



Dear MVGA Member:

I would like to take this time to reacquaint you with the **Maumee Valley Growers Association**. As a regular or associate member you have been receiving information regarding the association but may not be fully aware of all of the programs and services currently available to you as a member.

Now in our third heating season, the **Maumee Valley Growers Association** through the partnership with Palmer Energy has successfully reduced the cost of Natural Gas and Electricity for our NW Ohio members and other growers statewide. In these times of economic uncertainty, knowing that our second greatest expense (energy) is professionally managed is a huge advantage for all participants.

The Marketing Committee has provided members access to several advertising opportunities through the year with both reduced co-op purchasing rates and several years of solid survey feedback from our grower's community. This includes both wholesalers and retailers alike. The Marketing program has been able to establish a branding strategy promoting quality products grown and sold by our local growers.

Recently, the **Maumee Valley Growers Association** established a partnership with Monrovia, a grower of fine nursery stock. They provide unique cost reductions to purchases made by members of our association.

Other benefits being discussed should be formalized later this year which will expand new opportunities to growers in our region.

In closing, a motion was passed at our January Board meeting to delay collecting MVGA membership dues until the 2011 calendar year. Invoices for 2011 will be

issued at our annual meeting in September. This provides growers additional time to take advantage of our fine programs as well as receiving our on-going correspondence.

Although the dues are free, the association needs to hear from you regarding your commitment as a **Maumee Valley Growers Association** member. A voucher representing “payment” for your dues this year is included in this mailing. We ask that you update your contact information and return the voucher it in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to remain on our mailing list as a current member. Returning the voucher also insures that you will receive a copy of our new membership catalog which is nearing completion.

Stay warm during the remainder this winter season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wade Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wade Smith – The Whitehouse Daylily Farm
Chairman, Membership Committee