



Sprigs 'N Sprouts



August 2009 -The Gardeners of Lima

The Next Meeting Is: Tuesday, August 11, 2009

At: 7:00 PM – earlier time-

At: Children's Garden behind the Allen County Museum –different place

--Bring tomatoes (if you've got them) for 1st weigh in--



President's Message

Steve Maki, President
The Gardeners of Lima

August – it's Fair time. I hope you were able to beat the August 7th deadline for the fair entries. Donna submitted a larger number of entries. Now she has to wait to see which flowers will be in bloom for the different flower shows. Donna also entered her Pickled Baby Beets and Pickled Eggs in the fair, another first. Just entering items into the fair is an accomplishment which I hope to do next year.

This past July was the coldest July in the Lima area since they began keeping records – and the gardens (at least our garden) can confirm that. The cooler weather slowed the pace of growth of our vegetables that like the warmer weather.

Donna and I attended the CGLR Summer Conference that was held in the Goshen and Nappanee areas of Indiana. There were about forty attendees to this worthwhile conference. In addition to the business meeting, we also had three excellent seminars, several social events and a hands-on activity titled "Flower Pounding". I will have my attempt at Flower Pounding at our August Members Meeting.

The 2010 CGLR summer conference will be in the Kirkland, Ohio & Lake Holden area, and the 2011 CGLR summer conference is tentatively scheduled for Amish country around Holmes County / Wooster. Donna and I look forward to attending those conferences as well.

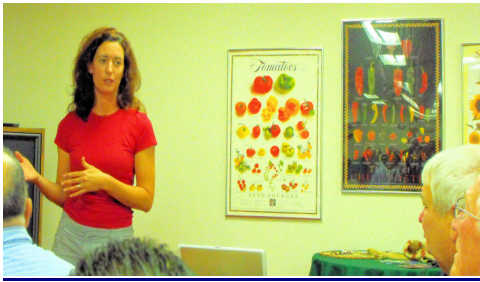
A follow-up article on the experiment with The Big Tomato Seeds may appear in the Fall

2009 edition of the Johnny Appleseed Broadcaster (JAB). If you do not receive an electronic copy of this newsletter of our Central Great Lakes Region, then you can access it on our regional website. Teresa normally forwards the JAB to our members who have provided their email address. If the layout will allow, then our editor, Teresa, may include a copy of that article in this issue of the Sprigs N Sprouts.

We'll see you at the Fair.



- Steve



Susan King did a presentation and talked about working in Ecuador as part of Peace Corps as part of the July meeting. Jeremy, Susan's husband and Susan worked with women's groups to facilitate creating small businesses in the Waorani territory of Ecuador. The Waorani region is a very mountainous area that had been inaccessible to outsiders until the mid-1970's. Susan's mother, Kay Studer, visited them in Ecuador in December 2008. Kay said she came back with a broader view of the world after seeing the primitive conditions there. Thank you, Susan, for sharing your experience and your pictures.



Susan King and Kay Studer

In addition to Susan's presentation, Janet Hussey gave a presentation at the July meeting on how to enter flowers, vegetables, fruits, or whatever in the Allen County Fair that will be held on August 21 thru August 29. Deadline for entries is August 7. She said required

forms and entry guidelines are only on-line at the website:
www.allencountyfair.org

Thanks, Janet, for the great information!

And, there were great refreshments at the July meeting provided by Alice Cooley. Thanks, Alice!



**Allen County Fair
Flower Exhibit
Scheduled Volunteers**

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Frank & Alice Cooley

2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Chuck & Persetta
Bowsher

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Nancy Siatkosky & Jo
Hanley

Saturday, August 29, 2009

10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Bob & Betty Nees

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Teresa Heath & Rita
Stevens

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Steve & Donna Maki

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Dick & Janet Hussey

**Report on the Board of
Directors Meeting
Held July 30, 2009**

It was voted on and approved to transfer \$13,000.00 from checking into a CD of approximately 1 year of duration, dependent upon the best interest rate.

First Vice President said future programs will be on rock gardens, water gardens, edible plants, and invasive plants.

The networking site of Big Tent is being tried by Teresa Heath, Donna Maki, Steve Maki, and Nancy Siatkosky. Nancy is the administrator for our site.

Second Vice President reported that Cathy Watt signed up as a member.

The CGLR 2010 summer conference will be in the Kirkland, Ohio & Lake Holden area. The CGLR 2011 summer conference is tentatively scheduled for Amish country around Holmes County / Wooster.

The 2010 National Convention will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 10-12. This convention will be hosted by the CGLR. All clubs will be asked to volunteer and assist with the convention. Steve & Donna have been asked to be the secretary of the Convention Committee.

The CGLR Fall meeting will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at the Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

Donna and Steve have been asked to be on the National Youth Committee. Steve has been asked to chair the committee. The board members will support Steve and Donna in whatever regional or national involvement they chose to be a part of.

Donna Maki reports that John Kessen, President of the Fort Wayne club and President-Elect of the Central Great Lakes Region, will be attending our August members' meeting.

Don Hanley, Kay Studer and Rex Maurer will tour and judge the three beautification contest garden entries on August 6.

Gene Buhrmester reports that the Downtown Planters are looking good. Gene waters, weeds and dead heads the planters twice a week. Gene is also getting some assistance in watering from the five students recruited by Dr. Wayne Kaufman. The students work downtown five hours a day, four to five days a week. A couple of Neighborhood Associations have started to take care of the plants outside of the Downtown Square area. The Gardeners of Lima may be asked to provide input to the Streetscape Project. It has been suggested that TGOL also have signs placed in the flower beds that we take care of, similar to the signs the DeHavens and The Green Machine are using.

Carpenter ants were discovered in the building while Steve and Donna were working at the clubhouse. Rex

Maurer contacted Bravo Pest Control for an estimate and initial treatment. The carpenter ants were disturbed after the new roof was added. The carpenter ants have been in the clubhouse for some time.

It was approved to contract with Bravo Pest Control at a cost of \$155 for the initial treatment and \$75 per quarter for the next three quarters for interior and exterior treatment and control.

I would like to say **"Thank you"** to Chuck Boughan of "C & J Construction" for his time and talent. He drilled the hole in the wall through the concrete/stone wall for the continuous drain for the dehumidifier upstairs, which was not easy to do.

Also **thanks** goes to Steve Maki for fixing the leaky pipe downstairs which was causing the mold on the wall.

Mel Kaehler installed the replacement hot water heater at the Faurot Park clubhouse. **Thanks**, Mel.

Thank you to Rita Stevens and Teresa Heath for their hard efforts at the clubhouse with all the watering and weeding they do.

Thanks also to Gene Buhrmester, Rex Maurer and Dick Hussey for all their efforts and hard work

taking care of the downtown planters.

A **special thank you** to Rex for taking care of the ant problem so quickly! It always amazes me at what can be accomplished when we all work together. If I missed anyone I apologize to you and please keep Teresa posted of your activities for "The Gardeners of Lima."

To all new members: You are welcome to stop by the clubhouse at your convenience to help pull weeds or water. Just give me a call if you need to get into the clubhouse garage for tools or hoses. 419-643-8450. You may be getting a call soon for a work day get together. We have our picnic tables to sit and take a break! (Thanks to the boys from the city/parks department and the outside light is working again too.)

--Donna Maki

P.S. from Steve Maki- **Thank you to Donna** for the lattice on the arbor out front to help support the plants, vacuuming, cleaning the bath rooms, pulling weeds and for the manure in the front bed.

Rex Maurer (419) 222-4356 co-ordinates TGOL's work on the downtown planters.

But, there are four or five young people and a supervisor working on the downtown square's plants—weeding and watering. They are called The Green Machine. They are paid out of federal stimulus money, and they are coordinated from neighborhood downtown organizations.

Thank you, Green Machine!



Asia Bevis, as part of The Green Machine, waters flowers planted by The Gardeners of Lima in downtown Lima. Picture is from *The Lima News*

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Tuesdays starting at about 5:30 P.M. is the scheduled work time at the clubhouse. Rita Stephens (419) 227-6074 co-ordinates work on the clubhouse flower beds

Happy Birthday Al Scheele, (belatedly), and get well soon!



On July 14, Al Sheeley was in-patient at St. Rita's Medical Center. July 14 was also Al's 70th birthday.

Upcoming Events

October meeting - annual "cook-out"

November meeting - specialty soups
November is new officer election

November & December - Poinsettia sales.

December meeting-- holiday banquet!

Did you see the front of the clubhouse now? **WOW!** With removal of overgrown shrubs and trees that had got out of hand, there is more room for the gentle flowers and foliage underneath to grow. Dick Hussey and Donna Maki worked hard to make that happen. In order words, they did it. Thank you Dick and Donna!

2009 Officers

(contact any one for information)

President – Steve Maki
smmaki1111@embarqmail.com
(419) 643-8450

1st VP & Program chair – Nancy Siatkosky
SSiatkosky@woh.rr.com
(419) 339-8606

2nd VP & Membership chair – Donna Maki
themomma@embarqmail.com
(419) 643-8450

Treasurer – Rex Maurer
rexjeanne@aol.com
(419) 222-4356

Secretary – Teresa Heath
heather@wcoil.com
(419) 516-8020

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Welcome
to new member
Cathy
Watt

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Attached is Steve Maki's paper titled, *Wintering Harvested Tomato Seeds: To Freeze or Not To Freeze.*

Wintering Harvested Tomato Seeds: To Freeze or Not To Freeze
By Steve Maki, The Gardeners of Lima

Every year The Gardeners of Lima has a Big Tomato Contest. The winner of the Big Tomato Contest is to harvest the seeds from that winning tomato and then get the plants going for the next year's contest for those that want to try to coax a Big Tomato from those plants. Of course, anybody could use any tomato plant or seed to try to grow the Big Tomato, but it is traditional to keep the genetic line going from the winning tomatoes. Well, last year I won the Big Tomato contest with a tomato grown from a plant that was started by Dick Hussey, the previous year's winner. Dick has won many of the Big Tomato contests and it is unusual not see his name at the top. Dick is out to secure his name back at the top.

We had a discussion about how to store the seeds over the winter. After harvesting, fermenting and drying the seeds some say you should store the seeds in a cool, dry place with your other canned goods. Some say it is better to store them in the freezer. Well, being an engineer I decided to try to use the Scientific Method to determine if I could add some logic and data to the debate.

Following the steps in the scientific method I asked the question "Which is better – to store tomato seeds over the winter in a brown envelope in the freezer or in a brown envelope in a mason jar with the other canned goods?". Next step: formulate a hypothesis. I hypothesized that "storing the tomato seeds in a brown envelope in a mason jar with the other canned goods would yield the bigger tomato."

Next I had to do some research and then formulate an experiment that would hopefully introduce only one variable – how the seeds were stored over the winter. Spring arrived and with the help of my wife, Donna, we set about planting the seeds in the seed starter. I, the engineer, measured the proper depth on the eraser end of a pencil, placed a seed on top of the seed starter in the starter tray and pushed the seed into the seed starter to the measured depth. Donna used her finger to push the seed into the seed starter. Could this difference introduce a second variable? Who knows, but it did give birth to a little bit of jest that Donna tells. A gardener uses their finger to plant seeds; an engineer uses a pencil.

Gathering data – another step. The beginning data was the germination rate of the seeds and to see if there were any other differences between the seedlings. The seeds were planted on April 5, a late start. 41% of the Mason jar seeds germinated, while 30% of the freezer seeds geminated. Below is the progression of the rate of germination.

	Date	4/18	4/19	4/20	4/21	4/22	4/23	4/24	4/25	4/26	4/27	4/28	4/29
#	Freezer	9	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
%	Freezer	20%	23%	23%	23%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%
%	Mason	22%	22%	24%	28%	31%	31%	31%	31%	31%	31%	33%	33%
#	Mason	12	12	13	15	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18
	Date	4/30	5/1	5/2	5/3	5/4	5/5	5/6	5/7	5/8	5/9	5/10	
#	Freezer	11	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	
%	Freezer	25%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	
%	Mason	33%	33%	35%	37%	37%	37%	37%	39%	39%	39%	41%	
#	Mason	18	18	19	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	22	

After 5 weeks, the seedlings were transplanted into pots. At transplanting the average height of the freezer seed plants was 3.3 inches and the Mason Jar plants averaged 2.6 inches tall:

	Height of each seedling transplanted														Ave
Mason	6	6	4	4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3	3	2	2		
	2	2	1.5	1.5	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5					2.6	
Freezer	7	6	6	6	4	2.5	2.5	2	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1	3.3	

The seedlings were then brought to our May 12th members meeting to be available to any member that desires to plant the seedlings from last year's winning tomato. As the seedlings are planted in a number of our members' gardens, numerous variables are introduced. From this point on we may not be able to draw any conclusions as to which method would produce the biggest tomato by weight. However, we do have data from three gardens where a Freezer and a Mason seedling were planted side by side. We have some comparisons thanks to Chuck and Persetta Bowsher, Nancy Siatkosky and the plants in our garden. The following data was obtained on Saturday, August 1, 2009.

		Garden A	Garden B	Garden C
Freezer	Height	52"	58"	46"
	Stalk Dia.	1.5"	0.625"	1.125"
	# Branches	6		5
	# Tomatoes	10	10	18
	Tomato Dia.	2-5", 2-4", 2-3", 6 <2"	1-5", 1-4", 3- 3", 1-2", 4 <2"	2-3", 6-2", 10 <2"
	# Blossoms	3		36
Mason	Height	37"	38"	37"
	Stalk Dia.	0.75"	0.25"	0.875"
	# Branches	4		4
	# Tomatoes	5	12	17
	Tomato Dia.	2-5", 2-3", 1 < 2"	1-5", 1-3", 6- 2", 4 < 2"	1-4", 4-3", 7- 2", 5 < 2"
	# Blossoms	0		0

There are some conclusions that can be made at this point. The Freezer plants are consistently taller, have a larger main stalk diameter and have more secondary branches off the main stalk.

We also have some data from the late germinating plants that were planted in Garden C. This data also indicates that the Freezer plants have a larger main stalk diameter and have more secondary branches off the main stalk. The height difference is inconclusive at this time.

Late Germinating Plants in Garden C				
Freezer	Height	27"	23"	27"
	Stalk Dia.	0.875"	0.875"	0.875"
	# Branches	4	3	3
	# Tomatoes	0	1	0
	Tomato Dia.	-	1 - 2"	-
	# Blossoms	17	18	21
Mason	Height	27"	25"	28"
	Stalk Dia.	0.75"	0.5"	0.75"
	# Branches	2	1	3
	# Tomatoes	0	0	0
	Tomato Dia.	-	-	-
	# Blossoms	16	16	8

Which plant will provide the heaviest tomato at harvest time? We have to wait to determine whether the hypothesis is proven true or false. Gardening is fun, relaxing, provides for great conversation and sometimes debate. And sometimes it provides opportunities for those of us that enjoy playing with numbers and analyzing data. Stay tuned for the Big Tomato Announcement.

THE GARDENERS OF LIMA

Join Today - Enjoy Better Gardening Tomorrow



The Gardeners of Lima Advantages

Award Winning Community Beautification

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Garden Tours

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Interesting Speakers / Topics

Monthly Meetings

Monthly Newsletter

Plant Exchange

Help with gardening problems

Regional Conferences

National Photography Competition

National Gardeners Conventions

Latest Plant Studies

Lifelong Friendships

Food & Fun

MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.

HEADQUARTERS

East Side of Faurot Park, Lima, Ohio

Visitors are Welcome!

If interested please contact:

Donna Maki 419-643-8450