Don’t Miss This:
Children’s Summer Reading Program

Mysteries of the Garden at Night
Children will explore what happens when the sun goes down in your garden and yard!

Let’s Connect!

Another Season, Another Reason... for Veggie Variety Trials

Over the past couple growing seasons, the Rockland Master Gardener Volunteers have participated in Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Science’s Vegetable Variety Trials. They continue this season by planting seeds of this year’s selected varieties in the edible section of the Demo Gardens. Volunteers will monitor their growth and evaluate the veggies produced in terms of taste and ease. Master Gardener Donna De Sousa has been heading this effort along with the other MGVs that tend the demo gardens. They’re already seeing some promising results. We’ll keep you posted as the season continues.

This is a Garden based learning program, that is accessible to other gardeners to see what types of vegetables might be ideal for their garden environments. If you would like to learn more about the Vegetable Variety Trials, you can find out more at Cornell CALS Citizen Science website. (http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/citizen-science/)

More info on page 4!
This year, 17 students in grades 3-5 interacted with animals during our first annual 4-H Pet Pals Program. This four-week program offered a chance for youth to explore animal care and behaviors with experienced professionals.

Bud and Kathy Schuck with Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause brought their two therapy dogs, Jake and George, to teach youth how to approach dogs, how to read body language, and what to do if a dog threatens to attack. The youth were also able to teach the dogs tricks, which they learned are important to keep the dogs mentally and physically active.

John Tarrant from Outragehiss Pets, Inc. brought in various reptiles and amphibians including an iguana, tree frog, python, tortoise, giant marine toad, and blue tongue skink. In this session, youth learned about the animals’ specific habitat requirements, and that potential pet owners need to consider an animal’s size, dietary needs, behaviors, and expenses before committing to the care of an animal.

Dr. Maureen Saunders from the Cat Care Clinic of the Nyacks and the Spring Valley Animal Hospital introduced youth to feline veterinary care. By sharing x-rays, specimens, and personal experiences, Dr. Saunders taught the youth about common cat diseases and health issues, and ways pet owners can prevent and/or recognize disease. Laurie and Ken Herbig from Hobbikats Cattery then presented their Oriental Shorthair cat, Willow, and discussed responsible cat care, which includes vaccinations, nail clipping, teeth brushing, grooming, play, and nutrition. The youth were also able to practice proper handling techniques as they held and interacted with three Oriental Shorthair kittens.

The final session featured small mammals. Four students from the BOCES Animal Science Program brought in a hamster and their fostered rabbit, Coco, and explained the animals’ nutritional needs, living requirements, and behaviors. Youth learned that a rabbit’s diet should include hay, pellets, and greens, and that carrots should only be used as treats. Afterwards, representatives from Pet Supplies Plus described the pet care requirements of guinea pigs, and allowed the youth to hold a guinea pig and a skinny pig (hairless guinea pig). Youth learned that guinea pigs should have Vitamin C supplements added to their water, and that these animals make various noises to communicate their emotions.

Overall, this program was an exceptional learning experience for our participants and families. A huge thank-you goes out to all of our presenters who volunteered their time to help these youth learn effective pet ownership and develop skills for the future.

To learn more about this program, the organizations listed, or other 4-H opportunities, please contact Kristin Ruggiero at klf37@cornell.edu or by phone at (845) 429-7085 ext. 103.
What is an Illicit Discharge?

An *illicit discharge* is something in the storm sewer system other than rain. Examples of illicit discharges include motor oil, grease from commercial sites, household toxics, pet waste, trash and more. Illicit discharges occur because of illegal sewer-line connections and dumping.

**Catch basins in Rockland County do not lead to treatment plants, but instead lead directly to local waterways.** That means that motor oil dumped in a storm drain will wind up polluting a local stream or river. **Illicit discharges greatly pollute our surface waters.** Should you see or smell what appears to be an illicit discharge, or dumping to the storm drains, report it at once to your municipality.

**REMEMBER: DUMPING OF ANY KIND TO THE STORM DRAIN IS ILLEGAL!**

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**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. Walk-in’s are welcome, but registration is strongly encouraged. We may cancel any program due to low enrollment.

**Fund Development Infrastructure and Implementation**

Rescheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
CCE Rockland

Should you put your energy into donor cultivation or fundraising events? What amount should Board members be expected to contribute – if any? Which local organizations might you ask for donations? Everything fundraising is covered in this overview presented by NYCON. Whether you are a seasoned fund raiser or are just figuring out where your organization should start, you’ll learn something valuable from this presentation by Andrew Marietta, Vice President of the New York Council on Nonprofits.

**FASB Old and New: What You Need to Know**

Date TBD  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.

**Future INP Programs**

Have you noticed a knowledge or skills gap in your team? Make a suggestion for a future INP Leadership Seminar. Email Suzanne at sb2475@cornell.edu
2019 Summer Children’s Reading Program

Mysteries of the Garden at Night

The Night Garden! What’s going on out there?

We will investigate the mysteries of being outdoors and in the garden after dark. Why are we sometimes so frightened of the dark night? But...It is a much busier place than you would expect. There is so much creepy, crawly, jumping activity going on. Why are these crawlies so attracted to white moonflowers?

We will explore the kinds of animals awake at night and how they hunt for their food.

Ever wonder why fireflies (lightning bugs) glow only at night? We will investigate why fireflies glow at night and then do our own firefly lighting experiment.

For children in entering kindergarten through third grade.

- **Wednesday, June 26, 2:00 PM** Haverstraw Main Library
- **Wednesday, June 26, 3:30 PM** Haverstraw Village Branch
- **Monday, July 1, 3:30 PM** Rose Memorial Library
- **Wednesday, July 10, 2:30 PM** Sloatsburg Library
- **Thursday, July 18, 4:30 PM** Blauvelt Library
- **Wednesday, July 24, 4:30 PM** Nyack Library
- **Wednesday, July 31, 4:30 PM** Palisades Library
- **Wednesday, August 7, 4:30 PM** Piermont Library

You should contact the library early to register as space is very limited in this program.

Upcoming Events

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

**Cacti and Succulents**

**Monday, July 1, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**
Sloatsburg Public Library

This program is designed to introduce growing cacti and succulents to gardeners in Rockland County. The presentation will include the proper techniques of watering and fertilizing, the soil requirements needed for indoor and outdoor plants and the propagation methods to produce different varieties. Also included in this program is a discussion of containers and pots needed for healthy growth.

This program is being presented through the Sloatsburg Public Library. Please call the office at (845) 753-2001 for more information and to register.
Harrison Gay, a 4-H member from Suffern High School, represented Rockland County at the 84th Annual 4-H Capital Days event from May 19-21, 2019. As a member of the program planning committee, Harrison helped organize the event, where nearly 100 teen delegates and their chaperones from counties across the state expanded their knowledge of state government.

During this year’s event, 4-H members, volunteer leaders, and staff met with leaders in state government, members of the court system, and officials from a variety of state agencies. The participants learned about speaking to their legislators and career opportunities in government as they toured state agencies, observed a working session of the state legislature, participated in discussion sessions, and visited with legislators. In addition, participants were able to tour the Capitol and visit the Corning Tower, the New York State Museum, and other significant features of the area.

The New York State Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators sponsors the 4-H Capital Days Program.

For more information about this event or other 4-H opportunities, please contact Kristin Ruggiero at klf37@cornell.edu or (845) 429-7085 x 103.
We are approaching the three driest months of the year and appropriate water for our gardens is always a concern. Although we now have an adequate water supply and there is no indication of a drought, water conservation should still be considered. There are several different approaches to our garden maintenance protocol that can be used to complement water conservation. Hopefully, by now your plantings have been protected with organic mulch to prevent weeds and conserve moisture. I prefer to use double ground wood chip mulch that is available through my local recycling center.

The warm weather has brought in a plethora of both dog ticks and deer ticks to the lab for identification. Be careful while working outside or hiking and protect yourself. For information on both ticks and methods of protection, feel free to contact the Horticultural Lab. If you stop by the lab and fill out a survey on ticks, you will receive a tick kit that contains tweezers and an ID card. May was tick awareness month in New York State and we still have a limited amount of these kits for distribution.

If you had a good start with all the spring chores accomplished, other than weeding, there should be relatively little maintenance in the garden until fall. The primary chore should be weeding, watering, and dead-heading (removal of spent flowers). In the vegetable garden, some people prefer to wait until June to plant tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and other vegetables. At this time, vegetable gardeners may want to think ahead towards fall and prepare for a fall crop of greens for salad. In addition, June is a good time to observe your garden and landscape and think about any changes that you may want to make in the fall or next spring. Often, when we go to make renovations in the yard during the dormant season, we forget how the yard was in the summer and what may be in bloom at that time.

For further information about gardening information, 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.
The Master Gardeners of CCE-RC and the Horticulture Resource Educator Kristen Ossmann just finished up a semester long gardening program with RP Connor Elementary School in Suffern. Thirty students, grades K-5, signed up for the 6-week program. We planted seedlings, identified plants in the garden, created art from cuttings in the garden and learned a little bit about garden design. We hope everyone has a great summer and we look forward to coming back in the fall to see how the garden has grown.

If you think your child’s school would benefit from having a garden-based learning program, please contact Kristen Ossmann at kno7@cornell.edu.

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**Senior Citizens’ Day at the Lab!**

Visit the Horticulture Diagnostic Laboratory on any Wednesday in May 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 June’s code **Marek the Dog** to get the coupon price on your service.

This coupon is good for the month of June 2019. Keep an eye out for the July coupon in our next Newsletter.

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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, July 10th**

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 at jas946@cornell.edu or (845) 429-7085 x117**

**August Session**

Wednesday, August 7th

8:00 - 10:00 AM