

News You Can Use!

January 2025

Hello Shoshana,

Here is the January 2025 issue of News You Can Use featuring:

- Updates from your Advisory Council Chair and Volunteer Coordinator
- MGVs as columnists for the Cleveland Plain Dealer
- Registration information for Design & Beyond: A Garden Symposium from Summit County MGVs
- Lots of CE opportunities
- OSU MGV Book Club 2025 CE opportunity
- Native Seed Library Announcement from The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
- 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, MGCC Advisory
Council Chair**

Hello MGVs,



Welcome to 2025! Does anyone really know when the cut-off date is to not greet people with Happy New Year anymore, lol? That being said I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are rested up and ready to jump into the 2025 MGCC season.

The Advisory Council and Basic Training Committee are already working diligently behind the scenes. The Propagation Committee is busy propagating for Plants in the Park. The Cleveland Plain Dealer articles are flowing. Committee Chairs, we have the Intern Fair coming up. Please note - all committees need someone present to talk about what your committee does! As we all know from experience, the Interns are anxiously waiting to begin getting their hours. The Social Committee is organizing the Volunteer Fair so a big thank you to them!

We have the Great Big Home & Garden Show coming up soon, so plan to begin accruing volunteer hours early this year! And speaking of hours, let's all make sure to fulfill a New Year's resolution to LOG our hours monthly! There's no need for Tammy to chase people down throughout November and December when the deadline was at the end of October. It's so much easier to enter your hours monthly rather than spending hours doing it at the end of the season - and I speak from experience. Just do it!

That also goes for Recertification. Recertification always occurs in December with a deadline of 12/31 each year. There are four things you must achieve each year to remain an MGCV and they include: 25 volunteer hours; 10 continuing education hours; log those hours; and recertify.

And lastly, if you are having issues with Hands on Connect or any of the above, please reach out to Tammy immediately. Please don't wait until the end of the year or have her chase you down. She will be having an HoC Zoom instruction session with the Interns coming up - please take this if you are struggling with HoC. She will share date and time with all MGCVs.

So enjoy the snow and when you grumble about the frigid temperatures, remember the plants and trees that need the cold.

Stay warm and thanks for all you do,

Ellen

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Update from Tammy L. Currier, MGCC Volunteer Coordinator



Dear MGV's,

Happy New Year - hope you're all excited for the year to come! To begin the year, this issue of NYCU highlights a bushel of CE or Continuing Education opportunities to get you started on your 10 hour requirement. From the OSU bookclub to a documentary about plastic in the Great Lakes, they offer knowledge to broaden your perspective on gardening, the natural world, and the environment. I hope you can take advantage of one or two or three. January is a great time to get a jump on CEs before the growing season commences.

Note: Interns are not responsible for accruing any CEs during their intern period. The 50 hours of volunteerism are enough. That's not to say the Interns cannot participate - they just aren't required to.

Please remember the following dates:

Interns - 50 Volunteer Hours due 9/30/2025

MGVs - 25 Volunteer Hours / 10 Continuing Education Hours due 10/31/2025

MGVs (including Interns who will have transitioned to Active MGVs by this date) - Recertification due by 12/31/2025 (Please do not attempt to recertify until I share that it is time.)

If you have any questions or need help with Hands on Connect, please reach out - I am here to assist you.

Happy January,

Tammy

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MGCC Dates at a Glance:

- January 6, 2025 - **OSU MGV Garden Book Club Begins; SEE BELOW!**
- January 14, 2025 - **Zoom into Nature: Spotted Lanternflies; REGISTER HERE!**

- **January 16, 2025 - Understanding Soil Health with OSU; REGISTER HERE!**
- **January 16, 2025 - Mushroom Foraging: Staying Safe While Eating Wild; REGISTER HERE!**
- **January 17 – 24, 2025 or January 25 – February 1, 2025 - MGV Ecuador Service Trip; REGISTER HERE!**
- **January 22, 2024 - PDDC Plant Disease Talks from the University of Madison Wisconsin; REGISTER HERE!**
- **January 23, 2025 - Ripples of Plastic; LEARN MORE!**
- **January 25, 2025 - Join Summit County MGVs for Design & Beyond: A Garden Symposium; REGISTER HERE!**
- **January 27, 2025 - Master Rain Gardener Training; REGISTER HERE!**
- **January 31 - February 9, 2025 - The Great Big Home & Garden Show; SAVE THE DATE - watch for signup info!**
- **February 1, 2025 - MGCC Intern Volunteer Fair; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **February 15, 2025 - Mass Aggie 2025 Seminars; REGISTER HERE!**
- **March 8, 2025 - MGCC Annual Meeting; SAVE THE DATE!**

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

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MGVs in the Cleveland Plain Dealer!

MGVs have been quite busy contributing to the Cleveland Plain Dealer's garden column. Read Darin Croft's recent contribution on vermicomposting [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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REDUCE Your Carbon Footprint in 2025 & Beyond

Happy New Year from the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes! As we begin 2025, many of us are thinking about small improvements we can make in the coming year. Here are a few simple ways to contribute to a greener, more sustainable way of living:

1. Compost | Food waste accounts for nearly 25% of all waste sent to landfills! By composting, you can divert organic waste from the landfill, enriching soil and reducing carbon emissions.

REMINDER: Members of the Nature Center receive discounted rates for Rust Belt Riders, a local composting service that makes it easy to compost at home regardless of your outdoor space limitations.

2. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle| Reduce the amount of plastic and single-use items in your daily life. Utilize reusable shopping bags, water bottles, and containers. Support brands and products that prioritize sustainability and eco-friendly packaging when possible. Goods Unite Us or look for B Corp Certification.

3. Buy Local, Sustainable Food | Supporting local farms and sustainable food practices helps lower the carbon footprint of your meals. Shop at the North Union Farmers Market or find a farm share to participate in for 2025.

4. Energy Efficiency at Home | Use energy-efficient light bulbs, smart thermostats to improve efficiency of home temp, weatherproof windows, and unplug electronics when not in use.

5. Be Mindful of Your Purchases | Before making a purchase, ask yourself: "Do I really need this?" Reducing unnecessary purchases not only helps reduce waste but also minimizes the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing and transportation. Choose high-quality, durable items that will last longer, and consider buying secondhand or upcycled goods whenever possible.

For more on the Shaker Nature Center programs, follow this [LINK!](#)



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

When: January 25, 2025

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

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."

MGVS will receive **ONE** CE per **ONE** hour of instruction.





Western Reserve
Land Conservancy
land • people • community

Zoom into Nature:
Spotted Lanternflies

Tuesday, January 14
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM ET



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY
LYCORMA DELICATULA
LIFE CYCLE

Zoom into Nature: Spotted Lanternflies - 1/14/2025

The spotted lanternfly is a planthopper insect indigenous to China and Vietnam. Initially reported in Pennsylvania in 2014, the spotted lanternfly has become an invasive species seen in much of the Northeastern United States and is now spreading to many other states across the country. This insect feeds on a wide range of plants and excretes a sugary fluid that causes a “sooty mold” that further damages plants. The spotted lanternfly has one generation per year, typically hatching in late spring, becoming adult phase by late July, and laying eggs throughout fall until winter. At this point, adults die, and the eggs overwinter before hatching and starting the cycle again. It is during this time that it has been hypothesized that they spread the quickest, with transportation by humans being the most frequent route, as eggs can be laid on almost any outdoor surface. Recently, there have been multiple investigations into the use of detection dogs to find these egg masses, especially around quarantine zones. This presentation will discuss some of this research, including the initial investigations, the current use of these dogs to find spotted lanternflies, and potential future avenues for using dogs as a tool in this field.

When: Tuesday, January 14 / 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Where: Zoom

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

-submitted by Ellen Comeau, MGV 2010

MGVs receive **ONE** CE per **ONE** hour of instruction.

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Understanding Soil Health with OSU

Announcing the Spring 2025 OSU Soil Health Webinar series, featuring four informative sessions on various topics:

- Jan 16: Zooming into Soil Health via A producer, An Educator and a Researcher lens
- Feb 13: Understanding the Basics and Practicalities of Biologicals



Soil Health Webinar

January 16th, 2025
8:00 - 9:00 am

Zooming Into Soil Health via A Producer, An Educator, And A Researcher Lens

Ron Snyder (Ohio farmer)
Alan Sundermeier (Extension educator)
Dr. Alan Franzluebbers (USDA Professor)

To register, scan the QR code or visit go.osu.edu/soilhealthweb

The poster features two photographs: the top one shows a man in a plaid shirt standing in a cornfield, and the bottom one shows a person holding a tablet and wheat stalks. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the text area.

- Mar 20: Comparisons of Soil Health Tests and What They are Telling Us?
- Apr 10: Soil Health in Urban Sphere

* Register for the series [HERE!](#)

MGVs receive **ONE CE** per **ONE** hour of instruction.



DATE:
January 16, 2025

TIME:
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

FEE:
\$5.00



**GREENE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS
PRESENT**

Mushroom Foraging: Staying Safe While Eating Wild

This program will cover the diversity, ecology, identification of fungi, and the basics of safely hunting wild mushrooms. Common mushrooms found in Ohio will be discussed.

Presenter Erika Lyon serves Jefferson and Harrison Counties as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator.

Erika studied plant pathology at the University of Maine for the Ecology and Environmental Sciences. She became interested in forest fungi after hiking in Maine's forests.

REGISTRATION DETAILS: Registration closes at 4:00 pm on January 14, 2025

go.osu.edu/mushroomforaging



Note: a link to the Zoom will be sent to your email the day of or the day before the Zoom.

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.

Click [HERE](#) or on image above to REGISTER!

MGVs receive **ONE CE** per **ONE** hour of instruction.

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2025 PDDC Plant Disease Talks from the University of Madison-Wisconsin

Each month in 2025, the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic will be sponsoring a Zoom presentation on a plant disease-related topic.

Check out descriptions and a preview of the talks [HERE](#).

If you have questions about the presentations, feel free to contact Brian Hudelson at pddc@wisc.edu or (608) 262-2863.

To register for one or more of the talks, [CLICK HERE](#).

-submitted by Anya Milgrom, MGVS 2022

MGVs receive **ONE CE** per **ONE** hour of instruction.

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Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community

Ripples of Plastic

Documentary & Panel Discussion

Thursday, January 23

7 PM - 9 PM

Capitol Theatre



Mark Your Calendars for *Ripples of Plastic*: Documentary & Panel Discussion - 1/23/2025

Western Reserve Land Conservancy is pleased to host a showing of the documentary "Ripples of Plastic" at the Capitol Theatre on the evening of Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Embark on an eye-opening journey through the unseen impacts of plastic pollution in the Great Lakes region. Guided by Dr. Sherri Mason and other regional voices, witness the vast extent of contamination pathways, effects of microplastics, and the unexpected toll on human health. Beyond individual action, the film inspires a collective movement for transformative progress toward a plastic-free future. Explore the unseen impacts of Great Lakes plastic pollution, inspiring a movement for systemic change and a plastic-free future.

When: Thursday, January 23 / 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Where: Capitol Theatre / 1390 W 65th St / Cleveland, OH 44102

Cost: \$10 /person (Registration Required)

LIMIT: 250

To learn more, follow this [LINK!](#)

-submitted by Ellen Comeau, MGV 2010

MGVs receive **ONE** CE per **ONE** hour of instruction.

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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

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



Northeast Ohio MASTER RAIN GARDENER PROGRAM

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.



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



ONLINE COURSE: \$60
JANUARY 27 – MARCH 8, 2025

Five online classes with optional Q&A sessions held virtually each week.

Contact: Maggie Ensign at
mensign@crwp.org

IN-PERSON COURSE: \$75
March 14 – April 4, 2025

Four in-person classes with optional field trips.

Contact: Kate Chapel at
kchapel@cuyahogawcd.org

DETAILS & REGISTRATION
neomasterraingardener.org

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



Scholarships available!
Based on need, courses can be offered for as low as \$10.

Coordination and delivery of the Master Rain Gardener Program in 2025 will be funded by the George Gund Foundation, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Lake County Stormwater Management Department, and the William Bingham Foundation.



Click on the image above to REGISTER!

MGVS will receive **ONE CE** per **ONE** hour of instruction.





2025 Mass Aggie Seminar Series



2025 Mass Aggie Seminars

A gift idea for the gardener in your life!

Pre-registration required as seating is limited.

UMass Amherst officially opened its doors in 1863 as the Massachusetts Agricultural College and has affectionately become known as “Mass Aggie.”

The Mass Aggie Seminar Series highlights the agricultural expertise and innovation available from the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Extension Fruit Team. Through this series of seminars and workshops, they aim to provide a platform for small scale backyard growers and agricultural enthusiasts of all types to come together to learn the latest developments in fruit production. Delve into the cutting-edge information shared in their seminars, curated to empower individuals with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of agriculture.

Click **HERE** for the detailed schedule and to register!

MGVS will receive **ONE CE** per **ONE** hour of instruction.



CFAES COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Meet Me in the Garden 2025



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 22, 2025
7:00 pm

**Growing Lavender:
Greening a Brownfield**
Learn the gardening secrets of growing a variety of lavenders on a former concrete dumpsite, while realizing a larger mission of education, environmental stability and community through lavender.



Presented by
Jim and Amy Duxbury
Owners, Lavender Trails

February

Wednesday, February 26, 2025
7:00 pm

Creating Iris Envy
Discover the best plan for successfully growing fabulous irises in your garden including best choices for Ohio's climate, iris types, bloom time, dividing and minimizing pests and diseases.



Presented by
Luigi di Santo
Vice President of
Northeast Ohio
Iris Society

March

Wednesday, March 26, 2025
7:00 pm

**Natural and Organic
Weed Sprays in the Garden**



Learn the pros and cons of home remedies for weed-killing sprays and organic herbicide products including their effectiveness.

Presented by
Maggie Rivera
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Educator
Ohio State University/Summit County



MGVS will receive **ONE CE** per **ONE** hour of instruction.



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



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



*** 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 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 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:

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, 7/21, 9/15, & 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

Visit our website

Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County | 12200 Fairhill Road | Cleveland, OH 44120 US

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