

Welcome to the AGNR Volunteer Newsletter August 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 on Zoom. Link will be sent out closer to the meeting date

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...The class of 2020: Your volunteer hours have changed from 50 to 25 to become certified. You and all certified master gardeners may use webinars as volunteer hours. There is a new entry in the VMS system: Covid 19 continuing Ed in place of Service Hours. We'll discuss this more at the meeting, just wanted you aware of the new entry in VMS so you can check it out beforehand.

FOR ALL MGV HOURS FOR 2020...please note there is complete flexibility with your hours. If you have questions, please call or email Eric. We do not expect you to go out if you do not want to. We understand the challenges for all of us!

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.

Attention Volunteers. . . We need you! We are looking for Volunteers to help teach/present topics virtually. Worried about technology? Don't worry Kristen and Haley will help you! Not sure what to present? Don't worry we help with that too! Please contact KRISTEN via email at eisenhauer.30@osu.edu or call the office at 330-533-5538 to talk to her.

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.

- You are invited to a Zoom Training:
- When: **August 19, 2020 06:00 PM**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYlcO6tqTggG9bt4GkNAPMXdL5TSJ9OcQSw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you are a current writer, please send Eric 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 July 9th meeting at this link:

<https://u.osu.edu/barrett.90/2020/08/06/313/>

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

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY. . . We will be sharing more details about monitoring for Spotted Lanternfly in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, please try to attend this live webinar about the app that will be used for scouting. If you do not have a smart phone, you can email the information about the location and observation date.

Join us **Friday August 7th** for our live webinar on the **Great Lakes Early Detection Network App**. Here is your opportunity to learn more about the app, how it is being used in Ohio and how you can participate.

Help track invasive species using the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) App. Join Kathy Smith, Amy Stone, Marne Titchenell, and Eugene Braig, specialists in forestry, horticulture, wildlife, and aquatic ecology as they share how to use the app to report invasive species.

Register here: go.osu.edu/glednwebinar

MYSTERY SEEDS...OSU Extension is collecting the mysterious seed packets that some received in the mail (unsolicited). If you have received these, please drop off at our curbside service door Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8am and 4:30pm. We will be sending these to ODA/USDA once we have more information. Current USDA information is leaning towards a brushing scam – sending a product so that a fake on-line review can be published as ‘verified purchase’ on the internet. But, there could be other issues that we are not aware of at this time.

A BIG THANK YOU . . . We would like to THANK the Grounds Committee for sprucing up the outside gardens at the Extension Office.

~EVENTS~

ALL OSU PUBLIC EVENTS... 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>

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 – Virtual - Zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting

2020 MGV Meetings

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

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

2020 Events for All

- **August 12** - Pollinators
 - Attracting Pollinators to Your Landscape
 - Wednesday, August 12 at 10:00 am

- Info & Registration: <https://go.osu.edu/8-12-2020>
- **August 18 - Birds**
 - Backyard Birds
 - Tuesday, August 18 at 11:00 am
 - Info & Registration: <https://go.osu.edu/8-18-2020>
- **August 19 -**
 - Preparing Your Garden for Winter
 - Wednesday, August 19 at 10:00 am
 - Info & Registration: <https://go.osu.edu/wintergarden>
- **September 21 – Herbal Teas**
 - Coffee with the Master Gardeners: Herbal Teas
 - Monday, September 21 at 10:00 am
 - Info & Registration: <https://go.osu.edu/herbalteas>
- September 12 – Nature Spectacular
- December 3 – AGNR Volunteer Banquet

For a complete listing of OSU Extension programs (Ag, 4-H, FCS, MG, 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