



Margaret Hagen Retires from Extension, Grow It Green

On Friday, September 30, Gov. Maggie Hassan declared it Margaret Hagen Day in New Hampshire to celebrate the UNH Cooperative Extension specialist's recent retirement from the organization and 29-year career delivering gardening knowledge to the state's residents.

Best known for her "Grow it Green" segments on WMUR-TV, Margaret shared best practices with viewers through weekly segments that helped folks learn how to garden in the state's growing regions. She set up shop in local businesses to tape pieces about choosing plants for vegetable gardens, when to harvest, and what to grow through a light frost.

"Learning while constantly growing and taking on new opportunities was one of my favorite parts of the job," says Hagen. "I feel very fortunate to have been a part of this organization."

Thousands in the state benefitted from her wisdom and support, and she didn't reserve her sage advice only for her television audience. Colleagues also called upon Margaret for answers and collaboration.

Hagen created the UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center along with Extension professionals, David Seavey and Nancy Adams in 1992. As a central place for gardening and general home-owner questions, the Education Center established a toll-free hotline that received almost 3,800 inquiries in 2015. Hagen often referred to the Center as "her baby" when talking about its history.

For the past several years, Margaret worked with Master Gardener and Natural Resource volunteer Anne Krantz at the state women's prison in Goffstown to help women plant and harvest vegetables for the prison kitchen. With the vegetable gardens providing fresh food for the prisoners, Hagen provided lifelong lessons for the women to cultivate further outside of the prison grounds.

Throughout the state, Margaret interacted with town planners, landscapers, greenhouses, nurseries and garden centers in developing and carrying out programs as part of a state team. Her goal in working with towns or commercial growers always centered on making sure people understood the best practices for a successful landscape or garden in New Hampshire. In staying at the forefront of environmental issues, Margaret helped with storm water management programs through two specific avenues: Landscaping at the Water's Edge and Soak Up the Rain NH.

What's next for Margaret? She looks forward to working and restoring her gardens. In addition to gardening, Margaret and her husband Karl plan to travel. She will also continue to volunteer and work on her singing voice.

Article and photo courtesy of UNH Cooperative Extension. <https://extension.unh.edu/articles/Margaret-Hagen-Retires-Extension-Grow-It-Green>



Margaret Hagen



2017 Joint Winter Meeting		Wednesday Jan. 18, 2017	
Grappone Center, Concord			
8:00	Registration open; morning refreshments available. Visit vendor display booths and get your card stamped to be entered in the raffle drawing.		
8:30 - 9:15	Discussion groups - Informal gatherings, a chance to network and see something new. Drop in on one or both.		
	"Water - a review of water quality for greenhouse production" - Meet Ryan Dickson, UNH Extension's new greenhouse specialist, and review the water situation and the importance of water testing for producers. (Pierce Room) - Chris Schlegel, moderator.	"Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home" - view excerpts of the new video from The Meadow Project; stories from around the country that reinforce the importance of native plants and a community commitment to restoring a balance with nature. (Webster Room) - Jon Batson, moderator.	
General Session (Ballroom) Moderators: Linda Zukas, Ryan Dickson			
9:30 - 10:30	Perennial Communities and the 'Know' Maintenance Approach Roy Diblik, co-owner of Northwinds Perennial Farm Burlington WI; and author of The Know-Maintenance Approach to Perennial Gardens. Roy is a recognized perennial plant expert, grower, designer, speaker and author. Combining his 35 years of knowledge growing traditional and Midwest native perennials, he specializes in highly aesthetic, sustainable plant communities for all seasons, while reducing maintenance through design. He believes that gardens should be thoughtful, ecologically directed, emotionally outreaching and yet very personal.		
10:30 - 10:45	Plant Something! - Linda Zukas and Jeffrey Meulenbroek, New Hampshire Plant Growers Association		
11:00 - 12:00	OSHA Update and New Requirements --What you need to know to stay out of trouble. OSHA compliance officer, Andrew Palhoff, will cover a little bit of everything - new recordkeeping requirements, new reporting requirements, new fine structure, year end recap, and more. Bring your questions.		
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch buffet		
12:45 - 1:00	Announcements: NHLA, NHPGA, and UNHCE updates. Raffle drawing: turn in your stamped card by 12:45 to be eligible.		
1:00 - 1:15	NH Agricultural Mediation Program - Cara Cargill, outreach coordinator for the NH Ag. Mediation program, which offers mediation services related to an array of issues within the agricultural field.		
	Concurrent A		Concurrent B
	Ballroom - Moderators: Amy Papineau & Jon Batson		Webster-Pierce Rooms - Moderators Linda Zukas & Chris Schlegel
1:20 - 2:20	Designing with Maintenance in Mind - Roy Diblik. This topic will build on the morning session with projects and examples from creating new gardens to modifying existing landscapes with reduced maintenance needs.	Create Continuous Biocontrol in Greenhouses: 5 Ways - Carol Glenister, owner IPM Labs, Locke NY Beneficial insects and mites do best when they have food that they like, but you definitely do not want to be growing pests to support them! Come and learn the 5 ways to keep continuous presence of your good guys before there are lots of pests to feed them. PESTICIDE CREDIT*	
2:30 - 3:30	Common Insect Pests of Trees and Shrubs in New England: Highlighting Management Techniques that Fit Your IPM Program - Tawny Simisky, Entomology Specialist UMass Extension. A review of common insect pests on woody ornamentals, including their identification and life cycles, types of damage caused by each organism, and effective Integrated Pest Management techniques. Tips for mechanical and cultural management, biological control where applicable, and reduced risk chemical management options. PESTICIDE CREDIT*	Growing Vegetables and Berries in the Home Garden: Best varieties, New practices and Ways to Extend the Season - Becky Sideman, Vegetable/Berry Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension and Kaitlyn Orde, UNH Graduate Student. Becky and Kaitlyn will share some recommendations for varieties for the home gardener, based on new releases and new developments. They will discuss the basics and tips for success in using season extension practices including high tunnels, low tunnels, and rowcovers. These techniques are increasingly being used by home gardeners, and can help them extend the growing season by many months. A good opportunity to update yourself and your staff who offer advice to customers, or for landscapers who want to offer garden services or coaching.	
3:30	Pesticide credit certification forms; turn in program evaluations and adjourn.		

For more information and registration, please visit www.nhpga.org/events.php

This event is sponsored by the UNH Cooperative Extension, the NH Landscape Association & The NH Plant Growers Association