

CCE Community Horticulture PWT meeting

MINUTES

4/2/2008 & 4/3/2008

Noon to Noon

Cornell campus

TYPE OF MEETING	Program Work Team Meeting for networking and organizing statewide efforts		
FACILITATOR/NOTETAKER	David Chinery, Donna Cooke, Lori Bushway, Marcia Eames-Sheavly		
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES	Anna Snider Carol Bradford Caroline Kiang Carolyn Klass Christine Hadekel Dianne Olsen Erin Martea	Gail Culver Holly Wise Jano Nightengale Kim Huffman Lutie Batt Lynn Braband	Pat Curran Patti Battley Renee M. Schloupt Russ Welser Sandra Jensen Tracy Steve Billings Sue Beebe
GUESTS	Jonathan Russell-Anelli <jmr5@cornell.edu>		

Next PWT meeting date:

Wed. July 30th & Thurs. July 31st on campus Plant Science Rm 22

Wed. Oct 22th & Thurs. Oct 23rd joint with Garden-based Learning off-campus location TBD.

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION	National Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program (Steve Billings)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Billings from Wayne County CCE is our state JMG program coordinator. He attended the national meeting of state coordinators recently and shared the presentation about JMG that he received from the national program organizers. This presentation offers details about the JMG curriculum and programming opportunities. The JMG program works well in a non-formal and formal setting. It seems its focus is more activity centered than material from Ag in the Classroom so they might complement each other. There are many books in the JMG curriculum, one place to start in exploring what is available is with the level 1 teacher guide and instead of starting at the beginning just choose any chapter of interest. Educators offered feedback on how to get the JMG program information out to others around the state and Steve talked about his plans to promote it via 4-H district meetings. 		
CONCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone interested in learning more about the CCE Junior Master Gardening Program should connect with Steve Billings (sjb16@cornell.edu). He will be committed to presenting to at least two groups of educators (nonformal or formal) around the state each year. It is worth investigating how to work together in the districts around this program. Maybe make available regional kits of the curriculum material so counties can share verses investing in all the books individually. Curriculum materials are available from the JMG website http://www.jmgkids.us . We still do have some books on hand in Horticulture check with Max Welcome (mw45@cornell.edu). 	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Educators have agree to take information about the JMG program back to their districts	Jano Nightengale – Central Kim Huffman – Fingerlakes Donna Cooke - Southeast	ASAP
Two JMG educators training will be offered each year, rotating around the state	Steve Billings	Beginning summer 2008
Steve Billings will be having his first regional JMG training for the educators of the Southeast Region, at CCE Rockland on May 15, 2008 . The workshop is from 10:30-2, at the Education Center at CCE Rockland, Stony Point, NY. \$20 pp includes lunch and beverages. RSVP to Donna Cooke by May 1, 2008 at 845-429-7085 ext 108, or at dmc72@cornell.edu .		
Identifying how districts work together	Steve, Marcia & Donna	Oct 22

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION

More Collaboration

We had small group discussions to strategize steps for achieving collaboration.

Others shared collaboration and activities:

Holly, Jano and Kim: From Oneida, Otsego and Cortland counties respectively are teaming up to present at the AHS Children and Youth Gardening Symposium. Their workshop will focus on creating gardens and they will offer a number of case studies with different audiences of children, youth and adults. Likely a van or more of people from Cornell will be attending this conference More about this conference is at http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm

David: Rensselaer county MGV though an initial connection with the NY Botanic Garden are partner with their local Nature Conservatory to conduct a plant inventory on a piece of land in their county.

Diane: In Putnam county a team of 4-H youth and MGV partnered to make a video of a reading of the book for Ag Literacy day. We'll try to get a copy of the video to share with others.

Russ: In Ontario county they are having success with a youth mentoring program around bee keeping in collaboration with the local beekeeper association. NOTE: Russ and others who are working with youth that might be young entrepreneurs might be interested in **Land Grant Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium** at Penn State: <http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/Entrepreneurship/YESymposium.html>

Lynn: NYS IPM is engaging in 2-3 team based assessments each year of school pest management programs. Connect with Lynn for details.

Carolyn: In entomology she is working with John Losey's Looking for Lady Bugs project which will be aiming to pilot activities with youth audiences this summer. One focus is on American Indian youth.

Erin: Vvi is a new intergenerational citizen science project that bridges the technology divide. Through this real-world opportunity, youth connect with gardeners in their community, learn survey skills, and explore biodiversity through the whimsical world of vegetable varieties. This is a companion to the Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners Citizen Science project and Erin is seeking individuals to pilot. Explore the Vvi material at: <http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu/>

Marcia: She received a grant from arts council to work with a group of students in creating a living sculpture which will be viewed from the air at the end of the semester. For the AHS Youth and Children's Garden symposium she will also spearhead a workshop track that creates a sculpture at Longwood Gardens. Might we consider having a similar workshop at the 2009 Master Gardener Conference?

Christine: Check out the new Living Sculpture resources including videos at: www.hort.cornell.edu/livingsculpture A climate change and community action project is in the works with the youth focused garden-based learning program. They are looking for additional sites to pilot that have youth and educators interested in learning and doing more related to monitoring and alleviating global warming via garden-based activities. (Project budbreak or budburst will also be potential collaborators in this effort).

CONCLUSIONS

Some strategies identified:

Don't be shy about networking at any and all events. Talk with people you know about their connections with other activities and organizations. Share your program interest.

Working with schools:

- Find someone to who is already connected. Staff in your office, volunteers, workshop participants...ask if anybody knows somebody in the school, district or BOCES region with which you want to connect.
- Offer a garden workshop just for teachers. Not something they need for their classroom necessarily...something for their personal interest.
- IPM in schools could be an avenue to link. Contact Carolyn Klass or Lynn Braband about their efforts here.

Working with libraries:

- Find someone to who is already connected. See above.
- Consider links to reading programs.

Consider collaboration opportunities with other educational focused groups like after-school programs, home-schoolers, alternative schools working with special needs/at risk youth.

Master Gardener Volunteer and 4-H Youth Development Programs:

- Staff can model for volunteers how to work together.
- Identify a specific project that meets both program goals and interests.
- Executive directors and supervisors can help by promoting collaborations and the value of working together.
- Marcia and Lori could highlight at an Executive Directors gathering the benefits these two programs working together at the county level.
- Connect with new staff. Might we develop a formal mentor new CCE staff program?
- Identify shared professional development needs of volunteer program managers.
- Providing opportunities like this PWT meeting to share ideas, volunteer needs, success stories...
- Bring potential collaborators to PWT meetings.

Links to nutrition education:

- Share the Junior Master Gardener golden ray series on nutrition with nutrition educators.
- Learn about their efforts in Eat Well Play Hard. Gardening could serve as the activity portion.
- Bring potential collaborators to PWT meetings.

Come together on a hot topic.

For example Invasive Species. A community service project for youth, MGV can put their identification skills to work, there is a new Invasive Species PWT, there are PRIZM networks and potential funding.

Offer in-services around an emerging issue to bring people together

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Click here for link to WHY GARDEN IN NYS SCHOOLS	Lori	
Identify how we continue grow above list of strategies and implement some	Lori and Marcia	Oct 22

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION	Enhancing Your Observation Skills
<p>Marcia lead discussion and exercise for us to think about when, how and who should be gathering observation data. The conversation revolved around this factsheet Marcia prepared. Click here for factsheet.</p>	
<p>Evaluation tactics which people shared included:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Master Gardener page 4 chapter 1 Know and show sombrero can be used as pre-test and or post-test as creative presentation skill • Adult workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two practices that were discussed today will you implement in the next year Have them write on index card and mail it to them in 6 months or some other timely period • Follow up six months later to ask participants to share highlight and what did you use and lingering low light • Quick whip: At end of session go around and verbally say what one or tow things were valuable, interesting, what will you use...can be shared for example with funders such as county legislators • Show of hands at the end of a session how many of you are interested in getting together, how many of you will grow ... • Questionnaire that had process question, knowledge based question, feelings and used symbol system such as smiley faces or frowns • Exit surveys how much knowledge gained, skills again, what you might change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like to ask question about comfort snacks, room, facilities • Get people to filling out evaluations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not giving pesticide credits until do it gift packet swap for completed evaluation assign someone to be responsible to get people to fill out and collect forms 	

CONCLUSIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try engaging volunteers as designated observers for specific meetings, workshops or programs. • Ask other CCE staff to act as observers in your program and do the same for them. An opportunity to build collaborations. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Consider offering an "Easy Evaluation Tools" workshop for MGV conference or as part of MGV training.	Marcia and Lori	
Pull together an evaluation tool box for the GBL website.	Marcia	
END JOINT MEETING WITH GARDEN-BASED LEARNING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TEAM		

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION	Community Horticulture PWT Plan of Work
<p>Attendees were ask to write down their responses to these questions and we discuss them: What is the CCE community horticulture program? How do county programs relate to the statewide program? What is the role of the Community Horticulture PWT?</p> <p>Community Horticulture...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes and supports consumer horticulture • Helps the public achieve their gardening goals – through various means such as the horticultural hotline and classes and factsheets and public outreach and demo gardens • Helps inspire the public to try gardening! • Helps the public with pest issues inside the home, too. • Bringing the University to the people – outreach. Links people to resources • Translate research-based info to public. • Teaches people about IPM • Unbiased information, available for free • Provides unbiased information to community members related to all aspects of gardening. The MGV program is one mode of providing information • Offers horticulture and environmental related services • Facilitates community projects • Develops community leaders • Encourage the public in environmental caretaking • Improved quality of life, better nutrition and personal health, healthier homes and gardens, safer environment and water, increased home values, more recreational opportunities, improved wildlife habitat, energy-saving, water-saving, leadership training for MG volunteers • We are helping to protect our environment by encouraging responsible use of the land. Provides means to healthy lifestyle. • Community Horticulture – to assist (educate) the community to better understand how gardening can enrich their lives through healthy eating – more vegetables and fruit (whether they grow or not), Exercise, Increased value to their homes through landscaping, Environmental care- to know what good/bad ways they are contributing. • Community & Environmental Horticulture Program in Suffolk. "Linking Community through Gardening; Protecting our Environment by Practicing the Concept of Water Conservation Gardens, Home Composting, and Integrated Pest Management at Home; Diagnosing Plant Problems and Providing the Latest Research Based Recommendations." "Community benefits when quality of life improves - beautiful gardens add quality of life"; "Gardening carries no boundary - age, race, professions, social classes". • Community Horticulture is providing current up to date horticulture (gardening) to the home owner- non commercial Via: Master Gardeners – answering questions. Classes for community Teaching youth IPM Leadership Development Promote and support, inspire consumer horticulture within NYS. 	

PWT role...

- Support association’s efforts in consumer horticulture.
- Networking and program management assistance including volunteer management especially related to motivation, time management and keeping volunteers interested
- Collaborate among associations to promote consumer horticulture initiatives.
- Gatherings provide an opportunity to get current update information, share accomplishments, get ideas related to working with MGV and youth.
- Keeps educators abreast w/Cornell resources (or lack of), how to fund resources, links to other creditable resources and the opportunity to meet w/other horticulture educators and network
- To create structure
- To offer guidance
- Provide opportunity to network, get ideas, share issues, identify areas for collaboration, collaborate,
- Identify and share resources (programming and research)
- Help counties to remember link to Cornell University, faculty and programs

PWT’s membership was considered including how we feasibly engage county educators from each of the state’s regions, stakeholders and campus faculty.

Other considerations that were raised:

At the state level priority issue linked to community horticulture included energy (value of landscape features to saving it), Invasive Species, water quality, civic engagement and healthy lifestyles

How to engage stakeholders?

How to identify partners?

Could we create a directory if campus extension people in areas related to the environment and plant sciences?

4-H youth development volunteer program management may be quite different than MGV program management because of the differences in motivation behind these different volunteers.

Attendees also each took a section of the 38 page document [FY08-12 Cornell Cooperative Extension Plan of Work](#) and reviewed it on the spot, highlighting points that links to community horticulture and would be worth considering as we create our plan of work.

CONCLUSIONS

The best approach to more quickly shaping our plan of work is to have Lori and David take a stab at shaping it and seeking feedback first from those attending this meeting and discussion then from the wider audience of community horticulture educators. We will review...and consider what people highlighted and commented on as we think about how partnerships play a critical role in our efforts.

Volunteer program management will be a significant element in our POW. This might be an area where partnering with people outside such as those at American Public Garden Association might make more sense.

Critical elements to our plan of work will include our structure and what level of involvement county staff will play as well as stakeholders and campus staff. And how we will get them involved with minimal travel expenses. Carolyn Klass will consider with Lori how faculty has been involved with the PWT in the past via the campus sub-group.

We will also review the comments people made on the CCE plan of work sections people reviewed and the PWT reports we hope people will also soon review.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Review the PWT reports of other groups to identify overlaps in interests	Will assign to attendee	May 2 nd
Draft Plan of Work	Lori & David	July 1 st

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION	State-wide lawn care initiative	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watched Mary Thurn's POD casts about lawn care and discussed our interest in her creating more of these short piece for use with staff, volunteers and the public. • Powerpoints from fall in-service on lawn care are available for educators to review and use for local training. Sorry they don't have scripts so those who didn't go to the training might not be able to follow them well. • Marty and Lori also worked on piece to help educators with lawn soil tests. • Reviewed "Sharp blade" press release. • When where and how follow-up lawn care in-service? • Not related to Lawns but ... review a press release for the public on Plum pox virus. 	
CONCLUSIONS		
	<p>We strongly encourage Mary to produce more pod casts related to lawn care.</p> <p>We wanted to move the July in-service on lawn care to September but Frank is not available so we are back to July and Frank offered to take it on the road. 2008 will be in the Capital district. He'll do another in 2009...maybe Western NY or lower Hudson Valley. If you'd like to host future years contact Lori.</p> <p>Monday July 21st 10:00 to 4:00 pm Lawn Care in-service Capital District/David Chinery hosting</p> <p>Here are the links to the lawn care powerpoints: Turfgrasses for the Home Lawn [85 MB] http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/education/mgprogram/lawn_ppts/turfgrasses.ppt Establishing and maintaining lawns [7 MB] http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/education/mgprogram/lawn_ppts/establishing_and_maintaining.ppt Turf can be green [7 MB] http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/education/mgprogram/lawn_ppts/turf_can_be_green.ppt Lawn Weed Management [46 MB] http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/education/mgprogram/lawn_ppts/weeds.ppt</p> <p>2008 Lawn soil testing PDF</p> <p>Save gas, sharpen your mowing practices (website- of the main gardening.cornell.edu page)</p> <p>Help fight PPV (website- of the main gardening.cornell.edu page)</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Distribute mowing press release	County educators	ASAP
Make more pod casts	Mary Thurn	On-going
Plan details for summer lawn care in-service	David Chinery	June 1

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION	Soil Education - Jonathan Russell-Anelli
	<p>Jonathan Russell-Anelli has been teaching for many years the soil science in the Department of Crop and Soil Science. He is now taking on extension and research responsibilities in and is eager to reach out to gardening audiences with new educational materials and projects related to understanding soils. His current appointment is 50% teaching and 50% extension and research.</p> <p>Jonathan asked us what are our soil information needs and these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil testing from collecting to interpreting • Approaches to improving soil including issues related to getting top soil • Helping people understand if they need to fertilize and understanding that adding lime is not an automatic • Zero phosphate regulations especially when soil test come back recommending application of phosphate • Factsheets updates

- Erosion and its relation to water quality, particularly in new housing development areas
- Compost teas and using composting in general particularly on sandy acid soils and the sale of compost products and municipal compost
- Might we need to consider expanding the Master Composter program in Tompkins to other counties? Do other counties have Master Composters or MGV with a focus here? Potential county to campus funding?
- Soil pH

Jonathan shared some initial ideas he has including:

- Actively looking for partners to help his development of a soil information website with basic soil information and a target audience of everyone from educators to the public and growers.
- Eager for interactive feature on a web site to keep in touch with the needs and issues of educators and the public.
- Traveling road shows with workshops and an interactive exhibit and new subjects added annually

Funding for these soil initiatives might be found through the NEIMP grants, campus to county grants and other Federal Formula Funds.

CONCLUSIONS

Jonathan **will be available to teach the soil session** of the two annual **Cornell Sponsored Master Gardener Trainings** and we will recruit him to lead a workshop or session at the Master Gardener Volunteer conference in 2009.

Jonathan will incorporate the needs we expressed into his efforts to create educational materials. You may continue to send him additional information about your needs or if you want assistance with soil questions from your home and community audience **or if you would like help interpreting soil test results**. Jonathan is considering creating a web-based forum for educators related to soil testing submitting and interpretation. And he is willing to do an in-service devoted to understanding soils and compost and create a traveling exhibit...maybe we should plan this for April 2009?

His contact info: Jonathan Russell-Anelli 622 Bradfield jmr5@cornell.edu 607-255-2485

County educators Anna, Pat and Caroline will form a sub-group to continue our collaboration with Jonathan including identify needs, prioritizing and being a sounding board for ideas and materials for our community Horticulture audience.

Also **The Cornell Waste Management Institute** <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/> has a number of resources and soon will have some related to testing for and minimizing exposure to soil contaminants. Jonathan and Lori are working with the group who is spearheading this so we'll keep you posted.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Our Community Horticulture PWT soil subgroup and Lori will continue to communicate with Jonathan to identify how to best collaborate on specific projects.	Anna, Pat, Caroline Lori	On-going
Call upon Jonathan to help with soil testing and related questions	all	
Soil training session for MGV	Jonathan	Beginning 2009

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION	Bulletin 74
Carolyn was able to collect from a number of people the top 50 pest questions receive. Send yours ASAP. She will work to update online information related to this most pressing pest first. "The book" is still in process with Timber Press considering publishing it but it's availability would not be before Jan 2009 and it may be very large. Potentially a great tool for MGV training?	
CONCLUSIONS	
In the long term online factsheets are likely to be our best resources for recommendations and will allow for easiest updates.	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Provide Carolyn with information about top pests	county educators	yesterday
Update information about top pests	Carolyn Klass	

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION	CCE Program Council Conference May 7th	
We debated what might we want our poster display to convey to the people attending the conference These stakeholders, executive directors, CCE administrators, department chairs and others involved in making Federal Formula Funding decisions. We recruited helpers for the May 7 th event.		
CONCLUSIONS		
Poster will be mostly pictures. And will say something like: Success caring for landscapes is a gateway to healthy individuals, families, communities and environments. Knowledge and skill development based on research information is fundamental to success.		
Draft poster will be distributed to attendees for further input.		
On May 7 th Lori will set up the display including seed giveaway starting around 7:00 am and be around for the other times as well.		
	Carolyn	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
	Patti	10:15 - 10:45 a.m.
	Pat	12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send Lori any pictures for poster	Everyone	ASAP
Draft poster	Lori	May 2nd
Attend May 7 th	Pat, Patti, Carolyn, Lori	May 7th

AGENDA TOPICS

DISCUSSION	Save the dates	
CONCLUSIONS		
Monday July 21 st 10:00 to 4:00 pm Lawn Care in-service Capital District/David Chinery hosting		
Wed July 30 th to Thurs July 31 st noon to noon on campus Community Horticulture Program Work Team Meeting		
July 24-26 2008 AHS Children and Youth Gardening Symposium http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm (There will likely be at least 1 van traveling from Ithaca to this in Philadelphia)		
October 1-3, 2008. Association of Volunteer Resource Management National Conference in Binghamton, New York. This year's them is Power in Partnerships. http://avrm.org/Home/tabid/2973/Default.aspx		
Wed. Oct 22 th & Thurs. Oct 23 rd noon to noon Community Horticulture Program Work Team joint with Garden-based Learning off-campus location TBD (Send ideas on locations. Maybe Chemung, Cayuga or Seneca?)		
Other professional development opportunities from Horticulture are posted on this news and events page: http://hort.cals.cornell.edu/news-events/index.cfm There are lots listed there so check it out.		
2009 State Master Gardener Volunteer Conference tentative: Wednesday July 22 to Friday July 24, 2009		