

Welcome to 2022

THOUGHTS FROM Robert Eister . . . Happy New Year and Welcome January

Dear fellow OSU Master Gardener members,

We are beginning a new year together and I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year and good health for 2022. Our last two years have been trying to say the least. I am proud to be associated with such a resilient and dedicated group of people. We have been able to adapt using technology to continue our program. We could not meet in person, so we met online through Zoom meetings. We continued to provide classes to increase the knowledge and skills of others. The program expanded in many ways and was recognized at the state level for our achievement.

So where do we go from here? We could just sit back and say to each other what a good program we had. Were those the Glory Days? Or do we could look to the future and plan to continue to pursue the level of excellence and participation that our 2021 program had? The answer is really up to each one of us and the choices we make.

Like a garden, it will take effort and determination to have a fruitful and attractive program. We will reap what we sow. Take an inventory of what you have to work with. How much of your skill, time and participation are you willing to share? We have proven we can work together and lighten each other's burdens so all our goals can be accomplished. I pledge to carry out my part.

Again, best wishes for a prosperous and happy new year.

Bob Eister

President

~THANK YOU'S~

- **MGV Banquet**

- Thank you to everyone who was able to share in a fantastic evening with us! Between the cheese trays, veggies, and splendid desserts – it was a delicious evening. The stories shared by volunteers about their decision to become an MGV and their journeys within the MGV program were heartfelt. We appreciate you all and all you do! Congratulations again to those who were involved in our state award winning committees and events. And, thank you to everyone who completed their hours in the new system. The evening was a great time to be thankful for volunteers, each other, and the opportunity to serve our communities. GREAT JOB!

- **Wreaths for Our Veterans** – Mike Beaudis

- On Saturday, December 11, 2021, the MGV Wreaths for Our Veterans Committee held our ceremony at the Eckis Cemetery where we presented 99 wreaths to the veterans. The American Legion Lake Milton Post 737 participated in the ceremony by presenting the colors, a veteran's prayer, 3-gun volleys and playing taps. They were led by Chaplain John C. Chitcock. We want to thank them for making our program a success and very meaningful. Finally, thank you to all committee members who participated and especially Tom Petrilla who saved 6 wreaths which had fallen off my truck on the way to the cemetery.

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

2021 Certification for MGVs...The beginning of the year means we need to complete our annual processes for active MGv participation. This includes:

- Dues - \$10.00 – Send check to office, drop off at office, bring to meeting
- Read and sign 1.50 form
- Sign up for a committee in 2022
- Remember to maintain active certification for MGv's you need **20 volunteer hours** and **10 education hours** yearly (November 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022).

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

We continue to monitor the ongoing pandemic and the effect it has on the health and wellness of our staff and volunteers. At this time, we continue to have air cleaners in our meeting rooms and offices, sanitize on a regular basis, and enforce social distancing at meetings and events. We may institute a mask mandate and other protocols at any time as we see cases increase. Please watch your email and/or text messages for any updates or changes to meeting or event plans.

****If you do not get text messages from Kristen as a reminder, please call/email her with your cell number to be put into the system.

MGV & OCVN NEW TRAINING CLASSES begin on February 1, 2022. The detailed agenda for speakers and session topics will be posted soon. Current MGv volunteers and OCVN alumni can attend classes in their respective areas to learn more about a specific topic. Please let us know if you plan to be here for any of the sessions, as space is limited.

FOR ALL MGv HOURS FOR 2021...All MGv's continue putting your hours into Hands on Connect. We will work on setting up quarterly times for you to be able to come into the office for computer resources and help.

OCVN HOURS...please continue to contact Ann Baird at baird.41@osu.edu with any questions about the system or inputting hours. OCVN hours are managed by the state.

MGv MINUTES...There were no minutes since we did not have a December meeting.

~SPEAKERS NEEDED~ . . .

- Group - St. Michael's Garden Club
 - Contact – Mrs Rehlinger 330-533-5393 or 330-881-1625
 - Date – September 28th @ 7:00 pm for an hour
 - Topic – Any Garden Topic
- Group – Gardeners of Greater Youngstown
 - Contact – Clare Neff clare_neff@me.com
 - Date – February and March
 - Topic – Indoor Plant Care and Garden Prep

~MEETING CALENDARS~

2022 MGv Meetings...

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

- January 13th
- February 10th
- March 10th
- April 14th
- May 12th

- June 9th
- July 14th
- August 11th
- September 8th
- October 13th
- November 10th
- December 8th

2022 Events for All...

Mahoning County Programs

- **January Classes:**
 - Naturalist Series: Who-Who's Who of Ohio's Owls
 - Date: Tuesday January 18th
 - Time: 6:30 pm
 - To register visit: <https://go.osu.edu/ohioowls>
- **February Classes:**
 - Naturalist Series: The Return of River Otter to Ohio
 - Date: Friday, February 11th
 - Time: 6:30 pm
 - To register visit: <https://go.osu.edu/ohiootters>
- **March Classes:**
 - Naturalist Series: Beautiful & Bouncing Back: The Return of the Bald Eagle
 - Date: March 24th
 - Time: 6:30 pm
 - To register visit: <https://go.osu.edu/bladeagles>

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

THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON David Sprague, MGV

By: Marilyn McKinley

Another article about a MGV who has truly made a difference.

We all know David as the 'clinic guy'. I spoke to David about his background. Some remarkably interesting stuff!

David was born in Oakland, California. His father's work required the family to move several times, so growing up he lived in various cities in California. He and his family eventually returned to the Bay Area. He has a degree in electrical engineering with a concentration in communications and digital systems – now known as computers. He was with the government for 31 years working in technical and management (I think he would have been a terrific boss!), focusing on communications and computer technologies. David then moved to Virginia.

David's career with the government was a great experience. In the late '70s to 1990's he did a lot of traveling. He has visited more than 60 countries, several more than once. He was stationed in Greece for two years. Most of the trips were for multi weeks. There were times when he left Virginia in one season and returned in another. As for some of the repeat trips, he visited Egypt five times and in Moscow four times. Boy, does that sound exciting and adventurous! David reports that after a while traveling to different countries got to be tiring.

When asked if he would do it all over again? David says if he were 20 something, with a new diploma in hand, and if the opportunity arose, he would do it in a heartbeat. The government is particularly challenging to work for, but in return the Agency does as much for employees as possible. David's first job was a contract job teaching electronics to United States Post Office employees and was paid just \$4.75 an hour.

When it comes to gardening, David says his mom was the one who sparked his interest in gardening. He now admits she tried to teach him, but he was not an attentive listener. His garden philosophy is – Plant and let it be, he doesn't like to pull things out, even if it fails to perform as well as expected. His first garden was a vegetable garden that was 8 x 8 in size. Besides gardening David enjoys hiking and reading.

David completed his MGV class in 2007 in Virginia, and (thankfully) transferred to the valley, and has been an active gardener here with us since 2011.

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. We welcome articles about you – and your fellow MGVs! It is great to learn even more about our friends and colleagues.

Enjoy planning your GARDENS!!



Photo of the MGVs and Community members that helped with award-winning the Smucker House Project.



Photo of the MGVs that keep our award-winning Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic running.



Photo the MGVs that guide the award-winning Jr. Master Gardener Group.



2022 MGV Officer Team.
(Missing Marie Belfast)