Youth Exploring Nature

Five youths joined volunteers Jeff Solomon and Ann Barry on a nature hike through a beautiful Harriman State Park trail on Saturday the 28th. Jeff and Ann helped the young explorers learn to look for and identify different woodland plants, insects, and animals. They identified everything from the trees around them to the bird they heard but did not see. The hikers gained an appreciation for the diversity of life in the forest and learned the importance of environmental citizenship to protect natural spaces from invasive species.

This hike was the first of a new 4-H program called Young Explorers. Future events will continue to focus on getting youth out and active, interested in the environment, and learning about nature and science. You can learn more about Young Explorers and the 4-H program by contacting our 4-H & Youth Development Educator, Kristin Ruggiero, at klf37@cornell.edu or visit www.RocklandCCE.org/4-H.
ESNY’s garden initiative is bringing home grown nutrition to the Rockland Home for the Aged at the Esther Gitlow Building. Service Coordinator Marianne and resident and volunteer Corine, are excited to dig in to their indoor garden built with help from Eat Smart New York. The seniors are looking forward to starting their own garden where they will grow their own fruits, vegetables and herbs throughout the year.

Pictured: In their new indoor garden, Corine Cimino, resident and volunteer, and Marianne Terry, LSW, C-ASWCM Social Worker / Service Coordinator at Rockland County Jewish Home for the Aged.

An article explaining the Stormwater Consortium of Rockland County’s stormwater mapping efforts appeared in the Talk of the Towns & Topics periodical, published by the Association of Towns of the State of NY. Funding to map stormwater infrastructure has been obtained by CCE through multiple grant rounds from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The grant consultant, H2M Architects + Engineers, has also applied for an Engineering Excellence Award for this project with the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

With the nation’s surface waters becoming increasingly impaired and impacted from stormwater runoff, mapping stormwater infrastructure is becoming a priority in NYS to assist with pollutant track-down and remediation. The Stormwater Consortium of Rockland County was formed to foster a collaborative approach to addressing water quality concerns. All 24 municipalities within Rockland County participate in the consortium.

To read the article, visit this website: Bit.ly/TTT2019jf
Bringing Color to Our Entrance Garden with Animal Proof Annuals

Lessons from our MGV Demonstration Gardens

There is a narrow strip of garden along the walkway to the main entrance of CCE at 10 Patriot’s Hill Drive. For years we filled this space with herbaceous perennial plants. Many have become the favorite food of deer and woodchuck. The few remaining plants bloom for just a few weeks each season. We wanted to bring a more vibrant display to this garden which has such a prominent place at the entrance of our building. Last year, we decided to try annual plants, which have the great feature of blooming all season long. We chose annuals that are rarely damaged by deer from our Horticultural Lab Fact Sheet on deer (www.RocklandCCE.org/resources/dealing-with-deer) plus a few others. The first year was very encouraging. We had a full season of color and the annuals were undamaged except for the red salvia (Salvia splendens) and marigolds (Tagetes erecta). This year we refined our rarely damaged annual plant choices and all survived undamaged. We also added the perennial feather reed grass (Calamagrostis x acutiflora ‘Karl Foerster’) to provide winter interest.

While these annuals work very well in this heavily browsed area, there is no guarantee that some critter won’t develop a taste for these plants in the future. With fingers crossed, we will continue to use these annuals:

- Ageratum (Ageratum houstonianum)
- Annual Vinca (Catharanthus roseus)
- Dusty Miller (Jacobaea maritima, formerly Senecio cineraria) – Can grow from roots the following year.
- Globe Amaranth (Gomphrena globosa)
- Snapdragon (Antirrhinum majus)
- Spider Flower (Cleome hassleriana) - Often reseeds to bloom the following year.
- Sweet Alyssum (Lobularia maritima)- Often reseeds to bloom the following year.
Upcoming Gardening Events
To find more information on these and future events, visit our Event Page (RocklandCCE.org/events).

Autumn Gardening Series at Pearl River Adult Enrichment

Cacti & Succulents
Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Lavender: An Ancient Herb
Wednesday, October 23, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Putting the Garden to Bed
Wednesday, October 30, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Programs take place at Pearl River High School
These programs are presented at the Pearl River Adult Enrichment. Please contact Monica Muthig (845.620.3935 | muthigm@pearlriver.org) for more information or to reserve your space in the programs. There is a fee for these program and you must register in advance.

Growing and Caring for Indoor Plants
Thursday, October 24, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Master Gardener’s Demonstration Garden outside CCE’s Education Center in Stony Point
Extend your gardening season by growing tropical houseplants indoors all year long. Learn which plants grow best in your home environment and when to fertilize, to divide, and to repot the plants. This program will also include a discussion of keeping insects and diseases under control.
This 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.

Managing Weeds & Common Invasive Plants in the Home Garden
Tuesday, October 29, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Sloatsburg Public Library
Armed with a little knowledge, there are ways to prevent invasive species from taking over a home garden or yard. This presentation will focus on mechanical ways and least toxic methods of managing and possibly eradicating a list of 12 common yet pesky invasive terrestrial plants.
This program is being presented through Finkelstein Memorial Library. Please call Som Konduru at (845) 352-5700 x230 for more information and to register for the program.

Guided Garden Tours & Mini-Workshops
Sunday, October 27, 1:00 - 2:30 PM
Master Gardener’s Demonstration Garden outside CCE’s Education Center in Stony Point
Join our Master Gardener Volunteers for a tour of the Demo 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: perennials, ornamental grasses, annuals, herbs, ferns and more. Also come explore our fenced vegetable and perennial gardens. October’s mini-workshop is on Winter Sowing. Come learn how to start your seeds indoors over the winter. Tours happen rain or shine. For more information, contact (845) 429-7085.
Good Work, New York! Visits Down to Earth Living

Communications Manager Charlie Pane and Horticulture Educator Kristen Ossmann visited Down to Earth Living Garden Center and Nursery in Pomona last week to do a podcast episode. Charlie started Good Work, New York! to showcase the good work that Extension and its partners do in Rockland County and beyond. Stuart Leventhal, owner and operator of Down to Earth, shared his love of Japanese Maples with the community by creating a garden exhibiting almost 30 different varieties. Even though they are nonnative, they are not aggressive and are not considered an invasive species. Watch the video on our Facebook Page (Facebook.com/RockCCE) to learn more about this beautiful garden.

The garden is open to the public and free to tour from 9 to 5 daily now through October 20th. For more details on visiting Down to Earth Living, visit their website at: www.DTELiving.com/

Teaming up to Take on Composting Education

CCE does outreach and education on composting and waste reduction at farmers markets, elementary schools, libraries, and public events. This program is made possible through joint collaboration and funding provided by the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority (RocklandRecycles.com).

For more information contact CCE’s Horticulture Resource Educator Kristen Ossmann at kno7@cornell.edu.

save the date for
Gardener’s Day
April 1st, 2020

with keynote speaker
Margaret Roach
Drought Warning!
By Michael Wilson

The month of September has proven to be dry with below average rainfall and higher than normal temperatures. According to the National Weather Service, the rainfall in Central Park to date (9/25/19) was 2.43 inches below average with a total of .93 inches of rain. The normal average for September is 3.36 inches. The temperature went into the 80’s several times during the past month.

If the trees, shrubs, and perennials in your yard are wilting or your lawn is slowly turning brown, more than likely lack of water is the condition that they are suffering from. Fortunately, this can be remedied with irrigation. However, it is best to employ good water conservation methods and plan for a future of climate change.

One way to conserve water is to mulch your ornamental plantings with a good quality organic mulch like double-ground wood chips or cedar mulch to reduce evaporation. Logical use and timing of irrigation is equally as important. The best time to water is in the morning after sunrise. This allows less evaporation and gives the plant all day to dry off because night time moisture on a plant is an invitation for fungal problems. Drip irrigation can be effective on annuals and vegetables that are shallow rooted but on larger plants like trees and shrubs can be deterrent to water conservation due to the production of shallow root systems. To produce a healthy, deep root system that is needed for woody plants and certain perennials, use an overhead or oscillating sprinkler and water for a longer period of time. This allows percolation into the soil profile and produces deep root systems. The lawn can go dormant from drought and recover when rains continue and cooler weather approaches. The same principal to watering trees and shrubs can be a benefit to the turf plants health; if dormancy of the lawn is not an option. The idea is to water less frequently for longer periods of time as opposed to watering frequently (like most automatic irrigation) for short periods of time.

If you have any questions or plant problems, feel free to contact the Horticultural Lab at 845-429-7085 option 3. Contact by e-mail is mw767@cornell.edu.

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Senior Citizens' Day at the Lab!

Visit the Horticulture Diagnostic Laboratory on any Wednesday in October 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 September’s code Jumping Worms to get the coupon price on your service.

This coupon is good for the month of October 2019. Keep an eye out for the November 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, November 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 at jas946@cornell.edu or (845) 429-7085 x117

**December Session**
**Wednesday, December 4th**
**8:00 - 10:00 AM**