

PROGRAM UPDATE



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Robert Pedian, 4-H Natural Resources Educator reported on the following programs and planning:

- August 1st was the Warren County Youth Fair held at the CCE of Warren County grounds. I ran a table promoting the Adirondack Guides and WHEP (National Wildlife Habitat Education Program). We had many families stop by and try their skills at identifying a variety of bird species as well as pelts and skulls of native Adirondack wildlife.
- On 8/27, I hosted a Birding Workshop for 3 4-H youth and their parents. Participants learned about the process of birding, bird identification, citizen science applications and their importance for research, as well as practice with binoculars during a bird ID activity.
- On August 30th, I led the Swede Mountain Fire tower hike as part of the 4-H Hiking Challenge alongside John Bowe. We had 11 participants from 4 families attend.
- September 3rd, I ran the WHEP (National Wildlife Habitat Education Program) competition for 8 youths from across NY state. The competition consisted of 20 questions which test each participant's ability to identify and critically think about the life history of wildlife from across NYS and the selected national ecoregion. The program exposes youth to job opportunities and experience related to careers in wildlife science.
- From September 14th on, in-school archery season began. I have been engaged in archery education near daily since September 14th.
- Starting at on September 14th, I taught 153 students archery alongside fellow educators Issabella Lewis and Dan Carusone. Classes took up most of the school day, replacing student's gym class and rotating through ages from 6th-12th grade.
- The archery program began at North Warren on 9/21 beginning with 7th and 8th grade. A total of 67 students were taught.
- The program now continues at North Warren with a high school group of approximately 100 students.
- Additionally, on September 14th, I led the "Spies in the Wild: Trail Camera Workshop" for a total of 6 youth and their parents (4 adults). The program focused on proper trail camera setup, the organic opportunities for environmental exploration one can provide your family, as well as their use in citizen science as part of the joint Cornell and NYSDEC program SNAPSHOT NY. Multiple families reported setting up a

trail camera at home following the program and at least one has joined SNAPSHOT NY.

- On 9/28 I tabled at the Glens Falls Middle School Open House reaching approximately 30 youth or their parents and promoting our 4-H programs including Adirondack Guides, the WHEP team, cooking programs, and the RC car club.

Dan Carusone, 4-H Natural Resources Coordinator reported on the following program and planning:

- STAR planning ... let me count the ways. The State Teen Action Retreat (STAR) is the fun filled NYS 4-H leadership retreat that is planned for and run by 4-H teens for other 4-H teens. Warren County CCE is one of 2 counties to be contracted by NYS 4-H to coordinate all of the pieces that come together to make the conference. In the past month, I have helped plan and run a STAR planning zoom and have had many email exchanges (and even a few phone calls) regarding all of the intricacies of the conference.
- Game of logging (GOL) planning has continued as we move toward our final 2 workshop series of the year. They happen on Wednesday, September 23 and Thursday September 24. Nathan Thomas will be hosting the final 2 workshops at his property in Stony Creek. GOL is the premier chainsaw safety training worldwide and is heavily sought after by the residents and businesses of Warren and surrounding counties.
- On Thursday, September 3rd, I promoted CCE Warren County at the North Creek Farmers' market. I was there for just over 3 hours and was able to talk (and give information) to around 30 people. While there, I did make some new contacts and even asked producers how we might better serve them (maple specifically).
- Lastly, Robert and I went to the NYS fairgrounds on Tuesday, September 8 to retrieve Warren County 4-H fair entries. 4-H has had a presence at the NYS fair since its inception. The continued involvement of 4-H is part of what makes the NYS fair a fair. On the way there and back we discussed STAR and various aspects of the conference that still need attending to. The ride was long, but it was productive!

Alyssa Hayes, Food Systems Educator reported on the following programs and planning:

- Four 4-H Cloverbuds learned about measuring and made homemade chocolate chip cookies. They were easily the best chocolate chip cookies we've ever had!

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- The older 4-H youth met to learn about different methods to make eggs, including: poached, over easy, fried, scrambled, boiled, quiche, deviled eggs, and egg salad. They were able to taste each kind and see which methods they liked. The most popular was deviled eggs.
- The Chester-Horicon Senior Group met and learned how to make homemade pita using Greek yogurt and hummus. The first male participant for that group attended, and he said his wife was impressed with the final product because he doesn't know how to cook.
- Nine participants of the Johnsburg Senior Group met to learn about the health benefits of fermented foods and the process of making them safely. The group then made sauerkraut and Edgy Veggies to take home and ferment. The program was so popular, the community has asked us to come back and do one for people who are not part of the senior group.
- The final meeting of the summer for the 4-H Cloverbuds had three participants. The three boys made a fruit cookie pizza. Using a giant sugar cookie for the "crust," they added a cream cheese frosting for the "sauce," and cut up fresh fruit for the toppings. This final program allowed them to use all of the skills they have learned this summer: measuring, knife safety, and washing fruits.
- We wrapped up the 4-H summer cooking programs with a pizza party. Eight 4-H youth learned to make pizza dough and pizza sauce from scratch, using their skills from the summer: measuring, knife safety, and kneading dough. Each youth made an individual pizza and they enjoyed them together.
- CCE Warren was invited to do a cooking demonstration at the Saratoga Farmer's Market as CCE Saratoga did not have the availability. Although the seventeen participants, a combination of youth and adults, were not Warren County residents, we were able to teach them the valuable skill of pickling and preserving vegetables. The hands-on demonstration taught the quick-pickling method for pickled beets, sweet pickles, and dilly beans. Many participants are hoping to attend programs at CCE Warren in the future for food preservation that are not currently available to them in Saratoga.
- Met with the Glens Fall Cemetery Commission about establishing a pollinator and bird-friendly garden near the pond area.
- Seed2Supper finished their program season at Ascend Mental Wellness with a harvest party that focused on harvesting techniques and cooking their garden bounty. Participants also shared feedback on how to improve the program in future years.
- Continued to work with the new MGv cohort to get them connected with different volunteer opportunities in our community and to become integrated into the program.
- Master Gardeners continued their work in the CCE garden, supporting harvest and end-of-season tasks to put the garden to bed for the winter.
- Our annual September MGv business meeting, allowed us to reflect on the year and realign for future programs. Program and project requests received thus far were discussed. MGvs expressed interest in and saw a need for greater strategic planning for the program, focusing on establishing key priority areas, a streamlined project and program request process, infrastructure improvements in the CCE garden and greenhouse, and building program capacity.
- The Vegetable Variety Trial garden has come to a close for the 2026 season! Reporting has been completed. The final reviews of the trial vegetable varieties will be input into the online forum in October after collecting final tasting notes.
- Seed2Supper reporting is complete for the 2026 season. We plan to recruit new educators and will continue our partnership with Ascend Mental Wellness for the 2027 season.
- The Plant Sale Committee had its first meeting this month to select varieties and place the order for the 2027 sale. A new format for selecting varieties was introduced this year that helped to streamline the process and lead to a better offering of plants.
- Met with the Library Director at the Richards Library to set up Seed Library programming for 2027. All program dates and topics have been selected for the upcoming year.
- Met with MGvs who have ongoing individual or partner projects to check in, assess needs, and discuss necessary next steps.
- Met with a teacher at Kensington Road School in Glens Falls who is establishing a sensory pollinator garden with his colleagues to discuss MGv support for the project.
- Met with the Director of Development at the Marcella Sembrich Museum at their newly acquired farm property about collaborating, future programs, and utilizing the space for MGv hands-on training sessions.

Linden Pearsall, Community Horticulture Coordinator reported the following programs and planning:

- Master Gardeners provided three activities: decorate a caterpillar, color a pollinator mask, and a garden scavenger hunt for the 2026 Country and Youth Fair. A Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) information table was also stationed in the garden in which we shared publications about our demonstration beds which focused on the grid gardening method and perennial herbs.
- Met with the Queensbury Land Conservancy to discuss collaborating on a pollinator garden and educational signage installation at various sites.