

**Welcome to the Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter:
News, Events, and Activities for MGVs**

December 2023

December 1, 2023

Dear fellow OSU Master Gardener Volunteers,

I noticed something recently as I shopped in stores and walked through the neighborhood. Many people like to decorate for the holidays. It seems that Halloween comes and goes quickly and then the Christmas decorations magically appear. I believe we need to slow down and celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday too.

Most people start the day by having the kids watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Grownups then prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal. When all stomachs are full and the dishes are put away, they take a nice nap if possible. Then all gather to watch a football game.

It seems we forgot something in all our busywork. When did we take the time to say thanks?

We need to remember to count our blessings. We have peaceful lives and freedom of choice. We live in warm and dry homes with plenty to eat. Let's not forget to be thankful for what we have. I feel we can better enjoy the Christmas holiday if we are in a better spirit for the season.

I have enjoyed the experience of serving as your President for the past two years. Thank you to all who continue to participate, contribute, and remain an active MG volunteer.

Bob Eister

President.

Update from Eric

As of November 1, I have been chosen to serve as the Interim Associate Chair for OSU Extension. From now until OSU Extension gains a new director, I will be working on faculty affairs, program leadership, promotion and tenure, statewide collaborations and fostering relationships within our department, the college, and the university at large. Kate Hornyak will be filling in while I am away. Kate is currently a program coordinator in Delaware County. She hails from Geauga County, where her family runs a peach orchard, grain, and agritourism farm. Kate has great interest in horticultural crops and the MGV program. Please welcome Kate as she helps us with winter programming and the upcoming MGV training. Thanks for all you do, -Eric



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3- Carole Martyn-Dow

15- Natalie Fraser

24- Patrick Chrystal

11- Mike Beaudis

18- Kary Shively

25- John Schoeni

12- Sara Scudier

22- Karen Santee

31- Danita Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ We need more greenery for the two upcoming centerpiece classes happening on December 5 and 6. Drop off outside the back door of the Extension Office. Thank you to all who have donated already.
- ❖ Wreaths for Our Veterans Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, December 2 at 10 am: 315 E Main Street, Canfield, OH 44406 <https://go.osu.edu/wreathsforourveterans2023>
- ❖ HOC Connect Open House is on December 12th from 9 am to 6 pm. Kristen asked those attending to bring their username and password. You may bring your own laptops, iPads to use. We were reminded again to enter our MGV hours by Dec. 31 into HOC. Please enter HOC hours ASAP!
- ❖ Please fill out the MGV 2024 survey to give us feedback on our MGV program: <https://go.osu.edu/mgvsurvey2024>
- ❖ 2024 Class planning is in progress, we are looking for volunteers to teach Garden Art, Morning with the Masters, and during the monthly MGV meetings. Please let Kristen know if you are interested or fill out the two-question survey at <https://go.osu.edu/mgvteachinginterest>.
- ❖ Columbiana County Plant and Pest Clinic is in need of volunteers for the 2024 season. The clinic is open April-October on Wednesdays from 12-3p. Contact Pinky with any questions at 330-227-9918.

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 for which you are paid.

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 meetings – where a speaker presents a program.
- Attend an MGV-sponsored field trip with a specialist tour guide.

MGV Intern Hours

The class of 2023 has until **April 30, 2024**, to complete 50 volunteer hours and enter into Hands on Connect. Only after the completion of your 50 volunteer hours will you be considered an Active Master Gardener. Please let Kristen know if you have any questions.

Continuing Education Links (Thanks Karen and Pam)

- The Ohio State University IPM program
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzcWaLH3mx7HUKh4OF7bYPA>
- OSU Invasives
<https://beht.osu.edu/video-categories/invasive-trainings>
- Hort Happy Hour and Lunch and Learn Webinars and recordings.
<http://go.osu.edu/MGVlearn>

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested, please contact the office (330-533-5538)

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MGV MINUTES

November minutes: <https://go.osu.edu/nov2023minutes>

MEETING CALENDARS

2024 Meetings: Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the Mahoning Extension Office, 6 pm garden talk/socializing and meeting at 6:30 pm.

- December 14, 2023
- January 11, 2024 – MGV Recognition Banquet- Invitations are forthcoming, RSVP **by December 18.**
- February 8th
- March 14th
- April 11th
- May 9th
- June 13th
- July 11th
- August 8th
- September 12th
- October 10th
- November 14th
- December 12th

2023 Events for All Mahoning County Programs

Upcoming Classes:

- *Wreaths for Our Veterans*
 - Saturday, December 2 at 10 am: 315 E Main Street, Canfield, OH 44406
<https://go.osu.edu/wreathsforourveterans2023>

Please share!

Master Gardener Volunteer Open House

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Join us for a drop-in meet and greet with the Mahoning and Columbiana County Master Gardeners to learn how you can become an MGV and share your enthusiasm for gardening with others. Door prizes, refreshments, and open conversation with current Master Gardener Volunteers.

Location: OSU Extension Office, 490 S. Broad St, Canfield, OH

Details & Reservations: Call 330-533-5538 (Reservations preferred in case of changes, Walk-Ins Welcome)

Master Gardener Volunteer Training

Starts February 20th.

This 12-week course covers everything from fruit to perennials and soils to herbs. Join us to learn all about gardening and our volunteer program that supports horticulture throughout Mahoning and Columbiana Counties.

Location: OSU Extension Office, 490 S. Broad St, Canfield, OH

Details & Application: <https://go.osu.edu/joinmgv> All applications are due to the Mahoning County Office by **Friday, January 19, 2024.**

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Training

Starts February 20th.

This 12-week course covers everything nature! Geology, soils, mammals, reptiles, forestry, entomology, ornithology, mammals, and more will be the focus of this certificate course. Participants will hear from local experts and interact with nature. Course is eight Tuesday evenings and four Saturdays.

Location: OSU Extension Office, 490 S. Broad St, Canfield, OH – PLUS 4 on-site locations at nature centers and parks

Details & Application: <https://go.osu.edu/joinocvn> All applications are due to the Mahoning County Office by **Friday, January 5, 2024**.

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

Former Master Gardener Volunteer, Maggie Wellington passed away on October 22, 2023.

Please keep her family and loved ones in your thoughts.

*In Loving Memory of
Margaret A. Wellington*

May 27, 1945 - October 22, 2023



Irish Blessing

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you
in the palm of His hand.*

BECKER

If you want an announcement or information in the MGV Newsletter, please e-mail Candace at Buonavolonta.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.