Annual Report 2016

Events

Ag Literacy Week, March 14 - 31: Where Board of Directors volunteer to read the year’s book to school children throughout the county. 2016’s book was about apples, titled The Apple Orchard Riddle, by Margaret McNamara. Children in pre-K through 3rd grade in each of our four schools participate.

Family Fun Day, August 1: Over 400 hundred adults and children attended this event. We gave out special red Extension helium balloons and lots of information about ticks and Lyme disease.

Wells Old Home Days, August 5 - 6: This year’s educational booth was all about ticks and Lyme disease. The booth was manned by our summer intern, Jacob Boni and Board volunteers.

Cycle the Adirondacks, August 13: We volunteered to man the water and snack station as members of the Adirondack/Speculator Chamber of Commerce.

Apple Fest, September 24: A very interesting and enjoyable annual event sponsored by the Speculator Historical Society. This year we introduced the two new varieties of Cornell apples, Ruby Frost and Snap Dragon, and provided information about the Cornell Orchards and residential apple growing. Approximately 300 people attended this all day event.

Cornell Local Roads Program, November 3: This program is being hosted by CCE Hamilton and is open to all municipal highway departments throughout the North Country. This year’s topic is “Snow and Ice Control”.

County Health and Wellness Fair, November 18: Birds and Birding - Lifelong Learning at the Lake Pleasant courthouse, 10am - 4pm.

Ongoing Programs

Garden Seeds are distributed in April and May. This is a special grant from Hart’s Seeds which we receive every year that allows us to donate seeds to community gardeners and municipal beautification projects. Seeds were donated to Indian Lake Community Garden, Wells Beautification, Benson Beautification, and the Speculator/Lake Pleasant Community Garden.

Farmers’ Markets, July, Indian Lake; Speculator August 11: Presentations about Lyme disease which was a particular focus this year. The markets attract large crowds every week - Indian Lake on Saturday, and Speculator on Thursdays throughout the season.
**Community Gardens:** The gardens were started by Extension with a handful of residents eight years ago, and continue to be productive with many residents participating. The gardens are a perfect example of Extension work: we start the project, then gradually over time, it is handed over to the community. This year’s big experiment was growing in straw bales. The results were mixed: without adequate watering and fertilizing the bales offered no benefit other than the fact that weeding was cut to a minimum. We even had two pumpkin contestants grow their pumpkins in straw bales.

**Poverty and Economic Hardship:** We continue to work with Professor Hirschl on poverty issues and mitigation.

**Odds and Ends**

**Soil Tests:** Throughout the growing season we do soil testing for our area growers and residential gardeners. This season we did approximately 20 soil tests, breaking all previous records.

**Phone Inquiries:** We answer all sorts of inquiries from county residents year round ranging from cooking to gardening to energy. Cornell has guidelines that can be applied to nearly any inquiry and we are always able to send questions directly to Cornell should the need arise.

**Grow a Giant Pumpkin Contest:** Began in March with seed sales and ended with weigh-in on October 22. Twenty two people entered this year’s contest. Tom Maurer, 11 years old, won this year’s contest with his pumpkin weighing almost 9 pounds!

**CONGRATULATIONS TOM!**

**Greenhouse Dedication:** Margaret Crisbacher, with our staff and Board President Ginger Morris, and 18 community gardeners, dedicated the new greenhouse at the Speculator/Lake Pleasant Community Garden to the memory of our great friend, Frank Crisbacher.
**Annual Workshops**

**NYSERDA:** Energy begin September and go through the end of December. These are “save energy, save dollars” events with handy tips on energy saving, plus as a bonus, a free LED bulb or a CFL. The September program was held at the Lake Pleasant Library and included the light bulb comparison meter.

**Cheese Making Class,** July 30: Every summer we offer a mozzarella cheese making class. This summer the class was full, as always, with 12 participants. It’s a fun and interesting workshop with each student making about a pound of cheese to take home. The cheesemakers also receive a kit which will make approximately 30 pounds of cheese.

**Outgoing Board Member:** Lexi Buswell, outgoing Board Treasurer, served two terms on our board for a total of six years. We will miss her and her expertise very much.

**Thank you Lex!**

---

**Board of Directors 2016**

- President, Ginger Morris - Arietta
- Vice President, Barbara VanSlyke - Wells
- Secretary, Barbara Reffitt - Hope
- Treasurer, Alexia Buswell - Speculator
- Debbie Ameden - Indian lake
- Sharon Grisenthwaite - Wells
- Beth Junquera - Benson
- Anna Smith - Wells
- Jack Valentine - Indian Lake
- Phil Snyder, Supervisor - Town of Benson

---

**Financial Support 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>2,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>34,329.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>44,450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contracts</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,720.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$83,099.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Staff**

- Nancy Welch, Director/Senior Resource Educator
- Lynn Rappa, Administrative Assistant II
- Jacob Boni, Summer Intern
2016 Board of Directors

Ginger Morris, President - Arietta
Barbara Van Slyke, Vice President - Wells
Barbara Reffitt, Secretary - Hope
Alexia Buswell, Treasurer - Lake Pleasant
Debbie Ameden - Indian Lake
Sharon Grisenthwaite - Wells
Beth Junquera - Benson
Anna Smith - Wells
Jack Valentine - Indian Lake
Phil Snyder, Supervisor Representative

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating. Individuals with special needs requiring accommodations who wish to attend our programs and events should contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at 518-548-6191 five days prior to the event. “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”