

MONTHLY PUBLICITY

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2020

Livingston County News

Genesee Country Express

GV Penny Saver

Morning Ag Clips

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Thursday, September 10, 2020 A3

Extension plans hand sanitizer, mask distribution event

SPECIAL TO THE LCN

Cornell Cooperative extension has scheduled a third hand sanitizer and face mask distribution event for the local agricultural community in preparation for the fall and a possible second wave of the COVID-19 virus.

The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 29 in Mount Morris. The free event is limited to farmers, producers, and agriculture-related operations.

Sanitizer is available in one gallon pump and 2 oz. spray bottles. Participants can also receive washable, cloth face coverings. Quantities will be limited to 2 gallons, 20 spray bottles, and 20 face masks.

Participants are encouraged to pre-order by sending an email to livingston@cornell.edu. Pick-up will be done at the side entrance of the CCE Livingston County office. Those unable to attend should contact the CCE Livingston County office to make alternate arrangements.

Previous distribution events took place in May and July. From those events, a total of more than 1,100 two-ounce spray bottles, 95 one-gallon pump bottles, and 1,700 face coverings have been distributed.

The upcoming event also offers an opportunity to ask questions about COVID-19 or other agriculture-related concerns. As a part of New York Forward, all businesses are required to have a customized, written safety plan that details specifically how they will prevent and manage COVID-19.

CCE Livingston County said in a news release that it can be a resource for farmers, producers, and agriculture-related operations working to create safety plans.

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County, visit www.cceliv- ingstoncounty.org or call (585) 991-5420 or (585) 335-1752.

Hand sanitizer, mask distribution for ag workers set

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CCE Livingston County offers operational update

MOUNT MORRIS – Staff has returned to the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County office on a staggered schedule.

Staff continues to follow its Phase 2 NY Forward compliant reopening plan to help ensure the health and safety of staff and the community. When staff is not in the office, they will work remotely.

Should the public need to reach any staff member, visit

the Staff page of the organization's website, <http://cceliv- ingstoncounty.org/>, to find an email address. For less time-sensitive matters, call (585) 991-5420 or (585) 335-1752. Those needing to drop off paperwork should utilize one of the drop boxes - located at the back of the building and inside the front door. If there is a critical need to meet with a staff member, schedule an appointment.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Noyes Hospital to host car seat check

SPECIAL TO THE LCN

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County is resuming traffic safety programming after COVID-19 forced the cancellation of several events throughout the spring and summer.

Up next is a free car seat check, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 26 at Noyes Memorial Hospital, 111 Clara Barton St., Dansville. The check is open to anyone who transports children. To help ensure the safety of volunteers and participants, face masks will be required for everyone older than 2 years old. Social distancing protocols will also be in place.

The Car Seat Check will take place on National Seat Check Saturday – which is the culminating event for Child Passenger Safety

Week. Correctly used car seats can reduce the risk of death in a car accident by as much as 71%, yet more than half are not used or installed correctly, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Car Seat Checks give families an opportunity to have their child's car seat inspected, and to receive guidance from certified technicians on how and where to install the seat to maximize their child's safety. The child needs to be present in order for technicians to evaluate the car seat.

State law requires all children to be restrained in an appropriate Child Restraint System while riding in a motor vehicle, until they reach their 8th birthday.

All children under the age of 2

must ride in a rear-facing car seat. If a child outgrows the weight or height limit of the seat, then a convertible or all-in-one car seat should be used in the rear-facing position until the child outgrows the weight or height limit set by the car seat manufacturer.

Keep children in a forward-facing car seat with a harness as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat manufacturer. Use a belt positioning booster seat when the child's weight or height

is above the forward-facing limit for the car seat. Keep a child in a booster seat until the lap and shoulder belts fit properly, typically between 8 and 12 years old.

Children under age 16 must wear a properly fitted lap and shoulder belt.

Effective Nov. 1, , all motor vehicle passengers 16 and older must be restrained by a seat belt.

For information about child passenger safety and free community educational programs go to www.ccelivingstoncounty.org.

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CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PHOTOGRAPH

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County will distribute hand sanitizer and facemasks for area farms on Sept. 29.

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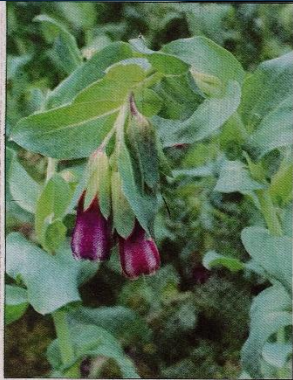
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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS/SPECIAL TO THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Honeysuckle features blue/grey foliage, with purple/pink bell flowers on the end. The flower is new to Master Gardener Julie Brocklehurst-Woods, who is harvesting the honeysuckle seeds for next year.



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS/SPECIAL TO THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Seeds come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and forms. These are seed heads and flowers on Clematis Tangutica, a climbing vine commonly called golden clematis.

Exploring ways to start plants from seeds

Seeds are amazing vessels for future plants. I enjoy collecting them at this time of year, when plants begin their path toward winter dormancy or demise. Usually I attend a seed swap in January, but that probably won't be held this winter, I imagine. I am still saving seeds because they are fascinating in all their forms, often beautiful, and I may encounter friends who want some.

Not all plants will grow from seeds. Many plants, such as roses, propagate much more easily from root or stem cuttings. Tissue culture is a newer propagation method used in labs for some plants.

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JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

dry and store tomato seeds for the following year. If the seeds are from a perennial plant, they can sometimes be planted outdoors right with the fruit.

I recently found a seed cluster from a Jack-in-the-pulpit plant, in the back corner of my yard. Often deer eat it, I thought the plant had permanently disappeared. Now I am reading up on growing these seeds into this lovely plant.

University sources will usually provide the highest quality, research-based

information, and I found a helpful article from the University of Michigan. I learned that I needed to separate the berries, then roll them gently on a paper towel to remove the moist part of the berry, then separate the multiple seeds within a berry. They then can be spread out in a garden area that stays fairly moist and shaded, watered in, and covered with a little leaf mulch.

With any luck I'll have some new seedlings in spring. The garden on the north side of my house retains the most moisture, so that's where I will plant them. I was surprised at the larger size of the seeds, only one or two per berry. Many of the berries in the cluster were small and withered, containing no viable seed, perhaps due to some longer dry spells this summer.

I have also been harvesting seeds for next year from a new-to-me annual flower, honeysuckle (Clematis). I love the blue/grey foliage,

with purple/pink bell flowers on the end. It's always buzzing with bees, and it did well in the part-shade raised bed next to my patio. The stems grow longer through the season, so seeds growing adjacent to the stem replace the spent flowers while the stem grows longer.

The seed has a very hard coat, so I soaked them overnight before planting indoors last winter. This isn't a common plant, so it would probably be difficult to find in garden centers. I'll be planting some of the seeds in the ground in early spring, and starting others indoors. I'm not sure yet which is the more reliable method for starting these seeds.

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.

Mix flowers with veggies to keep food-producing plots looking nice

My vegetable garden is quite close to the house. I have always tried to make it as attractive as possible since we view it often. This year, I included a lot of annual flowers, yet still grew a number of vegetables.

I love zinnias, and mention them often when I write. I frequently grow shorter ones in the sunny raised bed at the edge of our patio. This year the primary zinnia in this bed is Edwardian, which grows just over a foot tall, so it doesn't block my view. These are smaller button-type flowers, which work well in small bouquets. This bed also includes a couple of Profusion plants, maxing out at 12 inches.

In the vegetable garden I'm growing some tall varieties, up to 3 feet, including cactus-type and a variety called Macarenia. These varieties are tall but not wide, leaving plenty of space for my delicate squash vines to meander and find the sun it needs.

On the south (sunniest) side of my 4 foot-wide vegetable bed I planted a short row of green beans, plenty for fresh eating. I used a trellis on the north side to grow a red/white version of scarlet runner beans. The pods on these are edible when young, but I'm letting them grow to full size for use in soup. My hummingbirds love these blossoms.

I like to try something new in my vegetable garden each year, and this year it's ginger. I thought the starter tubers in February from

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

Fruition Seeds in Naples. They carefully shipped it during a few warmer days, so it wouldn't freeze. Ginger tubers take a long to grow their smaller roots, so I had to put them on a heat mat for March and April. In May, I divided this root mass into three chunks: two went into the garden, and one into a pot for comparison. All are doing well, and will provide plenty for the two of us. I'll probably save a piece to grow again next year.

I also grew 3-foot cosmos in my vegetable garden bed, and the goldfinches are loving the seeds. Like the zinnias, they have a pretty small footprint, so they share space with the vegetables well. Gomphrena Fireworks has also done well in my vegetable garden though it is wider than I'd like for this setting. Since the tomatoes and trellised beans are in this part of the garden, they are still receiving plenty of sun. Swiss chard, beets and carrots are doing fine on the west end of this garden.

I'll be keeping this con-



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS/SPECIAL TO THE LCN

Daylilies and phlox are some of the plants that surround Master Gardener columnist Julie Brocklehurst-Woods' vegetable garden.

cept in mind as I select flowers for my future vegetable gardens. Successful elements include planting flowers primarily on the north side, so they don't shade the vegetables; use of trellises on the north side to create more growing space; and selecting flowers that are tall but not too thirsty, so their roots don't use too much of the moisture needed by the vegetables. My long, narrow vegetable garden bed

runs east to west, so it is well-suited for this garden style.

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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN

A good time to transplant plants

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

Early fall is a great time to begin working on garden improvements for the coming year. It's a good time to transplant many but not all plants. If you have minimal time, at least take some photos and a few notes.

Plants that would prefer to stay undisturbed are those blooming right now, including ornamental grasses, Russian Sage, and Bluebeard (caryopteris). Tough plants like hostas and daylilies can be transplanted into November. Most trees and shrubs with their larger root systems are very successfully planted from pots in fall. It might be best to wait until spring to transplant larger shrubs which could sustain significant root loss.

I've been re-working the area containing my hardy succulents. While they have less-demanding watering needs in common, I found that their various growth forms didn't blend harmoniously. They shared a bed with herbs, limiting my options for re-arranging in that location.

My hens and chicks (*semperivivum*) have been moved to the end of my sunny peninsula bed, next to a mid-height ornamental grass. They will get full sun early in the season, but filtered shade in mid-summer. This is a tough plant I've seen growing on pavement, but they will all hopefully thrive under these conditions.

My creeping sedums (*stonecrops*) I previously relocated to the beds surrounding my vegetable garden. They crawl all over, so if different varieties mix themselves in a bed, no damage is done. The creeping sedums are 4 to 6 inches

tall.

Taller sedums including Autumn Joy have a new botanical name, *Hylotelephium* instead of *sedum*. Both names seem to be currently used online, but the older term could fade over time. There is a newer plant called Autumn Fire that my online friends are enjoying. The stems are stronger, and the flowers more intense than Autumn Joy. In this taller (15 to 18 inches) category, I'm looking around for varieties with colorful stems and contrasting leaves.

My favorite group of sedums might be the ones that form mounds. I've been happy with the plants I've purchased from the Sun Spakler series including *Line Zinger*, *Dazzleberry*, and *Firecracker*. This group was developed with greater emphasis on foliage, which gives color all season long. *Sedum Blue Carpet* is another mounding favorite. It is slower-growing than some of the others, and forms a nice tight mound not penetrated by weeds. I'm using a sedum called baby tears to fill in some spaces between mounding plants. It's tough in spite of its tiny leaves.

My favorite hardy succulent is from an entirely different group of plants: *Chinese Dance Cap* (*Orostachys malacophylla* *iwagirege*). This common name is based on its habit of forming a flower stem from the center of mature rosettes. The rosettes will die after blooming, but will produce plentiful seeds for future plants in the spring. Smaller rosettes will survive our winter in the ground. I've had great success potting up the plants from the garden in spring, growing lots of new rosettes in pots, then putting them in the ground as blooms decline in fall.

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A6 Tuesday, October 22, 2009

Home & Garden

Mulched leaves can help your yard and gardens

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

It's that time of year again, more colorful than gardens full of flowers in bloom. Each day brings new intensity. The leaf colors creep toward us from colder regions until we are engulfed.

What happens after that is less exciting: cleaning up the fallen leaves. The clean-up takes time, and can be physically taxing. But including mulch mowing in your clean-up routine can take less effort and is better for the environment.

Michigan State is the Cooperative Extension hub of research on leaves. They are big advocates of mulch mowing leaves directly into your lawn. Most current mowers have the mulching option available. If you don't have the mulching equipment, you will need to mow over the leaves more times. Mowing, even repeated mowing, is far easier than raking and bagging leaves for most people.

You do need to mow more frequently than grass height demands to chop the leaves up. The pieces should be reduced to about the size of a dime. Mulch mowing leaves into your lawn reduces the amount of nitrogen fertilizer you need to apply. The grass will grow thicker, and weeds, especially dandelions, will be reduced.

In some villages you can rake piles of leaves to the curb, to be hauled away. But this creates problems with clogged storm drains and heavy phosphorus run-off. A recent study by the University of Minnesota found that up to 60 percent of damage to urban lakes caused by excess nutrients (phosphorus) is a result of leaf litter decomposition. In nature, leaves decay and the phospho-



A Tiger Eye Sumac is seen in full glory. Each autumn day brings new intensity to the color of the leaves, but eventually those leaves will need to be cleaned up.

rus is able to return to the soil and be reused by plants. In communities, on hard surfaces such as driveways and streets, the phosphorus is unable to return to the soil and instead washes away with the rain.

Michigan State research has demonstrated that up to 6 inches of dry leaves can be mowed into a lawn at a time, but you have to make sure the particles get small enough. Within a few days you should see significant grass blades peeking through. Anyone uncomfortable with mowing that quantity could collect the top layer to reduce the volume.

Vegetable and flower gardens can accommodate larger particle size than grass. I use a push mower with a bagger attachment to collect leaves for my garden beds. Smaller leaves such as those from my ginkgo tree don't get bagged at all. I spread them daily on my perennial beds. I keep my perennial beds pretty full with bulbs and plants, so there isn't much space for mulch beyond the leaf leaves, and the soil is great.

My fence vegetable garden is covered by several inches of leaves over the winter, which I pull aside in early spring to

allow the soil to dry. Partially decomposed leaves then get spread back in the garden around the end of June.

I enjoy hearing from people who have embraced mulch mowing practices, or have questions about mowing in this direction. My email is at the end of each column.

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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN

Master Gardener: Exploring ways to start plants from seeds

By Julie Brocklehurst-Woods
Master Gardener
Sep 26, 2020



Julie Brocklehurst-Woods/Special to The Livingston County NewsHoneywort features blue/grey foliage, with purple/pink bell flowers on the end. The flower is new to Master Gardener Julie Brocklehurst-Woods, who is harvesting the honeywort seeds for next year.

Seeds are amazing vessels for future plants. I enjoy collecting them at this time of year, when plants begin their path toward winter dormancy or demise. Usually I attend a seed swap in January, but that probably won't be held this winter, I imagine. I am still saving seeds because they are fascinating in all their forms, often beautiful, and I may encounter friends who want some.

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I recently found a seed cluster from a Jack-in-the-pulpit plant, in the back corner of my yard. Often deer eat it, I thought the plant had permanently disappeared. Now I am reading up on growing these seeds into this lovely plant.

University sources will usually provide the highest quality, research-based information, and I found a helpful article from the University of Michigan. I learned that I needed to separate the berries, then roll them gently on a paper towel to remove the moist part of the berry, then separate the multiple seeds within a berry. They then can be spread out in a garden area that stays fairly moist and shaded, watered in, and covered with a little leaf mulch.

With any luck I'll have some new seedlings in spring. The garden on the north side of my house retains the most moisture, so that's where I will plant them. I was surprised at the larger size of the seeds, only one or two per berry. Many of the berries in the cluster were small and withered, containing no viable seed, perhaps due to some longer dry spells this summer.

I have also been harvesting seeds for next year from a new-to-me annual flower, honeywort (Cerinthe). I love the blue/grey foliage, with purple/pink bell flowers on the end. It's always buzzing with bees, and it did well in the part-shade raised bed next to my patio. The stems grow longer through the season, so seeds growing adjacent to the stem replace the spent flowers while the stem grows longer.

The seed has a very hard coat, so I soaked them overnight before planting indoors last winter. This isn't a common plant, so it would probably be difficult to find in garden centers. I'll be planting some of the seeds in the ground in early spring, and starting others indoors. I'm not sure yet which is the more reliable method for starting these seeds.

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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN

Master Gardener: Mulched leaves can help your lawn and gardens

By Julie Brocklehurst-Woods
Master Gardener
Oct 24, 2020



Julie Brocklehurst-Woods/Special to The Livingston County News A Tiger Eye Sumac is seen in full glory. Each autumn day brings new intensity to the color of the leaves, but eventually those leaves will need to be cleaned up.

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LCN – MASTER GARDENER COLUMN

Birds, butterflies and garden plants

SUPPORTING WILDLIFE: Resources for selecting the right plants

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

Last week I had the pleasure of attending a Via Zoom class on "Caring for the Birds" offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Extension. I enjoyed hearing about the specific plants they used in these naturalized gardens. The problem is, the conditions in their garden location, along a streambank, are quite different from my mostly dry yard.

I was reminded about the fact that birds are highly dependent on butterflies and moths as a food source. Some young birds rely on caterpillars for up to 90% of their diet, and 90% of our birds feed their offspring some caterpillars. Clearly, including garden plants that attract butterflies and moths will also attract birds.

The presenters mentioned a couple of excellent resources for selecting plants to support wildlife: Doug Tallamy's website, www.naturehome.org,

allowing users to view their zip code in the "Native Plant Finder" feature to find wild plants suited to your area. The outstanding feature that is useful for planning a garden for birds and butterflies is the button labeled "find butterflies" which also includes moths. Since birds rely so heavily on caterpillars for food, including plants that support caterpillars is a key to attracting birds.

Each selection includes a photo of a butterfly or moth, or its caterpillar. The number in the lower right corner of the photo indicates the number of different plants that creature feeds on in the selected zip code. A wider variety of food sources might correlate with how common that butterfly is in the area, and how easy it might be to attract it to your garden. Another factor would be how available a specific plant is in that area. Clicking on the name of a plant reveals how many varieties of that plant are native to the selected



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS/SPECIAL TO THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

Hydrangea serrata Bluebird, a plant native to the mountains of Korea and Japan, consistently attracts bees.

area, and how many species of butterflies and moths feed on that plant.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center offers a different plant selection tool, allowing plant selection by region as well as growing conditions. Plants need to be also located in suitable growing conditions: the right amount of sun and moisture, and the soil type they need. Their regions can be selected by state. Since New York is so large and geographically diverse, using this tool would select plants that may not be suited to this specific area. Knowing growing conditions needed for a plant is critical for planning a garden. A user would need to search out zone hardiness of that plant.

Native plants are recommended frequently. They will collectively best support the existing ecosystem. But non-native plants can also help fill this role. The long-blooming *Nepeta*

Walker's Low is the plant in my yard where I notice the most bee and butterfly activity. Right now I have a late-blooming *Hydrangea serrata Bluebird*, native to the mountains of Korea and Japan, constantly attracting with bees.

Amanda's Garden is a local nursery just north of Danville which offers native plants. It is a small business without regular hours, so you need to call

ahead. They sell plants directly as well as via their website, AmandasNativePlants.com.

Julie Brocklehurst-Woods has been a Master Gardener Volunteer with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County since 2002. She enjoys helping people identify plants, especially helping people identify plants that attract bees and butterflies to gardens. She can be reached by email at juliew42@gmail.com.



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS/SPECIAL TO THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS

This **Cranesbill (perennial geranium) Roxanne** blooms from June until frost in part shade. It is easy to grow, and problem-free.

Tried and true perennials

MUST-HAVE PLANTS: Ideas for sunny and shady areas

The last days before the snow flies are perfect for writing down ideas for next year. Take some photos while you can still see where your plants are located. Photos taken now from inside your home as well as outside will give you inspiration in the winter.

If you have plants that aren't making you happy, now can be a good time to remove them. Usually the ground doesn't freeze until about Dec. 1. Tough plants such as iris and daylilies will probably survive the winter in a temporary location if their roots are covered with chopped leaves. It's much easier to find new homes for plants in the spring.

I received an email this week from a reader seeking information about perennials that bloom for a long time. Some spectacular perennials may only bloom for a couple of weeks. Gardeners may want to consider plants that also have interesting and/or colorful foliage, bark and stems which are attractive during more than bloom

MASTER GARDENER



JULIE BROCKLEHURST-WOODS

time. Missouri Botanical Garden has identified quite a few Plants of Merit with multi-season interest. Full descriptions of these plants are available on its website, www.missouribotanicalgarden.org.

Two of my personal long-blooming favorites are *Nepeta Walker's Low* for sun, and *Cranesbill Roxanne* for part-shade. Both of these plants begin blooming in June, continuing until the fall frost. *Roxanne* likes to sprawl on a vine, which is easily relocated. This *Nepeta* grows like a small shrub

about a foot tall. I shear it back when it topples a bit in July, which enables it to fill in more densely and continue blooming through the remainder of the season.

A landscaper I recently heard speak on Zoom, Megan McKenzie from *Clover Lawns and Landscape* in Rochester, shared her list of "Tried and True" perennial plants, which she uses over and over again. In sunny areas these include *Threadleaf Coreopsis Moonbeam* and *Zagreb*. There are pink and red *coreopsis* plants available, but they aren't as hardy. Her favorite coneflowers include the *Pow Wow* series (*Berry and White*), *Cheyenne Spirit Mix*, and *Julia Butterfly*.

Many colors of coneflower tend to revert to purple, but not these varieties. Daily favorites include *Stella D'Oro*, *Pardon Me*, *Catherine Woodberry*, *Joan Senior*, and *Mary Todd*. "Must Have" *Rudbeckias* are *Goldstrum*, *Denver Daisy* and *Campfire*. *Rudbeckia* plants will tolerate

more shade than others in this group. Megan also uses *Salvia May Night* and *Snow Hill* regularly in full sun.

Cranesbill Roxanne and *Biokovo* (with colorful fall foliage) are her favored groundcovers for part shade. *Tiarellas Zebra*, *Ruby Spice* and *Cutting Edge* work also well for her in shade. Her favorite hosta is *Sun and Substance*, with glowing chartreuse leaves. *Ladies Mantle* is a great edging plant in more shaded areas.

Spring issues of magazines will be filled with news of new plants for the arriving season, but I prefer to rely on plants that have been around for a few years, and have passed the test of time.

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 plants and strategies to prioritize and simplify their gardening tasks. She will answer gardening questions by email: juliew42@gmail.com.

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS

Livingston County 4-H Summer Showcase results

With COVID-19 leading to the cancellation of the Hemlock Fair, the Livingston County 4-H Program organized an all-virtual fair experience where members could share their projects and receive feedback from judges.

Altogether, 23 4-H members and eight Cloverbuds participated in the 2020 Summer Showcase with over 260 colorful and handcrafted exhibits.

Youth were able to connect with judges via Zoom, reflect on the learning they experienced, and receive recognition for their hard work.

Lily Sharp, who has been involved in 4-H for five years, said, "I thought it went amazing! All of my judges gave me great critiques and feedback for later projects. I felt like I was actually less stressed as there weren't really ribbons connected to anything, and instead I was able to focus and soak in the helpful critiques that each judge gave me for the future."

The following 4-H members participated in this



4H member Lily Sharp in the Livingston County 4-H Summer Showcase. [PHOTO PROVIDED]

year's Summer Showcase: Eli Barrett, Julianna Braun, Marshall Braun, Chaundacey Crane-Yackley, Audrey de Wit, Rian de Wit, Victoria Charlebois, Estelle Dumuhosky, Fiona Gelb, Alyssa Healy, Merissa Huffman, Carly Lang, Aydan Low, Bethany Mason, Claire Paul, Colten Potts, Courtney Potts, Julie Renner, Ella Sexton, Howie Sexton, Lucy Sexton, Lily Sharp, and Teagan Werner.

The following Cloverbuds (our youngest participants)

exhibited at the Showcase: Madelyn Coty, Tucker Drum, Lenore Dumuhosky, Nathalie Gelb, Kiara Gramkee, Kyle Harvey, Elizabeth Mensinger, and Katie Paul.

Judge's Choice Award Winners: Julianna Braun, Victoria Charlebois, Chaundacey Crane-Yackley, Rian de Wit, Fiona Gelb, Aydan Low, Bethany Mason, Ella Sexton, Lily Sharp, and Teagan Werner.

Judges and teen evaluators included Pat Auinger, Peggy

Auinger, DeLisa Drum, Bekah Finster, Dwight Folts, Jessica Gramkee, Bernadette Harwood, Tim Hayes, Margaret Linsner, Sarah Linsner, Becky Minnich, Michelle Wolgast, Chaundacey Crane-Yackley, Alyssa Healy, Aydan Low, and McKenzie Low.

To learn more about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County or the Livingston County 4-H Program, visit www.ccelivingstoncounty.org

Hand sanitizer, face mask distribution event for farms Sept. 29

MOUNT MORRIS – In preparation for the fall and a possible second wave of COVID-19, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County has scheduled a third Hand Sanitizer & Face Mask Distribution event for the agriculture community on Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Mt. Morris.

This free event is limited to farmers, producers, and agriculture-related operations.

Sanitizer is available

in one gallon pump and 2 oz. spray bottles. Participants can also receive washable, cloth face coverings. Quantities will be limited to 2 gallons, 20 spray bottles, and 20 face masks.

Participants are encouraged to pre-order by sending an email to livingston@cornell.edu. Pick-up will be done at the side entrance of the CCE Livingston County office. Those unable to attend should contact the CCE Livingston County

office to make alternate arrangements.

Previous distribution events were held in May and July. Altogether, more than 1,100 two-ounce spray bottles, 95 one-gallon pump bottles, and 1,700 face coverings have been distributed.

The upcoming event also offers an opportunity to ask questions about COVID-19 or other agriculture-related concerns. As a part of New York Forward, all businesses are required to

have a customized, written safety plan that details specifically how they will prevent and manage COVID-19. Therefore, CCE Livingston County can be a resource for farmers, producers, and agriculture-related operations working to create these plans.

For more information about Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County, visit www.ccelivingstoncounty.org or call 585-991-5420 | 585-335-1752.

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS

De Wit-Paul named Livingston County 4-H Volunteer of the Year

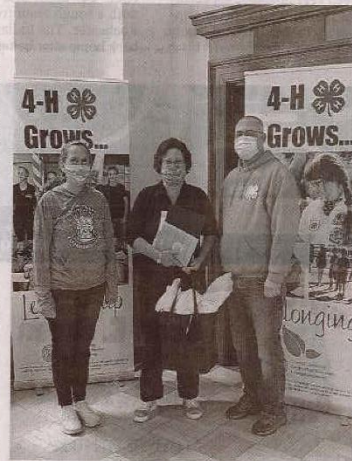
Staff reports

Alissa de Wit-Paul has been named the 2020 Livingston County 4-H Volunteer of the Year.

She has been an active volunteer and club leader with the Livingston County 4-H Program for 5 years. Members of her club consistently and actively participate in a broad range of 4-H events, activities, and program areas each year. They are encouraged to explore new interests, try something different, and pursue greater challenges. This is especially evident by her club's partaking in new county activities as well as participating in regional and state contests and opportunities.

Alissa may quite well be 4-H's biggest advocate and promoter. You can often find her touting the benefits of 4-H and encouraging families to enroll in the program.

Her contribution and impact to our 4-H Program does not end at being a successful 4-H club leader. She is also a key volunteer and valuable resource for numerous county programs. She has shared her knowledge, skills, and passion for public speaking by providing workshops for Public Presentations and Horse Communications. Her valuable input and advisement to the small animal program has helped it grow and flourish in recent years. She has assisted with numerous Animal Activity Nights and small



Alissa de Wit-Paul, center, has been named the 2020 Livingston County 4-H Volunteer of the Year. 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins is on the left, and Youth Development Team Leader Mark Wittmeyer is on the right. (PROVIDED)

animal clinics and opened up many of her club activities to others in the county. She has also fostered interest and participation in the Egg Prep & BBQ contests, as well as, many of the state animal science contests - including Horse Bowl, Hippology, Poultry Science, Avian Bowl, and Rabbit Decathlon.

4-H Youth Development Team Leader Mark Wittmeyer said, "Alissa is a nurturing club leader, a reliable volunteer and resource for many county events and activities, and

one of 4-H's biggest advocates and promoters. Our 4-H Program is truly fortunate to have her share her many skills and passions with our youth. She is well deserving of this honor and we look forward to many more years of Alissa making positive contributions to our 4-H members and program!"

To learn more about becoming a volunteer with the Livingston County 4-H Program, contact the CCE Livingston County office at 585-991-5420 or 585-335-1752.

Genesee Country Express Thursday, October 29, 2020 A9

Lyness named Livingston Outstanding 4-H Member

Staff reports

Ben Lyness has been named Livingston County Outstanding 4-H Member for 2020. This is the highest award given for 4-H achievement and overall involvement in the Livingston County 4-H Program.

Ben has been involved in the 4-H Program since he was 5 years old. During his 4-H career, he has been active in several project areas and participated in a number of county events - including Public Presentations, Produced in New York, and the Fair.

Over time, Ben's interests focused more and more on animal science - particularly the swine industry. In fact, his last several Public Presentations have focused on swine-related topics. On any given summer you can find him in the animal barns at the fairgrounds (both county and state), caring for and showing his animals, and sharing this love by mentoring other members of the 4-H program.

Ben continues to use the skills he has learned in 4-H and apply them to other aspects of his life. He recently interviewed to attend Rochester Arc & Flame. During the interview, he used his public speaking skills to answer questions in a logical and fluent manner. The hard work and responsibility



Ben Lyness, center, has been named the 2020 Livingston County Outstanding 4-H Member. 4-H Educator Renee Hopkins is on the left, and Youth Development Team Leader Mark Wittmeyer is on the right. (PROVIDED)

he developed while in 4-H were on full display during the interview and he was accepted into the program. Ben's interviewer complimented these skills and acknowledged that he is a well-rounded individual.

Youth Development Team Leader Mark Wittmeyer said, "I have watched Ben grow from a quiet and shy 5 year-old 4-H Cloverbud into a very competent young adult 4-H

member who has served as a volunteer, mentor, resource and leader for numerous younger 4-H members and their families. Ben truly exemplifies what an Outstanding 4-H Member should be and is very well-deserving of this honor."

To learn more about the Livingston County 4-H Program, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County at 585-991-5420 | 585-335-1752.

GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS

LOCAL

Lyness named Livingston County Outstanding 4-H Member

Highest award given for 4-H achievement and overall involvement in the Livingston County 4-H Program

Staff reports

Published 10:19 p.m. ET Oct. 18, 2020

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LOCAL

de Wit-Paul named Livingston County 4-H Volunteer of the Year

She has been an active volunteer and club leader with the Livingston County 4-H Program for 5 years

Staff reports

Published 10:14 p.m. ET Oct. 18, 2020

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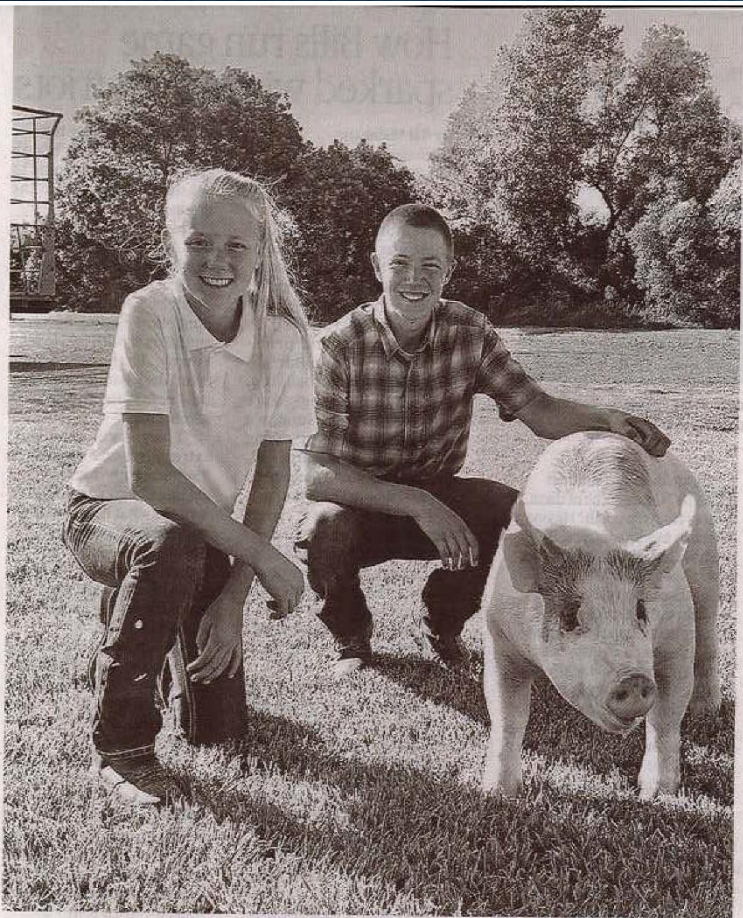
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GENESEE COUNTRY EXPRESS



Connor Rodwell and his market hog with Tessa Rodwell, another participant in the Charity Animal Program.
[PROVIDED]

4-H Charity Animal Program benefits 4 organizations

Staff reports

Four Livingston County 4-H members participated in the Charity Animal Program and donated the proceeds from their 4-H Market Animal Project to charitable organizations. The market animals were auctioned as part of the Virtual 4-H Livestock Auction earlier this summer.

Rian de Wit and Tessa Rodwell each sold a pen of two market birds. Robert Loewke purchased Rian's birds for \$81 while Jennifer Noto purchased Tessa's for \$195. After the sale, Rian and Tessa chose to donate their proceeds to Begin Again Horse Rescue and Catholic Charities of Livingston County - Mt. Morris Food Pantry, respectively.

Alyssa Healy's market lamb

was purchased by Marisa Teeter for \$310. Proceeds from the sale were donated to the Northeast Organic Farming Association of NY.

Finally, Connor Rodwell sold his market hog to Swede Farms Inc. for \$1,125. The sale benefited the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County Ag in the Classroom Program.

This project is not only about how 4-H'ers use the proceeds from their project animal, but the learning process and skill development that takes place throughout the duration of the project. For a minimum of four months, 4-H youth take care of their animals every day. Members also have to complete project records as well as market their project animals to potential buyers. Each member participated

in virtual showmanship and market classes this year using video submission in which each project animal was judged independently.

"We are pleased to have four outstanding participants in this year's Charity Animal Program," said Youth Development Team Leader Mark Wittmeyer. "These four young adults truly exemplify what caring about and helping your community is. They have learned at a young age that it is very gratifying to give to organizations that help others in need."

If you are interested in learning more about the Livingston County 4-H Program, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County at 585-991-5420 | 585-335-1752 or livingston@cornell.edu.

GENESEE VALLEY PENNY SAVER



Q&A with the Master Gardeners

Q.

I seem to have a knack for growing plants where they don't belong. I am trying to grow date palms in containers and have three date palms ranging from 3" to 6" tall. With winter fast approaching, how should I keep them warm enough to survive and thrive?
- Josiah C.

Date Palms originate from North Africa and Asia and can tolerate some cooler temperatures. In our

from **Cornell Cooperative Extension**, Livingston County

climate in winter, however, they will need protection from a hard freeze which could kill them.

Bring them in when temperatures fall into the 40's at night, and find a bright, sunny window inside with room temperatures of 65-75 degrees. Water them sparingly in winter, letting the soil dry out between waterings. Make sure to provide good drainage. If they stand in water for long periods (a day or more), the roots can be damaged, and the tree could die.

While you should fertilize the trees about once per month in spring through fall, do not fertilize at all in winter. Avoid cold drafts near your young palm trees, and they should winter well and be ready to set out next spring and continue to grow and thrive.

Look for this weekly column! Your questions answered by the local Cornell experts.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO OUR EXPERTS!

Your question(s) will be answered directly & may be featured in our column!

Ask them today at: GVPENNYSAVER.COM/GARDEN

The Master Gardener Program is a national program of trained volunteers who work in partnership with their county CCE office to extend information throughout their communities.

GENESEE VALLEY PENNY SAVER



Q. I have a strip of land between my fence and my neighbors that is unsightly with overgrowing Lemon Balm, Creeping Charlie, and sundry small Buckthorn trees and other plants and weeds. Eventually it will infiltrate their property and my backyard, as well. I was going to try to scrape it down but the strip is only 6'-7' wide. Two people have suggested using a weed killer but after having had a bad experience with another herbicide, I am hesitant. I would like that area to be more of a woody

section rather than a weedfest. Any suggestions or thoughts are appreciated.

from **Cornell Cooperative Extension**, Livingston County

- Adam G.,

I would recommend smothering this part of your property. Your first step would be to cut down all the buckthorn to the ground, and spray or use a paintbrush to apply a brush-killing herbicide to the in-ground fresh-cut end of the trunk to reduce re-sprouting. You may also need to cut stiff weed stems. Then cover the area with landscape fabric, then several inches of wood chips. After 6 growing months

(September, October, April, May, June, July), remove the landscape fabric, or it will permanently pollute the soil, ultimately with lots of small pieces. You don't have to use herbicide for the buckthorn, but if not, it will re-sprout more. Even with herbicide it may re-sprout some. The optimal time to apply herbicide for this purpose is

October/November.

After the fabric is removed, you should plant something, or the weeds will become re-established. I'm thinking something like red-twig dogwood or other easy-care shrub suited to soil, sun and moisture conditions. Free wood chips may be available from your local municipal government.

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MORNING AG CLIPS

Morning Ag Clips

MONROE & LIVINGSTON 4-H PROGRAMS SHINE ...

COMMENTS

Produced in New York event at The Strong Museum

Monroe & Livingston counties' 4-H programs participate in silent foods demonstration

PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

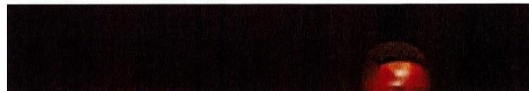


Victoria (Livingston County) & Silas (Monroe County) present process for P2NY product.

LIVINGSTON CO., and MONROE CO., N.Y. — The Livingston and Monroe County 4-H Programs debuted the silent foods demonstration called Produced in New York at The Strong Museum in 2020. The event was part of a two-week celebration coordinated by the museum to Celebrate the Finger Lakes.

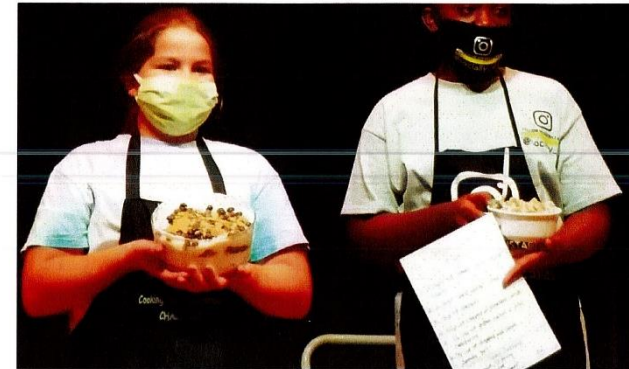
Produced in New York showcases the wide variety of agricultural products grown in New York State, leading youth to gain a greater understanding of their local food system. Each recipe includes at least one cup of ingredients grown in New York State.

This event allows youth to participate in a popular 4-H project area, healthy living. Participants use their skills to make healthy food choices, modify recipes, and practice food



preparation skills in front of an audience.

Youth that participate in the Produced in New York event develop their public presentation and speaking skills. It takes a great deal of thought and practice to organize the work area and keep it tidy. The youth also need to provide a clear line of sight for spectators to see their cooking skills. Participants answer questions from evaluators and the audience as they work through their recipes. They may be asked to explain a bit about their New York State ingredient or what cooking skill is new or challenging for them. One of the youth participants shared, "It was really fun to be on the stage at The Strong Museum. I am glad that the public came and could watch our 4-H cooking skills."



Victoria (Livingston County) & Silas (Monroe County) with finished P2NY product.

Livingston County Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educator, Renee Hopkins, shared, "Produced in New York is a popular event because it incorporates so many great life skills. Youth are focused on the culinary aspect and learn about local agriculture through recipe selection. Intertwined in the event is the opportunity to practice poise and presence on stage, problem solve when things don't go as planned, respond to evaluators and audience questions while working, in addition to all the preparation work and organization that it took to get to the event. All these serve to help youth gain confidence in their skills."

The Monroe and Livingston County 4-H Programs are offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe and Livingston Counties. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth ages 5 to 19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or "experiential" learning about things that interest them. Learn more at <http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development> (<http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development>) and <http://livingston.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development> (<http://livingston.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development>).

—Cornell Cooperative Extension Monroe County