

Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Westchester County Master Gardener Speakers Bureau

CCE Westchester is aware of the environmental changes that climate change and intense weather events have brought over the years. This has not only affected us at a national level but locally, within our communities.

The increased awareness in sustainable gardening practices and stewardship has allowed us to refocus our efforts to meet the interests and needs of gardeners of this county.

It is the goal of CCE to educate the public so that together we can build strong and vibrant communities.

Need a Great Speaker?

Master Gardener Volunteers are active, knowledgeable, and passionate gardeners in Westchester County who give presentations on a wide range of gardening subjects. These enthusiastic women and men are inspiring.



Remote Presentations:

Master Gardener volunteer presentations are approximately **45 minutes long with an additional 15 minutes** allotted for questions and contributions from the audience. The venue will provide the technology and support for the presentation (Zoom is commonly used by Master Gardener volunteer presenters). Details will be confirmed with the speaker prior to the presentation.

A fee of \$85.00 per remote presentation helps us to continue our mission of public outreach in Westchester County. Requests for rescheduling in the case of cancellation will be granted at the discretion of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County.



Donna Lassiter

To schedule a Master Gardener Presentation

Please contact Patris Beamon at Cornell University Cooperative Extension, westchester@cornell.edu; 914-285-3590.

The Speakers Bureau Coordinator will follow up. Please note that our Master Gardener volunteers speak in Westchester County only.

Don't see your topic of interest listed?

We are happy to tailor presentations to meet the needs of your audience.

Please note: Westchester County CCE volunteer schedules fill up fast; especially in the spring. We generally work with several months' lead time for our involvement, but will accommodate other requests if possible. Six months' lead time is customary. Are you interested in a topic not listed? We may design and present lectures to address specific garden issues. Inquire early: extra time is required for custom presentations.

Front panel butterfly photo: Donna Lassiter



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Westchester County

By registering for this program I consent and authorize CCEWC permission to use my name, likeness, image, voice and/or appearance for inclusion in CCEWC publicity materials. I hereby release CCEWC and Cornell University from any and all liability, claims or causes of action. I acknowledge that I am 18 years of age or older.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities. Please contact CCE of Westchester if you have any special needs.

UPDATED 6/2021



Master Gardener SPEAKERS BUREAU

Presented by the
Master Gardener Volunteers
of Cornell University Cooperative Extension
of Westchester County



Master Gardener Speakers Bureau

LECTURE TOPICS

BENEFICIAL INSECTS AND OTHER CREATURES

Supporting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects

Ever wonder about the beneficial insects that exist in a backyard and what you can do to "boost" the beneficial habitat in the garden? Learn how you can create a part of a corridor to support pollinators and other beneficial insects that manage the bad bugs through environmentally friendly means.

Gardening for Butterflies and Hummingbirds

Bring butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard by knowing and growing their favorite nectar plants. Learn about many of our northeastern butterflies and host plants to grow for each of them to thrive and reproduce. Discover some beautiful native trees, shrubs, vines and perennial flowers that can make the yard and garden into a butterfly/hummingbird habitat.

THE NEW COUNTRY GARDEN – BIRDS, BEES AND BEAUTIFUL NATIVE PLANTS

Learn about environmentally sound landscaping and gardening by including New York native plants and excluding invasive plants. Help to support a diversity of wildlife and create a garden that is in visual harmony with its surroundings. Discover some beautiful and hardy native plants for the yard and garden.

CONTAINER GARDENING

No space for an in-ground garden? Would you like seasonal color but have terrible soil conditions? Do you like to change things up in the landscape? You can do this and more with moveable containers and window boxes.



COMPOSTING AT HOME

Whether you live in an apartment or on 20 acres, you can make useful compost for soil amendment or as a growing medium while removing food scraps and other organic materials from the waste stream. Learn about composting in the context of climate change and how individuals can make a difference.

GARDENING IN SMALL SPACES

Explore how to maximize a small space whether suburban or urban. Topics includes valuable tips and techniques for terrace, patio, as well as annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables, trees and shrubs. (Emphasis can be customized.)

GARDENING INDOORS: NATURE IN YOUR HOME

Whether you live in an apartment with no space for a garden or you simply enjoy surrounding yourself with greenery indoors, discover the origins of indoor plants and individual microclimates you can create to help them thrive.

GARDENS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

This presentation takes a virtual tour of natural places not frequently visited. Beautiful gardens and landscapes can be found in the most unexpected locales if one is willing to venture "Off the Beaten Path."

PROPER PRUNING

This class will present the proper techniques for hand pruning shrubs and small ornamental trees. Learn how to prune for maximum flower and fruit production. Choosing tools will be discussed.

RAIN GARDENS

What is a rain garden and what does it do? Only a few inches deep, these gardens hold water for only a day or so. Plants in the rain garden slow the rate of stormwater runoff, reduce erosion and provide habitat for beneficials. Learn how to transform an occasionally flooded space into a beautiful landscape.

QUEEN OF THE GARDEN – THE TOMATO

The goal of every vegetable gardener is to grow the best tomato! Learn about its history, heirloom vs. hybrids, determinate vs. indeterminate, and how to get the best produce from your garden.

SHADE GARDENING

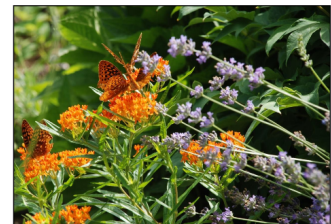
Learn the principles of shade gardening and selection of shade tolerant plants. Light intensity, soil conditions, water, other applicable plant needs, and some design aspects are examined.

VEGETABLES: THE BOUNTIFUL GARDEN

Learn the benefits of starting a vegetable garden and maintaining the plot for maximum results. Convert a portion of the yard to raise fresh, tasty local produce.

VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS

Learn how vegetables and pollinators thrive when the garden is abundant with beautiful flowers. This presentation will cover tips on creating gardens that hum with biodiversity and yield nutritious food for all.



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