



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Allegheny County & Master Gardeners Present “Bee Wise...Plant Natives”

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County and the Penn State Master Gardeners will present “Bee Wise...Plant Natives,” a free program that teaches the value of bees as pollinators, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, in the Allegheny County Courtyard at 436 Grant Street in downtown Pittsburgh.

This lively event features information on native pollinators, rain gardens (including the courtyard garden), native plants, and how pollination affects our food supply (including Penn State Creamery ice cream). The presentation will focus on how native plans can benefit pollinators. These pollinators are invaluable for the work they do – one in every three bites of food is the result of pollination. Visitors to the Courtyard program will also enjoy a delicious sample of ice cream, direct from the Penn State Creamery.

In 2009, the four existing planters in the Courthouse Courtyard were retrofitted and converted into rain gardens. Four downspouts were diverted into the planting beds, and the planters were filled with new soil and drainage material. Drought tolerant native plants were then placed in the new gardens.

The master gardener program supports the Penn State Cooperative Extension by utilizing research-based information to educate the public on best practices in consumer horticulture and environmental stewardship. The program provides interested individuals with extensive training in many phases of gardening. In return, participants dedicate volunteer time to teaching horticultural information based on university research and recommendations. The master gardener program also supports Allegheny County through the Courtyard Garden and demonstration gardens in North and South parks.

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The Penn State Center in Pittsburgh provides outreach and extension services to Allegheny County and its residents. The Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 enabled the establishment of Penn State as one of the nation’s first, and Pennsylvania’s only, land grant institution. Penn State’s land grant obligation of teaching, research, and service is delivered to the residents of Pennsylvania through the Penn State Extension program.