

ULSTER CURRENT

BEGINNING A NEW YEAR

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Board members, staff and Association volunteers at Legislative Breakfast

Members, Friends & Colleagues:

I hope that you are finding this unusually warm winter pleasant. No matter what the weather, there is never a lull in programming to Extension, and this year is certainly no exception. From our nutrition and family resource management programs; to 4-H youth development; to our Master Gardener and commercial agriculture programs our educators are busy hosting the programs detailed inside this publication.

The new year also has us welcoming some new programs. One of them, RAPP Ulster (a program for grandparents and other relatives acting as parents) is featured inside this issue. We are offering educational support to those in the equine/livestock business through a position shared with Orange County Extension (*profile on page 2*). More new programming comes from the Esopus Creek Stream Management Plan which will host an Open House and a series of discussion groups and educational lectures in our office in Phoenicia over the next few weeks.

Of course, 4-H is helping our youngsters build critical thinking and public speaking skills as they get ready for Public Presentations, and our ag programs are kicking off the new year with schools for landscape, greenhouse and nursery professionals, commercial fruit and vegetable growers and avid home gardeners. A recently held breakfast to give members of the Legislature insight into our programs was very well attended.

You may remember as 2005 came to a close the Association sustained another \$20,000 cut in funding from our County appropriation representing a nearly 15% decrease in our funding from the county over the past two years. However, the strides we have made in attracting support from sources outside of government through grants and reimbursable programs; new fundraising efforts; and our Board of Directors commitment to our staff and programming gives us reason to be optimistic.



Hector Rodriguez Wayne Harris, Alan Lomita and John Fitzpatrick chat at recent Legislative Breakfast

This Association starts 2006 with a renewed sense of vigor. Our mission and purpose is clear—to continue to provide educational programs, information and resources that enable the citizens of Ulster County to improve their lives and communities. Whether you are searching for information to help you raise children, spend smart, eat well or produce locally grown food for our tables we have resources for you.

We are grateful for the support our members, friends, and collaborators have shown to us. With your assistance we continue to build strong, vital communities throughout Ulster County.

Sincerely,

Lydia M. Rindig

Executive Director

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ZELLMER ELECTED TO STATE LEADERSHIP

4-H Youth Development Program Issue Leader, Patti Zellmer, was recently elected Vice President of the New York State Association of Cornell Cooperative

Extension 4-H Educators (NYSACCE). The Association works to promote, strengthen, enhance and advocate 4-H youth development education and volunteer

development in partnership with the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.



Patti has worked for Extension in Ulster County since 2003. As 4-H Team Issue leader, she is responsible for developing and managing all Ulster County

4-H Youth Development programs and supervising a team of educators and volunteers.

Patti has a life-long involvement in 4-H. Growing up in Marquette County, Wisconsin, 4-H was so influential in her

life that she decided to become a 4-H Agent when she "grew up"! After graduating from college she moved to Sullivan County to take her first 4-H position

as a Program Leader where she worked until 1991 when she decided to go back to school to obtain a Master's Degree and work in ministry. In 2000, while still in ministry, Patti was called back to Sullivan County to work as an Interim 4-H Educator for eight months. In March 2003, having made her acquaintance while she was temporarily back in Sullivan County, our Association sought Patti out to serve as an Interim 4-H Educator. Six months later Zellmer moved from the interim position to 4-H Team Coordinator becoming 4-H Issue Leader at the close of '05.

Patti considers her election to the position of Vice President of the New York State Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators a

EQUINE/LIVESTOCK EDUCATOR JOINS STAFF

Ulster County is delighted to welcome Audrey Lynn Reith as the new Equine and Livestock Educator covering Orange and Ulster Counties. Audrey has her M.S. in Vocational and Technical Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and her B.S. from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture. Her extensive experience with numerous types of livestock, her educational background in animal health, nutrition, reproduction, and crop production, and her familiarity with Cornell Cooperative Extension programming has allowed Audrey to hit the ground running.

Originally from neighboring Sullivan County, Mrs. Reith relocated to Orange County after living in Virginia for several years. Her diverse agricultural background including dairy,

beef, horses and meat goats, lends to her interest in seeing Orange and Ulster County agriculture soar in its abilities to educate the public and provide suitable income sources for local equine farmers and livestock producers. As Audrey settles into her new role as the Equine and Livestock Educator here in Orange and



Ulster communities, she looks forward to serving all those

involved in equine and general livestock businesses.

Quoting Mrs. Reith, "I would like to extend an invitation to any-

one involved in the equine and livestock industries in Ulster County to embrace the Extension Service and to begin to prepare for upcoming farm, show and/or hobby year of 2006!"

Audrey has been out and about visiting equine and livestock operations throughout

(Continued on page 8)

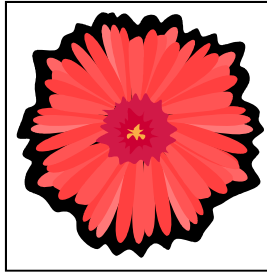


MASTER GARDENER'S SPONSOR TRIP TO PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Join the Master Gardeners for a bus trip to the best flower show in the East—the Philadelphia Flower Show—on Tuesday, March 7, 2006! This year's theme, "*Enchanted Spring...A Tribute to Mother Nature*," takes visitors from the fantastical to the practical and inspires even the most hesitant of gardeners to take up a trowel and start planting. Discover the largest plant sculpture in the world, *Natura*, goddess of Nature, rising 27 feet from the Show floor. Visitors enter under the glorious and fragrant *Floratopia Tree*, teeming with flowers, birds

and butterflies and will enjoy 10 acres of great gardens, inspirational landscapes, and fabulous shopping with more than 140 vendors from all over the world at the Show selling great gardening wares. A program schedule for March 7 will be available on the bus.

The fee is \$55.00 for show ticket and transportation. Buses load at 6:00 am in Kingston Plaza behind the former Ames and leave at



6:15 am, arriving at approximately 10 am with a brief stop en route. Buses depart at 4:30 pm and arrive back in Kingston around 8:30 pm. A short stop will be made on the way back for a snack. Transportation is available from the New Paltz Thruway "**park and ride**" for passengers. To receive a registration form or for more information, please call 340-3990 or visit our website: www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster

"Ag districts were created by an act of the New York State Legislature to protect and promote the availability of land for farming purposes."

GET INTO AN AG DISTRICT

Do you have land you would like included in a certified ag district? If so an important deadline is approaching. In accordance with the NYS Ag & Markets Law Section 303-b, Ulster County will accept requests from March 1st to March 30th from landowners desiring to have their predominately viable agricultural lands to be included within a certified agricultural district. Landowners seeking inclusion must submit a completed *Ag District Review Worksheet*, along with the tax map identification number, relevant portion of the tax map, and a description of the land within this thirty-day period to: Chair,



Ulster County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board, 10

Westbrook Lane, Kingston, NY 12401. The worksheet and a free brochure explaining ag districts are available in pdf format on our website: www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster or by calling our office at 845-340-3990.

Ag districts were created by an act of the New York State Leg-

islature to protect and promote the availability of land for farming purposes. They are intended to counteract the impact that non-farm development has upon the continuation of farm businesses by providing a framework limiting unreasonable local regulation on farm practices. The Ag Districts Law also limits a public agencies' ability to acquire farmland through eminent domain, as well as the ability to advance public funds to construct facilities that encourage non-farm development. Additionally, land used in agricultural production and within an agricultural district is not subject to special assessments, *ad valorem* levies, or other rates and fees for the financing of improvements

Mission Statement

The Cornell Cooperative Extension system enables people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work.



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“The Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program’s annual Commercial Fruit Growers School helps local fruit producers remain competitive in the worldwide market...”

CLASSES GET GARDENERS READY FOR SPRING

The Master Gardeners are offering a series of workshops during February and March to help avid home gardeners "Get ready for spring." Classes will be held from 7-9 p.m. Feb. 9 and 23, and March 9 and 23 in Room 114 at the Business Resource Center, 1 Development Court, Kingston. The fee for the series is \$50; individual classes are \$15. Deadline for registration is Feb. 3. A description of each class follows.

"Perennial Favorites" with Victoria Coyne, Thurs., February 9: Take the time now to learn how to create stunning landscapes and gar-

dens using the best performing perennials for this region.

"Great Vegetables the Old-fashioned Way" with Barbara Caldwell, Thurs., February 23: Learn how to have a garden filled with heirloom vegetables cultivated using organic gardening and companion planting techniques.

"Natural Garden" with Francis Groeters, Thurs. March 9: If a beautiful, healthy and practical garden that helps increase biodiversity and heal the environment is your interest, then this is the class for you. This class emphasizes native plants that are ornamen-

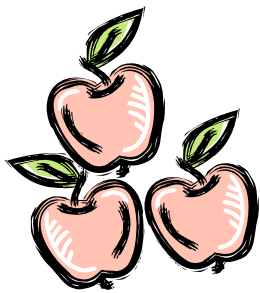


tal, low-maintenance and beneficial to the environment.

"Benevolent Weeds" with Dina Falconi, Thurs., March 23: Follow a practicing herbalist to discover the virtuous properties of weeds and how to use them for food, medicine and pleasure.

For information or to register, call the Master Gardener Hotline at 340-DIRT(3478) or go online to www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster, then click on Master Gardener Programs.

4-H OFFERS VET SCIENCE



SUNY Ulster's Vet Tech

Program is once again teaming up with our 4-H Youth Development Program to offer the popular five week

Veterinary Science Series starting

March 2, and running March 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at SUNY Ulster. The pro-

gram gives young people



a chance to explore the broad scope of veterinary medicine and animal health through the **Normal Animal**

curriculum and hands-on learning taught by area Veterinarians. Some top-

ics covered include: animal attitude and behavior; skin, membranes, body temp, pulse and respiration; and health, cleaning, and disinfections. Introduced two years ago, the program has sold out each time it has been offered. The course is open to all Ulster County youth ages 13-19. The fee is \$10. Space is limited to the first 20 paid registrants on a first come first served basis. For more information or to register, the 4-H office 845- 340-3990.

COMMERCIAL FRUIT GROWERS SCHOOL HELPS AG GROW

The Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program's annual Commercial Fruit Growers School and Trade Show, February 21st, 22nd & 23rd at the Holiday Inn, Kingston helps local fruit producers remain competitive in the worldwide market by providing them the latest production and marketing information. Classes are from 9 am to 4 pm each day with a mini trade show taking place in the Holidome on February 21st from 4 to 8 pm.

On the first day researchers from Cornell University will cover strategies for controlling diseases, insects and pests affecting fruit trees and their crops, and Dr. Terence Robinson from the NYS Agricultural

Research Laboratory in Geneva, NY will give growers the secrets to growing large Gala apples.

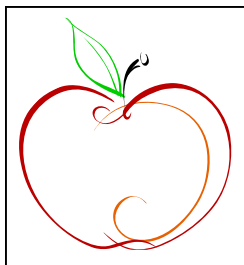
The second day includes presentations on evaluating apple maturity to bring the highest quality fruit to the

consumer, preventing common farm accidents, and a discussion of the latest methods for monitoring the nutrient status in plantings. Dr. David Rosenberger will also reflect on a recent tour taken with the International Fruit Tree Association of China's fruit producing region.

New to the program is a third

day focused on grape and berry production.

Presentations by Cornell



University researchers, extension staff and local grape and berry growers about disease, production, and business issues will run concurrently. NYSDEC

pesticide re-certification credits will be available. Registration is \$25 per day in advance (*includes lunch*) and \$30 at the door. For more information about classes contact Mike Fargione, at 845-691-7117 or go to:

www.hudsonvf.cce.cornell.edu

For a registration form please call: 845-340-3990.



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EXTENSION EDUCATORS

Lydia Reidy
Jude-Marie Alexis Smalec
Teresa Rusinek
Michael J. Fargione
Patti Zellmer
Jeremy Magliaro
Eileen Polk
Dona Crawford
Michael Courtney
Ruth Hirsch
Tom Heffernan
Joan Baglio
Deanna Young
Pablo Shine
Denise Reed
Ronald Baatz
Mary Lou Giuliano

OFFICE STAFF

Candace Boderck
Jennifer Burkins
Roxanne Churchill
Barbara Grumberg
Lisa Berger

PHOENICIA OFFICE HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

An open house highlighting work completed to date on the Esopus Creek Stream Management Assessment Plan will be held at Extension's Phoenicia office on Friday, Feb. 10, 2006 from 4:00 to

7:00 pm. The office is located in the Phoenicia Plaza, 5575 Route 28. An interactive stream table, information on invasive plant species, computerized geographic maps of property in the upper Esopus



Creek Watershed, and local artwork will be on display. The

Foxfire 4-H Club will be selling maps of the Esopus Creek Watershed with all

proceeds benefiting their Japanese Knotweed mapping and removal efforts. Japanese Knotweed is an invasive species contributing to stream bank erosion along the Esopus Creek. The public is

encouraged to come out to meet Extension's staff, enjoy light refreshments and connect with neighbors.

Office hours in Phoenicia are Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm, and Thursday from 12 noon to 6 pm. Project Coordinator, Jeremy Magliaro and Extension Educator, Michael Courtney are also available by appointment. The office phone number is 845-688-5498.

For more information about the Open House, please contact Jeremy Magliaro, 845-340-3990.

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*“In New York
there are 297,239
children living in
grandparent
headed households
(6.3% of all
children in the
state).”*



NEW RELATIVES AS PARENTS PROGRAM

The **Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)** was designed to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the role of primary caregiver for related children.

In New York, there are 297,239 children living in grandparent-headed households (6.3% of all the children in the state). There are another 111,806 children living in households headed by other relatives (6.3 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in New York, 165,493 are living there without either parent present. In New York, 143,014 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [83,946 in New York City]: 34% of these grandparents are African American; 26% are Hispanic/Latino; 5% are Asian; and 31% are White. 28% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present.

Through a partnership arrangement with Extension in Orange County, the Association is introducing RAPP Ulster County. Ulster

County's program will focus on all persons eligible for the program with a special effort to recruit the African Ameri-



can and Hispanic/ demographic because of the statistics for grandparent headed households and care-givers. Ulster County's program will also encourage faith based organizations to play a key role and serve as partners in the program.

Providing leadership for RAPP Ulster County is Nutrition and Family Resources Management Issue Leader, Jude Marie Alexis Smalec, Ph D. Programs and services being advanced include the establishment of a RAPP support group and a RAPP youth program; presenting the **Parenting the Second Time Around** educational series; legal consultations; special activities; and educational programs on finances, tax benefits, health care eligibility, child care, education and other topics as they are identified by program participants. In addition to Alexis Smalec

the RAPP Ulster staff includes Extension Educators, Pablo Shine and Michael Courtney. Pablo's bilingual capability and teaching experience, and Michael's background in social work will be assets to the new program. Both will receive training from Orange County Extension staff in the **Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA)** facilitators curriculum. Legal consultations for program participants will be supplied through the Orange County program's legal consultant, Gerard Wallace.

Alexis Smalec has already made in-roads into the faith based community in Kingston by securing from Reverend James Childs support for and participation in RAPP Ulster County. “We are very much looking forward to working with Reverend Childs and others in the community to provide support groups, educational resources, legal consultations, counseling and other activities to grandparents and other relatives who are surrogate parenting due to the absence of parents. We are excited by the enormous possibility of this program to help many families in Ulster County who find themselves in this situation.”

For more information about RAPP Ulster County, please contact Nutritional and Family Resource Management Issue Leader, Jude Marie Alexis Smalec, 845-340-3990.

SPRING SEEDLING SALE 2006 ORDER FORM



Cornell University
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Ulster County

Please cut along dotted line and return this form by March 10, 2006 to:
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
Attn: Seedling Sale
10 Westbrook Lane, Kingston, NY 12401

EVERGREENS: (3 year old bare-root seedlings, except Canaan which is bare-root transplant and Larch which is 2 year old bare-root)

	Size	10	50	100	Cost
Canaan Fir (transplant)	15-20"	\$15.00	\$60.00	\$110.00	_____
Concolor Fir	8-14"	\$12.00	\$48.00	\$ 90.00	_____
Fraser Fir	8-14"	\$12.00	\$48.00	\$ 90.00	_____
Austrian Pine	10-18"	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$ 75.00	_____
Scotch Pine	10-18"	\$12.00	\$48.00	\$ 90.00	_____
White Pine	10-18"	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$ 75.00	_____
Colorado Blue Spruce	10-18"	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$ 75.00	_____
Norway Spruce	10-18"	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$ 75.00	_____
White Spruce (Featured)	10-18"	\$ 9.00	\$36.00	\$ 70.00	_____
European Larch (2 year-old)	6-12"	\$11.00	\$44.00	\$ 85.00	_____

BERRIES-Strawberries and raspberries are sold in bundles of 5 plants

	<u>5 plants</u>	<u>10 plants</u>	<u>15 plants</u>	
Strawberries: Seascape (day neutral)	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$14.00	_____
Raspberries: Heritage (red, everbearing)	\$11.00	\$19.00	\$27.00	_____
Raspberries: Anne (yellow, fall)	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$28.00	_____

Blueberries require two varieties for cross pollination—they are sold in bundles of 2 (one Duke, one Patriot),
Blackberries are in bundles of two.

	<u>2 Plants</u>	<u>4 Plants</u>	<u>6 Plants</u>	
Blueberries: Duke/Patriot	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$42.00	
Chester Blackberries	\$ 9.00	\$17.00	\$24.00	

	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	
Plant Markers	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$8.00	_____

Soil Kit	\$10 each			_____
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TOTAL COST _____

Terms: Enclose check or money order payable to: Cornell Cooperative Extension. Please check one of the stations below for pickup.

_____ Ulster County Fairgrounds, New Paltz, NY; Wednesday, April 19th / Thursday April 20th (10 AM - 4 PM)
OR:

_____ Ulster County Highway Garage, 66 Hurley Ave, Kingston, NY; Friday, April 21st (10 AM - 4 PM) / Saturday, April 22nd (9 AM - NOON)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County is not responsible for seedlings after pick-up dates or after they are removed from pick-up station. All orders subject to availability or supply, otherwise money will be refunded. The seedlings are BAREROOT, not balled stock, of stated sizes.



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We're on the
web! www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster

*Building Strong
and Vibrant New York
Communities*

ULSTER CURRENT
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

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12401 (845)340-3990

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Lydia Reidy
MANAGING EDITOR

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please contact Lisa Berger, at
lp41@cornell.edu*

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SAYING SO LONG TO SUE....

On January 19, 2006,
Human Development Extension
Educator,
Susan Matson,
closed the
chapter on a
23 year career
with Extension,
officially start-
ing her life as a
retiree. At a



small gathering staff shared
best wishes with Sue and her
husband Bob for much happi-
ness as they begin a new
chapter in their lives.

While she may have retired,
Sue has agreed to continue to
write, edit and supervise the
production of the **Let's Talk
About Children** while the

Association discusses the
best way to continue to pro-
vide educational
programs and
resources for
families and
children.
Friends of
Extension, Alice
Schoonmaker,
Mary Lee and

Carol Dennin and Board
President Donna Marie
Ragonese are planning a
dessert reception celebrating
Sue' career for some time in
April. Details will be an-
nounced as soon as they are
available. If you would like to
help the committee planning
this event, please contact
Lisa Berger at 340-3990.

EQUINE/LIVESTOCK EDUCATOR JOINS STAFF

(Continued from page 2)

Ulster County for nearly a
month and has been working to
develop programs that focus the
needs of Orange and Ulster
County's agricultural commu-
nity. If you are involved in an
equine or livestock operation
that would like to schedule a
farm visit with Audrey or if you
have any equine and livestock
concerns you would like ad-
dressed Audrey can be reached
at 845- 344-1234, Monday
through Thursday and on
Friday's at 845-340-3990 or via
e-mail at: ald5@cornell.edu.