

# Horticulture HUB

The Place for Horticulture in Chenango County

July/August 2015



## Let's Talk Horticulture

It's time for school again and that means summer is almost over. Every year I wonder where the summer went. The days are so full of growing plants, eating fresh from the farm and trying to pack each day with things you can only do in the summer (swim outside, wake up at 5 a.m. to see the sunrise, make bacon outside on a grill, it tastes much better outside!), and forage for wild leeks, daylilies, chokecherries and elderberries: the free foods of summer.

But Fall! Oh it's even better than May in my opinion. Not because everything is pumpkin flavored, although that's a clear plus, but because fall seems like a final celebration before the depths of winter arrive. It's as if there's a party outside that everyone's invited to.....a last hurrah before the cold really sets in.

Fall also means it's time for thinking about next year. Nope, it's not too early. You can get a jump on next year by saving seeds from this year. I'm teaching a class at CCE on September 30th called Seed Collecting For Everyone! Learn how to identify seeds in different flowers and vegetables, clean and label and save seeds from year to year. Learn why you may want to save seeds from some plants, and not from others. Learn the treatments that seeds sometimes need to germinate better—and all in only 2 hours! Whew! I'll have to talk pretty fast, hope you don't mind. Give us a call to sign up: 334-5841 x 13 and bring a friend (10 yrs. and under free!)

*Patty Stimmel; Horticulture Educator*  
patty.stimmel@cornell.edu; 607-334-5841 x16

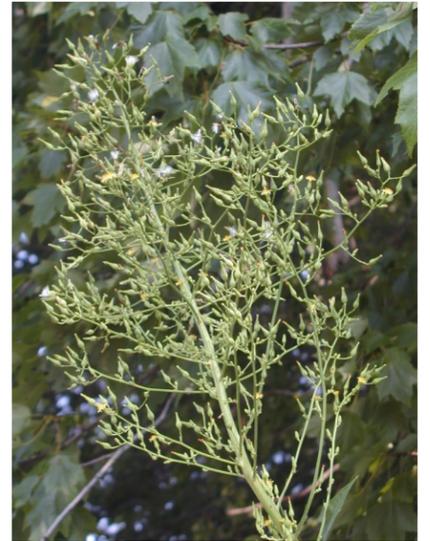
## Roadside Bloomer Report



The month: August

The topic: Hey, what's that plant?

Wild Lettuce  
*Lactuca species*



Wild lettuces are reaching great heights this time of year and can be seen along the roadsides and in damp places in various states of bloom, although you'll barely notice their flowers. They often have flowers in bloom as well as spent flowers that have gone to seed on the same flower head. Their flowers are so tiny they aren't really noticeable, however, when the tiny flowers go to seed they turn fluffy and the whole flower head can be covered in tiny bits of fluff which, along with their towering height from 7-10 feet depending on the species, can make them really stand out. They reseed readily and are often a weed we gardeners pull out when they are still quite small.



Grass-leaved goldenrod  
*Euthamia graminifolia*

This delicate textured goldenrod is one of my favorites. It is a vigorous grower but it won't take over whole hill-sides like the Canada goldenrod and others you see blooming now. This one seeks out more hidden spots. You may find it along roads through the forests, in wooded areas that aren't too shaded and on rocky roadsides.

## The Chenango County Fair and Horticulture Go Hand in Hand

Every year the Master Gardener Volunteers have an educational booth at the county fair in Exhibition Hall. This year the theme was "Keep Your Fall Colorful" focusing flowers and foliage plants in your garden that provide late season interest (color!) This booth was met with much admiration and drummed up interest in Horticulture. That's the whole point!

At the end of the fair we sit down and rehash how the booth turned out, whether or not the topic was a good one and what went well as well as what didn't.

And then the planning starts for next year. What should the theme be? How should we plan for it and how should we execute that plan? Lots of time goes in to these booths and community shows its appreciation. We love chatting with you about your garden woes and successes at the Chenango County fair. The Master Gardeners are Volunteers at their core and helping is what they do best. Many people stopped by the booth. Some signed up to learn more about the Master Gardener program so they too could give back to the community and learn more about horticulture.

So here's my question for you: what do you think the theme should be next year? Bugs? Diseases? Invasive plants? Vegetable varieties? There are so many options in horticulture! The fair booth is for the benefit of Chenango County. It provides education and resources for all you gardeners out there. We would be remiss in not asking: what would benefit YOU at the fair booth next year? I'm looking forward to your comments: patty.stimmel@cornell.edu or call me at 607-334-5841 x 16



## Learn a Thing or Two

### Botany For Everyone

September 16th from 5-7:30pm at CCE Chenango County. In 2.5 hours this class will cover the basics of plant families, plant and flower parts and a little bit of taxonomy (plant names) as well. It's a basic class meant to appeal to beginners who think they may like to know more about the science behind what goes on in their gardens. \$5 covers the cost of materials. Deadline for signing up is September 14th. Call 334-5841 x 13 to register. Instructor: Patty Stimmel; Horticulture Educator for CCE of Chenango County

### Seed Collecting For Everyone

September 30th from 6-8pm at CCE Chenango County. This two our class will show you how to identify seeds from chaff in flowers and vegetables, the best way to clean and store them, which plants you may or may not want to collect seed from and different seed treatments that will improve germination of your seeds the following year. \$5 covers the cost of materials. Deadline for signing up is September 28th. Call 334-5841 x 13 to register. Instructor: Patty Stimmel; Horticulture Educator for CCE of Chenango County

### Free Woodlot Management Workshop

Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – Noon at Angus Glen Farms; 3050 Station Road; Watkins Glen, NY. Please join us for this free event to learn about making a family forest better for the next generation! The walk will highlight: recent logging to promote tree health and regeneration; invasive plant control; integrated timber and livestock production (silvopasturing); wildlife habitat enhancements; and strategies for dealing with forest pests. Foresters and loggers will be present to share their insights, as well as Cornell Master Forest Owner Volunteers who can be consulted individually for advice. The woods walk will take place rain or shine, and require about one mile of hiking. This event is sponsored by Cornell University's Master Forest Owner Program ([www.cornellmfo.info](http://www.cornellmfo.info)); Cornell Cooperative Extension (<http://cceschuyler.org>); and the NY Forest Owner's Association ([www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)). No RSVP is necessary. For additional information please contact Brett Chedzoy by phone (607-535-7161) or email: [bjc226@cornell.edu](mailto:bjc226@cornell.edu)



## A Few Words about the Master Gardener Program

**If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, we are looking for you!**

**Contact Patty at 607-334-5841 x 16**

In New York State the master gardener program is a volunteer service program not a course or certificate. The Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) programs are managed individually by county CCE associations. Our collective aim is to support the CCE's educational mission through garden-based learning programs in our local communities. Through volunteer service CCE MGV work closely with their county program leader to support educational efforts including public gardening workshops and helping address citizens' questions related to gardening management as well as helping community and school groups launch their own gardening programs. CCE MGV programs are focused on education and may maintain demonstration gardens as outdoor classrooms for their public workshops but maintaining gardens for outside organizations is not part of our educational outreach. More on why be a CCE MGV below at bottom of this page.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) county Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) programs select volunteers as needed through an application process from their pool of residents of that county. This happens at varying intervals depending on local county resources and needs. Check your local county office for current information. Core horticulture training is the first requirement of the CCE Master Gardener Volunteer commitment, followed by an agreement to volunteer with you CCE county program for one or more years for a specific number of hours. Once you stop volunteering you are no longer a CCE Master Gardener Volunteer as it is not a certificate, it is a volunteer job title. Not every CCE county office in New York has the resources to support a CCE MGV program. **Chenango County DOES support a Master Gardener program!**

If you are looking for a horticulture course though not a volunteering opportunity, you might be interested in [Cornell Horticulture distance learning courses](#). The content of our **Organic Gardening** course is very similar to the core training for the CCE MGV program. (excerpt taken from <http://gardening.cce.cornell.edu/for-educators/master-gardener-volunteers/>)

## Plant Rant

Good or bad, this is where a plant gets their due!

**Sweet William** or *Dianthus barbatus* is still blooming in my garden and I've been impressed with it all season long. Sweet William is related to your everyday carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*) with few flower petals but more flowers arranged in a cluster. Their sweet smell gives rise to their name but they are sweet



in other ways as well. They are very easy to start from seed making your color choices much wider ([this variety is my favorite](#)) and they will bloom almost all summer long. It's really a win-win. They can re-seed themselves but if you mix them in with other things (mine are mixed with *Coreopsis lanceolata* and *Spearmint* believe it or not) they will have enough competition not to go to wild, but really, with that much pretty; who cares if they go a little wild? They prefer full sun but I have a few in some light shade and their flowers have lasted longer than the ones in full sun. My favorite variety (link above) has a mix of deep pinks, salmons, shell pinks and whites as well as the standard candy-stripe. **They are lovely!**



**NAME:** Sweet William *Dianthus barbatus*

**HEIGHT:** Max 12-18 inches tall

**EXPOSURE/SOIL:** Full to part sun

**FACTOIDS:** Make excellent cut flowers in floral arrangements and cutting spent flower heads on the plants will encourage a new flush of flowers.

## OF interest

Websites (CTRL + click to go to site)

*High summer canes drop blackberries, ploop, into yellowing grasses.*

*Summer passes. -Anonymous*

## Connect with Us!

On the Web

[www.cce.cornell.edu/chenango](http://www.cce.cornell.edu/chenango)

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