


# contents

From the Hilltop: What a Change! .....2  
Spot-lite: Farm Technology Review .....3  
Farmpark Calendar.....4  
In Good Season: Once Upon a Hill .....6  
Science & Education: The Dairy Parlor Then & Now .....7

**FARMPARK IS A LAKE METROPARKS FACILITY.**

Farmpark’s mission is to help our urban society understand how farmers raise food, fiber and other products that sustain and enhance human life. Farmpark Almanac is published three times a year by Lake Metroparks. This publication is sent free to Farmpark members.

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Corn Maze entrance during Fall Harvest Festival  
by Blair Bros. Photography

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# What a Change!

by **Andy Baker**

FARMPARK ADMINISTRATOR

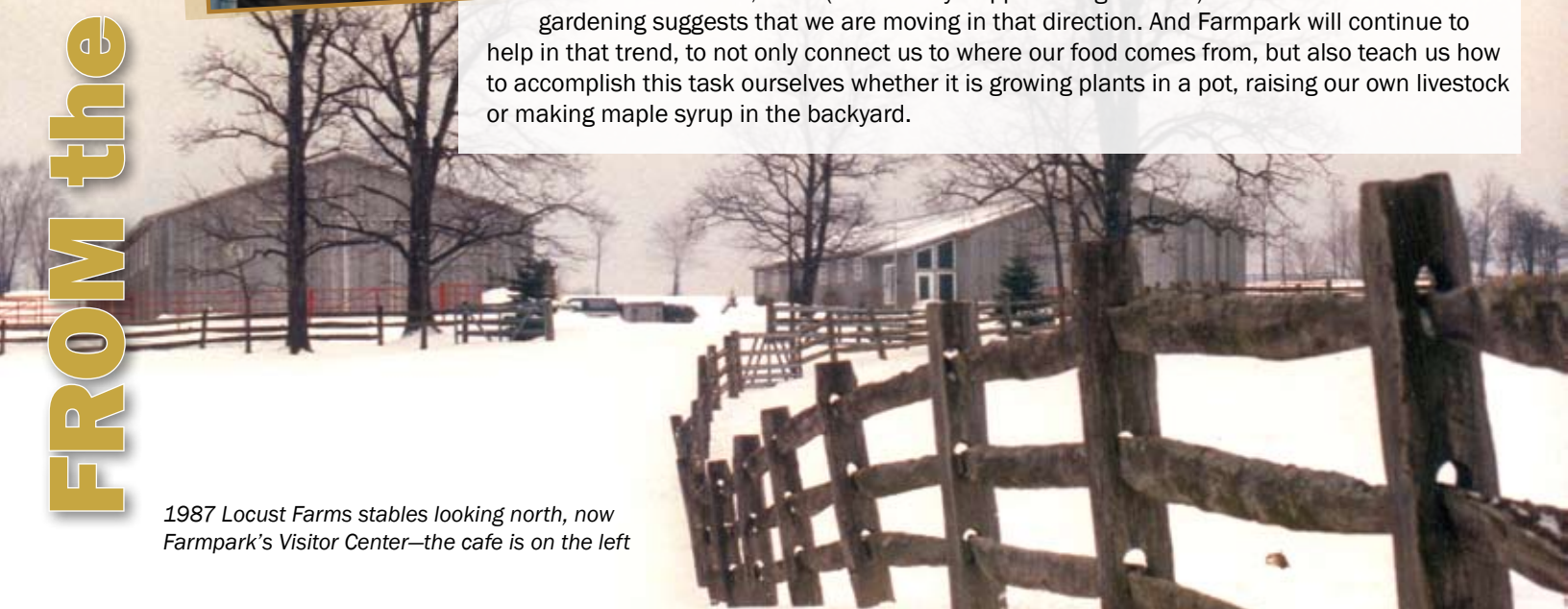
**FROM the HILLTOP**



**WHAT A CHANGE IN 20 YEARS.** For those of us who have been here since Farmpark opened, the time has flown by. We have witnessed many changes at Farmpark, Lake Metroparks and in the world at large since 1990. The world population has grown by more than 1.5 billion people. Farmers in Ohio averaged 174 bushels of corn to the acre last year up more than 50 bushels since 1990. The price of oil and grain have gone down and way up and come back down although not as low as when we started.

Lake Metroparks has changed as well. Farmpark’s opening was only one in a series of new parks, facilities and programs that have been developed and become part of a nationally recognized park system. And Farmpark has grown as well. More than 2.5 million visitors have passed through Farmpark in the past twenty years. And now there is much more to see and do.

So what will happen in the next 20 years? That is hard to say. Twenty years ago some of us thought that reconnecting to our agricultural base would be a good thing. The proliferation of farmer’s markets, CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture) and urban and home gardening suggests that we are moving in that direction. And Farmpark will continue to help in that trend, to not only connect us to where our food comes from, but also teach us how to accomplish this task ourselves whether it is growing plants in a pot, raising our own livestock or making maple syrup in the backyard.



1987 Locust Farms stables looking north, now Farmpark’s Visitor Center—the cafe is on the left