Cornell Cooperative Extension. It is designed to help high school students throughout Rockland County develop leadership skills they can use to make contributions to their schools and communities. During this year’s program, students analyzed their leadership styles, practiced public speaking and college interviews, evaluated media and brand messaging, and considered their roles in their communities. Through interactive sessions, students learned about the realities of policing at the Clarkstown Police Department, and experienced a mock trial at the Clarkstown Court. Congratulations to all of our participants, and thank you to all of our presenters for devoting their time and resources to this exciting youth program!

For more information about Teen Leadership Rockland and 4-H Youth programs, please contact Kristin Ruggiero, the 4-H Resource Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension, at klf37@cornell.edu or by phone at (845) 429-7085 x 103.
Upcoming Events

For More Information: RocklandCCE.org/events

• **Free Guided Demonstration Garden Tour**
  **Sunday, May 27, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**
  CCE’s Gardens at Education Office & Center Stony Point

Join us for a tour of the Demonstration Gardens and a brief lecture on seasonally-relevant topics. Tours are the last Sunday of every month from April through October and include information about the ever-changing display of plants native to our region. May’s mini session covers composting basics and tips on how to get started with home composting.

*Please call the office at (845) 29-7085 for more information.*

• **Small Steps, Big Benefits**
  **Saturday, June 9, 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM**
  Dominican College’s Casey Hall off Orangeburg Road in Orangeburg

Did you know that conserving resources can save you time and money all while helping the environment? Come discover some life hacks that your budget and the planet will love! We’re presenting a variety of free workshops on topics including Pollinator Friendly Yards, Native Plants, Tree and Shrub Care and Eco-friendly Landscaping.

*Please visit www.RocklandCCE.org/SmallSteps for more information and to register.*

• **Ornamental Grasses**
  **Monday, June 11, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**
  Finkelstein Memorial Library

This program will introduce the characteristics and landscape uses of various genera of ornamental grasses grown in Rockland. Specific facts on purchasing, planting, and maintaining these grasses will help homeowners decide which grasses are best for their yards. Also included in this program is information on those grasses which are considered invasive by the DEC as well as those grasses which are native and grow well in Rockland.

*This program is being presented through Finkelstein Memorial Library. Please call the office at (845) 352-5700 for more information and to register for the program.*

• **Dealing with Wildlife in Your Backyard**
  **Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**
  Palisades Library

Deer and other wildlife are a constant threat to your plantings and home gardens. This talk will address the primary wildlife challenges in our area. It will discuss the behaviors and habits of the primary invaders such as deer, rabbits, groundhogs and chipmunks and suggest viable options for limiting their damage.

*This program is being presented through Palisades Library. Please call the office at (845) 359-0136 for more information and to register.*
Water-wise and Ecological Landscaping

by Michael Wilson

When people decide to embrace a sustainable lifestyle, two things they always consider are their carbon footprint and their environmental impact. People first pay attention to their everyday lifestyle, living arrangements, and business facilities. Increasingly, homeowners are also choosing rooftop solar panels and other renewable-energy generation technologies, further reducing both their carbon footprint. Frequently, though, these same people overlook or give little consideration to landscaping and adhere to old models of yard-maintenance practices. It's important to revisit the assumptions about an attractive landscape, the suitable choices for our yards, and to consider the benefits of ecological landscaping practices.

Erratic weather patterns are becoming the norm as a result of climate change and increasing attention is being paid to water conservation. How we use water in our landscape is becoming an even more important issue. Fortunately, water collection and conservation is an easy first step to developing a sustainable landscape and has no cost. In fact it's a financial savings by reducing the amount of water used from the tap. Development of ecological landscapes and xeriscapes begins with good soil preparation but also includes site design, plant selection, and reduced turf.

If these issues are of concern, then consider coming to Dominican College on June 9th for Small Steps, Big Benefits: a Morning of Tips for Saving Money, Energy, and the World (more info on page 5).

For further information about water-wise landscapes, gardening, diagnostic services or insect ID, contact the Horticultural Lab (845) 429-7085, option 3 or Mike Wilson at ext. 110 or email mw767@cornell.edu.

Ecological Landscape in Ramsey, NJ (Michael Wilson)

Spring in the Horticulture Lab:
• Spring Hours: 9AM – 2PM
• New Single Price Service Charge: All Lab Services are $14
• Now accepting Credit & Debit Card Payments!

Fertilizer Law Certificate Class

This course qualifies participants to obtain a landscaping license through Rockland County. Certificates of Completion required by the County are distributed at the conclusion of the class.

Wednesday, June 6th
8:00 - 10:00 AM
at CCE's Education Center
10 Patriot Hills Drive
Stony Point, NY 10980

Fee: $35.00

Although payment can be made on the date of the class, registration in advance is required. To register contact:Jennifer Strianese
jas946@cornell.edu
(845) 429-7085 x117

July Session
Wednesday, July 11th
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Note from the Lab:
Selected List of Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners in NYS

This year's edition of Cornell's suggested vegetable varieties list has been released!

Click here to download your copy today!
What a Journey our 100th Anniversary has been!

We kicked off our year of celebrations at our Annual Meeting in December of 2016 with a fascinating look back at Rockland County circa 1917 presented by Rockland County Historian, Craig Long.

In 2017, we wanted to hold ‘100 Events for 100 Years.’ Through the year we had so many programs, classes, workshops, etc. that we broke 100 in early October and lost count after 143.

We welcomed a new class of Master Gardener Volunteer Interns into our ranks and honored our longest participating Master Gardener Volunteer, Muriel Woolley, with the help of Legislator Aney Paul.

We had our 100th anniversary breakfast celebration and received accolades from County Executive Ed Day, County Legislators Alden Wolfe and Harriet Cornell, and State Assemblyman James Skoufis.

Our Good Ol’ Fashioned Barn Dance celebrated our centennial in a fanfare befitting a community organization with its roots in agriculture. To celebrate the individuals who helped us reach 100, we recognized our former Board President, Suzanne Belisle, our former Board President and educator, Francisco Garcia-Quezada, and our former educator and Executive Director, Paul Trader.

Our Centennial Annual Meeting brought back our Horticulture Educator Emeritus, Donna Cooke, to talk about the future of (sub)urban garden-based education programming.

The final event to commemorate our centennial revived our annual Gardener’s Day event with a highly entertaining and educational keynote from NY Times bestselling author Marta McDowell on her research into all the White House gardens.

On April 21, 2018 we officially celebrated our 100th birthday and started our 101st year!

*We appreciate all of you and your contributions to making this a year CCE Rockland will always remember.*
Cornell Cooperative Extension Rockland County

"The Pathway to 200"

Help us pave the way for our next 100 years! The bricks will replace the gravel pathway from the street to the front steps and make our walkway friendlier as well as honor those who've helped us get to 100 years.

Yes, we'd like to reserve a permanent brick. Please engrave our brick as follows:
Any Symbol is Considered One Space (Period, Comma, Dash)
All Text is Centered Unless Otherwise Noted

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Example of a 4x8 Brick
EZRA CORNELL
MASTER GARDENER
SINCE 1988

Please return this form and your check payable to:

Name: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________
Email Address: __________________________________________________

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland
10 Patriot Hills Dr.
Stony Point, NY 10980

If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Striameo at (845) 429-7085 ext. 117.

Corporate Logo Engraving Available
Place your company logo on a brick paver. Contact the office to get further details at (845) 429-7085.

4"x8" Engraved Paver — $100
8"x8" Engraved Paver — $250
Logo Engraved Paver — $400

Make checks payable to: Rockland CCE
10 Patriot Hills Dr., Stony Point, NY 10980

*For more info or to pay by credit card, please call (845) 429-7085