

# MARY LINEBERGER

*Horticulturist · Public Garden Design · Leadership*

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## SUMMARY

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Horticulturist with over a decade of experience at Holden Forests & Gardens plus garden management at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Consistently increased responsibilities – from seasonal worker & volunteer to sole horticulturist over 10 acres of named collection gardens – spanning plant health and maintenance, curatorial design, staff and volunteer leadership, and public teaching.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Horticulturist

2025 – Present

*Holden Forests & Gardens – Eliot and Linda Paine Rhododendron Discovery Garden, plus Gardner Lakeside Terrace, Holden Grove, and the H. Henry Norweb Jr. Tree Allée · 10 acres*

- Supervise 2 Gardeners and 9 volunteers

### Horticulturist

2022 – 2025

*Holden Forests & Gardens – East Layer Garden, includes Logsdon Pond · 7 acres*

- Supervised 1 Gardener and 5 volunteers

### Gardener

2020 – 2022

*Holden Forests & Gardens – Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden · 17 acres*

- Assisted Horticulturist

### Garden Manager

2017 – 2019

*Cleveland Museum of Natural History – Smith Courtyard and Perkins II Woods Garden*

- Supervised 1 volunteer

### Seasonal Garden Assistant / Volunteer

2015 & 2016

*Holden Forests & Gardens*

## CORE STRENGTHS

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- **Plant Health & Maintenance** – Proper pruning, soil amendment, large-scale planting of woody and herbaceous species, transplanting, irrigating, weed management, fertilizing, winter protection. Basic turf management, e.g., creating and maintaining proper bed edges, for optimal plant health and landscape aesthetics.
- **Garden Design & Curatorial Planning** – Designed three garden planting schemes: Logsdon Pond East (~2,700 sq ft), Logsdon Pond West (~2,500 sq ft), and the Beech Grove planting (~1,400 sq ft). Each balanced curatorial vision, collection focus, and donor intent through collaboration with curators and inventory review.
- **Staff, Intern & Volunteer Supervision** – Plans and prepares tools and tasks for safe, productive work; documents performance issues and achievements; serves as mentor and guide.
- **Equipment Operation** – Tractor, ATV/UTV, front-end loader, skid steer, hedge trimmer, brush cutter, zero-turn & push mowers, chainsaw, weed whip, backpack blower, dump truck
- **Public Education & Teaching** – Created and co-led craft workshops for adults and children; developed and taught a virtual course on regional invasive species; developed and led seasonal garden tours.
- **Documentation & Planning Systems** – Assisted in creating the SOP manual for the Helen S. Layer Garden; creates and maintains Annual Operating Plans for stewarded areas; maintains thorough documentation (photos, notes, plant lists, measurements, drawings). Proficient in Microsoft 365 (Teams, OneNote, Excel, Word, Outlook).
- **Interviewing & Hiring** – Assisted with interviewing seasonal staff, gardeners, and interns; composed reference letters for several interns and seasonal employees.
- **Collaboration & Problem-Solving** – Assists colleagues with large planting projects and scheduling conflicts; partners with Education, Nursery, HR, and Cleveland Botanical Garden on projects, events, and information-gathering; member of the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP), attending bi-monthly meetings and serving as scribe.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

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- OSHA-Compliant Certification: ATV/UTV (Aug. 2026)
- Chainsaw Operation – internal Holden Forests & Gardens training (March 2026)
- Adult First Aid/CPR/AED (March 2025)

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

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- “Disease Identification and Management” – New York Botanical Garden (Jan.–Mar. 2026)
- “A Garden Design Primer” – New York Botanical Garden (Nov. 2025)
- “Introduction to Plant Science” – New York Botanical Garden (Jan.–Mar. 2025)

## **EDUCATION**

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- B.S. in Education, Ohio University
- B.A. in English, Ohio University

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- American Horticultural Society, member since 2024
- American Public Gardens Association, member since 2022