ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Events

Family Fun Day (08/06/18): On the 6th of August we presented a new and innovative display on local fauna and common garden flora. Participants were actively engaged in the learning process by first testing their knowledge of local fauna and flora by identifying their tracks and leaves. Participants were able to self-assess by lifting the provided image and analyzing the provided information. To keep with the spirit of Family Fun Day, we also provided participants with the opportunity to play the corresponding “Can you guess who?” ball game. A question would be asked of the players based upon information from the display and they in turn would have to throw their ‘ball’ in the basket with the corresponding response. Every participant received a candy reward and a raffle for one of five bug kits. Everyone who attended had a great time at Cornell Cooperative Extensions table and walked away learning something new.

Conservation Field Day (09/20/18): This year we were invited to participate in Conservation Field Day by Hamilton County Soil and Water. Conservation field day is a day for students in grades 3-5 to learn about natural resources and how to conserve them. The focuses of our presentation were pasture poultry and agriculture-related pollution.

Apple Fest (09/21/18): The Apple Festival is a very interesting and enjoyable annual event sponsored by the Speculator Historical Society. This year we updated The Versatile New York Apple display and included a fun blind taste testing of four different types of apples that were donated to us by Indian Ladder Farms, which is in Altamont, NY. In the blind taste testing participants tried Macintosh, Gala, Honeycrisp, and Macoun apples, and many were surprised by which apple variety they enjoyed the most. At our display we also provided several flavorful apple recipes, information about apples grown in NY and how to use them, information about Cornell Orchards and Indian Ladder Farms, and several other free handouts.

County Benefits Day (11/16/18): The topic of the presentation that provided was Wellness and Stress. We discussed varying symptoms of stress, ways to cope, defined stress, and included information on the positive and negative aspects of stress. We provided attendees with Cornell Cooperative Extension three-in-one key chains, pens, an informational stress handout, and a fun recipe for homemade stress balls.
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.

Grow a Giant Pumpkin Contest: Began in March with seed sales and ended with the weigh-in on October 21. This year our 1st place winner was Gracie Honeywell, 2nd place was Tommy Maurer, and 3rd place was Barbara Van Slyke.

Community Gardens: The gardens were started by Extension with a handful of residents ten years ago and continue to be productive with the residents that participate. The gardens are a perfect example of Extension work: we start the project, then gradually over time, it is handed over to the community.

Odds and Ends

Soil Tests: Throughout the growing season we do soil testing for our area growers and residential gardeners. A variety of tests are offered, and the results are sent to both the customers and our office.

Phone Inquiries: We answer all sorts of inquiries from county residents year-round on a variety of topics, some of which range 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.

Annual Workshops

Gardening - Fertilizers, Ph levels, & Anything You Want to Know (05/02/18 & 05/15/18): The Interim Director, Bernard Armata, presented this informational horticulture workshop in Lake Pleasant and Wells. At this workshop Bernie began by covering the basics of gardening and then made the class more innovative and student led by responding and leading discussion(s) on questions that were taken from the audience.

Cheese Making Class: Every summer we have offered a mozzarella cheese making class, where participants make one pound of mozzarella cheese and receive a cheese making kit to take home. This year we have offered multiple classes that we held in Raquette Lake on the 6th of July, Wells on the 8th of August, and in Piseco on the 27th of October. We try to make sure that our classes are as engaging to participants as possible, so this is the first year where we broke up our larger class to create two smaller classes. By doing this our participants were able to receive more hands-on experience throughout the cheese making process. These classes were very successful, and we look forward to finding ways that we can continue to innovate the class.

Outgoing Board Members
Ginger Morris, our recent President, has served almost two complete terms on the Board of Directors and has always willingly contributed her time and energy to extension. She has always been an important supporter of Extension within our county and was a great support during this year’s Apple Festival. She has been valuable and shall be sincerely missed.

**Financial Support**

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**Slate of Officers 2018**

President: Ginger Morris  
Vice President: Barbara Van Slyke  
Treasurer: Jack Valentine  
Secretary: Beth Junquera

**Staff**

Jamila Page, Senior Issue Leader/Director

**2018 Board of Directors**

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Barbara Van Slyke, Vice President – Wells  
Beth Junquera, Secretary – Benson  
Jack Valentine, Treasurer – Indian Lake  
Debbie Ameden – Indian Lake  
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