

## Speaker BIOGRAPHIES

**JARVIS GREEN** is the Quality Manager at Raker-Roberta's Young Plants. He's been with the company since 1999. They are custom growers of plug and liner young plants. Their core customer base is small-midsized greenhouse growers, garden centers and nurseries. The plants they produce are shipped to all 50 states and into much of Canada. Their greenhouse is 10 acres and they list over 3,000 varieties of plants. Mums are one of their biggest programs and they offer the best varieties from the top genetic companies in the industry. They produced 4 million mums this season.

**CHRISTINA CURELL** is the statewide Soil Health and Cover Crop Educator for the Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute. She has worked with MSU Extension in various roles throughout her 26 year career with MSU Extension. She works with all agricultural commodities and agricultural communities as well as consumer horticulture. Her responsibilities have been centered on water quality and soil education for farms; helping farmers, state, and federal agencies, and agribusiness to mitigate and reduce risks associated with agricultural practices while ensuring farming operations are productive and sustainable. Christina is one of the directors and founding members of the North Central Region Soil Health Nexus. The Soil Health Nexus is a university-led team dedicated to increasing access to research-based soil health knowledge, extension, and resources in the North Central Region. Monthly webinars that she hosts has reached farmers, educators, researchers, and students around the globe. Christina is housed in the Lake County MSU Extension Office.

**NATHAN MAST** with his wife Anna and three of their six children, grow a variety of fruit on their 85 acre farm in eastern Holmes County. Tree fruits consist of apples, peaches and pears. Berry crops are strawberries, blueberries and black raspberries. U-pick customers harvest most of the berries, while tree fruits are mostly sold wholesale.

**TINA BEMIS** graduated with a BS in Floriculture from Cornell University, and is a graduate of the American Nursery and Landscape Association's program, Garden Center University. Tina is co-owner, with her husband, of Bemis Farms Nursery. This charming garden center in Central Massachusetts nestles inspiring displays of farm-grown plants among the shady pines and majestic oaks of a century farm. There, she is responsible for growing, purchasing, advertising, and merchandising all of the annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs. And to insure their customers get bitten by the gardening bug, she teaches or oversees 350 workshops a year on container gardening and garden-related crafts, showing how fun and easy gardening can be when you add a shovel-full of knowledge She has spoken at state and national industry conferences on Garden Center workshops, displays and events, and is author of the book Bench Marketing: 15 Ways to Increase Profits with Make and Take Workshops. Using workshops as part of their business model has helped earned Bemis Farms Nursery a Profitability Award from The Garden Center Group for 2012 through 2015. She has served on the board of the Massachusetts Nurseryman and Landscape Association and is Past President of both the Massachusetts Flower Growers Association and the Northeast Greenhouse Conference.

**JON BRECKLE** grew up in Hartville Ohio on his family's vegetable farm. After graduating from the Ohio State University, He went back to help operate the family farm. The farm currently raises 200 acres of mixed vegetables.

**JUDD ALLEN** is co-owner of Bloom Hill Farm in Uniontown, Ohio. Bloom Hill Farm produces over 11 acres of specialty cut flowers including 9 acres of annual production, 1 acre of perennial production, 1 acre of woody shrub production and 4 unheated tunnels. A first generation farmer, Judd manages the day to day field operations including transplanting, seeding, soil, weed and plant health management. Judd's passions lie in implementing efficiencies on his farm and his large dahlia production of over 10,000 plants.

**MARVIN RABER** along with his wife and 6 children, ages 2-17, farm 20 acres, growing a variety of produce. They started in 2012 and apart from hiring a few extra hands during strawberry season, they do it all on their own. They sell most of their produce at their roadside stand called Pine Lane Produce.

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**TYLER GOGOLEK** My wife, two boys and my business (Tyler's Farm LLC) reside and are located in Oberlin, Ohio located in Lorain County. My father grew up on a produce farm and is the one who introduced agriculture to me. A passion for growing started. It was the drought of 1988 in which I recall noting that I wanted to be a farmer, however, I needed to control the weather. This is what lead me to attend the Ohio State University's Agricultural Technical Institute which I graduated from with a degree in Greenhouse Production. In 2013, after 20 years of growing on the side and at the same time working full time for various greenhouses, I set out to start my own business. With my wife, Kara, by my side we made the decision to choose hydroponic lettuce as the crop we would focus on growing. We currently grow hydroponic lettuce and various greens for groceries, schools, restaurants, CSA's and Farm Markets.

**DANIEL VAN PELT** was born and raised on a dairy and produce farm, in Northeast Ohio. Daniel and two brothers and their families currently raise about 75 acres of produce. Most of the produce is sold retail at VanPelt's Farm Market. Daniel & Lisa and family also have greenhouse, bakery and orchard work they are involved in.

**JEFF MILLER**, 51, married to Anita, 2 sons, 15 & 11 Live in Sugarcreek, Ohio Formerly owner and currently CEO of Century Components. Century manufactures kitchen cabinet accessories and sells to cabinet shops through distribution markets throughout the country. We have 20 employees.

**MARK MKVAY** became interested in succulents about thirty years ago. Soon after, he joined the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and after five years became their Vice President. Eventually he was able to quit his primary job and go into fulltime flower production. He and his wife now run Cat Run Ranch, a flower farm just outside of Newark, Ohio. They grow a large variety of cut flowers and sell a lot of them at their local Farmers Market.

**TERRY ZIMMERMAN** born in 1972, married Grace Wenger in 1995, they have 9 children 4 to 25, their oldest son is married. Terry grew up on a Southern Maryland produce farm that produced tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupe, watermelon and sweet corn. He moved to Ohio in 2000 and has been growing produce for Bainbridge Produce Auction since 2001. The main crop since 2008 has been greenhouse and field grown tomatoes. They currently grow 1 acre of greenhouse tomatoes and 4 acres of field tomatoes. They are in partnership with their 3 sons, ages 21, 23, and 25. Terry has been involved with tomato growing since 1980

**RICK MOLNAR** is a graduate of the University of Akron's business program with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and a MBA in Management. He is a 4th generation farmer who runs Molnar Farms, a fruit and vegetable production farm, retail store, and grain operation with his wife, sister, and father. The farm grows a variety of products including peppers, sweet corn, tomatoes, peaches, strawberries, watermelon, pumpkins, mums, and cut flowers along with corn, soybeans, and wheat on the grain side of the operation. The majority of the produce grown on the farm is sold in their retail store in Poland, Ohio.

**MARIANNE WILLBURN** is a gardening author, speaker, and columnist at Garden Rant Small Town Gardener. She has written 3 gardening books and has spent much of her gardening life in small city and suburban gardens. Marianne also guides garden tours for a company based out of Washington D.C.

**LEWIS JETT** Associate Professor and State Extension Horticulture Crops Specialist, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV. I am a native of West Virginia having received my B.Sci in Agriculture Economics from West Virginia University and my M.S. and Ph.D Horticulture from Virginia Tech University. I work with specialty crop producers and conduct research and teaching related to vegetables, small fruits and native plants. My research and extension projects focus on evaluating high tunnels for conventional and organic food crop production.

**ELI J SWARTZENTRUBER** is from Polk, OH and raises produce for CCPA. He made the transition from milking cows to growing produce about 5 years ago. He grows onions, strawberries, rhubarb, zucchini, cucumbers, pickles, cabbage, tomatoes, yellow squash and is experimenting with grow pumpkins into rye

## Speaker BIOGRAPHIES

**LYLE RAMER** Lar Acres. We are a small family farm in Northern Indiana. We have 28 acres with 20 in produce. Our work force is mainly our children. We have tomato greenhouses plus a full line of produce which includes a ½ acres of garlic. We have grown garlic for over 5 years.

**TREVOR HARDY** is a 7th generation farmer at Brookdale Fruit Farm Inc. in Hollis, New Hampshire. Trevor has a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from Western New England University. He has prior work experience with Department of Defense and Group Executive with Danaher Corporation. Today, Trevor works with his family's diversified fruit and vegetable farm alongside his father and other family members. Trevor and his father, Chip, operate Brookdale's Fruit and Vegetable production division. Trevor is the current President of Hillsborough County Farm Bureau and President of the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association, the oldest growers association in the country. Trevor has received various industry recognition such as New Hampshire Farm Bureau "Young Farmer of the Year" award in 2013, "40 under 40 fruit and Vegetable Award-Class 2020, and Brookdale Fruit Farm was selected the USA "Apple Grower of the Year" for 2021. Trevor enjoys helping farmers discover new technology and become more efficient with on farm practices especially irrigation, automation and new planting systems.

**LIZ MARTIN AND MATTHEW GLENN** are the team at Muddy Fingers Farm together they grow 2 acres of certified organic vegetables for CSA, farmer's market and fine local restaurants. They use a permanent bed system and 2022 is their 20th growing season! You can find them on Facebook and Instagram if you'd like to connect.

**MICHAEL GARVER** I am a fourth generation farmer on my family's farm in Monroe, OH. We have been feeding families a wholesome, quality product since 1926. I attended and graduated from The Ohio State University for Agriculture Business. On our farm, we grow roughly 100 acres of fruits and vegetables, which includes our award winning sweet corn and a large pick your own pumpkin patch- among several varieties of summer fruits and vegetables we retail through our farmer's market. Additionally, we do just under 2,000 acres of row crops. Our largest area of income is what I am here to talk about today: pumpkins. I am blessed to have my wife, Suzy and children and son-in-law by my side each and every day, continuing on our generational farming legacy. To us, farming is a way of life. If we care for the land, the land will care for us. I am very honored to be here today, on behalf of the 2023 Mid Ohio Growers Meeting.

**ARTHUR KING** operates Harvest Valley Farms with his son David and his brother Larry in Valencia, PA, just north of Pittsburgh. Their marketing is just as diversified as their product list. Over 58 varieties of small fruits and vegetables are grown on 160 acres. They have a 409 member CSA, sell at 3 farmers markets, Paragon, a large Farm Market & Bakery in Gibsonia, and host pick-your-own pumpkin activities in October. Art holds a BA Degree in Nature Conservation from California University, Calif., PA and an associate degree in Business Management from Butler Community College. He is Past President of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, serves on the PA simply sweet onion Committee, and is a member of Royal Grange and PASA.

Tradeshow with over 100 manufacturers and suppliers offering what you need to grow vegetables and flowers.

**PLEASE CONTACT US**  
for more information or a complete schedule  
after November 1st.

**OUR MISSION**  
is to provide educational information  
on growing and marketing fruits,  
vegetable, and flowers for small growers.



# Mid-Ohio Growers MEETING

Mount Hope Event Center  
8076 State Route 241 Millersburg, Ohio 44654  
(MOUNT HOPE AUCTION GROUNDS)



January 12-13, 2023



# Thursday, January 12

**10:00 - 11:00** **Room A**  
MARKET DISPLAYS & CUSTOMER SERVICE | Julie Witten

**10:00 - 11:00** **Room B**  
TIPS ON GROWING VEGETABLE & BEDDING  
TRANSPLANTS | Jeff Warner

**10:00 - 11:00** **Room C**  
MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION | Doug & Janet Bowman

**10:30** **Dean Beachy Arena, Q&A Sessions**  
HIGH TUNNEL TOMATO GROWING | Terry Zimmerman

**11:15 - 12:15** **Room A**  
THE IMPORTANCE OF SOIL FERTILITY | Gary Zimmer

**11:15 - 12:00** **Room B**  
STRAWBERRY GROWING EXPERIENCES | Nathan Mast

**11:30 - 12:30** **Room C**  
HIGHLIGHTS ON FLOWER COMBINATION SPECIALTY  
PLANTERS | Tina Bemis

**12:30** **Dean Beachy Arena, Q&A Sessions**  
VEGETABLE GROWER PANEL | Marvin Raber/Eli Swartzentruber

**1:15 - 2:15** **Room A**  
HIGH TUNNEL TOMATO GROWING PRACTICES | Lewis Jet

**1:00 - 2:00** **Room B**  
IDENTIFYING & CONTROLLING GREENHOUSE INSECTS  
Raymond Cloyd

**1:30 - 2:30** **Room C**  
ORGANIC CUCURBIT GROWING PRACTICES | Donald Long

**1:30** **Dean Beachy Arena, Q&A Sessions**  
SOIL FERTILITY | Gary Zimmer

**2:30 - 3:30** **Room A**  
PEPPER GROWING EXPERIENCES | Rick Molnar

**2:15 - 3:15** **Room B**  
MAINTAINING YOUR ORCHARDS | Isaac Yoder

# Thursday, January 12

**2:45 - 3:45** **Room C**  
CUT FLOWER GROWING EXPERIENCE | Judd Allen

**2:30** **Dean Beachy Arena, Q&A Sessions**  
ANNUAL FLOWERS | Tina Bemis

**3:45 - 4:45** **Room A**  
FIELD TOMATO GROWING EXPERIENCES | Arthur King

**3:30 - 4:30** **Room B**  
MAXIMIZING THE USE OF COVER CROPS | Christina Curell

**4:00 - 4:45** **Room C**  
IDENTIFYING AND CONTROLLING CUCURBIT DISEASES  
Frank Becker

**3:30** **Dean Beachy Arena, Q&A Sessions**  
GREEN THUMB GROUP

**5:00 - 6:00** **Room A**  
KEY POINTS TO A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS | Jeff Miller

**4:45 - 5:45** **Room B**  
GROWING CARROTS AND RED BEETS FOR MARKET  
Daniel Vanpelt

**5:00 - 6:00** **Room C**  
MAXIMIZING SUCCULANTS | Mark McVay

**4:30** **Dean Beachy Arena, Q&A Sessions**  
FRUITS & BERRIES | Nathan Mast & Isaac Yoder

## ADMISSION TO THE EVENT

At the door . . . . . \$25.00 per person

Pre-registered . . . . . \$20.00 per person

Preregistration deadline for both days is December 16, 2022

14 and under . . . . . FREE

PO BOX 111 • MT HOPE, OH 44660

330-275-7566

midohiogrowers.com

# Friday, January 13

**9:00 - 9:45** **Room A**  
BENEFITS OF PGR'S ON FLOWERS  
James Gibson

**9:00 - 10:00** **Room B**  
PUMPKIN GROWING AND DISPLAYING  
Michael Garver

**9:00 - 9:45** **Room C**  
MAXIMIZING YOUR GROWING SPACE  
Matt Glen & Liz Martin

**10:00 - 11:00** **Room A**  
HYDROPONIC LETTUCE GROWING SYSTEMS  
Tyler Gogolek

**10:15 - 11:00** **Room B**  
TIPS ON MUM GROWING  
Jarvis Green

**10:00 - 10:45** **Room C**  
RASPBERRY GROWING  
Trevor Hardy

**11:15 - 12:00** **Room A**  
IMPORTANCE OF CROP ROTATION AND MAINTAINING  
HEALTHY SOIL | Gary Zimmer

**11:15 - 12:00** **Room B**  
GREENHOUSE INSECT CONTROL WITH BIOLOGICALS  
Raymond Cloyd

**11:00 - 11:45** **Room C**  
ONIONS AND GARLIC GROWING PRACTICES  
Lyle Ramer

**1:00 - 2:00** **Room A**  
TROPICALS AND HOUSE PLANTS  
Marianne Willburn

**1:00 - 2:00** **Room B**  
ZUCCHINI & YELLOW SQUASH GROWING EXPERIENCES  
John Brenckle

**1:00 - 2:00** **Room C**  
ORGANIC PEPPER & TOMATO GROWING PRACTICES  
Daniel Chellemi

## Speaker BIOGRAPHIES

**GARY ZIMMER** was raised on a Wisconsin dairy farm with further training in dairy nutrition . It all started 40+ years ago to create ideal feed for the cow from the soil up. Known as the Father of Biological Farming with emphasis on healthy mineralized soils for all possible crops. Gary is cofounder of Midwestern Bio Ag and with his family own Otter Creek Organic Farm a 1500 acre crop and livestock farm in Wisconsin . Gary is author of three books on Biological farming, has written many articles along with teaching and traveling all over the world . He started a business with his daughter Leilani ( Zimmer Ag ) consulting on farms and agribusinesses world wide.

**RAYMOND CLOYD** Professor and Extension Specialist in Horticultural Entomology/Plant Protection, Department of Entomology, Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS). Raymond has an extension (70%) and research (30%) appointment in the Department of Entomology at Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS). Raymond received his MS and PhD from the Department of Entomology at Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN), and was employed as a professor at the University of Illinois (Urbana, IL) in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences for six years prior to his employment at Kansas State University. His research and extension program involves plant protection/pest management in greenhouses, nurseries, landscapes, turfgrass, conservatories, interiorscapes, Christmas trees, vegetables, fruits, cannabis, hemp, and pollinators. Raymond is the extension specialist in horticultural entomology for the state of Kansas with a major clientele that includes homeowners, master gardeners, and professional and commercial operators. Raymond has published over 90 scientific refereed publications, over 900 trade journals, and over 60 extension publications on topics related to pest management/plant protection. In addition, he has authored or co-authored numerous books (Greenhouse Pest Management, Pests and Diseases of Herbaceous Perennials, IPM for Gardeners, Plant Protection: Managing Greenhouse Insect and Mite Pests, Compendium of Rose Diseases and Pests, and Compendium of Bedding Plant Diseases and Pests), book chapters, manuals, PICT or picture-pocket guides, and extension-related publications. Raymond is a frequent speaker at state, national, and international conferences and seminars; and has received numerous awards and honors during his over 20 year academic career. Raymond's professional specialty areas include: plant protection, biological control, plant-insect interactions, insect ecology, pesticides, integrating pesticides with biological control agents, and sanitation.

**JAMES GIBSON** Dr. James L. “Jamie” Gibson, Technical Lead, Syngenta Flowers James Gibson received his B.S. in plant and soil sciences in 1996 from West Virginia University, Morgantown. He later earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in 2000 and 2003, respectively, from North Carolina State University. After graduate school he worked as an assistant professor at the University of Florida. In 2007 he became Corporate Manager of Quality Control for Conrad Fafard, Inc., followed by Fafard's R&D Director and Technical Services Manager for Syngenta Flowers. His current position is Technical Lead for Syngenta Flowers working with broker and grower communities on flower trials and crop culture.

**ISAAC YODER** my wife Neva and myself purchased Sunny Slope Orchard in May of 2013, from 3rd Generation Baker Family, with no family ties. The business consists of 56 acres. Including 6 acres peaches, 4 acres of strawberries and about 30 acres in apples. Our retail store is open year round, also selling deli products and baked goods. I was in construction and had no experience in business or orcharding prior to the purchase, and this has been a steep learning experience, with many financial challenges. We have been blessed with a good customer base, excellent employees and good crops to carry us through. We employ 9 people in the slow season and up to 20 in-season.

**DOUG & JANET BOWMAN** Wakeman Maple Farms is a small family owned and operated farm by Doug and Janet Bowman and Caleb Kiser. They combine authentic heart-warming traditional maple syrup production with modern technology to produce some of Ohio's best maple syrup. Wakeman Maple Farms utilizes a traditional wood fired evaporator for approximately 500 taps.