Spring and Rockland’s Plants & Pests Have Sprung in our Horticulture Lab

With the first day of April comes some changes to our Lab! In addition to our hours being extended until 2pm for the growing season, we have some changes to our service fees.

As of April 1st, the service fees will now be **$15 per sample** – whether that be a tick, plant problem, soil test or a mystery insect. Wednesdays will still be Senior Citizens’ Day and now you can save even more! The regular discounted price is **$10**, but if you bring* in the coupon on page 10, you’ll only pay **$5**!

Visit the Horticulture Lab Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 2 PM!

We will …

- Advise you on gardening & yard care
- Identify indoor pests & advise treatment
- Diagnose plant & pest problems
- Identify tick species
- Test your soil PH

* - If you want to be eco-friendly and not print out this newsletter, you just have to mention this month’s special phrase listed on the coupon when you come in and you’ll save the extra $5 just the same.
Meet our new CCE Board Members

The Board welcomes four new members for 2019!

- **Carolyn Amdurer**, better known as Sam Amdurer, retired from a teaching career. She is now a very active Master Gardener who presents programs in gardening around the County.
- **David Aron**, CPA, has begun serving his second term on the Board. He is lending his financial acumen to the Finance Committee.
- **Bill Madden** volunteers on a number of boards in the County so we are fortunate he decided to join ours. We hope to use his extensive background in journalism and public relations at Suez to better communicate our mission and programs to County residents.
- **Nicholas Mitchell** is a bank analyst and Rockland native with deep roots in academia.

You’re invited! Our Board meetings are always open to the public. They are typically held on the fourth Wednesday of the month and start at 5:30 pm and run no more than two hours. Often one of our educators will present on a new program or successful event. Meetings are held at our CCE office at 10 Patriot Hills Drive in Stony Point.

4-H Youth Participate in Public Presentations

Congratulations to all of our presenters who participated in the 4-H Public Presentation Events on March 2 and March 30! In total, we had 18 presentations, which is twice as many as we had last year. The youth participants presented on a variety of topics including Scouting, How to Decorate a Unicorn Cookie, Drug Use and Abuse, All About Snow!, How to Help a Skittish Dog, The Many Varieties of Apples, and How to Groom a Horse. After each presentation, the youth discussed their performance with trained evaluators, and were able to identify their strengths and ways they could improve their next presentation. Each presenter was enthusiastic and well-prepared, and they shared important information with the evaluators and audience. Thank you to all of the presenters who participated, along with the volunteers, parents, leaders, family members and friends who supported this valuable learning experience.
Our Eat Smart New York nutrition educator Sonia McGowan taught a workshop during February winter break at the Rose Memorial Library at Stony Point. The children learned about the food groups and the importance of including different foods in our daily meals. They also had fun playing a game as they learned new types of fruits and vegetables. The workshop ended with a delicious treat. The children enjoyed making their own healthy winter layered treat: a delicious yogurt parfait.

For this and other recipes you can visit What’s cooking? USDA Mixing Bowl website.

Garden Based Learning at RP Connor Elementary

The Master Gardeners and horticulture educator Kristen Ossmann have been having a great time working with students K-2 at RP Connor elementary school in Suffern. They have been implementing hands on garden- based learning programing. The kindergarten classes learned about seeds and created wildflower seed balls that they will be able to plant outside once the weather warms. The second-grade classes were taught about pollinators and played a fun game pretending to be bees in a native and non-native garden. In April the Master Gardeners will be teaching a lesson on roots and shoots and showing the students how to make a planting that they will grow and observe on their own.
Real Climate Solutions: 
Drawdown, Natural Step, & Resilience

Monday, April 8, 7 pm
Valley Cottage Library
110 Route 303

Manna Jo Greene,
Environmental Director,
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

As we confront the urgency of climate change, we are also seeing groundbreaking new solutions ranging from new forms of renewable to energy to new ways of understanding our relationship with the earth.

Manna Jo Greene will discuss a variety of climate solutions, such as the Natural Step principles – and some of the solutions outlined in Paul Hawken’s book, Drawdown, including regenerative agriculture. She will also discuss some of the principles that can be used to distinguish greenwash from genuinely effective technologies and methods. Greene will also explore how we can create more resilient local communities.

Manna Jo Greene
Environmental Director
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Committee Chair
Ulster County Climate Smart Communities
4-H Members Engage Youth at Rockland YouthFest

On Saturday, March 10, three 4-H Members from Suffern High School promoted 4-H opportunities while leading activities during the Rockland YouthFest. At this event, Harrison Gay taught youth about the science of sound through craft stick harmonicas, and Karina Ceglinski and Abbey Lee introduced youth to the art of origami. Overall, over 100 youth participated in the activities and were able to learn about 4-H and the various upcoming programs and events.

Thank you to our 4-H Members for volunteering their time and to the Rockland County Youth Bureau for coordinating this annual event at the RCC, which draws thousands of young people!

For more information about Rockland YouthFest, go to http://rocklandgov.com/departments/youth-bureau/youthfest/.

Backyard Chickens in Rockland County

On Monday, March 25, CCE-RC hosted a Backyard Chickens for Beginners Workshop, led by Ulster County Livestock Educator, Jason Detzel. At this class, participants learned how to navigate their town’s rules and regulations for backyard chicken keeping, get started with egg layers or broilers (meat birds), and choose the bird that is right for them. They also learned about housing, feeding, and watering needs – including portable chicken coops, and how to protect their birds from weather and predators.

To learn how you can raise and care for backyard chickens, check out the Guide to Urban Farming at the Cornell Small Farms Program website at http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2017/05/02/31-chickens-and-other-poultry/ where you can find suggestions and resources to help you get started. To learn about your town’s code for chickens, go to https://www.generalcode.com/resources/ecode360-library/ or visit your town’s website. For any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Jason Detzel at jbd222@cornell.edu or by phone at (845) 340-3990 ext. 327.
Join in the Fun with 4-H Pet Pals!

Held on Wednesdays, May 1-22, 6:00pm-7:15pm at CCE's Education Center in Stony Point.

The 4-H Pet Pals Program is an interactive program designed to give elementary students in grades 3-5 an opportunity to explore animal behaviors and proper animal care with experienced professionals. Youth will be able to learn about and interact with various animals including dogs, reptiles and amphibians, cats, and small mammals. The cost is $75 for the series. Registration is due April 26, 2019 or until filled.

For more information, contact Kristin Ruggiero at klf37@cornell.edu or by phone at (845) 429-7085 x 103. Register online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/PetPals19_239.

BOCES Animal Science Students Explore 4-H Public Speaking

n March 6, 13, and 20, the 4-H Educator, Kristin Ruggiero, facilitated public speaking lessons with the Rockland BOCES Animal Science Program. During three interactive sessions, thirteen high-school youth learned how to conquer fears, deliver a talk, organize information, and conduct demonstrations. They practiced their public speaking skills through games, which included making commercials, impromptu talks, tongue-twisters, expressing emotions, partner teaching, and a variety of other activities. By the end of the series, the students were more confident speaking in public, and had developed valuable skills for future presentations and careers.

The BOCES Animal Science Program is a rigorous two-year Career and Technical Education program designed to explore the diverse field of animal science. The Program is planning to form a 4-H Club, which will provide additional educational and leadership opportunities for its members. To learn more about this new program, go to https://www.rocklandboces.org/animal-science-academy/.
Upcoming Events
To find more information on these and future events, visit our Event Page (RocklandCCE.org/events).

Container Gardens for Spring & Summer

**Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**
Orangeburg Library

Decorate your patio, deck, and/or a hard-to-grow area of the garden with annuals, perennials, and bulbs in containers. This discussion explains the difference among the many materials used in planting containers; it also recommends the type of soil best used as well as techniques for watering and fertilizing for all containers. Plant selection, color coordination, and placement to solve garden problems are all part of Container Gardening.

This program is being presented through Orangeburg Library. Please call the office at 845-359-2244 for more information and to register.

You must register in advance and there is a fee for this program.

Flowering Bulbs from Spring through Summer

**Tuesday, April 16, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**
Orangeburg Library

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.

This program is being presented through Orangeburg Library. Please call the office at 845-359-2244 for more information and to register.

Improving an Existing Lawn

**Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**
Clarkstown Continuing Education
Congers Elementary School

This important presentation will help homeowners improve their lawns themselves by following several simple practices. It will discuss organic versus synthetic products, will recommend fertilizing procedures, will explain soil pH testing, and will demonstrate methods of weed and crabgrass control.

This program is being presented through Clarkstown Continuing Education. Please call the office at 845-639-5628 for more information and to register.

You must register in advance and there is a fee for this program.

Organic Vegetable and Small Fruit Gardening

**Mondays, April 29 May 6 & 13, June 3**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  CCE Office & Education Center

This five part series will provide you with all the information needed to be a successful grower of vegetables and small fruit. Lectures will include a complete understanding of the soil your crops grow in, how to maximize the yield in small growing spaces, growing your own transplants, and using companion planting and beneficial insects for healthier plants. Demonstrations will be an integral part of the series. The final lecture will include a tour and discussion at the Leifer’s home garden.

* Late June: Visit to Leifer’s Farm (Evening time TBA)

For more information, contact Kristen Ossmann at kno7@cornell.edu or by phone at (845) 429-7085 x 108. Register online at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/OVFG19_239

Growing your own organic vegetables and small fruit in your home garden is rewarding and financially beneficial.

$80 per person for this 5-session series.
When the *Forsythia* blooms, the Snow Drops have finished. Some shrubs and trees are leafing out. The daffodils begin to bloom. The *Lindera benzoin* in the moist woodlands bloom with a yellow haze. Perennials have emerged in our gardens. Plant sales begin to emerge in various towns as fundraisers. It is the time to plant spring vegetables. The lawn begins to green up and most of us are ready to control our yards.

When the *Forsythia* blooms is the time to apply pre-emergent herbicide (weed and feed) to your lawns. Not before and not after!!!! The temperature is not right for the chemical to work until it is warm enough to force the *Forsythia* in bloom. If you wait, the weeds will emerge. The Lab has handled a number of calls lately in regards to when to fertilize and when to start step programs for the lawn. One caller wanted to mix step one and step two together and could not understand why he was advised not to. He just wanted to save time. Please read the directions with any product that you are going to apply and be conscious of the surrounding environment.

It is disturbing when I realize that most of the homeowners taking care of their own yards, are not aware of the fertilizer law. In short, (1) fertilizer can only be applied between April 1 and December 1. (2) You may not apply any fertilizer that contains phosphorous or other compounds containing phosphorous, such as phosphate. An exception is if a soil test shows a low phosphate result and it is needed for plant growth. (3) Fertilizer may not be applied to any impervious surface including parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks. Spillage should be cleaned up immediately and contained or applied to turf. (4) You may not apply fertilizer within 50 feet of any surface water. An exception is made if there is a riparian border or natural vegetative buffer that is at least 10 feet wide. Keep in mind that these regulations are for lawn fertilizer and different regulations apply to trees/shrubs, perennial borders, and vegetable gardens.

Before you rush out to apply all kinds of fertilizer, pre-emergent herbicide, weed killer, or step programs to your lawn, please consider the health of your lawn and the environmental impacts of your actions. Decide if you really need a pristine lawn or if there is a minimal amount of weeds that you can live with.

For further questions on fertilizer laws, lawn care, plant problems, or disease and insect identification, feel free to contact the Horticultural Lab at 845-429-7085 option 3 or e-mail Michael Wilson at mw767@cornell.edu.
Upcoming INP Elective Seminars

The $10 course fee covers the one-session Elective Seminar. You do not have to attend all of the Elective Seminars to receive credit towards the Certificate in Nonprofit Sustainability. Register with Jennifer Strianese at jas946@cornell.edu or (845) 429-7085 ext. 117.

The Mission is the Message: Getting Creative to Communicate Your Value

Monday, April 8, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
CCE Rockland

If we don't have a Plan of Work or a Strategic Plan for our organizations, our donors, funders and the community would doubt our capacity to carry out our missions. Why should a Communications Strategy or Media Plan be any different when outreach efforts are an integral part of how most nonprofits accomplish their goals, reach their donors, and serve their constituents?

This workshop will continue the conversation started in The (Social) Medium is the Message, but you don't need to have attended to participate. We'll discuss innovative ways to communicate the core of your mission and the value you bring to the community, and why your mission/values/vision statement should be present in every aspect of the work you do.

FASB Old and New: What You Need to Know

Thursday, April 25, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
CCE Rockland

FASB, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, is an independent, private not-for-profit organization that establishes financial reporting standards for private for-profit and not-for-profit organizations that follow GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles). This session will help you understand some new standards that are applicable to nonprofits, including, for example, the revenue recognition standard.

Talk Less, Smile More: A Guide to an Effective Stewardship Program

Thursday, May 2, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
CCE Rockland

We must listen carefully to how our donors want to be thanked and engaged. This presentation shares with participants best practices to involve and recognize donors with:
- Tools you can use to implement a stewardship program
- Various levels of a stewardship program
- Ideas to help you thank, thank and thank again

Future INP Programs

Fund Development Infrastructure and Implementation for Your Non-Profit from NYCON - May 21, 8:30 - 10:30 AM at CCE Rockland

Contact the CCE Rockland office for more info: (845) 429-7085.
Join the Rockland County Storm Drain Marking Program!

**Why Storm Drain Markers?**
Because we want to protect our environment and help improve water quality.

Many people believe that the storm drain will carry waste to a sewage treatment plant for cleanup. Not true! Every storm drain in Rockland County carries rain water into the nearest stream, lake, wetland, river or reservoir.

Every day people knowingly or unknowingly pour wastes such as used motor oil, hazardous chemicals, pesticides, pet waste, paints and antifreeze into storm drains. Leaves, yard waste, litter and dirt from the road are also thrown into the drains by our neighbors who do not realize they are damaging water quality.

Help us to get the message out! Call Rockland County Department of Environmental Resources at (845) 364-2670 to pick up storm drain markers and adhesive for your community (Source: Rockland County DER).


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**Upcoming Events**

**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, May 1st 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

**June Session**
Wednesday, June 5th 8:00 - 10:00 AM

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

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**Senior Citizens' Day at the Lab!**

Visit the Horticulture Diagnostic Laboratory on any Wednesday in April and present this coupon to pay just $5 for your first diagnostic service ($10 per sample for each additional sample)

You can save the paper and be environmentally conscious by using the coupon word instead. When you come to the Lab, mention April’s code **Ezra the Bear** to get the coupon price on your service.

This coupon is good for the month of April 2019. Keep an eye out for the May coupon in our next Newsletter.
On March 7, Teen Leadership Rockland (TLR) Participants visited the Rockland County Legislature where they were able to meet legislators and simulate a legislative session. The youth had the opportunity to meet Executive Ed Day, who discussed his role and responsibilities as County Executive, along with Chairman Toney Earl, who described his position and the legislative process. The youth then participated in a Mock Legislature Proceeding focused on the legalization of marijuana in New York State. By taking on the roles of legislators and concerned citizens on both sides of the issue, the youth developed a greater understanding of the voting process and ways they can be involved in local government.

After the legislative session, the participants continued to learn about the justice system by traveling to the Rockland County Jail. Once at the jail, Sergeant David Marzella led the youth to the visiting room where he spoke to them about daily operations, roles of corrections officers, life in the jail, and challenges of the correctional system.

On March 26, Rowan Reyes and Natalie Surin from the Center for Safety and Change led the TLR session titled “Social Justice and Cultural Inclusivity.” During this program, youth learned about the organization’s services including the 24-hour Telephone Crisis Hotline number (845-634-3344) and the SAEDA program, which stands for Student Activists Ending Dating Abuse. Through interactive activities and discussions, the youth explored teen dating abuse, healthy relationship dynamics, sexual violence prevention, and bystander intervention strategies. The participants also discussed forms of oppression and considered how individuals and societies can promote social change.

Overall, both of these sessions encouraged reflection on important topics, and introduced youth to leadership opportunities and civic responsibility. A huge thank-you goes to Marianne McCarney-Haesche of the Rockland County Youth Bureau for coordinating the event on March 7, along with all of the presenters and organizations for devoting their time and resources to this exciting youth program!

For more information about the Rockland County Legislature, please visit http://rocklandgov.com/departments/county-legislature/, and for the Center for Safety and Change, go http://www.centerforsafetyandchange.org/. To learn more about the Teen Leadership Rockland Program, contact Kristin Ruggiero at klf37@cornell.edu or (845) 429-7085 x 103.