

Marion Microfarm Newsletter

Winter 2025

A collaborative, community effort to bring entrepreneurship, economic development, and interest in agriculture to Marion!

Published by The Ohio State University at Marion

Located at Harding High School

1500 Harding Hwy E, Marion, OH

School Visits Are Blooming

The late fall and winter months have been filled with visits to our district's elementary classrooms. Grace Hand, microfarm coordinator, has met with over 330 kindergarten through fifth graders to present an introduction to agriculture and read a book about an ag related topic. Her spring schedule is already filled with more of these visits where new literature will be showcased in the classroom. Books that share a glimpse into the numerous categories and topics that make up agriculture are being collected. Book topics include animals, insects, composting, growing food, soil, machinery, food preparation, farmers markets, flowers, and so much more. The goal is to give the students an introduction into all of the different opportunities that await them and teach them about the daily necessities they rely upon.



Growing Teachers Through the Seasons Increases Teacher Creativity

Grace has spent the last few months continuing to integrate the OSU Extension program called *Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons* (GTS) at area elementary schools.

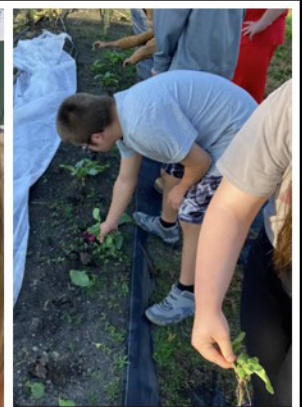
The participating teachers have been taking their own creative approaches to the program and have shared many great success stories!

One of our Harding High School teachers, Wendy Wolpert, shared that one of her students went home and shared all of the facts and history that they had previously learned about radishes over dinner with her parents.

Melissa Mills, a Hayes Elementary School teacher, has already expanded their indoor growing space since the students have been enjoying it so much! She is hoping to expand their outdoor growing space next year and dreams of adding a vertical hydroponic tower to their school building in the future as well.

This month many of the teachers will be growing a dwarf tomato variety in their indoor hydroponic units and should be enjoying fresh cherry tomatoes by spring. They'll also seed leafy greens like lettuce, bok choy, and kale inside with the intention of later planting them into their outdoor growing space.

We're so glad that the teachers and students have been enjoying growing in their classrooms, and we hope to be able to offer this opportunity to more of the district teachers next school year.



Note: Pictures with children are shared with parental permission.

Grace Hand to be Featured Speaker at Lectures on Tap

The Ohio State University at Marion has partnered with Bucci's Italian Scratch Kitchen for a Lectures on Tap speaker series where inquisitive community minds, food and drink come together. This monthly series kicked off on January 14th and even with the snowy weather, 70 people turned out for the inaugural event.

Grace Hand, Marion's microfarm coordinator and owner of Gracie's Botanicals, LLC in Bucyrus, will be the featured speaker with the topic of "A Gardeners Guide to Growing in Ohio." The presentation will focus on the basics to help you make informed decisions and have a clearer plan for the upcoming growing season. Grace will share some of her favorite tips, tools, and resources for accomplishing a garden that works for you and your lifestyle.

Doors for the event open at 5:00 p.m. with the presentation starting at 5:30 p.m. Food and drinks are on your own. Come early and place your order!

Please mark your calendar to join us for this informative and fun event!

Event Location: Bucci's 320 W. Center Street in Marion

LECTURES ON TAP

"Where inquisitive community minds, food & drink come together."



EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT BUCCI'S

Tue., February 11, 5:30 p.m. at Bucci's Italian Scratch Kitchen



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
MARION



"Every gardener knows that
under the cloak of winter
lies a **miracle.**"

Barbara Winkler

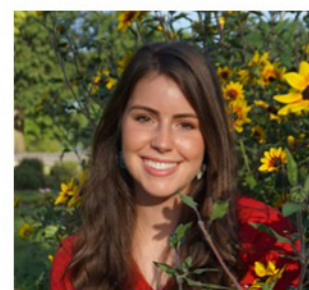


Continued Thanks

Continued thanks to United Way and our community partners who assist us along our microfarm journey. This project is possible because of community collaboration, and we are grateful.

thanks

Want to learn more?



If you have questions, please reach out to Grace Hand at Harding High School to learn more about the Marion Microfarm Project and our collaboration with area elementary schools.

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