

Thursday, July 23th

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 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*

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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

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