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First stop was to Bob and Diane Leifer’s garden in Monsey. They have 3/4 of an acre of land. Most of the land is for growing small fruit and vegetables including blueberries, elderberries, goji berries, red raspberries, currants, gooseberries, sea buckthorn, hardy kiwi, horseradish, heirloom varieties of cucumbers, tomatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, onions, cabbages, swiss chard and more.

Growing more than 75 different kind of vegetables and fruits, they are able to sustain themselves off of their land. It is quite the impressive undertaking, and everyone was fully engaged in their extensive garden tour.

Don’t Miss This:

4-H Junior Animal Science

Only 4 Spots Left!

Sign up your little animal lover (grades 6-8) today. Don’t miss the chance to learn about animal sciences and careers working with animals!

Let’s Connect!

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County

We bring Cornell University resources to Rockland County

Monthly Newsletter    September 2018 Edition

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10 Patriot Hills Drive    |    Stony Point, NY 10980    |    (845) 429-7085    |    www.RocklandCCE.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. CCE-RC is funded in part by Rockland County through the office of the County Executive and County Legislature. Please contact CCE-RC office if you have any special needs. rockland@cornell.edu | (845) 429-7085
Up next was a visit to Steve Becker’s property in New City. The front yard had a lovely brick herb garden with flowers and ornamental grasses. The front of the house is landscaped with classic evergreens recently pruned. The backyard has a new deck stained to match the new Gazebo. The Master Gardeners saw new ideas for wood structures incorporated into the landscaping. The vegetable garden has 2’ chicken wire fence to keep out rabbits and other critters that Steve’s two very friendly small dogs have failed to keep out.

Third stop on the Garden hop was to Mootsy Elliot’s stunning property in Grandview, half way between the Tappan Zee Bridge and the village of Piermont. The weather was not cooperating early that day and there were threats of downpours. As the Master Gardeners arrived lightning bolts were seen over the water but that did not keep them away. Luckily the storms subsided, and everyone was able to enjoy a lovely visit. It is nestled in a breathtaking setting with symmetrical garden beds lined with boxwoods. There was thyme surrounding miniature boxwoods, phlox, zinnia, rudbeckia, cornflowers, roses, and obedient plants that are overtaking the garden but will be magnificent in the fall. Hydrangeas, dahlias, elephant ears randomly placed for accents, oxalis—one of Mootsy’s favorites were only some of the many plants. It really was a sight to behold.

Last but not least on the Garden Hop was a visit to Donna DeSousa’s impressive space in Suffern. When they moved in 1979, Donna figured the gardens would be finished in a year. Well, she learned that her modest piece of land is not static but always changing. Over time more gardens have replaced ‘the lawn’ which is composed of mixed greens rather than turf grass. She has a fairly well secured (against animals) vegetable garden which is also filled with flowers that she does not want the deer to eat, and some impressive cantaloupe melons she grew from compost seedlings. The rest of the gardens are filled with lots of herbaceous perennial, grasses and shrubs and a few annuals. Some are traditionally rectangular, and others have unusual organic shapes. The gardens both have beautiful and unusual varieties that thrive in each area. She refers to her design style as” hmm, where can I put this plant I couldn’t resist buying?” She read a good description of this style—“romantically disheveled”. She has a lot of fun with all her plants and it’s reflected in her lovely designs. The Master Gardeners marveled at her extensive gardens and all the hard work they represent.
Fall Brings Youth Enrichment Programs

It's that time again. Back to school means back to youth enrichment! Running for over 30 years straight, our perennial favorite teen enrichment program, 4-H Veterinary Science Career Exploration, is returning! Registration is open now through October 5th, but don't delay: this program reaches max capacity every year. It's 'first come, first reserved' and we already have 6 spots taken.

Along with Vet Sci we have a brand new Junior Animal Science Exploration Program for grades 6-8. The Animal Science program was developed in response to requests for a comparable opportunity for middle school students. We only have 4 spots left!

In this 6-session program starting September 27th, students visit local animal-related organizations, engage in hands-on activities, interact with professionals, gain insight into career opportunities, and develop knowledge about animal care and behavior.

In these programs students will:
- Visit local animal-related organizations
- Engage in hands-on activities
- Interact with professionals
- Gain insight into career opportunities
- Develop knowledge about animal care and behavior

For more information and to register for the Teen Leadership Rockland program, visit the event website (RocklandCCE.org/VetSci18).

For more information and to register for the Veterinary Science program, visit the event website (RocklandCCE.org/VetSci18).

Through a series of interactive programs offered by Leadership Rockland, Inc. and CCE-RC, Teen Leadership Rockland provides a unique opportunity for a select group of motivated students to connect with their peers from around the County and with a diverse group of community leaders representing business, education, and government.

The program is open to all high school sophomores who are Rockland County residents. Ideal candidates are students interested in developing leadership skills they can use to make contributions to their schools and communities while preparing for college and future careers. No current leadership experience is required but a demonstrated ability to take initiative and a commitment to learning are important components of the application process.

For more information and to apply for the Teen Leadership Rockland program, visit the event website (RocklandCCE.org/VetSci18).
Upcoming Events

To find more information on these and future events, visit our Event Page (RocklandCCE.org/events).

Putting the Garden to Bed

Thursday, September 20, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Haverstraw King's Daughters Public Library
Main Building

Thursday, September 27, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
South Orangetown Continuing Education
Tappan Zee High School

What should you do in the fall to ready your garden for spring? This program demonstrates the best methods to use in the fall to create the best garden in the spring! Learn what to do in the fall to improve soil quality, to protect perennials, tender plants, trees, and shrubs from winter conditions. Finally, the program will explain how to bring in the house plants, how to winterize tools, and how to prepare water sources for the winter season. This program will be presented by Master Gardener Volunteer Donna DeSousa.

The September 20th program is being presented through Haverstraw King’s Daughters Public Library. Please call the office at (845) 786-3800 for more information and to register for the program.

The September 27th program is being presented through South Orangetown Continuing Education. Please call the office at (845) 379-1012 for more information and to register. You must register in advance and there is a fee for this program.

Pruning

Wednesday, September 26, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Clarkstown Continuing Education Center
Congers Elementary School

Pruning is essential to maintaining healthy and attractive trees and shrubs, yet many fear this simple and often pleasant task. This presentation will cover the proper use and selection of tools, common landscape trees and shrubs that need pruning, times of year to prune and the basics on how it is done. Participants will come away with confidence and knowledge on how to care for the woody plants in their landscape.

These programs are being presented through the Clarkstown Continuing Education Center at Congers Elementary School. Please call (845) 639-5628 to register or send an email to marbuc0@ccsd.edu. You must register in advance and there is a fee for this program.

Flowering Bulbs from Spring through Fall

Thursday, October 4, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Finkelstein Memorial Library

Wednesday, October 10, 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM
Pearl River School District Adult Enrichment
Pearl River High School

Flowering bulbs in your garden does not just mean growing daffodils in the spring. Learn how to grow a wide variety of annual and perennial bulbs that bring a succession of bloom from early spring through the fall. Also covered are strategies to keep your bulbs from becoming a furry critter buffet.

The October 4th program is being presented through Finkelstein Memorial Library. Please call the office at (845) 352-5700 x230 for more information and to register for the program.

The October 10th program is being presented through Pearl River Adult Enrichment. Please contact Monica (845.620.3935 | muthigm@pearlriver.org) for more information or to reserve your space in the program. There is a fee for this program and you must register in advance.
The Horticultural Lab has recently purchased a new microscope to aid with diagnosis and identification of insects/fungi. The microscope is a Dino-lite digital microscope that has the capability to photograph samples. This is an aid to identification because if we are unable to ID a specimen, we can photograph it and send it to other labs or put it onto the horticultural blog that most labs partake in. It can record a picture in TIF, JPG and many other formats. It has the capability to annotate and measure. It is a hand-held digital microscope but ours came with a stand to make adjustments easier. The Dino-lite is capable of magnification with a range of 20 – 220x depending on working distance by simply zooming in or out with just a rotating dial.

With state of the art lens design, the Dino-lite delivers matchless image quality with stunning sharpness. The Horticultural Lab is anticipating the purchase of a laptop computer to hook up to the microscope. The arrival of this microscope not only provides the lab with the ability to send pictures but also the opportunity to photograph insects, fungi, and diseases for educational programing and training.

For further information about gardening with native plants, 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.

Upcoming Event

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, October 3rd 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

November Session
Wednesday, Nov. 7th 8:00 - 10:00 AM
Winifred Strakosch, who passed away recently at the age of 96, devoted much of her life to horticulture and landscape design. As Horticulture Agent at CCE, Ms. Strakosch brought vast experience to her position, having earned a B.S. in botany from Redlands University and a M.A. in education from UC Berkeley. She also studied landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In addition to practicing as a landscape designer in the County, she served as Assistant Curator of Instruction at the Children’s Garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for six years. She didn’t limit herself to teaching: Mrs. Strakosch wrote a chapter regarding children and gardening in a New York Times Garden Book as well as a monthly horticultural column for Extensions.

Paul Trader who worked alongside Ms. Strakosch for years shares this recollection.

I first met Winifred Strakosch in 1979 when I came to Rockland from the midwest to interview for the position of Horticulture Educator at CCE-Rockland. She and Jean Harlow were the Horticulture Technicians who ran the Horticulture Diagnostic Lab for many years on Maple Avenue in New City; both were highly respected for their diagnostic abilities, caring attitude and warm personalities in helping the public solve plant and pest problems. My first impression of Winnie was one of amazement at her knowledge and her professional, and even elegant, way of working with the public. On the day of my interview, I walked in to find her covered in 17-year cicadas crawling up and down on her sleeve; they were samples that a customer had brought into the Lab for identification. Most people would recoil at the thought of getting anywhere near these thumb-sized, buzzy bugs with bulging red eyes. To Winnie, it was all fascinating. She loved nature, fought for a healthy environment, and shared her love of gardening with thousands of Rockland residents. I learned so much from her during my first few years on the job and will never forget her know-how, patience and wonderful sense of humor.

– Paul Trader, former Horticulture Educator and retired Executive Director of CCE-Rockland
Interns Finish Strong

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Horticulturist Mike Wilson and Rockland County Conservation Corps interns Jessica Guzman and Nicole Andreotti hosted the August 9th Stormwater broadcast on WRCR AM 1700- Radio Unscripted discussing the Hudson River Fish Advisory, and stormwater impacts on water quality in Rockland.

Veggies on Trial

The Vegetable Variety Trials in the Master Gardener demo gardens continue to provide amazing yields from such a small space. Undoubtedly, the vast amounts of rain helped give them a boost but there are definitely some fine gardening skills being demonstrated too.

Our Master Gardeners really know what they are doing! All through the month of August we harvested tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, string beans, kale, and basil. The staff at CCE Rockland have been enjoying taste testing all of the produce. ESNY has used some of the bounty to create educational meals as well as bringing some of the vegetables to local food banks.

Jessica and Nicole finished up the day presenting these topics at the Corps’ 2018 Celebration of Service and posing with Rockland County Legislator Aney Paul and Phyllis Morena from the Youth Bureau. Jessica is a Junior at Ramapo College, and Nicole is a Sophomore at the University of Delaware, where they both are majoring in Environmental Studies.