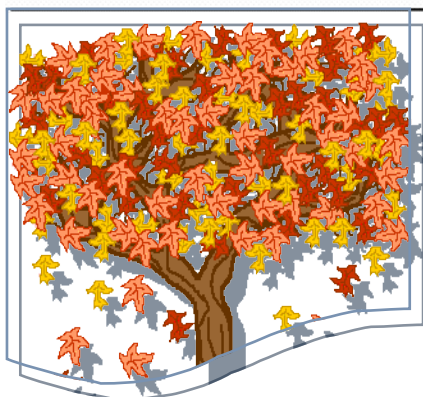


COUNTY VISIONS

300 North Avenue East • Westfield, NJ 07090-1499 • 908/654-9854

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station



FALL 2016

For Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, Fall means back to school for our future Master Tree Steward & Master Gardener volunteers! Have you thought about how you might want to volunteer your time? Would you like to teach 4th grade students about the wonder of trees? Then sign up for our Master Tree Steward training class that runs on Wednesday mornings from September through December. Do you love to garden and want to share your time and love of gardening with others while giving back to your community? Then the Master Gardener training might be for you. Those classes run on Tuesday mornings from October 2016 through May 2017.

Fall also means OPEN ENROLLMENT for new members interested in joining our 4-H Clubs. Our Open House will be held on Friday September 23, 2016 from 7:00—9:00 PM. 4-H is for youth from 1st grade through 1 year post High School. Below is our TENTATIVE Club listing

- ☘ Variety Clubs for: 1st & 2nd Graders / 3rd—5th Graders / Middle School Grades
- ☘ 4-H Service Club - 8th graders and up
- ☘ 4-H STEM Club - 8th graders and up
- ☘ Anime/Manga Club - 8th graders and up
- ☘ Archery Club - 4th graders and up
- ☘ Cooking Club - 6th graders and up
- ☘ Dog Lovers Club - 5th graders and up
- ☘ Engineering Club - 4th & 5th graders
- ☘ Horticulture Club - 6th graders & up
- ☘ Lego Robotics Club - 5th graders & up (Needs Leader)
- ☘ Living History Club - 5th graders & up
- ☘ Sewing Club - 6th graders & up
- ☘ Tech Club - 4th & 5th graders
(2 clubs offered — 1 in Westfield, 1 in Linden)

Call 908-654-9854 for more information and to receive your Open House invitation/reminder



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In cooperation with the
Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Bruce Bergen, *Chairman*
Sergio Granados, *Vice Chairman*
Linda Carter
Angel G. Estrada
Christopher Hudak
Mohamed S. Jalloh
Bette Jane Kowalski
Alexander Mirabella
Vernell Wright



A Service of the Union County
Board of Chosen Freeholders

UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Alfred J. Faella, *County manager*
James Pelletiere, *Clerk of the Board*

Karen M. Ensle, EdD, RDN, FAND
FCHS Educator and County Extension Dept Head

James Nichnadowicz, MS
4-H Agent & Associate County Extension Dept Head

Madeline Flahive-DiNardo, MBA
Agriculture and Resource Management Agent

Michele Bakacs, MS
County Environmental and Resource Management Agent

Janet Brun, RDN, CDE
NJ SNAP-Ed Program Associate

Office Support Judi Laganga

For information or questions, please call:
908-654-9854

James Nichnadowicz
JAMES NICHNADOWICZ
Associate Department Head 2nd
County 4-H Agent

Madeline Flahive DiNardo
MADLINE FLAHIVE DINARDO, MBA
Agriculture & Resource Management
County Agricultural Agent

Karen M. Ensle
KAREN M ENSLE, EdD, RD, FADA, CPCS
Department Head and
Family and Consumer Sciences Educator

Michele Bakacs
MICHELE BAKACS
Agriculture & Resource Management
County Environmental and Resource Management Agent
County Agricultural Agent
Middlesex/Union Counties

**RUTGERS MASTER GARDENER
OF UNION COUNTY
“VOLUNTEER HELPLINE”
908-654-9852**

Voicemail messages are returned

ON-SITE

Visit our Helpline office at
300 North Avenue East
Colleen Fraser Building 2nd floor
in Westfield

Spring and Summer Hours:
Monday –Thursday 9am - 3pm
Friday 9am - 1pm

Winter Hours:
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 3pm
Friday 9am – 1pm

Plant & Insect samples can be
brought to the Helpline Office
located on the second floor in
Westfield for identification



**BUG/INSECT SAMPLES SHOULD
BE IN A SEALED JAR OR
CONTAINER FOR TRANSPORTING
THRU THE BUILDING**

Call the Helpline if you are unsure

Soil Test Kits - \$20 each

Call the Helpline for
information about the many benefits of
having your soil tested.



**EMAIL your garden
questions to:**
mastergardeners@ucnj.org



Classes start Sept 7, 2016

****24th ANNUAL****

4-H MASTER TREE STEWARD PROGRAM



The Master Tree Steward Program is an enjoyable, educational program for adults. The classes teach about the nature and life of trees. You will learn how trees grow; how to identify them; about their importance to our environment; and fun ways to share this knowledge with children. Homework is easy reading and a simple project. There are no exams or quizzes. Once trained, you will have opportunities to teach a one-hour program to groups of interested and attentive schoolchildren about trees.

Your commitment is SHORT term, but importance and impact is LONG term

Classes will meet every Wednesday from September 7 to December 7, 2016 (Except for any holidays that fall on those days). Field trips are included in the program. Perfect attendance is recommended, but up to three absences can be made up.

In return for this training, you will receive a teaching kit containing materials and supplies to teach at least eight 1-hour classes to fourth graders on Wednesday afternoons, from January to May of 2017. There is a cost for the teaching kit. Schools will be solicited through the 4-H office and a teaching schedule calendar will be developed according to the availability of each Master Tree Steward.

Convenient, accessible, safe locations for classes

Classes will be held at the Union County Colleen Fraser Building, 300 North Ave E,
2nd Floor, Westfield.

It's easy to apply!

Just fill in the application (on the back) and return it to RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, MTS PROGRAM, 300 NORTH AVE E, WESTFIELD, NJ 07090 For more information or to request the amount of the materials fee, *contact:* 4-H Agent James Nichnadowicz at 908-654-9854, or E-mail to nichnadowicz@njaes.rutgers.edu.

The Master Tree Steward Program - Winner of a Green Community Achievement Award; presented by the New Jersey Forest Service for an outstanding educational program in the area of community forestry.



2016-17 APPLICATION FOR MASTER TREE STEWARD
4-H VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER (DAY): _____ (EVE): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

1. Are you available to attend Master Tree Steward Training Classes on Wednesdays, from September to December, 2016? (no classes held on Holidays) YES _____ NO _____

2. Are you available from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for at least **8 Wednesdays** from January through May 2017 to teach youth? _____ YES _____ NO EXPLAIN: _____

3. What do you enjoy about working with youth?

4. What experience have you had working with youth (if any)?

5. Additional information: (If you respond "Yes" to any of the following, please explain on a separate sheet.)

1. Do you use or sell illegal drugs? YES NO

2. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? (If yes, please explain on reverse side) YES NO

3. Have you ever been charged with child neglect or abuse? YES NO

4. Has your driver's license ever been suspended or revoked? YES NO

5. Other than the above, is there any fact or circumstance involving you or your background that would call into question your being entrusted with the supervision, guidance, and care of young people? YES NO

6. My signature below indicates that I am available to attend all (up to three absences can be made up) Master Tree Steward training classes and will return 30 hours of volunteer time teaching youth through the 4-H Program. 4-H will provide all training, teaching materials, and supplies for a materials fee. (Please call the office for the amount due)

Please include your check, made out to RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY along with this application.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

IF YOU ARE ACCEPTED, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED ASAP

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



4-H OPEN HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 23, 2016
7pm—9pm
To be held at UC Vo-Tech School Campus
Magnet School
1776 Raritan Rd
Scotch Plains

UNION COUNTY 4-H YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE *EXTENSION*
OF UNION COUNTY
300 North Ave E
Westfield NJ 07090

Phone: 908-654-9854
Fax: 908-518-7925
E-Mail: JNICHNADOWICZ@UCNJ.ORG

Open House to be held at The
Magnet School
UC Vo-Tech Campus



COME MEET OUR CLUB LEADERS
AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL THE
4-H CLUBS UNION COUNTY HAS
AVAILABLE FOR YOUR
CHILDREN.

Space is limited—You **MUST** be in attendance at the Open House to be
given priority for registration in any club.



Registration is completed on line.
You will be given the link to register before you leave!
REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY Sept 25, 2016
 There is a per club Registration fee
 (You will be billed after registration is completed)

2016-2017 MASTER GARDENER COURSE
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County
300 North Avenue, East
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-654-9854

APPLICATION PROCESS: Twenty-five applicants may be accepted into the program.

The deadline for submitting the applications is **August 31, 2016.**

TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION: Contact Judi Laganga @ (908) 654-9854 or jlaganga@ucnj.org
(please use **MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM** in your subject)

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT: All students enrolled in the program are expected to provide a minimum of 60 hours of volunteer service by participating in approved Rutgers Cooperative Extension volunteer activities within a 12 – 18 month period. We ask that ten (10) hours of your 60-hour requirement be spent working in the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden located in the Watchung Reservation.

ACCEPTANCE PROCESS:

You will receive notice of your acceptance the week of September 5th, 2016. Upon acceptance into the program, you will receive a copy of the RCE Master Gardener Policy and a volunteer agreement form. A **NON-REFUNDABLE** material fee will be due, (at that time) along with your signed agreement form. The material fee will cover the cost of all training manuals, textbooks and publications, and a home garden Soil Testing Kit.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The requirements for graduation are:

- ◇ Participate in at least six hours of volunteer activities by graduation May 2017.
- ◇ Students are expected to attend all classes, IN THE EVENT a session must be missed, it is the student's responsibility to complete a self-study of that presentation. Other options will be explained and discussed on the first day of class.
- ◇ Pass an open book final exam.
- ◇ Complete two hours of "Garden Helpline" office training.
- ◇ Complete class assignments.
- ◇ Plan to work on the Master Gardener Spring Fair. Volunteer assistance is needed for preparation of the fair that is held on the first Sunday after Mother's Day every year.
- ◇ Complete any other volunteer training required by Rutgers University.

Classes will be held on Tuesday Mornings
From 10AM – 12:30PM
Classes will be held in the
Rutgers Meeting Room located on the 2nd floor of
The Union County Colleen Fraser Building
300 North Ave East
Westfield, NJ

**The Class of 2017 will begin on
Tuesday, October 18, 2016 and run through May 2017**

Upon acceptance to the program –

A non-refundable materials fee will be due along with your signed volunteer agreement form. The fee covers the cost of all textbooks, notebooks, and class materials.

**All applications are due in the Extension Office
by
August 31, 2016**

Acceptance letters will be sent out the week of
September 5, 2016

**Some topics that will be presented by the Rutgers
Cooperative Extension staff and faculty are:**

Basic Botany
Entomology
Flower Gardening
Integrated Pest Management
Pesticide Safety
Plant Pathology
Soil Testing & Fertilizers
Tree Care
Turf Management
Vegetable Gardening
Wildlife Management



Join any of the exciting committees that offer educational services to the county residents.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Union County Master Gardener
Program

Arts & Crafts
Children's Programs
Continuing Ed Programs
Community Projects
Demonstration Garden
Flower Cutting Garden
Herb Garden
Sharing Garden
Executive Board
Grants
Garden Helpline Staff
Intro to Horticultural Therapy
Publicity
Speakers Bureau
The Spring Garden Fair
Street Tree Inventory
Sunshine

The programs are educational in nature and may involve environmental improvements, therapeutic gardening, community and school gardening projects, or other programs according to need.

Don't keep us all to yourself ~
Share with a friend!

Want to get on our mailing list?

Prefer e-mail?

Either way; e-mail jlaganga@ucnj.org and let her know regular mail or e-mail..... Put "County Visions" in your subject line!