



1 Section Tuesday, March 31, 2026 Volume 67 Number 17

The Beauty of God's Creation



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Walking into God's Beauty – Simpson Garden Park

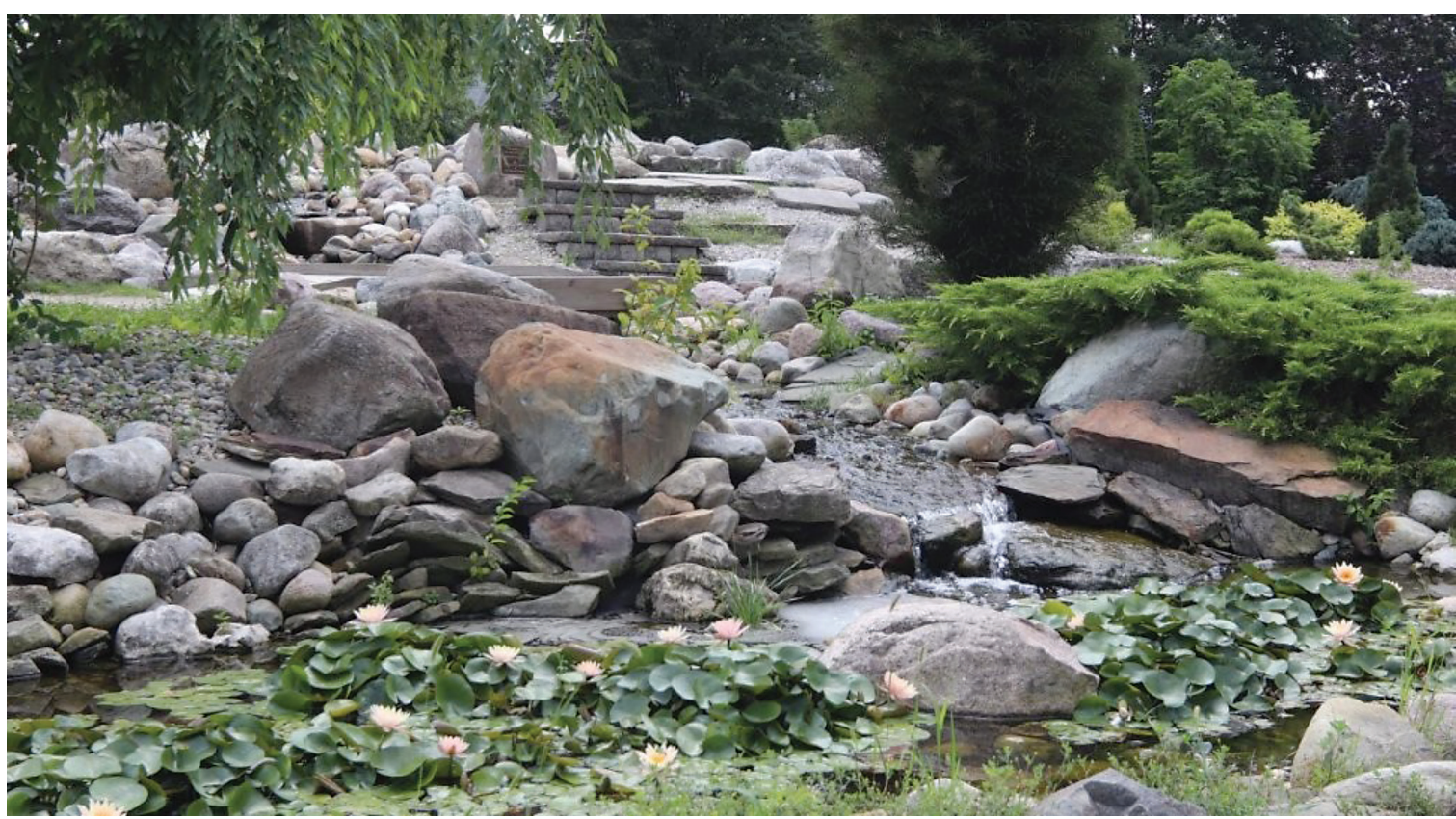


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Serenity – The Peace Garden

By Lori Wachtman

“Let us be silent that we may hear the whisper of God.”
Emerson

Quiet and solitude....
The beauty of nature is all

around us this time of year, as winter begins to leave behind it's chill and spring begins to show it's warming face.

The teardrops in the snow, crocuses, daffodils, and tulips are beginning to

awaken after their winter hibernation, gracing us with their beauty.

The robin joyfully greets us each morning and throughout the day with it's sweet melody.

The trees begin to show

their buds teasing us with hopes that springtime will soon be here.

In our corner of Ohio and southeast Michigan, we are fortunate to experience

(Continued on Page 8)

Poor Will's Farmland News Almanack

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April 1 - 7

*And the Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on
Earth's dark breast
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.
The snowdrop and then the violet,
Arose from the ground with warm rain wet;*

Percy Bysshe Shelly

Phases of the Robin Chorus Moon And the Goose Nesting Moon

April 1: the Moon is full;
April 10: The Moon enters its final quarter.
April 17: The Goose Nesting Moon is new.
April 24: The moon enters its second quarter.
May 1: The Moon is full.

The Weather of the Week Ahead

Two major weather systems, one arriving on the 2nd and another coming in on the 6th, usually dominate the first quarter of April in the Lower Midwest, increasing the chance of precipitation. Snow is most likely to fall on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th. There is a 20 percent chance of a high in the 80s this week, and there is more than a 50 percent chance of an afternoon in the 60s or 70s. Still, the first quarter of the fourth month is its coldest quarter, and daily chances of frost remain steady at an average of 40 percent throughout the period.

Miami FL Natural Calendar

Middle Spring begins at the opening of Field Corn and Sweet Corn Planting Seasons, Lettuce and Spinach and Peas, Carrot, Beet, Turnip, Onion, Collard, Kale, Brussels Sprouts and Potato Planting Seasons, Middle Spring Wildflower Season (violets, bluebells, twinleaf, bloodroot, purple cress, swamp buttercup and hepatica in flower most years).

Oats Planting Season is getting underway.
Forsythia Blossom Season and Weeping Cherry Flowering Season color the streets.
It's American Toad and Green Frog Song Season, the first week of Duckling and Gosling Hatching Season, the first week of Barn Swallow Season and House Wren Mating Season.

In cooler springs, Daffodil Season has started in the dooryards pacing bright blue Squill Season, filling in at the end of Early Spring's Aconite and Snow Crocus Seasons.

Throughout the Northern Hemisphere, all these seasons of Middle Spring may occur in different weeks or months, but most often, they appear together.

Average Blooming Dates for Wildflowers and Weeds

March 29: Spring Beauty, Hepatica, Bloodroot,

Dutchman's Britches

March 30: Small-flowered Bittercress,
March 31: Virginia Bluebell, Cut-Leaved Toothwort
April 1: Early Season Daffodils, Grape Hyacinth, Ground Ivy
April 2: Forsythia, Box Elder, Yellow Violet, Rue Anemone
April 3: Small-flowered Buttercup, Creeping Phlox
April 4: Swamp Buttercup, Shepherd's Purse

In the Field and Garden

Remove mulch from around rose bushes. Spread manure or other fertilizer before the major growing season gets underway.

Complete all field planting preparations. Seven weeks remain until the most tender vegetables and flowers can be set out in the garden.

Commercial potato planting is typically underway, and farmers are band seeding alfalfa.

Be sure your boars are getting enough vitamin E and selenium so they will be ready for breeding.

Plan ahead to serve the graduation cookout market – high school and college graduations can start as early as the first week in April and extend into the middle of June.

Countdown to Summer

- Within a few days goldfinches will be all gold and the fat toads sing
- Two weeks until lilacs bloom in your dooryards
- Three weeks until all the honeysuckles flower
- Four weeks to morel and May apple blooming seasons
- Five weeks to the first rhubarb pie
- Six weeks to the great warbler migration through the Lower Midwest
- Seven weeks to the first peas from the garden
- Eight weeks until the first orange daylilies blossom
- Nine weeks until the high canopy begins shades the garden
- Ten weeks until the first mulberries are sweet for picking and cottonwood cotton drifts in the wind.

Journal: Nowhere to Go

I was talking to my sister Roberta the other day, and she reminded me of something she had told me years ago after she took part in a zen retreat with Thich Nhat Hahn in San Francisco.

To make a long story short, she shared the lines that the monks and participants often chanted as they did their chores.

*Nowhere to go,
Nothing to do,
No reason to hurry,
No reason to worry.*

Since Roberta's retreat decades ago, the "Nowhere to go,/Nothing to do" theme has taken root in song and in the popular world of mindfulness literature..

And the verses are especially relevant now. In these lazy but compelling days of Late Spring, when there is so much to do and so little motiva-

tion to do it, when spring fever contradicts necessity and practicality with delicious lethargy and the ultimate fantasy of fulfillment without pain, it is tempting, at least for me, to just sit and watch the trees get leaves and repeat the monkish chant.

At first, the lines seem obviously untrue or irrelevant. Like the use of any mantra, however, repetition is the secret. The more I practice, the more sense they make.

ALMANACK LITERATURE *The Most Amazing Fish Story (And It Is True)*

By Donald Michael, Xenia, Ohio

When I was discharged from the army after World War II, we were sitting around the supper table on our farm south of Bellbrook, Ohio. We were talking about all the things that are missed when you're gone.

Dad said to me, "Let's go fishing." It was starting to get dark, so we went out behind the barn and dug some worms.

Taking a lantern, we went to the Little Miami River between Spring Valley and Waynesville. We both baited the hooks and I cast out.

There were tree limbs hanging out over the water, so Dad decided to pull some line out and spin the bait around like a lasso, and it went out over the water and got caught on a tree limb.

He yanked on the line, and it broke.

He put on a new hook, baited up and tossed it out again the same way. It got caught again.

After several yanks, it let loose. When he pulled it in, both the hooks and bait came in. The barb of the second hook went into the eye of the first hook and both came back.

Dad belonged to the Lion's Club in Bellbrook. They have what is called a Liars' Club. Whoever could tell the biggest whopper would win a small prize. Nobody would believe that catching one fishhook into the eye of another hook could happen. If I hadn't been with him and seen it happen, I would not believe it either. That is only one of the many things I remember about my dad

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Do This In Remembrance of Me

Words of Inspiration

By Administrative Elder

Ted Blohm

Hello & greetings,

We recently had communion with a thought that tied back to the days of the Bible in Exodus Chapter 32.

Moses had just received the 10 Commandments from the Lord and was returning to camp.

What he found infuriated him.

Not only were the people partying (term of today) but they had made a golden calf and were **WORSHIPING IT!**

These people were impatient & didn't want to wait on Moses.

They were forgetful – they forgot about their exodus from under Pharaoh's regime, which involved walking across a river on dry land.

This was just one of so many other miracles that they had forgotten. Isn't this just like us today.

Do you remember all the things that the Lord has saved you from

and provided for you?

We are a people with very short memories and work often times in environments where your worth is measured by "what have you done for me lately?"

As we reflected upon Jesus'

words in Luke 22:verses 19 & 20:

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup saying, "This cup

is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

His instructions were clear, to **REMEMBER.**

Remember what he instructed us to do and how to do it.

A constant reminder of what Jesus did, later on in 1 Corinthians 11:25-26, Paul stated, in the same way he also took the cup, after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood."

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

So, we encourage you to especially remember what Jesus did for each of us, making a way of forgiveness of our sins.

We celebrate this victory with the Easter season which we are to remember.



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Evergreen FFA Receives a Gold Rating & a Top 10 State Placing

Alexis Howell, Advisor

The Evergreen FFA Chapter achieved a gold rated state award which has not been completed for over two decades.

The National Chapter Award is a state and national award within the National FFA Organization.

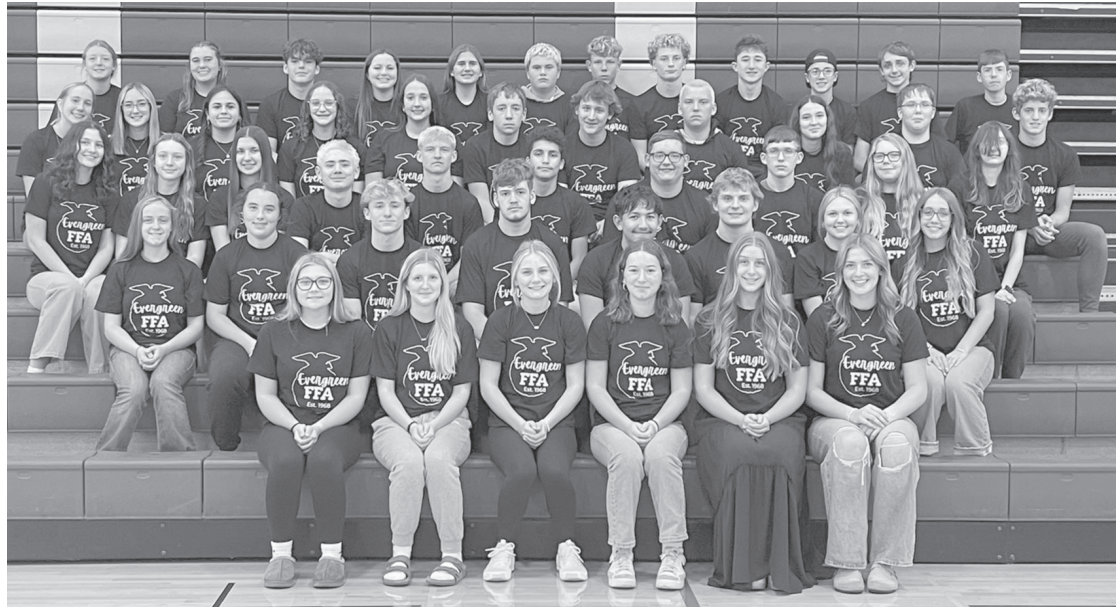
Within this award area, there is a three rank system with gold, silver, and bronze.

This year the Evergreen FFA made a goal to apply for this award in hopes of receiving at least a gold rating.

The chapter was able to successfully achieve such a goal and even receive a bonus with a top 10 placing in the Strengthening Agriculture division.

With the gold rating, the Evergreen FFA Chapter is in the top 15% in the state and will advance to the national level later this summer.

In late March, the chapter will continue their venture by competing in the Strengthening Agriculture



The Evergreen FFA Chapter

interviews against nine other FFA chapters across the state.

The chapter has conducted three large events in the category to bring them to this top 10.

The events include an elementary agricultural day last May, agricultural safety program with the middle



schoolers, and a recruitment activity with the eighth graders in February.

The National Chapter award program recognizes FFA chapters for their events and activities benefiting the three aspects of the program of activities (yearly calendar) through growing leaders, building

communities, and strengthening agriculture.

This award measures how a chapter contributes to its members' personal growth, to the community, and the agricultural industry.

To be able to apply for this award area, the chapter must plan, execute, and evaluate 15 different activities under the program of activities.

This year, the chapter decided to utilize committees within their chapter to be able to effectively develop 15 activities aside from the traditional events such as raising awareness for pediatric cancer through the Gold Games and officer retreat.

Each FFA member in the chapter was a part of these planning committees.

With the support of the committees, the chapter was able to introduce new events such as Career Development Event Speed Dating Workshops and recyclable Christmas ornament making for those in need.

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Want To Go Fishing? Head For Mullett

Mullett lake, near Cheboygan Michigan is a great place to catch some fish.

I don't know how many times I've fished there, but it's definitely not enough.

Located in Cheboygan county in the northernmost part of the Lower Peninsula, Mullett is a big, sprawling lake of 17,360 acres with a maximum depth of approximately 120 feet and is part of the Inland Waterway.

With 28 miles of shoreline there are many opportunities for boating, fishing, jet-skiing and a plethora of water sports.

Many boat rental agencies dot the shoreline.

The surrounding area is beautiful, especially in the fall when autumn turns the hardwood forests into a rainbow of colors, if you've never been to the area, you will fall in love with it.

As mentioned, this is a lake with some pretty deep spots.

The primary target species is the golden-sided walleye, but it also holds good populations of perch, large and smallmouth bass, several species of trout, including lakera, crappies, catfish, pike, muskies, panfish and lake sturgeon.

In fact, the state record sturgeon came from this lake.

As a member of professional walleye angler Mark Martin's media staff, I've had the opportunity to fish here both through the ice and during the open water season...I'm not certain which one I enjoyed more since the fishing has been good during both.

During the warm summer and fall months, anglers rely on jigs, live bait rigs, i.e., Lindy rigs, crawler harnesses, and minnows for walleye and perch.

Many fishermen prefer to fish for perch through the ice, utilizing small spoons tipped with minnows.

Typically, fishermen launch their boats at Jack's Mullet Lake Marina and then fish productive areas such as the Indian River inlet, Dodge's Point, Parrot's Point, and Burt Lake State Park.

Graybeard Outdoors

by ol' Graybeard



A very successful day of fishing, even better with a friend.

When Old Man Winter blows his icy breath, many anglers, (myself included), look forward to fishing the hard water.

A typical day on the ice is as follows:

Make a quick stop at the Katfisher Bait and Tackle for a scoop of lively minnows – hop on the snowmobile – run to to a designated area that we have found on our Lowrance electronics and our Navionics chips – break out the Strikemaster auger – drill several holes – get out the Humminbird Mega Live – set up the Clam ice shelters and drop some lines.

No doubt the most success we've had has been by using Rapala Jiggin' Raps, Northsnd Rattle spoons, Tingle Spoons, Slender spoons, Do-Jiggers, Acme Little Cleo spoons, and Acme Sidewinder spoons.

This last January I caught every one of my fish on a black/gold Jiggin' Rap.

Almost every spoon, jig,

Rap, etc. is tipped with a minnow head.

Yes, fish can be caught with a whole minnow, I caught some that way this winter, but by and large the walleyes and perch prefer just the head impaled on one of the barbs of a treble hook.

We lower the spoon to the bottom, jig it a few times in the mud bottom to stir up the silt then raise it about one or two feet off the bottom.

This simulates a minnow that has been wounded, struggled on the bottom and is trying to right itself in the water column.

Typically, the fish can't stand this and they strike the lure as it is rising.

If we have a strike and a miss, we drop the lure to the bottom, repeat the process and again raise the lure.

Time after time this seems to result in a healthy strike.

Watching the lines that indicate a rising fish on a

Vexilar or a Lowrance and then fighting that fish up through the ice is one of the greatest thrills in sport fishing.

This year we were catching our fish in depths between 50-60 feet, which meant a really good fight on the way up!

After the pictures are taken and the fish are cleaned, a great meal or two or three awaits the angler, whether he/she has caught the fish in June or January...they always taste great!

This winter I had an unexpected treat when my fishing partner Gary Burch

pulled out a propane heater/stove, a skillet, some oil and some bread and fried a mess of walleye fillets right in the shanty while we were fishing.

We ate like kings!

However, there is more to the Cheboygan area than just fishing.

Seasonal recreation trails offer everything the biker, snowmobiler, four-wheeler or hiker could want.

Restaurants such as Mullanigan's, The Great Lakes Grill or the BC Pizza provide great meals at reasonable prices.

Cheboygan really is a friendly town.

The kids will enjoy the Cheboygan County Fair, the 4th of July parade, the Cheboygan Fire Department Kiddies Day picnic, visiting the area lighthouses, and many other activities.

Mushroom hunters will have a field day here.

Plus, the fall and winter seasons provide a plethora of bear, deer and turkey hunting opportunities.

Cheboygan/Mullett lake is not just for kids, there is something that will appeal to anyone of any age.

For more information contact: Carole Yeck, Exec. Dir. Cheboygan Area Visitor's Bureau, Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce at- carole@cheboygan.com 231-445-0318 or markmartins.net. for information on both warm water as well as ice fishing vacation/schools. See ya on the water.

John Bennett is an outdoor writer from Lima, Ohio. He's a retired educator and a historical re-enactor. Graybeard is his "camp name." In addition, he's a husband, father and grandfather, as well as a four-season outdoorsman. FN

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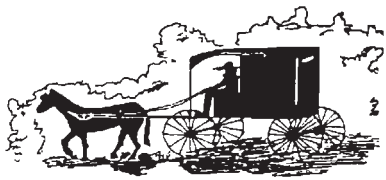
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The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



A Special Day

Morning dawns. March 19th stays etched in memory.

Sixteen years ago I rose early, eager to meet the young man who would be called my husband by that afternoon.

It was a day like no other. I was happy and I was young, only 20 years old at the time.

Little had I thought what would transpire in my life, but God knew, and on that day He wanted to shower me with His blessings.

Today those are happy memories, even though Daniel is no longer on this side of eternity.

Somehow the grace of God has made those memories to be good, and today to be good, on what would have been our 16th wedding anniversary.

Four years ago, when I first thought of the title of a widow, it tried to taunt me, but as time went on I realized that it was like any other calling God gives to those who seek to serve Him.

He calls, and His children follow, no matter the sacrifice and tears.

A year after Daniel passed I was convicted to not only accept this calling, but to also embrace it as well.

It was a stretch at first to tell God that I take it, I receive this calling, like pulling it to myself.

But oh, the joy of being

where He has called me to be!

It is a safe place that He custom designed for me.

With that I am thankful that He understands the heartache that goes with it and the battle of parenting alone.

Since He cares, He allows enough hard things to surface to keep reminding me that I cannot do it on my own, yet provides so deeply that we know we are covered.

Yes, today has been a good day, one with joys and tears.

The forecast for today had looked more cloudy and cool.

I told God that a nice day would mean so much to me. He granted it!

The weather was perfect, much like it was 16 years ago.

Bless His name.

This forenoon I tutored 3rd grade math for an hour and a half, then took the opportunity to do some extra cleaning and organizing in my bedroom.

Many little things reminded me of what was.

As I contemplated, I realized that the only fair option to myself is to look to God, living life for today — not tomorrow, not next year, or 10 years from now, but simply today.

That is the only place I have found true joy to seep into my heart and peace flood my being.

As God said to Moses thousands of years ago, "I

Recipe Of The Week

Sour Cream Pizza Strips

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 2 cups baking buttermilk mix | 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| 2/3 cup milk | 1/4 cup Roman cheese |
| 1 teaspoon salt or (other seasonings can be used) | 1/4 cup chopped onion |
| 8-oz. sour cream | 2 tablespoons chopped pimientos |
| 1/2 cup mayonnaise | 1 tablespoon chopped parsley |
| | 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder |

Grease a 9x13x2-inch baking dish.

Stir together the buttermilk mix, milk and salt to make a soft dough.

Turn out onto a well floured surface; knead lightly 10 strokes.

Pat onto the bottom and up the sides of the baking dish, forming a small rim; set aside.

Mix the rest of the ingredients together.

Spread mixture over the dough.

Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until olden brown.

Cut into 32 rectangle strips and serve; refrigerate leftovers.

This Recipe of the Week is from Eva George, McComb, Ohio

AM that I AM."

Even back then God's people found Him to be faithful when they would simply live in the moment!

You know what I really like about that?

Moments make up years, and eventually those moments on earth will have passed and we will live in exuberant joy in the very presence of the One who made us to worship Him eternally!

The afternoon passed swiftly with various meetings.

Those turned out to be more opportunities of embracing life, to be the one representing our home instead of sitting back and listening to Daniel.

It was good, but by supper time I was ready to sit down in the front yard with the children and unwind with Miss Lehman's delicious supper she so graciously brought for us.

The chicken bacon ranch casserole was tops, as were the blueberry muffins and tapioca with diced oranges.

Even after the chores were done, the sheep pen moved, and supper eaten, I felt like I needed to air out some more.

"Let's go on a drive with Sapphire!" I posed.

No one needed convincing.

Everyone chipped in with the dishes.

By 6:30 we were clipping down the blacktop road with our open wagon and our Standardbred mare.

Several of my neph-

ews followed with Grandpa's golf cart that maxes out at 22 miles per hour.

When they passed us, the children on board had their competitive spirits come to life — needless to say, from time to time there were choruses of young voices cheering, "Come on Sapphire, you can do it, good girl, Sapphire!"

On a flat stretch we took the chance.

To the delight of all on the wagon, we inched our way up and passed.

When we pulled in at Grandpa's, I turned to the one who had been driving the golf cart and with an all-in-fun grin told him I wouldn't say how much fun that was for us!

Why does everyone like to win, anyway?

The evening was topped off with s'mores around the fire at Grandpa's and another ride home before dark.

Again it was bedtime at the Yoders.

Another day was through.

Moments had filled up March 19th, and for 2026 it would be gone for good.

What is done for Christ will last; what is sought for myself has vanished.

Take a moment to make this three-layer grape jello dessert we had on our wedding day.

The clear stem bowls with jello were placed over the tables and passed with dessert.

Separate ones were made in goblets for those of us at the bridal table.

Gloria's Grape Jello Salad

1st mixture:

- 1/4 cup grape jello
- 2/3 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup ice water

Mix boiling water with jello, mix until dissolved, add ice water.

Pour into a 5 cup serving bowl. (I like using a clear glass bowl that shows the three layers.)

Chill.

2nd mixture:

- 3-1/2 tablespoons grape jello
- 1/3 cup boiling water
- 2-1/2 tablespoons cold water
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons powdered sugar

Dissolve jello in hot water, add cold water, chill until it has a syrupy consistency.

Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar, add whipped topping (already whipped), only a little at a time, to keep it from getting lumpy.

When blended, add jello mixture and pour on first layer that has chilled until set.

Chill again until set then repeat first layer, and pour on top of second mixture.

Readers may write Gloria with culinary or cultural questions at: Gloria Yoder, 10510 E. 350th Avenue, Flat Rock, IL 62427. FN

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SHARE A FAVORITE RECIPE OF YOURS ...

Just send us a recipe and we will use it for our **RECIPE OF THE WEEK!**



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Feel free to send a couple extra recipes to use for Reader Recipes.

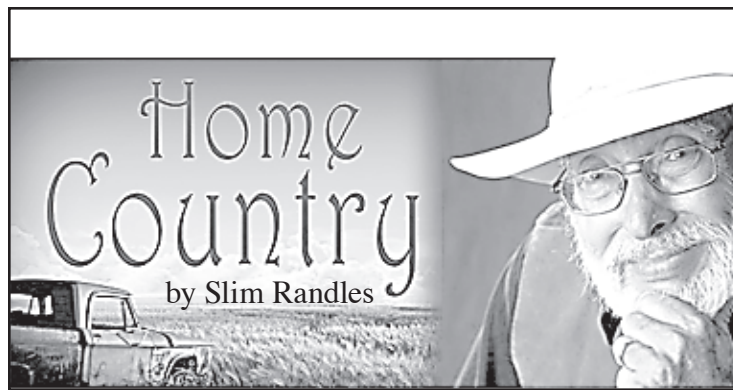


Blast From The Past...

Farmland News 1966

Many Years Ago You May Have Heard Them Say

- If an owl hoots before seven in the evening, it will be nice weather.
- If the chickens stay out very late in the evening, a storm is brewing.
- If you get your clothes on inside out or hindside fore, you will have bad luck if you chance.
- If you have warts, steal your neighbor's dishrag and bury it. Then your warts will disappear.
- If you bake the first milk from fresh cows and feed it to children, it acts as a brain stimulant.
- If you drop your dishrag on the floor, someone is coming who is dirtier than you are.
- Mate a cow on Sunday for daylight birth. Mate her on a weekday and the calf will be born in darkness.
- If a horse throws a shoe, never pick it up unless it points toward you, or the horse will have an accident.
- When a cat washes its face with its paws you are going to get company, and whichever direction the cat's tail points, they will come that way.
- Sundogs on each side of the sun - stormy weather ahead. If the north one vanishes first, warm weather is due. If the south one goes first get out your red flannels.



Spring mornings are a lot like Christmas.

Each day we get up and go out into the yard, or walk along the creek or visit the horses in the pasture.

And each day, each morning, we find something new the sun has brought us.

Pinfeather leaves of an unbelievable green now start showing on cottonwoods that have stood like stark ghostly frames all through the cold winter.

Hopeful blades of grass peek through clumps of brown left over from last summer's verdant pasture.

Everywhere we look there is something new and different.

A lot of this Christmas-in-spring is kept just among us, because we might be accused of being ... well ...

poetic if we told people why we were really carrying that coffee cup out into the yard.

So we say lame things like "I think I'll get some of that fresh air this morning."

What we really mean, of course, is "I want to see if Richardson's bay mare has had that foal yet."

Some of us have worked very hard last fall and winter to prepare for this spring.

By grafting. OK, we have a Granny Smith apple tree.

Let's see if we can't get a branch of Rome Beauties or Jonagolds to grow on it, too. And we understand completely that where we live no olive tree can survive the winter.

That isn't supposed to stop us from trying, is it?

Nature pitches us a boat-

load of challenges each day that we're alive.

This plant needs more water than falls naturally here.

That tree can't take the temperatures we get.

This little tree needs soil with more organic matter in it.

And those challenges are the stuff winter dreams are made of.

We do the best we can to cure the lack, the freeze, the drought, and then we wait for April.

We wait impatiently until we can come out of the house some morning and check the grafts on the apple tree and see tiny green leaves coming on the grafted branch.

We search the bare ground where we planted that new kind of seed that won't grow here - to see if it'll grow here.

It is a continuing feast of green, a triumph of anticipation.

An April morning can make us want to sing.

Brought to you by your neighbors at the Farmland News. Stop by and say hi. FN



Farmland News 1964

There are occasions when it is necessary to drive a row of tacks uniformly spaced and precisely in line. Fold a sheet of paper, draw a pencil line if desired, press the tacks through the paper. Locate on the work and drive each tack individually.

* * * * *

Nails won't rust out and allow boards to loosen if all exposed nail heads are countersunk and covered with putty and the board is given a good coat of paint.

* * * * *

One of the best places to store those extra hacksaw blades you always need and can't find is right on the saw itself. Then if you can find the saw you have the blades. Tape several blades of different sizes to the top member of the saw frame.

* * * * *

If you've ever had to use a pair of pliers with one hand while working in a tight place, you'll welcome this suggestion: A piece of old garden hose looped over the handles will keep them open. A squeeze of hand tightens jaws.

* * * * *

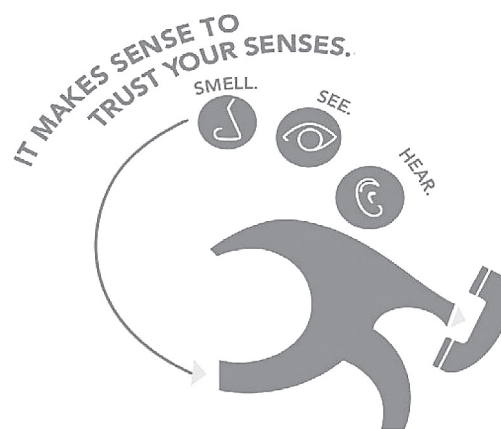
A reflector on your barn lights lets you use smaller bulbs. A 60 watt bulb with a reflector will provide about the same light as a 100 watt bulb without a reflector.

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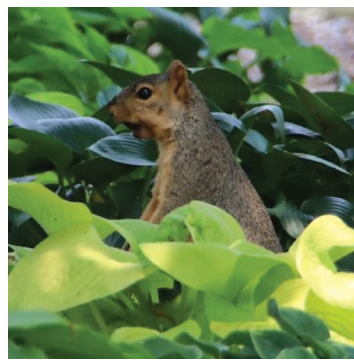
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A fun Gate into the Children's Garden



Peeping up in the Hostas



Waterfall in the Sensory Garden



Dappled with sunlight – Astilbe in the Hostas



Beautiful Waterlilies



Orange Butterfly Milkweed



Sharing the Gardens with a friend

THE BEAUTY
(Continued From Page 1)

the beauty of nature having many wonderful places to visit anytime of the year, especially in the springtime.

Whether one is enjoying a walk thru Goll's Woods or Oak Openings; walking along the towpath of the Miami and Erie Canal following the Maumee River, visiting one of the many Metro parks in Lucas County, or strolling thru one of the many gardens in our corner of NW Ohio and lower Michigan, we can definitely enjoy the quiet solitude and beauty of nature around us.

In our corner of Ohio, there is a hidden gem in Bowling Green, Ohio at the corner of Conneaut and Wintergarden Roads where one can experience



Stunning Crinum Lilies in full bloom



Peace Garden



Daylilies after a light rain

(Continued on Page 9)



A burst of bright Pink Phlox

THE BEAUTY

(Continued From Page 8)

the beauty of nature – stop to smell the flowers, and if you're fortunate you might even come face to face with a deer or more, that are also enjoying the serene quietness and beauty of their surroundings.

“Simpson Garden Place” is one of our favorite gardens to visit anytime of the year, but especially in the warmer months.

History

The history of Simpson Garden Park began in the early 1900's when the 8 acres of land held at least 5 oil wells.

As time passed the land became a reserve water well for the city that eventually was not needed.

From the 1950's thru 1990's the site was used as a “spoils dump” for debris from construction and road projects.

In 1995 Violet (Newton) Simpson named Bowling Green Parks and Recreation as a beneficiary in her will.

She requested that the monies be used for building improvements at City Park including a new shelter to be built in her and her husband Newton's name along with other projects within the Park and Recreation program.

Three years later when the City was approached to sell the 8 acre piece of property, it was decided to keep it as a “green space”, and in 2000 they were able to purchase the 3 acre Church of

the Nazarene property that was adjacent to the park.

So began the journey to turn the once empty oil field into a place of beauty which eventually would be known as “Simpson Garden Park”, the dream and vision of so many.

Enough on the history of it's beginning.

Simpson Garden

Simpson Garden Park is located along Wintergarden Road on the west side of Bowling Green just a couple miles off of Route 6.

It consists of a 0.5 mile trail loop within this 11 acre piece of beauty traversing by and thru many different types of gardens.

The various gardens include:

1) **Children's Discovery Garden** – a place where children can explore hands on wildlife found in the garden and in the garden pond.

2) **Sensory Garden** – garden beds that are raised to enhance sight, smell and touch of the unique plants.

3) **Healing Garden** – holistic healing area that has historical medicinal plants.

4) **Prairie Garden** – a garden area featuring plants found throughout Northwest Ohio and the Midwest prairies with summer blooms and plants to boost pollinator populations such as honey bees and butterflies.

5) **Peace Garden** – a Japanese style space.

6) **Upland Garden** – features plants that do well in sand, rock or limestone soils.



Over 1400 varieties of Hostas are in the Garden



At peace – take a break in the Adirondack chairs.

7) **Sculpture Garden** – which features rotating artwork.

8) **Shade Garden** – consisting of trees and shrubs where understory plants will evolve to feature shade loving natives and ornamentals.

9) **Hosta Glen** – (one of our very favorite areas) that will amaze you with the names of the Hostas and how many different varieties there are featured here.

One can enjoy the variation of size, shape, and leaf colors of each plant.

Other areas include:

- An “Allee” which is a geometric line of trees popular in Europe, which provide a shaded walkway.

- “Memorial Tree Grove” with trees dedicated in memory of loved ones.

- An “Amphitheater”, and the “Simpson Building” which was the former Church of the Nazarene

and now features a community meeting room, banquet room and other offices.

While we love the whole Garden Park, two of my

personal favorite areas are the:

- “Hosta Glen” which

(Continued on Page 9)

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Young Girl statue in the Children's Garden



Young Boy statue in the Children's Garden



Walkway thru the Peace Garden



The Upland Garden

covers 1/3 acre and is one of the largest public collections in the United States featuring over 1400 varieties of hostas which are astonishingly even more vibrant when they are in bloom, or after a dewy morning or light rain shower, with the sun's rays reflecting off of their glistening leaves.

The hostas are nestled under a canopy of dogwoods, maples, oaks, red-buds and other various trees inside the one acre shade garden with benches to sit on and just enjoy the loveliness and quiet around you.

• Our other favorite area is the "Daylily Beds" showing off hundreds of daylily plants that pictures do not do justice to when they are in full bloom.

Thru out the Garden Park are numerous benches and a few Adirondack chairs, where one can sit and enjoy the peaceful quiet and tranquil beauty around them, listening to the birds singing so sweetly, the buzz of the bumblebees, and watching the playfulness of the squirrels scampering here and there.

If you're fortunate enough you'll share the Park with deer that come to drink from the ponds and rest in the shady areas especially on hot summer days.

In the summer months, you can listen to the trickle of the water as it cascades over a series of rocks creat-

ing little waterfalls, finally ending in a small pool within the Japanese garden where water lilies grace the still waters with their beauty.

The walkways within the Gardens are handicap accessible and parking is close by as well as restroom facilities.

The farthest end of the Park is close to the Wood

County Hospital allowing workers and visitors to come rest and unwind for a little while.

Words and pictures are hard to describe the beauty of the Simpson Garden Park especially when it is in its full grandeur of blossoms.

It truly is a place where one can hear "the whisper of God". FN

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CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☾ ♁ ✨ ☿ ~ ☆ +

Solve the code to discover words related to fishing.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 1 = A)

A. 15 21 1 4

Clue: Rides on water

B. 9 1 4 9 7

Clue: Nab

C. 15 1 3 4

Clue: Lures in

D. 2 3 18 19 20 5

Clue: Heavy item

Answers: A. boat B. catch C. bait D. sinker

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fishing.

TCKAEL

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Tackle

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born in Florida on April 2, 2002. One of my earliest roles was in the television series "The Glades," and I've had a few roles in films. These days I can be found "wolfing out" in a popular Netflix series opposite my macabre roommate.

Answer: Emma Myers

LOVE FISHING WORD SEARCH



U	G	T	T	I	T	P	G	O	T	L	T	A	C	K	L	E	B	I	E
O	P	E	D	E	M	T	H	B	S	U	I	E	J	G	E	S	U	S	M
W	N	R	R	G	N	N	G	R	K	U	M	M	G	B	T	M	A	L	I
A	B	M	A	A	J	E	E	F	U	R	F	K	I	R	H	E	C	F	F
L	P	I	G	B	E	K	J	B	N	I	A	I	I	T	L	S	T	F	G
B	T	N	F	P	N	N	G	F	K	F	N	K	I	E	S	G	R	S	S
S	F	A	I	I	T	J	N	B	E	D	E	S	R	A	A	I	L	I	G
H	I	L	S	S	D	P	I	J	D	T	F	I	I	R	R	T	G	E	S
A	K	N	H	R	I	A	L	E	L	J	I	G	G	I	N	G	L	O	J
S	O	W	I	S	N	S	L	I	T	H	A	H	C	T	A	C	S	O	R
A	O	S	N	B	F	D	O	D	E	G	G	N	I	M	M	U	H	C	O
N	H	F	G	U	W	B	R	K	M	C	M	F	N	B	P	T	I	M	J
G	O	J	T	N	O	S	T	R	U	C	T	U	R	E	O	S	G	F	E
L	H	M	T	W	I	H	I	K	A	U	K	J	E	O	P	B	D	F	I
E	P	P	T	K	S	N	R	H	R	E	D	A	E	L	T	H	B	O	H
R	B	G	T	L	K	I	W	M	P	N	E	E	G	O	F	T	N	E	T
A	P	E	W	M	P	J	G	A	S	B	E	E	B	A	W	S	S	H	R
D	O	A	G	B	A	I	T	H	P	M	D	S	A	L	W	A	B	B	G
J	J	I	U	C	D	G	W	U	T	S	H	D	R	H	G	C	T	F	L
U	P	S	G	F	W	T	E	R	U	L	N	N	R	M	B	B	K	K	L

WORDS

- ANGLER
- BAG
- BAIT
- BOBBER
- CAST
- CATCH
- CHUMMING
- DRAG
- FISHING
- HOOK
- JIGGING
- LEADER
- LIMIT
- LURE
- RELEASE
- SIGHT
- SINKER
- SKUNKED
- SPAWNING
- STRIKE
- STRUCTURE
- TACKLE
- TERMINAL
- TROLLING

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Spring Home Improvement

Repurpose Rooms And Breathe New Life Into A Home

Homeowners do not need to get hung up on room labels as they explore ways to reinvent their spaces.

Just because a floor plan labels a space as a formal dining room doesn't mean the area has to remain that way.

Repurposing rooms in a home comes down to aligning the space a person has with their lifestyle needs.

Here are a few ways to rethink interior spaces and make a switch to improve utility.

Identify Unused Or Under-Used Rooms.

Take note of spaces that are cleaned but rarely used. For many people, this is a dining room or a guest suite.

Either of these rooms can be transformed into something new.

Invest In Multipurpose Furniture.

Even people short on space can transform their homes.



Replacing a traditional bed with a murphy bed or a daybed can make a room more suitable for a home office or yoga studio, but still provide a space for the occasional houseguest to sleep.

A pull-down shelf desk in a bedroom or even a

walk-in closet can turn an area into a compact home workstation.

Claim Dead Space

The area under the stairs or another small spot often is used to collect junk.

Instead, it can be turned into a built-in wine rack, a reading nook for kids or even a pet sanctuary with just a few modifications.

Analyze areas around the home that seem like they don't serve a purpose, and then figure out a way to make them more functional.

Establish Room Zones

Some people simply cannot transform an entire room into something else. Visual partitioning makes it possible to create rooms within rooms. An area rug can be used to define a border of a space. Open

that takes up much of the garage or basement, utility areas are major spots in a home to consider repurposing.

A garage can be turned into a home gym, kids' play area or even a hobby shop.

Modular flooring and insulated walls can make the room comfortable.

Attic lofts are the ultimate quiet zones, and can be serene spots for reading, meditating or doing homework.

An unfinished basement can be converted into a finished space to serve many different purposes.

From media rooms to a teen lounge to a hobby cave, the opportunities are endless.

A good rule of thumb before converting any room is to give it a test run.

Move in a piece of furniture and test how it works with its intended function.

Assess lighting, noise and foot traffic for a week, and then move ahead with changes if the result is positive.

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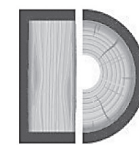
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Spring Home Improvement

High-ROI Outdoor Living Components

Outdoor living has become a coveted feature for many homeowners and those looking to buy.

In 2026, landscape architecture has shifted from something that is purely ornamental to features that are functional and resilient.

The American Society of Landscape Architects says a professionally designed landscape can increase a home's value by anywhere from 15 to 20 percent.

Some projects can yield a return on investment of even more — even recuperating the entire cost.

Where is a homeowner to start when it comes to maximizing the potential of a landscape?

These projects and components can be a good place to start.

Natural Stone Patios

A high-quality patio can offer a great ROI. These patios may use the same stone levels and lines as the interior of the home.

Outdoor Kitchens

HGTV says an outdoor kitchen ROI can range from 55 percent to 200 percent, depending on the location and comparable homes in the area. High-value versions include built-in grills, weather-resistant cabinetry, and stone prep areas.

Climate-Controlled Pergolas

Pergolas on their own can add interest and function to outdoor spaces.

Those that feature motorized louvers that adjust for sun and rain have become a luxury essential for many homeowners.

They help extend the usability of outdoor spaces during various seasons.

Smart Lighting Systems

Integrated systems with LED lights controlled by apps are now major selling points for homes.

These systems improve security and curb appeal at night.

According to Urban Oasis Contracting, outdoor lighting doesn't just show a

space, but also transforms it.

Adding carefully placed lights can redefine the property in distinct ways.

Softscaping Improvements

Mature trees can add character to a property and also reduce cooling costs via natural shade.

Landscapes that require low irrigation are outperforming traditional lawns, according to Organic Valley.

Homeowners looking to get great returns on outdoor living investments can consider prized improvements that transform exterior living spaces.

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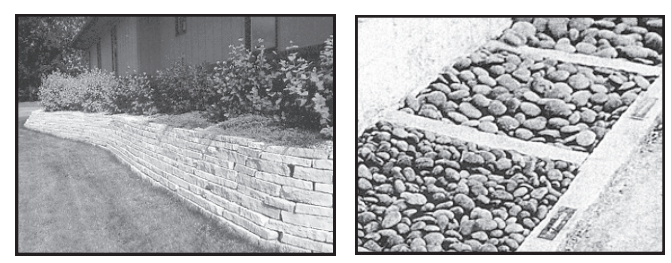


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Land & Legacy

FAIR DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN EQUAL

A publication of Semro Henry Ltd.
BY TIMOTHY J. SEMRO, ESQ.



When Robert “Ice Cream Bob” Braughm walked into my office, I instantly recognized him as the longtime fixture of our lakeside community — the man who’d served soft ice cream to half the town for decades. But behind his cheerful reputation was a father carrying the weight of a difficult decision. Bob owns not only the iconic ice cream stand but also forty acres of solid, well rented farmland, a property he cherishes deeply. After the passing of his wife, he came to me with a familiar worry I often hear from farm families: How do I pass along the land and everything I’ve built without causing my children to drift apart?

As we spoke, it became clear that the farmland sat at the emotional center of Bob’s dilemma. His eldest son, John, had built a pole barn on the property years before—a structure born of sweat equity and a deep connection to the land. The acreage itself is worth good money, around \$10,000 an acre, but for Bob, the value runs much deeper. He told me his father’s old advice, the kind many farmers live by: “Don’t sell land — they’re not making more of it.” Protecting that farm and preventing future conflict meant more to him than any dollar amount ever could.

Then there was the ice cream stand—Bob’s middle child, Bob Jr., has poured fifteen years into running and expanding it. Susan, the youngest, chose a career in nursing and has built a stable life away from the family businesses. Bob felt pulled in every direction. An equal split, he feared, might force a sale of the farm or jeopardize the business his son relies on. I’ve seen this many times: parents want fairness, but they also want stability — and sometimes those goals compete.

That’s when I shared a truth that often brings both clarity and relief to families like his: fair doesn’t always mean equal. Fairness can mean honoring the child who invested years into the business, the one who built the barn, or the one who stayed close to help on the land — while still ensuring the others receive meaningful support through cash, savings, or non farm assets. With the right trust in place, Bob could protect the farmland from forced sales, keep the ice cream stand in steady hands, and prevent his children from becoming accidental business partners destined for conflict.

In the end, Bob made thoughtful, courageous choices. John would receive the barn he built. Bob Jr. would inherit the ice cream stand he helped transform. Susan would receive a larger share of the financial assets to balance things out. It wasn’t equal, but it was undeniably fair. Most importantly, it ensured the farm stayed intact, the business stayed operational, and the relationships Bob valued more than anything would remain strong. For any family rooted in agriculture, Bob’s story is a powerful reminder that good planning can protect both the land and the legacy.

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 Antique furniture, primitives, collectibles, antique beds, dressers, antique bedroom suite, sleep number bed, tables, set of 6 chairs, coffee tables, end tables, floor lamps, table tops, old large picture frames, sewing patterns, jewelry, fashion hats, kitchen supplies, raw honey, glass canisters, Wek canning jars, Tupperware, cookware, carnival glassware, vintage tv trays, oil lamps, skeleton keys, graniteware, canning jars, bottles, large glass jugs, spinning wheel, sewing machine, LP records, 45's, CD's, cassette's, laser discs, 8 tracks, 1980's GM service manuals, Archbold, Stryker school annuals 50's, 60's, 80's, Suzuki student violin, snare drum, storage tubs, 4 drawer file cabinets, shelving, fishing poles, double washtub, yard décor, church benches, galvanized tubs, stain glass church windows, round oak wood stove, double wall chimney pipe, garden tools, bushel baskets, mosquito magnet, power tools, Porter Cable router, Jesada router bits, router table, bench top Delta band saw, Bostitch framing nailer, Paslode finish nailer, bench grinders, bench vices, concrete saw, wrenches, wood ladders, small barn doors, 3550 Ford loader tractor, loader bucket forks, pallet jack, 2 wagon loads of tools and supplies, lots of misc.

AUCTION

Real Estate, Tractors, Equipment, Tools & Household

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026 @ 10AM
 5835 County Road 10, Delta, OH 43515

Real Estate offered at 10am followed by contents. Tractors & Equipment selling @ 11am with online bidding
PREVIEW: Tuesday, April 7 from 5-6:30pm.



Country living on 1 acre in this 2-bedroom ranch home with 30' x 63' pole barn, city water & more! You don't want to miss this! York Twp, Fulton County, Delta schools. Parcel # 29-16A-005-00.

TERMS: Successful bidder requires \$3,000 down in certified non-refundable funds on the day of the auction with balance due at closing. Closing held on or before 40 days. Have finances ready, selling with immediate confirmation. No Buyers Premium. Possession at closing. All information was derived from sources believed to be correct but not guaranteed. Dimensions are approximate. Buyers need to rely entirely on their own judgement and inspections of property records. Announcements made the day of the auction take precedence over printed materials. Appliances & whatever items are left after the auction stay with the real estate.

Personal Property selling same day consisting of Tractors, Lawn Mowers; Tools, Household & more. See whalenauction.com for more information.

**Formerly owned by Estate of Sue Lawrence
 Owner: Clare Lawrence**



AUCTIONEERS:
 John & Jason Whalen, Mike Murry
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Information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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