

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Schuyler County



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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**We are Resilient:** As individuals, and as an organization, we are agile and able to adapt; we embrace challenges as an opportunity to learn and continually improve.

**We are Innovative:** We are committed to unearthing untapped potential by exploring alternatives and constantly seeking and offering new solutions.

**We practice Sustainability:** Our 100+ year commitment to sustainability is in our DNA. We believe in using what history has taught us while thinking strategically about our future.

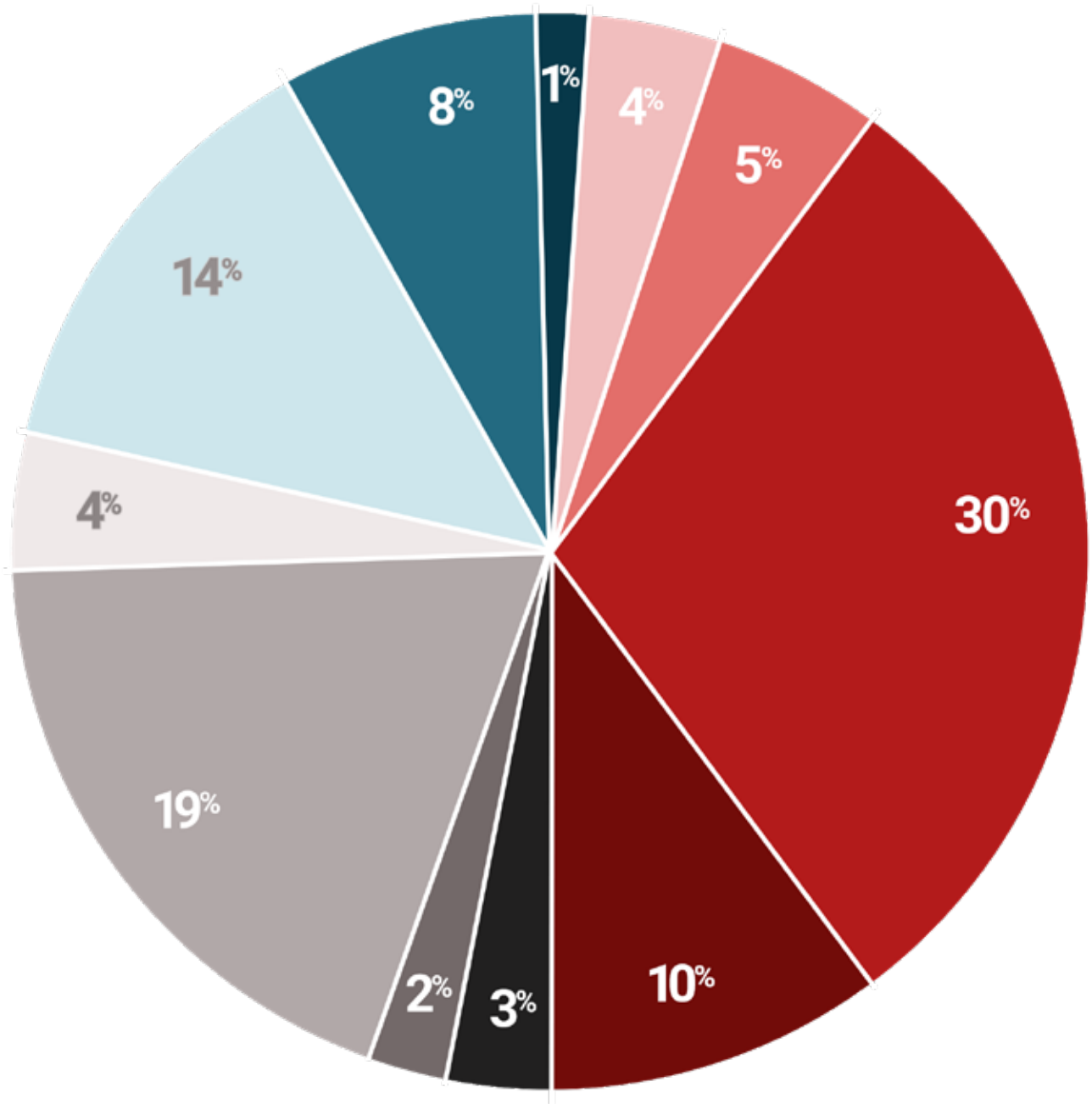
**We Educate:** CCE's foundation: It is what we do. We are committed to providing conventional and alternative ways of educating a cross-generational community of people interested in and committed to learning and putting knowledge to work to enrich their lives.

CCE Schuyler accomplishes so much because of the support of our community. Together, we can make it through challenges and find innovative solutions. Together we will accomplish even more.

**Together we RISE!**



**WE R.I.S.E TO OUR VALUES**



- 30% Cornell Fringe - State
- 10% NYSERDA- State
- 3% 21st Century After School
- 2% State Composting - Montour Falls
- 19% County Appropriations
- 4% County Parent Educator & Family Play
- 14% Hidden Valley 4-H Camp
- 8% Other Contracts, Donations, Interest
- 1% Federal Smith Lever
- 4% SNAP Ed Nutrition
- 5% State 224

# 2022 REVENUE RESOURCES



*At CCE Schuyler, our programs offer numerous workshops, trainings, activities and programs to the community. Below is just a snapshot of our many 2023 events:*

### **Ag and Natural Resources**

2023 Fruit Tree & Berry Growing Workshop  
 2023 Farm Tour Weekend  
 2023 Silvopasture Workshops  
 Meat Processing & Marketing Workshop  
 How to Raise Day-Old Pheasant Chicks  
 Hemlock Woolly Adelaid Survey Training  
 New Master Gardener Training  
 Garden Clean Up Days

### **Environment**

Climate Stewards Training  
 Community Seed Saving Workshop  
 Rain Barrel Workshop

### **4-H Youth Development**

4-H April Showers and Water Cycles Activity  
 4-H Identifying Fish and Their Lifecycles Activity  
 4-H Birdhouse Building at Watkins Glen REACH  
 Family Play and Resource Center (FPRC) Tour  
 FPRC May Mindfulness Activity  
 FPRC Turkey Trot Scavenger Hunt  
 FPRC Community Cafe and Play

### **SNAP-Ed NY**

Cooking Matters for Kids  
 Cooking Matters for Families

### **Clean Energy**

Power House Visit to the Watkins Glen REACH Program  
 Power House at the Montour Falls Harvest Festival



**To the CCESC team:** What a year! A new leader at the helm and a great team effort has created what seems like a wonderful work environment and great collaboration. You all continue to impress!

**To the members of the community:** The support you continue to provide makes us proud to be a part of this community. Thank you!

**To our volunteers:** 2023 was a difficult year for volunteerism for various nonprofits. That wasn't the case for CCESC. The time and effort that you provide to the organization is worth its weight in gold and does not go unnoticed.

**To our Partners:** The relationship we had with our partners 2023 continued to be a healthy collaboration, and we are excited to see what comes in 2024.

**To the Schuyler County Legislature:** We value the relationship we have with you all now more than ever. We appreciate the continued support you continue to provide.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you and my fellow board members for the opportunity to lead the board over the past few years. I've learned so much and made so many deep connections I would not have the opportunity to make otherwise.

*- Chad Hendrickson, Board President*

**MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT**



**As I reflect upon the past year** the generosity, kindness, support, and encouragement that I have watched with our staff in how they work with the people in our programs has been the most rewarding. It is exciting to see the creativity and dedication of an engaged team working together on our mission of putting knowledge to work in the hands of the people.

Our programs are the product that we offer to our community. As you explore the pages in this year's Annual Report you will see a variety of program area highlights that have been submitted by staff as part of our Federal Reporting system. These stories help bring our work to life and provide a small snapshot into how we share resources, knowledge, and relationship building through our programming with local residents.

We are blessed to have dedicated and caring staff, engaged volunteers across all program areas including committed program advisory members and a strong Board of Directors who are champions of both our mission and vision. We are grateful to the participants of our programs; you remind us of why we love the work that we do. The continued support of the Schuyler County Legislature truly helps our Association accomplish relevant and sustainable programs that help Schuyler County residents thrive.

Thank you to all who have supported our Association in 2023. A very special thank you to our outgoing board members; Sarah Agan, Howard Cabezas and Rick Reisinger. Your stewardship, commitment and support to our Association will be missed.

*- Melissa Schroeder, Executive Director & Association Issue Leader*

**MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR**



**CCE Schuyler Board President**  
Chad Hendrickson

**CCE Schuyler Board Vice President**  
Paul Bartow

**CCE Schuyler Board Treasurer**  
Howard Cabezas

**CCE Schuyler Board Member**  
Riqui Hess

**CCE Schuyler Board Member**  
Rick Reisinger

**CCE Schuyler Board Member**  
Mark Rondinaro

**CCE Schuyler Board Member**  
Kristin Van Horn

**CCE Schuyler Board Member**  
Chelsea Stamp

**State Extension Specialist  
Cornell University  
ex.officio member**  
Adam Hughes

Not Pictured:



**CCE Schuyler Board Member**  
Sarah Agan



**CCE Schuyler Board Secretary & Legislative Rep.**  
Michael Lausell

Picture Not Available

**Farm Bureau President**  
Mark McCulloch

# CCE SCHUYLER BOARD





Clean Energy  
Communities Coordinator  
Michael Brown



Sr. Resource Educator  
in Agriculture  
Brett Chedzoy



Hidden Valley 4-H  
Camp Manager  
Bruce Condie



Communications  
Coordinator  
Danielle Cook



OM REACH After School  
Program Coordinator  
Ceridwen Dickerson-Stermer



Parenting Educator  
Paula Goodrich



Smart Energy Choices  
Community Energy Advisor  
Erica Herman



Program Assistant - 4-H  
Dayna Karius



Administrative Assistant  
Virginia Montopoli



Commercial Agriculture  
Educator  
Alec Moore



Finance Manager  
Susan Neal



Executive Director &  
Association Issue Leader  
Melissa Schroeder



SNAP-Ed Nutritionist for  
Schuyler & Yates CCE  
Brooke Shaffer



4-H Program Coordinator  
Kim Seaman



Environmental/Natural  
Resources Educator  
Schuyler, Seneca, & Cayuga  
Ryan Staychock



Garden & Horticulture  
Coordinator  
Shawn Tubridy



Viticulture Extension Specialist,  
Finger Lakes Grape Program  
Hans Walter-Peterson



## Volunteers

John Ball  
Debbie Ball  
Becky Bowers  
Sean Bowers  
Karen Cartwright  
Paul Cartwright  
Kristin Condie

Brian Ellison  
Jean Gardner  
Gabriella Giles  
Joe Giles  
Matthew Glenn  
Hannah Goldberg  
Aran Holland

Sean Holland  
Sharron Holland  
Kaiden Karius  
Cheryl Ann Larsen  
Emily Luther  
Kaylee Magda  
Michael Olmstead

Gavin Reichert  
James Rose  
Justen Samson  
Grace Schell  
Sänna Wilber  
Rose Anne Wincek  
Karl Wuerslin  
Ryan Yaskulski

## 2023 Award Recipients

**Board Recognition:**  
Howard Cabezas  
(3.5 years service)  
Sarah Agan  
(6 years service)

**Volunteer Recognition**  
**Master Gardeners:**  
Debbie Ball & John Ball  
Karen Cartwright &  
Paul Cartwright  
Jean Gardener  
Rose Anne Wincek

**Friend of Extension:**  
Deb Reid  
Ulysses Harrell  
**Volunteer Recognition**  
**Communications:**  
Sänna Wilbur, Intern

**Staff Recognition:**  
Ginny Montopoli

# CCE VOLUNTEERS - AWARD RECIPIENTS



## Meet our Intern: Sänna Wilber

In the Fall of 2023 CCE Schuyler welcomed communications intern, Sänna Wilber, from Corning Community College (CCC). She arrived just in time to assist with the behind-the-scenes action of our Farm Tour Weekend. Without hesitation she got to work gathering much needed information from our participating farms regarding what items would be for sale, times they would be open, and more.

Within the first month on the job she learned what it's like to organize a large event, while simultaneously keeping up with other smaller projects. On Farm Tour Weekend, she pitched in by taking photos and chatting with attendees and participants alike. These actions helped us cover all of our farming locations and allowed the Communications team to spend more time at their assigned locations. Not bad for her first 30 days!

In only 4 months Sänna brought a breath of fresh air to our social media presence, producing a variety of engaging posts for things like the "FLX Gives Campaign," and "Pumpkin Contest." It was a delight working with her and learning how a younger audience views our online presence while teaching her about good graphic design, crafting press releases, and other communication tools.

**INTERN HIGHLIGHT**



## 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Snapshot of the Science Behind 4-H

Our 4-H program reaches young people through staff led programs, 4-H volunteer led clubs, Hidden Valley 4-H camp, and the 21st Century Afterschool program. We use the 4-H Thriving Model to illustrate the process of positive youth development in 4-H programs by connecting high quality program settings to the promotion of youth thriving.

High quality 4-H program settings provide young people with a place to belong, explore, and foster developmental relationships with both youth and adults. These components ensure that 4-H programs provide a nurturing developmental context – a place where youth can belong and grow.

In our 4-H programs we focus on experiences that provide high quality developmental settings with an emphasis on key social-emotional skills that promote positive youth development outcomes, including academic motivation and success, social competence, high personal standards, connection with others, personal responsibility, and contribution to others through leadership and civic engagement.

Young people who experience positive developmental outcomes are more likely to achieve long-term outcomes evidenced by vocational or academic success, civic engagement, employability, and economic stability along with happiness and overall well-being.

### Melissa Schroeder

Executive Director &  
Association Issue Leader  
mcs35@cornell.edu

**4-H creates** opportunities for youth to develop skills, leadership abilities, and practical knowledge through observing, doing, and living. 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults.





**Bruce Condie**  
Hidden Valley 4-H  
Camp Manager  
bcc5@cornell.edu

**Since 1945 Hidden Valley 4-H Camp** has provided the experience of a lifetime to youth ages 6-16 from the Finger Lakes Region and beyond. We're proud to celebrating 79 years of Hidden Valley 4-H Camp in 2024!



## Redesigning the Counselor in Training (CIT) Program

The CIT program at Hidden Valley 4-H Camp needed a boost after the COVID-19 pandemic. Traditionally, it has been a two-week program with a bridge weekend. The cost of two weeks of camp plus the weekend stay was prohibitive for some families.

As the CIT program is one of our most important tools for recruiting camp staff, we determined that it was a priority to boost our numbers, and in order to do so some changes were needed. After discussions with teen campers, who were potential participants, and camp alums we made four adjustments to the program:

- 1) The program length moved from two weeks to one week, including the weekend.
- 2) Three sessions were offered during the summer instead of just one.
- 3) We designated a CIT Program Coordinator to oversee and run the CIT program.
- 4) A camp improvement project was added to each CIT session. This year, we had the CITs plant 12 trees at camp.

During the previous two years we averaged four CITs each summer. In 2023 we saw a substantial increase with ten CITs successfully completing the program.



### Watkins Glen REACH Students Place 2nd at New York State Odyssey of the Mind Association.

In 2023 The Watkins Glen REACH Afterschool Odyssey of the Mind team placed 2nd in their division at the New York State Odyssey of the Mind Association (NYSOMA) competition held at Wellsville Central School. As a result, they advanced to the April 15th Statewide competition at the State Fair Grounds where they placed 11th.

For over 40 years, New York State Odyssey of the Mind Association, Inc. (NYSOMA) has offered the Odyssey of the Mind (OM™) program to New York students. A creative problem solving program, OM encourages divergent thinking as teams use creativity and teamwork to solve unique problems. OM brings the classroom to life as students apply what they learn and combine it with their interests and passions. OM emphasizes teamwork, budgeting, time management, public speaking, and so much more.

The Watkins Glen REACH team plans to compete again in March of 2024 in a new division with a mix of returning and new students.

#### Kim Seaman

Watkins Glen REACH  
Afterschool Program Coordinator  
kns57@cornell.edu

#### Ceridwen Dickerson-Stermer

Odessa Montour REACH  
Afterschool Program Coordinator  
ced233@cornell.edu

**REACH** is an after-school program funded by the American Rescue Plan and the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. Partnering with Watkins Glen School, Odessa Montour, and CCE Schuyler, we provide tutoring, enrichment activities, and recreation for students in grades 3-6.





**Paula Goodrich**  
Parenting Educator  
pg347@cornell.edu

**CCE Schuyler offers** a variety of programs for parents and caregivers through a Home Visitor program. These programs meet families' individual needs and seek to promote positive parenting, and ultimately healthy family and child development. Parents or caregivers that participate in our Home Visitor Program receive at least 6 hours of content delivery from various researched based curricula.

*Photo: Family Play & Resource Center at the Human Services Complex in Montour Falls, NY*

### Using Positive Communication to Help Families

CCE Schuyler receives referrals from the Schuyler County Department of Social Service for families who can benefit by or are court ordered to participate in our Parenting Education Program. In 2023, twenty-five families were referred to CCE Parenting Educator, Paula Goodrich, thirteen of which were parents of adolescents.

Many times the individuals referred come with a set of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) of their own. These ACEs lead to parents and caregivers carrying negative experiences/attitudes with them towards their own children. They also may find it difficult to share positive words about their children with others. Such families often use negative communication and responses directed at the youth.

Using curricula on communicating with and about your children with positive words and encouragement strengthens the families' bonds and brings a refreshing outlook for the family as a whole and the adolescent as an individual. Families who have practiced skills such as encouragement, have seen improvements like increased engagement with the family, less usage of foul language, communicating with family positively, and school success with grades and attendance. Parents are also finding themselves sharing the positive attributes of their adolescent with other adults, according to pre and post surveys filled out by participants.



### Annual Pruning Workshop Continues to Educate

Schuyler CCE held its 2023 Pruning Workshop on March 18th and 25th. Updating its name to the “Fruit Tree and Berry Growing” workshop, CCE Commercial Ag Educator and CCE Board Member and career fruit grower, Rick Reisinger offered attendees duplicate classes to choose from. In total, 74 small farmers and homeowners interested in growing fruit or improving their skills attended.

The class discussed all aspects of growing apples, raspberries, blueberries, peaches, and plums. Established fruit crops were used for demonstration and the class ended with the reclaiming of an older unmaintained apple tree, similar to what homeowners may have on their own properties.

This class has been a local favorite for over 15 years with 30 or more attendees regularly attending. Due to its popularity, Alec is looking to split the topic into two in 2024, focusing one workshop on apples and the other on other fruit crops.

### Alec Moore

Commercial Agriculture  
Educator  
ahm245@cornell.edu

### The Commercial Ag Program

supports commercial agriculture, agroforestry, and agritourism enterprises. In addition to assisting with the implementation of Schuyler County Ag and Farmland Protection Board recommendations, Commercial Ag works as a resource for farmers to learn about payment programs, grants, and other development opportunities.





### **Brett Chedzoy**

Senior Resource Educator  
in Agriculture and Natural  
Resources,  
bjc226@cornell.edu

**Schuyler CCE** makes critical contributions to enhanced woodland productivity and resilience through education, demonstration and applied research. These forest resources provide durable and significant environmental and economic benefits to their owners and communities.

### **The Emerging Benefits of Slash Walls**

In 2017 Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) developed and implemented the first “slash walls” ([www.slashwall.info](http://www.slashwall.info)). They have since been an effective and cost-effective strategy to sustain productive and resilient forests that will capture and store significantly greater carbon over the life of the forest.

Woodland managers have struggled for decades to find viable ways to sustain our world class hardwood forests. Across the region, deer severely limit the growth and survival of predominate species like oaks and maples, threatening New York’s \$23 billion dollar forest economy and reducing the societal benefits and ecological services provided by productive forests. Recognizing this need for practical management of deer, Cornell foresters Peter Smallidge and Brett Chedzoy, along with other colleagues, developed researched, refined, and disseminated successful approaches to using slash walls to grow new forests.

This year, research and extension efforts turned to documenting these benefits. New efforts led by experts in forest modeling and monitoring revealed a 40% increase in carbon capture over 100 years for a typical forest when deer are excluded during the first decade of establishment. CCE shared these results through 26 events and 1000 participants.



### Renewal of the CCE Schuyler Teaching Garden

After 15 years the CCE Schuyler Teaching Garden went through a revitalization project to better accommodate our opportunity to teach and demonstrate. Shawn Tubridy worked closely with our Master Gardener volunteers on improvements along with various community supporters to help meet the needs through both donations and mini grant support.

A 275 gallon water tank was acquired to help maintain the watering needs of the space. A \$2000 mini grant was awarded from Cornell's Garden Based Learning Program to help with a 2024 Seed to Supper program. The mini grant will provide the funds to remove the decaying wood raised beds and replace them with sustainable steel beds. Additional donations of seeds, soils, picnic tables, and growing infrastructure from the Ithaca Lowes arrived throughout the year. In November, a successful FLX Gives fundraiser paid for the clearing of the grape vines and overgrown shrubbery, making way for the Master Gardeners to overhaul the rest of the site. The improvements to the garden have received many compliments from members of the community.

As they look to 2024, Shawn and the Master Garden volunteers will develop a plan for the garden which includes a native plant trail; vegetable variety trail garden beds; a new children's garden space; new fencing; and increasing the use of the garden as a demonstration and teaching space.

**Shawn Tubridy**  
Garden & Horticulture  
Coordinator  
slt22@cornell.edu

**The Horticulture Program** encompasses a wide array of topics. The Horticulture Educator organizes workshops, and coordinate larger events such as plant sales. They also train and manage Master Gardener Volunteers and keep our Teaching Garden looking beautiful.





**CCE**  
CAYUGA  
SCHUYLER  
SENECA



### **Ryan Staychock**

Environmental/Natural Resources Educator for Cayuga, Schuyler, & Seneca CCE

### **The Environment**

**Program** focuses on educating the public about environmental topics using workshops, outreach tabling and informational flyers.

### **CCE Extensions Collaborate on Compost**

In December of 2022 the position of Environmental/Natural Resourced Educator was created by CCE Schuyler, Seneca, and Cayuga. Its goal was to implement similar environmental and natural resources programming across all three associations. The “Three County Compost Bin Sale” was one of the earliest and most popular examples of this new collaboration.

With the intention of promoting backyard composting, all three CCE associations, in conjunction with Brand Builders LLC from New Jersey, offered discounted backyard compost bins to their residents with savings over 50% of the normal market price. Environmental/Natural Resources Educator, Ryan Staychock, managed the event and facilitated distribution of the bins to each association. Further composting education followed in the fall of 2023, targeting participants of the compost bin sales.

CCE secured community donations for the program, further driving down costs of the bins in both Cayuga and Schuyler Counties. The Nucor Corporation of Auburn, NY subsidized \$20 for every participating Cayuga County resident and Seneca Meadows Inc from Seneca Falls, NY subsidized \$10 for each of Seneca County’s participating residents.

In total, 100 compost bins were ordered by residents across the three-county area and another sale is planned for Spring 2024.

**ENVIRONMENT**



## Spreading the Word About Smart Energy Choices

Early 2023 saw the beginning of NYSERDA's newest grant, "Smart Energy Choices", which focuses on disadvantaged communities and low to moderate income households - many of which are elderly and on limited incomes, meaning that the rise of energy prices impacts them even more negatively than other households.

Thankfully the new grant offered new opportunities for Schuyler residents to benefit from weatherizing and/or heat pumps. And with those new opportunities came the need to get the word out. Community Energy Advisor, Erica Herman spent 2023 reaching out to Schuyler and Steuben's Congregate Meal Sites (a common gathering place for those eligible). Holding presentations for the seniors, she explained the topics, potential grants/programs available to help off-set costs, and offered free Community Energy Advising to support them along their energy journey.

Key sites like Monterey in the Town of Orange, and Tyrone were identified as rural locations often missed with CCE (Cornell Cooperative Extension) Programing. In April she held presentations at both sites and was invited back to Tyrone for a future heat pump presentation.

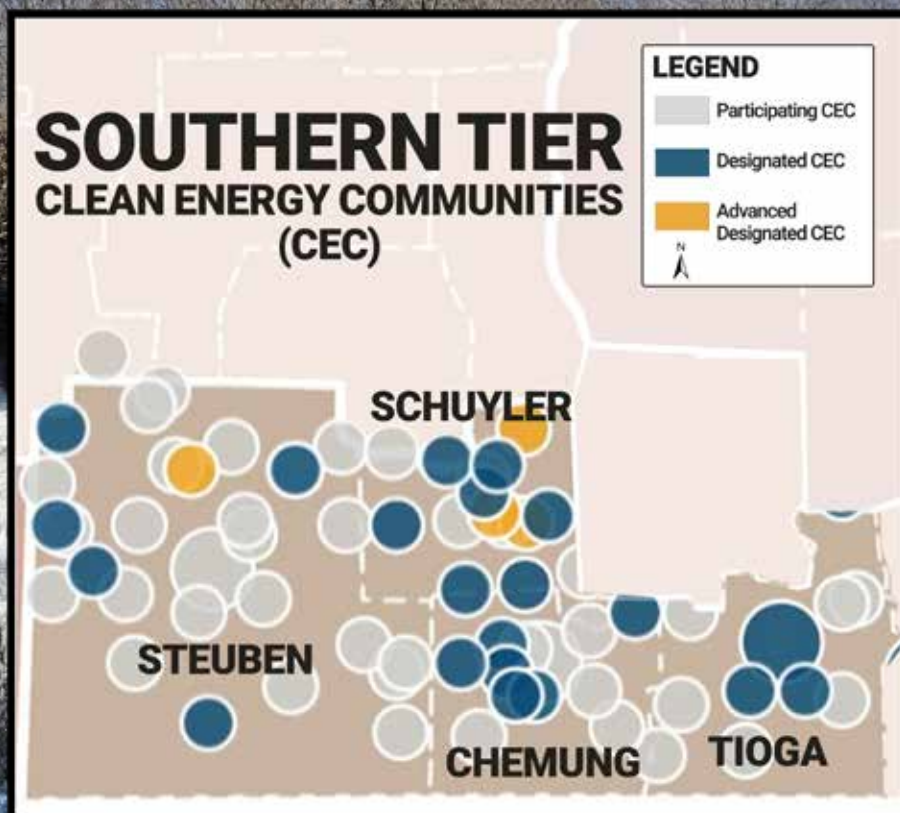


### Erica Herman

Smart Energy Choices  
Community Energy Advisor  
eh649@cornell.edu

### The Smart Energy Choices Program:

helps Southern Tier residents save money and energy by connecting them to resources on energy efficiency, heat pumps, and solar. Community Energy Advisors connect homeowners and renters with programs and incentives that can make energy efficiency upgrades affordable.



### Michael Brown

Clean Energy Communities  
Coordinator  
msb65@cornell.edu

### The Clean Energy Communities Program

helps local governments create healthy and sustainable communities by investing in future-focused clean energy solutions. CCE-Schuyler's Clean Energy Communities Coordinator serves Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Tioga County.

### Town of Catharine: A Clean Energy Journey

Often smaller communities need more assistance to succeed when applying for programs like the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program. The Town of Catharine in Schuyler County was one such community. Due to its small population size, they believed they were unable to participate with larger communities in state clean energy programs. However, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, Michael Brown, determined that thanks to previous CEC actions completed by the town, this was not the case.

The town's conversion of streetlights to LED and its choice to send a code enforcement officer to CEC Energy Code Enforcement Trainings set it on the path to becoming "designated" in the program. To qualify they needed to complete one more action. As per the CEC Coordinator's suggestion, the town adopted the NYS Unified Solar Permit, which streamlines small scale (e.g., residential roof top) solar installations. This move allowed them to receive a CEC program grant and designated them as a Clean Energy Community.

The Town of Catharine is now considering using the grant to install a heat pump system in one of their buildings, allowing them to efficiently heat and cool the space.

*Photo: Shequaga Falls in Montour Falls, NY.  
Montour Falls is an Advanced Designated Clean Energy Community (CEC).*





### **FLGP Helps Industry Respond to Historic Spring Freeze**

On May 18th, the Finger Lakes experienced one of the worst spring freeze events in history. Temperatures dropped below freezing for several hours, causing significant damage to newly emerged young shoots. Damage estimates ranged anywhere from almost nothing to 100% injury.

Staff from the FLGP visited vineyards around the region to assess the amount of damage and communicated with federal, state, and local officials, agencies, and other ag organizations on the status of the 2023 crop. The overall estimate was that 30% of the grape crop had been damaged, which was lower than average overall.

### **FLGP Data Supports Release of New Cornell Winegrape**

March 2023 saw the release of the latest winegrape cultivar from Cornell's grape breeding program. The new variety, "Aravelle" comes from a cross between Riesling and Cayuga White and possesses positive traits from both parents; such as high wine quality potential and improved disease resistance.

For over 10 years the FLGP gathered data in their Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard test plot. This played an important role in the justification for the release of the variety to the industry. Its most attractive trait being its resistance to late-season bunch rot diseases which can cost growers hundreds of dollars per acre.

**Hans Walter-Peterson**  
Viticulture Extension Specialist  
Finger Lakes Grape Program  
hcw5@cornell.edu

### **The Finger Lakes Grape Program**

is a partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties

# FINGER LAKES GRAPE PROGRAM (FLGP)



**4th Annual Farm Tour Weekend Shines a Light on Schuyler**

Attendees were once again was treated to an open-house gathering of Schuyler County's finest farms. Participants experienced tours, tastings, demonstrations, apple picking, shopping, and opportunities to meet the farm animals.

This year's event saw the addition of a Friday night reception at Chateau La Fayette Reneau. Guests enjoyed a variety of appetizers from Chef Samira of Ryan William Vineyard and wine from Chateau La Fayette Reneau. The Finger Lakes' natural beauty also made an appearance with a gorgeous sunset splashing across Seneca Lake.

Farm Tour weekend capitalizes on the area's strong agritourism through the organization and promotion of a destination event. Thanks to the hard work of our Farm Tour Weekend Team, we broke our previous year's record with 18 farms and businesses participating. A list of this year's feature farms can be found below:

- |                                           |                                   |                          |                          |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Apples and Moore                          | Crosswinds Farm & Creamery        | Ort Family Farm          | Shtayburne Farm Creamery |
| Bartlett Family Farm                      | Finger Lakes Cider House          | Rainshine Acres          | Stewart's Family Farm    |
| The Burdett Exchange                      | Four Season Alpacas & Rug Weaving | Reisinger's Summer Fruit | Sunflower Dairy Farm     |
| Cornell Maple Program at the Arnot Forest | Muddy Fingers Farm                | Russell's Alpaca Acres   | Sunset View Creamery     |
|                                           |                                   | Seneca Sunrise Coffee    | Yesterday's Roots        |



**Tess McKinley**  
Executive Director  
CCE Steuben County



**John Bouwens**  
Finger Lakes SBN  
Finance Lead



**Kelsey James**  
Finger Lakes SBN  
HR Lead



**Scot Mantelli**  
Finger Lakes SBN  
IT Lead

### **What IS a Shared Business Network (SBN)?**

Shared Business Networks (SBN's) were created to provide an updated infrastructure for CCE associations statewide. Participating associations have access to competent, knowledgeable "leads" in the areas of finance, HR, and IT. SBN Leads have access to training, troubleshooting, and business practice development with on-campus administrators.

The Finger Lakes Shared Business Network is now heading into their tenth year of having Regional Lead positions in Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, and its second year of having CCE Steuben County serving as the lead SBN. The Leads continue to provide strategic guidance, best practices, and problem-solving to the seven Associations in the Finger Lakes Shared Business Network (Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates).

# FINGERLAKES SHARED BUSINESS NETWORK



# A Snapshot of Our Work:

**569 HOURS**

Ag and Natural Resources instructional time which reached 3,584 individuals.

**535 HOURS**

Time logged in the CCE Schuyler Demonstration Garden by our Master Gardener Volunteers - equivalent to approx.\$17,000!

**711 HOURS**

Student support through 21st Century REACH Afterschool programming at Watkins Glen and Odessa Montour.

**56**

Number of families who attended the six 21st Century REACH family events.

**802**

The number of youth reached in 4-H.

**103,588**

Individuals and/or farm businesses reached through blog posts, social media, and our SCNY Ag Events Newsletter.

**221**

Individuals reached by our Horticulture and Gardening Program area with over 170 hours of educational programming.

**21**

Number of seasonal staff hired during the 2023 Hidden Valley 4-H Camp Season.

**545**

Number of campers who attended Hidden Valley 4-H Camp.

**125**

Number of Schuyler County Residents who attended various PowerHouse Open Houses.

**1408**

Individuals reached by the Smart Energy Choices Program (formerly HeatSmart FLX South).

**85**

Participants in Parenting Education

**14**

Hidden Valley 4-H Camp Volunteers

**9**

4-H Volunteers

“

I am once again pleased that CCE Schuyler decided to run the Farm Tour Weekend this past season. My colleague and I visited the Ort Family Farm in Bradford, NY and were offered an exceptional tour of their farming operation.

The weather was great and we learned a great deal about native fruit plants, as well as methodologies for fostering commensurate relationships between plants, fungi, and bacteria. The depth of knowledge that our host (Roger Ort) had regarding small family farming was/is immeasurable. We left with a wealth of knowledge and resources, as well as some farm produce and plantings.

I can't express enough the importance of this type of engagement with agricultural practitioners from our very own community. I am both proud and humbled. Please keep up the great work of sharing our community's agricultural attributes. We are fortunate to have CCE Schuyler as a go-to resource.

”

- Provided by FTW Participants

1



7



6



**CCE SHUYLER EVENT PHOTO GALLERY:**

2



3



5



4



Clockwise: 1. Rabbits steal the show at Four Season Alpacas on Farm Tour Weekend. 2. CCE Educator, Ryan Staychock, teaches REACH students about building birdhouses. 3. Sarah Agan accepts Recognition Award for 6 years of service on the CCE Schuyler Board of Directors. 4. Jack Wright of the PowerHouse speaks to REACH students about clean energy. 5. Participants listen to speaker at the Silvopasture Workshop 6. Parenting Educator, Paula Goodrich preps STEM take home kits for Family Resource and Play Center Participants. 7. Commodity Specialist Eric Thornton speaks at the CCE Schuyler 2023 Annual Meeting.



*Silvopasture Workshop at Angus Glen Farms*

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*Front page: Campers enjoy Fishing and Aquatics Master Camp at Hidden Valley 4-H Camp - Photo by Bruce Condie*