

News You Can Use!

March 2024

Hello Shoshana,

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

- Update from your AC Chair
- 2024 Plants in the Park announcements
- Basic Training Info Session dates
- South Centers Pruning School opportunity
- Summer Sprouts Garden Leader Kickoff volunteer request
- Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society invitation
- Virtual Gardening Blook Club final session dates
- And 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 Council Chair

Hello fellow MGVs,

Here are three especially important words: I need you!

I'm sending these words out to ALL of you.

Very simply, we are coming into an area that we haven't been in. We are running out of MGVs to step into crucial roles.

Oh, not new? Yes, it's always been the joke that the same five people



do everything and, on some level, that's true. Only now those "same five people" are burnt out or getting older or have personal issues to attend to, or resigning.

Another MGCV, Jo deHaseth, who many of you know, has had to resign due to the health of a loved one. Unfortunately, this is happening more frequently.

But it's not only that. Several Chairs have been running the same committees for years, even decades. Some have a Co-Chair in place, but many do not.

I, myself, just found someone to take over for me at Shaker should I decide to step away from running that. I'm not, but you never know when something might come up.

And that's where we're at. We're not just theoretically heading into a scarcity of those wishing to step into leadership roles, we're there.

We still don't have an assistant treasurer. We have NO publicity committee. We just lost an Advisory Council member and are now looking for nominees. We also need someone to help run Fall Seminar. How about PIP? The Fair?

Emily Roll, Chair of the Community Garden Mentor Committee, had to go inactive due to personal and work overload. Fortunately, her committee stepped up to keep their important work going. That may not be the case for other committees.

Yes, we will have a Basic Training class coming soon but those newbies are not ready to take over committees.

We need you, volunteers, to step into leadership roles. I am sincere in asking this.

Please talk to your committee chairs to see how you can help them or let them know YOU can take over if necessary. Run a program. No one will ever let you do it alone! We must work together to solve this issue.

I'm not going to use the word crisis, but it's on the tip of my tongue.

Please, let's not get to the breaking point.

As always, thanks for giving your time. We just need a little more of it!

Ellen
AC Chair

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MGCC Dates at a Glance:

- March 11, 18, 25, 2024 - OSU Extension's Virtual Gardening

Book Club; REGISTER [HERE!](#)

- **March 14, 2024 - OSU South Centers Pruning School; REGISTER [HERE!](#)**
- **March 16, 2024 - [Lake County Gardeners' Workshop](#); REGISTER [HERE!](#)**
- **April 6, 2024 - Summer Sprouts Garden Leader Kickoff; SIGN UP TO [VOLUNTEER!](#)**
- **April 6-7, 2024 - Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **May 21, 2024 - [MGCC Spring Plant Exchange](#); SAVE THE DATE!**
- **June 1, 2024 - Plants in the Park; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **June 15, 2024 - [Phipps-Youngstown Garden Bus Tour](#) (Visit Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Fellows Riverside Gardens, & L'uva Bella Winery - Registration coming soon.); SAVE THE DATE!**
- **September 17, 2024 - [MGCC Fall Plant Exchange](#); SAVE THE DATE!**

For more information on these dates, see descriptions below.

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MGCC Bulletin Board: Check here for requests from your fellow MGVs

- **Community Garden Mentors Wanted - Enlisting Now!**

The Community Garden Committee is seeking new volunteers to

mentor gardens for the coming season. Volunteer hours are flexible, so this can be a good option if you have work or family constraints. We have lots of great vegetable gardening resources that we will provide.

Please contact me to learn more:

Marianne Sachs / mari@sagework.net / 216.702.3861

- **MGCC Advisory Council - Seeking Nominations for an Advisory Member**

Do you know someone you believe would make a great addition to the MGCC Advisory Council? The Advisory Council meets quarterly (typically the third Monday of the month from 4:30-6:30 PM) at Fairhill Partners to discuss and make decisions on MGCC business.

Please send your nomination(s) to:

Ellen Comeau / Advisory Council Chair / wallpaperhanger@att.net

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Winter Sowing: Start Now for Plants in the Park 2024

Winter sowing offers the opportunity to start all kinds of garden plants from seed outdoors during Ohio's winter months. Plant the seeds in recycled plastic containers and leave them outside to germinate. Winter sowing produces wonderfully hardy seedlings without the need for indoor space or special lighting. Once the seeds sprout and reach two

inches in height, they are ready to plant in the garden without the need for further hardening off. Perennials, natives, and cool season annuals (both vegetables and flowers) can be winter sown. To begin, you'll need a translucent or transparent plastic container (like a milk jug cut around but not in half), a general use potting soil (do NOT use seed starter mixes or moisture-retaining mixes), a label and seeds.

The plastic container you choose should be able to hold 3-4 inches of soil in the bottom and have at least four inches above the soil to allow for growth of the seedlings. If you use a milk jug, cut it in half but do not sever the pieces – leave a connection at the handle. Drill holes in the bottom for good drainage (10-12) and at the top, depending on the container, to allow rain and snow in. If you are using an old milk jug, just simply leave the cap off. Surface sow the

seeds by pressing them into the premoistened soil, then seal the halves of the container with duct or packing tape. Place a label both inside the jug and write on the outside as well. Then put your container outside in one of your gardens or raised beds and let nature take its course. To prevent them from getting blown around by the wind, put the containers in a secondary container. Set them and forget them!

The seeds will know when to sprout. They will receive the proper stratification and scarification from the cold temperatures and the natural freezing and thawing cycles in nature. The container acts as a mini greenhouse and provides the light and warmth for the seedling to germinate and grow when it's time. Once the seedlings emerge and temperatures start warming in the spring, it may be necessary to open the container during the day and to also start watering. Seedlings can be planted outside without hardening off. It couldn't be easier!

What types of seeds can you use? Perennials and biennials, especially natives that drop their seeds in the fall are great candidates for this type of seed starting. Start them earlier in the winter (January-February) as they may need 30-60 days of stratification. You can begin cool season annuals and vegetables closer to the last frost (March-April).

For more information, you can download an informative pdf complete with photos from the University of Maryland Extension: [HERE](#).

Penn State also has a great article - follow this [LINK](#).

Happy winter sowing!

Cathy Wheeler
PIP Team Member

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Plants in the Park Needs You & *Your Gently Used Hard Goods!*

As the tulips and daffodils start to pop up, many of you will begin digging up your perennials for our annual Plants in the Park event. This year it will take place on Saturday, June 1st from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. in the Kiwanis Pavilion in Independence.

In addition to plants, we also are looking for donations of hardgoods for the sale.



Things like pots, vases, trellises, baskets, gardening tools, garden art, windchimes, steppingstones, garden totes and any other decorative garden and lawn items are welcome items for the sale. We will have a separate section for garden pots and décor, along with all the plants at the sale.

You can drop off your items to one of the drop off locations (TBD) the week before the sale. However, if you are unable to do so, please contact Amy 216-513-7277 or Dave Shaper at 216-408-2249 to arrange a pickup.

THANK YOU!

-The PIP Team

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Fall 2024 Basic Training Info Sessions Announced

MGVs - know anyone interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer? If the answer is yes, then please share these dates with your friends, your family, your colleagues and invite them to one of our Basic Training Info Sessions.



CFAES

Cuyahoga County Master Gardener Volunteer Information Sessions



Think you may be interested in becoming a Master Gardener? Plan to attend one of our informational sessions being offered throughout Cuyahoga County in advance of the Fall training class. These sessions will describe the Master Gardener application and interview process, training program, volunteer requirements, and activities.

Please note that applicants are expected to have attended one of these sessions prior to applying.

Maple Heights Library
Date: Wednesday March 20th, 2024
Time: 7 to 8:30 pm
Address: 5225 Library Ln, Maple Heights, OH 44137

Parma-Snow Library
Date: Wednesday April 10th, 2024
Time: 7 to 8:30 pm
Address: 2121 Snow Rd, Parma, OH 44134

Westlake Porter Library
Date: Monday April 8th, 2024
Time: 7 to 8:30 pm
Address: 27333 Center Ridge Rd, Westlake, OH 44145

Questions? Contact Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Currier at currier.37@osu.edu
For more information visit cuyahogamg.org or cuyahoga.osu.edu



College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.





Have Access to Zoom? Then Learn to Prune!

The Ohio State University South Centers is hosting their very popular, two-part (morning and afternoon) Online Fruit Pruning School on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

This is a FREE online event that will be conducted virtually via the Zoom communications platform.

Part One - 9:30 - 11:30 AM: The morning pruning session will focus on pruning fruit trees, including apple and peach.

Part Two - 1:00 - 2:30 PM: The afternoon session will cover how to prune small fruits like grapes and raspberries.

When: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Please register no later than Monday, March 11, 2024. Simply visit the link below and fill out the registration form.

Register: [HERE](#)

* A recording link will go out to all registrants post event for on-demand viewing.

- submitted by Ellen Comeau, MGV 2011

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Volunteer at Cuyahoga's 2024 Summer Sprout Garden Leader Kickoff!

Cleveland's Summer Sprout Community Garden Program is getting

ready to kick off for the season and you can take part! Join OSU's Summer Sprout Coordinator, Britiny Hubbard, on Saturday, April 6th 2024, to assist with the event.

This annual event allows Community Garden Leaders the opportunity to sign their Land Bank licenses, receive seeds and other materials. Attendees will also receive need to know information surrounding tilling, hydrant permits, etc.

We are looking for volunteers to help set-up, greet the Garden Leaders, distribute seeds, and more.

When: Saturday, April 6th - 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: Slovenian National Home / 6417 St. Clair Avenue / Cleveland, OH 44103

Reminder: Anyone can sign up to volunteer, but this event takes place in Cleveland, Ohio.

Deadline to signup is Wednesday, March 27th 2024.

GLKO Signup: [HERE](#)

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Love Cacti?

Then join the **Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society** for their 2024 Annual Show and Sale at The Cleveland Botanical Garden!

It doesn't matter if you're new to succulents or an avid collector, this is the *Show and Sale* you don't want to miss! It's the largest selection of plants in one location.



- 1000's of cacti and succulents available
- Multiple vendors with specialty plants
- Vendors with handmade pots and other plant merchandise
- Plant and soil supplies available
- Large exhibition area with collection plants and judged Show

When: Saturday, April 6th, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM / Sunday, April 7th, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Where: The Cleveland Botanical Garden / 11030 East Boulevard / Cleveland, OH 44106

Note: Some vendors only accept cash and checks.

* To be in the know, follow the Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society on Facebook and follow the Event for the Show and Sale.

-submitted by Barb Franzen, MGV 2001



CE Opportunity - Lake County: Home Gardeners Workshop, 3/16/2024 - 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM *(See flyer below)*

Gardeners of all experience levels are welcome to join us for a fun day filled with exciting and educational speakers, Vendor's Row, continental breakfast and lunch!

NEW LOCATION: 2024 Workshop will be held at Lake Erie College in Painesville.

:

For more information, follow this [LINK!](#)

To register, follow this [LINK!](#)

MGVs will receive SIX CEs for this event



**LAKE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS**

PROUDLY PRESENT

**HOME GARDENERS'
WORKSHOP - 2024**



Saturday, March 16, 2024
8:45 AM to 4:00PM



Lake Erie College
391 W. Washington St., Painesville, OH



Point your smartphone camera here for online info!



INSIGHTS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

You create your day! Choose gardening topics that spark your interest with two featured keynotes, as well as four additional breakout sessions led by horticultural research-driven speakers.

SHOP VENDORS' ROW

Shop on sight vendors offering a variety of artisan goods and other garden delights.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH!

Doors open at 8 am with a continental breakfast. A variety of lunch options are available from the LEC cafeteria, including vegan and gluten-free options. There will be two separate lunch sessions to choose from.



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

REGISTRATION

PROGRAM FEE

Program fee of \$55 is due by March 8, 2024. Payment can be made online or via check. Online links and mail-in information found on the registration flyer. Walk-in registration is \$60, cash or check only.

DAY-OF

Registration is located in the Arthur S. Holden Center. Parking is free! A map of the campus and parking lots will be emailed the week before Workshop.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Feel free to call 440-853-2625, Email MGVLakeCounty@gmail.com or Visit online at <https://lake.osu.edu/events>

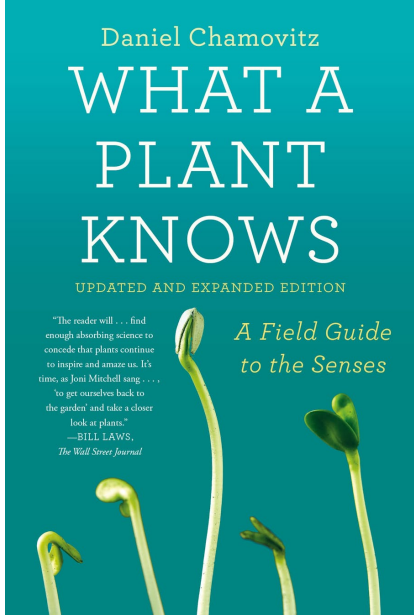
EARLY REGISTRATION

Leap Year Bonus! Registrations submitted online or postmarked by Feb 29, 2024 will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a FREE Lamp Post Garden of 15 plants (valued at \$179.95) from Bluestone Perennials!



Love to Read? Join OSU's Amy Stone for the third installment in Lake County Extension's Virtual Gardening Book Club

March selection: *What a Plant Knows: A*



Field Guide to the Senses by renowned biologist David Chamovitz.

Did you know plants can hear—and taste things, too?

Judiciously manipulating similes with dashes of anthropomorphism, Chamovitz introduces each of the vital human senses (all except taste) in this ground breaking book and explains its meaning for humans as contrasted with its function in plants. There are no noses or eyes as such in the plant world, but there are organs and responses that mimic our physiology. Much like how humans smell food, plants

too have chemical receptors that bind to very specific gaseous chemical compounds. The author recounts how willows, attacked by caterpillars, send airborne pheromones to neighboring willows. Warned by these gaseous signals (or “smells”) of a nearby infestation, the neighbors begin manufacturing increased levels of toxic chemicals to render their leaves unpalatable to the caterpillars.

This new edition builds on the original and presents an intriguing look at how plants themselves experience the world—from the colors they see to the schedules they keep, and now, that they do in fact hear and how they are able to taste. A rare inside look at what life is really like for the grass we walk on, the flowers we sniff, and the trees we climb, *What a Plant Knows* offers a greater understanding of their place in nature.

* Find the book online or at your local library.

Register: [HERE](#)

Dates & Time:

- Mar 4, 2024 - 7:00 PM
- Mar 11, 2024 - 7:00 PM
- Mar 18, 2024 - 7:00 PM
- Mar 25, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Amy Stone at stone.91@osu.edu and put Book Club in the subject line.



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 online course that began January 29th may be over, but the in-person class is set to begin March 15th.

** 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, ultimately, Lake Erie.

This program will empower participants 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



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 Eclow 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@cuyahogawcd.org

WHAT ARE RAIN GARDENS?
Saucer-shaped gardens that **work with nature** to **collect & filter rainwater** from your property.

SCHOLARSHIPS 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



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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

CFAES

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 MGVC.*

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 MGVCs.

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 Council Members:**

This list will be updated soon.

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Next Advisory Council Meeting is Monday, March 18th, 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

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

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[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

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