

# News You Can Use!

September 2023

Here is the September 2023 edition of News You Can Use featuring:

- Update from your AC Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, & Fall Seminar Chair
- Registration information for 2023 Fall Seminar, 2023 State Conference, & 2023 Fall Plant Exchange
- The Tree of Life Memorial Celebration Event
- Baked Goods needed for Fall Seminar
- & more...
- MGVC "Update" Archive

\*NYCU is published once a month October - April; twice a month May - September.

If you have any questions on information found in News You Can Use - contact Tammy L. Currier at [currier.37@osu.edu](mailto:currier.37@osu.edu).

Help us build our social media presence by following the [Master Gardener Volunteers of Cuyahoga County Facebook page](#) and by sharing it with your friends. If they share, we will expand our reach!

If you have information to share in the next News You Can Use contact Tammy L. Currier at [currier.37@osu.edu](mailto:currier.37@osu.edu).

## Update from Ellen Comeau, your AC Chair

Hello fellow MGV's,

Where did the summer go? It's all too fast! I hope you all enjoyed the holiday weekend. I wanted to touch on a subject that's always important to me as Chair of this organization. And that's communication. And well another subject and that's involvement.

I want to reach out to all of you and invite you to "Talk to the Chair". I'd like you to take a moment and think about what interests you about the MGCC, what you think needs changing and why, what works and why, what you would like to see added, what complaints you have and what suggestions.



I don't want anyone named but you can talk about a committee. If you have a complaint, then be constructive not destructive. Same with a suggestion. Don't just tell me something sucks or doesn't work, instead please give ideas on how you would fix it. And yes, it can be about me too, lol. And I'm the only one you can mention by name.

This organization is about all of us together. I hear things all the time and I try to investigate them but what about the things that I don't know about?

How can I address issues if you just complain to your friends. And again the same goes for ideas or suggestions you may have.

So let's hear from you, the body. I may publish emails, but they will always be anonymous and with the sender's permission.

**Thanks as always for the great volunteering you do!**

*~Ellen*

+++++



## **Update from Tammy L. Currier, your Volunteer Coordinator**

Dear MGVs,

Please see the following:

- **Need Volunteer Hours? Earn TWO** at the Tree of Life Memorial Celebration on 9/23. Honor those lost to the opioid crisis and COVID by planting trees. For further information, read post below.

\* Sign up to volunteer [HERE!](#)

- Just **TWO** Saturdays (weather permitting) remain to volunteer at the Ben Franklin Perennial & Herb Gardens, 9:00 AM - NOON. Mark the following dates on your calendar: 9/9 & 10/14.
- For those of you **in need of CEs**, the 2023-2024 Horticulture Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour Webinar Series is coming soon. Tune in live or watch the recordings. What a great way to earn CE's - listen while you garden, cut the grass, cook, walk, or do the dishes! Presentation schedule and registration links will be available here: [go.osu.edu/mgvlearn](http://go.osu.edu/mgvlearn)
- For Additional CE's, follow these links:
  - [2022-2023 Webinars](#)
  - [2021-2022 Webinars](#)
  - [2020-2021 Webinars](#)
- For those **MGVs that ordered MGV swag/merchandise earlier this summer**, could you please pick it up or arrange for someone to pick it up for you. Michelle, our office assistant is in the office

sweating it out (due to no air conditioning) M-F, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Thanks for all you do!

Questions? Please reach out to [currier.37@osu.edu](mailto:currier.37@osu.edu).

**Happy Gardening,**

*Tammy*

+++++

+++**Note from Melanie Biche, Fall Seminar Chair**+++

*Dear Master Gardeners,*

*Please join us for our **Fall Seminar** on Saturday, October 7th, featuring Keynote Speaker Harvey Webster.*

*Harvey was the Chief Wildlife Officer & Museum Ambassador at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He retired in 2020 after a 47-year career at the Museum. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland.*

*Harvey will be speaking to us about a new pilot project, “Nature in My Backyard.” Nature in My Backyard launched in 2023 and unites the knowledge and expertise of the members of the Shaker Lakes Garden Club with the conservation and education mission of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. The goal is to help homeowners transform their yards into life sustaining habitats for native flora and fauna.*

*Harvey blends a truly unique storytelling style with years of experience and knowledge. You won’t want to miss it!*

**Don't Miss it - Register [TODAY!](#)**

+++++

**MGCC Dates at a Glance:**

- **September 8th - Green Circle Growers/Tour One; REGISTRATION CLOSED!**
- **September 9th - Saturdays at Ben Franklin (9:00 AM - NOON); EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS!**
- **September 12th - Fall Plant Exchange; REGISTER [NOW!](#)**
- **September 22nd - Green Circle Growers/Tour Two; REGISTRATION CLOSED!**

- **September 23rd - Tree of Life Memorial Celebration Event; SIGN UP [HERE!](#)**
- **October 7th - Fall Seminar - "Natives, Trees, Backyards and Bees"; REGISTER [NOW!](#)**
- **October 12th-14th - 2023 MGCV State Conference - *Greene - More than a Color*; REGISTER [NOW!](#)**
- **November 13th - The 17th Annual Stinner Summit; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **January 12th - 19th, 2024 & January 19th - 26th, 2024 - Ecuador Trip; REGISTRATION CLOSED!**

**For more information on these dates, see descriptions below.**

+++++

**Join the MGCC: Fall Seminar - "Natives, Trees, Backyards and Bees," 10/7/2023, 8:15 AM - 3:30 PM**



**\*Interested in learning more about native plants for your landscape?**

**\*Would you like to master your iPhone camera for more interesting and attractive garden and landscape photos?**

**\*Curious about trees that can survive and thrive in tough planting conditions?**

**Join us for these topics and more at MGCC's Fall Seminar!**

**When:** Saturday, October 7th, 2023, 8:15 AM - 3:30 PM

**Where:** Parma-Snow Library / 2121 Snow Road / Parma, OH 44134

**Fee:** \$55 (includes keynote speaker and three sessions, continental breakfast, and a boxed lunch).

**\*Breakfast, Lunch, & Raffle items**

**Keynote Speaker:** Harvey Webster, retired Chief Wildlife Officer & Museum Ambassador, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History

## **REGISTER NOW!**

**MGVs will receive FIVE CEs for their participation**

---

### **Important Fall Seminar Information:**

- **Do you like to bake? We need baked goods to share with our attendees. See below for more information.**
  - **If you reached out to Melanie Biche to volunteer for Fall Seminar, please contact her again at [beeshay18@gmail.com](mailto:beeshay18@gmail.com) and put "Fall Seminar Volunteer" in the subject line.**
  - **We've had a few questions about whether the Fall Seminar is open to non-MGVs. The answer is an enthusiastic YES! We encourage you to share the registration information with your garden clubs, friends, and family. All are welcome!**
- 



### **MGVS - Do You Like to Bake? We Need Baked Goods for Fall Seminar!**

**Hello Master Gardeners,**

**First, we hope you'll be attending Fall Seminar - if so, we'd appreciate it if you'd **REGISTER** ASAP! Much of the planning depends on who and how many people are attending.**

**Next, we would really appreciate it if you could bring 2-3 dozen of your favorite baked goods to share with our attendees - we hope to have nearly two hundred!**

**Please let us know what you intend to bake/bring so we can balance the contributions.**

- **Muffins, breads, brownies, etc. are all welcome.**
- **We have one gluten-free baker and could use a second.**
- **Boiled or deviled eggs and fruit like tangerines would also make wonderful contributions.**
- **We have yogurt coming.**
- **We're providing the coffee and fruit-flavored water.**

**Questions? Reach out to [Sandy Welches](#).**

**Thank you in advance for your contributions!!!**

~ *The Fall Seminar Team*

+++++



**Register  
Now: 2023  
MGV State  
Conference  
- Greene -  
More than a  
Color! -  
**October 12-  
14, 2023****

**Reminder: Fall  
Plant Exchange  
- 9/12/2023**

*Last day to  
register is 9/8!*



Hey Master Gardener Volunteers!

Have plans for the fall yet? You do now.

We hope you will consider joining us in Greene County, Ohio for our face to face State Conference. Please consider joining us for this great event!

**\*Early bird registration is now open!**

**When:** October 12th-14th, 2023

**Where:** Holiday Inn Fairborn, Ohio 45324 – Greene County

**Featuring:**

- Bus and bike tours
- Educational Sessions & Workshops
- Friday evening keynote with Scott Beuerlein, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
- Saturday morning keynote with

**Brent Heath of Brent & Becky's Bulbs**

- State Awards Luncheon
- Trade and Vendor booths

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

For more information:  
Visit this [LINK!](#)

**What:** Fall  
Plant Exchange  
**When:** 9/12/2023, 11:00 AM-2:00  
PM

**Where:** Kiwanis Pavilion/6363 Selig Drive, Independence, OH 44131  
Bring houseplants, perennials, vegetables, shrubs, bulbs, trees, etc. - potted and labeled w/genus, species and cultivar name and any other useful information.

Ticket value is 1 to 5 tickets based on condition, labeling and value of the plant. Additional tickets may be purchased at 50 cents per ticket. Please do not bring invasive plant species.

**SCHEDULE:**

**11:00 AM** - Plant Exchange Registration & Social Hour

**12:00 PM** - Potluck luncheon: Everyone brings a favorite salad, dish or dessert. Please bring your own drinking water, place setting, silverware and serving utensils.

**12:30 PM** - Master Gardener, Deborah Osgood, will talk about "All About Ferns"

**1:00 PM** - Announcements

**1:15 PM** - Plant Auction - the most valuable plants will be auctioned.

**1:30 PM** - Plant Exchange

**Fee:** Event is free with a potluck contribution. Bringing a guest? Bring an additional dish to share.

**REGISTER NOW; EARN ONE CE!**

+++++



## Spice Acres: MGVs Spend a Day at the Farm

*Nestled in the CVNP, Spice Acres is a dynamic venue for learning about & lauding each season's food with on-site workshops, events, & inventive dining experiences.*

The Master Gardener Volunteers thoroughly enjoyed their field trip this past Saturday to Spice Acres in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. In addition to their expertly guided hike around the farm where they learned about the farm's soil (sandy), water (or lack thereof), cover crops, companion plants, and so much more. They also had the opportunity to pick, pluck, and praise swaying sunflowers, towering corn, tantalizing cherry tomatoes, ripening red and white raspberries, and pause beneath the spread of a historic sassafras tree.

Following their hike, they were treated to a very entertaining and informative cooking demonstration by Spice Hospitality Group Chef/Founder, Ben Bebenroth, and Spice Field Kitchen Chief Operating Officer, Steve Baker, where the gardeners learned about shaving and cutting zucchini and cucumbers to avoid the seed pocket, how long to grill, boil, or microwave an ear of fresh corn (roughly ninety seconds), how to get more juice out of limes and lemons (remove their cheeks; cutting them in thirds), what salt and sugar do to the palate (bring flavors forward and back), how to prevent water from escaping ribbons of zucchini and cucumber (treat them with olive oil – it seals the cells), and so much more.

And their reward? Salads of freshly picked cucumber and zucchini prepared two ways – one with oil, freshly grilled corn, lemon, parmesan, & a pinch of kosher salt & the other with finely chopped cilantro, corn, lime, & kosher salt. The very satisfying salads were full of flavor and crunch and offered the pleasures of eating straight from the vine.

**To learn more about Spice Hospitality Group and Spice Field Kitchen or to schedule your own field trip, follow this [LINK](#).**

\* Did you know that Spice Acres is one of only a dozen farms that are part of a farm leasing program in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park called the Countryside Initiative? Or that in partnership with Countryside, the CVNP is the only National Park in the country to steward and protect their rural park land through sustainable farming?

\* Countryside also offers farmers markets and learning opportunities for the community. Learn more about these programs and how you can participate or contribute by visiting their [WEBSITE](#).

**To learn more about the history of the Countryside Initiative, follow this [LINK](#).**

- submitted by Tammy L Currier, MGCC Volunteer Coordinator

+++++

## The Tree of Life Memorial Celebration Event is Back!



*Volunteer for this special celebratory event*

**What/Why:** The goal of the event is to commemorate lost loved ones and to support families suffering from loss with the therapeutic power of plants. This event's original focus was families that had lost loved ones due to gun violence, but now includes those lost to COVID and the opioid crisis. The first few events have centered around providing a tree-like house plant to the families, as house plants are more easily cared for and are more amenable to space constraints in family homes.

**NEW:** The Tree of Life this year will be two-fold -

- 1) We will be planting full-sized trees (oak, birch, etc.) at The Family Life Center - the center that has so graciously allowed us to host the event. As part of the Community Life Collaborative, the center has a large memorial garden and has undertaken re-forestation efforts to allow nature to flourish at the site for generations to come. AND/OR
- 2) Additionally, families will have the option to take home a tree-like house plant to nurture and care for.

**The ask of MGVs:** Do you have knowledge of tree planting or house plant care? Each MGV will pair with a family to either -

- 1) Assist in planting the tree properly while explaining the process.
  - 2) Educate the family with basic plant care instructions of the house plant.
- Note: the plant will likely be a money tree or a ponytail palm - two very easy to care for plants.

**Where:** The Family Life Center - managed by the Community Life Collaborative and the Federated Church / 16349 Chillicothe Road / Chagrin Falls OH 44023

**When:** September 23, 2023 / 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

If you would like to volunteer please sign up in the Hand 2 Hand portal [HERE](#)

YES, this location is way out there, especially if you reside in the Cleveland or Akron areas or beyond. If possible, we recommend carpooling.

Also, if you want to honor a lost loved one as part of the event or know someone who may value this opportunity, please have them reach out to [Veronica Robinson](#) - Hand 2 Hand founder. Some transportation help may be available to family participants of this event.

**Questions:** email [Maggie Rivera](#)

MGVS will receive **TWO** VHs for this event





## Save the Date: The 17th Annual Stinner Summit - November 13, 2023

\* Open to MGVs

This agriculture focused event will be held in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Happy Days Lodge and is held

annually as a tribute to Dr. Ben Stinner, who was a pioneer in regenerative agricultural research and a great connector of people.

Each year the Stinner Summit gathers researchers, farmers, educators, policy leaders, and organizations from across the state. Through a participatory process, specific project ideas are crafted during the Summit and funded through the Stinner Endowment Fund. This year, they will be encouraging projects focused on building more resilient and equitable food systems in metropolitan regions.

We invite you to help us design and lead these projects by attending the Summit this fall. The Summit provides an excellent opportunity for networking, sharing, and designing impactful projects, and there is no cost associated with attending.

**When:** Monday, November 13th, 2023 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Where:** Happy Days Lodge / CVNP/ 500 W Streetsboro St / Peninsula, OH 44264

**Note:** There may be opportunities to earn VEs - stay tuned.

**REGISTRATION COMING SOON!**

**MGVS earn ONE CE per ONE hour of instruction**

-submitted by Maggie Rivera, Summit County ANR Educator

+++++

### CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

(Note: Cuyahoga County CE opportunities will always be listed first, followed by CE opportunities available in other Ohio counties, so remember to scroll down. New listings will be shown first followed by opportunities listed in chronological order.

**\* Cuyahoga County: 2023  
Upcoming Continuing  
Education Opportunities**

**N**ew year, new CE opportunities! Please review the 2023 roster of Cuyahoga County continuing education opportunities.



**Upcoming 2023 MGCC CE  
Opportunities:**

- **Green Circle Growers - This is an opportunity for MGCCs to tour Ohio's largest wholesale grower, located in Oberlin. Green Circle Growers has state-of-the-art greenhouses where you will experience microclimates, learn about sustainable practices, and enjoy the beauty of over 150 acres of plants being produced for customers throughout the US and Canada; Choose from Tour ONE - September 8th & Tour TWO September 22nd - REGISTRATION CLOSED!**

**MGVs earn ONE CE per ONE hour of programming**



**Continuing Education  
Webinars from CFAES**

**With lots of interesting sessions - CFAES Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour webinar sessions are the perfect way to expand your horticultural knowledge, as well as your knowledge of the natural world - all while earning required CE's.**

**Visit the following links to register for current webinars and to listen to past webinars:**

- [2022-2023 Webinars](#)
- [2021-2022 Webinars](#)
- [2020-2021 Webinars](#)

***Happy Learning!***

+++++

**MGV Coordinator "Important Info" Archive:** *Please use this ongoing archive to access important and helpful information shared by myself to assist you in being an effective MGCV.*

Need help finding MGCC Projects or Roster? Follow these steps:

- Log into this **LINK**
- Scroll down to **MY COUNTIES**
- Click on the grey box titled: **SEARCH PROJECTS** to locate full list of current MGCC projects. Click on the title of the project to access description.
- Click on the grey box titled: **ROSTER** (located to the right of the **SEARCH PROJECTS** box) to locate the names, status, phone, and email addresses of your fellow MGCVs.

### **HANDS ON CONNECT TIPS:**

- Accessing Hands on Connect: - **BOOKMARK** the following link: **<https://mgvolunteers.osu.edu/>** - doing so will provide easy access to the site and you won't have to reach out to me. : )
- **REMEMBER** to log-in - the log-in button is in the upper right corner - Otherwise, the information you see does not directly pertain to you.
- The Roster is located under the heading - **MY COUNTIES**. The Roster is in the third grey box to the right.
- If/when you are interested in a project you **need to reach out directly** to the chair in charge of that project to sign up. For instance, if you wanted to work with the Community Garden Mentors, you would reach out to Emily Roll. Contact information for every Master Gardener Volunteer is located under the **ROSTER** in Hands on Connect.
- **Do NOT** use the Hands on Connect sign-up feature – it is more a function of the system than a sign-up tool. Expressing interest basically pins the project to your page and allows you to then log any volunteer time spent or CE's earned.
- Take the time to familiarize yourself with the site - you can't break it and it will be much easier to use once you've clicked on a few links. You can't get the lay of the land, so to speak, until you explore.

**2023 Hour Requirements: 25 Volunteer Hours / 10 Continuing Education Hours.**

Your volunteer and continuing education hours should be earned participating in county and OSU Extension sponsored activities and continuing education opportunities. The goal is to support our county's projects benefiting the public and to gain OSU Extension-approved, science-based knowledge.

**DON'T DELAY** - start earning hours as soon as you can in 2023! It's always easier to accrue hours when our programming is in partial to full swing than to wait until our programming has wound down and hours are due to try and scramble to find hours to fulfill your requirements.

**BUSY CAREER or HOME LIFE & WANT TO REMAIN AN MGV?** - for those of you working full time, we know work gets crazy, so consider opportunities you can do at home to maintain your status as an MGV:

- Volunteer at Ben Franklin Perennial & Herb Demo Gardens the second Saturday of the month, 9:00 AM - NOON. Just two dates remaining: **9/9, 10/14**.
- Participate in Telephone Hotline (task completed from the comfort of your own home).
- Join the Ask a Master Gardener team (questions answered online - also done from the comfort of your own home).
- Become a member of the Tech Team (also from the comfort of your home).
- Assist community gardens by becoming a Community Garden Mentor - mostly you respond to phone calls.
- Be a regular contributor to the MGCC Facebook page.

**Please keep the information shared above for easy access.**

If you have any questions about the information I have shared here, please let me know.

**Thanks for all you do,**  
*- Tammy*

+++++

## **Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County 2023 Advisory Committee Members:**

**Chair – Ellen Comeau**  
**Secretary – Deborah Osgood (2024)**  
**Treasurer – Gretchen Faro (2024)**  
**Assistant Treasurer - Cheryl Dever (2024; non-voting)**  
**Co-Chair Internal – Rita Politzer (2022)**

**CO-Chair External – Beth Murphy (2024, 2nd Term)  
Fundraising Chair – Dave Appel (2023)**

**MG OSU Liason - Kathy DeJohn (non-voting)**

**Current Members-at-Large :**

**Beth Conroy (2023)  
Deb Dougherty  
Mary Ann Dyer (2023)  
Deb Hanzel (2023)  
Ed Levine (2024, 2nd term)  
Susan Pandoli  
Joan Pellegrin  
Mary Jo Rawlins (2023, 2nd term)  
Cathy Wheeler (2023)**

**NOTE:**

- **This chart is a work in progress. Currently, there are 17 Advisory Committee members; 15 voting; 2 non-voting positions**
- **The MGCC will transition over time to a new Advisory Committee Organization Chart to include 12 members total, 9 voting & 3 non-voting.**

+++++

**Next Advisory Committee Meeting is Monday, November 20th, 2023  
at 4:30 PM in the OSU training room at Fairhill Partners.**

**If you plan to attend to observe and listen, or if you'd like to be placed on the agenda (time permitting) please contact Ellen Comeau at [wallpaperhanger@att.net](mailto:wallpaperhanger@att.net).**

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit [cfaesdiversity.osu.edu](http://cfaesdiversity.osu.edu).



**CFAES**

MASTER GARDENERS OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES