

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

Welcome to 2021

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GARDENER WHEN:

by Pam Baytos

It's that time of year when we should have a little fun. How would you finish this sentence?

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GARDENER WHEN.....

You know Sevin is not a number.

You think mulch, manure and topsoil are fine birthday gifts.

You have given Japanese beetle traps to your neighbor.

You have a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.

You can't resist deadheading.....where ever you are.

You got a job at the garden center for the discount.

You would rather buy plants than shoes.

Your bookcase is ready to explode with garden books.

You answer questions at garden center...and you don't work there.

You've accidentally left your kids at garden center.....twice

Your neighbors only recognize you in p.j.'s rubber clogs and a cup of coffee.

You know you can fit 10 flats and 4 hanging baskets in your trunk.

You move and need a u-haul to carry all your "transplants".

You get upset when you see "neglected" plants at the nursery.

You buy a bigger truck so you can haul more mulch.

You receive plants dug up in a plastic bag for your birthday.

They know you by name at the nursery.

You've planned your vacation around a plant sale.

After reading this you nod your head knowingly.....cuz they're all true!!!

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

OCVN NEW TRAINING CLASS 2021 TBD

MGV MEETING . . .March 11th 6:30 pm – Zoom link will be sent.

MGV SOCIAL CHAT . . . March – to be announced

MGV NEW TRAINING CLASS . . .2021 TBD

MGV TRAINEE HOURS...The class of 2020: Your volunteer hours have changed from 50 to 25 to become certified. You may use webinars as volunteer hours. There is a new entry in the VMS system: Covid 19 continuing Ed in place of Service Hours. Reminder your hours need to be completed by December 2021.

FOR ALL MGV HOURS FOR 2021...All MGV's keep track of Education and Volunteer Hours on paper, training will be coming shortly for the Database System.

A NEW, BETTER BED BUG FACTSHEET...is now available on Ohioline at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/hyg-2105> This continues to be a big issue in Ohio. We get lots of questions. Share to help explain identification and control with our clientele.

NEW FLOOR & UPGRADES IN BACK ROOM...at the Extension Office is underway. These updates to our newly reclaimed office space will be great for meetings and programs in 2021 and beyond. (This is the old space where the drivers exam was housed.) If you are interested in supporting this effort, you can give online at <http://go.osu.edu/givemahoning>

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING...possibilities include:

1. Attending the monthly Master Gardener meetings via Zoom
2. Participate in our Zoom programs, they are listed below under EVENTS
3. Writing for the Valley Grows column in the Vindicator, please remember to send Eric your article ideas. We want to ensure two people are not writing on the same topic.
4. 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.
5. 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> or <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/resources/webinars>

MGV MINUTES...

February Minutes - <https://u.osu.edu/barrett.90/2021/02/16/mgv-meeting-minutes-february-2021/>

MGV Committees. . . an email was sent out for you to sign up for a committee(s) of your choice, if you haven't already done so here is the link to use. Reminder ALL Master Gardeners need to select a committee.

https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cM7jnETPNdAIkYt.

WE ARE MONITORING...the changing landscape of the pandemic to determine when we might be able to get back to in person programming. At this time, we do not have an update beyond our office being open for curbside again on Tuesday, January 19. We expect zoom to be our meeting and event location until June-ish. Yes, that is like Blursday. Even after that, we will continue to offer zoom options until we get back to some sort of normalcy. Hang in there. Join zoom meetings for some social time. Call other volunteers to chat about nature/gardening. Learn something new you can share with others in the future. Thanks for all you do!

~MEETING CALENDARS~

2021 MGV Meetings...

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

- March 11th
- April 8th
- May 13th
- June 10th
- July 8th
- August 12th
- September 9th
- October 14th
- November 4th
- December 9th

2021 Events for All...

Mahoning County Programs

- **March Classes:**
 - *Garden Art with Pam B: Garden Tool Planters*
 - Wednesday, March 3rd at 3:00 pm
 - To register and more info visit: <https://go.osu.edu/gardentoolplanters>
 - *Naturalist Series: Tree Communications*
 - Tuesday, March 9th at 6:00 pm
 - To register and more info visit: <https://go.osu.edu/treecommunication>
 - *Attracting and Raising Monarchs*
 - Tuesday, March 16th at 10:00 am
 - To register and more info visit: <https://go.osu.edu/monarchs>
 - *Backyard Fruit Production*
 - Wednesday, March 24th at 2:00 pm.
 - **\$5 Class Fee**
 - To register and more info visit: <https://go.osu.edu/backyardfruitproduction>
- **April Classes:**
 - *Is It a Bird or Moth?*
 - Tuesday, April 13th at 10:00 am
 - To register or more info visit: <https://go.osu.edu/birdormoth>
 - *Naturalist Series: Top 10 Native Perennials for Pollinators: Great Plants, Great Networks*
 - Wednesday, April 21st at 6:30 pm
 - To register and more info visit: <https://go.osu.edu/nativeperennials>
 - *Houseplant Success for 2021*
 - Tuesday, April 27th at 10:00 am
 - To register and more info visit: <https://go.osu.edu/houseplant2021>

For a complete and up to date list of events please visit <https://mahoning.osu.edu/events>

OCVN Minutes . . .from OCVN Planning Meeting February 25, 2021

The meeting was February 25, 2021 beginning at 6:30 PM by Zoom. Eric Barrett led the meeting.

Eric began the meeting by reading the guiding statement for OCVN's:

A group of OCVNs providing educational programming for the public by training volunteers for parks and nature areas encouraging cooperation between parks and nature areas, and hosting educational programs in the Mahoning Valley.

14 OCVN's were in attendance including members from the most recent class. It was so nice to see them.

Gary Davenport reported on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid that has been found in Mill Creek Park and the opportunity for volunteers to help find additional locations with Hemlocks that might have the insect. Look under leaves so a flashlight and binoculars are helpful. Current area in the Park where it has been found is the Lake Glacier area but could be anywhere there are Hemlocks. Contact Nick DeRico at Mill Creek Metropark if you plan to look for the Woolly Adelgid at nderico@millcreekmetropark.org. Stephanie Hughes will write an article on the insect for Valley Grows.

The Mahoning County Land Bank is planning to plant native plants on vacant land and help is needed. Contact Gary Davenport if interested.

Spotted Lanternflies also need to be located.

Another opportunity for volunteering is at Kyle Woods Nature Preserve in Canfield Township. It has a 1 1/2 mile loop trail and you would look for wildlife/plants, pick up trash or cut obstructions to path. Before volunteering, please contact charlotte.trolio@dnr.ohio.gov. Ms. Trolio is in charge of 16 Nature Preserves in N.E. Ohio.

If you see unusual nature sightings, please place on I Naturalist or go there to look up prior sightings. Some recent sightings have been: Bobcats, Evening Grosbeaks and Spotted salamanders (in near future) in Columbiana County. In Mahoning County, a rare bird was seen today.

Lynn Best said a grant was received from the Sierra Club for native plants that were planted at the Austintown Senior Center. Eric said more native plants will be received for the Extension office.

Keep putting in your hours on the current site, <https://apps.ideal-logic.com>. OSU is changing the app for Master Gardeners and then will also change OCVN's to the same app in the future. There has been no information for the State Convention.

A new floor has been put in the back area of the office, walls removed, and remaining walls painted by Kristen and Haley. Thank them if you see them.

There may be Fair information by April.

Naturalist Series Zoom Programs. Thanks Sara and Kristin for organizing

- March 9 6-7 pm Tree Communications. Enrico Bonello
- April 21 6:30 pm Top 10 Native Perennials for Pollinators. Denise Ellsworth
- May ? Scenic Rivers. Matthew Smith
- ? Dragonflies, Lisa Rainsong

Mahoning County Extension Programs

- April 16 Frogs, Toads and Salamanders Stephanie Hughes
- May 1 Snakes, Lizards and Turtles. Stephanie Hughes

OCVN Meetings Tentative Schedule

- March/April Round table by zoom. Discuss volunteer opportunities with organization.
- June/July Hike/outing. Gary Davenport to arrange
- Fall ?
- December. Banquet with MG's.

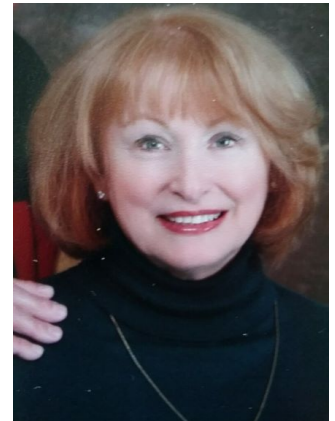
Nancy Brundage, OCVN

Spotlight is on Katie Shipka, MG, OCVN

By Marianne Eister

You may have taken a trolley ride through the park where this MG narrated the tour or even learned how to kayak in Lake Newport from this MG. Katie Shipka has been a longtime volunteer at Mill Creek MetroParks. This is a natural fit with her OCVN and MG certifications. In 2008 Katie became a OCVN and in 2016 she became a MG. You might notice articles in the Vindicator that Katie has authored or see her answering questions online at the Plant and Pest Clinic. She also sits on the board of the local Audubon Society.

Katie spent her early life on the north side of Youngstown. Her father fostered her love of gardening by teaching her how to grow tomatoes, beans and lettuce. Many hours were spent planting, weeding, watering and picking the vegetables they grew for their family in their backyard garden. Her favorite vegetables to grow are Roma tomatoes because they are small, meaty and make a great sauce. She also enjoys cultivating chives which taste great in fresh salads.



After high school Katie graduated from college with a degree in elementary education and spent two years teaching in the Youngstown school system.

Her husband's continuing education led them to live several years in the Boston, MA area before returning to Youngstown. Katie and her husband have a daughter and son. She also has a grandson and two grand puppies. After her son and daughter were in school Katie found part-time work in the medical library at St Elizabeth's Youngstown location. This soon led to a full-time position where she spent twenty-nine years researching medical information for attending, interns, residents, nursing students and any staff member in school.

Iceland was Katie's favorite and most exotic travel destination. She spent a week touring the countryside with her son as travel guide. She also enjoyed trips to England, Scotland, and Ireland. The trip to England was especially meaningful since she was able to meet a longtime pen pal. They still communicate and share their lives by email instead of snail mail.

Katie has a passion for native pollinator plants and Monarch butterflies. A pollinator garden outside her home contains many native pollinator plants. Katie's favorite pollinator plant is common milkweed.

Common milkweed provides the only place that the female Monarch butterflies lay their eggs as well as the only food source for the caterpillars. She collects the eggs in late July from the milkweed leaves and provides a safe habitat inside her Florida room until they transform through the stages (egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly). Windows in the Florida room remain open during the process to provide a more natural setting. This is one of her favorite summer activities.

Like many of us Katie was given houseplants as gifts over the years. These plants bring special memories of the people who gifted them to us. I was impressed to learn that Katie has propagated plants from a spider plant her daughter gave her over 40 years ago. That was a Mother's Day present that she will never forget. She has a Thanksgiving Cactus that her father gave her. Katie has been successful at getting the cactus to produce flowers. African Violets and sword plants are other plants that she has grown over the years. She has recently branched out to growing orchids.

BOOK SUGGESTION BY DAVID SPRAGUE . . .

The Invention of Nature Alexander von Humboldt's New World By Andrea Wulf

Little remembered today, Alexander von Humboldt was once one of the most famous people in the world. For the centennial year of his birth, 1869, celebrations were held across the globe including many cities in the United States. In Cleveland 8,000 people turned out for the celebration. The state of Nevada was almost named for him and many counties & landmarks in the west were named after him.

Humboldt became famous for his long journeys of discovery and the books he wrote about them. Some of his books, such as *Cosmos*, remained standards for science books for decades. Among his major insights was his discovery of isotherms, maps showing different areas with the same temperature, and how these similar temperatures were related to the distribution of plants. He was one of the first to describe how human activity changes climate. And he advanced the idea of continental drift.

Alexander von Humboldt was born into an aristocratic Prussian family and seemed destined for a career in service to the Prussian court. But it was scientific knowledge and adventure that attracted him. As soon as he could he left Prussia and set on his own.

He lived at a time before science separated out into specific areas such as physics and biology. People at the time who did scientific work were known as natural philosophers. He found all scientific knowledge of his time interesting and accessible. He worked in Geology, Geography and Biology often at the same time. Today he would be called polymath.

Because of his knowledge, travels and social position Humboldt met many of the important people of his period. Johann Goethe and Friedrich Schiller, both German poets and playwrights, influenced him early in his career. Later on, he met or corresponded with other leading scientists of the time such as Charles Darwin. His travels brought him into contact with some of the major political leaders of the era. For example, he met and became lifelong friends with South American leader Simon Bolivar. In 1804 after his five-year tour of South America he met Thomas Jefferson in Washington, D.C. He found Jefferson living in a small corner of the unfinished White House. He and Jefferson met while the sounds of construction went on around them. Jefferson and Humboldt had many overlapping interests, and admired each other. But Humboldt, who adamantly opposed slavery, challenged Jefferson on slavery in the United States.

Part biography, part adventure story and part science book, Wulf makes the world of the late 18th and early 19th centuries come alive in the *Invention of Nature*. Her depictions of Humboldt's travels are vivid. Her descriptions of the now lost world of unspoiled South American jungles and mountains, the areas of Humboldt's first long exploration, stand out.

Today it's difficult to imagine 8,000 Americans turning out to celebrate the life of any scientist. That says something about who we were as Americans 150 years ago and who we are today.

Before reading this book, I knew very little about Humboldt other than that the Humboldt Current was named after him. This is not a gardening book, although Humboldt worked extensively with plants, collecting samples, studying them and writing about them. His observations on plants helped lay the foundations of modern plant science found in our gardens today. I recommend this book to anyone interested in history, the early years of science, or just learning about one of the most interesting and influential people of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Andra Wulf is based in London and wrote another one of my book suggestions, *Founding Gardeners*.

Enjoy the month of March – Spring is Around the Corner!!

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.

