

## October 2008 PWT Meeting

MINUTES                      **OCT 22 -23,2008**                      **NOON TO NOON**                      **PLANT SCIENCE ROOM 22**

**MEETING**                      Community Horticulture Program Work Team

**NOTE TAKER**                      Lori Bushway

**ATTENDEES**                      Patti Battley pap11 (Seneca), Carol Bradford cbradfo1@twcnv.rr.com (Onondaga –garden writer stakeholder), Gail Culver gac11 (Genesee), Caroline Kiang (Suffolk), Carolyn Klass ck20 (campus- Entomology), David Reville dreville@rochester.rr.com (Wayne – MGv stakeholder), Marcia Eames Sheavly me14 (campus-Hort), Anna Snider als227 (Westchester),Holly Wise hlw2 (Oneida)

**GUEST**                      Nina Bassuk (Hort.), Margery Daughtrey mld9 (Greenhouse PWT)

### **Partnerships**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Educators shared details about partnerships they have been building in their local programs.

Holly from Oneida reported that they have been working with the not for profit (NFP) Mid-York Childcare Council. This NFP is looking into merging with their CCE association. They have partnered to create educational programming with a literature and plant theme. Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) have helped staff stations for educational events targeting children and youth.

Anna Snider also shared that Westchester county CCE has Master Gardener Volunteers working with youth audiences and public school partners. Some of their volunteers are former public school teachers and they created a curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> graders called “Let’s Eat a Plant” and are using it in one school in their county. They also received a grant and created a family garden around which the educational program is focused.

Gail from Genesee noted they created a memorial family garden in memory of a CCE employee. They received \$500 from Cargill and the garden is the center point for their efforts to provide hands-on education in growing edible crops for low income families. The education is one on one between the MGV and a family. It went well this year so they anticipate Cargill will continue to annually provide funds and they will connect with more families in the future who are already participants in CCE nutrition program.

Sue Pezzolla from Albany via email mentioned that their program has developed a good relationship with the Soil and Water folks around rain gardens. CCE Albany has the knowledgeable volunteers to build demonstration rain gardens and soil & water has funds. They have created many gardens together which will serve as a focus point for education around rain gardens.

Carolyn Klass is working with 4-H youth development folks in the state office on a new project to create a 4-H Entomology website for youth. Features might include an interactive forum, posting about programs and contests, activities, and educational material.

## CONCLUSIONS

Invite Westchester MGV to do a workshop at the 2009 State Master Gardener Conference introducing their curriculum and helping others learn about connecting with schools and NYS learning standards.

Consider partnering with statewide nutrition folks who provide canning/food processing training to offer this as part of the core MGV training or as an advanced training in hopes that MGV can partner with nutrition folks to lead canning/food processing workshops in their communities in conjunction with their growing food workshops. Canning/food processing could be a session at the MGV conference. Christina Stark might be the best campus contact. (I have since learned: Judy Price and Kathrine Humphreys retired from Monroe CCE and are under contract with the Lake Plains Vegetable Team to do trainings across the state. Their contact is Robert Hadad: rgh26@cornell.edu)

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Invite Westchester MGV to do a workshop at the 2009 State Master Gardener Conference	Anna	December
Explore partnerships with nutritionists on canning/food processing training for MGV	Lori	On-going

## Partnerships with other Program Work Teams

### DISCUSSION

We invited the Greenhouse Horticulture and the Landscape Horticulture PWT to send a representative to share what the PWT does and how we might partner.

Margery Daughtrey from the Greenhouse group shared details about their membership, their grower advisory group, their regular conference calls and face to face meetings 2x per year and their main cooperative effort the Floriculture Field Day every July. This field day aims to get people excited about plant material, how to use them and care for them in the greenhouse and landscapes. It has an indoor morning session and an outdoor afternoon session (you can attend just the afternoon) at Bluegrass lane which includes lots of tours led by faculty and staff conducting research out there and there is a container contest.

Carolyn Klass is a member of the Landscape PWT and she reported that they have had almost monthly campus-based hour long meetings to discuss research and extension activities. Off-campus members often participate via phone. Their big effort is a once per year short course or turf and landscape conference. Members are also very involved in NY green industry state and regional conferences.

### CONCLUSIONS

We should communicate with the Greenhouse Horticulture PWT about how we can encourage more community horticulture educators and MGV to attend at least the afternoon session of the Floriculture Field Day which is on Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup> (directly before the State MGV conference). Given our conference is the same week, we might also get someone to do a tour on Bluegrass lane on the Friday

morning of our conference. Anna is going to keep in touch with the Greenhouse PWT's Floriculture Field Day efforts so our PWT and Community Hort network stays in the loop.

At our future PWT meetings we'll ask Carolyn for updates on the Landscape PWT efforts.

We should connect with the Turf PWT, the Invasive species PWT and the Soil Health PWT.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
If you participate in either the Turf PWT, the Invasive species PWT or the Soil Health PWT and might be able to be a liaison between that PWT and ours contact Lori bushway@cornell.edu	CCE educators	ASAP

### Conversation with Nina Bassuk about SWAT and plant ID

DISCUSSION
<p>Nina shared with us her approaches to identifying plants. She tends to use multiple resources. She also described the SWAT (Student Weekend Arborist Teams) program. This program targets communities with no resources and her crews go into communities to do total tree inventory and planting sites using PDAs. The Communities pay each crew member \$10 per hour and they get the data and produce a report on the quantity of their tree resources and the total environmental benefit. This has helped many communities with their master planning efforts. Though in the years they have been doing this the biggest challenge for communities after the inventory is completed is not keeping up with the inventory record keeping. They have tried it with nonpaid volunteers (Fayetteville) but found it didn't work as they get bored and want to leave before inventory is done.</p> <p>You can read more about SWAT at: <a href="http://vivo.cornell.edu/lifesci/individual/vivo/individual16660">http://vivo.cornell.edu/lifesci/individual/vivo/individual16660</a></p> <p>Hudson valley has tried it with volunteers including MGV under the direction of Stephanie and Brenda in Putnam County. We think they call it SWAT Specialized Weekday/Weekend Arborist Team.</p>

CONCLUSIONS
<p>Plant identification resources include:</p> <p>Know your trees (free online at: <a href="http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/86">http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/86</a>)</p> <p>Tree ID Guide for Common Urban Trees in New York State and the Northeast (order form: <a href="http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/pdfs/orderform.pdf">http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/pdfs/orderform.pdf</a> )</p> <p>MUENSCHER'S KEYS TO WOODY PLANTS An Expanded Guide to Native and Cultivated Species By Edward A. Cope (order from: <a href="http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/cup_detail.taf?ti_id=3428">http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/cup_detail.taf?ti_id=3428</a> )</p>

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs ([www.timberpress.com/books/isbn.cfm/9780881924046/dirrs\\_hardy\\_trees\\_shrubs/dirr](http://www.timberpress.com/books/isbn.cfm/9780881924046/dirrs_hardy_trees_shrubs/dirr) )

Let's ask Stephanie and Brenda in Putnam County how they are conducting their training sessions for their SWAT. Might some of it be modified to be offered as a 3 hour session at the 2009 MGV conference?

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Get Nina or others to lead some plant ID session at the 2009 MGV conference.	Lori	December

### More Discussion on Diagnosing

#### DISCUSSION

In addition to hearing from Nina about her approach to plant id, Carolyn shared her approach in the insect lab including the use of a specific form which is available online. Pathology diagnostic lab also has a process and form. We speculated that some counties have their own process and accompanying forms such as Saratoga who fields lots of questions. We brainstormed about how we could work together to share resources and build skill of staff and volunteers in the area of diagnosing beyond our cce diagnostic list serve.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Remind educators about the CCE diagnostic list serve. More about it is at:

<http://blogs.cce.cornell.edu/community-horticulture/2007/04/25/diagnosing-home-and-gardening-issues/>

Gather from counties and campus based labs any forms or protocols they are using in their diagnosing process (including plant, insect, disease ID...). This could include lab reference material they are using. At a future meeting we'll review a synthesis of the information and work to create a checklist of questions that offer us a place to start with diagnosis.

Encourage volunteers and staff to build observation skills. Carol mentioned she had a leaf observation exercise that she could share.

Additional training or guidance in phone manners, working with challenging callers, general customer service...would be valuable for volunteers and staff especially if it incorporated role playing.

Consider more regular updates about garden-related issues citizens might be contacting CCE about that highlight "what's bugging us now." In addition to campus experts feeding this new release, counties should also submit what is happening locally.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
--------------	--------------------	----------

Gather from counties and campus based labs forms or protocols for diagnosis.	Lori	January
--	------	---------

**Volunteer Resource Administration**

**DISCUSSION**

We are trying to have regular conference calls to share strategies about volunteer resource administration. In October our conference call was about approaches to checking applicants' references. Our next conference call will be about volunteer appreciation and should happen late Nov or early Dec.

Anna recently attended the national volunteer resource management conference held in Binghamton and a workshop session touched on volunteer appreciation. She shared that volunteers' motivation could roughly be classified as achievement, power or association oriented and the most successful appreciation rewards for each type of volunteer differs. For example, achievement volunteers are rewarded with the satisfaction of doing the job well while association volunteers would appreciate public recognition for their effort. Figuring out the type of volunteer you are trying to appreciate is critical and often can be done with careful observation.

Lori also attended this conference and learned about The "Certified in Volunteer Administration" (CVA) credential is offered for practitioners in volunteer resources management. Originally developed by the international Association for Volunteer Administration, the program is now sponsored by the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration (CCVA). For more information see: <http://www.cvacert.org/certification.htm>

Becoming certified in volunteer administration could help raise awareness of the high degree of professionalism that goes into our efforts to develop an effective volunteer force to help carry out our mission.

**CONCLUSIONS**

We should consider another in service related to volunteer program administration and additional opportunities for staff to attend professional development opportunities in this area.

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
---------------------	---------------------------	-----------------

Do you want to add profession credentials to your title?  If you'd like to go through the process of becoming a Certified in Volunteer Administration contact Lori. She is going through the process in 2009.	you	December or no later than March
---	-----	---------------------------------

## PROFESSION DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

### DISCUSSION

Throughout our meetings we often have ideas about professional development needs of staff so we are going to keeping a list.

### CONCLUSIONS

Grant writing workshop. (Emphasis on the writing part) Onondaga county library has offered one to not for profit (NFP) organizations and something similar might be most appropriate for our needs.

Partnerships that add value. Maybe in conjunction with grant writing finding partners either NFP organizations or area business can go a long way to sustaining our program efforts.

## STATE MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE JULY 2009

### DISCUSSION

#### **CCE staff and Master Gardener Volunteers mark your calendars:**

Wednesday July 23 through Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> (at Cornell's west campus conference facilities; dorm accommodations w/air conditioning available.

#### **Schedule of week events:**

Tuesday: afternoon Floriculture Field days at Bluegrass Lane is open to volunteers and staff.

Wednesday: Living Sculpture Workshop on campus and at local nature center. Details coming.

Wednesday evening: Kick off State MGV Conference with banquet dinner and social which will include a penny social (chinese auction?) where each county contributes a basket and attendees purchase tickets to drop in the raffle box for each basket. We also hope to get Helene Dillard on board to say a few words (but Lori has just learned Helene is not available- other suggestions?). The penny social may also include a sample of NYS wines and cheeses.

Thursday: State MGV conference continues with breakfast, 2 morning concurrent educational sessions, lunch with keynote speaker, 2 afternoon concurrent educational sessions and an afternoon social break and sharefair. These 4 concurrent sessions will be about 1.25 hrs, participants will have 5-6 choices per session. We will have a children and youth gardening track and a track exclusively for CCE educators. (Dinner on your own. Guidance will be provided as well as a connect board to find others with similar dinning and evening interests.)

Friday morning: Post conference workshops and tours. These sessions will be about 3hrs and will aim to be hands-on.

Costs: Still pending but our goal is to keep the core conference (Wednesday even through Thursday) at about \$150. Dorm accommodations will be \$40 to \$50 per night per person. Post conference session will likely be about \$35.

## **DETAILS**

We have 5 meeting spaces and 4 sessions throughout the day Thursday. Each of these sessions will run 1 hour with 15 minutes for questions. We have not confirmed with any speakers yet but hope to finish that not later than mid-Jan.

4 sessions will make up Gardening with Children & Youth track:

1. Let's eat a plant – curriculum – tied to NYS standards
2. Low budget projects geared to youth
3. Judging flowers and vegetables at fairs
4. Cornell Garden-Based Learning children & youth projects

It would be nice to have 4 sessions that could create a communication track as we are certain there is a need for improved skill and practice in this area but we think participants aren't likely to choose these topics over others? Here are some ideas. If we go this route we need to pick 4 that we hope would be most valued. Other ideas to add to the list?

1. Communication under stress
2. Finding reputable information via the Internet
3. Tools for measuring success
4. Interactive Teaching
5. Writing gardening columns/articles
6. Creative funding & partnerships
7. Asking and Answering Questions
8. Becoming the leader already within you

If we go with both these tracks we could accommodate 12 more sessions. Here are some ideas that we need to whittle down to the best and then alternatives if a speaker is not available.

1. Exploring non-chemical strategies and natural products for weed control (include weed ID?)
2. Edible Landscaping with Fruit Crops
3. Edible Landscaping with Vegetables, Herbs and Flowers
4. Extending season with cold frames
5. Getting the most out of a small space vegetable garden
6. Cultivating the Herb Garden
7. Seed saving and storage

8. Trouble shooting issues with trees & shrubs
9. Trouble shooting issues with lawns
10. Webs of Intrigue: Spiders in the Garden
11. The art of diagnosis: approaches to problem solving in the garden landscape.
12. Sharpening tools
13. Roses (might get Neil Mattson to do)
14. Woody Plant Selection and Soil Modification
15. Invasive Species and New York's Natural and Built Environments
16. Unusual Perennials
17. Honey bees & other pollinators
18. Climate change and gardening
19. Insect ID (beneficial and vegetable pests)
20. Cultural practices for disease management
21. Native plants

The CCE educator track will meet in a separate 6th location that is outside this main facility. The goals here: connect with newer faculty and/or new research of particular interest.

1. Taryn Bauerle (new faculty in Horticulture) Nursery production practices
2. Neil Mattson (newish faculty in Horticulture) Floriculture production practices
3. Jonathan Russell-Anelli (new extension appointment in Horticulture) Soil
4. Marty Petrovic – new lawn fertilization recommendations

Post conference 3 hour sessions (presenters will be asked to focus on hand-on experiences for participants). These could take place across campus. The major concern would be transportation:

1. Cornell Orchards: Grapes vines and wine making
2. Soils: figuring out what you have and what you need to build soil health
3. Landscape site assessment
4. Landscape design
5. Canning and food processing
6. Diagnosing plant problems – (focus on disease)
7. Creating a county insect collection to aid future diagnosis
8. Woody plant identification
9. Engaging children & youth in The Lost LadyBug Project
10. Bluegrass lane tour of perennial plants research and home lawn demonstration site

Other idea to remember:

Checklist diagnosing plant and insect problems guidelines to be included in participants packets.

Seek conference sponsors? (need to check with financial administrator about protocol).

Scotts, Garden Tools by Lee Valley, Garden Supply Company, High Mowing Organic Seed, Fine Gardening, Parks Seed, Johnny's Seeds, Page Seed, John Deere, Finger Lakes Wine Association, Best Buy, D. Landreth Seed Company

**2009 MEETING DATES:** January 15<sup>th</sup> April 8th