



# SPRIGS N SPROUTS

## The Gardeners of Lima



**President's  
Message  
– April  
2010**

I was half way through tilling my portion of the vegetable

garden this afternoon when I remembered - - shoot, I was going to try “no till” on my portion this year. As I was smoothing out the freshly tilled ground I noticed the damage I had caused to a number of earthworms. That cinched it – I’m starting “no till” right now. No more tilling in my portion of the garden. I may even attempt the use of the scientific method again to determine the differences – we’ll see.

The Lima Community Gardens project is moving along. The next meeting of The Lima Community Gardens committee will be held on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at noon (location to be determined). In addition to the planning by the committee, TGOL will be involved in the educational sessions for the gardeners and providing answers to their questions throughout the season. The first educational session will be held on Monday, April 12. Let me know if you would like to be

involved in helping others to experience the joys of gardening.

Last week I was at the convention center where we will be holding the TGOA/MGCA 2010 National Convention. Our committee continued with the planning effort, toured the facilities, and met with the hotel staff to finalize the logistics. It looks to be another exciting convention. I encourage you to join us in attending the convention, especially since it is so close – Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Hilton’s convention facilities are perfect for our size group. The committee will be meeting again after our Central Great Lakes Regional meeting, which is being held on April 10. We have a few surprises lined up – take your camera and you will be able to snap a picture of me in an amusing situation.

Our spring flowers have started blooming. The crocuses, daffodils and hyacinths are displaying their color. The tulips are pushing out of the ground. The patio off our bedroom is filled with the aroma of dozens of hyacinths – what a

pleasure to the senses. Each season brings delights.

See you on the 13<sup>th</sup> at DeHaven’s.  
- Steve Maki

### April Meeting

**Date: Tuesday April 13**

**Time: 7:30 P.M.**

**Special Place:  
De Haven Home-Garden  
SHOWPLACE  
775 Shawnee Rd,  
Lima, Ohio**

**The Gardeners of Lima will visit the De Haven garden center to see spring plants and to hear Tim DeHaven talk about what is new this year.**

Thank you Thank you Thank you

A Special Thank You  
to

**Jim Hunsaker**

for donating his labor and materials for the rekeying of the locks at the clubhouse.

Thank you Thank you Thank you



Don McClure, speaker at the March meeting, said that when considering a career he hated the thought of being inside all the time. He was an undergraduate student at Akron University when a soil and water conservation agent gave a speech. He told the speaker that he was very interested in soil and water conservation. The speaker suggested an agronomy degree from Ohio State University. And, that is what he got. He got a Bachelor of Science in agronomy with a specialization in soil management from The Ohio State University. And, his career allows him to work outside also.

Covering area of 100,000 acres of Findlay Ohio to the north, Dayton Ohio to the south, Logansport, Indiana to the west, and Columbus Ohio to the east, he works in the Findlay, Ohio office of the US Dept of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Services (formerly known as Soil Conservation Services). He doesn't work with just farmers, although they can have important soil-related questions. He answers questions for the public, provides information for government entities—like sanitarians, who want to know

where water is located, and solves mysteries-I guess related to soil. “Solve mysteries” is what he said!

First, he talked about why Allen County has the soil it has. Then he talked about improving soil for gardening without carrying home big bags from a home improvement center. He went back in time—way back in time! Back some 15,000 years ago to when the “Wisconsin glaciations came through Allen County.” The glacier was a mile thick, he said. He said the glacier moved on top of snow. The glacier sopped moving and moved backwards when it came to a spot when there was no snow.

The ice melted at the bottom of the glacier from the friction of moving, and huge amounts of debris moved through the water at the bottom of the glacier. The debris was dropped by the glacier whenever it stopped moving.

The dropped debris became moraines. Moraines are very different depending upon what debris was dropped. Some soils were at first very bad for plant growth because of what was dropped.

Some debris contained minerals that were toxic to plants and sometimes the

soil consistency did not foster plant growth. Toxic soils were modified by climate eventually allowing plant growth in nearly all areas of Allen County.

The north part of Allen County is flat because the glacier moved back and forth effectively flattening the terrain. West Minster has a muck field that is decayed plant matter. Bluffton's Little Riley Creek area has a lot of limestone.

Then, he moved on to soil “nutrient management,” which can also be called the fertility of the soil. He said basics for improving soil are as follows:

Reduce tillage allowing less compaction and less disturbing of earthworms and micro organisms like fungus and bacteria. And, tilling causes weed seeds to germinate.

Increase the amount of vegetation grown and lengthen the time that vegetation and ground cover are growing to as much of the year as possible. Winter rye and Austrian rye can be grown in spring until beginning of May and in the fall until a hard frost. Mowing at the end of rye growing season shreds the plants into more nutrients for the soil.

Increase compost by using shredded plant material, manure, leaves—maple leaves break down best, and other organic stuff.

The map he had to explain different soil types in Allen County is attached.

**Clubhouse & Grounds**  
**Clean-up**  
**- Saturday April 17-**

Starting in the morning, then we need to prepare grounds for planting and clean the clubhouse.

More details should be available at the monthly meeting on April 13.

**Spring Plant Sale-May 7 & 8**

at: Elmview (Shawnee & Breese Roads) on:  
Friday, May 7 (most of the day) &  
Saturday, May 8 (morning only)

All able hands will be needed to help with setup on Thursday and to conduct the sale on Friday and Saturday. These are work days, but expect to have lots of fun seeing and talking to people, and looking at the beautiful plants.

Attached is plant sale flyer. Post it around or give copies.

**The Gardeners of Lima**

**Things to do in 2010**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every month at 7:30 PM is the general

meeting with interesting speakers and with gardens are for sharing.

Last Thursday every month at 7:00 is the board meeting

**Meeting Schedule - 2010**

Tuesday May 11, 2010  
Program – TBA

Tuesday June 8, 2010  
Annual Garden tours  
Leave from Faurot Park Clubhouse at 6:30 PM.

Tuesday, July 13, 2010  
Program - TBA –

Tuesday, August 10, 2010  
Program - TBA

Tuesday, September 14, 2010  
Bill Lanning on Gourds (or in August)

Tuesday, October 12, 2010  
Potluck and Halloween Party

Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
Program - TBD

Tuesday, December 14, 2010  
Christmas Party  
Location – not determined

**Other Activities**

April 10, 2010 - Regional Spring Meeting, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio

May 7 & 8 (Friday & Saturday) is Spring plant sale  
May is downtown and clubhouse planting.

June 10, 11, 12 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) National Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. See TGOA/ MGCA Members' Newsletter (national newsletter) at the national website.

Springtime until frost is maintenance of downtown and clubhouse grounds

July 30-31, 2010 Regional Summer Conference, Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio.

August and September meetings - Biggest Tomato contest weigh-ins.

**2010 Officers**

President – Steve Maki  
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1<sup>st</sup> VP & Program chair –  
Nancy Siatkosky  
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Corresponding Secretary –  
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(419) 516-8020

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If you have any thing to put on the website or in this newsletter, please contact Teresa Heath (419) 516-8020 or [heathter@wcoil.com](mailto:heathter@wcoil.com)

To visit website of The Gardeners of Lima:

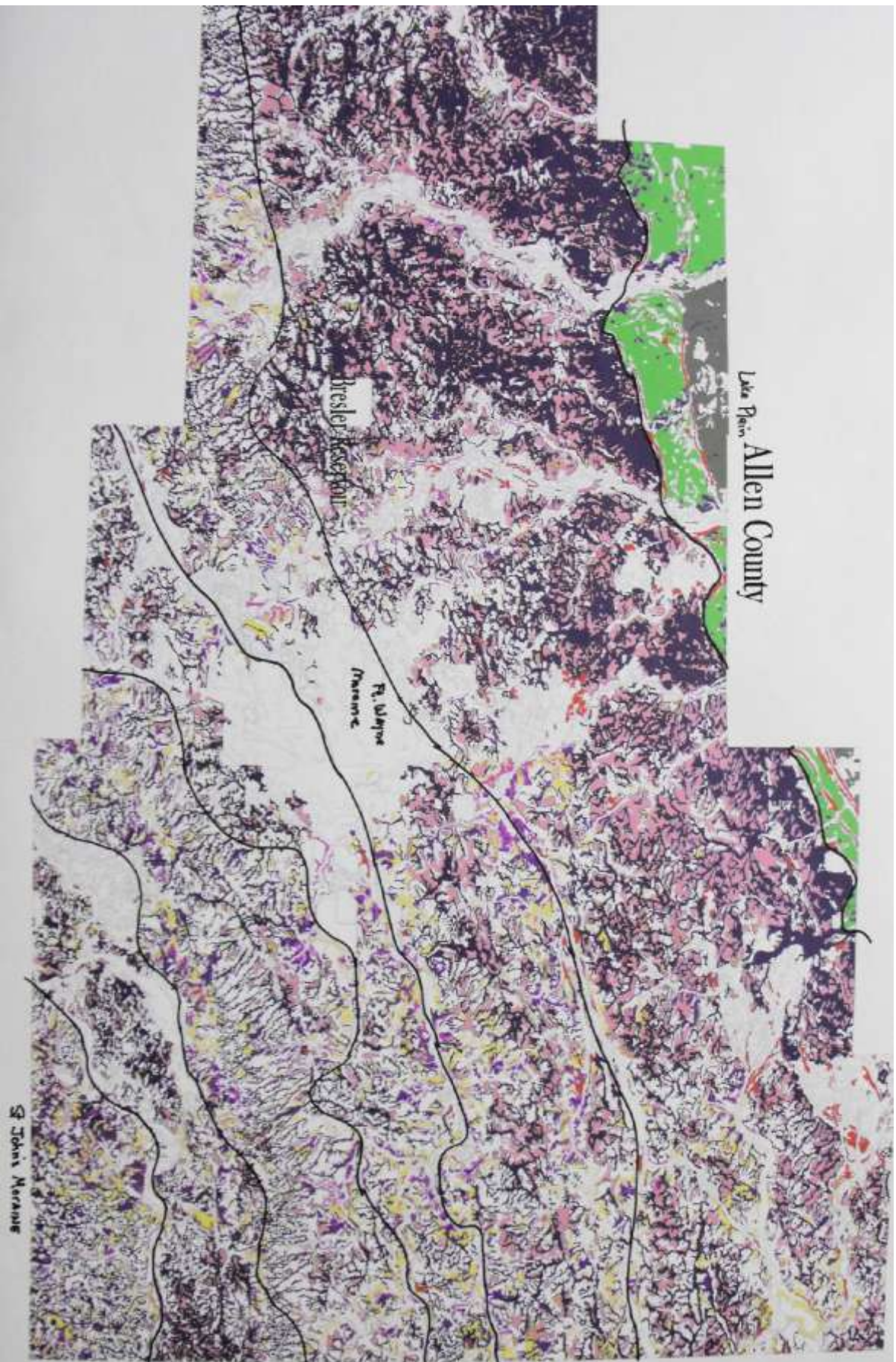
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Low Plains, Allen County



# The Gardeners of Lima

(formerly The Men's Garden Club of Lima)



# SPRING PLANT SALE

at Elmview (Shawnee & Breese) under the big tent

May 7 (Friday) 8 AM – 5 PM

&

May 8 (Saturday) 8 AM – Noon

Many Geraniums types— colors found only at this sale

Hanging flower baskets--great for Mother's Day

Annuals & Vegetables—sold in flats and sold separately

All  
Top  
Quality!



Funds raised go toward giving horticultural scholarships, plantings in downtown & in Faurot Park