E & O April 3, 2023

Meeting Summary

* E & O presented a variety of events in March
* Paul Mendelsohn hybrid workshop on **Grafting**
* Laura McDermott -due to bad weather - did a zoom workshop on **Pruning.**
* David Cox, along with **Dr. Paul Curtis from Cornell and Devin Merkley** from the Clark Foundation made a OCCA-sponsored presentation at the Clark Gym on **Managing Deer Damage in Home Landscapes**
* **A long-range goal: We will look into developing more engaging ways to do hybrid workshops. The room and the sound affect the quality of in-house presentations. Madelyn and David will contact Cornell for resources. Francine will contact SUNY Oneonta.**
* Upcoming

We will sponsor four workshops at the OCCA Earth Fest (see below) Francine will present **Gardening for the Birds and the Bees** on April 17 at Connections at the Clark. The public is welcome to attend at no charge

* Social Media –
  + We reached 6,084 people during the past month and we’ve increased the number of followers by 22 for a total of 937.
  + The highest performing posts:
  + Creating a Hummingbird Garden 2.3K
  + Managing Deer Damage 2 K
  + Plant Sale – and posts related to what MGs do have the highest level of engagement.
  + Will continue with at least 1 Plant Sale post per week until the sale.
  + I sent an email to Carol requesting photos and descriptions. Kim and Darleen have been helpful in sending photos.
  + Several garden centers are forwarding our posts and/or indicating they have the plants noted in the posts.
  + Earth Fest/Spring Garden Day with David has met with OCCA people in planning. We will pay $10 for the table. David, Susan, and Peter are organizing activities at the table. Planting marigold seeds is one of the activities. David will be bringing brochures.
  + We will be providing the following 4 workshops. Volunteers are **still needed.**

**11:00 a.m. - Vegetable Gardening Basics It’s time to start getting ready for your 2023 garden. Master Gardener, Darleen Fournier and others will talk about the how to handle the many decisions that confront gardeners. Or, if you have never planted a garden and want to start one, this workshop will help you begin. In this session, you will learn: how to plan your garden; plant seeds or seedlings; how to test for seed germination; when to plant; and more!**

**1:00 p.m. - Building Better Butterfly Gardens for Monarchs and Other Pollinators Dr. Dan Potter of UKY, shares the fascinating natural history of monarch butterflies and what we can do to attract and sustain them in our gardens through the careful selection of plants, the importance of garden design, and plant placement in this video presentation.**

**1:00 p.m. - Managing Deer Damage in Home Landscapes Dr. Paul Curtis of the Cornell Integrated Deer Research and Management Program, Devin Merkley of the Clark Foundation’s Mohican Farm, and David Cox of Cornell Cooperative Extension team up to discuss the effects deer pressure can have on gardens and forested areas; the methods available to mitigate them; and the varieties of plants that are deer resistant.**

**2:00 p.m. - Growing with the Oneonta Community Garden**

**The Oneonta City Community Garden has grown over time.  It is a place where a diverse and informal network of gardeners grow food, beauty, and community for themselves and others – a garden for all. OCCG coordinator, Celia Reed and Chris Burrington, OCCG Board member and Master Gardener will talk about how and why the garden has grown with ideas that may benefit others involved in community gardens.**

**Other business:**

* **Ellen is taking home the activity box to organize it for future use**
* **Francine is resending the Monarch webinar info and resource list to David**
* **She is also sending the link to the Allegany County workshop on beginning gardening to David. Perhaps there’s a handout that could help Darleen.**
* **The new OMGs will be coming to a luncheon at the April meeting. Both Mary Ellen Calta and Francine recommended that it would be helpful for OMGs to speak to the new classes at the beginning rather than the end so that they could be thinking of how they’d use the content of the classes in a more active way. Darleen used the metaphor of student nurses participating in a colonoscopy at the start of their training, rather than at the end, as a way to determine if that’s the career they want.**

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 8 AT CCE**