

News You Can Use!

January 2024

Hello Shoshana,

Here is the January 2024 edition of News You Can Use featuring:

- Updates from your AC Chair, ANR Educator, & Volunteer Coordinator
- a call for The Great Big Home and Garden Show volunteers
- an Urban Agriculture Webinar Series
- a Winter Sowing Workshop
- & more...

*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.

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.

Update from Ellen Comeau, your Advisory Committee Chair

Hello, my fellow MGVs & welcome to 2024!,

It seems like just yesterday I was taking over the position of Chair and now here I am heading into my 2nd go-around. Thanks to the AC for your vote of confidence.

Some news to share on the AC front - we have a new name! We will now be know as the Advisory Council. Same initials, new name. We thought "council" was more in line with who we are & what we represent.

We have also downsized to 13 members. We felt that was a more manageable number of people and that we could be more efficient &



effective.

Outgoing members are Beth Conroy, Mary Ann Dyer, Deb Hanzel, Mary Jo Rawlins, Cathy Wheeler, & Rita Politzer. Thank you so much for serving on AC!

New members are Tom Capretta, Claudia Gordon, & Melanie Biche - who we're happy to welcome back! Congratulations to all!

There are some other changes we are trying out:

- Dave Appel has taken on the Fund Development Chair - he'll working on ways to keep us running.
- We also have two positions that are in charge of all the committee chairs. Beth Murphy is in charge of all the External Committees & Melanie Biche is in charge of the Internal Committees. So, chairs, please direct your reports & budget requests along with any other issues to the appropriate person in charge. Look for upcoming notices for a Committee Chair meeting in the future.

We have some great programs coming up. The Annual Meeting is this Saturday, 1/13, & the Home & Garden Show is in February. Please register for one of the shifts! They are in need of volunteers. It's a great way to talk to the public and see the show for free.

I'll be showcasing a new program that will be coming up this Spring called Nature In My Backyard - look for more information in upcoming issues of NYCU.

It's going to be a great year for MGCC !

Thanks for all you do,

Ellen

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Update from Morning Robinson, your ANR Educator

Greetings MGVs and Happy New Year!

Thank you for all your hard work in 2023, I look forward to all we will achieve in 2024. I have a few updates for you as we get into the swing of things:

- Please be on the lookout for the ANR workshop schedule, as there will be opportunities for volunteer and CE hours.
- MGV Basic Training will take place in the fall this year. If you are interested in helping out, please send me an email so you can be notified about the first Basic Training Committee meeting.
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If you have any questions or need clarification, please reach out to me.

See you at the Annual Meeting!

Morning

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



Dear MGVs,

Welcome to 2024! The following is a general reminder regarding yearly MGCV requirements & deadlines:

- 25 Volunteer Hours and 10 Continuing Education Hours - due 10/31/2024
- Recertification - due 12/31/2024

We have some volunteer opportunities coming up - the Great Big Home and Garden Show beginning of February (see below) and a Basic Training Class in the fall, so stay tuned for those opportunities and all the others in between.

As for CE opportunities, the MGCC will be releasing their list end of first quarter I expect. And, as always, read this newsletter for listings of additional CE opportunities around the county and state.

And, remember, please do not wait until the end of the season to accrue hours - once the season is winding down there are little to no opportunities to earn volunteer hours save for submitting posts for the MGCC FB page.

See you this Saturday at the Annual Meeting!

Tammy

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MGCC Dates at a Glance:

- January 10th, 17th, & 24th - **Urban Agriculture Webinar series**; SEE BELOW!
- January 12th - 19th, 2024 & January 19th - 26th, 2024 - **Ecuador Trip**; REGISTRATION CLOSED!
- January 13th - **The MGCC Annual Meeting**; See you there!
- January 20th & February 8th - **Winter Sowing Workshop**; SEE BELOW!
- January 29th - March 8th - **Become a Master Rain Gardener**; SEE

BELOW!

- February 2nd - 11th - **The Great Big Home & Garden Show** ; SEE BELOW!
- March 2, 2024 - **Saturday Garden Series**; SEE BELOW!

For more information on these dates, see descriptions below.

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The Great Big Home and Garden Show - Friday, February 2 to Sunday, February 11

We Need Volunteers!

Great News! The Great Big Home & Garden Show is back at the IX Center this year. This will be the 7th year we have exhibited at the show and we need your help.

The show is 10 days long so we need lots of volunteers. This is also a great opportunity for you to see the show!

What will volunteers do?

Volunteers will staff our MGCC booth. You will interact with the public and answer gardening related questions, the same as you would do at *Ask the Gardener* tables at Cleveland Botanical Garden or farmers markets.

When do we need volunteers?

The show is Friday, February 2 to Sunday, February 11. Most days there will be 3 shifts and we need 2 volunteers per shift - for a total of 6 shifts available most days. You might want to sign up for back-to-back shifts. Before and/or after your shift(s) you are welcome to enjoy the show !

The show hours are:

Fridays (Feb 2, Feb 9) and Saturdays (Feb 3, Feb 10) - 10 AM to 9 PM.

Sunday Feb 4 - 10 AM to 6 PM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Feb 5, 6, 7, 8 - 10 AM to 8 PM

Sunday Feb 11 (Superbowl Sunday) - 10 AM to 5 PM

What resources are available to volunteers?

Reference books will be available. You can also use your smartphone since we're expecting WIFI access at the show. The booth will be complete with tables and chairs and handouts for the public.

Any gotchas for volunteers?

Each volunteer receives a FREE pass to the show! Unfortunately parking fees cannot be waived so each car is charged \$10 for parking. Carpooling is encouraged!

Please click [HERE](#) to sign up. This will take you to an online registration system to choose the day(s) and shift(s) you are able to volunteer. Additional information and instructions will be sent before February 2 to everyone who signs up.

If you have questions please reach out to Beth Murphy at bwaremurphy@gmail.com or text/call her at 440-225-3294.

**Please sign up by COB Tuesday, January 30th
Thank you!**

**Beth Murphy
Beth Conroy**

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Urban Agriculture Pest Management Webinar Series

Do you grow vegetables in an urban or suburban community? Do you help others grow vegetables in an urban or suburban community? Or, do you know someone who does? If so, this series will be of great interest.

Please join us for a free webinar series on topics related to Urban Agriculture Integrated Pest Management. If you cannot join live at the scheduled times, no problem - the registration provides an option to request the recordings. You may register anytime up to January 24th to receive the recordings.

Register: [HERE](#)

For additional information, see below:

Registration provides an option to request the recordings



Swede midge and cabbage



Urban Agriculture Pest Management Webinar Series

Starting Wednesday, January 10th, 2024
3 Wednesdays in a row
12 p.m. to 1 p.m. ET
Register [here](#), no cost

January 10th

Swede midge: an emerging invasive pest in Upper Midwest urban agriculture

Swede midge is an invasive pest specializing in brassica family crops. Swede midge is currently spreading across Canada and the Upper Midwest region of the U.S. In this webinar, we will cover current distribution, the pest's life cycle and damage symptoms, and management recommendations for small-scale and urban production systems.

Mary Rodgers
University of Minnesota

January 17th

Ethnic crops: opportunities and challenges

As the United States continues to diversify, so do the types of crops that people grow. In this webinar, Jacqueline will discuss niche crops that are gaining traction in mainstream markets and are already widely grown in some communities.

Jacqueline Kowalski
University of Connecticut

January 24th

Cover crops: how do they fit into Integrated Pest Management practices

Cover crops affect root diseases, weeds, soil fertility, and factors that contribute to overall soil health. In this webinar, Fernanda will discuss the benefits of cover crops to surrounding crops and soils and how these valuable crops tie in with the larger picture of integrated pest management.

Fernanda Krupek
Ohio State University

Webinar series coordinated by Great Lakes Urban Agriculture IPM Working Group.
Working Group Member Organizations



Central State University The Ohio State University University of Illinois
Cornell University Purdue University University of Minnesota
Michigan State University University of Connecticut University of Wisconsin

This work is/was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management Program through the North Central IPM Center (2022-70006-38001).





Winter Sowing Workshop

CE Opportunity: Start Your Garden this Winter from The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

Great for all ages - bring your kids! Bring your grandkids!

It's time to start preparing your garden! Winter sowing is an easy and effective way to start seedlings outdoors and an opportunity to look forward to spring. No prior experience necessary. The workshop is great for all ages - bring your kids! Bring your grandkids! And don't forget your own plastic milk or cider jugs to start your seedlings.

*** Registration required**

Where: 2600 South Park Boulevard / Cleveland, OH 44120

When: January 20th / 12:00 - 2:00 PM & February 8th / 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Fee: \$5.00

Register: [HERE](#)

For information: visit their [website!](#)

MGVs earn ONE CE per ONE hour of programming



CE Opportunity - Summit County: Saturday

Gardening Series 2024, 3/2/2024



Join Summit County for their 25th year of informative gardening presentations, bulb sales, raffle baskets & more. Presenters will cover the following topics: English Gardens, Climate Smart Gardening, Urban Coyotes, & Secret Select Plants.

When: Saturday, March 2, 2024; Doors open at 8:00 AM - presentations begin at 9:00 AM

Where: 440 Vernon Odom Blvd. / Summit County Extension Office (in the Akron Urban League Building)

Cost: \$45 - includes continental breakfast and box lunch

Learn More: [HERE](#)

Register: [HERE](#)

MGVS will earn **FOUR** CE's for their participation

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CE Opportunity: Train to Be a Master Rain Gardener

See flyer below!

Chagrin River Watershed Partners, in partnership with Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District and Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, will again be offering a Master Rain Gardener certification course for residents and professionals within Northeast Ohio. The first online course will begin on January 29th.

** Registration is now open!*

Rain gardens are saucer-shaped gardens filled with native, wet-tolerant plants that capture and soak in rainwater that runs off impervious surfaces like roofs, lawns, and driveways. They filter out the pollutants that would otherwise flow into our storm drains and streams untreated. When replicated across the residential landscape, rain gardens can make a significant impact in protecting the water quality of our local streams and Lake Erie.

This program will consist of 5 classes over a 6-week period. Participants will learn how to design, install, and maintain residential rain gardens. This course offers two track options: one for residential rain gardeners, and one for professionals. The residential certification track is geared toward homeowners who would like to install a rain garden in their own yard. This also enables them to serve as the neighborhood expert on rain

gardens! The professional certification track is geared toward landscape professionals and contractors looking to install rain gardens professionally on residential properties. All graduates will receive a Master Rain Gardener certification, t-shirt, and yard sign!

Need-based scholarships are available! Please contact us for details.

For more information about this program and to register for classes, please visit their website: [HERE](#)

Please reach out to Nicole Hildebrand at nhildebrand@crwp.org if you have any questions.

MGVs earn ONE CE per ONE hour of programming



NORTHEAST OHIO
MASTER RAIN GARDENER



Train to be a Master Rain Gardener

Learn to design and install your own rain garden and become the rain garden expert in your neighborhood.

ONLINE COURSE: \$50

January 29 – March 8, 2024

- Recorded class webinars
- Watch at your convenience
- Weekly Q&A sessions
- Professional certification also available

Contact: Kaylee Acres Eclov at
kacres@crwp.org



IN PERSON COURSE: \$75

March 15 – April 5, 2024

- Beachwood Community Center
- Four in-person classes
- Optional field trips

Contact: Kate Chapel at
kchapel@cuyahogascwd.org

WHAT ARE RAIN GARDENS?

Saucer-shaped gardens that **work with nature to collect & filter rainwater** from your property.

SHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

- Based on need
- Courses can be offered for as low as \$10!



DETAILS AND REGISTRATION



neomasterraingardener.org

Master Rain Gardener certificate, t-shirt, and sign provided upon course completion



Coordination and delivery of the Master Rain Gardener Program in 2024 will be funded by The George Gund Foundation, NEORS, and the William Bingham Foundation

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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: Looking

Forward NEW CE Opportunities



Stay tuned for 2024's CE opportunities - can't wait to see what the committee comes up with!

MGVs earn ONE CE per ONE hour of programming

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Meet Summit in the Garden - see listings below!



Meet Me in the Garden 2024



F. A. Seiberling Nature Realm
Visitors Center
1828 Smith Road / Akron, Ohio

A FREE EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Presented by the **Summit County Master Gardeners**

Join us each month for a lively discussion on a variety of gardening topics.

Programs will be held inside unless otherwise noted. Come early. Space is limited.

January

Wednesday, **January 24, 2024**
7:00 pm

The Secrets of Wildflowers

Discover the wide variety of wildflowers that grow in our region all year round and hone your wildflower identification skills.

Presented by

Jeanne Poremski

Summit County Master Gardener



February

Wednesday, **February 28, 2024**
7:00 pm



Terrific Tomatoes and Beyond

Gleaned from his decades of professional horticultural experience, Mario shares his best gardening practices with a focus on one of his favorites . . . tomatoes.

Presented by

Mario Cammarata

Retired Horticulturalist,
Cleveland Clinic and Avid Gardener

March

Wednesday, **March 27, 2024**
7:00 pm

Dahlia Growing Intensive

Judd and Shannon will share tips and tricks to successfully growing dahlias. Learn about planting, digging, dividing and storing dahlias.



Presented by

Judd and Shannon Allen

Owners of Bloom Hill Farm

April

Wednesday, **April 24, 2024**
7:00 pm



The Influence of Nature on Our Well-Being

Learn about the tremendous influence that nature, plants, and just being in a garden can have on our well-being. (Based on "The Well-Gardened Mind" by Sue Stuart-Smith.)

Presented by

Denise Gibson and

Mindy McCartney

Summit County Master Gardeners



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: <http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity>

Hosted By



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!

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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 MGV.*

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 MGVs.

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.

2024 Hour Requirements: 25 Volunteer Hours / 10 Continuing Education Hours - due October 31, 2024.

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 2024! 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 Saturday offerings - stay tuned for dates!
- 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

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**Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County
2024 Advisory Committee Members:**

**This list will be updated in the February
issue of NYCU**

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**Next Advisory Committee Meeting is Monday, January 22nd, 2024
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.**

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu.



Visit our website

Visit our Website

Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County | 12200 Fairhill Road , Cleveland, OH 44120
www.cuyahogamg.org

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