



Dec 4, 2020

Dear Muskingum County Master Gardener Volunteers,

First, thank you. I appreciate all the time, enthusiasm, and effort that you have brought to the OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program this year and years' past. As with many things in 2020, our program was disrupted and we missed many of things we expected to do, or, they may have looked very different. In the next several months, I continue to anticipate that OSU Extension operations will continue to be impacted until more certainty and clarity is established in public health.

With that in mind, we look to the future and plan for 2021. This is the time of year we would typically promote our membership drive, pay dues, and establish our membership for the following year. We have been able to continue meetings in 2020, using the Zoom online platform since April, but we all look forward to the opportunity to move on and resume our normal gatherings. In the October and November meetings, because of the difficulty of navigating this year, it was agreed that the current leadership would remain in place through early 2021, and the first meeting of 2021 will be held in March. At which point, the process of officer election will proceed and, hopefully, we will have greater insight into what to expect moving forward.

A training class was initiated this year, which was left in an incomplete state because of the pandemic. I will work to wrap that up and bring the class participants into full membership in 2021 and explore future opportunities for a new class. At this time any other programming we do is evaluated with a high level of caution by OSU Extension and we will only proceed when it is safe to do so.

In 2021, OSU Extension will be transferring its volunteer management database for the MGV program to a new system. We have great expectations for usability and functionality for facilitating our program. This will replace the Volunteer Management System website that has been used for logging your hours, which is being retired by the hosting entity. At this time we ask that you make sure all of your information is updated at <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org>, before we initiate the information transfer to the new site.



We are moving forward with our annual membership and dues process and the payment form to pay by check is included with this letter. Dues can be paid by check and mailed to the Extension Office. We also have the ability to receive credit card payments online using the link <https://go.osu.edu/muskingumextensionpayment>, so please use that option if you wish. If you have any questions, please free feel to reach out to me. Annual dues are \$15.

As we turn the page on 2020, be well and I wish you the best during this holiday season!

Regards,

Clifton Martin
Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Muskingum County