

Welcome to the AGNR Volunteer Newsletter March News, Events and Activities for OCVNs and MGVs

We hope this edition finds you well!

These times are certainly unprecedented in the way our lives have been changed. We all have our challenges, from physical health to mental health in what we are able to accomplish.

We've had lots of zoom meetings, but not very much else due to the restrictions.

When we resumed the Valley Grows page, I realized how this has affected not only us – but gardeners in general.

Please be patient.

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

OCVN TRAINING.... Training concluded June 23rd with a very informative presentation from Jenny Richards, ODNr. The recording of the training was sent out to all 2020 class participants. The Final Exam has been made available to the current class. All OCN trainees have received a doodle poll to participate in class update and Q and A session.

OCVN MEETING.... Please mark your calendars for 6:30pm on August 25.

MGV FINAL PRESENTATIONS...Our 2020 MGV Trainees have been busy working towards the conclusion of their training, either through the development of final presentations or preparation for a final exam. We have multiple trainees who have opted to deliver their final presentation via Zoom, and a schedule is currently being developed. We encourage all current and upcoming MGV's to stay tuned for the final lineup and join as many presentations as you can to extend your support and learn more about our 2020 class.

MGV HOURS...OSU Extension has announced that required hours for new trainee hours are being reduced from 50 to 40 this year due to the pandemic. We will allow you to get these hours through the end of 2021. For trainees, there is no educational hour requirement (it was the class). For seasoned volunteers, there is still a 20 volunteer and 10 educational hours requirement. BUT – seasoned volunteers can count educational hours towards volunteer hours (this is for seasoned volunteers only).

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING...many of you have asked about volunteering virtual, as you are taking care of relatives, or have your own personal reasons for not wanting to be on-site for any volunteer activities. This is fine. We hear you and understand. We continue to work on opportunities to volunteer virtually, such as the observation/scouting project for Spotted Lanternfly. Details of this project will be out soon (as soon as we get the exemption approved). Then, this is a big opportunity for everyone to be out and about while still social distancing to get some additional hours.

The Valley Grows page returned on Wednesday, June 17, in the Vindy edition of the Tribune Chronicle.

So, we need your help in writing articles to get things moving as we return to this 7+ year project! Here's what you can do:

1. Submit calendar items to Eric – local horticulture/nature/local foods events.
2. Write an article
3. Write a Q&A
4. Provide ideas for the top 2 plugs – These are usually short phrases with a link to more information relating to a topic, and sometimes an event.

If you are new to writing, we ask that you take part in our training program on writing for this audience.. This is a good exercise in ensuring we provide high quality, research based information to the public.

The writing class is: July 22nd @ 6-7 p.m.

To join, simply click the link below and follow the prompts.

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/93571025482>

If you are a current writer, please send me your article ideas. We want to ensure two people are not writing on the same topic.

MGV EDUCATIONAL HOURS. . .Upcoming and recorded Horticultural Lunch and Learns and Happy Hour Webinars from the state are available at: <http://go.osu.edu/MGVlearn>

MGV MINUTES...You can view the minutes of our June 11th meeting at this link: <https://u.osu.edu/barrett.90/2020/06/22/minutes-mgv-meeting-june-11th-2020/>

2020 Census is so important, do not forget to respond <https://2020census.gov/en>

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY. . . MGVS and OCVNs have the opportunity to assist with our observations/scouting of tree of heaven in order to find any outbreaks of the Spotted Lanternfly in Columbiana and Mahoning Counties. We had a presentation on June 2nd to learn about the basics. We will provide more information on this project by Mid-June. This will involve locating tree of heaven, marking it, then observing the tree one day per week to see if there are signs of this insect. More details soon.

~EVENTS~

ALL OSU PUBLIC EVENTS...through July 6th have been cancelled due to the pandemic. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

MGV CLINIC...training has taken place and the VIRTUAL CLINIC opened on May 7th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, the MGV Clinic will run every Thursday
<http://go.osu.edu/virtualclinic>

- NATURALIST SERIES... July 24 – Naturalist Series
 - Wildlife Sampler with Marne Titchenell
 - Friday, July 24, 6:30 -7:30 pm
 - Info & Register - <https://mahoning.osu.edu/events/naturalist-series-wildlife-sampler-0>

SAVE THE DATE – Nature Spectacular!

The OCVNs will host a fall seminar on nature/wildlife topics on Saturday, September 12 at the OSU Extension Conference Center in Canfield.

~MEETING CALENDARS~

2020 OCVN Meetings

- Nature Round Table – Being Rescheduled
- August 25th 6:30 pm

2020 MGV Meetings

6pm garden talk/socializing. Meeting 6:30pm

- August 13 – Virtual
- September 10 – Carol Smith, MGV Trip to Ecuador
- October 8 – TBA
- November 12 – Fellows Christmas tree ornament workshop

2020 Events for All

- July 24 – Naturalist Series
 - Naturalist Series: Wildlife Sampler with Marne Titchenell
 - Friday, July 24, 6:30 -7:30 pm
 - Info & Register - <https://mahoning.osu.edu/events/naturalist-series-wildlife-sampler-0>
- August 5 – Garden Art with Pam Baytos
 - Hypertufa Pots
 - Wednesday, August 5 at 3:00 pm
 - Info & Register- <https://mahoning.osu.edu/events/garden-art-pam-b-hypertufa-pots>
- September 12 – Nature Spectacular
- December 3 – AGNR Volunteer Banquet

For a complete listing of OSU Extension programs (Ag, 4-H, FCS, MGV, OCVN):

<http://go.osu.edu/MahoningCalendar>

If you want an announcement or information in the AGNR Newsletter please e-mail to Lori at moff.1@osu.edu by the 23rd of the month.

SAVE THE DATES

2020 Master Gardener State Conference

Virtual Only

September 11-12, 2020

Letter from Marilyn ~

I miss you! Call me silly, sentimental, emotional, whatever, I don't care! I have been called a 'people person' - I believe that "people who need people are the luckiest people in the world". It is important for me to share thoughts, hopes, worries, ideas, etc.


This has and continues to be very different times for all of us. We have experienced anything close to this. So many things are going on, so much to think about and worry about. I am feeling like so many things I know, trusted, depended on,

and cared about are being challenged and changing rapidly. I have decided to reach out to so many, including my MGV friends, people who I care about and am concerned about. I wish I had done this much earlier. It seems like in so many ways we have lost control. But, could there be a blessing in disguise? Are we missing a huge life lesson? I am trying to stay positive and choose to believe just that. I am betting you are too. I am so very thankful that I have a love of nature and all the miracles it provides. I am so thankful that we have a big yard, filled with all kinds of neat things (yes we have lots of weeds too - can not keep up!). Really taking the time to watch what is happening in our yard has helped so much. It makes me feel like I am a small part of something greater - something that is good.

I have come to realize how important you are to me. The friendships, the laughter, the sharing of ideas, successes and failures, the fellowship, the helpfulness, the meeting of like minds, on and on, such a treasure! Although we are apart, recalling fond memories makes me smile. I thank you for that. Our group is so very special. I know you have heard me say that many times. Being on a state committee has given me an opportunity to hear about other groups and their challenges. Trust me it is not all good! We do not bicker, fuss and fight over trivial issues. We find a way, (I believe through the strong and special talent of our leader). We are a cohesive group of special people. We are caring, compassionate, passionate, empathic, and understanding. We are helpful and concerned for others and want to make a difference in our community.

I long for the days when we can be together again. I want to see your smile!

I am thinking of you and would love to hear from you. text (973-865-7441 or call 330-702-1519 or e mail me. I hope you are now and in the future, will be healthy and safe.

My best wishes to all, 

Marilyn

Virtual Garden Tours
– *Pat Kacenski*



3 Sisters Garden

Virtual Garden Tours
– *Marge Greenisen*



Refurbished park bench on faux painted well pit cover flanked by tree roses in planters. This year's project.



Potted chrysanthemums in temporary location growing for late summer planting in various flower beds.



Gravity flow watering tank to water chrysanthemums. Not a pretty landscape feature but it is tucked behind a machine shed. Much better than carrying buckets of water up the hill!



“Grandma’s Garden” Created originally for my mother in law in the late 70’s so that she could enjoy flowers from the kitchen window.



Vegetable garden with squash and pumpkins in foreground and asparagus fronds near the greenhouse. Plants are much larger now. We have been watering with a soaker hose and we actually had some beneficial rain.



One of the hanging baskets on the front porch



Close up of a section of Grandma's Garden showing Coleus, Burgundy Coral Bell, Drift roses and Fire and Ice Hydrangea.