

MONTHLY PUBLICITY

APRIL-JULY 2021

Livingston County News

Genesee Country Express

Genesee Sun

Country Folks

GVPS & Mt. Morris Shopper

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

'Ag Literacy' effort to reach more than 2,000 students

SPECIAL TO THE LCN
New York State celebrated "Agricultural Literacy Week" March 15 to 19, but Cornell Cooperative Extensions of Livingston and Monroe counties are celebrating with activities throughout the month. The programs are expected to reach more than 2,000 students across the two counties.

The extended schedule is designed to adapt "Agricultural Literacy Week" celebrations to accommodate COVID-19 safety protocols.

Volunteers throughout Livingston and Monroe counties will remotely read to students with the help of 4-H and Agriculture in the Classroom educators from each county. The volunteers will seek to engage students in learning more about this year's topic, dairy farming in New York.

"COVID-19 has caused a number of challenges for schools and this is a fun way to virtually share agricultural information with students," said Susan Coyle, a Monroe County 4-H program leader.

"Agricultural Literacy Week," which takes place annually across New York State, has been celebrated by Livingston and Monroe counties for the past 17 years. The week serves as an opportunity to promote agricultural literacy and learning to students across the state. Each year, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau members, and thousands of community volunteers, visit elementary school students and read an agriculture-themed book.

This year's featured book is "Chuck's Ice Cream Wish (Tales of the Dairy Godmothers)" by Viola Butler. It is a unique tale of agriculture with vivid illustrations and an engaging storyline. The book will help students understand the importance of dairy in Livingston and Monroe counties, as well as in communities across New York.

Youth will learn about the journey their food takes from farm to the cream cone. With more than 4,000 dairy farms

and ranking fourth nationally as the largest producer of milk, dairy is vital to New York State. The dairy community in New York includes both large and small farms. It also boasts processing facilities of various types and sizes, from major global processing companies to small artisanal dairy product makers.

"Connecting young people to where their food comes from is important to sustain an equitable food system into the future. Guest readers, including the Monroe County Dairy Princess Court and local elected officials, will share the engaging book and guide classrooms through a hands-on activity to reinforce their new knowledge," Coyle said.

Cornell Cooperative Extension educators said they are proud to feature a book that displays the unique markets and diversity that encompasses many aspects of New York's dairy industry while also focusing on processing and how consumers contribute to agriculture.

New York State has the longest running and largest Agricultural Literacy Week programs in the country. This year, more than 80,000 students across 62 counties will participate in virtual "Agricultural Literacy Week" activities. Funding to support "Agricultural Literacy Week" has been provided by New York State dairy farmers through the Dairy Promotion Order.

Educators can sign up for this program or community members can help sponsor this project by contacting your county's Cornell Cooperative Extension office.

For Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County, contact Agriculture in the Classroom Educator Bernadette Harwood via email to bh33@cornell.edu or call (585) 991-5443.

For Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, contact 4-H Youth Development Educator Jessica Reid via email to jre642@cornell.edu or call (585) 753-2566.



Livingston County 4-H Program

Isabelle Dennis was among the Livingston County 4-H members who helped make blankets for the Livingston County Foster Care Program.

4-H Teen Council donates blankets

SPECIAL TO THE LCN
Five members of Livingston County 4-H Teen Council donated 24 fleece blankets to the Livingston County Foster Care Program.

Teen Council members chose the community service project last fall at the suggestion of 4-H member Molly Miliken.

"I chose this project because I really enjoy making these types of blankets and I know that a lot of kids enter foster care with very little," she said. "I also figured that if there was some way we could help kids in what is probably one of the hardest moments of their lives - we should at least try!"

4-H Educator Renee Hopkins said, "Teen Council members are often encouraged to create community service projects that are meaningful to them. By observing the needs in their environment and making a plan to help, they not only give back to the community,

but learn and practice a great deal of leadership in the process."

The donation also included children's books from the Livonia Public Library. Teen Council members contacted library staff to see if they would be willing to donate some of the children's books typically reserved for their used book sale.

The group, which gathered in March to put the blankets together, worked with Erin Fox from the Foster Care Program. She spoke with the 4-H members about the number of kids that come into the Foster Care Program and how a blanket and a book can be very comforting. She was thankful for the donation and noted that the blankets would be greatly appreciated by the kids.

To learn more about the Livingston County 4-H Program, or Teen Council specifically, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County at (585) 991-5420 or (585) 335-1752 or livingston@cornell.edu.

Kids get creative with cakes

4-H decorating series offers unique family-friendly opportunity

SPECIAL TO THE LCN

The Livingston County 4-H Program held a four-week remote cake decorating series that offered a unique opportunity for youth and parents to learn together.

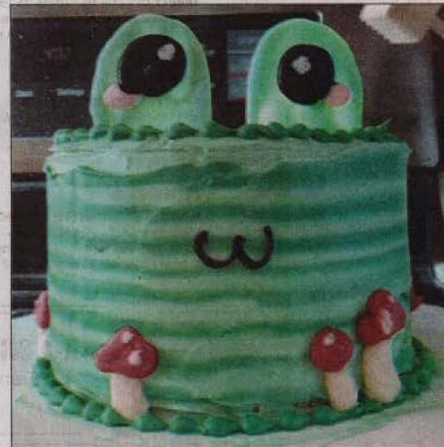
Forty-six youth ages 5 to 18 years old registered for the program. Each participant was provided with a kit that contained the 4-H Curriculum on decorating, a basic set of piping tips, couplers, a turntable, piping bags, and other related items.

With many parents learning alongside their children, the series turned into a wonderful family activity, according to 4-H educators.

Interest was so great, they said, that the Livingston County 4-H Program received inquiries about the workshops from the Syracuse-area and Tompkins and Orange counties.

After first learning about tools and basic piping techniques, participants used royal icing to make air dry decorations (including eyeballs and unicorn horns) for a future class and learned how to do the flood technique, creating beautifully decorated sugar cookies.

In the third session, 4-H members learned to fill cupcakes and decorated them to create "monsters" using decorations from the previous week.



One of the decorated cakes resembles a frog.



The cake-decorating workshops taught a variety of techniques. Many parents learned alongside their children.

The series concluded with participants using what they learned in the previous weeks to create a neatly frosted layer cake with a filling.

Jennifer Simonetti, the volunteer instructor throughout the series, effectively used two cameras to change perspective as needed. That ensured that everyone could see the demonstration.

"Activities around food are often well-received, so the idea of setting up a remote cake decorating series came together quickly," said 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins.

"By putting the tools in the hands of participants, the remote series seamlessly engaged our participants and resulted in a very engaging hands-on learning opportunity for kids and adults of all ages," Hopkins said. "In addition, we were able to accommodate so many more youth than we would have if this series had been done in person."

About 4-H

To learn more about the Livingston County 4-H Program, visit the CCE Livingston County website at www.cce-livingstoncounty.org, or call (585) 991-5420 or (585) 335-1752.

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 4-H Program Year is underway. Families can sign-up through June 1.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Livingston Co., others hit with outbreak of Gypsy Moth caterpillars

Julie Brocklehurst-Woods
CCE Livingston County Master Gardener

Livingston County, surrounding areas and several states currently have a heavy infestation of Gypsy Moth caterpillars.

I participated in a Cornell webinar on Gypsy Moths a few months ago, where one of the presenters mentioned they had seen many egg cases last fall in this county as they assessed our area. Significant damage occurred last year in some areas.

These larval caterpillars begin feeding as soon as leaves emerge, primarily in May and June. In July they pupate: inside their cocoon they will gradually transform into a moth, emerging in about two weeks. The moths do not feed, only live about two weeks, then die after mating and producing an egg mass (females). Egg masses are produced through August.

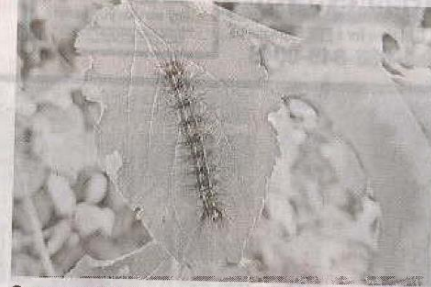
Oak trees, greatly prized in the Genesee Valley, are among their favorite foods. Unless trees are defoliated

two successive years, these and other trees will be stressed, but will likely recover. They also damage beech, birch, elm, maples, and most other hardwoods. The oldest trees may have the greatest difficulty recovering.

A heavy infestation of these caterpillars will also damage evergreens, defoliation just once can kill these trees. A friend of mine in Avon had this happen last year. They seem to prefer blue spruce evergreens, where the closely spaced branches and needles provide plentiful places for them to hide.

Since these caterpillars will be disappearing as you read this, it will be too late to make an impact on this year's damage. Efforts now need to focus on removing egg masses. Egg masses are found most commonly on tree trunks and branches, but also on buildings and outdoor furniture near trees. They are tan and turn a little darker as they get older, looking like someone stuck a handful of putty on the tree or object.

If there are small holes, it is an egg case from last



Gypsy moth larva or caterpillar (Lepidoptera). Key identifiers: spines, beige head, prominent blue dots followed by prominent red dots. FILE

year, the caterpillars have emerged. Gently remove them and place them in a bucket of soapy water for a couple of weeks. Do not leave them on the ground, since they will probably still hatch. If you find a large number of cases, you could use a large garbage bag to soak them.

For more information regarding Gypsy Moths in New York State, search "gypsy moth Cornell."

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

PLANT CARE

Overcrowding can harm vegetable plants

SPECIAL TO THE LCN

One of the most serious troubles in the home garden is that plants frequently are too crowded. Every gardener seems to sow a lot more seeds than are really needed. The problem of overcrowding occurs most often when beets, carrots, lettuce, melons, or pumpkins are sown.

To grow nice round table beets, each beet seedling should be from 2 to 4 inches apart, and the rows should be from 12 and 24 inches apart. Carrots should be a little closer, but they still need 1 to 3 inches of space if long, straight carrots are to develop. If carrot seedlings are crowded, they become twisted, tiny carrots of poor quality.

Lettuce varieties often get too crowded. To get good heads of iceberg lettuce, each plant must be at least 10 to 12 inches apart. Leaf lettuce should be thinned to about 8 to 10 inches apart. Cut the whole plant off; the best part is the center, tender light green material. If not thinned, the result is a bunch of little, bitter outside leaves.

As for muskmelons, space the plants 2 to 3 feet apart. If planted too close, the result

is a bunch of vines and very small melons. The width between rows should be 6 to 8 feet. Pumpkins need plenty of room too, with each plant set two, or preferably three feet apart. The rows should be 8 or even 10 feet apart.

4-H programs teach youth life skills, leadership

BY KORI SCIANDRA
kori@batavianews.com

Members of the Livingston County 4-H Youth Program got the chance to show their animals live in front of judges last week at the Hemlock "Little World's" Fair.

Chaundacy Crane-Yackley, 16, of Geneseo, has been a member of 4-H for nine years. This year at the fair, she showed her Senior Lionhead Rabbit, Ezra, and a pet Satin Angora Rabbit, Ehi-sha, a rescue. The latter is Chaundacy's newest bunny and is being shown at her first fair.

"I usually start practicing maybe three-to-four months before the fair. I work on getting them used to being handled before the fair comes around. I practice the typical routine for senior showmanship," said Chaundacy.

In between homeschooling and taking early college classes as part of the



PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPH
Ezra, a senior lion head rabbit, is one of two bunnies the Geneseo 4-H member Chaundacy Crane-Yackley is showing this week at the Hemlock "Little World's" Fair.

ACE program at Geneseo Community College, Chaundacy maintains a special place in her heart for 4-H.

"4-H is a lifesaver for me. It's some-

thing that keeps me busy and it's a wonderful program for children of all ages. There are so many different activities that you can do in 4-H, from learning to show cows, to cooking, to sewing," said Chaundacy.

In the future, she plans to enter law enforcement and become a field officer for the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mark Wittmeyer, Livingston County youth development team leader, has led the 4-H program for 14 years. He weighed in on the benefits of having a 4-H program within the community.

"4-H provides opportunities for youth to explore their own interests at their own pace. Through their exploration via projects, events and activities youth learn and develop critical life skills that will help them grow into competent and caring members of their communities," said Wittmeyer.

The Hemlock Fair, which ended

Saturday, is one of four county fairs taking place in the GLOW region this summer. The Geneseo County Fair in Batavia and the Orleans County 4-H Fair in Albion continue through Saturday. And the Wyoming County Fair runs Aug. 14 to 21 in Pike.

Taylor Schofield, a Geneseo County Beef Club Leader, has been preparing her 4-H students to show their animals at the Geneseo County Fair.

"I would say that 4-H makes the youth into well-rounded people that are ready to be an active member of society by the time that they age out,"

Schofield said. "They learn such a vast range of skills in the program that really prepare them for college and for adulthood. The biggest skill that I would say that they learn in 4-H is leadership. Each club has a president, vice president, treasurer and secretary that are in charge of 'running' the meetings and taking notes, keeping

track of club funds, etc. There is such a variety of ages in the clubs that the older members tend to spend meetings helping the younger members with whatever activity that we are doing, which really builds their leadership skills."

Schofield, who co-leads 44 members in Geneseo County, said each year 4-H members have the opportunity to compete in a public presentation contest, which greatly strengthens their public speaking skills and confidence. At this competition they can choose to give a presentation on any topic of their choosing, and if they do well enough they can move on to a regional, and then state level.

For more information about the Livingston County 4-H program, call (585) 991-5420.

For information about the Geneseo County 4-H program, call (585) 343-3040 ext. 101.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Variety of topics featured in 4-H presentations

SPECIAL TO THE LCN
 Nearly three dozen 4-H members took part in the Livingston County 4-H Program's annual public presentations.

The goal of 4-H Public Presentations is to build a young person's public speaking skills and confidence speaking in front of a group. Participants choose a topic of interest and develop a 3 to 15 minute presentation which they deliver in front of peers, adults, and judges.

Due to COVID-19, 4-H members were offered both an in-person speaking option with a small audience or a remote presentation, offering its own unique opportunities for growth.

This year's event featured a variety of topics, with many of the 35 youth presenters choosing to share information about a favorite athlete, hobby, sport, or the perennial favorite – animals.

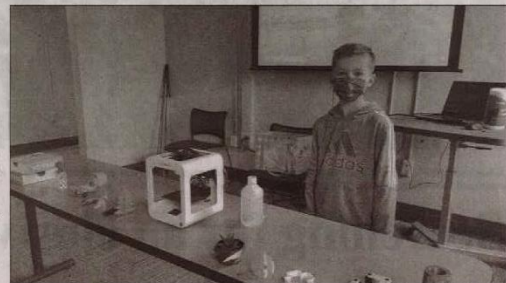
The Impromptu Category, which is an option for teens who have participated in Public Presentations multiple times, saw growth this year. Teens choosing this category arrive not knowing what they are going to present. They choose randomly from a preselected group of objects or written prompts to spark their thoughtfulness. Youth have 15 minutes to prepare a short speech of at least 3 minutes in length that includes an interesting introduction, thorough body and a conclusion.

"I love the Impromptu Category as it's so relevant to future careers. At any time you could walk into work or a meeting and be asked to speak to the group unexpectedly on a given topic," said 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins. "Practicing Impromptu Speaking (also called Extemporeous Speaking) allows you the chance to practice gathering thoughts and delivering them in a clear and logical way."

This year's participants were: Eden Arnold, Eli Bar-



Livingston County 4-H member Edon Arnold is shown with her posterboard about zoology that she used during her Public Presentation.



Tucker Drum, a 4-H Cloverbud, was among the 4-H members who participated in Livingston County 4-H's annual Public Presentations.

rett, Victoria Charlebois, Jayden Coty, Chaundacey Crane-Yackley, Audrey de Wit, Rian de Wit, Cavan Dennis, Isabelle Dennis, Gianna Embesi, Lindsay Flick, Lily Garrity, Fiona Gelb, Kiara Gramkee, Alyssa Healy, Amara Jerome, Kamryn Jerome, Carly Lang, Aydan Low, Molly Milliken, Claire Paul, Katie Paul, Alexis Pfenniger, Howie Sexton, Lucy Sexton, Lily Sharp, Kenny Smith, Elijah Tanksley, and Izaya Tanksley.

This year's Cloverbud participants (ages 5-7) included Ariana Cook, Madelyn Coty, Tucker Drum, Talia Embesi, Nathalie Gelb, and Camden Sharp.

Volunteer evaluators were Pat Auinger, Peggy Auinger, Beth Bailor, Nita Hawkins, Tim Hayes, Margaret Linsner, Anna Macauley, Becky Minnich, Sue Werner and Mark Wittmeyer.

Several 4-H members were chosen to represent Livingston County at the District event. They were Victoria

Charlebois, Isabelle Dennis, Lindsay Flick, Lily Garrity, Fiona Gelb, Alyssa Healy, Aydan Low, Molly Milliken, Howie Sexton, Lucy Sexton, and Lily Sharp.

About 4-H

For more information on the Livingston County 4-H Program, contact Renee Hopkins at (585) 991-5420 or (585) 335-1752, email rh445@cornell.edu, or visit the program's website at www.cce-livingstoncounty.org.

Livingston County News

4-H flower fundraiser deadline nears

SPECIAL TO THE LCN
 The Livingston County 4-H Flower Fundraiser continues through April 12.

The fundraiser features 4.5-inch geranium pots at \$3.25 each, with red, pink and white geraniums available.

Multiple color options are available in the 10-inch hanging baskets, which cost \$17 each. The hanging baskets include geraniums, fuchsias, impatiens, petunias and others.

Orders must be submitted by April 12 with the final payment due April 19.

Orders must be picked up May 6 at the Livingston County Highway Department Garage, 4389 Gypsy Lane, Mount Morris.

For an order form, visit <http://celivingstoncounty.org/resources/2021-flower-order-form>.

For more information, contact Mark via email to mjw16@cornell.edu or call (585) 991-5441.

PLANT CARE

How to prune Rhododendrons

SPECIAL TO THE LCN
 Soon after blooms have faded, pinch off the soft spur holding the flowers. This encourages development of leaf buds which produce new growth and flower buds for next year.

To shape rhododendrons, prune a little at a time, several times throughout the summer. Cut just above a node or fork where dormant buds are formed. Immediately remove branches which are dead or have wilted leaves.

Do not prune more than one-third of the plant in one season.

will be affected the following year. If plants are leggy or straggly, drastic pruning may be necessary with the sacrifice of the next year's bloom. This is done in late winter before growth starts.

The stems can be cut back to one to two feet to encourage new growth and sprouts which will produce a more attractively bushy plant.

On grafted varieties, do not allow shoots to develop below the graft since they may produce inferior flowers and compete with the grafted top.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Safety fair coming up

SPECIAL TO THE LCN
 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County will host the annual Livingston County Safety & Wellness Fair at noon May 15 on the county's Murray Hill Campus on Murray Hill Drive in Mount Morris.

The event will feature organizations and businesses sharing health and safety information, interactive activities for all ages, a silent auction and scavenger

hunt with prizes.

The fair will also include an awards ceremony for the "Safety on Wheels" contest presented by the CCE's Traffic Safety Program. The coloring and writing competition focuses on bicycle, helmet and seat belt safety. Admission to the fair is free and open to the public.

Those attending will be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Extension traffic safety program receives donation for safety seats

By Ben Beagle
ben@livingstonnews.com
Mar 15, 2021



Metro Creative Connection Choosing an appropriate car seat and installing it correctly is critical in keeping children safe when traveling in vehicles.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County Traffic Safety Education Program has received a \$5,000 donation from AAA.com of Western NY. The gift will be used to purchase child passenger safety seats.

"Keeping all children in vehicles safe is our primary goal," said Traffic Safety Educator Barb Stumm. "This generous donation from AAA.com of Western NY will allow us to purchase approximately 70-75 additional child passenger seats for families in need, and comes at a critical time when so many families are struggling."

The Traffic Safety Education Program has seen an increase in requests for child passenger safety seats during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Many of the families that our program serves are experiencing financial hardship. With the added impact of COVID-19, many are for the first time finding themselves in the difficult position of falling short of being able to cover the basic needs for their family, let alone the burden of trying to stretch their limited dollars even further to purchase a child seat in order to keep their child safe," said Stumm.

The donation will allow the Traffic Safety Program to extend its reach to additional families, Stumm said.

Choosing an appropriate car seat and installing it correctly is critical in keeping children safe when traveling in vehicles.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states that car crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13. The NHTSA's General Estimates System states that, in 2016, 394 children age 5 or younger died in car crashes. However, in that same year, 328 were saved by using car seats.

The laws, seats, and anchoring systems in vehicles are constantly changing and many parents find it helpful to get professional assistance for installing or checking the installation of child safety seats.

Parents and caregivers can contact the CCE Livingston County Traffic Safety Education Program to arrange for a one-to-one child passenger seat inspection and education from a certified CPS technician. The sessions are COVID safety measures compliant.

Parents or guardians must meet income eligibility guidelines to receive a child passenger seat through the CCE Livingston County Traffic Safety Education Program.

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County or the Traffic Safety Education Program, visit the CCE Livingston County website at www.ccelivingstoncounty.org, follow us on Facebook, or email Barb Stumm at trafficsafetycce@cornell.edu or bbs28@cornell.edu.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

4-H Teen Council creates blankets for foster care program

4-H Teen Council donates blankets

Special to The LCN
Jun 3, 2021



Livingston County 4-H Photograph Isabelle Dennis was among the Livingston County 4-H members who helped make blankets for the Livingston County Foster Care Program.

Five members of Livingston County 4-H Teen Council donated 24 fleece tie blankets to the Livingston County Foster Care Program.

Teen Council members chose the community service project last fall at the suggestion of 4-H member Molly Milliken.

"I chose this project because I really enjoy making these types of blankets and I know that a lot of kids enter foster care with very little," she said. "I also figured that if there was some way we could help kids in what is probably one of the hardest moments of their lives - we should at least try!"

4-H Educator Renee Hopkins said, "Teen Council members are often encouraged to create community service projects that are meaningful to them. By observing the needs in their environment, and making a plan to help, they not only give back to the community, but learn and practice a great deal of leadership in the process."

The donation also included children's books from the Livonia Public Library. Teen Council members contacted library staff to see if they would be willing to donate some of the children's books typically reserved for their used book sale.

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To learn more about the Livingston County 4-H Program, or Teen Council specifically, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County at (585) 991-5420 or (585) 335-1752 or livingston@cornell.edu.

LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN



Master Gardener Julie Brocklehurst-Woods has planted daffodils in a garden bed shared primarily with daylilies.

Creating an easy, sunny border

Bulbs are the star performers in my garden right now, I'm glad I add some each year.

Daffodils are generally my favorite, though I often have strong feelings about whatever is in bloom.

A sunny mixed border of daylilies and daffodils fits in this category.

Both of these plants are easy-care, not needing a lot of fussing nor the rich moist soil many plants seem to need in order to flourish. Early daffodils will bloom nicely before tree leaves emerge in an area usually shaded by a tree. I don't water this bed; it does pretty well with just natural rainfall.

The daylilies should be planted on the front edge of your border, with the daffodils back at least a foot behind the centers of the

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

daylilies. As the taller daylily leaves emerge, they will cover up the all-too-persistent foliage of the daffodils. Spring is a good time to remove any weeds. The daylily foliage will help shade out emerging weeds. Three inches of mulch will further reduce weeds and preserve moisture.

Depending on your available space and interest, a variety of daffodils will bloom for at least two months, generally April and May. They are sold as early, mid- or late season bulbs. I have all three bloom times,

but find myself adding more early-season varieties, since I have fewer perennials in bloom at that time.

When I plant daffodils, I like to plant bouquets by placing three bulbs around the edges of a large hole, with 3 to 4 inches between bulbs.

Daylilies also have varied bloom times: beginning in June, peaking in July, and continuing at least through August. Some reblooming varieties will bloom in both June and late August/September, and some long-blooming varieties will produce blossoms for several weeks.

A few fall perennials like asters or chrysanthemums along with a little ornamental grass will complete the season for this garden.

Livingston County has an excellent resource for daylilies: QB Daylily Gardens on Sand Hill Road in Caledonia. In order to plant a long-bloom daylily garden, you could make three trips

to their acre of daylily gardens: the first week in July, late-July, and mid-August. At these times you can make selections from plants blooming in their field of daylilies. They will dig up your selections, you will pay and take them home. Plant them right away and they will continue blooming in your yard. These plants are larger and more affordably priced than plants you will find online or at garden centers.

There is also a daylily garden closer to Lake Ontario, in Medina, called Cottage Gardens. They grow more than 4,000 registered daylilies, but I haven't visited there – yet.

Julie Brocklehurst-Woods has been a Master Gardener Volunteer with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County since 2002. She enjoys helping all gardeners become successful gardeners, especially helping people identify tools and strategies to prioritize and simplify their gardening tasks. She will answer gardening questions by email: JulieBW4@gmail.com.



Don't use your foot to pack soil, and other spring planting tips

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

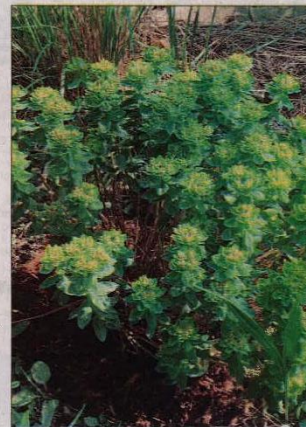
I've been writing this column for several years. I'm guessing eight or nine. My readers often read about my personal gardening thoughts and experiences. A comment I often hear is, "I'm not really a gardener, but I enjoy reading your stories."

I do value new ideas and thinking in my life, and have wondered how I might present a broader gardening perspective than my own.

My goal is always to help gardeners feel more successful in their gardening. One resource I have mentioned several times is the non-profit website, GoodGardeningVideos.org. I will be leaning on this content in a more specific manner today, and perhaps occasionally in the future.

May and June are popular times for planting annuals and perennials. Late summer, including late August and early September, also work well. Many gardeners prefer to do their gardening in spring, when garden centers have their best selection and our spring enthusiasm is running high.

Planting annuals and perennials are similar, though many annuals are smaller, and will require



Master Gardener columnist Julie Brocklehurst-Woods says she recently transplanted this Cushion Spurge from a friend's garden. The plant resists deer damage, blooms for several weeks, grows well in part shade, and coordinates well with spring bulbs.

more consistent watering. Both require some homework to make sure the plant is appropriate for the site.

Some videos mention soil amendments, but current research focuses on choosing plants that will grow well in your existing soil.

Adding enriched soil encourages roots to remain in the planting hole instead of spreading out, leading to longer-term decline. It's important that plant roots be surrounded with crumbly soil, which they can

penetrate easily. Never use your foot to pack down the soil. Watering will make sure the soil settles around the roots. Surround the plant with mulch to preserve moisture.

The three videos I watched, by Kristen Schlietel, Lucy Summers, and Tagawa Gardens, all illustrated this process well. To locate these videos, I scrolled down the Home Screen until I saw "How-to Videos for Spring," then a collage photo labeled "Best videos on planting trees, shrubs

and Perennials." Other current seasonal categories include Pruning, Enlightened Lawn Care, Creating a Vegetable Garden, and Five Great Vegetable-Growing Channels on YouTube.

In the spring videos section, I enjoyed the information on "Enlightened Lawn Care in the Spring." Instead of promoting four-step products for perfect grass lawns, simpler practices are encouraged including fertilization only around Labor Day; fertilize by leaving chopped clippings on the lawn; and mix grass seed with potting soil or compost when applying, for improved water retention and germination.

I like their comment, "The best lawn care for the environment is NOT doing nothing. Bare soil causes erosion, lawns that are thick and healthy provide the most eco-services, like retaining stormwater."

This site also includes videos on more traditional lawn care practices, under "Lawn Care."

All of the videos on this site have been carefully selected for accurate and concise content. It's possible that readers may find information on additional topics that will make their gardening efforts more successful.

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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN

Home & Garden

Consider irises for sunny border beds

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

I've recently been admiring irises, the ruffled petals and fuzzy beard in many colors are gorgeous. German bearded irises, often lavender colored, are most common, but there are several iris groups. Most of these flowers are delicate, not lasting long in a vase. But they aren't too difficult to grow, so they are worth including in a mixed sunny border.

Bearded German Iris (Iris germanica) leaves grow directly from an enlarged root, called a rhizome. It grows best in a sunny fairly dry spot, not in rich moist soil. It only needs to be watered once or twice – immediately after planting – to settle soil in around the roots. The roots need to be buried, but the fat rhizome stays mostly on top of the soil. It likes its back warmed by the sun, advice often shared for this plant. I find this grows best in a slightly inclined spot, so water runs off easily. Too much water softens the rhizomes, creating an attractive home for the iris borer caterpillar.

Every time we have a longer rainy period in spring or summer, my iris are attacked by these borers. The most effective remedy is to dig up the iris, cut out the stinky damaged area, and re-plant. I recently read about using a biological control, Spinosad, and I will probably try it next time I notice the brown, streaked leaves that indicate their presence. It is absorbed by the iris leaves, and kills the borers when they feed on this plant.

I enjoy growing the shorter and earlier-blooming German iris near my front sidewalk. These cuties have never been bothered by borers.

Siberian iris (Iris sibirica) are also easy to grow. While they are considered drought tolerant, they bloom best with more moisture and richer soil than German iris. The blossoms



A German Bearded Iris from Master Gardener columnist Julie Brocklehurst-Woods' garden. The beard is located in the center of the lower petals.

are a little smaller and earlier than their German relatives, with blue and purple colors, accented with golden yellow, being most common. Buyers may be able to find them in pink, white and yellow. I have some nice blue ones growing along my garage downspout. If you can obtain tetraploid plants from a grower or quality online vendor, they will last much longer in a vase. This foliage looks much nicer throughout the summer than the German varieties.

Japanese Iris (Iris ensata) is sometimes called the water iris, and can offer spectacular blossoms quite different from other iris types. I don't remember seeing them often

in the many gardens I visit. The blossoms are ruffy and spread out flatter, like the upturned palm of your hand. They grow well in very moist soil, including a pond. Most varieties in this group aren't hardy in this area, so it would make sense to keep them in a pot that is brought indoors for the winter.

Iris pseudacorus, often called yellow flag iris, is another water-loving iris that grows naturally in our environment. Sadly, it is invasive and able to out-compete cattails, bulrushes and many other native plants.

The colorful Dutch iris (Iris hollandica) grow from bulbs, unlike other iris. They have

shorter lives and new bulbs usually need to be planted each fall. They are worth growing because they last much longer in a vase. A gardening friend mentioned that these grow better in her vegetable garden area, where I imagine they have richer soil and more regular water provided.

Julie Brocklehurst-Woods has been a Master Gardener Volunteer with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County since 2002. She enjoys helping all gardeners become successful gardeners, especially helping people identify tools and strategies to prioritize and simplify their gardening tasks. She will answer gardening questions by email: JulieBW48@gmail.com.

Livingston County News

Thursday, July 29, 2021 A7

Home and Garden

Planning for a new garden

It always brings me joy to talk about gardens of all kinds, and especially help plan new gardens. I'm not a landscape designer, but I believe I have enough plant and garden management knowledge to contribute to this kind of conversation. I recently had the experience of meeting with Sue Erdle, Supervisor for the Town of West Sparta, to discuss a garden behind their Town Hall.

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I enjoyed seeing this newer building for the first time. The entrance plantings were attractive and well-maintained, with an old millstone as a focal point. Sue explained that historically there were numerous mills in this area, not only for grain, but also for wool, when water was the main source of power. Inside there were several photo displays chronicling the history of this town.

The garden area was larger than I expected. A crabapple tree and two lovely daylily plants had been already planted in memory of Dave Palmer, who served in many roles for this town, including Town Historian. The back door area, with an attractive ramp, overlooks the garden area and is sometimes used to make announcements.

My suggestion was to install some paths before undertaking significant planting. All gardens larger than 2-3 foot boundary or foundation plantings need paths consisting of at least stepping stones for maintenance access. Dividing the garden into sections with paths makes planning, planting and maintaining the area easier. Sue thought that farmers and other



Purple Coneflowers and Blazing Star may be included in a memory garden behind West Sparta Town Hall.

town residents might get involved with this project by bringing flat rocks to the town hall to use for this purpose.

Once paths are available, the garden could be planted in sections, with each section containing a single variety of plant. Flowering plants including Brown-Eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Tuberous Milkweed, Gayfeather, and Fireworks Goldenrod were discussed; these plants that are considered native to this area, so would support pollinators. Yarrow could be added to this collection. A couple of

possible shrubs might be Ninebark and Red Twig Dogwood.

Planting in sections containing just one plant species will facilitate both planting and maintenance. Since all plants are identical within an area, weeds are easier to identify within that area. If a plant doesn't match most of the plants growing there, pull it out! This will make it easier for less knowledgeable gardeners to assist in maintaining this garden.

We also discussed including daylilies, perhaps a long row of them below the entrance/



Julie Brocklehurst-Woods/Special to The LCN

Daylilies including this Fragrant Treasure can also attract pollinators.

speaking platform. While the individual blossoms last one day, different varieties bloom from June to September, so several well-planned varieties can provide blooms over 2-3 months. Some donations have already been received for this garden, and more would be welcomed.

I love how this garden will enhance the Town Hall property, a place that brings this community together. A picnic pavilion, and a pond with a nature trail are also available for use by its citizens. Music in the Park, a series of summer concerts, is being held there this year.

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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN



A backhoe breaks up compacted soil as part of a research project undertaken by the Cornell School of Horticulture.

‘Scoop and Dump’ is a means to improve soil

Landscaping design is a broad topic. It is often used to describe which plants should be used in various areas of a landscape, and which plants should be planted together. It also can be used to describe landscape installation, including walkways and walls. Sometimes the landscaping is altered by adding soil, or changing the drainage.

I have no plans to become a landscape designer, but the presentations I heard over the past two years in a Landscape Design course I just completed certainly added to my knowledge base. The textbook used for this course, “Thousands of the Land” (Alino, deVeer, Carpenter), was used to guide and reduce overlap in presentation topics. It has been a great resource for understanding the breadth and depth of details of site work. This course was sponsored by Federalist Garden Club of New York State.



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

One of the many topics addressed in this course was improving soil. Home gardeners can improve their soil by adding compost and mulch, by purchasing quality topsoil, or by covering an area with a foot of landscape wood chips. After a year, the wood chips can be pushed aside for planting.

The Director of the Gardens from Cornell University Dan Schiel spoke to us regarding approaches they are using to manage this large landscape. Less mowing, supporting bees and birds, bioactive soils designed for filtering and absorbing parking lot run-off water, and more casual planting are all tools on campus.

The Cornell School of Horticulture is conducting research on various sites they are calling Scoop and Dump Soil Installation. This approach is being used to improve compacted soil following construction, use for parking, and other activities creating severe compaction.

The basic procedure for this soil improvement system includes planting eight inches

of compost on the soil surface, then using a backhoe bucket to dig the area to a depth of 18 inches. At each bucket load of soil is dumped back on the ground, it is broken to break the chunks into smaller pieces, and to mix in the compost. If there are still lots of large soil chunks after the backhoe work is done, the area can be re-tooled to a depth of 8 inches. The area must continue to be heavily mulched each year to maintain the soil activity begun by this process.

Currently, landscapers often remove existing soil and replace it with better soil. The problem is that plants often don't grow much beyond the boundaries of the new soil, limiting the depth and sometimes the width of their root system. Improving the existing soil, and selecting plants that will thrive in your own improved soil, will enable healthier plants.

This soil improvement system could easily be incorporated as a finishing step in new home construction. It is fairly common for new home builders to place a couple inches of topsoil over compacted soil, resulting in new



Plants in pots are waiting for the Genesee Garden Club plant sale scheduled for later this month.

Take care of tender plants

Warmer weather is arriving, and May is a busy month for gardeners. I am carefully watching the forecasts on weather.com for the upcoming 10 days. I believe we are done with freezing weather, but frost continues to be a possibility through at least the middle of this month.

On the last weekend of April I already noticed road side stands offering tender flower baskets and tomato plants. It's nice to buy early for the best selection, but only if you have a safe place to store these plants when temperatures drop. My unheated garage serves this purpose, since it's usually 10 degrees warmer than outdoors at this time of year. Using sheets to cover the ground plants is also an option, securing the edges to contain the warmth of the ground.

Once you bring home tender plants, it is best to

without temperatures will stay in the 40s. I then move them out into shade right next to my house, and a couple days later move them further away from the house, gradually into more sun. I spread this process over a couple of weeks.

There are winter plants that do fine in cooler weather, and will even tolerate frost and/or freeze. I bought a basket of pansies about April 1, and they have done just fine on my patio in below-freezing temperatures. The much bigger problem for me are the squiggly and chipmunk-like love bugs in the soil potting soil.

May is the perfect time to plant perennials, which will tolerate a frost or freeze. Garden centers have opened, and the spring weather is perfect for getting plants established in the garden, before it gets too hot. The soil is generally dry enough to work, though individual sites do vary. It is



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

also time to take photos of your gardens that may be culled with more spring bulbs. Refer to these photos when you place your bulb order this summer.

I have made a few purchases, but the Genesee Garden Club plant sale is coming up, so I have been busy poring up plants for this event. We had to cancel last year, but this year we will again be offering burgundy-petal perennials. It will be held on May 22, in Gateway Park, across from Wegmans. It starts at 9 a.m., and goes until 11 a.m. or plants sell out. Please wear a mask and stay distant from other shoppers.

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Home & Garden

Get ready for another busy gardening season



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

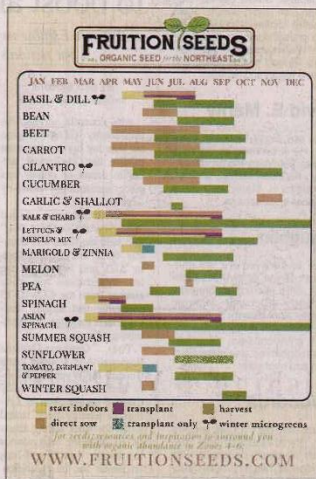
Have you selected seeds yet for your vegetable garden? If you enjoy going to the store to do this, the chart accompanying this article may make your choices much easier. The chart includes planting time ranges, timing for transplanting seedlings grown indoors, and harvesting times. It's getting late to order seeds from a catalog: I'm hearing that this will be another crazy busy gardening season, like last year.

Plants are as different as people, each has their own needs. Sometimes I read articles on vegetable gardening that overlook this fact, and make it sound easier than it is. Buying seeds, online or at a store, can be overwhelming with so many choices available, and uncertain timelines for planting.

The accompanying chart from Fruition Seeds in Naples, Ontario County, includes the most common vegetables, and a couple of flowers.

Plants I highly recommend growing include spinach or lettuce, Swiss chard, edible pod peas, tomatoes, butternut and zucchini squash, beets, short carrots, and green beans. Planting a couple of easy flowers makes the vegetable garden so much more attractive! All of these are pretty easy to grow without many problems.

You can find this chart online by searching for “Fruition Seeds planting calendar.” The color coding



FRUITION SEEDS GRAPHIC

A guide to the best times of the year to start certain types of seeds.

used will likely be more visible online.

Some people may plant their garden later than the optimal time. Spinach, lettuce, peas, beets, broccoli are all examples of cool season vegetables. It is fine to plant them by the end of April; now is probably a good time because we had warmer than usual weather in March. Soil temperature should be 50 degrees or above. Beets and Swiss chard will grow all summer, but the others in this group will not survive hot weather.

Warm season plants including tomatoes, cucumbers will be killed by frost, so they shouldn't be planted before late May. Many seeds, including beans and squash, will rot in cold soil,

Little Lakes Center hosts GARDENING WORKSHOPS

HEMLOCK — Petra Page-Mann, of Fruition Seeds in Naples, will share the keys to surrounding yourself and your community with abundant gardens for generations to come during an April 15 presentation at the Little Lakes Community Center, 4705 South Main St.

The program, “7 Keys to Resilient Gardening in a Changing Climate,” is scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. April 15.

With the right attention, techniques, timing and seeds, gardens will continue to provide beauty and abundance even as seasons grow more unpredictable, says Page-Mann, a lifelong gardener of the Finger Lakes.

Fruition Seeds will be available for purchase by in-person participants. Registration, due by April 14, is \$30. To register, for in-person or participation via the Zoom video platform, go to www.littlelakes.org.

—Special to The LCN

and soybean meal are two nitrogen choices you may want to consider, which also will improve your soil.

If you are interested in starting seeds indoors, Fruition Seeds is still offering their free online “seed starting academy,” a free seed-starting e-book on its website, <https://www.fruitionseeds.com/>.

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Yellow Calendula is seen growing in dappled shade. Calendula flowers are particularly good for growing in shady areas.

Shade plantings provide varied tapestry of shapes and colors

The middle of summer often isn't usually a great time for planting due to high heat and dry soil. This year has recently offered some wet weather, which has provided me with an opportunity to plant a dry shady area in my front yard that has needed some attention for awhile.

A couple of weeks ago I watered this area well with our sprinkler, and dug out some aluminum bubble that had become too crowded.

I have several varieties of plants in this dry shade area near my front door. I am adding more Coral Bells (Heuchera) in a different color, and more variegated Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium). I have also included a few annual Calendula flowers like water in a spot that gets some dappled sun. The perennial geranium (Cranesbill) has provided flowers in this bed all summer long.

When we moved into this home 16 years ago, this was a sunny area, which I planted with sun-loving plants including roses and daisies. I also placed a tree, to shade this southwest corner of our house. The tree grows larger each year, the shade increases, and I need to adjust the plantings. The rocks from two trees spread into this area, making the soil quite dry. I already have a couple varieties of coral bells, but this time I chose the new colors of the variety 'Caramel'. This is a vigorous plant, with leaves that emerge greenish, then mature to golden yellow-green. This plant does best in soil that dries out between waterings, though it needs steady water for at least a couple weeks after planting to help get established at their new home. The pale pink flowers ooze

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

this plant emerge in early summer, later than most coral bells varieties.

Caramel is one of the best coral bells varieties according to horticulturist Alan Armitage. I refer regularly to his app. Armitage's Great Garden Plants when making plant selections. It is a vigorous plant, much more likely to survive the winter than some of the less vigorous varieties. Those with the attractive lime green foliage tend to be less vigorous.

The shallow roots of coral bells are often heaved out of the ground by winter freeze-thaw cycles. To reduce this problem, a couple of inches of additional mulch should be placed around them in fall.

As mentioned, I will also be putting in two additional plants from a variegated Jacob's Ladder plant called 'Ragway to Heaven'. This tough native rainier plant with fern-like foliage produces fragrant blue flowers in spring. It does best in shade and tolerates dry soil.

Additional plants in this bed include the lovely groundcover 'epimedium' (Bishop's Hat), a couple of Japanese Painted Ferns, and several varieties of Cranesbill. This provides a 'red' tapestry of shapes and colors, offering vibrant blue/white



Coral Bells (Heuchera) Caramel is one of the best coral bell varieties and is good for growing in shady areas.

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A guide to wet weather gardening

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

We have had a lot of rain recently, this is not news to gardeners. My garden beds are looking lush, and I've adapted to working in a wet summer environment.

I keep a couple of large containers on my patio to collect rain water, which is more convenient and perhaps more beneficial for my plants. In order to prevent a breeding spot for mosquitoes, I add a some Mosquito Bits to the container. This pesticide is a biological control, containing the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which is toxic to insect larvae but harmless to mammals.

The newer mosquito repellent containing Picaridin is also kept handy next to my patio door. I appreciate that it is not sticky, and odor-free. Data has demonstrated that it is just as effective as the long-time favorite product, DEET, in repelling both mosquitoes and ticks. DEET has produced skin irritation in some users, and will damage plastic and some synthetic materials including spandex, rayon and vinyl. Picaridin is a synthetic substance, manufactured from a plant in the same genus as table pepper.

My new Dryshod waterproof shoes are also being used often. I've had Muck Boots for maybe 20 years, but in summer I often just used an old pair of shoes for occasional wetter days. Someone at a recent Genesee Garden Club meeting mentioned that these shoes purchased at a local feed store were excellent. They fit comfortably over my bunions, and the insoles are removable so in can use my foot orthotics. Perfect.

The moist soil has enabled me to continue adapting my gardens to changing conditions. I removed a peony that was plagued by powdery mildew each summer. Many newer varieties are less prone to this condition. I've replaced the peony with some tea-balm, which was trampled to death last winter in a different location as a dead tree was removed. I still have

at least a dozen peony plants, which is plenty.

Mulching and edging are tasks I've also been tackling. I don't mulch in many places in spring because of all the spring bulbs in my gardens. As the bulbs die back, expanding plants somewhat fill the space, but there are areas that look best if covered with mulch when the bulbs are done. It can easily be into summer before I get around to this, but usually mulch lasts a year, so the ground isn't bare. Some of my need for mulch is addressed in the fall, when I apply mulched leaves. Mulching is a more manageable task because I'm not trying to get it done all at once.

Recently occurred to me that my edging might need to be done less frequently if I mulched the cleared edges of my garden beds. Two years ago I hired a landscaper to create ditch edging around my property, which I then filled with mulch. This feature has reduced the amount of time I spend on this task. Some of the original mulch has decomposed, so as I clean up the edges, I am restoring the mulch to its original level.



Fresh edging shows off daylily blossoms.

JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS

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https://www.thelcn.com/lifestyles/master-gardener-now-is-good-time-to-tend-to-houseplants/article_9a789105-8155-5af2-b577-edb026d515e7.html

Master Gardener: Now is good time to tend to houseplants

By Julie Brocklehurst-Woods
Master Gardener
Mar 27, 2021



Julie Brocklehurst-Woods/Special to The LCN This photo includes four different cane begonias.

This is the time of year to begin planting some seeds. I like to wait until April 1 to start seeds for tomatoes and other warm season vegetables and flowers, but I've already planted some cool season plants in containers, then covered and placed them in the sunny window of my unheated garage. This approach is called winter sowing, which I have written about previously. Seed starting times vary, so it is best to do an internet search on your specific seed.

This time window for me is optimal for tending to my houseplants. It's a good time to take cuttings to root for new plants, and also a great time to re-pot. I have some rooted cuttings I took last year that I will soon group together in bigger pots, for an improved presence.

My favorite plants over this pandemic winter have been my cane begonias. These plants grow on long bamboo-like stems, most often with wing-shaped leaves, with many of them informally called angel-wing begonias. They are much less fussy than the Rex and other tuberous begonias that I grew indoors a few years ago, and hardly seem related at all to the small wax begonias that are used as bedding plants for shade, except for the similar flower. Other potted begonias require evenly moist soil, but these like to dry out more between waterings.

I bought a small cane begonia a few years ago on a whim at a plant sale. It has an attractive silver-spotted leaf, and has survived a lot of neglect. I've taken numerous cuttings, and even planted some near my front door one summer. It didn't thrive but survived in this dry location, so there were no blossoms but the leaves carried on. Cane begonias root quite easily from stem cuttings, though not from individual leaves.

This fall I decided I wanted a few more canes to nurture over the winter. I could find a spot for a couple more plants. My sunny windows were full, but I could make room for plants that would accept bright window light. I thought I had hit the jackpot when I found a large cane begonia for six bucks at a garden center end-of-season sale. The leaves were plain green, but it was covered with blossoms. We enjoyed it for a month or two on our dining room table, then I found a spot on top of a file cabinet where it continued to produce sparse blossoms all winter. I will have numerous cuttings shortly when I cut back the leggy winter growth, to produce a full plant for outdoors.

In spite of this large plant, I wanted to grow some more cane begonia plants with attractive leaves, which I found on Etsy. I couldn't be happier. The leaves are quite large on the new plants. New leaves emerge in red, and remain red on the undersides. Although they look a little lanky, I'm not ready to cut them back yet.

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS

NEWS

4-H cake decorating series offers unique family-friendly opportunity

From News Reports

Published 9:09 p.m. ET Apr. 4, 2021

The Livingston County 4-H Program held a four-week remote cake decorating series that offered a unique opportunity for youth and parents to learn together.

Forty-six youth (ages 5-18) registered for the program. Each participant was provided with a kit that contained the 4-H Curriculum on decorating, a basic set of piping tips, couplers, a turntable, piping bags, and other related items.

With many parents learning alongside their children, the series turned into a wonderful family activity. In fact, interest was so great that the Livingston County 4-H Program received inquiries from the Syracuse-area and Tompkins and Orange Counties.

After first learning about tools and basic piping techniques, participants used royal icing to make air dry decorations for a future class and learned how to do the flood technique, creating beautifully decorated sugar cookies. In the third session, 4-H members learned to fill cupcakes and decorated them to create “monsters” using decorations from the previous week. The series concluded with participants using what they learned in the previous weeks to create a neatly frosted layer cake with a filling.

One youth participant said, “I really liked making the monster cupcakes and the different techniques for piping which helped inspire my final cake.”

Jennifer Simonetti, volunteer instructor throughout the series, effectively used two cameras to change perspective as needed (so everyone could see the demonstration).

“Activities around food are often well-received, so the idea of setting up a remote cake decorating series came together quickly,” said 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins. “By putting the tools in the hands of participants, the remote series seamlessly engaged our participants and resulted in a very engaging hands-on learning opportunity for kids and adults of all ages. In

addition, we were able to accommodate so many more youth than we would have if this series had been done in person.”

To learn more about the Livingston County 4-H Program, visit the CCE Livingston County website at www.ccelivingstoncounty.org or call 585-991-5420 | 585-335-1752. Enrollment for the 2020-2021 4-H Program Year is currently underway. Families can sign-up through June 1.

2A | THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021 | GENESEE COUNTY

Car seat check event Saturday in Dansville

The Express

DANSVILLE — Did you know correct use of a car seat can reduce the risk of death in a crash by up to 71%? Yet 90% of car seats are incorrectly used or installed.

A Car Seat Check Event is scheduled for Saturday, April 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dansville Ambulance, located at 18 Ossian St. in Dansville.

Free child car seat inspections and distribution of child safety seats to income-eligible families are available by appointment.

The event is being held by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Livingston County Traffic Safety Education Program.

To schedule an appointment, call 585-991-5432 or 585-335-1752, or email trafficsafetycce@cornell.edu

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS

NEWS

4-H Teen Council donates blankets to Foster Care Program

Teen Council members chose the community service project at the suggestion of 4-H member Molly Milliken

From News Reports

Published 5:47 a.m. ET Jun. 1, 2021

Five members of Livingston County 4-H Teen Council donated 24 fleece tie blankets to the Livingston County Foster Care Program.

Teen Council members chose the community service project last fall at the suggestion of 4-H member Molly Milliken.

“I chose this project because I really enjoy making these types of blankets and I know that a lot of kids enter foster care with very little,” she said. “I also figured that if there was some way we could help kids in what is probably one of the hardest moments of their lives - we should at least try!”

4-H Educator Renee Hopkins said, “Teen Council members are often encouraged to create community service projects that are meaningful to them. By observing the needs in their environment, and making a plan to help, they not only give back to the community, but learn and practice a great deal of leadership in the process.”

The donation also included children’s books from the Livonia Public Library. Teen Council members contacted library staff to see if they would be willing to donate some of the children’s books typically reserved for their used book sale.

The group, which gathered in March to put the blankets together, worked with Erin Fox from the Foster Care Program. She spoke with the 4-H members about the number of kids that come into the Foster Care Program and how a blanket and a book can be very comforting. She was thankful for the donation and noted that the blankets would be greatly appreciated by the kids.

To learn more about the Livingston County 4-H Program, or Teen Council specifically, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County at 585-991-5420 | 585-335-1752 or livingston@cornell.edu.

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS

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DANSVILLEONLINE.COM | THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021 | 5A



Five members of Livingston County 4-H Teen Council, including Isabelle Dennis, donated 24 fleece tie blankets to the Livingston County Foster Care Program. PROVIDED

4-H cake decorating series a hit

From News Reports

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"Activities around food are often well-received, so the idea of setting up a remote cake decorating series came together quickly," said 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins. "By putting the tools in the hands of participants,



Livingston County 4-Her Chaundacey Crane-Yackley shows off her cake. PROVIDED

the remote series seamlessly engaged our participants and resulted in a very engaging hands-on learning opportunity for kids and adults of all ages. In addition, we were able to accommodate so many more youth than we would have if this series had been done in person."

To learn more about the Livingston County 4-H Program, visit the CCE Livingston County website at www.ccelivingstoncounty.org or call 585-991-5420 | 585-335-1752. Enrollment for the 2020-2021 4-H Program Year is currently underway. Families can sign-up through June 1.

COUNTRY FOLKS

A18 • March 22, 2021

COUNTRY FOLKS WEST

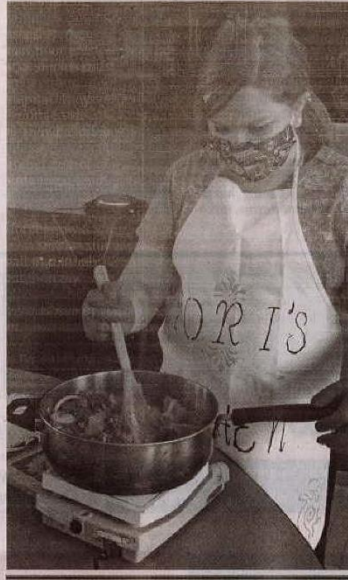
4-H Produced in New York Food Demonstration results

Livingston County was brimming with 29 talented 4-H members at the annual Produced in New York Food Demonstration event. Creative use of a NY ingredient was abundant, as 4-H members prepared a recipe in front of judges and answered questions from the judges and audience members.

This year's event took place both remotely and in-person in order to accommodate as many families as possible. Because the remote event was a new platform for participation, practice sessions were held for both judges and participants. It's important that evaluators see as much of the demonstration area as possible, so camera angles and organization of materials/supplies required more consideration than the in-person event.

The event offers a chance to learn about NY food products and demonstrate culinary skills. It also serves as a fun introduction to presenting in public. Since several 4-H members present at the same time, this event can help youth build confidence in a less stressful setting.

4-H Educator Renee Hopkins said, "We were so pleased to be able to offer options for participation this year. The remote event ran smoothly and offered youth even more problem-solving opportunities and a need to



Victoria Charlebois

think creatively on how best to set up their demonstration area."

One parent added, "The judges are so kind and supportive. It's just a great program and amazing confidence-builder - not to mention the best kind of distraction from quarantine."

Congratulations to presenters Eden Arnold, Julianna Braun, Marshall Braun, Rowyn Carter, Victoria Charlebois, Chaundacey Crane-Yackley, Audrey de Wit, Fiona Gelb, Kiara Gramkee, Alyssa Healy, Lilah Jonas, Aaron Lubberts, Cheyenne Lubberts, Brooke McGregor, Colten Potts, Courtney Potts, Howie Sexton, Lucy Sexton, Lily Sharp, Omolee Shutt, Reid Shutt and Emily Vattino.



Kiara Gramkee

Cloverbud presenters (ages 5-7) included Davin Carter, Reed Carter, Tucker Drum, Nathalie Gelb, Elizabeth Mensinger, Camden Sharp and Alexis Welsby.

Many thanks to our volunteer judges Pat Auinger, Peggy Auinger, Marci Frutkoff, Anna Macauley, Becky Minnich, Ron Niedermaier, Mary Ann Scharnberg, Sue Werner and Michelle Wolgast.

For more information about the Livingston County 4-H Program, contact CCE Livingston County at 585.991.5420 or 585.335.1752. Children can enroll in the 4-H program through June 1.



Alyssa Healy

Photos courtesy of Livingston County CCE

B14 • May 24, 2021

COUNTRY FOLKS WEST

2021 4-H Public Presentations results



Eden Arnold gave a presentation on zooskaping.



This year's Cloverbud participants included Tucker Drum.

The Livingston County 4-H Program held their annual Public Presentations event with 95 members participating. The goal of 4-H Public Presentations is to build a young person's public speaking skills and confidence speaking in front of a group. Participants choose a topic of interest and develop a three- to 15-minute presentation that they deliver in front of peers, adults and judges. Due to COVID-19, 4-H members were offered both an in-person speaking option with a small audience or a remote presentation, offering its own unique opportunities for growth.

This year's event featured a variety of topics, with many youth choosing to share information about a favorite athletic, hobby, sport or the perennial favorite—animals. The Impromptu Category, which is a wonderful option for teens who have participated in Public Presentations multiple times, saw growth this year. Teens choosing this category arrive not knowing what they're going to present. They choose randomly from a preselected group of objects or written prompts to spark their thoughtfulness. Youth have 15 minutes to prepare a short speech of at least three minutes in length that includes an interesting introduction, thorough body and a conclusion.

"I love the Impromptu Category as it's so relevant to future careers. At any time you could walk into work or a meeting and be asked to speak to the group unexpectedly on a given topic. Practicing Impromptu Speaking (also called Extemporaneous Speaking) allows you the chance to practice gathering thoughts and delivering them in a clear and logical way," shared 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins.

Congratulations to this year's participants: Eden Arnold, Eli Barrett, Victoria Charlebois, Jayden Coy, Chaundacey Crane-Yackley, Audrey de Wit, Rian de Wit, Cavan Dennis, Isabelle Dennis, Gianna Embesi, Lindsay Flick, Lily Garrity, Fiona Gelb, Kiara Gramkee, Alyssa Healy, Amara Jerome, Kanyia Jerome, Carly Lang, Aydan Low, Molly Milliken, Claire Paul, Katie Paul, Alexis Pfenninger, Howie Sexton, Lucy Sexton, Lily Sharp, Kenny Smith, Elijah Tanksley and Isaya Tankley.

This year's Cloverbud participants (ages 5-7) included Ariana Cook, Madeyla Coy, Tucker Drum, Talia Embesi, Nathalie Gelb and Camden Sharp.

Much of the benefit of the program is due to the constructive feedback from volunteer evaluators. They were Pat Auinger, Peggy Auinger, Beth Balon, Nita Hawkins, Tina Hayes, Margaret Linsner, Anna Macauley, Becky Minnich, Sue Werner and Mark Witmeyer.

The following 4-H members were chosen to represent Livingston County at the District event: Victoria Charlebois, Isabelle Dennis, Lindsay Flick, Lily Garrity, Fiona Gelb, Alyssa Healy, Aydan Low, Molly Milliken, Howie Sexton, Lucy Sexton and Lily Sharp.

For additional information on the Livingston County 4-H Program, contact Renee Hopkins at 585.991.5420.

585.335.1752 or rh443@cornell.edu. You can also visit celivingstoncounty.org.

COUNTRY FOLKS

Livingston County 4-H Program awards livestock scholarships

The Livingston County 4-H Program awarded Alyssa Healy and Brady Wood livestock project scholarships from the Bank of Castile.

The Bank of Castile annually commits scholarship money to deserving Livingston County 4-H members to help with the purchase of a 4-H beef, swine or lamb project animal. The application process includes four parts: 1) an essay explaining why the applicant is interested in the project; 2) a recommendation; 3) a knowledge test about the livestock industry, careers in agriculture, animal nutrition, genetics, showing and grooming; and 4) an interview with the selection committee.

Healy, a six-year member of Livingston County 4-H, was awarded a Bank of

Castile Sheep Scholarship in the amount of \$100. The scholarship will help her purchase her 4-H sheep project animal for the upcoming year.

She has previously completed projects in the Sheep, Teen Leadership, Arts & Crafts, Clothing & Textiles, Gardening, Nutrition and Wood Science project areas. She has also participated in the Livingston County 4-H Program Public Presentations Contest and Produced in New York food demonstrations.

Wood, a seven-year member of Livingston County 4-H, was awarded a Bank of Castile Swine Scholarship in the amount of \$100. The scholarship will help him purchase his 4-H swine project animal for the upcoming year.

He has previously completed projects in the Beef Cattle, Poultry, Swine, Nutrition, Photography and Arts & Crafts project areas. He has also participated in the Livingston County 4-H Program Public Presentations Contest.

4-H livestock projects present 4-H youth with a hands-on opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and life skills that are critical in the personal development of young people. Not only do they have the responsibility of caring for their project animal, but they also learn valuable business lessons such as financial recordkeeping, marketing and communication skills associated with selling their project animal, and providing a high quality food product to consumers.

Special thanks to the Bank of Castile for their continued sponsorship of the Livingston County 4-H Livestock Scholarship Program. The support provides deserving youth with an opportunity to raise and show a market animal that they may not otherwise have been able to buy. This shows a true commitment to agriculture and the 4-H Youth Development Program in Livingston County.

If you would like more information about the Livingston County 4-H Program, call 585.991.5441. Enrollment is currently underway. Families can join the Livingston County 4-H Program for \$15/child or \$40/family (three or more siblings). New member enrollment paperwork can be found online at www.ccelivingstoncounty.org.

GVPS & SHOPPER

2021 Livingston County 4-H Livestock Auction

Saturday, July 24th ~ Hemlock Fairgrounds ~ Buyers Reception: 12pm | Sale: 1pm

Interested in purchasing locally grown, quality 4-H beef, lamb, hog, or market birds? Contact CCE Livingston County at mjw16@cornell.edu.



Grand Champion Market Beef
Consignor: Faith Wood
Buyer: Howlett Farms

2020 CHAMPIONS

RESERVE CHAMPIONS:

MARKET BEEF
Consignor: Faith Wood
Buyer: Baldwin Business Services, LLC

MARKET HOG
Consignor: Emily Metz
Buyer: Burt's Lumber



RESERVE CHAMPIONS:

MARKET LAMB
Consignor: Lucy Sexton
Buyer: Edgewood Farms, LLC

MARKET BIRDS (PEN OF 2)
Consignor: Jackson Bennett
Buyer: Baldwin Business Services, LLC



Grand Champion Market Hog
Consignor: Ben Lyness
Buyer: Donnan Farms, Inc.



Grand Champion Market Birds (Pen of 2)
Consignor: Jordan Proctor
Buyer: Bugman & Sons, Inc.



Grand Champion Market Lamb
Consignor: Kerry Smith
Buyer: Stephen Werner

Thank You 2021 4-H Dairy & Livestock Program Sponsors

DIAMOND LEVEL
Genesee Construction Service, Inc.

PLATINUM LEVEL
Power & Construction Group
Roy Teltsworth, Inc.
Mulligan Farm, Inc.

GOLD LEVEL
Lamb & Webster, Inc. • Merrimac Farms, Inc. • Donnan Farms, Inc. • Edgewood Grain

SILVER LEVEL
Coyne Farms, Inc. • Lawnel Farms, Inc. • Davis Trailer World • Livingston County Farm Bureau - WNY Regional Office
Perry Veterinary Clinic, P.L.L.C. • Dairy Farmers of America • Knapp Farms • Margaret Graf Linsner, Esq.

BRONZE LEVEL
Lyle Sherman Hoof Trimming • Nunda Lumber & Hardware, Inc.

Through the 4-H market animal project, members learn how to manage, feed, and fit an animal to produce a high quality product for the consumer. The members learn business skills, such as financial management, marketing, and record keeping as they track profit/losses on the project.
Support from buyers is critical to the sustainability of this program.

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MOUNT MORRIS SHOPPER ★ SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021

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