

News You Can Use!

April 2023, 2nd Edition

Hello Greg,

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

- Update from your AC Chair, a recap from your ANR Educator, & a "Last Call" from your Volunteer Coordinator
- Ben Franklin Perennial & Herb Saturday volunteer hours Announcement
- Plants in the Park!
- New Volunteer & CE Opportunities
- Save the Date notifications for the Spring Plant Exchange
- MGVC "Update" Archive
- & 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 Tammy L. Currier at currier.37@osu.edu.

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.



Update from Ellen Comeau, your Interim AC Chair

Hello Everyone,

We're fast approaching May & into our busy season. I'm looking forward to being out at Shaker Market starting May 1st and hoping for pleasant weather!

We had our second regular AC meeting & my first as new chair. I still get nervous holding meetings, but I have a great crew helping me out. Thanks everyone!

I'd like to share an issue raised by a Continuing Ed committee member we briefly discussed. It is the age-old discussion of whether to charge or not to charge for CE events. Because we all know that is the question.

This issue has been around as long as I've been an MGV (2010). It seems to boil down to two thoughts. One view is, why should we pay as MGV's especially when other counties, groups, Zoom, YouTube are free. The other view is usually the point of putting a value on an event to get people to come. If you pay something, you may be more apt to attend. Now obviously we need to charge when we need to pay speakers, etc. This is a very simplified version of the two sides.

The question is valid & just one of the challenges the CE Committee faces every time they want to plan something. We all know there are many factors to figure & the issue is more complicated than what I have described. For example, lower numbers of people allowed to attend after Covid and people that sign up & don't show up, including for Zoom presentations. By not showing up, you've eliminated a spot for someone who may have really wanted to attend the event. This can make it hard to gauge the number of people needed for an event. And these are just a few of the issues the CE Committee deals with for MGCC.

So, I'm asking for your thoughts on this since it affects us all. What do you think about charging MGV's for CE events? Should we only charge the public when our events are open to them? Should events be free unless we need to cover costs? Let's hear from you.

You can direct your comments to Rita Politzer (psychorita2@aol.com), she is the current chair. Or you can reach out to me at wallpaperhanger@att.net

~Ellen

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Update from Morning Robinson, ANR Educator



Here is an April recap:

Ohio Victory Gardens

Victory Garden Seeds are now available for pickup in the office. Spread the word to any interested gardens or individual gardeners looking for seeds. The main office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

In The Market Speaker Series - Cleveland's West Side Market

With the West Side Market's transition to a non-profit operation underway, they're in the market for progress, opportunity, and so much more. Join them for a multipart speaker series discussing the many ingredients needed to help Cleveland's public market thrive for generations to come.

*These events are free and open to the public. Registration is required and will be available one month prior to each event. Follow this [LINK](#) to learn more.

Dig In! Community Gardener Training

Dig In! is under way. Thank you to the volunteers who have made themselves available as instructors and garden mentors. I look forward to a productive season full of leading and learning.

Food Preservation

While our pantries may now be bare of last year's harvest, it's time to study up on proper food preservation techniques for later in the season. The OSU Extension Food Preservation Team is offering a five-part food preservation webinar series. Join them every other Tuesday from April 11th-June 6th to gain insight on canning techniques, freezing and drying, as well as the top consideration for preserving food. Register [HERE](#) to participate in this free webinar series.

Happy Earth Month, and thank you for all you do!

Morning

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Update from Tammy L. Currier, Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

Dear MGVs,

LAST CALL: Need a new MGV name badge?

Please let me know. Once I have a final count, I will send out a tally of what each of you will owe the MGCC along with the request for payment to be sent to Treasurer Gretchen Faro. The cost with delivery for each badge should be @\$6.00. You will be responsible for picking your badges up at the office or having someone pick them up for you.

FYI:

- Hour Requirements: **25 Volunteer Hours / 10 Continuing Education Hours**
- Hours Due: **10/31/2023**
- Watch for **NYCU** & take the time to read it - it comes out monthly October - April; twice a month May - September.
- Lastly, **don't wait until August / September to get hours**. They are so many ways to earn hours - even from your own home, so don't delay.

Please reach out if you have any questions - currier.37@osu.edu.

Thank you,

Tammy

P.S. Looking for answers to your burning Hands on Connect and 2023 Hour Requirement questions, please see the archive I have created at the bottom of NYCU. It contains information my updates.

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MGCC Dates at a Glance:

- May 6th - **Nature Center at Shaker Lakes Plant Sale Volunteer Opportunity**; email sara@shakerlakes.org to participate!

- **May 6th - Community Gardening Committee Event; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **May 16th - Spring Plant Exchange; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **June 3rd - Plants in the Park; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **June 18th-22nd - International Master Gardener Conference; REGISTER!**

For more information on these dates, see descriptions below.

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Read all About it: Ben Franklin Perennial & Herb Gardens announce Saturday Volunteer Hours!

You asked for it, you got it! In addition to Thursday mornings, you can now volunteer at Ben Franklin Perennial & Herb Gardens on the second Saturday of each month weather permitting, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - May thru October.

This is great news for all of you MGVs still working!



Mark the following dates on your calendar:

5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9, 10/14

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Plants in the Park Needs You – Please Step up & Sign up to Volunteer!

With our Plants in the Park sale just over a month away, it's all hands on deck for our annual plant sale fundraiser! So how do you sign up to volunteer? We will be using the online Volunteer Signup website again this year.

In the next few days, we will be sending you two links via Constant Contact to the sign-up website to volunteer for PIP 2023.

- The first link will ask you to sign up for the mornings/afternoons you'd like to volunteer the day before the sale (Friday, June 2nd) and/or the day of the sale (Saturday, June 3rd).
- The second link will take you to a spreadsheet you can use to let us know if you can bring any of the equipment or supplies we'll need to support our plant sale (i.e. wagons, carts, hoses, brooms, etc.).

Brief descriptions of each of our Plants in the Park committees and the contact information for our PIP committee chairs will also be included. Once you review, if you have a preference regarding which committee(s) you'd like to work on, please contact the chairperson directly.

Finally, if you are only able to work a portion of a morning or afternoon shift, we will also provide additional details on how you can sign up specifically for the hours you're available to work.

If you have any questions regarding signing up for our Plants in the Park volunteer team or our plant sale in general, please feel free to contact one of your PIP 2023 Co-Chairs:

Dave Appel
appeldb@gmail.com
 216-973-6618

Deb Dougherty
deb dougherty2771@yahoo.com
 440-506-0237

Cathy Wheeler
cwheeler12436@gmail.com
 330-569-8066

We hope you all can join us for PIP 2023 – it is guaranteed to be a fun and profitable event for us - it's also a great way to fast track your volunteer hours for the year!

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More important news regarding annuals & perennials for PIP - please read to the end!

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

We reached out to you recently to ask if MGs might consider donating annuals in our effort to make containers for PIP. If you would like to purchase and donate annuals for PIP, please use the following list to make your selections at your garden store.

Annuals Wish List:

Thrillers

- Angelonia angustifolia* (summer snapdragon)
- Begonia* (dragon wing begonia)
- Begonia rex-cultorum* (Rex begonia)
- Canna*
- Caladium*
- Cordyline australis* (false dracaena)
- Cyperus papyrus* (King Tut grass)
- Dahlia*
- Helianthus* 'Sunfinity'
- Pennisetum* (fountain grass)
- Pentas lanceolate* (Egyptian star flower)
- Pelargonium* (geranium)
- Salvia*
- Sedum mexicanum* 'Lemon Coral'

Fillers

- Alternanthera dentata* (Joseph's coat)
- Angelonia angustifolia* (summer snapdragon)
- Asparagus densiflorus* (asparagus fern)
- Begonia x hiemalis* (Rieger begonia)
- Begonia x tuberhybrid*
- Bidens*
- Bracteantha bracteata* (strawflower)
- Celosia cristata* or *argentea* var. *plumosa*
- Cuphea*
- Dahlia*

Spillers

- Calibrachoa* (million bells)
- Dichondra argentea*
- Fuchsia*
- Hedera helix* (ivy)
- Ipomea* (sweet potato vine)
- Lantana camera*
- Lobelia erinus*
- Lobularia maritima* (alyssum)
- Lysimachia nummularia* (creeping Jenny)
- Pelargonium* (ivy geranium)
- Petunia*
- Portulaca grandiflora* (moss rose)
- Scaevola aemula* (fan flower)
- Sedum mexicanum* 'Lemon Coral'
- Solenostemon* (trailing coleus)

Solenostemon (Coleus)
Zinnia (tall varieties)

Euphorbia
Gerbera jamesonii (gerbera daisy)
Grasses (short)
Impatiens hawkeri (New Guinea
impatiens)
Impatiens walleriana (double
impatiens)
Lantana camera
Lobularia maritima (alyssum)
Nemesia
Pelargonium (geranium)
Pentas lanceolate (Egyptian star
flower)
Petunia
Portulaca grandiflora (moss rose)
Salvia
Solenostemon (Coleus)
Tagetes (marigold)
Torenia (wishbone flower)
Zinnia

Sutera cordata (bacopa)
Torenia (wishbone flower)
Verbena

With thrillers, fillers and spillers, we will be able to create unique, attractive and balanced containers that will generate healthy sales at PIP.

Please see below – there are different drop off dates for annuals vs. perennials!

ANNUAL DROP-OFFS - May 15th-19th at the following locations:

EAST SIDE

Hedy Westra

2403 Brian Drive

Beachwood, 44122

Take flats to the back yard and place inside the deer fence. Re-tie two ribbons after drop-off!

hedywestra@ameritech.net

Melissa Supler

5824 Circle Drive

Mayfield Heights, 44124

Come up the driveway and drop outside gate.

melissasupler@gmail.com

216-310-5003

WEST SIDE

Kim Hawkins

1867 Wynwood Drive

Rocky River, 44116

Take flats to the back yard and be sure to close the gate when you exit!

hawkinsek@gmail.com

917-453-2593

In addition to annuals, remember the list of desired perennials (sent to you via Constant Contact on 4/20) you can donate from your own yard and garden, and please, no invasives. Refer to the following list of natives (a newer emphasis for us last year and this year), and, again, avoid those invasives.

Follow this [LINK](#) to read the list.

PERENNIAL DROP-OFFS - May 28th - June 1st at the following locations:

EAST SIDE

Suzanne Hartford
2589 Stratford Rd.
Cleveland Hts.,
along sides of driveway
suzannehartford@gmail.com
216-835-0363

Christine McLaughlin
1145 Hillcreek Lane
Gates Mills
at back of driveway
christinemclaughlin@hotmail.com
440-605-1812

Hedy Westra
2403 Brian Dr.
Beachwood
back, inside deer fence - close gate!!
hedywestra@ameritech.net
216-464-1113

Vickie Byrne
5983 Wilson Mills Rd.
Highland Hts.
on back patio - close the gate
vickiebyrne@yahoo.com
440-391-9390

WEST SIDE

Kim Hawkins
1867 Wynwood Drive
Rocky River
left side of driveway or in backyard

hawkinsek@gmail.com
917-453-2593

Sue Gifford
2958 Lakeview Ave.
Rocky River (east)
next to garage in front of gate
jer-shoes@cox.net
440-821-9026

* Any questions about drop-off, contact Vickie Byrne or Melissa Supler – see above for contact information.

* Any questions about other aspects of PIP, contact:

Dave Appel
appeldb@gmail.com
216-973-6618

Deb Dougherty
Debdougherty2771@yahoo.com
440-506-0237

Cathy Wheeler
cwheeler12436@gmail.com
330-569-8066

Thank you again for all you do for Plants in the Park!

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Plants in the Park Needs Your Gently-used Garden Hardgoods!

What: Plants in the Park

When: Saturday, June 3rd - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: Kiwanis Pavilion, Independence

As you dig up plants for Plants in the Park, consider what gently used garden hardgoods you may have to donate to our Plants in the Park fundraiser. In addition to plants, we also sell items like pots, vases, trellises, baskets, gardening tools, garden art, windchimes, steppingstones,



garden totes, and any other decorative garden and lawn items you have to spare - all are welcome.

Please drop off any items at one of our drop off locations the week before the sale. If you are unable to do so, contact Amy Shaper at 216-513-7277 or Dave Shaper at 216-408-2249 to arrange a pickup. Stay tuned for more information!

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Join the Master Gardeners of Summit County for their next "Coffee Chat" - 4/28/2023

What: Gardening for Seniors with Summit County Master Gardener Karen Thomas

Where: Center on the Lake
(formerly the Springfield Community Center)
2491 Canfield Road
Akron, OH 44312

When: Friday, April 28th from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

This program is FREE and Open to the Public

**No registration required!
Coffee will be provided.**

MGVs will receive ONE CE for this event

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MGCC Volunteer Opportunity: The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes Plant Sale

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes will be holding their annual plant sale on May 6th. They are looking for Master Gardeners to assist customers with advice on plants. They will be selling vegetables, herbs, annuals, and perennials. All the perennials are native plants. If you'd like to volunteer for a two hour shift or more, please email Sara Bourse, sara@shakerlakes.org to get slotted in. Please share your desired volunteer time and contact information.



Note: The hours you volunteer have been approved by Morning Robinson, Extension ANR Educator.

When: Saturday, May 6th 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 S Park Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44120

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Looking for MGCC Volunteer Opportunities for 2023?

Check out the following MGCC programs in need of volunteers.

Community Garden Mentors:

As we enter the 2023 gardening season and prepare for mentoring the Summer Sprout and Greater Cleveland Community Gardens, our committee is looking for additional volunteers to work as Traditional Garden Mentors.

This style of mentoring involves matching one MGCV as mentor to each community garden requesting a mentor for an ongoing relationship throughout the garden season.

As we get a more specific count on participating gardens, we will begin the process of matching MGCVs as mentors to each garden. Knowledge and interest in vegetable gardening is a plus for this opportunity.

Please reach out to Emily Roll at ejroll@gmail.com or 440-263-1279 if you are interested in mentoring this season.

Note: This opportunity is great for busy working MGVs since work is done mostly over the phone.

Child & Youth Education:

Interested in Working with Children?

The MGCC is working with our Cuyahoga County 4-H staff to explore ways we can engage the children of our county in gardening programs.

Please reach out to Ellen Comeau at wallpaperhanger@att.net if you are interested in getting involved.

Hotline on the Road - Special Events:

The HOTR team is looking for dedicated MGVs interested in volunteering at events around the city, like health and wellness events, community gardening events, etc.

We have had several requests so far this year for the MGCC to have tables at various events around the city and need a group of dedicated volunteers that would like to participate.

Please reach out to Ellen Comeau at wallpaperhanger@att.net if you are interested in adding your name to the list.

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SAVE THE DATE: Spring Plant Exchange - 5/16/23, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Join fellow MGVs this coming spring for the Spring Plant Exchange.

When: Tuesday, May 16th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Where: Kiwanis Pavilion, 6363 Selig Drive, Independence, OH 44131



MGVs will receive ONE CE for their participation

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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: 2023 Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

New year, new CE opportunities! Please review the 2023 roster of Cuyahoga County continuing education opportunities.

Upcoming 2023 MGCC CE Opportunities:

- Brian Thompson Tour; June 20th
- Shaper Tour & Potluck lunch; July 7th
- Day at Stan Hywet with lunch; July 27th
- Ben Franklin Diagnostic Walk; August - DTBD
- Spice Garden Farm Visit/Tour with cooking demo & tasting ; August 26th
- Green Circle Growers; September - DTBD

MGVs earn **ONE** CE per **ONE** hour of programming

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Meet Summit County Master Gardeners in the Garden!

Join them each month for a lively discussion on a variety of gardening topics. Programs will be held inside unless otherwise noted. Come early - space is limited. See list of topics below.

Where: F.A. Sieberling Nature Realm Visitors Center, 1828 Smith Road, Akron, OH

CFAES

COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Meet Me in the Garden 2023

F. A. Sieberling Nature Realm
Visitors Center
1828 Smith Road / Akron, Ohio

A FREE EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Presented by the **Summit County Master Gardeners**
Join us each month for a lively discussion on a variety of gardening topics.
Programs will be held inside unless otherwise noted. Come early. Space is limited.

April

Wednesday, **April 19, 2023**
7:00 pm

Native Plants in
Your Garden

Learn about the advantages of including native plants in your garden and how Sarah converted her own garden to all natives.

Presented by
Sarah Vradenburg
Summit County Master Gardener



May

Wednesday, **May 24, 2023**
7:00 pm



Phalaenopsis
Orchids

Beautiful, vibrant and long-lasting, these orchids are surprisingly easy to grow.

Presented by
Steve Rusov
Summit County Master Gardener

June

Wednesday, **June 28, 2023**
7:00 pm

Researching and
Preserving Garden
Plants and Landscapes

Discover the basic principles, practical approaches and techniques for preserving gardens and/or landscapes.



Presented by
Kathie VanDevere
Harrison Fellow of Historic
Landscape Institute (Monticello),
Summit County Master Gardener
Emeritus

July

Wednesday, **July 26, 2023**
7:00 pm



Growing Peonies

Learn everything you need to know about growing peonies, including the best varieties for your garden.

Presented by
Kevin Rosswurm
Summit County Master Gardener



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: <http://go.osu.edu/handbook>

Hosted By



MGV Coordinator "Important Info" Archive: *Please use this ongoing archive to access important and helpful information shared by myself to assist you in being an effective MGCV.*

Need help finding MGCC Projects or Roster? Follow these steps:

- Log in to this [LINK](#)
- Scroll down to **MY COUNTIES**
- Click on the grey box titled: **SEARCH PROJECTS** to locate full list of current MGCC projects. Click on the title of the project to access description.
- Click on the grey box titled: **ROSTER** (located to the right of the **SEARCH PROJECTS** box) to locate the names, status, phone, and email addresses of your fellow MGCVs.

HANDS ON CONNECT TIPS:

- Accessing Hands on Connect: - **BOOKMARK** the following link: <https://mgvolunteers.osu.edu/> - doing so will provide easy access to the site and you won't have to reach out to me. :)
- **REMEMBER** to log-in - the log-in button is in the upper right corner - otherwise, the information you see does not directly pertain to you.
- The Roster is located under the heading - **MY COUNTIES**. The Roster is in the third grey box to the right.
- If/when you are interested in a project you **need to reach out directly** to the chair in charge of that project to sign up. For instance, if you wanted to work with the Community Garden Mentors, you would reach out to Emily Roll. Contact information for every Master Gardener is located under the **ROSTER** in Hands on Connect.
- **Do NOT** use the Hands on Connect sign-up feature – it is more a function of the system than a sign-up tool. Expressing interest basically pins the project to your page and allows you to then log any volunteer time spent.
- Take the time to familiarize yourself with the site - you can't break it and it will be much easier to use once you've clicked on a few links. You can't get the lay of the land, so to speak, until you explore.

2023 Hour Requirements: 25 Volunteer Hours / 10 Continuing Education Hours.

Your volunteer and continuing education hours should be earned participating in county and OSU Extension sponsored activities and continuing education opportunities. The goal is to support our county's projects benefiting the public and to gain OSU Extension-approved, science-based knowledge.

DON'T DELAY - start earning hours as soon as you can in 2023! It's always easier to accrue hours when our programming is in partial to full swing than to wait until our programming has wound down and hours are due to try and scramble to find hours to fulfill your requirements.

BUSY CAREER or HOME LIFE & WANT TO REMAIN AN MGV? - for those of you working full time, we know work gets crazy, so consider opportunities you can do at home to maintain your status as an MGV:

- Volunteer at Ben Franklin Perennial & Herb Demo Gardens every other Saturday, 9:00 AM - NOON - **5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9, 10/14.**
- Participate in Telephone Hotline (task completed from the comfort of your own home).
- Join the Ask a Master Gardener team (questions answered online - also done from the comfort of your own home).
- Become a member of the Tech Team - you could be a Zoom host (also from the comfort of your home).
- Assist community gardens by becoming a Community Garden Mentor - mostly you respond to phone calls.
- Be a regular contributor to the MGCC Facebook page.

Please keep the information shared above for easy access.

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

Thanks for all you do,
- Tammy

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Continuing Education Webinars from CFAES



With lots of interesting sessions - CFAES Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour webinar sessions are the perfect way to expand your horticultural knowledge, as well as your knowledge of the natural world - all while earning required CE's.

Follow this [LINK](#) to learn more, register, and access the recordings!

To access 2020 webinars, follow this link: [2020 Spring Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour Webinar Series](#)

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Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County 2023 Advisory Committee Members:

Chair – Ellen Comeau
Secretary – Deborah Osgood (2024)
Treasurer – Gretchen Faro (2024)
Assistant Treasurer - Cheryl Dever (2024; non-voting)

Co-Chair Internal – Rita Politzer (2022)
Co-Chair External – Beth Murphy (2024, 2nd Term)
Fundraising Chair – Dave Appel (2023)

MG OSU Liason - Kathy DeJohn (non-voting)

Current Members-at-Large :
Beth Conroy (2023)
Deb Dougherty
Mary Ann Dyer (2023)
Deb Hanzel (2023)
Ed Levine (2024, 2nd term)
Susan Pandoli
Joan Pellegrin
Mary Jo Rawlins (2023, 2nd term)
Cathy Wheeler (2023)

NOTE:

- This chart is a work in progress. Currently, there are 17 Advisory Committee members; 15 voting; 2 non-voting positions
- The MGCC will transition over time to a new Advisory Committee Organization Chart to include 12 members total, 9 voting & 3 non-voting.

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Next Advisory Committee Meeting is Monday, June 26th, 2023 at 4:30 PM in the OSU training room at Fairhill Partners.

If you plan to attend to observe and listen, or if you'd like to be placed on the agenda (time permitting) please contact Ellen Comeau at wallpaperbanger@att.net.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu.



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