Conservation Corps Educating Rockland

Rockland County Conservation & Service Corps interns Ryan Sedwick and Maya Aglialoro have been working hard educating the public on the Hudson River Fish Advisory. Women of child-bearing years and children under 15 should not eat fish from the Hudson River, due to PCB contamination. Ryan and Maya also assisted with the 2019 Summer Children’s Reading Program, Mysteries in the Garden at Night.

Ryan is a recent graduate of Hamilton College, having majored in geosciences. Maya is a sophomore at Boston College, majoring in environmental geoscience.

If you’re interested in being a part of the Rockland Conservation & Service Corps next summer, keep an eye on their website for the application next spring.
On Thursday, July 18, the 4-H Youth Development Educator, Kristin Ruggiero, led a series of activities for 30 youth at the Youth Leadership Workshop sponsored by Rockland County Legislator Aney Paul. The theme of the workshop was “Exploring Personal Leadership Styles and Skills,” and was designed to help youth ages 14-18 assess their leadership styles and develop effective leadership skills. After remarkable speeches by Phyllis Morena from the Youth Bureau and local youth leaders, Kristin Ruggiero focused on helping the participants learn more about who they are and how they engage with the world around them. For the workshop, Kristin first asked each youth to complete a leadership style self-assessment, which encouraged them to reflect on their own leadership preferences and consider appropriate responses in different situations. She then led activities to help youth understand their motivations to act and to share ideas about the characteristics, goals, and actions of effective leaders. Afterwards, the youth practiced their skills in leadership, communication, problem solving, teamwork, and self-discipline through a structure-building challenge and team-building exercise. All of the youth demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, and we are grateful that Cornell Cooperative Extension could be a part of this program for the third year in a row.

To see photos from the event, go to Legislator Aney Paul’s Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/LegislatorAneyPaul/. For more information about 4-H and Youth Development, contact Kristin Ruggiero, 4-H Youth Development Educator at klf37@cornell.edu or by phone at (845) 429-7085 x 103.
Some species of algae produce harmful toxins, and when these species multiply to high levels they are referred to as Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB). HABs occur most often in nutrient-rich waters during the hot weather. **HABs may have the appearance of spilled green paint or pea soup.** Per the NYSDEC, it is hard to tell a HAB from a non-harmful algal bloom, therefore people, pets and livestock should avoid contact with any floating mats, scums, or discolored water. If contact occurs rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove the algae, and seek medical attention immediately if symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions, or breathing difficulties occur after contact.

If you suspect that you have seen a HAB, please report it to the NYSDEC at HABInfo@dec.ny.gov. For more information please see the NYSDEC’s HAB webpage at https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html.

Source: NYSDEC

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**Prevent HABs: Don’t Break the (Fertilizer) Law!**

Are you illegally applying Fertilizer in Rockland County? Many residents are unaware that a County law restricts the use of fertilizers during the warmer months. Over-fertilized lawns are a significant source of excess phosphorus in waterbodies which can lead to Harmful Algal Blooms. Since most soils in Rockland County contain adequate amounts of phosphorus, use of fertilizers containing the mineral are restricted.

**Per the Rockland County Lawn Fertilizer Act, no person shall apply Fertilizer:**

- From December 1st through April 1st
- To any lawn or turf within 50 feet of any surface water except where a continuous, 10 foot minimum natural vegetative buffer separates the lawn or turf area and the surface water
- To any impervious surface (parking lots, roadways, sidewalks)
- Containing phosphorus or such compounds (phosphate), except on turf or lawn areas that have been soil tested and that confirm the need for additional phosphorus. The amount applied shall not exceed the amount and rate recommended from the soil test. Soil tests are available at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Rockland County.
- Exemptions include agricultural uses, applications to trees, shrubs, vegetable and flower gardens.

For more information see our Fact Sheet on Fertilizer on our website: RocklandCCE.org/fact-sheets

Photos courtesy of CCE, NYSDEC
The Master Gardeners of Rockland kicked off their Garden Hop tours this July. This provides a great opportunity for the MGs to see each other's gardens and learn from each other.

The first tour was at MG intern Kate Cahill’s charming home in Tomkins Cove. The very special and unique property sits on a hillside overlooking the Hudson River. Kate has created several different garden areas in both the shady and sunnier areas, featuring an eclectic assortment of annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. The highlight was definitely the butterfly gardens that Kate has created in the open sunny space by the bank of the Hudson. The two cultivated plots were filled with gorgeous flowers and plants that support the pollinators throughout the seasons. Monarda, Rudbeckia, Buddleia, Asclepias, Coreopsis and Echinacea were all in bloom, creating a stunning effect as all the butterflies, bees, moths and even a hummingbird fluttered about collecting nectar.

The second tour was at long-term Master Gardener’s Loretta Tito’s lovely home in Blauvelt. She walked us around her beautiful property, first showing us the front yard and telling about how it has changed over the years. Loretta wanted to create more planting space in the lawn so she worked with fellow MG Chris Shankar to create organic shaped plots with varied plantings that provide great visual interest. In the extensive back gardens, the MGs were in awe of the thoughtfully designed spaces Loretta has created. Loretta started the tour of the back gardens by sharing one of her current favorite plants Mahonia aquifolium which she has been so pleased with. It has filled out nicely in the partial shade area of her garden providing interest throughout the seasons with late winter flowers and then berries and perhaps, best of all, the deer do not touch it due to the spikey leaves. Over the years she has added to the different layers of the garden. Her husband Mike has built her wonderful wooden structures that contribute greatly to the overall design. There is a sense of peacefulness being in Loretta’s gardens being surrounded by the fabulous varieties of beautifully maintained plants. There were many stunning specimens of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals from Oak Leaf Hydrangeas, Smoke bushes, Red buds, Clematis, Lavenders, Hyssop, Zinnias and so much more.
Teen Leadership Rockland - Applications Now Being Accepted!

Teen Leadership Rockland is an opportunity for Rockland County high school sophomores to develop leadership skills and connect with peers and community leaders through interactive seminars. Coordinated by Leadership Rockland, Inc. and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County, the program consists of eleven workshops facilitated by various organizations and leaders within Rockland County. This year, there are three application deadlines: July 1, August 5, and September 5, 2019. Each deadline has a corresponding interview date. For program information and application details, please go to: www.RocklandCCE.org/TLR

Meet Board Member & Master Gardener Volunteer, Robin Eifert

Following a distinguished career at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, microbiologist Dr. Robin Eifert decided to enroll in the Master Gardener training program in 2010. Ever since, Robin has been a steadfast booster of Master Gardener volunteers and Extension itself. As a Board member, Robin serves on the Finance and Development committees and chairs the Nominating Committee. When not conducting Board work, Robin can be found using her professional laboratory skills assisting clients in the Horticultural Lab or compiling Lab statistics. For over five years Robin has volunteered in the School Garden program at the Grandview Elementary School. Most recently, she served an integral role in the Horticulture Therapy program at St. Dominic’s Family Services. And special events organized by the Master Gardeners like Gardeners Day always find Robin working behind the scenes. In fact, Robin is so often at CCE-RC, no doubt many mistake her for a staff member. (We can only dream!)
On July 9 and 22, the 4-H Educator, Kristin Ruggiero, facilitated team-building exercises and public speaking lessons with the Dominican College RISE Program (Research, Immersion in Science and Ecology). During the public speaking session, ten high-school youth learned how to conquer fears, deliver a talk, and field questions in preparation for their poster presentations. The participants practiced their public speaking skills through games, which included fun questions, impromptu talks, tongue twisters, expressing emotions, and other activities. By the end of the session, the students were more confident speaking in front of others, and had developed valuable skills for future presentations and careers.

The Dominican College RISE Program is a two-year summer program funded by Orange and Rockland Utilities to develop STEM skills among local secondary school students with an interest in science. The program immersed students from grades 9-12 in science over the course of three weeks, focusing on microbiology, chemistry, and biodiversity. Though the program has ended, you can learn more about potential youth opportunities and the Environmental Science Concentration at Dominican College by contacting Regina Alvarez at regina.alvarez@dc.edu.

The 4-H Veterinary Science Career Exploration Program Begins in October

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to attend this annual program where they can explore veterinary science careers and develop skills with local professionals.

The program will take place on Mondays, October 7 – December 9 from 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County (10 Patriot Hills Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980) with a field trip planned for Saturday, November 2 at the Bergen County Horse Rescue.

Through this 9-session series, participants will:
- Engage in hands-on activities
- Interact with professionals
- Gain insight into career opportunities
- Develop knowledge about animal care and behavior

This program is limited to 30 youth, so please register early! Registrations will be received on a paid, first-come, first-served basis until October 1. The cost is $125; financial assistance is available for families with demonstrated need. To learn more and to register, visit our Vet Sci webpage at http://rocklandcce.org/youth/veterinary-science.
Tingyue Tan is our Horticulture Intern from Cornell. She has been a tremendous help and inspiration to our Horticulture Department and the Master Gardeners of CCE-RC. We sat down with Tingyue to ask her a little bit about herself and her experience here at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Rockland.

Tingyue is from Chengdu, China, one of the major cities in southeast known for spicy food. She’s a rising Junior at Cornell University in the Landscape Architecture (CALS) and Urban Planning program (AAP).

Q: How did you become interested in Landscape Architecture?
A: Landscape Architecture is a major including the art of space arrangement based on existed geological conditions, the ingenious utilization of different varieties of vegetation, the integration of local culture that improves social interaction in the communities, and possible designs for a more sustainable environment.

Q: Do you have a favorite style of landscape design/architecture?
A: I do not have a certain favorite type of landscape architecture style, but I am very interested into the similarities and differences of the use of space in both Eastern and Western gardens.

Q: What are you focusing on during your internship at CCE-RC?
A: I’m majorly working on a demonstration garden guide that would provide visitors who hope to choose plants for their own garden. This is a really great opportunity for me to dive into the horticultural study with helps from a lot of experts in this field and it could further facilitate my future designs with more ecological insights. Besides that, I also have some side projects including assisting my supervisor, Kristen, for floral arrangement workshop for local senior centers, educating on compost, recycling, and fish advisory at Nyack Farmer’s Markets, and participating in invasive species assessment trips.

Q: Everyone here at CCER has been very impressed with your drawings. Have you always done hand illustration?
A: Yes, it is a very helpful
Q: What materials do you use in your drawings?
A: I use Inkpen and watercolor.

Q: Are plants one of your favorite things to draw?
A: The combination of plant and space would be my answer in the first place, but as I started to observe plants closely and illustrated them, I was gradually fascinated by the natural geometrical shape and texture of different plant species.

Q: Do you have a favorite plant you have encountered in the Demo Gardens here at CCE-RC?
A: Achillea millefolium is my favorite flowering plant in the demo gardens.

Q: We have enjoyed having you here at CCE so much. Do you have plans for the fall?
A: I might keep drawing illustrations during my spare time!
Garden Notes
By Michael Wilson

It has been a wet gardening season so far. Because of the frequent rainfall, it has been a good year for planting and transplanting trees, shrubs and perennials. Rainfall totals for May and June have been above average by an inch or more of water. It has also been a season with a plethora of fungal problems due to the frequency of rain, not total amount. In particular Anthracnose has been seen on maple trees and ornamental cherries. Some food crops have also exhibited fungal problems like angular leaf spot on squash, various fungi on fruit trees, and recently black rot on grapes.

The primary insect coming into the lab is still the tick, with this season giving record numbers of the American Dog Tick.

August is traditionally a dry and hot month with the possibility of this year being the same. It is usually during August that tomatoes and other vegetables in the nightshade family begin to ripen. Besides weeding and harvesting in the garden, it can be a good month for planning your future garden. While the past performance and flowering sequence is fresh in your mind, it is a good time to decide which perennials you may want to lift and divide. The fall is a good time to transplant divisions and some perennials like Peonies prefer this season. If you have not ordered bulbs, you may still be able to place an order. For the vegetable garden it is a good time to plan the fall garden and start those crops like lettuce, mustard, and kale later in the month.

For information on planning the fall vegetable garden, dividing perennials, or plant disease/insect diagnostics, feel free to contact the Horticultural Diagnostic Lab at 845-429-7085 ext. 110 or e-mail Mike Wilson at mw767@cornell.edu

Senior Citizens’ Day at the Lab!
Visit the Horticulture Diagnostic Laboratory on any Wednesday in July 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 August’s code Purple Coneflower to get the coupon price on your service.

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

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, September 4th
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

October Session
Wednesday, October 2nd
8:00 - 10:00 AM