

Welcome to 2022

THOUGHTS FROM Robert Eister . . April 2022

Dear fellow OSU Master Gardener Volunteers,

I hope we can soon see actual smiles on each other's faces again as we begin to unmask and safely gather together. While zooming through the last 2 years was good, it will be great to actually work together in person for classes and on projects this year.

I want to thank those of you who have taken a role in training, mentoring, encouraging and feeding our 2022 MGV trainees. They have passed on to me very positive comments on our program. We can expect them to continue to grow as interns with us and infuse new ideas soon. Please look for the new faces with intern nametags and make them feel welcome as they join us for our April 14th meeting.

I hope you are enjoying the continuing education classes provided by our newly reorganized Education committee. I attended the first session of Plant and Pest Clinic refresher training that was completed, and another is to be held on April 25 at 12:30. Remember, our award-winning clinic will open on April 4th. Please consider attending the training and working in the clinic.

Back by popular demand is our Spring Horticulture Seminar series. Check out Session 1 on April 23, 9am to 3pm. Session 2 has different speakers on April 30, 9am to 3pm. My thanks to the many volunteers who are planning and taking an active part to make these events successful.

As the sun shines bright and weather warms, I find myself strangely pulled toward my garden beds. They are still sleeping but will soon awake to burst forth with new blooms and delicious veggies. The magic of spring has already begun, I see a daffodil opening. What's happening in your landscape?

Bob Eister

President

Spring Seminar Notes:

- It's me again! Our seminar will be here before you know it and I still need cans for the bee hotels. Can't use the small soup cans, try to have ones that are 4 1/2 to 5 inches tall and 3 inches across. I still have to get them painted so don't want to wait until the last minute and still need at least 20 more. - Pam

Please remember our requirements to be an active member are:

OBTAINING VOLUNTEER HOURS:

20 documented volunteer hours are required annually to maintain active status. Approved volunteer hours must be MGV related and may include:

- 2 hours must come from Backyard and Local Food events
- 2 hours must come from Environmental Horticulture events

- Approved projects to obtain volunteer hours are committee driven
- If you desire to volunteer for a project not committee driven, you must submit your request in writing for approval from an OSU Educator at the beginning of the year
- Attending monthly meetings will equal one volunteer hour (and one education hour – see below)
- Refer to the committee list and description
- You may NOT record any hours you are paid for

OBTAINING CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS:

10 documented education hours are required annually to maintain active status. Approved continuing education hours must be MGV related and may include:

- 2 hours must be from integrated pest management classes or presentations
- 2 hours must be from invasive species classes or presentations
- Attending monthly MGV meeting – where a speaker presents a program
- Attend a MGV sponsored field trip with a specialist tour guide

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

2022 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
- 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 began 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.

~OPPORTUNITY~

- Diana Mullins from the Flower Show during the Canfield Fair is looking for someone to work with her during the Fair – if interested contact the office for her information.

~ MGV MINUTES ~

March Minutes - <https://u.osu.edu/barrett.90/2022/03/14/mgv-minutes-march-2022/>

~MEETING CALENDARS~

2022 MGV Meetings...

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

- 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

- **Up Coming Classes:**
 - *Naturalist Series: Aquatic Invasive Species in Ohio*
 - Date: Thursday, April 7th
 - Time: 6:30 pm
 - Location: Mahoning County Extension Office
 - To register call 330-533-5538 or visit <https://go.osu.edu/aquaticinvasives>
 - *Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic*
 - Date: Saturday, April 9th
 - Time: 12:00 pm
 - Cost: \$30.00
 - Location: White House Fruit Farm, 9249 St Rt 62, Canfield 44406
 - To register call 330-533-5538 or visit <https://go.osu.edu/fruittreeclinic>
 - *2022 Spring Gardening Workshop 1*
 - Date: Saturday, April 23rd
 - Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 - Cost: \$45.00
 - Location: Mahoning County Extension Office
 - To register call 330-533-5538 or visit <https://go.osu.edu/springintoaction>
 - *2022 Spring Gardening Workshop 2*
 - Date: Saturday, April 30th
 - Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 - Cost: \$45.00

- Location: Mahoning County Extension Office
 - To register visit call 330-533-5538 or visit <https://go.osu.edu/springintoaction2>
- Gardening For Pollinators
 - Date: Thursday, May 19th
 - Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - Location: Mahoning County Extension Office
 - Cost: \$30.00 per person
 - To register visit <https://go.osu.edu/05-19pollinators>
 - Naturalist Series: Bees in Your Ohio Backyard
 - Date: Thursday, May 19th
 - Time: 6:30 pm
 - Location: Mahoning County Extension Office
 - To register visit <https://go.osu.edu/05-19bees>
 - Naturalist Series: A Concert of Crickets and Katydid
 - Date: Tuesday, August 16th
 - Time: 6:30 pm
 - Location: Mahoning County Extension
 - To register visit <https://go.osu.edu/cricketsandkatydids>
 - Naturalist Series: The Many Lives of Lichens
 - Date: Thursday, October 20th
 - Time: 6:30 pm
 - Location: Mahoning County Extension Office
 - To register visit <https://go.osu.edu/livesoflichens>
 - Naturalist Series: Hunting Wild Mushrooms in Eastern Ohio
 - Date: Thursday, November 17th
 - Time: 6:30 pm
 - Location: Mahoning County Extension Office
 - To register visit <https://go.osu.edu/wildmushrooms>

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

SPOTLIGHT in on: Bob Eister

I was born and raised in the Anthracite coal mining region of Pennsylvania. Our small home was located on an acre of hard red shale ground.

My grandfather introduced me to gardening when I was very young. He lived in the same small town as I did and filled an acre with vegetables, flowers, and fruit trees. He taught my father and I about his methods of gardening. My father liked to grow roses and tulips. He also planted chestnut and walnut trees. I hand dug gardens at both homes, incorporating leaves to improve the soil for many years.

I started gardening myself after I married my wife, Marianna. We moved onto an acre lot in central Pennsylvania, I planted dahlias, tulips, and daffodils as well as nut and fruit trees. We also planted bush beans, carrots, and lettuce. We were later able to purchase an additional acre next to our home. On that lot we grew potatoes, a few varieties of sweet corn and wildflowers. Some apple trees and an

evergreen border was added. After ten years of work on this property I transferred to New Jersey for a job change. We lived in the Pinelands in southern New Jersey for nearly five years. The soil there is sandy and acidic. Marianna and I installed a 9-zone sprinkler system. Then we planted grass, acid loving shrubs like holly and azaleas.

Our last move was to Canfield in 1997. Our home is located on an acre of land. It did not have a lawn or any landscaping. We were able to hire an excavator to bring in some topsoil and to till the soil for planting. We sowed seed and established our own lawn. We proceeded to place landscaping using a lot of sedum and purple winter creeper. I couldn't resist planting my favorite perennials, tulips, and daffodils. We then went to work planting the vegetables of my childhood and some apple trees. Apple trees were a real challenge and caused me some grief. The trees required a lot of spray and after time most died off due to fire blight. In 2014, the remaining trees were lost to storm damage. I became an ever-learning MG, hoping to work smarter and prevent crop failures.

Like many of you, we have had critter issues. Deer, skunks, racoons, chipmunks, and rabbits love what we grow as much as we do. Insects on fruits and vegetables are sometimes a problem. I am not a fan of using insecticides, only using them after all else has failed. We are experimenting with raised beds and planting in straw bales.

My son recently purchased a home nearby. We are hoping to plant corn, beans, squash and sunflowers this summer. I am hoping to pass along some gardening skills to him, just as my grandfather and father did for me.

By Marilyn McKinley

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 MGs! It is great to learn even more about our friends and colleagues.

Enjoy SPRINGTIME in OHIO!!