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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Take a Twilight Walk in an Award Winning Water Wise Garden

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Master Gardener Program will host an evening tour of their award winning Xeriscape Garden at SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge on Monday, August 25, 2005 at 6 pm. As participants take a twilight stroll through the education and demonstration garden, Master Gardener guides will explain the principles of drought resistant garden design and planting techniques which create a spectacularly lush and colorful place even during the dog days of August. Featuring perennial herbs, flowers and shrubs the Xeriscape Garden is used as an interactive teaching tool in the selection of waterwise plants, integrated pest management, conscientious watering practices and alternative landscaping techniques. In 2004, the New York State Master Gardener Program awarded this teaching and demonstration garden first place in their *Search For Excellence Awards*, calling it a Terrific project; well-executed... and a wonderful tool for education. The walk begins at 6:00 p.m. with a desert reception and talk immediately following at Widow Jane's Mine/ AJ Synder Estate on Route 213 in Rosendale. The cost of the tour, talk and desert reception is \$12 per person. Participants will also receive a comprehensive list of water wise plants to get them started on their own Xeriscape Garden. The deadline for registration is August 22nd. Registration forms are downloadable at our website: www.cce.cornell.edu/ulster (click on *Master Gardener Programs*) or to receive more information, please call 845-340-3990.

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who provide the public with gardening programs, workshops and activities that draw on the horticulture research and experience of Cornell University. Each master gardener receives an initial 100 hours of research-based instruction from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, and University experts. Training is held every two years. To receive more information about becoming a Master Gardener please contact, Dona MacWilliams, Master Gardener Coordinator, 845-340-3478. To speak to a Master Gardener call 340-3478 (DIRT).

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