

About the Master Gardener Volunteer Program

The Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program provides intensive training in horticulture to interested Ohio residents who then volunteer their time assisting with educational programs and activities for Ohio residents through their local Ohio State University Extension (OSUE) county office. Volunteers are not required to have gardening skills or knowledge; a passion for learning about gardening and sharing this knowledge with others is a must!

The Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) role is to support the OSUE in meeting the needs of our citizens in the area of consumer horticulture by assisting with educational programs, diagnosing plant problems, making cultural and pest management recommendations, and other various opportunities.

How did the Master Gardener Volunteer Program originate?

The Master Gardener Volunteer program originated in Seattle, Washington in 1972. The Extension agent in the King County office of the Washington State University Extension Service began to train and utilize the expertise of volunteers to reach the gardening public more effectively with research-based educational information. It was a great concept that has now spread across the United States, to Canada and other countries.

The Master Gardener Volunteer program in Ohio has existed since the late 1970s and has grown steadily. Although its initial start and growth was in the more urban counties of our state, there are now more than 3,000 active Master Gardener Volunteers in more than 62 Ohio counties (urban, suburban and rural).

Mission and Goals of the Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers

We are Ohio State University Extension-trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely research-based gardening information.

The mission of the Lake County Master Gardener Volunteer Program (MGVP) is to promote and teach timely research-based gardening practices to the public and provide an environment for personal growth while assisting the Ohio State University Extension of Lake County.

The goals of the Lake County MGVP are to:

- A. Increase members' knowledge of sound horticultural practices.
- B. Provide timely research-based information to the community on current

- gardening methods.
- C. Empower MGV leaders.
- D. Enrich the lives of MGVs.

Our Programs

Lake County MGVs provide educational services that enrich the lives of our community (and our own lives!) through the following:

- Displays at public libraries on a multitude of horticultural topics
- Helpline - assist home gardeners with free, research-based answers to their questions
- Home Gardeners' Workshop - annual all-day workshop for gardeners of all experience levels providing education on a variety of topics
- Juvenile Justice Center Garden – a community vegetable garden planned, maintained and harvested with the residents of the Lake County Juvenile Justice Center
- Meet Us in the Garden – a free monthly program series on effective horticulture practices
- Peace Garden - a demonstration garden at the Lake County Fairgrounds
- Programs and community outreach at area libraries, senior centers, and garden clubs
- Special events including Earth Day and Bug Day! at Penitentiary Glen, Youth AG Day at local elementary schools and the Holden Arboretum Plant Sale
- Writing articles for local newspapers and our Facebook page

How Do I Become a Lake County Master Gardener Volunteer?

One must be a resident of Lake County, apply and be accepted into our program, attend a training class and complete the required volunteer and continuing education hours. Additional information can be found on this website.