NANCY DOOLITTLE

Taking up all of the table space in the large pavilion at Stewart Park, a record 14,250 pounds of nonperishable food, personal care items, and pet and school supplies were collected for the 11th annual Stephen E. Garner Day of Caring, Sept. 20. The donations were given to 17 food pantries and community organizations for distribution throughout Tompkins County.

More than 100 volunteers helped sort these goods, including more than 30 staff members from Cornell, many of whom serve as United Way ambassadors from the university’s colleges and units.

The Day of Caring traditionally kicks off the year’s United Way of Tompkins County (UWTC) campaign. James Brown, president of the UTWC, announced that the 2013-14 UTWC goal is $2,088,000. Annually, Cornell staff, faculty and students provide nearly 40 percent of the county’s campaign goal with their gifts to the United Way. This year, Cornell’s goal is $515,000. “This is a great turnout, with more volunteers than ever before,” said Vice President for Facilities KyuJung Whang, co-chair of the Cornell campaign, after the event. “The food and supplies drive items, I am told, amount to about a ton more than we have ever collected. I know how hard everyone worked to get the boxes out there and get the word out to people, and I was so encouraged to see boxes overflowing all around campus.”

In his remarks during the noon-time program, Brown thanked Cornell’s Division of Alumni Affairs and Development for making UWTC a part of this year’s Homecoming events and announced the visit of Touchdown, the Cornell Big Red Bear, who took time from Homecoming events to attend the Day of Caring event. He also thanked Christina Roberti ’14 and Samuel Coleman ’15, campaign co-chairs for the Cornell Student United Way Campaign, for their work on the upcoming A Cappella United Concert Sept. 27 (see below).

Brown introduced the first video that UWTC has produced, which highlights specific individuals in the local area, including a former Cornell staff member and Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick ’09, whose lives were changed by the United Way. Said University Librarian Anne Kenney, Cornell United Way co-chair: “I am blown away by the outpouring of support by the community and by the variety of items they have donated. The video is very moving – it personalizes the results of giving to the United Way.”

Cornell campaign gifts can be unrestricted or designated to go to a number of local health and human services or to such programs as the three grant programs now available for nonprofit organizations in Tompkins County: Hunger and Food Security; Youth and Philanthropy; and the Ithaca College Student United Way.

Gifts can also be designated to United Way campaigns in other counties. Pledge cards will be distributed in October.

Continued on page 3
Verizon CEO challenges us to keep up with technology

The times they are a-changing, and communications technology is driving a lot of the change – but we have to work to keep up.

“For all the progress we’ve made, we still have a long way to go,” Lowell McAdam ’76 told a full house in Statler Hall’s Alice Statler Auditorium Sept. 19, as he delivered the 32nd Hatfield lecture. McAdam, chairman and CEO of Verizon Communications and a Cornell trustee, spoke on “Tackling the World’s Biggest Challenges: The Future of Communications Technology.”

After reviewing the impact of earlier communications infrastructure, from railroads to the (wired) telephone, McAdam moved to the accelerating pace of change in the modern world. He drew laughs from the audience by running an old commercial for a cellular phone about the size of a brick that weighed “only” 31 ounces. Today, he reported, Verizon Wireless has 100 million customers in 150 countries. He recalled how the idea of touch screens was rejected by many because “people’s fingers will get the screen dirty.”

He cited Moore’s Law, which says that the power of computer chips will double every few months, which means the technology they drive will change at an exponential rate, adding new capabilities we will have to learn to use. Verizon, he noted, has major research underway – some of it in collaboration with Cornell - to leverage its high-speed wireless network, worldwide “cloud” data centers and fiber-optic networks for new applications.

In medicine, mobile devices are reminding patients of their required routines, while doctors can access medical data in the cloud. Communication can help conserve energy, McAdam said, describing a Verizon pilot project in Charlotte, N.C., to link cars with the transportation infrastructure to ease traffic and reduce fuel consumption. Mobile devices are among technologies being used in schools to help teach STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects. “Sixty-five percent of children now in grade school will grow up to have jobs that don’t exist today,” McAdam said.

Some of what’s happening can be viewed as “disruptive technology” that will bring on unexpected change, he said, like the “Internet of things” that connects appliances to the network. By 2017 it is projected that there will be three connected devices for every person on the planet, he reported. Social networks are changing society, and with Verizon bringing fiber optics to individual homes, we are becoming “hyper-connected.”

But a challenge is that there are still millions of people worldwide who are not connected at all, he added.

In a follow-up question period moderated by Provost Kent Fuchs, McAdam reminisced about his experiences as a Cornell student and again reminded the audience, “Technology is ahead of applications.”

The Continental Group Foundation established the Robert S. Hatfield Fund for Economic Education at Cornell in 1980 to honor Robert S. Hatfield ’37, the retiring chairman, president and chief executive officer of the Continental Group Inc. Its purpose was to create a platform for the exchange of ideas between academic and corporate communities. Each year a distinguished business leader is invited to campus to meet with students and faculty and deliver a major address. The fund also supports faculty in teaching economics to undergraduates.

President David Skorton’s remarks will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

If you would like to pose any questions to the president in advance of his address, send them to the Employee Assembly at ea@assembly.cornell.edu.

The address is coordinated by the Employee Assembly.

Cornell Concert Series upcoming performances

The Cornell Concert Series continues its 110th season with a ninety-piece Russian classical orchestra, Oct. 7, followed by two more concerts this fall:

The Mariinsky Orchestra (originally named the St. Petersburg Imperial Opera Orchestra), will perform at Bailey Hall, Oct. 7 at 8 p.m., led by guest conductor Ignat Solzhenitzyn. Highlights include Modest Mussorgsky’s “Night on Bald Mountain,” Sergei Rachmaninoff’s “Isle of the Dead,” and Dmitri Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5. Tickets: $28-40; students $22.

The Rose Ensemble returns to Sage Chapel, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m., presenting a program that highlights the Hispano-Arabic Middle Ages and features the laments of the Sephardic Jews, the Arab-Andalusian dances and Spanish court songs. Tickets: $25; students $12.

Violinist Midori will perform a duet with pianist Ozgur Aydin, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m., Bailey Hall. Midori has established a record of achievement that sets her apart as a master musician, an innovator and a champion of the developmental potential of children. Tickets: $25-35; students $17. Tickets on sale at www.cornellconcertseries.com.
Tickets are on sale at the Athletics Ticket Office online or in Bartels Hall (weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.) through Oct. 4 for Employee Celebration Day, which will be held Oct. 12. A $5 ticket per person allows Cornell staff, faculty, retirees and their families to attend all sporting events of the day, participate in a wide range of activities and have dinner at Barton Hall.

Cornell Big Red football plays Harvard University at 12:30 p.m. at Schoellkopf Field. After the game, players will sign autographs and greet fans in Barton Hall.

Men and women’s soccer teams will also play Harvard, at the Charles F. Berman Field. The women’s soccer game is at 1 p.m. and the men’s is at 4 p.m. Between the games, families can participate in different events to celebrate Cornell’s Youth Soccer Day. A dinner of barbecue chicken and pasta with grilled vegetables and marina sauce will be served 2:30-4:30 p.m. During this time, attendees can browse the Cornell Community Fair, featuring interactive displays from organizations across campus and the community. Crossroad the Clown, the Cornell Bear and the Marching Band will make appearances.

For the first time, Cornell’s Formula SAE team, Cornell Racing, will showcase one of their formula cars. The team has won nine World Champion titles at the annual Formula SAE Design Competition in Michigan. The day will wrap up at 7 p.m. at Lynah Rink with men and women’s hockey “Red-White” Scrimmage.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the event. Those interested in setting up, serving, helping with activities or cleaning up for a two-hour shift can contact empcollection@cornell.edu. All volunteers will receive an Employee Celebration t-shirt and a complimentary ticket for the day’s events.

Employee Celebration Day is sponsored by the Division of Human Resources and Safety Services, the Department of Athletics and Physical Education, the Department of Building Care, Cornell Catering and Pepsi.

Free parking is available at Hoy Garage with a Cornell ID.

Allie Clement ’16 is a communications major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
I am pleased to announce that, as of Oct. 1, the motor coach operators of the Campus to Campus motor coach service will be Cornell employees. Some of these employees are current or past Campus to Campus motor coach operators, and some will be new to the Campus to Campus motor coach service. As part of this transition, John Pickard has been hired as the operations manager, and our in-house operators include Greg Biviano, Penny Briolat, Terrance Carr, Art Krause, Jason Parker, Chris Strauff and Jason VanOrman.

The Campus to Campus bus service has been in operation since 2004, linking Ithaca with New York City for the Cornell campus and surrounding communities. The bus service operates seven days a week, year-round except for Thanksgiving and the university’s Winter Break.

It takes a team to keep the bus service up and running on time - from taking calls for reservations and questions, to cleaning and stocking the amenities, to maintaining and fixing the buses.

Under current arrangements, the buses have been owned by Cornell and maintained and serviced by Cornell employees, while motor coach operators were outsourced. As of Oct. 1, all operations will be in-sourced, staffed by Cornell employees as part of the university’s Transportation Services, and housed along with the buses at the East Campus Service Center.

We believe that bringing the motor coach operators in-house will give us greater opportunity to continually improve our service, and we look forward to seeing you on your next trip.

Benjamin Kuo is interim director of transportation services.

Hastak visits Cornell as ACE Fellow

Makarand (Mark) Hastak, professor both of civil engineering and management and of construction engineering and management at Purdue University, has joined Cornell as American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow for the 2013-14 academic year. He started his Cornell work Sept. 18. Hastak will focus his efforts on the Administrative Streamlining Program and the process of capital budget and planning.

“We hope to provide a rich experience to Professor Hastak and also to learn a lot from his feedback and observation of our capital planning and our administrative streamlining programs,” said Elmira Mangum, vice president for planning and budget.

The ACE Fellowship program places senior academics at other universities to learn about key issues in higher education administration. Fifty fellows, nominated by the presidents or chancellors of their institutions, were selected this year in a national competition.

Established in 1965, the program is designed to strengthen institutional capacity and build leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration. Nearly 2,000 higher education leaders have participated in the ACE Fellows Program since its inception, with more than 300 fellows having served as chief executive officers of colleges and universities and more than 1,300 having served as provosts, vice presidents, or deans.

Cornell Club discounted for faculty and staff

Cornell faculty and staff members are eligible to join The Cornell Club-New York at a discount through Oct. 31. In addition to a waived initiation fee (or reinstatement fee if applicable), those who join by Oct. 31 will receive a $100 house credit.

For rates and more information, see: http://cornellclubnyc.com/invitationfacultystaff.
In Ithaca, town-gown relations are thriving

NANCY DOOLITTLE

From Lake Source Cooling to gorge safety, transportation concerns, the future of the Ithaca Commons and the frequency of Collegetown parties, City of Ithaca officials and Cornell administrators regularly work together on shared issues, opportunities and proactive strategies. Their goal: Have working groups in place that are regularly connecting, rather than having to simply react - and start from scratch - on any given controversy, crisis or tragedy.

Speaking to about 40 Cornell staff members Sept. 19 at the monthly communicators@cornell meeting, Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick ’09 and Cornell Director of Community Relations Gary Stewart concurred that “holding forward-looking and standing town-gown meetings” makes it easier to work together once a crisis or tragedy occurs.

“Most of these meetings are ‘under the radar,’” said Stewart. “The work we do is generally quiet.” But having a town-gown understanding in place provides a framework for positive action and problem-solving, he said.

“This is the meat of communications: being steady… being reliable … being consistent … and sometimes even being boring,” said Myrick. He noted that his meeting regularly with President Skorton has led to their issuing joint statements, and he noted the work of the Gorge Safety Committee; the Ithaca-Tompkins Transportation Council; the Local Government Leaders Roundtable; and Cornell’s President’s Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Cornell and the city have also collaborated on the plans for the proposed Hotel Ithaca on the Ithaca Commons, the invasion of hydrilla in the inlet, rental housing and neighborhood issues, and Collegetown patrols, which double at the beginning and end of semesters, Myrick said. To recognize and promote such town-gown collaborations, the City of Ithaca and Cornell have instituted annual Town-Gown Awards.

Myrick said that the work of most of these committees is understanding the issues, generating ideas and discussing possible solutions. Once something is “actionable,” it goes to a public forum for further discussion and decision-making, he said.

Myrick uses social media to communicate with his constituents. “You need to remember why people are following you on Twitter, and you need to distill your messages to the fewest number of words,” he said. “You need brevity, impact, power and punch. You are just there to plant seeds and perk interest.”

What is the one concern that keeps Myrick up at night? Anything on safety, he said: keeping people safe; building and maintaining safe buildings and infrastructures.

The presentation by Myrick and Stewart was prefaced by a video on Ithaca and surrounding areas, “Where We Live,” by Cornell’s Division of University Communications.

Walkin’ the Country raised $26 thousand

The results of the 2013 Walkin’ the Country fundraiser are in: Q Country radio disc jockey Chris Allinger travelled to 12 towns and raised $26,540.16, exceeding last year’s total by more than $6,000.

On Sept. 9 at 10 a.m., Allinger donned a backpack and set out from the Friedman Wrestling Center on a weeklong, 103-mile walk to collect monetary donations for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier’s BackPack Program.

Cornell Athletics and Physical Education staff and friends kicked off the 2013 Walkin’ the Country II fundraiser by putting a $5,000 money order in the backpack to help children in need. Others contributed money to Allinger’s backpack along the way.

Every Friday during the school year, the BackPack Program discretely provides children who are at risk of hunger with a bag of nutritious, easy-to-prepare food to help fill the gap over weekends and breaks, when children do not have access to school meal programs. According to U.S. Census data cited by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, 4,203 Tompkins County children qualify for school meal programs.

“Those first steps at Cornell were among the most amazing moments of my career,” Allinger said. “To see all those coaches giving me a sendoff, all I could think was: I better not mess this up. One town after another, people would honk and wave and meet us at our designated stops. Everyone was so moved by the fact that even here in Tompkins County, we have children at risk of hunger. I can’t count the times that people said to me, ‘this is all I have on me but I wanted to put it in the backpack.’ … at $3 a pop, the money we raised will provide 8,846 backpacks. That’s enough for 221 children to be covered for the whole school year.”

PROVIDED UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPH
Wellbeing Programs

Beyond the Birth Day: Postpartum Care for the New Family – Oct. 11, noon-1 p.m., 163 Day Hall

Who’s Coming to Dinner? Cooking Class – Five Fridays beginning Oct. 4, noon-1:15 p.m., 360 Martha Van Rensselaer, $30 for the series

P&C Fresh Grocery Store Tour – Oct. 8, 10:15-11:15 a.m., meet at P&C Fresh, East Hill Plaza

Social Food and Drink – Two-part series, Oct. 9 and 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 360 Martha Van Rensselaer Hall

Wellbeing programs are open to Cornell community members (faculty, staff, students, post-docs, retirees and spouses/partners). They assist individuals with tools and strategies related to life transitions, caregiving, physical and emotional health, and flexible work practices. For more information, email wellbeing@cornell.edu or call the Wellness Program (255-3886) or Career/Life Services (255-5298).

Educational development workshops

More information on the following programs can be found at https://www.hr.cornell.edu/benefits/education/

Cornell Children’s Tuition Scholarship – Oct. 8, 10-11:30 a.m., 401 Physical Sciences Building. For employees whose children will attend college in the fall, 2014. The workshop reviews: eligibility for the program, guidelines on how payments are made to Cornell and outside schools and completing the online application and the FAFSA form.

Tuition Aid/Extramural Workshop – Oct. 15, 10-11 a.m., 163 Day Hall. The Tuition Aid benefit is for those staff who are interested in taking coursework outside of Cornell; the Extramural benefit is for those staff who would like to take a course at Cornell. Register by emailing ajl63@cornell.edu

Employee Degree Program (undergraduate) – Oct. 23, 10-11:30 a.m., 163 Day Hall. Have you thought about completing an undergraduate degree at Cornell while working and wonder if that’s possible? Have you taken some college courses and wonder if they would be accepted in a degree program at Cornell? How many credits will transfer? Register by emailing ajl63@cornell.edu

Programs for supervisors

To register for the courses below and for more information, see: https://www.hr.cornell.edu/life/career/career_services_supervisors.html

New Supervisor Orientation Certificate Program – This 7-session program will be held Thursdays, Oct. 31-Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at 20 Thornwood Drive, Suite 101. The program helps new supervisors succeed covering supervisory skills (hiring, coaching, staff development and discipline), human resource policies and procedures, and compliance requirements. For information, contact Jess Cisco at jdc77@cornell.edu or 254-2769. Cost: $300, billed to your department account.

Supervisor Development Certificate Program – This program will be held Wednesdays, Oct. 30-Nov. 20, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at 20 Thornwood Drive, Suite 101. Participants learn what Cornell expects from its supervisors, how to manage performance (set expectations, provide feedback and resolve conflict), and human-resource law and Cornell policies to understand and act upon in the case of violations. For information, contact Jess Cisco at jdc77@cornell.edu or 254-2769. This program has no cost to participants.

Reminder: Apply now for Cornell child care grants, deadline is Sept. 30

Cornell University’s Child Care Grant Program helps faculty and staff pay for child care expenses by granting awards of up to $5,000 a year, tax-free. The application period for the 2014 Child Care Grant Program runs through Sept. 30.

The grant covers eligible child care, including infant and toddler day care, pre-school/pre-K programs, school holidays, school-age summer day camps/programs, and school-age before/after school care.

In order to receive grant funds on a tax-free basis, faculty and staff must be eligible to participate in the dependent care flexible spending account each year. Cornell Cooperative Extension County Association employees are not eligible to apply for the Cornell Grant Program.

For more information, read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at https://hr.cornell.edu/life/support/ccgsp_faq.pdf, or contact the Resource Center at Benefit Services at (607) 255-3936 or by email: childcare@cornell.edu. Undergraduate and graduate/professional students can find child care grant information, guidelines and applications posted on the Cornell Students with Children website at http://studentparents.dos.cornell.edu/ or email: gradstudentlife@cornell.edu.
The Greater Ithaca Art Trail Open Studio weekends will be held Oct. 5-6 and Oct. 12-13, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. each day, giving art enthusiasts the opportunity to take a self-guided tour of all 47 artist studios opened simultaneously throughout Tompkins County.

Visitors will see an artist’s work space, their materials and their work. They will find artists working in all media: painters, photographers, sculptors, printmakers, fiber artists, ceramists, makers of fine furniture, collage artists, glass artists, mixed media artists, digital artists, creators of decorative functional art and even a blacksmith. Shoppers will find art priced from $10 to $2,500.

In addition to the open studio weekends, visitors can visit a selection of Art Trail artists on the first Saturday of every month except October. Artists are also available by appointment. For more information, see ArtTrail.com.

Reminderto: CARE Fund in great need of donations for auction

The CARE Fund (Cornellians Aiding and Responding to Employees) seeks donations by Cornell community members for its annual CARE Fund Online Auction to be held Nov. 4-8. Historically, donations have included such services as a garden landscape consultation; such crafts and art work as handmade jewelry or aprons; gift baskets or gift certificates; sports tickets; and lessons. Give of your time, talent or other donation by contacting Ruth Merle-Doyle at rem64@cornell.edu or 255-5060. Donations are due by Oct. 15.

CARE Fund is a way for Cornell community members to help fellow Cornell employees who are experiencing a sudden financial hardship due to an unforeseen or unavoidable event. Hardships include such unexpected events as losing a home to fire or flood, incurring travel expenses for specialized hospital stays or paying funeral expenses after the sudden loss of a family member.

Cornell community members can also contribute to the CARE Fund with a cash donation or payroll deduction. To contribute or for more information, go to: https://www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/care_fund.html.

Retirement expert will discuss changes in retirement planning

Roger W. Ferguson, president and chief executive officer of TIAA-CREF, will discuss “The Retirement Savings Gap in the U.S.,” Oct. 17 at 11:45 a.m., in the Statler Hotel Ballroom. He will look at the current national retirement landscape, discuss its changes over time, and consider some of the challenges ahead in funding retirement. He will address the need to rethink, repair, and restart America's retirement system – while outlining what individuals can do to better ensure their own lifetime financial security.

Lunch will be served prior to his talk. This event is sponsored by TIAA-CREF and Cornell University.


TIAA-CREF offers financial IQ challenge

Beginning Oct. 1, test your financial know-how and become eligible to win a tablet computer.

Each day, Oct. 1-31, five new questions about financial planning are added to the challenge. Every time you play, you are automatically entered for a chance to win one of three tablet computers. The more you play, the better your chances of winning – so sign on every day (all responses are confidential.)

To sign on, go to http://www.whatsyourfinancialiq.org/wyfiq/?quiz=CornellUniv/Quiz1.

New York City bus trips

Spend a Saturday in NYC. Discounted fare for these trips is $50 per person for Cornell employees and up to four guests. See https://www.hr.cornell.edu/life/crc/nyc_daytrips.html for more information. Upcoming trips: Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14. Call Swarthout at 257-2277 to make a reservation.
Cooperative Extension programs geared to the fall

Save Energy Save Dollars

A workshop on saving energy in your home will be held Sept. 27, 1-3 p.m., Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca. Learn about the biggest energy users in your home; how to improve your home's comfort (health and safety too); and how to obtain financial assistance (grants, loans, on-bill financing, etc.) to get started on home energy upgrades. Free, but pre-registration required by calling CCE-Tompkins at 272-2292.

Dining to promote local meats

Two Ithaca restaurants will offer special fall dining promotions to raise funds for The Finger Lakes Meat Project, a project at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County (NY) in promoting local meats.

Each weekend in October, the Carriage House Café, 305 Stewart Ave., will offer a locally-sourced brunch special, while Fine Line Bistro, 404 West State St., will offer a “Meat Locker Special” dinner on Wednesdays, Sept. 25-Oct. 16.

Jillian’s Drawers, located on the Ithaca Commons, sells Finger Lakes Meat Project buttons for $1 each.

The Finger Lakes Meat Project includes: the Meat Suite, an online database at meatsuite.com, lists local livestock producers who sell meat in bulk directly to consumers; the Meat Locker Pilot Project will build two walk-in freezers at downtown sites in Ithaca and Corning (NY) with units that consumers can rent to store their bulk meat purchases. For more information: http://tompkins.cornell.edu/meatlocker or contact Matt LeFoux at (607) 272-2292 ext. 195 or mnl28@cornell.edu.

Green buildings open house

The 2013 Ithaca-area Green Buildings Open House will be held Oct. 5-6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., featuring 21 homes (11 on Sat.; 10 on Sun.) that use renewable energy and/or eco-friendly building practices. Highlights include the 2007 Cornell Solar Decathlon entry (now a private home), an Earthship, timber-framed straw bale homes, and several homes built to passive-house standards. Self-guided tours. Just $5 gets you into as many homes as you’d like to visit. For full details, visit cocetomkins.org or call (607) 272-2292.

Panel discussion on green building methods

A panel discussion, “Putting Green Building to Work for You,” will be held Oct. 4, 6-8 p.m. (reception at 5:30 p.m.), at the Sustainability Center, 111 N. Albany St, Ithaca. Free and open to the public. Learn how to make the most of green building methods, materials and technologies; increase energy savings and improved indoor air quality; use local and reclaimed materials; and design your home to both passively and actively make the most of solar energy.

Cornell Plantations events

The Oct. 4 Plantations 5k Running Tour will begin at noon at the garden overlook on Tower Road, across from the old Dairy Bar. Running tours are guided by Plantations staff and offered on alternating Fridays. The pace will be a moderate jog, with several stops along the way. Participants should be in good physical condition, wear appropriate running shoes and attire, and bring a water bottle. Free and open to all members of the Ithaca and Cornell communities.

Learn about Rain Gardens, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Nevin Welcome Center. Rain gardens are shallow, vegetated depressions that collect, absorb, cool and filter stormwater runoff. Learn how to redirect stormwater from impermeable surfaces through dry creek beds, vegetated swales, or drain pipes into beautiful rain gardens. Pre-registration required. Fee: $24; $20 Plantations members and Cornell students.

An Arboretum Tour for Photographers will be held Oct. 6, 3:30-5:30 p.m.; bring your camera and meet at the Sculpture Garden on Wednesdays, Sept. 25-Oct. 16.

Lee Reich will present a lecture. My Weedless Garden, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Statler Hall Auditorium, introducing the “weedless gardening” system that maintains soil integrity by nurturing the ground from the top down, avoiding soil compaction, maintaining a soil cover and pinpointing watering. Free and open to the public.

Autumn Reflections, a workshop that is part of Plantations’ seasonal meditation series, will be held Oct. 13, 2-4 p.m., at the Nearing House. For both beginners wanting to learn how to create a new meditation practice, and advanced meditators looking to rejuvenate their existing practice. Fee: $24; $20 Plantations members; free for Cornell students.