

*2009 Master Gardener  
Volunteer Conference*

July 22nd-24th, 2009

*Ithaca, N.Y.*

*A Showcase of Cornell Campus Resources*



## Registration Fees

Register online **only** at [www.gardening.cornell.edu/mgconf/](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/mgconf/)

	<b>Early</b> by June 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regular</b> June 9 <sup>th</sup> to July 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Basic Conference Registration</b> Includes Wednesday Gala Banquet as well as Thursday: 4 concurrent sessions, breakfast, lunch and afternoon break.	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$180</b>
<b>Optional add-on:</b> Post-conference Tours (Available only with basic conference registration.) Includes Friday morning breakfast and half day concurrent workshop/tour.	<b>add \$40</b>	<b>add \$50</b>
<b>Optional add-on:</b> Alice Cook dorm room lodging (Available only with basic conference registration.) Includes bed linens and shared bathroom. One pillow.		
one night double* one night single two nights double* two nights single three nights double* three nights single	<b>add \$40</b> <b>add \$50</b> <b>add \$80</b> <b>add \$100</b> <b>add \$120</b> <b>add \$150</b>	<b>add \$45</b> <b>add \$55</b> <b>add \$90</b> <b>add \$110</b> <b>add \$135</b> <b>add \$165</b>
You will need to specify a roommate who is also registered for the conference.		

Alternatives to dorm room lodging including hotels, B&B's and camping can be found at: <http://www.visitithaca.com/>

*Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.*

*Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling Lori Bushway at 607.255.5918 by June 19, 2009 to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.*

**Thursday, July 23<sup>th</sup>**

Alice Cook Conference Facilities, Cornell University

**Concurrent Session 1      8:30 am to 9:45 am**

❖ **Sustainability in the Garden: Native Plants are Important and Beautiful**

*Barbara Fischer*

Westchester County MG Volunteer will draw your attention to the role of natives in garden ecosystems by illustrating some wonderful perennials and shrubs that can be added to existing home or demonstration gardens. Discussion will include the critical role MG Volunteers can play in spreading the word and knowledge about gardening with native plants.

❖ **Edible Landscaping with Fruit Crops**

*Greg Peck*

Explore the ornamental value of common and less common fruit crops. This discussion will include considerations of best management strategies with a focus on IPM and organic approaches available for the garden setting.

❖ **Finding the Leader Already Within You**

*Teresa Pettit*

Through facilitated discussions, participants will consider cultural views of leadership in order to evaluate and strengthen their own personal leadership skills.

❖ **Collecting and Preserving Insects: Tools and Techniques**

*Carolyn Klass*

Insect collections serve as outstanding educational and diagnostic resources. Discover the tools and techniques critical to building a quality collection that best serve you interest and needs.

❖ **Evaluating Youth Vegetable and Flower Projects at the State and County Fairs**

*Claudia Hitt*

Learn the skill of evaluating youth horticulture projects through the Danish System of judging. Your expertise will help cultivate the next generation of gardeners; explore how you can become engaged in evaluating county and State Fair projects. In this session a brief overview of positive youth development principles and how it connects with Cornell's garden-based learning work will be presented followed by activities for building your evaluation expertise.

❖ **CCE Educator Only** *Marty Petrovic*

This session is exclusively for CCE staff. Contact [bushway@cornell.edu](mailto:bushway@cornell.edu) for more details.

## **Concurrent Session 2**    **10:00 am to 11:15 am**

### ❖ **Evaluating Signs of Stress in Newly Planting of Trees and Shrubs**

*Nina Bassuk*

Note: *This is a repeated at in the 1:30 pm session to accommodate additional participants.*

Choosing the right shrub or trees for the right location is essential to success. This session will combine classroom discussion and a walk around the building to build your skill in making wise plant choices and evaluating signs of plant stresses.

### ❖ **Seed Saving and Storage**

*Michael Glos*

Seed saving has been used successfully for many crops over the years. In this session you'll consider the factors critical to quality seed production, harvest and storage for vegetable crops as well as some herbs, annuals and perennials that are most commonly propagated by seeds.

### ❖ **Mushrooms in the Garden: Friend or Foe?**

*Jeanne Grace*

Where do mushrooms come from, what is their purpose, are they harmful to the other members of the garden ecosystem? Explore the answers to these questions as you learn the important features to look for when trying to identify garden mushrooms.

### ❖ **"Bees" in Your Bonnet?**

*Bob Kozlowski*

After a brief overview of beekeeping you'll learn how to deal with honey bees in problem situations in the home and garden. Being able to distinguish honey bees from yellow jackets, hornets and other stinging insects is critical, so while gaining an understanding of the best management approaches you will learn the distinguishing behaviors and characteristics of our more common cavity nesting insects.

### ❖ **Gardens as Classrooms for Climate Education**

*Trisha Smrecak from the Paleontological Research Institute* Learn about the collaboration between 4-H, the Paleontological Research Institute, and the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) that has created a curriculum and series of resources to enhance the understanding of concepts like weather, climate, and the effects of a changing climate while engaging children and youth in gardening. Discussion will include how Master Gardener Volunteers can gather precipitation data for this nationwide citizen science effort to help researchers fill in pieces of the weather puzzle.

### ❖ **CCE Educator Only** *Neil Mattson*

This session is exclusively for CCE staff. Contact [bushway@cornell.edu](mailto:bushway@cornell.edu) for more details.

## **Lunch 11:30 am to 1:15 pm (Keynote presentation begins about 12:15 pm )**

### ❖ **Heirloom Tomatoes**

*Andrea Kish*

Westchester County Master Gardener Volunteer Andrea Kish will share images of her delicious tomatoes as well as the expertise she has gained growing over 60 varieties each year, including how she created some "family heirlooms" through her own seed saving.

## **Concurrent Session 3**     *1:30 pm to 2:45 pm*

### ❖ **Evaluating Signs of Stress in Newly Planting of Trees and Shrubs**

*Nina Bassuk*

Note: *This is a repeat of the 10 am session to accommodate additional participants.*

Choosing the right shrub or trees for the right location is essential to success. This session will combine classroom discussion and a walk around the building to build your skill in making wise plant choices and evaluating signs of plant stresses.

### ❖ **Extending the Gardening Season**

*Chris Wein*

In this discuss you'll consider techniques, materials and structures available to prolong the garden harvest of vegetables and flowers while also exploring timely use and some precautions critical to success. Bring your questions and examples from your own garden season extension experience.

### ❖ **Gardening in a Changing Climate**

*Dave Wolfe*

Discover the impact of climate change on plants in the Northeast and the new risks and challenges that gardeners face. The challenges include invasive insects, more aggressive weeds, and a shift in tree and other plant species best adapted to the region. Ways in which gardeners can adapt, take advantage of any opportunities, and help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions will also be discussed.

### ❖ **Weed ID and Non-Chemical Strategies and Natural Products for Weed Control**

*Robin Bellinder and Glenn Evans*

Understand key characteristics to identify the most common weeds. Learn how to evaluate and make use of weed management methods and natural products like vinegar and clove oil.

### ❖ **Kids Growing Food in School Gardens**

*Heather Davis*

Learn how Master Gardener Volunteers are and can play a critical role in partnering with the NYS Ag in the Classroom program to promote food and fiber system education. Explore activities from their classroom curriculum and discuss effective approaches to working with schools, classroom teachers and after school programs to match garden-related activities with NYS learning standards while fostering enthusiasm for gardening among students.

### ❖ **CCE Educator Only** *Taryn Bauerle*

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## **County programs share fair break 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm**

Snack and mingle while reviewing posters highlighting the great projects of Master Gardener Volunteers who are reaching beyond their garden gates to spread the benefits of gardening success throughout their community. Take home ideas for new adventures in your own county program.

## **Concurrent Session 4**    *3:45 pm to 5:00 pm*

### ❖ **Evergreens: Plant ID and Use in the Landscape**

*Brent Markus*

Numerous evergreens are available for use in the home landscape. Gain skill in distinguishing the key characteristics of spruce, fir and pine trees. Learn about some of the best evergreens and their optimal use in garden landscapes.

### ❖ **Getting the Most from Your Vegetable Garden**

*Anu Rangarajan*

Interest in growing your own vegetables is a rewarding experience that is becoming an increasingly appealing way to eat locally and save money. Discuss strategies for planning and planting a vegetable garden to maximize success. Whether in a small space or expansive plot, gain the know-how to maximize the bounty this season and years to come.

### ❖ **Everything You Wanted to Know about Diagnosing a Problem, But Didn't Know Where to Start**

*Joel Allen and Dave Reville*

Good communication skills are critical to maximize your success as an effective Master Gardener Volunteer. Learn from seasoned extension educators a step-wise approach to efficiently finding the best answer to gardening issues. Opportunities to build your skill and discuss common quality resources will put you on the road to being a more confident expert in diagnosing garden problems. An ideal session for the inexperienced Master Gardener Volunteer.

### ❖ **Invaders: We Are on the Lookout**

*Sue Gwise*

Get an overview of NYS most common invasive plants and insects (including Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle). Learn how the grassroots public education effort in the North County has pulled together partners from multiply agencies to raise awareness about invasives using a wide array of prevention, control and management outreach materials and activities. Discover how you can tap resources in your own region to address your local invasive species issues.

### ❖ **Low Budget Projects Geared to Gardening with Children and Youth**

*Holly Wise and Lynette Kay*

Take some inexpensive steps to strengthen your educational goals and make your programs more memorable. In this session, learn how these county educators who attended the 2008 National Youth Gardening Symposium plan to incorporate multi-million dollar ideas from Longwood Gardens, Wintethur, and the Camden Childrens Garden into their penny size budget. They will also discuss make-and-take ideas that reuse items to turn trash into treasure.

### ❖ **CCE Educator Only**

*Jonathan Russell-Anelli*

This session is exclusively for CCE staff. Contact [bushway@cornell.edu](mailto:bushway@cornell.edu) for more details.

## Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>

### Optional post-conference concurrent tours or workshops. 8:00 to noon

(inclusive of transportation time)

#### ❖ **Vegetable Diseases and Other Maladies** *(you will walk outside; dress appropriately)*

*Tom Zitter*

Develop your skill in recognizing vegetable diseases and other maladies at different stages of development. Visit the Plant Pathology research plots at Cornell Homer C. Thompson Vegetable Research Farm where you will have the opportunity to sharpen your skills in the field by examining numerous species of cucurbits, as well as plantings of potato and tomato. Best disease management tactics for the vegetable garden setting and key resources for your reference library will also be discussed.

#### ❖ **Canning, Freezing and Drying Garden Produce**

*Katherine Humphrey and Judy Price*

Through lecture and demonstration CCE home food preservation experts will teach safe and up-to-date methods of home food preservation. The science of home food preservation, methods for canning fruits, vegetables, pickles, and jams, and methods for high quality frozen and dehydrated foods will be included. This information will be beneficial for volunteers personally, and for the benefit of the people they reach through their Master Gardener Volunteer educational efforts.

#### ❖ **Building your Toolbox for Soil Health Success**

*Jonathan Russell-Anelli*

Soils are a foundation of landscapes. Participants will literally get their hands dirty gaining experience identifying characteristics of soil, gathering a representative soil samples for testing, understanding the meaning of soil test values for macro and micronutrients and relating appropriate information to nutrient (fertilizer) management approaches that achieve successful plantings while protecting the environment.

#### ❖ **Woody Plant Identification** *(you will walk outside; dress appropriately)*

*Nina Bassuk*

You begin this session indoors reviewing plant ID vocabulary and some great resources but be prepared to walk outside around the Ag quad. In the field you'll work to connect your plant vocabulary with plant material in the landscape. By the end of this session you will have mastered identification characteristics of 20 woody plants and built skills critical to learning many more on your own.

#### ❖ **Bluegrass Lane Herbaceous Perennials and Home Lawn Demonstration**

*(you will walk outside; dress appropriately)*

*Mary Thurn and Melissa Kitchen*

Observe a live demonstration from the experts on how to use simple tools to keep a lawn mower blade sharp, how to set the mower blade at an optimal height and how, when and with what to fertilize a lawn. This short demo will be followed by a chance to explore the annual and perennial beds to learn about current research efforts and plant material. You will cast votes for your favorite annuals and perennials and have a chance to observe/photograph some spectacular flowering plants.

#### ❖ **Citizen Pruners: Sharpen Your Pruning Skills While Doing Community Service!**

*(you will walk outside; dress appropriately)*

*Monika Roth*

Hit the streets for a hands-on experience of what Citizen Pruners at CCE of Tompkins County do. Learn basic pruning concepts, meet the City Forestry staff and Citizen Pruner volunteers. Wear clothing suitable for outdoor work. You will be inspired to consider starting a Citizen Pruner program in your community!

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