

# Grow with the Fun, Facts, and Gardening Family!

## Come to the OAGC Convention!



The middle of July is a perfect time to visit Northwest Ohio. The **2023 OAGC Convention will take place in Findlay, Ohio on July 12-14**. Findlay's historic downtown and vibrant atmosphere has a small town feel and allows visitors the comforts of home with the excitement of a growing city. **Don't miss this opportunity for entertainment and learning, a flower show and garden tours, volunteer awards, raffles, vendors and catching up with our garden friends!** Plan to visit all three days but if that isn't possible, you may choose any of the days to attend with a partial registration ticket. **A special frog statue to commemorate OAGC has been commissioned from Carruth Studios.** The coupon to preorder is on page \_\_\_\_\_. **Two make & takes** are available for you to create, a pollinator bath or handcrafted flowers. You can choose either or both for \$5 each. Times for this will be throughout the event.

The convention will be held at the **Hancock Hotel** <https://www.hancockhotel.com/virtual-tour/>, 631 South Main Street on the Marathon Petroleum Corporation campus. The five-story, full-service boutique hotel makes use of European architecture that complements Findlay's historic South Main Street. The lobby space of this luxurious hotel will contain the OAGC Artistic Flower Show and the OAGC Medalists Collections. The hotel rooms are refined and spacious. To make your **hotel room reservation book online at hancockhotel.com. Our room discount code is 202307GARDE.** You may also contact the **Hancock Hotel directly at 419-452-0043.** We will have a map available for free public parking areas. Please drop off your luggage, etc. at the unloading area then proceed to parking.

On Wednesday morning entries for the flower show, plus vendors and make and take sessions will be open. Check your choices for the make and take projects on your registration form. Daily times for make and takes will be available on the form as space is limited for this activity. Our Horticulture exhibits will be staged in the Ballroom and we will have oral judging of these in the afternoon.

On Wednesday evening, **Josh Dyer, Director of Crawford Park District (CPD)** which includes six



protected parks in Crawford County, Ohio, will be our first keynote speaker. Josh has been with the CPD for 18 years and has been instrumental in developing and delivering effective environmental education to Crawford County citizens, particularly to students. In 2021, the Sandusky Headwaters Preserve was added to the parks and is part of the **H2Ohio** projects that will aid in reducing nutrient loads into Lake Erie. This wetland project makes Sandusky Headwaters Preserve the first line of defense in protecting the Sandusky River watershed.

Josh has a passion for aquatic habitats, particularly wetlands. He has contributed to the understanding of the distribution of the Unisexual *Ambystoma* salamanders and how this group moves across a fragmented landscape. He is also the author of the “Midland Painted Turtle” chapter in the recently published *Reptiles of Ohio*. In addition to his exciting presentation “**I Come From the Water**”, Josh will also bring some of his wetland animal ambassadors for us to meet on July 12.

Thursday, July 13 will be packed full of learning. We will honor our OAGC volunteers at breakfast that day. On Thursday we will be privileged to have five outstanding speakers.

# H2Ohio

“**Slow the Flow with H2Ohio**” will be presented by **ODNR’s Eric Saas**, the H2Ohio program manager and **Kevin Nemer**, H2Ohio Assistant Program Manager. They will share with us the H2Ohio program, accomplishments, and a visual tour of sites across Ohio on Thursday morning. The H2Ohio program focuses on creating, restoring and enhancing the wetlands of Ohio.

Our second guest, **Hope Taft** will enlighten us with her vision for the future of Ohio’s water resources and how we can get involved.



She was instrumental in legislating that April become Ohio Native Plant Month. In fact, she was founder of the Ohio and National Native Plant Months efforts. You may not realize that she wears many hats... or pants! As chair of the Heritage Garden Committee of the Friends of the Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden, (a non-partisan, non-profit organization) she organizes about 100 volunteers to help maintain the grounds of the Ohio Heritage Garden at the Governor’s Mansion. Hope is an honorary Master Gardener, an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist and a graduate of the Ohio Watershed Academy. She is a trained instructor for the Landscape for Life program developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center, the US Botanical Garden, and the American Society of Landscape Architects based on the SITES program.

In 2017, she and Husband Bob Taft were inducted into the ODNR Conservation Hall of Fame. The Taft’s have one daughter, Anna, who started the Tandana Foundation in 2006 and recruited her mother to be president of the board. She is a member of the Dayton Area Wild Ones and holds membership in several garden clubs. Hope joined neighbors to form Little Miami River Kleeners and the Little Miami Watershed Network to help preserve and protect the Little Miami River and is on its Advisory Council. She is a founding member of the Ohio Scenic River Association. We are very grateful that she will honor us with wisdom.



**Katie Carey**, a Columbus-Native, fell in love with growing food in her late teens, planting basil in old plastic milk jugs and tomatoes in 5-gallon buckets. She's worked at a variety of urban and rural farms, both in Ohio and internationally, and has tended her own "foodscape" for over 5 years. Katie is a certified Master Gardener, Master Urban Farmer, and Garden Educator on a mission to support her community in edible gardening. She began **Columbus Foodscapes** during covid when she saw her neighbors wanting to get outside and grow their own food. Her business quickly snowballed. A **foodscape (specifically meaning raised bed kitchen gardens or Perennial in-ground gardens)** is a landscape that produces food. Similar design principles can be used in

foodscapes as in landscapes, like color, texture, size, and accounting for existing landscape elements and structures. Be prepared to learn how to grow food and maintain your edible garden landscape.

**Laura Johnson, PH.D.**, Director of the **National Center for Water Quality Research** at



Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio will share on Thursday afternoon how the center has been involved in the H2Ohio project and the Lake Erie Algae Bloom research. At the NCWQR, long-term monitoring of streams and rivers is used to examine the influence of human activities on water quality and help decide actions that lead to healthier ecosystems. Laura is best known for research examining the linkages between agricultural runoff and harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. As director, she has overseen the expansion of the monitoring program, curriculum development in Watershed Science, revitalization of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition, and has been part of numerous workgroups and advisory boards. Under her guidance since

2016, the NCWQR continues to be the gold standard for research in nonpoint source pollution in watersheds.

**Hal Mann** is our final keynote speaker for Thursday, and you won't want to miss the story of his adventure changing the backyards of Ohio into a landscape for wildlife and humans alike! Get a taste of his thoughts on **page 9 of this issue**.

**Garden Tours of our Findlay Garden Club** friends will delight us on Friday. We will check out of the hotel, carpool or shuttle to eight or more gardens in the city. These types of gardens will range from NO MOW lots to eclectic gardens with many different features. You will see upcycled garden architecture, water features, unusual plants, pollinator gardens and family friendly areas. A scavenger hunt will happen during the tours to win prizes. The timeframe for the tours is we leave the hotel at 9:30am, have lunch on our own (many restaurants in Findlay) and head home about 4PM.



Be sure to sign up for “Grow with the Flow” OAGC 2023 Convention by July 1 and save \$45 by purchasing a full registration. Sign up by June 1 for the early bird discount of another \$15. It’s easiest to register online at [oagc.org](http://oagc.org) and click 2023 Convention Registration (go paperless and save on postage) under the Upcoming Events menu on the Home page. You can pay online or be invoiced and pay by check. See you soon!

For the most up-to-date details and to see a full schedule, refer to the 2023 Convention page at [oagc.org](http://oagc.org)