

Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Columbia and Greene Counties

2016 Annual Report

The Mission of CCE is to put "knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in a rapidly changing world."

The Vision Statement of CCE is that "we are a natural leader in creating positive change on behalf of families and communities through rigorously-tested extension programs. We create measurable change in five priority areas by aligning local needs with the resources and priorities of the land grant system and its state and federal partners."

With the support of individuals, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, the Greene County Legislature, state and federal agencies, and our volunteers, the staff of CCE of Columbia and Greene Counties continued to provide and expand upon high quality programs in 2016. On the following pages you will find information highlighting some of the many successes of our program areas including:

- 4-H Youth Development*
- Environment and Natural Resources*
- Community Health and Wellness*
- Agriculture and Food Systems*
- Community and Economic Vitality*

Looking to **2017, we will be celebrating 100 years** of CCE's presence in both Columbia and Greene Counties as well as the 10th Year Anniversary of the Siuslaw Model Forest and five years since the two associations consolidated.

We have a number of special events planned to celebrate the relevancy and contributions of your local CCE in our communities. The events are listed on page 12. We hope you will join us!

Thank you for your continued support.

Chuck Brooks, Executive Director



Agroforestry Resource Center
 6055 Route 23, Acra, NY 12405
 518-622-9820



Extension Education Center
 479 Route 66, Hudson, NY 12534
 518-828-3346

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.



visit our website

www.ccecolumbiagreene.org

Nutrition, Food Safety, and Security

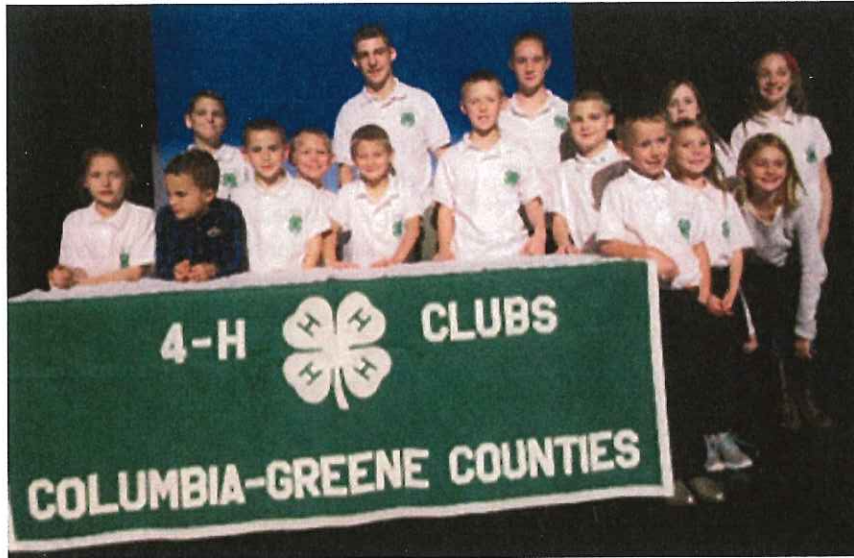
The Nutrition, Food Safety, and Security program, also known as the Community Health and Wellness program was made up of five programs. All programs in this area were funded through grants and contracts. They could be broken into two categories: *parenting and nutrition*.

Our program area operated three different parenting programs in 2016. The In-home Parenting Program was funded through a contract with the Greene County Department of Social Services. This program provided free, in-home parenting lessons to families exclusively referred by the Greene County Department of Social Services. During 2016, it reached 54 families. It was funded to continue in 2017. The Parenting Skills Classes were also funded through a contract with the Greene County Department of Social Services. They were a series of sixteen parenting classes held at the Greene County Department of Social Services. They were free and open to the public. During 2016, they reached 45 families. They were funded to continue in 2017. The Parenting with Confidence program was funded through a grant with the Dyson Foundation. This program provided a free series of 6-10 classes to community organizations that served families considered at-risk of abuse and/or neglect. The community organizations could also make referrals for in-home classes for families that would benefit more from an individualized approach. During 2016, this program reached 94 families. It was also funded to continue in 2017.

Our program area operated two nutrition programs in 2016. The Hudson River Fish Advisory program is funded through a contract with CCE Dutchess. The program allowed us to present a free nutrition education program at community organizations. In addition to the provided nutrition lesson, the participants also received information on what fish are safe to eat from the Hudson River and its estuaries, and were administered a brief survey about their fishing habits. During 2016, it reached 91 people. It is funded through June of 2017. We have contracted with St. Peters Health Partners on the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities program. Under this contract, we are coordinating the community effort for the Hudson City School District, with the goal of improving the health of community members. This includes efforts in worksite wellness, improving access to healthy foods, and complete streets. So far, a bike rack program has been implemented to purchase and install bike racks at various places throughout the city. We have begun working with six employers on worksite wellness. We have also begun planning the development of a walking trail at the Extension Education Center.

Cornell Cooperative Extension programs are designed to improve the quality of life for all New York State residents.





Members of the Medway Mountaineers 4-H Club presented the traditional Candle Ceremony at 4-H Achievement Night.

4-H Youth Development

2016 saw our 4-H Youth Development Program become fully staffed with the addition of Andrew Randazzo as our 4-H Natural Environment Educator. We also have Margaret Smith as 4-H Agriculture and STEM Educator and Linda Tripp as 4-H Youth Development Issue Leader. Addie Ferrer joined us for a second summer as our 4-H Summer Assistant.

Our **4-H Club Program** provides families with the most intensive, long-term participation in Cooperative Extension youth programming. The 430 members of our 35 4-H clubs have the opportunity to be involved in local, regional, state, and national 4-H events and activities. This year three of our 4-H club members participated as members of NYS teams to national competitions. 4-H projects popular with 4-H members include dairy cattle, poultry, forestry, gardening, foods and cooking, photography, sewing, and community service. Over 400 volunteers have helped to enhance 4-H experiences for youth. Enrolled volunteers are vetted and trained to lead 4-H clubs. Many others support the 4-H activities as chaperones, drivers, evaluators, fundraisers and teachers.

Community Youth Education Programs take place at libraries, community centers, after-school programs, summer recreation sites and in schools. Over 120 programs and trainings took place in 2016, each averaging six hours of education, to school-age youth participating at sites throughout the two counties. A total of 2,821 youth were able to learn from our 4-H educators and trained volunteers.

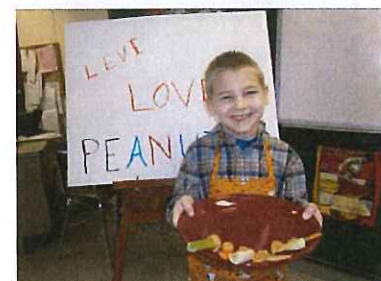
Youth were provided the opportunities to see, feel, touch, hear and do – where their active involvement in groups of twelve or less led to every child

4-H helps kids to do better in school, learn to help others, and feel more capable and responsible.

4-H Clubs, camps, after-school programs, and trips help youth reach their fullest potential. Members have opportunities to connect to Cornell University, learn through hands-on activities, lead, be inspired, inspire others, and...so much more.



EJ Arthur Elementary School students learn how salt affects ice.



"Levi Loves Peanuts" is this 4-H member's first public presentation.

4-H Youth Development (cont.)



4-H members practice tree measurement using Biltmore Sticks during NYS 4-H Forestry Weekend.



Creating bird nests during the Hudson Afterschool Program.



Rabbits are a great 4-H small animal project.

taking home new knowledge and enthusiasm for the topic. The most requested programs were in the areas of messy science, environmental awareness, and cooking. 4-H staff also reached out to youth in short-term (less than six-hour) programs where they reached an additional 1,749 youth. Two examples of the types of programs 4-H staff implement with youth follow:

4-H Forestry Programming continues to engage local youth in hands-on natural resource skill building. 4-H members participated in NYS Forestry Weekend at Camp Shankitunk where five of our local youth qualified for the national invitational with one of them going on to compete in West Virginia as a member of our New York 4-H Forestry Team. In preparation, coaching for the NYS team was held at CCE's Siuslaw Model Forest in Acra, NY.

Forestry programming also engaged several groups of youth through interagency partnerships, including the Catskill Community Center and The Martin Van Buren National Historic Site to train youth in map, compass and GPS navigation. A private academy joined us as we provided youth with hands-on forest engagement in the Siuslaw Model Forest.

The **2016 4-H Livestock Sale** marked its 25th anniversary on Labor Day at the Columbia County Fair. A BBQ dinner was held the evening before the sale honoring founders Phil and Annie Trowbridge, the planning committee, as well as all the local individuals and businesses that have supported this event since its inception.

4-H members in the market animal projects work tirelessly to raise high quality market animals, including beef, swine, goats, sheep, rabbits and poultry. However, their job doesn't end with raising their animal. Their responsibility is also to market their project animal to individuals, families and companies to create as much bidder interest as possible. This ensuring the best return on their initial investment, thus making this a true entrepreneurial project for our 4-H members.

This year five lots were donated back by the purchaser with the subsequent proceeds going to the Columbia County 4-H livestock program. Sale total on resales was \$6,255. Additionally two lots were purchased and donated to local food pantries. This year's total sales for the 4-H Livestock Sale was \$42,833.



Auctioneer Larry Benson drives up the bid on this 4-H beef animal.

Community & Economic Vitality

Community & Economic Vitality (CEV) programs help build the capacity of individuals, families, and communities to direct their own futures as they deal with changing economic structures, demographics, communication technologies and other challenges or opportunities that affect communities.

Thanks to a \$6500 Lifespan of Greater Rochester Grant, two **Preventing Elder Financial Abuse** educational displays were created and reached over 24,300 consumers via the Greene County Youth Fair, Roeliff-Jansen Community Library, Columbia County Fair, National Bank of Coxsackie (Coxsackie Branch), Senator Marchione's Golden Gathering and the Catskill Community Center. An electronic resource directory created to help seniors prevent/mitigate elder financial exploitation was vetted by nearly 100 seniors; they found the local, regional, state and national agencies, groups and organizations it listed to be of great assistance. As a result of our involvement in this effort, CEV Resource Educator Theresa Mayhew has been invited to join the Columbia County Office of Aging Safe at Home Committee and the newly formed Elder Abuse Prevention Task Force Committee being organized by Common Ground.

CEV Resource Educator Theresa Mayhew chairs the **Columbia County Housing Advisory Board**, working with the Fair Housing Officer regarding housing/landlord/tenant calls. HAB hosted its now annual Landlord/Tenants Rights Forum March 30 that attracted 45 community members as well as its annual Fair Housing Poster Contest which is targeted to third and fourth graders. Local agencies were invited to share information on their efforts to reduce homelessness and procure affordable housing during HAB meetings. Even with an improving economy, the lack of affordable/workforce housing continues to impact the county.

Mayhew also served as **Baked Potato/Juice Bar Coordinator** for the Columbia County Fair, recruiting 45 individuals to work at both venues. She worked with facilities coordinator AJ Melino to spruce up the front serving counter with a more durable countertop and attractive side paneling. One thousand, seven hundred and thirty-seven spuds were sold in six days, the best showing in three years. It's very gratifying to hear how much folks love their baked potatoes! That includes the volunteers, too!

Over 70 folks attended the August 12 **CG Lakes Coalition** meeting held at Sleepy Hollow Lake in Athens; it featured speakers from DEC, engineering and lake management companies. CCE maintains an active and growing list-serve, responding to inquiries regarding lake related water quality questions. To support the lakes coalition group, Mayhew attends Capital/Mohawk PRISM meetings and is an active longtime Federation of Lakes Association (FOLA) board member serving on FOLA's long-range planning and fundraising committees.

Continued on next page



*CCE volunteers
Sarah & Bruce Meyers
Serving up Spuds at the Fair!*

Community Economic Vitality (cont.)



An emphasis on **Reducing Food Waste** has proved popular and timely. About 90 billion pounds of edible food goes uneaten each year at an annual cost of \$1,500 for a family of four. This is a critical aspect of resource management when it comes to stretching one's food dollar, improving nutritional intake, and reducing hunger. Program delivery included table top exhibits, media articles and presentations to a number of consumer groups. This effort will continue in 2017.

Mayhew represents CCE on the Columbia County **Head Start Policy Council**. She serves as Policy Council rep to the Columbia Opportunities Board and on its school readiness and strategic planning committees. This Head Start connection has enabled Mayhew to provide a multitude of CEV programs to parent groups in Hudson, Philmont & Valatie. Feedback from participant evaluations indicates these offerings have improved their financial security/family resiliency.

In addition to any educational programs mentioned above, the following programs were also presented in a variety of settings to county agency staff, organizational groups, service organizations, and the general public: Stretching Food Dollars, Supermarket Smarts, Shopping with Children, Cashing in with Coupons, Cut Expenses & Stash More Cash, Making Ends Meet, Re-establishing Credit, Preventing Elder Financial Abuse, ID Theft Prevention, Detox Your Home, and Reducing One's Carbon Footprint.

Theresa Mayhew, Extension Educator

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)



Tracey Testo, Audrey Kropp (CCE staff), Austin Winegard (intern), and Shane Stevens (program assistant) installing the deer enclosure in the Siuslaw Model Forest.

CCE ENR received 18 grants and contracts totaling nearly \$250,000, many of which are multiyear. As a result, we held over 50 programs with more than 1,700 participants.

ENR staff worked on two NYS Farm Viability Institute (NYSFVI) contracts that illustrate the link between agroforestry and agriculture. One focuses on the production of Chinese medicinal plants, and included a demonstration garden on the Siuslaw Model Forest (SMF) and the other for farmers looking to grow Shiitake mushrooms to diversify their crops.

Funded by the NYS Workforce Development Institute (WDI), CCECG organized and hosted a "Healthy Veterans, Healthy Forests" feasibility meeting, to investigate the opportunity for veterans to be involved in the logging profession. Participants included NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Forest Service, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, NYS Veterans Affairs, Empire State Forest Products Association, and others. A report was generated with plans for 2017.

Continued on next page

Environment and Natural Resources (cont.)

ENR sponsored a public program "The introduction of a viable American Chestnut Tree," which include plantings on the SMF.

Completed a feasibility study meeting on a Bowery Creek Training Facility – working on engaging partners, and collecting baseline information about the history of instability of the stream reach.

Worked with communities to help them adapt to climate change including:

- Collaborated with the Cornell Landscape Architecture Program on their Climate Adaptive Design (CAD) studio, in which students create designs for riverfront towns that increase resilience to flooding due to sea level rise and heavy precipitation events. In 2016, CCE staff assisted with CAD in Hudson, focusing on the South Bay and waterfront park as a study area. We also worked with the Village of Catskill to pursue design elements that were envisioned during the 2015 CAD. We are also supporting CAD in the City of Kingston.
- CCE staff members worked with the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program to assist communities in prioritizing replacement roadway culverts that are undersized to handle flood events and/or creating a barrier to the movement of fish and other aquatic organisms. Currently, CCE is assisting the Columbia County towns of Ancram, Gallatin and Taghkanic.
- New Siuslaw Model Forest demonstrations including the installation of several Deer Enclosure/Impact Demonstrations, one supported by New York Forest Owners Association CDC chapter, Chinese Medicinal Plants as part of a New York State Farm Viability Institute funding and a pollinator garden subsidized by the Hudson Mohawk Resource Conservation and Development Council.

2016 ENR Staff included Marilyn Wyman, Liz LoGiudice, Audrey Kropp, Tracy Testo, Ron Frisbee, SUNY Cobleskill intern Austin Winegard, and program assistant Shane Stevens.

Marilyn Wyman, Extension Educator



Culvert prioritization workshop



American Chestnut Tree program participants with Allen Nichols, President of the NY Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation.



Damselflies and Dragonflies program in the Siuslaw Model Forest with Larry Federman, Audubon NY



Chef Rob Handel, Heather Ridge Farm, speaking at the Fall Foraging and Feasting workshop.

Agriculture & Food Systems



The year's growing season was dry, then it was hot. The last month or two has been wet and "colder than Blitzen." In the absence of normal rain and snowfall for most of this year and last, the subsoil moisture has just not been present for most of the year, over most of the area. The forage crops roasted, the row crops toasted, the fruit trees languished, at least in many cases, and subsequent yields were diminished from what might be considered "normal" years. However, some of the possibly more "devout" farmers saw ample rainfall, even as their close-by neighbors publicly prayed and did rain-dances. Suffice it to say, it was another climatically abnormal year. Heck, we didn't even have the normal number of days this year...

Prices for crops, livestock and milk fell some more, adding somewhat to the discouragement of the farm community. The only bright spot, in regard to falling things, was the meteor shower. In the local absence of abundance, this year the supply-demand curve really didn't adjust normally, one way or the other. So, again it comes down to the fact that one almost has to be a "chronic optimist" to be in, and stay in, the agricultural business. But, as they say in football, and farming, "By golly, we'll get 'em next year."

As for the Agriculture and Food Systems Program, the year was another busy, productive one for the entire staff.

The **Community Horticulture Program** reached out directly to a "whole slew" of folks in all of their activities this year (>3,600 souls). We've added another 12 "full-fledged" Master Gardener Volunteers, with seven more finishing up their training this year. All the events, activities, fairs, swaps, sales, and shows put our 48 active MGVs into the public eye and into the mode of "assistive interaction" more than ever before. A valiant effort by all, even as the "winds of change" altered the leadership. Donna Peterson is now the Coordinator and has advanced consolidation and cooperative efforts.

The Agricultural Production "branch" was also very busy working with and visiting our "Service-Area" "home-comers" (139), "down-homers" (247), and with regulatory and supportive agency personnel (77). We designed

new grazing plans for five producers and connected with dozens more in the grass-based livestock production fields (and forests).

We deferred to, and referred 64 producers to the various fields of expertise represented by the team members of the Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program. We have added a new horticulture person, Lily Calderon, and a new livestock educator, Hank Bignell, to the CAAHP team this year. The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program (ENYCHP) has continued to grow and has taken on a whole new life of its own in service of the region's producers, now reaching over the entire "eastern tier" of New York with world-class expertise.

The Agriculture and Food Systems Program would like to kindly thank all the volunteers who helped make our CCE system work "abnormally well" again this year. The Board of Directors, the Agriculture and Horticulture Program Advisory Committee, and once again the Master Gardener Volunteers - all devoting immeasurable amounts of time and effort to the cause. In knowing them and seeing them in action, it's easier for me too, to be a chronic optimist, and I believe that with their continued support, "By golly, we'll get 'em again next year." No matter what changes or "abnormalities" may come, we're once again looking forward to the New Year and all the potential it holds.

Mick Bessire, Extension Educator



Master Gardener Plant Swap



Master Gardener Volunteers answered questions from visitors to the Greene County Youth Fair.

2016 Board of Directors & Staff

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Margaret Smith, Subject Educator
Angela Tallarico, Senior Administrator
Tracey Testo, Program Coordinator
Linda Tripp, Issue Leader
Emily Warrington, Administrative Asst.
Eileen West, Program Educator
Marilyn Wyman, Issue Leader

Regional Programs

Capital Area Agricultural and Horticultural Program (CAAHP) The CAAHP program is a regional program supported by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Albany, Columbia, Greene, Schenectady and Washington Counties as well as Cornell University. This regional agricultural team provides agricultural producers, processors, and the industry with high quality educational programs and cutting edge research-based information:

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/capitalareaagandhortprogram/main/>

Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program (ENYCHP) The Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program (ENYCHP) is the premier regional agricultural Cornell Cooperative Extension program in New York, serving a large multi-county area in the Eastern side of the state. With nearly 11 specialists, the ENYCHP specialists work together with Cornell faculty and extension educators statewide to address the issues that impact the vegetable, small fruit, tree fruit, and grape industries. Please visit this website for additional details on ENYCHP programs and services:

<http://ccecapiitalregion.org/home.aspx>

CCE Capital District Region You can find information on programs being offered by CCEs throughout the Capital District at <http://ccecapiitalregion.org/home.aspx>

Greater Capital Shared Business Network (SBN)

The Shared Business Network (SBN) model allows local associations to have access to knowledgeable “leads” in the areas of Finance, Human Resources (HR), and Information Technology (IT). The SBN leads in these functional areas provide statewide continuity and shared guidance between campus administration and the local associations. Additionally, the SBN leads work with association staff to assist in addressing local business needs.

- **Human Resources**
- **Finance**
- **Information Technology**

Members of the Greater Capital SBN include: Albany, Columbia and Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Saratoga, Washington, Warren, and Fulton/Montgomery County associations.

SBN Staff:

Supervising Executive Director—
Lisa Godlewski

Finance Lead—Michael Ryan

IT Lead—Eric Yager and
Michael Bartholomew

Human Resources Lead—
Jim McNaughton, PHR

Remember CCE of Columbia and Greene Counties when considering your charitable donations!

Memorial Gift

An especially thoughtful and meaningful way to honor the memory of a loved one, providing a living remembrance for generations to come.

Honorary Gift

A way to honor a friend or family member on a birthday, graduation, anniversary, retirement, or other event.

Named Funds

Gifts to these funds continue to honor the memory of the individuals, as well as help secure the future of the Cornell Cooperative Extension in your community. These gifts are placed in an investment fund supervised and monitored by the CCE Board of Directors.

Maria Morra and Paul Morra Scholarship Trust

Established in 2011 with a bequest from the estate of Paul & Maria Morra, long-time friends and supporters of CCE. Dividend and interest from the fund is used to provide scholarships to area students interested in pursuing post-high school academic work in the fields of horticulture, agriculture, forestry or natural resources.

Michael C. Greason Memorial Fund

Established in 2013 in memory of Mike Greason, a long-time CCE supporter, board member, and local forester. Interest from this fund will be used to support forestry programs, projects and initiatives of CCE.

To make a donation to any of the above gifts or funds, or to establish a fund in the name of an individual or family, contact Executive Director Chuck Brooks at (518) 622-9820 X35 or (518) 828-3346 X108 or email cb657@cornell.edu.

Tax-deductible donations are also accepted via PayPal on our website www.ccecolumbiagreene.org

2016 Financial Supporters

\$1,000+

Michael McCrary
National Bank of Coxsackie
The Bank of Greene County
Willow Springs Charitable Trust
Jimmy & Micaela Bulich*

\$500+

Farm Credit East, ACA
Robin & Martin Smith
Art Bassin, Cricket Hill Farm, Inc.
Chuck & Maryellen Brooks
Rotary Club of Catskill

\$250+

Eastern Managed Print Network
Joe Ahern & Leland Medigette
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Rita & Peter Buttiker

\$100+

Hugh & Peggy Quigley
Equine Clinic at OakenCroft
Walter Klores & Emily White
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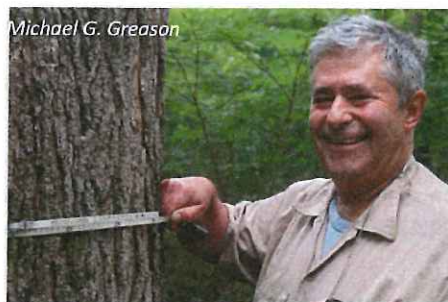
Ichabod Crane Retired
Teachers Association
Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530
Catskill Elks Lodge #1341
Columbia County Fair Ag Building
Bruno Farms Custom Feeds
Columbia County Agricultural Society
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\$50+

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Maher Family
Greene County Farm Bureau
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Bonfiglio & Bread
Homestead Maintenance
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Wenk Funeral Home
Willow Dell Farm
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**Mike Greason Memorial Fund*

If you are a donor in the \$50+ categories and your name has been omitted, please advise Chuck or Angela as soon as possible.



Michael G. Greason



Paul Morra

Financial/Contractual Support

21st Century Schools Grant/
Hudson After School

Athens Community Foundation

Catskill Mountain Foundation

Catskill Regional Invasive Species
Partnership Program

Catskill Watershed Corporation

Columbia County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Columbia County Youth Bureau

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Cornell Dept. of Natural Resources

Cornell Landscape Architecture Program

Cornell Water Resource Institute

County of Columbia

County of Greene

Dyson Foundation

Greene County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Greene County Youth Bureau

Hudson Mohawk RC&D

Hudson River Bank and Trust
Company Foundation

Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.

Maria Morra and Paul Morra
Scholarship Trust

Martin Van Buren National Historic
Site/Friends of Lindenwald

New York State Dept. of Ag and Markets

NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program

Regional Hudson River Fish Advisory
Program

Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation

Robert H. Wentorf Foundation

St. Peter's Health Partners

Stewart Shops

USDA

Watershed Agricultural Council

Willow Springs Charitable Trust Foundation

Windham Mountain Foundation

Workforce Development Institute

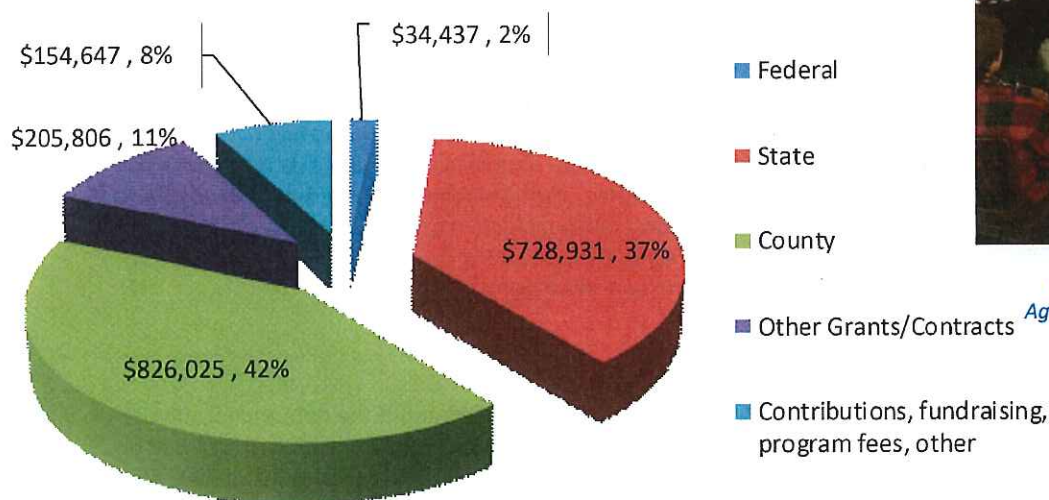


Skidder Bridge Construction workshop at the Siuslaw Model Forest. Educating landowners about the benefits of using portable skidder bridges and how to build a bridge on their property to gain access in an environmentally friendly way without disturbing water quality, as well as provide portable skidder bridges to regional loggers. Sponsored by the Watershed Agricultural Council's Forestry Program.



Fall Fundraising Dinner Agroforestry Resource Center

2016 Financial Income Sources



2017 Centennial Celebrations!

10th Anniversary Celebration of the Agroforestry Resource Center

Friday, May 19
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra

In addition to key partners who were instrumental in the establishment of the Center, we hope you will join us as well. The program will include an overview of the Center, what has been accomplished, and where we are going.



Ag Day Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Columbia-Greene Community College

Saturday, June 3
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Columbia-Greene Community College

There will be information displays, workshops, and demonstrations in a variety of agricultural areas. We look forward to learning more about the college's interest in the area of agriculture and its future plans.



Master Gardener Volunteer Pollinator Open House

Saturday, June 17
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Extension Education Center, Hudson

This event will feature programs, workshops, and demonstrations about Pollinators and the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

Dinner Cruise

Saturday, August 19
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Board the "Marika" yacht from Hudson as we celebrate our 100th anniversary with a dinner cruise on the Hudson River. This dinner will take the place of our annual fall fundraising dinner. We anticipate this fund raising event will feature a program similar to past dinners including fabulous food, music, and lots of fun! The dinner will be catered by Downtown Bistro in Coxsackie. We plan to start selling tickets soon. We hope you will join us.

Annual Meeting

Scheduled to take place in November but the date and location yet to be determined. We are tentatively planning to host a dinner or luncheon this year and we will feature a special guest speaker for this 100th Anniversary event. More details to come!





2016 Governmental Annual Report

The mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension is to put “knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.”

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Please find below highlights of our activities in 2016:

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (ENR)

- CCE received 18 grants and contracts this year totaling nearly \$250,000: many which are multiyear.
- CCE is currently part of two NYS Farm Viability Institute (NYSFVI) contracts that illustrate the link between agroforestry and agriculture. One focuses on the production of Chinese medicinal plants, and included a demonstration garden on the Siuslaw Model Forest (SMF), and the other for farmers looking to grow Shiitake mushrooms to diversify their crops.
- Through a special grant through the NYS Workforce Development Institute (WDI), CCE sponsored a “Healthy Veterans, Healthy Forests” feasibility meeting, to connect veterans to the logging profession. Participants included NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Forest Service, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, NYS Veterans Affairs, Empire State Forest Products Association, and others.
- Sponsored a public program “The Introduction of a Viable American Chestnut Tree,” which included plantings on CCE’s Siuslaw Model Forest.
- Completed a feasibility study meeting on a Bowery Creek Training Facility – working on engaging partners, collecting baseline information about the history of instability of the stream reach and we will be reaching out to neighbors as well.
- New Siuslaw Model Forest Demonstrations including the installation of several Deer Enclosure/Impact Demonstrations, one supported by New York Forest Owners Association CDC chapter, Chinese Medicinal Plants as part of a New York State Farm Viability Institute funding, and a pollinator garden subsidized by the Hudson-Mohawk Resource Conservation and Development Council.
- Worked with communities to help them adapt to climate change including:
 - Collaborated with the Cornell Landscape Architecture Program on their Climate Adaptive Design (CAD) studio, in which students create designs for riverfront towns that increase resilience to flooding due to sea level rise and heavy precipitation events. In 2016, CCE staff assisted with CAD in Hudson, focusing on the South Bay and waterfront park as a study area. We also worked with the Village of Catskill to pursue design elements that were envisioned during the 2015 CAD. We are also supporting CAD in the City of Kingston.
 - Staff members worked with the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program to assist communities in prioritizing replacement roadway culverts that are undersized to handle flood events and/or creating a barrier to the movement of fish and other aquatic organisms. Currently, CCE is assisting the Columbia County towns of Ancram, Gallatin and Taghkanic.

ENR Staff include Marilyn Wyman, Liz LoGiudice, Audrey Kropp, Tracy Testo, Ron Frisbee as well as intern, Austin Winegard, and program assistant, Shane Stevens.

4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- The goal of 4-H and Youth Development is to have 4-H programs reach all towns in both counties as we continue to build our partnerships. We currently serve approximately 3,500 youth in both Columbia County and Greene County through various 4-H clubs and community programs. 430 are 4-H club members.

- The Athens Community Foundation grant supported a STEM Day at Athens Elementary school. Three staff and two volunteers spent an hour with every classroom – with small groups of 6 students moving through 5 hands-on stations. There was also a family night where children brought in their families to show them what they learned.
- With support from the Friends of Lindenwald, the Environmental Awareness Day Program expanded from its two days at the Siuslaw Model Forest to an additional two days at the Martin Van Buren Nature Trails. This program reaches sixth grade students from six schools in the two counties.
- CCE's highly successful Public Presentation Program for 4-H members – with participants at district and state events – grew to include an event called Produced in NY! which is meant to promote using locally produced ingredients. Eight members of the Medway Mountaineers 4-H club tried this silent demonstration out at the Coxsackie Farmers Market and two went on to the NYS Fair event.
- Dairy cattle judging has made a return with our local team participating in several events including the NYS fair judging contest.
- Local 4-H members have excelled in the State including Zaia Ivan who tested into the top four to be a member of the NYS Forestry Team and participated in the Forestry Invitational in West Virginia. Emily Ooms' dairy bowl expertise garnered her a place on the NYS Dairy Bowl Team which just won first in the nation and she placed second in the nation on the written test. Zaia Ivan placed so well in the NYS Poultry Bowl competition that she is a member of our NYS team – and completed in the national competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

4-H and Youth Development staff include Linda Tripp, Maggie Smith, and Andrew Randazzo.

PARENTING, NUTRITION, AND WELLNESS

- We continue our contract with the Greene County Department of Social Services to deliver their in-home parenting education, as well as a 16-week parenting education program at the Department of Social Services. Often times, this program is an important step in reunification of children with their parents after they have been removed or in preventing removal.
- For the second year we received a grant from the Dyson Foundation for our Parenting with Confidence Program, which provides parenting education to families in both counties, either in-home or at community-based organizations. This program is considered a child abuse/neglect prevention program and is available to any family in either county.
- We finished the first year of a five year grant with St. Peters Health Partners to work on creating a healthy community for the Hudson City School District. With this grant, we are working on three areas: complete streets, healthy food retail (corner store initiatives, mobile farmer's markets), and healthy food standards in businesses (worksite wellness).
- Finally, we have a small grant to deliver information on the safety of consuming fish and crabs from the Hudson River. In addition to providing the fish guidance, we can pair the lesson with another nutrition topic to deliver a nutrition lesson to community partners throughout Columbia and Greene Counties. As always, all programs are free of cost to participants.

Parenting, Nutrition, and Wellness staff include Rebecca Polmateer, Peggy Henne, Eileen West, Megan Gardner.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

- CCE continues to work with local agencies providing consumer education programs to their clientele and/or staff; these include Columbia County Office for Aging; Columbia Opportunities/Head Start; Community Action of Greene County; Greene County Human Services; and the Mental Health Association of Columbia & Greene Counties.
- Terri Mayhew serves as chair of the Columbia County Housing Advisory Board working in close proximity with the Fair Housing Officer on housing/landlord/tenant calls; sponsored a Landlord/Tenants Rights Forum in March; and the Fair Housing Poster Contest in April.
- Thanks to a Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc. grant, several Preventing Elder Financial Abuse educational outreach displays were created that reached over 23,000 consumers in both counties and developed a local resource directory geared to helping prevent and/or mitigate the impacts of elder financial exploitation. This effort fits nicely with our Aging in Place work initiative; Terri Mayhew's Aging in Place ad hoc committee met in June. We are currently looking into having AARP Albany offer some universal design training in our service area.
- Over 70 individuals representing six lake associations in Columbia and Greene Counties attended a Lakes Coalition meeting on August 13 at Sleepy Hollow Lake in Athens. Speakers from DEC, CCE, lake management companies, and aquatic engineering firms spoke at the day-long meeting. Terri serves on the board of the NYS Federation of Lakes Association which boasts half a dozen lake members from Columbia and Greene Counties. She also represents CCE Columbia Greene at Capital-Mohawk PRISM meetings.

- Terri co-chairs CCE's statewide Family Economics & Resource Management or FERM Program Work Team which sponsored a Scams/Fraud webinar with the Cornell Law School in March and held a "Money Matters and More Summit" for Extension Educators on campus in late June. She is editor of the PWT's quarterly e-newsletter called "The Balance Sheet."

Theresa Mayhew provides staff leadership to this program area.

AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

- Completed 489 contacts with local farmers and agri-business contacts from one-on-one meetings, programs, and events as well as referring individuals to the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program and the Capital Area Agriculture and Horticultural Program for more information and individual assistance.
- Discussions with Cornell University on the possible management of the Valatie Research Farm by our association.
- Helped with the initial start of the Hudson Valley Goat Milk Dairy Industry Program.
- Over 3,000 contacts were made through the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.
- Master Gardener Volunteers created two special educational exhibits "Microbes in Soil" at the Greene County Youth Fair and "Gardening in a Changing Climate" at the Columbia County Fair.

Agriculture and Horticultural program staff include Mick Bessire and Donna Peterson.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

While our association's primary focus is on providing strong, high quality programs and services, we know that we also have to provide the resources to support our program areas. Some of these include –

Human Resources - The association, in cooperation with CCE Administration, has been working to meet the changes in the rules and policies of the Fair Labor and Standards U.S. Department of Labor. In addition, position descriptions and job classifications have been reviewed, revised, and, in most cases, rewritten.

Volunteers – CCE sponsored a Recognition Program this spring acknowledging the contributions of all volunteers of the association.

Fundraising - CCE sponsored the famous Potato and Juice Bar and 4-H Milk Bar at the Columbia County Fair. Staff and volunteers coordinated the association's 10th annual fall fundraising dinner at the Agroforestry Resource Center, featuring local food, music and a silent auction. Funds raised support the association's programs and services.

Finances - While CCE anticipates a positive end to 2016 for its budget, our association, like others, continues to be challenged to find funding to support the programs and services we provide in our communities.

Marketing – Our outreach continues to expand, particularly via social media. Several thousand email subscribers receive program announcements and a great deal of information is shared via our Facebook page and website.

Facilities – The association continues to make physical improvements in its two offices.

- In Hudson, a bathroom renovation took place along with the installation of exit signs and LED emergency lighting. Roadside signage was also upgraded. Working with Lotus Energy, a retrofit to LED lighting took place in the offices and meeting hall. Extensive repairs were made to the building's second floor fire escape staircase.
- In Acra, exit signs and LED emergency lights were installed as well. Interior and exterior painting was done and plans continue to improve signage on the Eastbound side of Route 23.
- The association pick-up truck and plow were replaced to support the maintenance of the association.

Administrative & support staff include Chuck Brooks, Evon Antonio, Angela Tallarico, Eileen Simpson, Emily Warrington, Donna Garafalo and A.J. Melino.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE – 2017

As 2016 winds down, we look forward to 2017 as a year of celebration and enthusiasm for our local association. 2017 is the centennial of the two associations in each county. In addition, we not only celebrate 100 years of CCE, but also the 10-year anniversary of the Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra, and the 5-year celebration of the consolidation of the two associations to form Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties. We have much to be thankful for in the coming year. Here are the plans for celebrating these important milestones:

10th Anniversary Celebration of the Agroforestry Resource Center

Friday, May 19

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Agroforestry Resource Center, Acra

In addition to key partners who were instrumental in the establishment of the Center, we hope you will join us as well. The program will include an overview of the Center, what has been accomplished, and where we are going.

Ag Day Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Columbia-Greene Community College

Saturday, June 3

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Columbia-Greene Community College

There will be information displays, workshops, and demonstrations in a variety of agricultural areas. We look forward to learning more about the college's interest in the area of agriculture and its future plans.

Master Gardener Volunteer Pollinator Open House

Saturday, June 17

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Extension Education Center, Hudson

This event will feature programs, workshops, and demonstrations about Pollinators and the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

Dinner Cruise

Saturday, August 19

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Board the "Marika" yacht from Hudson as we celebrate our 100th anniversary with a dinner cruise on the Hudson River. This dinner will take the place of our annual fall fundraising dinner. We anticipate this fund raising event will feature a program similar to past dinners including fabulous food, music, and lots of fun! We plan to start selling tickets in early 2017. We hope you will join us.

Annual Meeting

Scheduled to take place in November but the exact date and location is yet to be determined. We are tentatively planning to host a dinner or luncheon this year and we will feature a special guest speaker for this 100th Anniversary event. More details to come!

We are also looking at plans for a **Centennial Walking Trail** at the Extension Center in Hudson, a series of **CCE historical articles in the newspaper**, and **historical booklet** featuring stories and pictures of our history, sponsored by local businesses and individuals.

CCE of Columbia and Greene Counties will continue to expand and provide high quality programs that you expect with your continued support! Once again, thank you for your continued interest and support! If you would like to volunteer and assist with any of the events, please give us a call at the Hudson or Acra office. We hope you will plan to attend these special events to celebrate the importance of CCE and our programs in Columbia and Greene Counties.