Staff
Barbara Sacks, Executive Director
Administration—914-285-4642
Judy Guiglemb, Finance Administrator
Martha Mochel, Administrative Assistant/ Nutrition Data Manager
Patricia Pescarreta, Administrative Assistant/ Distance Learning Coordinator
Horticulture, Natural Resources, and the Environment Program—914-285-4640
Amy Albam, Horticulture Educator/ Master Gardener Program Coordinator
Gerald Giordano, Senior Horticulture Educator
Nutrition and Consumer Sciences Program 914-285-4630
Lucy Diaz, Nutrition Educator
Dawn Reda, Nutrition Educator/Supervisor
4-H Youth and Family Development Program 914-285-4620
Patris Beamon, IT Deskside Support/Community Educator/Volunteer Involvement Coordinator
Nancy Caswell, Community Educator

2017 Roster

Board of Directors
Ken Almstead, New Rochelle
Lee Von Elm, Somers
Bill Biles, Hastings
Stan Kapica, Katonah
Ellen Lewis, Larchmont
Troy Lipp, White Plains
Don Mahaney, Mt. Kisco
John Merrell, Rye
Mills Ripley, Mt. Kisco
Vicky Sturner, New Rochelle
Greg Twehues, Tarrytown
Charlie Fausold, State Extension Specialist

Horticulture and the Environment Program Resource Committee
Ken Almstead, New Rochelle
Erna Capetanopoulos, Dobbs Ferry
Tim Kilgallon, Scarsdale
David Krings, White Plains
Andrew Messinger, Bedford Hills
Nancy Ross, Mt. Kisco
Chris Rubes, Thornwood
Bob Yedowitz, Yonkers

Youth and Family Development/4-H Program Resource Committee
Robyn Brown, New Rochelle
Steve Mulligan, North Salem
Emory Nager, North Salem
Jack Robbins, Danbury, CT
Gregorian Rollins, Purchase
Jim Wood, Sleepy Hollow

Nutrition and Consumer Science Program Resource Committee
Margery Arsham, Scarsdale
Linda Bohan, Yonkers
Ann Darcy, Mt. Vernon
Freda Macon, Yonkers
Toby Pidgeon, White Plains

Partners and Collaborators

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation— Bureau of Pesticides
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation— Invasive Species Coordination Section
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation— Urban Forestry Program, Albany
New York State Department of Labor, White Plains
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
New York State Pest Management Association
New York State Turfgrass Association, Albany
New York State Urban Agriculture Association, Albany
New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Valhalla
NYSPIP Program at Cornell University, Geneva
NY Office of the Comptroller, Albany
OPUS: Organization of People Unemployed by Stroke, Hastings
The Osborn, Rye
Osining Children’s Center, Osining
Osining Community Garden
Paisley School 24, Yonkers
Park Avenue School, Port Chester
Park School, Osining
Perkins Memoral, Harrison
Pearl River School, Pearl River
Peekskill City School District
Peekskill High School
Peekskill Youth Bureau
Pepisco, Purchase
Pepsi Bottling, Somers
Pepquanok School, North Salem
Pfizer, Inc.
Philaup Manor Null State Historic Site, Sleepy Hollow
Plaunt View Farm, Brewster
Plauntville Public Pool
Pocantico Conference Center, Sleepy Hollow
Pocantico Hills School, Sleepy Hollow
Port Chester Carver Center
Port Chester Middle School
River Bend Elementary School
Preserve Management, Peekskill
Preston School, West Harrison
Premiere Elementary School, Lincolndale
Project Hope, Peekskill
Proy Gymnasium, Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Chappaqua
Pulaski Elementary, Yonkers
Rippeton Gipqua School, Mt. Kisco
Riverside Health, Yonkers
RF Bailey Elementary School, Greenburgh
Rockambou Alternative High School, White Plains
Rosendale Nursery, Hawthorne
Rotary Club, East Yonkers
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Soil Testing Laboratory, New Brunswick, NJ
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Plant Diagnostic Laboratory/Ralph Georg Turfgrass Research Center
Rye Free Reading Room, Rye
Rye Nature Center
Sanford Terrace, Mt. Vernon
Scarecrow Public Library
Scarsdale School District
Scholastic Academy, Yonkers
Science Barge, Groundwork Hudson Valley, Yonkers
Seabury House, Yorktown
Shelvoke Environmental Center, Larchmont
Sherwood House, Yonkers
Shibui Baptist Church, New Rochelle
Silver Lake Community Garden
Creston-on-Hudson
Somers Central School District
Somers High School
Sony Corporation of America
Soundwave Apartments, New Rochelle
Southern Westchester ROCES, Valhalla
Springhurst Elementary School, Dobbs Ferry
St. Christopher’s School, Dobbs Ferry
St. Denis Headstart, Yonkers
St. Francis AME Church, Port Chester
St. Matthews Episcopal Church Parish House, Bedford
Starr of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Osining State University of New York
SW ROCES at Carver Center, Port Chester
TD Bank, Thornwood
Teatown Lake Reservation, Osining
Taconic Gardeners
Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow Farmers Market
Theodore Young Community Center, White Plains
Todd Elementary School, Briarcliff Manor
TOP (Transitional Occupation Program), Yonkers
Town of Bedford
Town of Cortlandt
Town of Dobbs Ferry
Town of Greenburgh
Town of Lewisboro
Town of Mt. Pleasant
Town of North Salem
Town of Ossining
Town of Somers
Town of Rivertown
Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, Tarrytown
United Arab Emirates Geriatric Center, New Rochelle
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
Untermeyer Gardens, Yonkers
Urban League of Westchester, White Plains
Van Cortland Park Elementary School, New Rochelle
Village of Bronxville
Village of Chappaqua
Village of Croton
Village of Elmsford
Village of Larchmont
Village of Scarsdale
Vine School, Yonkers
Vive Program, Yonkers
Wampus Elementary, Armonk
Ward Acres Community Garden, New Rochelle
Waterford Agricultural Council, Yorktown
Wave Hill, Bronx
Westchester County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
Westchester Community College
Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities— Recycling Office, White Plains
Westchester County Department of Health, White Plains
Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, Mt. Kisco
Westchester County Department of Planning, Yorktown & White Plains
Westchester County Department of Social Services, White Plains
Westchester County Department of Senior Services, White Plains
Westchester County Global Warming Task Force
Westchester County Office of Soil and Water Conservation
Westchester County Pest Management Committee, White Plains
Westchester County Youth Bureau, White Plains
Westchester Greenhouse, Hartsdale
Westchester Independent Living Center, White Plains
Westchester Jewish Community Services, White Plains, Yonkers & Mt. Vernon
Westchester-Fairfield Horticultural Society, Cos Cob, Connecticut
Westchester Yacht Supply, Inc., Lincolndale
Westhill, Mt. Vernon, White Plains, Yonkers
Westlake Middle School, Thornwood
Westpac, White Plains
White Plains Beautification Foundation
White Plains Department of Public Works
White Plains Farmers Market
White Plains Historical Society
White Plains Library
White Plains School District
White Plains Youth Bureau
WILC (Westchester Independent Living Center), White Plains
Willows Farm, Yorktown (program venue)
WM, Morris School, Sleepy Hollow
Woodside School, Peekskill
WMCA, White Plains, Yonkers
Yonkers Children’s Place
Yonkers City School District
Yonkers Community Health Coalition (YCHC)
Yonkers Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)
Yonkers Historical Society
Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority
Yonkers Public Schools
Yonkers Riverfront Library
Yonkers School Library
Yorktown Community & Cultural Center

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.
Partners and Collaborators

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, Kingston
Cornell University, Ithaca
Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute, Ithaca
Cornell Waste Management Institute, Ithaca
Cronan Public Library, Croton-on-Hudson
Cuba Hill Academy, Yonkers
Cudby & Feder, White Plains, NY
Daniel Warren Elementary, Rye
Daniel Webster Magnet School, New Rochelle
Davenport Park Shakespeare Garden, New Rochelle
Dimensions, New Rochelle
Dobbs Ferry Garden Club
Don Bosco Community Center, Port Chester
Donoe’s Lane School, Irvington
Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester Farm Bureau
Edward Williams School, Mt. Vernon
Family’s Self-Sufficiency (FSS)/Hartley House, New Rochelle
Family Services of Westchester, Mt. Vernon, Ossining, White Plains
Family Services Society, Yonkers
Fit VSC, Sound Shore Medical Center, New Rochelle
Foodbank for Westchester (Feeding Westchester), Elmsford
Fogline School, Yonkers
Fox Meadows Elementary School, Scarsdale
Friends of Purchase Library
Friends of the Purchase Library
FSW Community Education, Housing sites in New Rochelle, Port Chester, Rye
FSW Early Childhood, White Plains
FSW, Slater Center, White Plains
Furniture Share House, White Plains
George Washington Elementary School, Mahopac Lake
Girl Scouts of Westchester/Putnam
Golden’s Bridge Day Camp (program venue)
Good Counsel Homes, Harrison
Grace Church, White Plains
Graham Elementary, Mt. Vernon
Great Potentials, SUNY Purchase
Greenburgh Greenbelt Center, White Plains
Greenburgh Nature Center, Scarsdale
Greyson Foundation, Yonkers
Guidance Center of Westchester, Mt. Vernon
Hamilton Elementary School, Mt. Vernon
Hart’s Brook Park & Preserve, Hartsdale
Harvest Moon Farm & Orchard, North Salem
Hawthorne Elementary School, Hawthorne
Healthy Youths Initiative (NY), Yonkers
Herb Society of America, NY Unit
Hilltop Haven Farm, Yorktown
Hudson River Audubon Society
Hudson River Health Center, Peekskill
Hudson River Museum, Yonkers
Hudson Valley Wind Works, Bedford
Hutchinson Elementary, Pelham
IBM, Hawthorne & Yorktown
Irvington Community Justice Committee
Irvington Farmers Market
Isaac Young Elementary School, New Rochelle

A Message from the Executive Director

If we had to describe in an “elevator speech” what we do, it would be economic development, helping industries and employers in Westchester, helping youngsters become better future employees and entrepreneurs, helping residents make and keep their properties more valuable with the best horticulture and pest management advice, and helping people live healthier and more productive lives.

That’s what we are really about at Westchester CCE.

We’ve had a choice at CCE to be preventive or to be palliative. We chose to be preventive because we understand that helping our industries, residents and local governments avoid the predictable problems coming their way was a better investment of our scarce resources. CCE’s unique flexibility allowed us to perceive and respond to local problems and issues rapidly and with the incredible resources of a major, world class university (Cornell) as well as our extensive network of other experts around the country and the world. That is a uniqueness of CCE. We can mobilize expertise for our local community that would not otherwise be available.

Whether we are preventing youth obesity, helping industries that employ 10,000 local people, or developing your youth’s capacities to become better engaged citizens and productive members of society, we are doing the normal CCE every day work. Bringing down health costs for people who rely on public taxpayer funded healthcare is an outcome of our goal to help people be healthier and more productive residents. Making the environment healthier for all is part of our mission. Engaging highly trained and caring volunteers and volunteer partners in carrying out our mission is how we accomplish these things with a relatively minuscule part of budget. Please read this 2017 Annual Report and see what we’ve accomplished with such small resources. We invite you to join us in our mission.
Horticulture, the Environment and Natural Resources

Our professional staff of horticulture, pest management and arboriculture experts provide a variety of services to the public and to the “billion dollar green industry” in Westchester. That industry includes greenhouses, nurseries, turf and landscape businesses, tree services, landscape architects, garden supply houses, municipal owners of parks and public lands, and private and public golf courses. Among the services we provide are:

- on-site laboratory services to analyze soils, plants, insects and other pests.
- soil test kits that show whether nutrient changes are needed.
- advice on anything that grows (plants, fungi, etc.).
- best practices information that protects the environment.
- training and certification programs for the Green Industry.
- education programs for the horticulture consumer
- growing degree day information for gardeners.
- advice and assistance to farmers.
- site visits for the Green Industry and the horticulture consumer.
- advice to the Green Industry on using the best practices and products to stay competitive and viable in Westchester.
- advice to landlords, tenants and homeowners about pest management in multi-family dwellings.
- advice on controlling insects and animals that damage plants or threaten public health.

Our professional horticulture staff was busy in 2017.

- 908 responses to commercial and consumer telephone calls for service.
- 1,372 diagnoses completed for email and lab sample inquiries for service.
- 166 soil nutrient tests facilitated in response to inquiries for soil testing service.
- 17 Commercial site visits performed in response to inquiries for field diagnostic service.
- 2,396 program participants served through commercial/residential presentations and conferences.

The commercial newsletter Hudson Valley Horticulture, was published 7 times in 2017 with a circulation of 720 (mostly) Westchester Green Industry professionals who share the publication with their employees. CCE articles in NYSTLA's Green Industry News got to 200 commercial subscribers. CCE’s contribution to the commercial turf publication ShortCUTT, has a circulation of over 900. Weekly Journal News articles have a circulation of 80,000.

2017 Paid Support for Cornell Cooperative Extension OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY

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Westchester County’s investment leverages four times the resources brought into our county through CCE. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of dollars in volunteer and volunteer partner time are given to us each year.
2017 Functional Expenditures

We are proud that 94% of our resources go into direct programming.

Horticulture, the Environment and Natural Resources

Horticulture & Pest Management Programs Facilitated in 2017
1-1: NYSTLA Conference’s 8 educational programs, Yonkers
1-18: “Horticulture along the Silk Road”, Yonkers
2-9: “Vegetable Gardening and Beyond 101” Dobbs Ferry
2-15: “Pollinators! Enhancing Habitat in Our Landscapes” Chappaqua Library
3-6: “Proper Pruning” Mt. Pleasant Library
3-8: “Beatrix Ferrand: A Celebrated Landscape Designer” Bedford
3-18: “Ornamental Container Gardening” White Plains
3-20: “Agricultural Literacy Weeks” readings throughout Westchester schools
3-21: “Container Gardening” New Rochelle Library
3-25: “Vegetable Gardening 101” White Plains
3-30: “Nonstop Plants: A Garden for 365 Days” Irvington
4-3: “Invasive Forest Pests” regional
4-5: “Pruning Practicum” regional
4-6: “The New Country Garden – Birds, Bees and Beautiful Native Plants” New Rochelle
4-19: “Bringing in Spring” Greenburgh
4-19: “Attracting Beneficial Insects” Chappaqua
4-29: “Croton Earth Day Celebration” Q&A table
5-13: “Westchester County Earth Day” Q&A table, Valhalla
5-17: “Hydrangeas for Every Garden” Katonah
5-20 and 5-21: Lasdon Park & Arboretum Q&A table, Somers
5-24: “Croton Hydrilla Remediation” public meeting Croton-on-Hudson
5-27: Tarrytown Farmer’s Market Q&A table
5-27: “Hydrilla Public Meeting” Croton
6-7: “Guided Tour of Lasdon Park & Arboretum” Somers
6-10: Bronxville Farmer’s Market Q&A table
6-13: “Oak Wilt, A Harmful Introduction to New York State” White Plains
6-23: “Container Gardening” New Rochelle
6-27: “Invasive Species Survey” regional
7-11: “Worms Eat My Garbage” Golden’s Bridge
7-15: “Orchidlands Farmer’s Market” Q&A table
8-10: “Organic Vegetable Gardening” Ossining
8-18: Mount Pleasant Day community event Q&A table
9-23: Tarrytown Farmer’s Market Q&A table
8-26: “4-H Showcase at Muscoot Farm” Q&A table, Yorktown
9-23: “Lewisboro Library Fair” Q&A table
10-21: “Bird and Pollinator-Friendly Gardens” Yonkers
10-24: “Vegetable Gardening for Students” Scarsdale School District
11-8: “Implications of Climate Change for Invasive Species” in cooperation with UMass for the benefit of our local industries ranging from “Urban Soils” to “Urban Forestry”. 8 more educational activities were conducted in Westchester with the Cornell Waste Management Institute. We also partnered with UConn and Rutgers to bring educational opportunities to Westchester residents and businesses in 2017.
Master Gardener Volunteers donated over 5,249 hours to CCE in 2017. Valued at $42.01 per hour, this work was worth $220,510. They put in an impressive 1,013 hours in continuing education to advance their skills in order to better serve the public. Valued at $42.01 per hour, this was a $42,556 investment in improving the quality of service to Westchester residents.

Among the 30 ongoing Master Gardener projects were collaborations with Cornell University researchers. Master Gardener volunteers participated in a continuing study with Cornell Waste Management Institute to survey the environmental effects of mulching leaves in place on lawns.

The School Garden program brings a Master Gardener mentor to each participating school to help them develop a vegetable garden and teach students about nutrition and food sources. We have trained over 300 teachers so far and introduced over 6,000 Westchester children to school gardening at over 40 schools. A Master Gardener assisted the Tarrytown School District in the development and implementation of a Butterfly/Pollinator learning garden for hundreds of students at the district’s Peabody Preserve and consulted on a bird-friendly garden at Yonkers Pearls Hawthorne School. Another brought a composting program to 60 children at a Golden’s Bridge summer camp. Master Gardeners read to over 400 elementary students at 11 Westchester schools during “Agriculture in the Classroom” week, March 20-24, 2017.

The popular Home Gardening Lecture Series again attracted almost 300 attendees in 2017. The Speakers Bureau and other Master Gardener speakers reached hundreds through 12 audiences at various venues throughout Westchester, including the PROS program at the Guidance Center of Westchester.

Master Gardeners participated in dozens of “Ask the Master Gardener” booths at farmer’s markets, Earth Day events and other direct contacts in 2017, reaching over 7,749 people directly.

CCE Master Gardeners continue to educate the public at Community and Demonstration Gardens at Ossining Organic Community Garden, Hart’s Brook Preserve, John Jay Herb Garden, Lenoir Preserve Butterfly Garden, Alfred B. DelBello Preserve Demonstration Garden 7-25-17

White Plains Youth Bureau kids visit Hart’s Brook Preserve Demonstration Garden 7-25-17

Nutrition and Consumer Sciences

By the end of the last class, NL lost 18 pounds! A month later he called our office to say he lost a total of 28 pounds, feels more energetic and found a job as a Chef. He changed the way he prepares his food and is now teaching his family, relatives and coworkers all that he learned in the EFNEP classes. He is also happy that his family now sits down and enjoys family dinner together.

Results of CCE’s programs include healthier individuals and families, fewer health dollar expenditures and reduced costs to the taxpayers who support the publicly funded health care. In these cases, the students graduated and went on to have productive lives using the knowledge they gained from CCE.

Nutrition and Health – Saving Westchester County Medicaid Dollars

In addition to the obvious benefits of improved health and lifestyles of the participants in our classes, there are benefits for the Westchester County taxpayers, too.

Nearly one-tenth of the Westchester population lives at or below poverty level. Health problems related to nutrition are disproportionately high among low income individuals. Our target population lacks private health insurance and relies on taxpayer-funded Medicaid for health care. That is costly. The annual cost of Medicaid in Westchester County is approximately $1.5 billion!

When we look at the costs of healthcare for diseases that are preventable through improved nutrition and physical activity (the components of CCE’s nutrition classes), we can begin to see the link between what CCE does and the potential savings to the taxpayers of Westchester County. We know that changing people’s behavior can improve their health. Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, youth obesity, stroke and certain cancers have all been linked to improper nutrition.
Nutrition and Consumer Sciences

**EFNEP**
Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Westchester’s EFNEP program provides nutrition education programs to low income families with children, whose income does not exceed 185% of the poverty level. In Westchester, 95% of the families are at or below that level. Our target population includes pregnant women, Head Start parents, low income Hispanic parents and other low income families with dependent children in the household. We teach our nutrition classes in English and Spanish. In 2017, there were 240 families representing 960 people reached by direct education, outreach and marketing activities. 95% of participants showed improvement in one or more nutrition practices (plans meals, makes healthy food choices, prepares food without adding salt, reads nutrition labels or has children eat breakfast). Other areas of marked improvement included increased fruit and vegetable consumption, improved food safety practices (thawing and storing foods properly) frequency of being physically active and improved food resource management practices (comparing food prices and not running out of food by the end of the month). 84% more often use the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices.

**EFNEP**

**EFNEP-Youth programs**
In 2017 Westchester’s EFNEP program reached 151 youth using the Choose Health Fun and Fitness Curriculum.

95% of youth adopt and practice 1 or more food selection behavior(s) consistent with Federal Dietary Guideline recommendations.

79% youth adopt or improve 1 or more habit(s) or behaviors related to physical activity.

77% improved in knowledge or skill necessary to choose foods consistent with Federal Dietary Guideline recommendation.

**In their own words:**
CCE Westchester’s Nutrition Education Programs actually work. Here are just two of the 2017 success stories.

1) GT is a single 42-year-old father raising two children. He graduated from the EFNEP program delivered at WJCS (Health Center). Upon entry into the program, GT walked with a cane, was diagnosed as pre-diabetic, and told by his doctor that he needed to lose weight and get more physical activity. GT was ready to make changes to his diet and try to become more physically active, even with his cane. GT was frustrated, as he did not know where to begin and knew he was

**Master Gardener Volunteers Program**

**Muscoot Farm,** Sherwood House and Westchester Community College Vegetable Garden. Master Gardeners volunteer at Stone Barns, Lasdon Arboretum, Native Plant Center, and helped educate communities to reduce invasive weeds in public spaces. Master Gardeners at the Hart’s Brook Demonstration Garden donated over 1400 pounds of produce to a local food pantry in 2017, despite a challenging growing season.

Master Gardener Volunteers write a weekly column and other gardening articles for the Journal News and other Gannett publications (circulation: 110,320 in Westchester; 1,883,661 total). They also write for local community publications.

Master Gardeners provided education and answered consumer gardening questions over the season at Q&A tables at the following farmer’s markets: Bronxville, Croton, Muscoot Farm, Ossining, Rye, Tarrytown, White Plains and the White Plains Gedney Recycling Center.

MGs and CCE staff provided education and answered consumer gardening questions at the following events:
3/18 and 3/25 Container Gardening Workshop, White Plains
4/29: Native Plant Center sale
4/29: Croton Earth Day
5/13: Westchester County Earth Day
5/14: Lewisboro Q&A
5/20 and 5/21: Lasdon Plant sale
5/6: Dobbs Ferry Q&A
8/10: Ossining Community Garden Day
8/18: Mount Pleasant Day
8/26: Westchester 4-H Showcase at Alfred B. DeBello Muscoot Farm
9/23: Lewisboro Library Fair

Master Gardener Volunteers assisted CCE staff with commercial programs:
1/11: New York State Turf and Landscape Association Conference and Trade Show
6/13: Oak Wilts, A Harmful Introduction to New York State, Cornell University with CCE, DEC and Westchester Parks Dept., White Plains
12/7: Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District ‘Pond and Lake Management’ Workshop

The Master Gardener program provides educational opportunities for continuing education of our Master Gardener Volunteers so they can provide the most current information to the public.

**Advanced MG education provided by CCE Westchester:**
2/8: Garden Hygiene
3/1: Lily Leaf Beetle Biology and Research
4/3: Invasive Forest Pests advanced training (train the trainer)
4/5: Hands-on Pruning Demonstration
5/10: NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets invasive pest update
6/1: Pest/pest management update
7/12: Organic vegetable gardening and tour
8/23: Queries and Research Summaries, tour of private gardens
10/18: Survey of Horticulture Topics
11/15: Insect Decline and Supporting Populations
Agriculture Literacy Week promotes a better understanding and appreciation of agriculture and the food system. In March 2017, 9-4-H Club members and 10 Master Gardeners visited 11 schools throughout the county, reaching 710 students reading “The Grapes Grow Sweet” about a child’s first family grape harvest, introducing students to how this fruit is grown and harvested. A grape juice tasting followed.

One of our largest programs is 4-H Incubation & Embryology, which teaches youth about biology, nutrition and the environment while they hatch chick and duck eggs in their classrooms. CCE helps the schools obtain fertilized eggs, trains teachers, provides curriculum, and answers questions during the hatching process. In 2017, 27 teachers attended our trainings. 140 schools, 497 classrooms, 10,099 children, and 1,350 adults participated with this educational outreach.

Summer STEM sessions were held in the Rye Free Reading Room (hydroponics) and in the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak (chemistry with polymers and forensics), reaching 33 youth.

Notable accomplishments of 4-H Clubs in 2017

February: Peeksill High School Environmental and Gardening 4-H Club was invited by the Peeksill Parks Department to run the hands-on activities for children during the Peeksill Riverfront Green portion of Teatown’s Eaglefest.

21 4-H Club members attended one of the county level public presentations events. 8 of our 4-H Club members participated in the 4-H Southeast District level public presentations events on April 29. All of the presentations were well done.

On April 2, the Robocracy 4-H Club led hands-on play with the NXT robots for children and demos of the FIRST Tech robot at the Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo, held at the White Plains High School. 4-H staff offered hands-on fun testing the table top wind turbines. About 200 members of the public stopped by our tables. Also on April 2, the Robocracy held their annual “Rabbit and Cavy Care” Day at Muscoot Farm for public education. About 200 people attended.

The Robocracy 4-H Club participated in the 2017 FIRST Tech challenge competition season. On December 10, 2016, they scored an FTC world record score for the 2017 challenge. The club qualified to participate in the FIRST Tech World Challenge in St. Louis in April, 2017.

On April 28 the PHS Environmental 4-H Club held their annual Arbor Day Celebration with a speaker from DEC NYS lakes program, concluding the event with a tree planting.

4-H Teen Leadership events were attended at the State Teen Action Representative Retreat in April in Syracuse and 18 youth at 4-H Career Explorations at Cornell University in June.

Putnam 4-H Fair: we had 2 livestock focused clubs participating in showmanship events with cattle, sheep, goats and poultry, and members of the K-9 Kids participating in several judged events. We are the main livestock shows at the Putnam Fair.

On August 26, we held the Westchester 4-H Showcase at Muscoot Farm. 42 youth, 8 Leaders and 12 other volunteers participated. Youth brought in 79 entries for evaluation. Attendance: 400.

On August 27-31, a delegation of 3 youth went to the NYS Fair, working as Teen Leaders in the new “Activity Zone” of the Youth Building guiding members of the public in hands-on STEM fun. Entries from our Showcase that qualified to be entered in the NYS Fair for evaluation did well, with red and blue ribbons and one outstanding purple rosette.

In September, 4-H had a major presence at 3 different spaces during the 4-day Yorktown Grange Fair; providing the only livestock activity there. Members of the Robocracy, Robocracy, K-9 Kids, Hooves, Beaks, & Bills and the Muscoot Gang 4-H Clubs participated with 28 members, 6 leaders and dozens of other volunteers. Attendance over 3,000.

In October, the Muscoot Gang 4-H Club helped the staff at the farm during the Pumpkin weekend. Our annual 4-H Achievements event recognizes the accomplishments of individuals and clubs each year.

On October 26, St. Christopher’s School celebrated a Barn Raising with the addition of goats and chickens raised by members of our Hooves, Beaks & Bills 4-H Club. Club including some students of St. Christopher’s and veteran members who are mentoring the new members. The goats and poultry had been “shown” during all of the fairs during the summer. Unlike most counties, Westchester’s 4-H participates in at least 4 fairs a year, not one.

In November, the Peeksill High School Environmental 4-H Club took part in a water sampling expedition in the Hudson River in Croton.

Members from a several of the clubs attended a Public Presentations workshop in December to prepare for their own presentations.