



Our Seminar Speakers 2023 TGOA National Convention



Seminar No. 1: The Fascinating World of Carnivorous Plants

4 p.m. Wednesday, July 26 Room B

Robert W. McMahon

OSU Associate Professor Emeritus, retired OSU/ATI coordinator of Greenhouse Production and Management Technology

A plant geek since second grade, McMahon was coordinator of Greenhouse Production and Management Technology for OSU/ATI for 29 years, retiring in 2015. McMahon earned his Ph.D. in horticulture and botany and his master's degree in horticulture from Iowa State University. He is president of Gardeners of Greater Cleveland and works seasonally part-time at Lakewood Garden

Center in Cleveland. McMahon also coordinated our speaker series for this TGOA National Convention.

Seminar No. 2: Woody Plants for Your Garden

4 p.m. Wednesday, July 26 Room A

Tom Davis

Certified Horticulture Judge

This certified horticulture judge has large, mostly natural gardens and woods covering 2 acres. Davis joined The Gardeners of Greater Cleveland in 2004 and has served as its director, president and is currently the Cleveland club's national TGOA director. He's also a past president of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners Region. Currently,

Davis chairs the TGOA Endowment and Investments (E&I) Committee. He is married to Julie Shaw, also a member of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland.



Seminar No. 3: Holistic Turf Management in Shade

9 a.m. Thursday, July 27 Room A

Arly Drake

Clark State College Assistant Professor of Agriculture

Drake does research with the nine-state Community College Alliance for Agriculture Advancement to provide producers and students with best practices to conserve valuable resources. She currently is an assistant professor and program coordinator in agriculture and horticulture for Clark State College. She formerly was student assistant to the sportsturf extension specialist at OSU, where she earned her master's and PhD focusing on putting green management and the effects of plant growth regulators on stressed turfgrass.



Seminar No. 4: Creating A Community with Black Heritage Crops

9 a.m. Thursday, July 27 Room B

Clare Thorn

Central State University Extension Associate for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Thorn develops and coordinates youth and adult agricultural and natural resources educational programs for Central State University's Seed to Bloom Botanical and Community Garden. She formerly worked at Bok Tower in Lake Wales, Florida; The Go Fish Education Center in Perry, Georgia and with OSU Extension in Montgomery County managing the Master Gardener and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist programs. Thorn earned her master's and bachelor's degrees in parks and recreation from Ohio University.



Seminar No. 5: Garden Soil Testing and Soil Health

10 a.m. Thursday, July 27 Room B

Leeoria Willis-Burritt

OSU Extension Educator for Agriculture, Natural Resources & Horticulture

Willis-Burritt serves as the county coordinator for the Montgomery County Master Gardener program. She earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural education at Central State University with a minor in sustainable agriculture. She has worked in the Central State University Seed to Bloom Botanical Garden as well as the Agricultural Natural Resource Information Management Lab. She volunteers with the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association and Pheasants and Quail Forever.

Seminar No. 6: All About Cox Arboretum

11:15 a.m. Thursday, July 27 Cox Arboretum

Betty Hoevel

Education Coordinator, Five Rivers MetroParks

As Education Coordinator for Five Rivers MetroParks, Hoevel presents classes in sustainable horticulture and gardening practices as well as workshops and presentations for clubs, private groups and media. She provides in-depth public tours of several parks and is in charge of the Children's Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroParks. She also collects and coordinates historical information on the parks – social, geologic and biological.



Seminar No. 7: All About Krohn Conservatory

10 a.m. Friday, July 28 Room B

Mark House

Manager, Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati, Ohio



As a teenager living in Paris, France, House would revel in the Palace of Versailles and its orangerie. In 2003, he joined the Krohn Conservatory staff in Cincinnati to care for its citrus collection. With a bachelor's degree in agronomy from The Ohio State University and an associate degree in landscape

horticulture from Cincinnati State College, House today is manager of Krohn Conservatory and an adjunct professor of horticulture for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

Seminar No. 8: All Gardens Great & Small

11 a.m. Friday, July 28 Room A

Laura Deeter

OSU Professor and OSU Coordinator of Landscape Horticulture & Horticultural Science

Effective Aug. 25, Deeter becomes director of Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens on OSU's Columbus, Ohio campus. As a professor, she has taught horticultural technologies for OSU's Agricultural Technical Institute on its College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences campus in Wooster. Deeter received her Ph.D. in horticulture from OSU. She teaches woody and herbaceous plant identification, landscape design, sustainable landscaping, plant health management, landscape construction and ecology.

