

News You Can Use!

December 2024

Hello Shoshana,

Here is the December 2024 issue of News You Can Use featuring:

- Updates from your Advisory Council Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Volunteer Coordinator
- MGVs as columnists for the Cleveland Plain Dealer
- Propagation Project Announcement
- OSU MGV Book Club 2025 CE opportunities
- Forest Bathing with Tree fm
- Native Seed Library Announcement from The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

***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, MGCC Advisory
Council Chair**

Hello MGV's,

Well, we're cruising into the end



of 2024. We have snow outside and seed catalogs on our tables. Winter is here.

It's been quite a year for the MGCC. First, I want to say how very proud I am of all of you wonderful volunteers! Together we did some great things. Not only have we kept our usual programs going but introduced two new ones this year!

Thanks to Jane Ellison, we have the Nature in My Backyard collaboration with Shaker Lakes Garden Club and the Cleveland chapter of the Audubon Society. I have heard so many great things about this project and how excited many of you are to be a part of it.

I also want to extend a big thanks to Don Landek who brought us the Plant Propagation program. The team had their first meeting, and with the greenhouse Melissa Supler is so graciously providing, they are making big plans!

Of course I must brag about our latest basic training class. All 30 trainees passed their exams and are now Interns! Congratulations to the Class of 2024. They will be able to start signing up for hours after they complete their HoC training. We will also be holding an Intern Fair with all the Committee Chairs to explain the different programs to the interns. Stay tuned for dates.

Do you all remember how excited and anxious you were to try and get those 50 hours!?! They're all about to go through that so please be kind and be helpful.

On other fronts, Advisory Council has been busy as well. We not only had a name change (Advisory Council in case you missed it) but we're also revising the Guidelines. Once updated, you all will receive a copy.

We also just welcomed our newest member to AC - MGV Melissa Supler. Her term starts in 2025 just as Gretchen Faro's term is up. We're sorry to see Gretchen leave AC but excited to work with Melissa. Thank you, Gretchen, for your dedication to AC!

We've also been focused on our financials looking into the future. Dave Appel and his fundraising group have been doing research on ways to minimize output and maximize input. We may be a horticulture-based organization but like any organization, we have bills to pay and that means raising money.

With that in mind, I can't thank you all enough for the donations that poured in this year! There was an increase in our fee charged per MGV by OSU from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per person in 2025, so we are grateful for every dollar that came in. Little things like this add up quickly. The funds donated will go to budgets, bills, and better

programming for our organization. You all are amazing!

We are also doing a great job of promoting our organization by continuing to write articles for the Cleveland Plain Dealer. This brings in some income as well. We have some very talented writers among us and the articles have been fun and educational. Please let me know if you are interested in contributing to this program.

Another great accomplishment: the **WEBSITE!** I love the look, and it is so easy to navigate. Thank you to the tech committee for your hard work! Now all they need is content! So, if you have an event to promote, or your committee is doing something, or you know of an event that MGVs would like, PLEASE send it to the **team** so they can add it to the website so everyone can see what's happening,

As for my 2025 goals, I hope to get MGCC involved in more community driven activities with the help of Morning - our ANR Educator. We're also planning to put together a checklist and a video that teachers can link to regarding starting school gardens. Over the past couple of years, we've received this question most frequently.

We have been steering them to Cleveland's Summer Sprout program, or I've been providing them directions to resources. But having a standard guide of basic items on how to begin, especially a video, I believe would be a better approach. Anya Milgrom and I will be working on this so if you're interested in participating, please contact either of us.

And that's a wrap up for the year. I hope you all have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

I look forward to being your Chair in 2025 because it's going to be an even better year for MGCC, Inc.!

Thanks again for making this organization the best,

Ellen

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Update from Dave Appel, MGCC Fundraising Chair

*Save the Date: Plants in the Park 2025
is Moving to May!*

As we approach the end of the year and begin to think about our 2025 calendars, please save Saturday, May 31st for Plants in the Park 2025. Our PIP team has decided to move our annual plant sale date up

from our traditional first Saturday in June after considering the following:

- With our warmer and earlier spring weather over the past few years, more gardeners are beginning their planting earlier in May.

- Each year, more organizations are running competing plant sales in Northeast Ohio. The vast majority of these are in the first two to three weeks of May, making our traditional June plant sale one of the last of the season.

- The Kiwanis Pavilion in Independence is available, and we have booked it for the Thursday and Friday prior to and for the Saturday, May 31st sale date.

- More details to follow early in 2025. With your help and support, we're looking forward to an even bigger and more successful plant sale in the new year!



Looking for a Unique Stocking Stuffer and a Great Way to Support our Master Gardener Organization?

We have a perfect way for you to get a unique and beautiful gift in return for a year-end donation to our Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County organization! Heather Alexander, one of our talented Master Gardener colleagues has created colorful spotted lanternfly merchandise you can use as keychains, necklaces, or simply as teaching tools to use as we educate our community about this stunning invasive insect.

Heather has collected the spotted lanternfly specimens from the gardens at Judson Park in Cleveland Heights. Each lanternfly is suspended in clear acrylic and a hole has been drilled in each piece to make it easy to use as a piece of jewelry, a keychain or in other creative ways. As you'll see in these photos, the lanternfly merchandise comes in two sizes: medium (lanternfly only) or large (lanternfly with botanicals from Heather's garden).





So how can you get one of Heather's spotted lanternfly collector's items? It's easy – simply make a year-end donation to our Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County organization! For a gift of \$25 or more, we will provide a medium size lanternfly art piece for you as a special thank you as recognition of your contribution. For a contribution of \$50 or more, a large lanternfly specimen can be yours. For those of you who have already made a monetary contribution to MGCC this year of \$25 or more, just let us know if you would like a spotted lanternfly gift and we will be happy to get one to you!

It is easy to make your donation. You can go to the [MGCC website](#) and hit the donation button or mail a check to our Treasurer, Cheryl

Dever, at the following address:

Cheryl Dever
Treasurer, MGCC
25025 Tricia Avenue
Westlake, Ohio 44145

After making your donation, we will provide you with a list of several east, west, and south side locations where you can pick up your unique and beautiful spotted lanternfly gift as our thank you to you! If you have any questions or if you'd like more information about our spotted lanternfly offer, please contact:

David Appel
MGCC Fundraising Chair
appeldb@gmail.com
216-973-6618 (cell/text)

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

Dear MGCV's,

If you have met your 25/10 requirements for the year, please visit **Hands on Connect** and Recertify for 2025. The deadline for recertification is 12/31/2024. Please complete this process ASAP.

Log into your HoC account to find the link located at the top of your homepage.

Do not attempt to recertify if you have not completed your requirements.

Please take your time recertifying as there are a few policies you have to agree to by typing your name. If you do not complete all of the required pages successfully, I will need to reach back out to you so that you can complete what you skipped over.

If you have any questions, please reach out.

Thanks for all you do & Happy Holidays to All!

Tammy

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MGCC Dates at a Glance:

- January 6th, 2025 - **OSU MGV Garden Book Club Begins**; SEE BELOW!
- January 17 – 24, 2025 or January 25 – February 1, 2025 - **MGV Ecuador Service Trip**; REGISTER [HERE!](#)
- January 25, 2025 - **Join Summit County MGVs for Design & Beyond: A Garden Symposium**; REGISTER [HERE!](#)
- February 1, 2025 - **MGCC Intern Volunteer Fair**; SAVE THE DATE!
- March 8, 2025 - **MGCC Annual Meeting**; SAVE THE DATE!

For more information on some of these dates, see descriptions below.

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- The Plant Propagation team is looking for hanging baskets - either 12” or 14” complete with the hanging wires.

Contact Melissa if you have any to spare:
melissasupler@gmail.com.

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More MGV Articles from the Cleveland PD!

MGVs have been quite busy contributing to the Cleveland Plain Dealer's garden column. Read Lois Rose's recent contribution on seed catalogs [HERE!](#)

A new article comes out each Sunday.

If you missed the memo, MGVs were asked by Cleveland Plain Dealer Content Director Laura Johnston to fill in for Gardening Columnist Susan Brownstein while she is on hiatus. MGVs will contribute one article per week for print and online distribution.

Stay tuned for more!

If have an idea for an article or would like to contribute reach out to Ellen Comeau at wallpaper@att.net - she will share what is required.

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News Flash: Cuyahoga County Master Gardener Volunteers Have Formed a Propagation Project!

The new MGCC Propagation Committee has held its first two meetings, and we have exciting news to share with all Cuyahoga MGVs. Thanks to MGV Melissa Supler, we will be using a beautiful greenhouse to propagate plants, primarily for Plants in the Park, but as time goes on, we also have other ideas for this space. The co-chairs of this committee are Melissa and Don Landek.

The committee has been divided into small sub-committees to concentrate on different plant areas. These are house plants, vegetables, herbs, annuals and native plants. We hope to propagate plants that are unique or unusual for our annual sale. We will need

help in this endeavor so watch your email for Constant Contact events in the greenhouse.

We will have dates for MGVs to plant seeds, stratify seeds (natives only), pot up plants, etc. We plan to start in December but will be continuing with work sessions, probably right up to Plants in the Park. We will also give brief instructions on what the task or tasks are for a particular session so don't worry if you are not familiar with anything.

To to a volunteer to work a session, we will ask you to read and sign Best Practices in the Greenhouse, which will include bringing a pair of "indoor" shoes and there will be some other things to help keep the greenhouse insect and pathogen free.

One other thing, we have plenty of pots to use in propagation, but we are looking for hanging baskets either 12" or 14" complete with the hanging wires. If you have any, please email Melissa at melissasupler@gmail.com.

See you in the greenhouse! This will look even better filled with plants.

-submitted by Sue Strauss, MGV 2014

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Love to Read? Then Join the OSU MGV Garden Book Club

Amy Stone, Extension Educator in Lucas County, will host three

virtual book clubs on Zoom to help you stay connected and engaged during the upcoming winter months.

Below are the details for each book club. Be sure to sign up for each book/month individually using the provided Zoom links.

January Book Club Continuing Education Opportunity:

Forest Walking, Discovering the Trees and Woodlands of North America - [January Book Description](#)

Date: Mondays - January 6, 13, 20, and 27

Time: 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Location or Link: [REGISTER HERE FOR JANUARY](#)

February Book Club Continuing Education Opportunity:

The Nature Fix - Why Nature Makes us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative - [February Book Description](#)

Date: Mondays - February 3, 10, 17, and 24

Time: 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Location or Link: [REGISTER HERE FOR FEBRUARY](#)

March Book Club Continuing Education Opportunity:

The Serviceberry, Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World - [March Book Description](#)

Date: Mondays- March 3, 10, 17, and 24

Time: 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Location or Link: [REGISTER HERE FOR MARCH](#)

Note: MGVs will receive **TWO CEs** for reading each book and participating in the discussion.

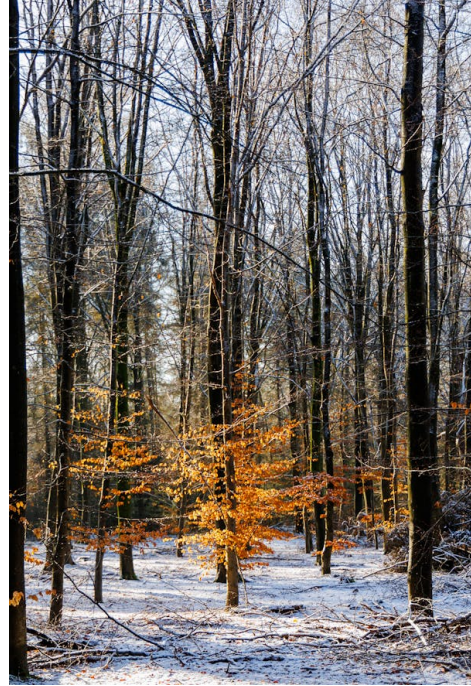
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Is There Sound in Near-Leafless Silence?

Personally, I find the sounds of winter forests in the midwest rather mournful. The wind moans through the trees, stirring the remaining leaves. Only the occasional bird squawks or calls. And the trees groan and creak as temperatures descend and the winter winds blow. But with [Tree fm](#) - you can dip into forests around the world for a little green forest bathing when our area forests are winter white and seemingly silent.

Hope you enjoy this [website](#) as much as I have. I thought it was such a find I had to share!

-submitted by Tammy L. Currier,
MGCC Volunteer Coordinator



Kudos to the Ben Franklin MGVs!

Every year the Cuyahoga County MGVs that volunteer at the Ben Franklin Demo Gardens and Classroom solicit amongst their group for donations and contributions to purchase school supplies and gently used winter coats for their 4th grade students. A few of the group asked if the team needed anything this year.

MGV Pat Mraz was happy to share the MGVs were all so generous last year they had enough money to purchase school supplies and coats, not only last year, but this year as well. Ben Franklin Demo Gardens and School Program MGVs are so generous - thank you!

The MGVs would also like to thank the Yarn Over Beachwood group of knitters who over the past few years have made hats and scarves for their students. Check out their handiwork and the smiles of the happy recipients!

- submitted by Pat Mraz, MGV 2007



Attention Native Plant Gardeners!

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes has reopened their **Native Seed Library** for 2024/25. It is stocked with over 85 species of plants native to Northeast Ohio. Members and non-members are welcome to come and take up to seven packets of seeds.

NCSL will also be hosting seminars on native seed propagation and other subjects related to native plants. Consult their [website](#) for details.

If you come for seeds, take a minute to hike one of their trails like the All-People's Trail that takes you on a wooden walkway over the marsh or the Stearns Woodland Trail that winds through their restored forest environment.

Where: 2600 South Park Blvd. / Cleveland, OH 44120
When: Tuesday-Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM, Closed Mondays

-submitted by Sue Strauss, MGV 2014



**Join Summit County
MGVs for Design &
Beyond: A Garden
Symposium**

When: January 25, 2025

Registration is now OPEN!

Speakers include:

- Joseph Tychonievich, our Keynote Speaker, is a lifelong lover of plants and gardening who is also a nationally acclaimed author, editor and speaker.
- Christine Froehlich is a garden communicator, designer and consultant who posts a monthly blog "Gardening with What You Have."
- Debra Knapke is the author of six books and is known as the "Garden Sage."
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MGVS will receive **ONE** CE per **ONE** hour of instruction.

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**2024-2025 Season of Hort
Lunch and Learn Announced**

Join horticultural specialists from The Ohio State University and beyond for such topics as "Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons,"

"Major Color for Minor Bulbs," and more. Don't miss these fresh opportunities to accrue CEs before the 10/31 deadline.

*Follow this **LINK** to register and learn more.

MGVs receive **ONE** CE for **ONE** hour of instruction

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*** Cuyahoga County: 2025 CE Opportunities**

Looking forward to the MGCC's 2025 CE opportunities.



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

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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 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.

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:

Executive Committee Officers:

Ellen Comeau / Chair / Term Start: '23 / Term End: '25

Melanie Biche / Program Committee Chair / Term Start: '24 / Term End: '26

Dave Appel / Fundraising Chair / Term Start: '23 / Term End: '25

Debbie Osgood / Secretary / Term Start: '23 / Term End: '25

Cheryl Dever / Treasurer / Term Start: '24 / Term End: '26

**** Officers serve two years in their officer roles and a third year as a member of the AC.**

**** Assistant treasurer role is ex officio and non-voting. Official AC term starts when the AT assumes the treasurer role.**

Advisory Council Members:

Gretchen Faro / Term Start: '22 / Term End: '24

Deb Dougherty / Term Start: '23 / Term End: '25

Sue Pandoli / Term Start: '23 / Term End: '25

Joan Pellegrin / Term Start: '23 / Term End: '25

Claudia Gordon / Term Start: '24 / Term End: '26

Tom Capretta / Term Start: '24 / Term End: '26

Anya Milgrom / Term Start: '24 / Term End: '26

Shoshana Wodzisz / Term Start: '24 / Term End: '26

Melissa Supler / Term Start: '25 / Term End: '27

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Next Advisory Council Meeting is Monday, January 27th, 2025 at 4:00 PM in the OSU training room at Fairhill Partners.

Meeting Dates: 1/27, 3/24, 5/19, 8/18, & 11/17

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.



CFAES

MASTER GARDENERS OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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