

News You Can Use !!

August, 2021

Here is the August issue of News You Can Use featuring:

- Important information from your Committee Chair, ANR Educator, & Volunteer Coordinator
- Volunteer opportunities at the Cuyahoga County Fair
- Fall Seminar
- a CE opportunity on controlling weeds
- & more...

*NYCU is published once a month October - April; twice a month May - September.

If you have any questions on information found in News You Can Use - contact Kim Hawkins at hawkinsek@gmail.com

Help us build our social media presence by following the [Master Gardener Volunteers of Cuyahoga County Facebook page](#) and by sharing it with your friends. If they share, we will expand our reach!

If you have information to share in the next News You Can Use contact Tammy L. Currier at currier.37@osu.edu.



**A Note from Kim Hawkins,
Advisory Committee Chair**

Come late fall, we will have as many as 50 new Master Gardener Volunteers! We're able to have such a large Basic Training class this year because the format will be a hybrid one, consisting of self-paced, on-line lessons developed by OSU, supplemented by hands-on labs. This self-paced learning allows us to accommodate those who hoped to do the program last year, as well as those who had day/evening preferences. We had more than 80 applicants and selected the first 50 who applied.

Last Wednesday, Maggie hosted an orientation for the class via Zoom. They look like a great group, with a range of ages, backgrounds, skills, and interests. I enjoyed hearing their stories. All have at least some gardening experience and a number appear to be very accomplished gardeners already.

It will be a challenge to integrate that many new volunteers into the program, helping them meet veteran MGVs and find roles for themselves. We will most likely assign a mentor to each student and will be asking everyone to consider being a mentor. Stay tuned.

Happy Summer,

Kim

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**DRIVE TIME REMINDER FROM KIM HAWKINS,
ADVISORY CHAIR:**

Now that we are increasingly able to volunteer out in the world again, please be reminded that drive time does not count toward your volunteer hours.

Do keep track of your miles, however, as they can be deducted on your federal taxes. For 2021, the rate is \$0.14 per mile.

A Call for Volunteers from Margaret Rivera, OSU ANR Educator



Hello Everyone,

Hope your gardens are growing well - we've certainly had our fair share of rain this year!

In addition to all the rain, our office also has a lot going on. Our program for community gardens, What's Growing On, is in full swing and we have a new class of Basic Trainees at the beginning of August.

We have accepted 50 trainees into the MGCC training program this year. This program will be a hybrid - consisting of online learning modules, including quizzes and final exam, accompanied by four in-person labs.

For the labs, I will need 5 volunteers to help assist given we have so many trainees this year. The dates and locations are as follows:

1.) August 21st, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- **Location: Community Garden (TBA)**
- **Topic: Soil, Vegetables & Lawns**
- **Rain Location: Office**

2.) September 4th, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- **Location: Ben Franklin Demo Gardens**
- **Topic: Plant Propagation and Herbaceous Ornamentals**
- **Rain Location: Office**

3.) September 18th, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- **Location: Lakeview Cemetery**
- **Topic: Botany & Woody Ornamentals**
- **Rain Location: Office**

4.) October 9th, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- **Location: Office**
- **Topic: Entomology & Plant Pathology**

Additionally, we will need volunteers for the **Tree of Life** event coming up on **September 24th**. We need **13 MGVs to volunteer** to help grieving families transplant a money tree or pony tail palm from a grower's pot to ceramic container. Plan on also providing information about proper care of houseplants. This event is being sponsored by Hand 2 Hand, a non-profit, the Cleveland Police, and LAND studio. The details are as follows:

What/Why: The memorial celebration is for families of youth who have passed away on our city streets due to violence and crime. The goal of the event is to commemorate the lives of lost loved ones and support the family suffering from the loss. The Tree of Life will be a house plant presented to the family to nurture and care for.

The ask of MGVs: We need 13 Master Gardeners to help with this event. Each MGV will be paired with a family to transfer the plant from the nursery pot into a permanent pot. While working with the family we ask you to teach about basic plant care. The plant will likely be a money tree or a ponytail palm, two very easy to care for plants—we want to set up the family for success. The family will also receive a pamphlet to take away with care recommendations.

When:
September 24, 2021, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where:
Luke Easter Park
3090 MLK Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44104

Please communicate your availability with Tammy at currier.37@osu.edu.

Many thanks,

Maggie

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Updates from Tammy L. Currier, Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

Dear MGVs,

Despite the recent COVID resurgence, I do hope you all are finding safe ways to enjoy summer and that your garden(s) are growing beautifully! And remember, as you tend your gardens, I help tend you all, so please review the following - it will keep us all up to date!

Hours:

I also hope you have been finding opportunities to volunteer! There are some great opportunities coming up with the Cuyahoga County Fair (8/10-8/15), Basic Training Labs, and the Tree of Life event Maggie needs help with, as well as Fall Seminar (9/17-9/18).

We are exactly two months and 27 days from the deadline for reporting your 2021 Volunteer and Continuing Education hours.

Your hours are due by **10/31**. The state has once again made it as easy as last year to meet your requirements. Please do not wait until the last minute. It is much easier to get hours when there are things happening than when not.

Breakdown of 2021 Hourly Requirements:

You are required to **complete 30 hours**, which the following equation demonstrates:

10 CEs + 5 dedicated or actual VHs (obviously you can log more if you have completed more) + **15 CEs as VHs** = 30 hours total

(During non-pandemic years, Cuyahoga MGVs are required to complete 35 hours.)

Volunteer Management System - Hands on Connect/Salesforce:

I recognize you may be wondering about the new volunteer management system and we have not yet been given a definitive date. Just know as soon as we are able we will begin training you. Do not fret, however, whatever work arounds we need to create to get your hours in - whether you yourself input them or someone else does - know they are due by 10/31. We hope you have been keeping good records. :))

Tech Bag Checkout:

As more and more events are coming our way, whether from Speakers Bureau or Continuing Education programming, MGVs are in need of our Tech Bags. We felt it would be a good time to apprise, as well as remind, you all of the procedure to check out the bags. It is as follows:

- 1.) When you know you are going to need one of the bags, please call Michelle Zmarzly, our Extension office associate, at 330-599-7727 to reserve the bag.
- 2.) Make an appointment with Michelle between 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, M-F, to check out the bag. During check out, you need to sign the bag out in the log book kept near the equipment cabinet.
- 3.) Please return the bag when your presentation is over to Michelle at the office between the hours of 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, M-F. Please note in the log book you have returned the bag.

We currently have only one tech bag at the office for folks to check out and know we have five in total. We need to do better at following procedure, so we have bags available when they are needed. Or, at least, let office staff know the bags' whereabouts.

Grow Ohio:

If you're participating in Grow Ohio this year as a volunteer option by growing a row or pot of veggies at home to donate, please know the guidelines to accrue VHs requires that you report what you grew, the poundage, and where you donated the produce. To date, I haven't received any emails about MGVs having donated anything from their gardens.

MGCC Facebook page:

Please support the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cuyahoga County Facebook page by submitting a paragraph or two (try to keep it to 200 words) to post on the page. For inspiration, please visit the [page](#) and send me your idea(s) before you begin your research to make sure someone else hasn't thought of the same great idea! :)

Researching and writing a few posts is a great way to earn a few volunteer hours.

If you have any questions about the information I have shared here, please let me know.

Thanks for all you do!

Tammy
currier.37@osu.edu



Come One, Come All - it's the County Fair!

**.Looking for Volunteer Hours?
Then stack 'em up at the
Cuyahoga County Fair,
August 10-15th, 2021!**



The Master Gardener Volunteers of Cuyahoga County are having a display area and need volunteers to work in their booth during Fair week, 8/10-8/15, to greet visitors and answer questions.

They are setting up 3 hour shifts each day or longer if you can. The shifts each day are as follows:

- Noon-3
- 3-6
- 6-9 or to 11

They need your help. You will get TWO tickets to get in and parking is free.

They are also encouraging you, your friends & family to enter the MG "Trash Gardening Contest." Check the Cuyahoga County Fair [website](#) for the premium book to get an application form. The entries will be placed near their display. Their theme is 'The Wizard of Oz' and the back corner of the building will come alive with their installation.

If you have ideas and can help set-up or if you want to be a part of this event as a volunteer you can sign up by calling Gail Holzman @ 440-237-7609 or hikoryhill@roadrunner.com

Note: Committee Chair, Gail Holzman, is keeping the calendar for this event, so please email her directly with your shift availability.





Fall Seminar: Gardening From the Forest to Your Home - A Virtual Fall, 9/17-18, 2021

We can't think of an easier way to earn CE hours and have some fun at the same time - so come join us for all things plant at the MGCC Fall Seminar!

The two-day event opens Friday evening with our keynote speaker, Linda Chalker Scott, who will share how to save time and money by making the right plant selections and how to properly establish them in our gardens. Plants aren't cheap, so the more we know helps us to create long lasting beauty and save us money too.

The seminar continues Saturday morning with nine exciting speakers who will explore topics ranging from the relevance of planting urban forests to creating bluebird habitats, from keeping your soil healthy to the principles of no-dig gardening. The day will conclude with Charles Dowding, one of the foremost experts in his field from Somerset, UK, who will explain the benefits and how-to's for successful no-dig gardening.

For just \$40.00, you can join us virtually for the two-day seminar OR you can pay ten additional dollars for the opportunity to watch all 11 speakers at your own pace for \$50.00!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

All attendees will receive the following:

- **a virtual swag bag containing local and national garden coupons**
- **the option to buy tickets to win a beautiful handmade quilt**
- **the opportunity to win garden book giveaways**

Please join us September 17th-18th, 2021!

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CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

(Note: Cuyahoga County CE opportunities will always be listed first, followed by CE opportunities available in other Ohio counties, so remember to scroll down. New listings will be shown first followed by opportunities listed in chronological order.)

* Cuyahoga County: 2021 Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

New year, new CE opportunities! Please review the continuing education opportunities in Cuyahoga County in 2021. The following list includes an upcoming visit and lecture and lists some additional events in the weeks to come. So please add those you are interested in to your calendar and stay tuned for more information.



Upcoming CE's include:

- **August 5th - Diagnostic Walk at Ben Franklin Demonstration Garden, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM** - Join ANR educators Maggie Rivera & Jacqueline Kowalski (Summit County) for a walk through the demo garden to learn about plant diseases and discuss insect damage. Remember to bring your questions and to dress appropriately since this is an outdoor event. *There is no cost and MGVs will receive 2 CE's for their participation.* **REGISTRATION CLOSED**
- **August 9th - A Day at Miller Nature Preserve, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM** - Join the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cuyahoga County at the marvelous Miller Nature Preserve in Lorain County. The day begins at 9:30 AM with registration and coffee in the Orchid Room, then features tours, talks, and lunch. **REGISTRATION CLOSED**

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* **Montgomery County: Weed ID & Ecology**

Please join the Master Gardeners of Montgomery County for their informative program on Weeds. Though beautiful in their own way (as this photo demonstrates), we can all attest to weeds' troublesome will to continue no matter what any of us do. According to OSU Weed Scientist, Alyssa Essman, identifying them is the first step in managing them. Join Ms.

Essman as she covers some of the most common home and garden weeds and shares tips on how to get them under control.

When: August 11th, 2021, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Where: Zoom

Register at: <https://go.osu.edu/virtualgardening> (copy this link into your browser)

Master Gardeners will receive 2 CEs for this program

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Comments from the Community Garden: A Video



The latest installment from Franklin County OSU Extension Educator, Tim McDermott, as he takes a spin through his garden, sharing info on the following points:

Forecast: Warmer and rainy

Cool Weather Starts: Green Beans, Broccoli, Cauliflower, & lettuces

Pests: Squash Bugs, Cucumber Beetles, & Tomato Hornworms

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Hort Lunch & Learn & Hort Happy Hour continue in 2021!



The Horticultural Lunch & Learn (HLL) & Horticultural Happy Hour (HHH) series born out of COVID 19 are continuing in 2021. Check the list below for a roster of topics.

To view one of the webinars, follow this [LINK](#).

You can also listen to 2020 sessions by visiting the [Spring Webinar Series](#) webpage, if you have a hankering for garden knowledge or inspiration, visit the page. It's easy to press play & learn while you do the dishes, fold the laundry, or cook. Interesting material always helps make mundane, but necessary tasks more pleasant.

The list of 2021 topics includes:

- Bees, Pesticides and Politics
- Plant Cannibals
- Therapeutic Horticulture
- Strawberries
- Jumping Worms
- Ticks
- Lavender
- Foliar Diseases of Landscape Ornamentals
- Glyphosate
- Monarch Conservation

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**Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County
2021 Advisory Committee Members:**

**Chair – Kim Hawkins
Vice Chair – Beth Murphy
Secretary – Heidi Giordano
Treasurer – Mary Jo Rawlins
Assistant Treasurer - Anna Stroup**
**Members/Term Ending Year
2021**

**Kathy DeJohn (2nd term)
Christine Harris (2nd term)
Kim Hawkins (2nd term)
Heidi Giordano
Ed Levine
Beth Murphy
Shoshana Wodzsiz (2nd term)**

2022

**Melanie Biche (2nd term)
Ruth Connell
Barbara Franzen
Pat Koch
Rita Politzer
Kathy Quinn (2nd term)
Sandy Welches (2nd term)**

2023

**Dave Appel
Beth Conroy
Mary Ann Dyer
Mary Jo Rawlins (2nd term)
Amy Shaper
Cathy Wheeler
Jennifer Young (2nd term)**

Representative on State Advisory Committee – Ellen Comeau

If you plan to attend to observe and listen, or if you'd like to be placed on the agenda (time permitting) please contact Kim Hawkins at hawkinsek@gmail.com

Next Advisory Committee Meeting is Monday, June 21, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

Upcoming AC Meetings:

**August 16
November 15**

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