



12th
ANNUAL

Mid-Ohio Grower's M E E T I N G

January 11-12, 2024

TOP-NOTCH EDUCATION FOR PRODUCE
AND FLOWER GROWERS

SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS
ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
WITHOUT NOTICE.



Mount Hope Event Center

8076 State Route 241 Millersburg, Ohio 44654
(MOUNT HOPE AUCTION GROUNDS)

Mid-Ohio Growers MEETING

You will want to visit the vendors in the trade show area to get the latest items available. Some companies will have special offers.

Admission & Motels

NEW Admission to the Event
(ADMISSION COVERS BOTH DAYS OR SAME PRICE FOR 1 DAY)
LUNCH BUFFET INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

At the door \$45.00 per person

Pre-registered \$40.00 per person

PREREGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR BOTH DAYS

IS DECEMBER 15, 2023.

14 and under FREE

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 7:00 A.M.

ALL PAID ADMISSIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO
WIN A 20' X 48' GREENHOUSE.

DRAWING AT 2:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY.

FILL OUT SESSION EVALUATIONS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
1 OF 2 \$50 CASH PRIZES AT THE END OF EACH DAY.

Area Hotels

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FOR PREREGISTRATION OR MORE INFORMATION, CALL OR WRITE

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P.A.T. = Ohio Pesticide Application Training Credits

BRING YOUR LICENSE

Thursday, January 11

Trade Show Open from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

9:30 - 10:30 **Room A**

IMPORTANCE OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

David Stoltzfus

9:30 - 10:30 **Room B**

SWD CONTROL IN RASPBERRY GROWING

Mark Krieger

9:30 - 10:30 **Room C**

IMPORTANCE OF PROPER MAPLE SYRUP FILTERING

Nick Wendell

11:00 **Q&A Sessions**

CUSTOMER SERVICE

David Stoltzfus & Merle Hershberger

10:45 - 12:00 **Room A**

IMPORTANCE OF SOIL HEALTH

Dan Chellemi

10:45 - 11:30 **Room B**

TREATMENT FREE BEEKEEPING IN NEW YORK

Abe Yoder

10:45 - 11:45 **Room C**

P.A.T. category 6 d. 60 min
IDENTIFYING AND CONTROLLING FLOWER DISEASE

Francesca Hand

12:30 **Q&A Sessions**

MAPLE SYRUP

Nick Wendell & Eli Weaver

1:15 - 2:15 **Room A**

P.A.T. category 6 d. 60 min
WINNING FLOWER CONTAINER COMBINATIONS

Jason Reeves

1:00 - 2:00 **Room B**

HIGH TUNNEL TOMATO GROWING

Chris Schrock

1:15 - 2:15 **Room C**

ADJUSTING TO FOOD SAFETY GUIDELINES

Omar Fisher, Lavern Schrock

1:30 **Q&A Sessions**

RASPBERRIES

Mark Krieger

2:30 - 3:30 **Room A**

GROWING GREAT PERENNIALS

Paul Pilon

2:15 - 3:30 **Room B**

TRANSITIONING FROM CONVENTIONAL TO ORGANIC
TREE FRUIT

Kyle Rasch

Mid-Ohio Growers MEETING

Thursday, January 11 CONTINUED

2:30-3:30 **Room C**  category 2 b. 60 min
IDENTIFYING AND CONTROLLING CUCURBIT INSECTS
Ashley Leach

2:30 **Q&A Sessions**
POPULAR FLOWER COMBINATIONS
Jason Reeves

3:45 - 4:45 **Room A**
PLASTIC CULTURE STRAWBERRY PRODUCTION
Danny Van Meter

3:45 - 4:45 **Room B**
ORGANIC GROWING PRACTICES
Daniel Stoltzfus

3:45 - 4:45 **Room C**
GROWING SEEDLESS WATERMELON
Anthony Showalter

3:30 **Q&A Sessions**
GREEN THUMB SUBSCRIBERS

5:00 - 6:00 **Room A**
BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS
Atlee Kauffman

5:00 - 6:00 **Room B**
GROWING AND MARKETING CUT FLOWERS
Lindsay Biehl

5:00 - 6:00 **Room C**  category 2 b. 60 min
USING BIOPESTICIDES TO MANAGE DISEASES IN VEGETABLES
Steve Bogash

4:30 **Q&A Sessions**
ORGANIC TREE FRUITS
Kyle Rasch

6:00 - 7:00 REFRESHMENTS

NEW

Hands On Demo
Thursday

SAVE THE DATE
JAN 9 & 10, 2025

9:30 CUT FLOWERS PRESENTED BY: Gable Crest Garden

10:00 SPRAYER NOZZLE PRESENTED BY: Wayne County Extension

10:30 HOT WATER SEED TREATMENT PRESENTED BY:
Ohio State University

11:00 TOMATO CRAFTING PRESENTED BY: Ohio State University

1:00 CUT FLOWERS

Food

**FOOD INCLUDED
WITH ADMISSION**

Lunch Buffet Served From
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Both Days

P.A.T. = Ohio Pesticide Application Training Credits

BRING YOUR LICENSE

Friday, January 12

Exhibit Open from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

9:00 - 9:45 **Room A**

FLOWERING PLANT NUTRITION

Paul Pilon

9:00 - 9:45 **Room B**

GROWING AND MARKETING PUMPKINS

Danny Van Meter

9:00 - 9:45 **Room C**

DISPLAYING AT MARKET

Merle Hershberger

10:00 - 11:00 **Room A**

COVER CROPS AND ROTATION FOR WEED CONTROL

Dustin Johnson

10:00 - 11:00 **Room B**

MAINTAINING AND MAXIMIZING ORGANIC TREE FRUITS

Kyle Rasch

10:00 - 11:00 **Room C**

GROWING AND MARKETING HERBS

Stacey Wildt

11:15 - 12:15 **Room A**

BEING A NORTHERN FOLIAGE GROWER AND TODAY'S OPPORTUNITIES

David Kirwan

11:15 - 12:15 **Room B**

P.A.T. category 2 b. 60 min

SCOUTING TIPS FOR VEGETABLE GROWERS

Frank Becker

11:00 - 12:00 **Room C**

GROWING FRESH MARKET GRAPES

Bill Thomas

1:00 - 2:00 **Room A**

MINERAL BALANCING IN YOUR SOILS

Aaron Weaver

1:00 - 2:00 **Room B**

GROWING SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS IN GREENHOUSE

Samuel Peachy

12:45 - 1:45 **Room C**

P.A.T. category 6 b. 60 min

THE OLD AND NEW OF FLOWER VARIETIES

Jason Reeves

Mid-Ohio Growers MEETING

Speaker BIOGRAPHIES

LAVERN SCHROCK Lavern and Rebecca Schrock, along with their eight children, own and operate an eighty-acre farm, located in Crab Orchard, Kentucky. They have twenty plus years of growing experience. They currently grow thirty-five acres of produce and have four greenhouses with spring flowers. They sell most of their produce at the Lincoln County Produce Auction

DANIEL STOLTZFUS is a father of seven and a wannabe Grandfather. He has been growing produce since 2004 and has been certified organic since 2008. He lives in Lancaster, PA and currently farms 25 acres, growing a variety of organic produce.

DANNY VAN METER was born and raised in Clarkson, KY. He and his wife have ten children. Danny manages a 5th generation, family-operated farm. They grow a diverse range of crops including, strawberries, pumpkins, watermelon and sweetcorn. They have been growing strawberries using plastic culture method for eighteen years and started selling strawberry plugs in 2012. Additionally, their farm dedicates 20 acres of land to growing pumpkins.

ANTHONY SHOWALTER and his family are from Brown County, located in Southern Ohio. He started raising produce in 2012. They grow 20 acres of produce including, watermelon, cantaloupe, tomatoes, pumpkin and grain. They sell all of their produce at their local Produce Auction.

MARK KRIEGER, representing Krieger's Wholesale Nursery of Bridgman, Michigan was raised on the family farm located in southwestern Michigan. The farm includes nursery stock, fruit and vegetable production, as well as row crop and livestock production. Krieger's Wholesale Nursery, a five-generation family business, is operated by Mark and his wife Jame and their son Peter and wife Pia, and Mark's mother Marilyn. Krieger's Nursery produces small fruit plants and vegetable roots and supplies many garden centers, growers and nurseries, as well as home gardeners, across the country. They grow and propagate blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, jostaberries, grapes, strawberries, hops, rhubarb, asparagus, horseradish, loganberries, elderberries, hardy figs, and goji berries. Mark's expertise in raising fruit and vegetable plants comes from lifelong experience, from trials, and from practices handed down by the family for generations. Mark continues to acquire new information from studies around the world to enhance the production of Krieger's quality small fruit plants and vegetable roots.

DAVID KIRWAN, a revered expert grower, is celebrated for his extensive knowledge of all things related to plants and his profound affection for the horticulture community. His journey in horticulture began with his graduation from SUNY Oswego in 1977, where he majored in Biology, setting the stage for his entry into the world of plants. Throughout his illustrious career, David Kirwan dedicated himself to cultivating not just plants but also lasting relationships across the globe. He held prominent head grower positions in various locations throughout Florida and quickly earned a reputation as the preeminent foliage liner grower in the industry. His exceptional expertise and skills garnered the trust of numerous international horticulture companies, who actively sought his guidance and knowledge. In the early 1990s, David embarked on a fruitful partnership with ForemostCo while working for an independent plant nursery where he took on the role of managing and overseeing all production for Phoenix Foliage, later to become a part of the ForemostCo Family brand. His unwavering commitment to excellence and discipline led him to remain in this position for over two decades. Under his guidance, Phoenix Foliage flourished and evolved into a global cultivation and distribution operation, a testament to his dedication and vision. Recent years have seen David shifting his focus towards the future. He has worked diligently to bring aboard the finest General Managers and support teams for Phoenix, recognizing that it's time for him to step back from day-to-day production management. Now, his energies are channeled into New Product Development, advising the ForemostCo offshore tissue culture lab Vita Lab) and imparting his wealth of knowledge to the new management team, empowering them to lead Phoenix into the next era. David Kirwan's enduring legacy is deeply intertwined with the success of Phoenix Foliage. He is the visionary who transformed it into the global horticultural powerhouse it is today, and his passion for plants and horticulture remains an inspiration to all who have the privilege of knowing him.

KYLE RASCH "Organic" Kyle is the farm manager at Third Leaf Farm. He protects and nourishes the trees, handy-work, management, customer service, etc. Kyle is part of a growing team, working with nature to regenerate soil, ecosystems, farmers and community health. As a third generation apple farmer, Kyle has deeply rooted support from his father and grandfather. Kyle works with/on farms around the world to gain perspective and shares his personal experiences at conferences and by mentoring other farms.

SAMUEL PEACHY is from Ovid New York. He grows Shiitake mushrooms year round in a greenhouse.

OMAR FISHER Omar owns 25 acres of farmland in Lancaster Pennsylvania. He and his wife Mary, along with their six children, operate the farm. They have been certified organic for fourteen years. They grow a variety of ten crops and they have a half acre high tunnel. They sell most of their produce at the Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op.

Mid-Ohio Growers MEETING

Speaker BIOGRAPHIES

FRANK BECKER is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator for OSU Extension -Wayne County, as well as the Wayne County Integrated Pest Management Program Coordinator. The Ipm program in Wayne County works with both conventional and organic growers in both agronomic and horticultural systems. The Ipm program also participates in insect trapping and monitoring programs organized by state specialists and researchers, with over 100 insect pest monitoring traps set annually around Wayne and surrounding counties. As part of his role with Extensions, he works with his stakeholders to help them make educated and effective pest management decisions using IPM methods and strategies. Frank is also a Certified Crop Adviser. He has 2 associate degrees from OSU ATI in Sustainable Agriculture, and Agronomy. Bachelor's Degree from Ohio State in Sustainable Plant Systems with a Specialization in Agronomy and is currently pursuing his masters at Ohio State in Plant Health Management. His focus throughout the completion of his studies was centered around plant health, crop production and management, soil fertility and management, and environmental and natural resources. He has approximately 10 years of fruit and vegetable production and IPM experience.

LYNDSAY BIEHL is the owner of Wildroot Flower Co., a 3-acre sustainably grown cut flower farm located in Marietta, Ohio. Lyndsay is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a B.S degree in Landscape Horticulture. She has over 25 years of experience in the horticulture industry and is passionate about sharing her knowledge of cut flower production and marketing with others. Lyndsay is also the co-host of the weekly flower farming pod cast - The Dirt on Flowers.

DAN O CHELLEMI After receiving a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of California Davis, Dr. Chellemi served as Associate Professor at the University of Florida, Lead Research Scientist for the USDA Agricultural Research Service and Applied Research Manager for Driscoll's. Over the course of his career, Dr. Chellemi has designed, developed and deployed numerous programs to improve crop production efficiency and mitigate the impacts of plant pathogens, parasitic nematodes, and arthropod pests including the adaptation of soil solarization to humid subtropical climates, low-input field production systems for fresh market vegetables, indoor and protected systems for fruit and cannabis production, integration of revenue generating oil seed cover crops into commercial horticultural crop production systems, and systems-based programs for the management of Verticillium wilt in the coastal valleys of California. Scientific studies along the way have led to an increased understanding of the biological suppression of plant disease in agroecosystems including re-establishment of disease and nematode suppressive soil microbiomes. Dr. Chellemi's research accomplishments have been documented in 67 peer-reviewed publications, 10 book chapters, and two patents.

STEVE BOGASH retired as a Horticulture Educator and Researcher, PSU Cooperative Extension in June 2016. Since retiring, Steve joined Marrone Bio Innovations (now ProFarm Group) as their NE/ Mid-Atlantic Product Development and Territory Business Manager. His territory runs from Southern Virginia to Caribou, Maine to Western Pennsylvania. He now oversees several dozen university and private research company product trials as well as many on-farm demonstration trials using Pro Farm Group products for pest management. "One of the most exciting things about this stage of my life and career is helping to usher in this next wave of safe, effective, biological pest management products". Steve and his wife Roberta live in Harrisburg, PA and are renovating a home near the Susquehanna river built in 1933. With a 90+ year old, brick home there is always the next project. Steve is also burnishing his wood working skills as he prepares for retirement as he plans to build small boats and smell like sawdust much more often.

AARON WEAVER is from southeast Wayne County and is the soil consultant and field coordinator for Green Field Farms co-op working with farmers in Ohio and surrounding states on improving their soil fertility. Aaron is also a beekeeper and enjoys taking care of fruit trees and berries as a hobby.

BILL THOMAS Bill and Vicky Thomas started Thomas Family Orchard in 1974 as a diversified fruit operation. Our products included apples, cider, peaches, blueberries, plums, and seedless table grapes. The grapes started as an experimental plot sponsored by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, Ohio. We raised seedless grapes from 1985 until 2021. The vineyard enlarged to one acre over time. We sold wholesale early on but evolved to retail only. Although grown in Muskingum County, most of our sales were in Columbus, Ohio.

ATLEE KAUFFMAN married to Ella, 2 sons and 2 daughters. Former owner of Bent Wood Solutions LLC, now a partner. Living South of Mt. Hope on CR 77. Bent Wood Solutions bends furniture parts for the furniture manufacturers in the United States. He has 2 sons and a son-in-law involved in the business. They have 44 employees. He also manages a Tree Farm called Wooded Acres.

ASHLEY LEACH is currently an assistant professor at Ohio State University where she develops pest management programs for specialty crop growers. She received her B.S. in Entomology from Lyman Briggs college at Michigan state University. She completed her PhD in entomology at Cornell University where she developed integrated pest management approaches for common onion pests. During her postdoc at Purdue University, she studied cucurbit pest management in watermelon.

ABE YODER Has been keeping bees since 2009, when two swarms moved into his Father's Dairy Farm. After pursuing bee keeping as a hobby for a few years, Abe was inspired to become a full-time bee keeper by the potential of breeding bees resistant to varroa mite. Bee keeping has been his primary occupation since 2012. The Yoder's produce honey and nucleus colonies. Abe also operated a queen production enterprise for several years, producing around a 1,000 queens for sale. That enterprise was handed over to friend in 2023. Abraham and his wife Brenda have 3 sons Robert (5), Andrew (3) and Aaron (11 months).

Mid-Ohio Growers MEETING

Speaker BIOGRAPHIES

PAUL PILON received a degree in Horticulture from Michigan State University and has over 30 years of professional horticulture experience. Throughout his career, Paul focused on researching and improving various aspects of production to improve crop quality, decrease production losses and simplify cultural practices. For the past 20 years, he has authored over 400 articles and continues to write for numerous trade publications. Paul is currently the Editor at-Large for Ball Publishing's Perennial Pulse e-newsletter which reaches over 33,000 subscribers each month and has a bimonthly column called "Paul Pointers". in GrowerTalks magazine. He's also authored a book titled, Perennial Solutions: A Growers Guide to Perennial Production. Currently, Paul is the Director of Growing at Opel Growers in Hudsonville, Michigan where he oversees all aspects of producing high quality plants.

DUSTIN JOHNSON is a Forage Agronomist for the CISCO Companies in Indianapolis, IN. He lives near Kokomo, IN and serves independent CISCO dealers in the Ohio Valley region. Dustin and his family operate a farm business, Johnson Hay and Grain, that specializes in making high-quality dry hay and certified organic grains. Dustin passionately believes in soil conservation and the power of extended, diverse cropping rotations to harness the natural productivity of farmland. Dustin studied Agronomy at Purdue University. He currently serves as a supervisor at the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District and as a member of the Indiana Forage Council.

JASON REEVES grew up on a farm in western Tennessee, where he fell in love with the plant world. He received his Master's degree in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In 2002, he became a research horticulturist and curator of the University of Tennessee Gardens located at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center in Jackson, Tennessee. Jason's colorful plant combinations and unique garden art, made by recycling everyday objects, draws several thousand people each year to the Center's annual lawn and garden show, Summer Celebration. His past experiences include work at the Opryland Conservatories in Nashville, Missouri Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, and in private gardens in New Zealand. When he's not bringing the grounds to life with his imaginative garden displays, he's evaluating hundreds of new and unique plants for the state's green industry; speaking at gardening symposiums or traveling the world leading gardening tours, and serving as a contributing editor to Fine Gardening magazine. He is also a landscape designer and consultant whose influence may be seen in landscapes across Tennessee in the form of distinct plant combinations and his signature garden art. He does all this and manages to find time to garden at home. You can follow him on Facebook at Jason Reeves - in the garden.

NICK WENDEL is a fourth generation poultry farmer and second generation maple syrup producer in Western New York. His father Marty started with a single tap at 10 years old. Together they currently tap 5,500 taps. After graduation Nick started selling Maple equipment as a dealer for Leader Evaporator Co. A new sugarhouse and showroom was built in 2011 and is well stocked with equipment from Leader, H2O innovation, Hydrite Chemical, Sugarhill container, Artisan Printing Glass, Indiana Vacuum, Atlas Copco, Marland Controls, and more. Nick has also developed a few products himself including the Foam Fighter and Bucket Barriers. He and his fathers experience allows him to assist customers and maple producers of any size, from 1-100,000 taps, He sits on the board of directors for the WNY Maple Producers, and has spoke on panels and taught classes across the Maple industry

STACEY WILT is a co-owner and integral part of Patchwork Gardens Greenhouses since it's inception in 1983. Stacey, her husband Jon, brother and sister in-law Wes and his wife Michele own and operate Patchwork Gardens Greenhouses. A retail, wholesale and young plant business located in Washington courthouse Ohio. She has been the featured speaker at many events including the Master Gardeners, numerous garden clubs, banquets, organizations and community events. Being in the green industry for 40 years, she has seen the ups and downs for many crops. In her experience herbs are consistently a crop to depend on. Stacey loves sharing her self-learned knowledge of Herbs through workshops, community events, organizational meetings and after hours parties at Patchwork Gardens retail center. She believes the more informed the buyer is, the greater success at growing, which in turn gains a repeat customer.

MERLE HERSHBERGER with his wife Lela, own and operate Hillcrest Orchard of Walnut Creek, Ohio with the help of his Dad Jake, Brother Duane, and four sons Jon Adam, Mark, Matt and Josh. The Orchard consists of 75 acres of apples and 10 acres of peaches which are all sold through their retail Market, along with cider, apple butter, maple syrup, honey, fresh produce, Fall decorations, nuts and candies. Merle is the 3rd generation with the first trees planted in 1927.

CHRIS SCHROCK with his wife Laurie, 9924 E Washington Rd Clare, MI. They have an eighty acre farm, nine children (the two oldest are on their own), 4 heated green houses, three for flowers and one for tomatoes, 1 34x150 tomato Hi Tunnel. They also raise 2 ½ acres of seedless watermelon and 5,000 mums. Everything goes to the Clare County Produce Auction. They sell green house kits as a sideline.

DAVID STOLTZFUS is a partner at Country Side Market, a retail garden center that also sells fresh vegetables, bulk foods, supplements and a diversity of other items. It is a multi-family operation that was started in the early 90s with a sign along a back road "Eggs for Sale". Two weeks later the first customer stopped in. 30 years later it is still expanding.

Mid-Ohio Growers MEETING

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Mid-Ohio Growers MEETING

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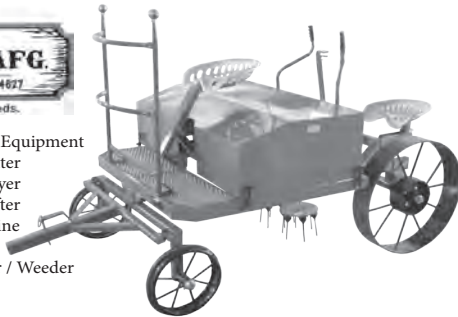
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Deadline for pre-registration is December 15, 2023

Make checks payable to:

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