

CCE Community Horticulture PWT meeting

MINUTES

1/16/2008

9:30 AM TO 3:30 PM

ONEIDA CCE, ORISKANY

TYPE OF MEETING	Program Work Team Meeting for networking and organizing statewide efforts
FACILITATOR/NOTETAKER	Lori Bushway, David Chinery
ATTENDEES	L. Bushway, Holly Wise, Lynn Braband, Carolyn Klass, D. Chinery, Lynnette Kay
VIA ORANGE POLYCOM	Dianne Olsen, Jen Stengel, Donna Cooke, Debbie Lester, Cheryl Hearty
VIA SUFFOLK POLYCOM	Tom Kowalsick, Caroline Kiang
VIA WAYNE POLYCOM	Russ Welser, Patty Paine Bailey, Laurie VanNostrand

Next PWT meeting date: **Wednesday April 2 and Thursday April 3 on campus**

AGENDA TOPICS

STATE LAWN CARE INITIATIVE –SURVEY

DISCUSSION		
<p>2007 Survey – a handout was provided with responses. Not many participants wanted any more information (leery of being contacted again?). The number of people who sharpened blades seems high (42% said once a season and 23% said more than once). We never got money to do the survey from IPM, so what to do as a follow-up? Having a conversation with people who don't sharpen (relates to fuel saving), or sending out a press release was discussed. It was suggested that the information the survey was trying to convey to people about how to take care of their lawns could be used in all of our publications.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
<p>-Ask Craig Cramer to write Press Release highlighting how sharp mower blades reduce gas consumption of mowers by 25%. Dianne Olsen and Holly Wise will help will initial review of article prior to release to counties. -We will not do an exact survey again in 2008 but maybe we should consider other survey question?</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Ask Craig Cramer to write a press release.	Lori	Feb 15
Review press release prior to wider distribution.	Holly and Dianne	March 17
Share survey frequency results via community horticulture blog.	Lori	Feb 28
Consider additional new survey questions for 2008	Lori with Marty Petrovic	Feb 28

TOPIC: LAWN CARE- IN SERVICE

DISCUSSION	
<p>Held at Cornell last fall. Was rated Very Good, one of the better ones. Would like copies of Power Point to use in counties. Seed variety info useful. Would like info on % live seed and how to determine this by consumer.</p> <p>Cornell educators liked the programs, too. All want to have another in-service.</p> <p>Future in-service on disease diagnosis with microscopes suggested.</p> <p>Concerns about usefulness of soil testing at Cornell lab – do we need to communicate with them? Not sure when changes will be happening at Soil Lab – Lori will follow up with Lab. Committee members would like info on how better to interpret soil reports. Dissuade lawn soil samples? Yes or No? Rutgers lab does better report reflecting new information.</p> <p>Mary Thurn (who works in Frank Rossi's research group and teaches MGV ecological lawn care sessions) wants to work more on home lawns – new info from her may appear in Short Cutt.</p>	

CONCLUSIONS		
<p>In-service for educators, Maybe in July? Will request \$1000 PWT funds for this training.</p> <p>Soil testing at Cornell lab. Continue to use but will require some additional interpretation of results at your county office end to incorporate new findings.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Talk with Mary Thurn about seed selections, PowerPoints from inservice	Lori	Feb 23
Lori will follow up with lab about new forms (The lab is looking for feedback on their new site and form see: http://blogs.cce.cornell.edu/community-horticulture/2008/01/25/cornell-nutrient-analysis-laboratory-form-updated-website/)	Lori	Done
Ask Marty/Mary about preparing a factsheet for soil test interpretation	Lori	Feb 28

TOPIC: MG VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

DISCUSSION
<p>New MG Training schedule for the counties with Cornell participation was distributed.</p> <p>Regional meetings/gatherings for volunteers? Good idea as volunteers are eager to know what other volunteers across the state are doing just as educators are with their colleagues but not sure how to pursue it with primary concerns related to logistics and costs. Wave Hill botanical garden in the Bronx www.wavehill.org/home/ does have an interested in partnering with us.</p> <p>Do the "official" community horticulture regions work?</p> <p>MG Training manual – is only a PDF and on line along with fruit bulletin and current bulletin #74. See: www.gardening.cornell.edu/education/mgprogram/mgmanual.htm No more red binders are available. Is a chapter on invasives needed for MG manual? Carolyn Klass proposed exploring the development of a chapter that would include a text as well as a presentation "toolkit" We discussed what might be potentially included in this chapter including water plants, critters, and management approaches that were non synthetic. It was raised that invasive species issues can be a controversial and would we be promoting a particular philosophy about invasive species. There is new DEC funding for invasive species research, education and management with CCE on board to get involved in education.</p> <p>Can PolyCam be used for MG training? Discussion of its limitations primarily that it tough to watch for long periods but possibly it could be best used as a supplement to local training. Aboobe Connect is another alternative is internet based and currently in use by "Forest Connects" series (www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/forestconnect/) – people can watch presentations about forestry for free. Peter Smallidge is leader. Master Forest Owners are using this for web conferencing. Lori has a guide Peter wrote on how to do this. May work well for issues rather than MG core training as the guide suggests keeping the sessions to less than 1 hour and this could work within a local program.</p> <p>Hort 610 Class – taught by Lori – graduate students were tasked to learn how to train volunteers and presented a real workshop to Master Gardener Volunteers. They developed several workshops (toolkits) of varying content. County educators were asked to look them over and comment using a checklist (details for what the list should contain was discussed). Once reviewed and determined acceptable the toolkits will be put in Resource Library for you to borrow.</p> <p>Lori has some smith-lever funding to put together a professional development training for county staff looking to develop key leaders among their volunteers. The plan is identify the skills educators need to develop key leaders and then provide opportunities for educators to develop these skills. A number of factors were named important in developing key volunteer leaders: opportunity for recognition for educators as well as volunteers participating in profession development, identifying volunteer motivation, how to create clear job descriptions for key volunteer role, identifying current interests of volunteers through surveys, getting to know your volunteers, working with diverse personalities (developing "shy" volunteers), knowing how to ask volunteers for specific help, and incorporating mentoring.</p> <p>We discussed the value of some sort of certificate for educators and for MG. Some discussion continued as to</p>

whether the certificate would be for leadership skill building or subject matter skill building. As always we should consider if other states have something before reinventing the wheel.

CONCLUSIONS

Official regions might be fine for now but there is concern in the lower Hudson valley about geographic barriers dividing that region as well as identifying a large enough facility to accommodate the need. We should revisit this issue.

If a county is interested in considering hosting a regional gatherings of volunteers contact Lori to explore possibilities.

Carolyn Klass will continue to explore the development of an invasive species chapter (toolkit) and will look to educators for further input as things progress.

We will give an Adobe Connect conference on lawn care for nice educators so that we may try out this new technology
 - ½ hour press conferences using this system could fill the gap that was left when the regular press releases for community horticulture system ended.

Hort 610 toolkits for MGv training will be posted on our Community Horticulture blog for educators to review and comment on. <http://blogs.cce.cornell.edu/community-horticulture/mgv-program/hort-610-toolkits-for-training-volunteers/> A rubric to guide your review process will be supplied.

Lori will work on a draft plan for the a professional development experience for educators to cultivate key volunteer leaders. Educators can continue to send her thoughts, comments and ideas related to this especially those who are participating in the CCE leadership training.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Distribute Cornell Sponsored MGv training schedule and other trainings via our blog	Lori	Feb 19
Let Lori know when MG trainings in the various county regions will take place.	County educators	ASAP
Explore the development of an invasive species chapter for MGv including contacting new Cornell Invasive Species PWT to see if there is interest in working with us on a possible new MG training manual chapter and supporting materials (Chuck O'Neil)	Carolyn Klass	April 1
Set up logistics for Adobe Connect conference	Lori	Feb 28
Check out Hort 610 toolkits on Blog and add your comments. http://blogs.cce.cornell.edu/community-horticulture/mgv-program/hort-610-toolkits-for-training-volunteers/	County educators	April 1
MGv as key leaders- Come up with list of potential session, prioritize and shape format	Lori and PWT	April 1

BULLETIN #74

DISCUSSION

3 years ago a grant was received to to make combined guidelines (parts 1 and 2) and do it with 7 other NE states. Jennifer Grant is now the person in charge (3rd person to have this responsibility). Big changes have happened in what pesticides are available to consumers. Some reduced risk ones will be in new book, but many will not be. The group writing the book is searching for a publisher now.

The concern is, what will we do if the new book will be limited in pesticide information?

What we can do to address this:

- Have some list of pesticides options on-line, where it can be updated easily
- Not as many faculty willing to help Carolyn with updates – field staff are willing to help look for changes
- Ask Long Island Hort team people for help as Tom has been doing his own research and could provide some tips and advise such as Use PIMS website to search (need to know active ingredients) and considering are these products marketed in NYS? Need to check stores
- No people at Cornell doing any research in the area as it relates to the home and grounds environment.

CONCLUSIONS		
<p>Our community horticulture educators and volunteers need complete information on management options. There is no illegal information in the current online bulletin 74 so continue to use that. County educators can help prioritize effort by sending Carolyn Klass details about what specific areas are in need of up to date information.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Make a list of the top 50 to 75 pest problems and submit that to C. Klass.	County Educators	ASAP
Based on information sent from educators make readily available factsheet or a list that details chemical management options available for top pest problem.	Carolyn Klass	On going

TOPIC: TELLING OUR STORY IN SERVICE

DISCUSSION		
<p>One of the highlights noted from this September was how Nancy Franz from VA Tech addressed "logic models". She used steps cookie baking project to help demystify elements of the model. Another highlight was learning that it is ok to focus on the human aspect of reporting impact (it is not all just numbers). Participants also described various projects in the counties that have grown out of this in-service experience.</p> <p>Hopefully county educators will also be able to provide more impact statements for the state MGV report. Lori will be requesting MG numbers from county educators for 2007 soon. She only gets about 5 statements each year but knows there are many more good ones out there.</p> <p>What can be counted as impact? Hard to know what the expectations are from Cornell, USDA and above. Plus we get no feedback from those folks on what we write and submit.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
<p>Need to build our skill and confidence in extrapolating what we do into impact. Share your stories with Lori so we might be able to better highlight the big impact community horticulture has around the state.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Ask Marcia Eames Sheavly to come to our April meeting and highlight evaluation tools	Lori	done

TOPIC: 5 YEAR PLAN OF WORK

DISCUSSION		
<p>Creating our plan of work is not being mandated by anyone. So it can take a shape and time frame that we think is most useful. A plan of work will help our PWT continue to thrive and meet the needs of our educators and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Lori drafted this Mission/Statement of Purpose: Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Community Horticulture Program Work Team creates opportunities for CCE educators and Master Gardener Volunteers to connect with research-based knowledge, emerging horticulture issues as well as Cornell University's faculty, staff, departments and programs. As a network we work to improve the quality of life of individuals, families and communities throughout NYS by using gardening success as a tool for increasing environmental and scientific literacy, building community and promoting human well-being.</p> <p>We then tried to brainstorm the current context or situation we face in community horticulture including specific needs and opportunities. At the end of these minutes are our thoughts in no particular order.</p>		

CONCLUSIONS

We agree that it would be helpful to determine what we should be striving for – we need x because this will help us achieve x outcome.

Our initial brainstorm yielded many ideas about what situations, issues, needs and opportunities county educators in CCE community horticulture face. We now want to allow those not attending the meeting to add to this brainstorm before we move on to thinking about prioritizing these ideas and considering what outcomes (in short, long term) we desire as a CCE community horticulture educational network.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Ask M. Duttweiler for his ideas on engaging all community horticulture educators in our plan of work development process	Lori	Feb 28
Lori and David will summarize notes and group them together and send to entire PWT (90 people) and to ask for further input on the current situation community horticulture faces in counties	Lori and David	Feb 28

Brainstorming

Others are looking to Cornell hort education to promote environmental stewardship.

Concerns about maintaining credibility with Cornell resources

1. quality of resources
2. volunteers and educators need to feel secure in what they offer stakeholders
3. what image do we present – is it professional?

Multi people asking for reports – accountability.

Challenges finding time to write up “stories”, collecting data for stories.

Declines in registration for programs (people have less time).

Alternative ways of reaching stakeholder – new technology.

Reaching the community

- newsletter
- people less time – not at night
- adult ed
- through computer

Opportunities for networking

Connecting with faculty/campus faculty – interview via adobe pros. people

Professional development opportunities for educators.

Process of volunteer program management.

Identifying what need is among citizens we work with

1. Can connect with others to identify
2. vary needs from county to county

Plan needed for accountability for work group (PWT).

What defines us?

What rationale for participating can we provide to educators and stakeholder.

How should we engage stakeholders?

Who are our stakeholders? county office programs? volunteers?

Remembering MGVI one key component of a larger Community Horticulture program

MGVI program – critical aspect to Community Horticulture

what is our vision and goals for the MGVI program on a statewide basis

Opportunity to collaborate with new partners within CCE

Reconnect with other disciplines (e.g. nutrition)

Re-purposing

linking emerging concerns with what we have always done (existing programs) i.e. growing of vegetables.
putting our program in “their” jargon.

Needs

1. Bulletin 74 – other publications
2. Future direction – statewide
3. Regional training – technology Adobe
4. MGV manual

University Directives/emerging issues exist

1. Environmental stewardship
2. Healthy lifestyles
3. Intergenerational activities
4. Food safety

IPM, Environmental Stewardship, Water Quality, Invasive spp, Pesticides/Organic, sustainable landscaping, “greening” the environment, Spitzer’s goals – less toxins, make NY the healthiest state, Lawns big issue and linked to environmental stewardship.

Gardening and exercise, fighting cancer

Factsheets

1. Invasive plants – details, substitution
2. Lawns – selecting seeds, turf diseases
3. Lab – soil concerns – fact-sheet to help interpret soil test

Powerpoints (ie. lawns from in-service)

Press releases for state

On line MGV training

5 year directions – initiatives – overarching goals?

1. credibility
2. outreach
3. mg training
4. resources

Regional training – concerns

1. facilities size
2. electronic

In-services

1. lawn care
2. turf diseases

Resources

1. Publications
 - MG training books/printing
 - Power points
 - Hardcopy look
2. fact sheets
3. inservices
 - reliability
 - credibility

Training MG’s – technology

1. continuing ed
2. hotline – credibility
3. computer savy
4. certificates? Specialty

Cornell Resources

1. Soil lab
 - Reliability
 - Security, belief
2. Faculty
 - Credibility

Staff – Professional Development

- Continuing ed - adobe
1. success stories – accountability
 2. inservice
 3. time to read