

LAKE METROPARKS

FARMIPARK

Almanac




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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 photo by Michelle Romeo

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Gretchen Skok DiSanto, Frank J. Polivka, John C. Redmond

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Paul Palagyi

EDITORS

Lee Homyock, Michelle Lohr, Sharon Metzung

DESIGNER

Meredith Nicoletti

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The Opportunities to Help at Farmpark are Endless

by Lee Homyock, *Farmpark Administrator*

Visitors to Farmpark often ask how they can be more involved at Farmpark. The good news is that there are several ways to get involved. We currently have both full and part-time job opportunities in a variety of capacities; volunteer opportunities in the following areas: special event and program assistance, livestock care, gardening and grounds work; and donation opportunities in the form of the Back a Breed program that supports Farmpark's livestock program and the Gift that Grows program that supports Farmpark's landscaping. More detail information can be found below or please feel free to visit and discuss the possibilities with me or any of the staff at Farmpark.

Volunteering

The Lake Metroparks Volunteer Department supports the Lake Metroparks mission statement by providing a substantial resource of diverse volunteers to enrich and expand Lake Metroparks' services and programs as well as generate goodwill through citizen participation in the Lake Metroparks system. Farmpark has many opportunities for volunteers to become involved in its many program areas. Please contact the Volunteer Department at mwalker@lakemetroparks.com or 440-585-3041 x6418 for more information.

Back a Breed Program

This program provides funding to purchase and maintain livestock on the farm. Back a Breed sponsorships make great gifts for children, families and teachers and are unique opportunities for classrooms and scouts. We invite you to support Farmpark's mission to help our urban society understand how farmers raise food, fiber and other products that sustain and enhance human life.

Gift that Grows Program

Lake Metroparks welcomes the participation of park patrons, friends and conservationists in improving parklands.

Planting projects further enhance Lake Metroparks' habitats, helping to preserve the scenic beauty of the parks. Lake Metroparks' gardens feature carefully selected and arranged flowering plants. You can be a part of effective ongoing programs that provide year-round enjoyment in the parks. You can be proud to know that your participation in A Gift that Grows contributes significantly to these efforts.

Donations are accepted for plantings, flowerbeds and landscaping designed to blend with the natural surroundings at the parks.

Lake Metroparks will choose the location and specific variety of landscaping that will fit the overall park design. At Farmpark, these donations help replace trees on the farm with special attention to the Apple Orchard that is used in Farmpark's educational programs.

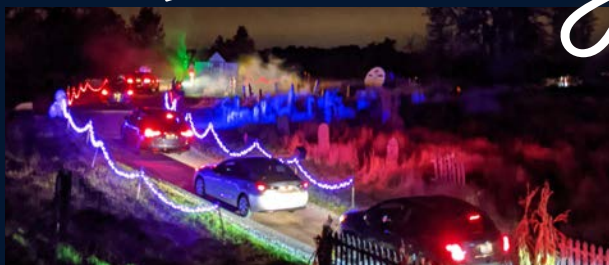
Donations of \$50 to \$249 will be recognized with a certificate. Donations of \$250 or more will be recognized with a certificate and a brass plate on the Giving Board in the park where your gift is incorporated.

For more information, visit lakemetroparks.com.



Lake Metroparks Fall & Winter Events

reimagined



This fall, Lake Metroparks presents a **Halloween Drive-thru** similar to last year. During the holiday season we'll offer two, separate events including the evening **Country Lights Drive-thru** experience in addition to a daytime, in-person **Santa's Toy Workshop**!

HALLOWEEN DRIVE-THRU

Event Dates:

- October 7, 8, 9, 10
- October 14, 15, 16, 17
- October 21, 22, 23, 24
- October 28, 29, 30, 31

Time slots:

6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 pm

Fee: \$27.50 per carload

A maximum of three tickets may be purchased per family or Farmpark membership.

Sale dates: (online only)

- In-county & Farmpark members*: Sat., September 11 at 8 am
- Open sales: Sun., September 12 at 8 am

**Farmpark membership must be current as of noon on Wednesday, September 1 and remain current on day of purchase.*

Country Lights Drive-thru

Event Dates:

- November 30–December 22

Time slots:

6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 pm

Fee: \$27.50 per carload;

Optional \$4 per toy kit

Wooden toy kits will be available for pre-purchase online during purchase of carload ticket. Kits will be picked up at the event and taken home to assemble. A maximum of three drive-thru tickets may be purchased per family or Farmpark membership.

Sale dates: (online only)

- In-county & Farmpark members*: Sat., October 30 at 8 am
- Open sales: Sun., October 31 at 8 am

**Farmpark membership must be current as of noon on Wednesday, October 20 and remain current on day of purchase.*

Santa's Toy Workshop

Event Dates:

- December 3, 4, 5
- December 10, 11, 12
- December 17, 18, 19
- December 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Time slots:

10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 am, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30 pm

Fee: \$9.99 per toy builder ticket (ages 12 and younger)

Regular Farmpark admission applies upon arrival to all individuals accompanying toy builders.

Sale dates: (online only)

- In-county & Farmpark members*: Sat., November 6 at 8 am
- Open sales: Sun., November 7 at 8 am

**Farmpark membership must be current as of noon on Wednesday, October 20 and remain current on day of purchase.*

For more event details, visit lakemetroparks.com.

"We enjoyed the Halloween and Christmas events as a drive-thru much better than the hayride and carriage ride. Beautifully done!!"



"I cannot believe how much we loved the drive through experience! It was truly amazing!! And we loved the ease of making the toys at home at our own pace!"

ANDREW CROSS

Farmpark CALENDAR

9 SEPTEMBER

10 OCTOBER

THREE-ACRE CORN MAZE

September 1–October 17

11 am to 4 pm (weather and conditions permitting)

Follow winding paths that steer you to intersections where you must decide which way to go. Maze is included in Farmpark admission.

5 Lake County FREE DAY

SUNFLOWER HARVEST WEEKEND

Presented by Ganley Subaru East

September 18 & 19

Come enjoy the beginning of the fall season with our inaugural Sunflower Harvest Weekend! Learn about all the varieties of sunflowers and how they are used. Before you go home, don't forget to pick your own in our sunflower fields!

21 Lake County FREE DAY

HORSEPOWER WEEKEND

Presented by Ganley Subaru East & Dollar Bank

Sponsored by Coca-Cola

September 25 & 26

Farmpark features the power of the horse and tractor with Horsepower Weekend. You can see how horses were and still are used for farming and discover how tractors improved farming over the years. You can also have your picture taken on one of Farmpark's antique tractors.

APPLE HARVEST PAIRING DINNER

October 1, 5:30 to 9 pm

Savor the harvests of the fall season in the unique setting of the Machinery Building, offering picturesque views overlooking Farmpark's fields. Start the evening with appetizers, cider pressing and apple butter tasting. Take a tour of the apple orchard and gardens with Farmpark's horticulture education specialist. Then enjoy a delicious meal prepared by J&J Catering with wine pairing by Debonné Vineyards!

APPLE BUTTER & CIDER WEEKEND

Presented by Ganley Subaru East & Dollar Bank

Sponsored by Coca-Cola

October 2 & 3

During Apple Butter & Cider Weekend, you can see how to prepare apples, make cider and apple butter, and take a tour on the "Johnny Applesed Trail." The whole family can explore our three-acre corn maze.

3 Lake County FREE DAY

CORN & PUMPKIN WEEKENDS

Presented by Ganley Subaru East & Dollar Bank

Sponsored by Coca-Cola

October 9 & 10, 16 & 17

As we top off the fall harvest experience. Help husk, shell and grind corn, paint a pumpkin, and enjoy the fruits of the harvest food preparation demonstration. Explore the three-acre corn maze!

HALLOWEEN DRIVE-THRU

Presented by Lake Health is now part of University Hospitals

October 7, 8, 9, 10

October 14, 15, 16, 17

October 21, 22, 23, 24

October 28, 29, 30, 31

Travel Farmpark's trails and roadways after dark in the comfort and safety of your own vehicle and experience many playfully frightful sites throughout the park—some that you have come to love and some new surprises. See page 3 for details.

19 Lake County FREE DAY

Thank you to these sponsors



Willoughby, Ohio Distribution Center



IS NOW PART OF





BARB NIEDERKORN

Farmpark is open year-round Tuesday through Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm. Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas & New Year's Day

Regular Farmpark admission is waived for Lake County residents on "FREE DAY" (Proof of Lake County residency required). Every day is "Free Day" for Lake Metroparks Farmpark members.

For more information about Farmpark programs and events: 440-256-2122 • 800-366-3276 • lakemetroparks.com

11 NOVEMBER 12 DECEMBER

7 Lake County FREE DAY

16 Lake County FREE DAY

COUNTRY LIGHTS DRIVE-THRU

Presented by Lake Health is now part of University Hospitals

November 30–December 22

A magical evening is in store at Farmpark! Country Lights Drive-thru will feature some new and some familiar lighting displays throughout Farmpark as visitors enjoy the experience from the warmth of their own vehicles. Drive time will range between 20 and 45 minutes depending on weather conditions and vehicle operators (not including stops for food or toys). Families will have the opportunity to purchase an unassembled toy kit per child, complete with instructions before exiting the event to assemble at home with their families! See page 3 for details.



5 Lake County FREE DAY

SANTA'S TOY WORKSHOP

December 3, 4, 5

December 10, 11, 12

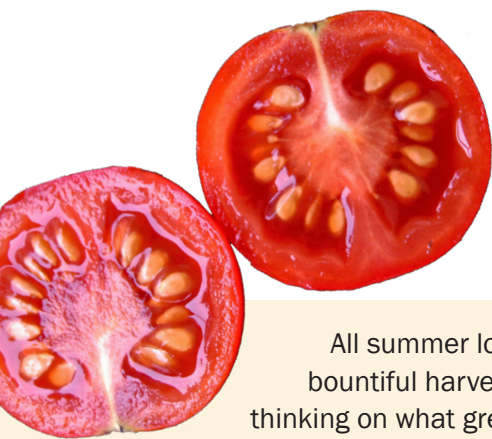
December 17, 18, 19

December 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Bring your children out to build and paint a wooden toy to take home. Regular Farmpark admission applies upon arrival to all individuals accompanying toy builders. Advance toy builder ticket purchase required. See page 3 for details.

21 Lake County FREE DAY





Seed Saving Basics

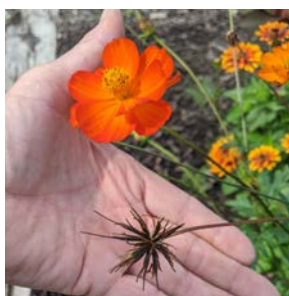
by Valerie F. Reinhardt, Horticulture Education Specialist

All summer long and into the fall, you've enjoyed the fruits of your gardening labor, hopefully, with a bountiful harvest or beautiful garden. You may already have visions in your head of next year's garden thinking on what grew well, and you want to repeat next year. One thing you can get a jump on is saving your own seeds. Many garden annuals (both vegetable and flower) lend themselves to seed saving.

Seed saving saves money, offers the ability to share, allows you to keep a treasured heirloom or garden favorite for the next year, and completes the circle of life making a great hands-on learning experience for children.

There are a few things to consider. Some seeds won't breed true; hybrids are the result of cross pollinating, meaning two different varieties were used to create a new variety. Look for plants that are open pollinated or self-pollinated such as heirloom seeds. The other thing to think about is how far apart some crops were planted—even open pollinated plants can get cross pollinated if there are different varieties planted close by. This is very true of cucurbits like squash and pumpkin as they have separate male and female flowers that depend on pollinating insects for seed production. Many vegetable plants we think of as different from each other are actually the same species—zucchini can easily hybridize with acorn squash as both are *Cucurbita pepo*. On the other hand, many popular vegetables such as tomatoes have complete flowers that self-pollinate and are unlikely to hybridize on their own no matter how many varieties you grow.

Some of the easiest plants to save seeds from are **annuals**—plants that live and reproduce for just one season then die. Some examples are tomatoes, peppers, peas, beans, dill, cilantro, cosmos and marigolds. Seed saving methods differ between **'wet' seeds and 'dry' seeds**. Beans are an example of a dry seed; harvest pods after they have filled out fully and are leathery and bring them in to dry completely then shell the pods. Dill is also a dry seed but likely to fall off and self-seed if left till they are fully dry on the plant. Harvest the whole plant when seeds are full but before plant starts to dry. Hang the plants upside down with a paper bag over the seed head and ripe seeds will drop into the bag as they dry.

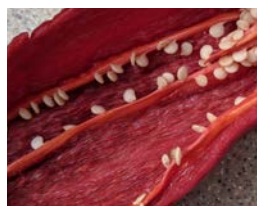


Cosmos flower gone to seed

Tomatoes and melons are examples of wet seeds. The seeds and pulp are scooped out from fully ripened fruits. With melons, just wash and rinse seeds and spread out on a tray to dry—with tomatoes you have an extra step: the pulp must ferment first to break down the gel like coating on the seed. Place seeds and pulp in a jar with a little water, cover with a paper towel or cheesecloth and let sit for a few days. After several days, place them in a sieve to rinse the pulp away and lay them out to dry.

Once seeds have been cleaned and thoroughly dried it's time to put them aside for next spring. Seeds store best if kept in a dry area that is cool and dark (basements and refrigerators are ideal). Glass jars make good storage containers because they are airtight and rodent proof. Make sure you label the seeds with type and date harvested.

Seed saving is not only thrifty but easy and rewarding. For more information on seed saving, visit seedsavers.org or stop by the Plant Science Center at Lake Metroparks Farmpark.



Dry seeds



Wet seeds



Wet tomato "goop"



Ferment to break down gel then strain



Seeds to dry



Leftover goop



Seeds store best if kept in a dry area that is cool and dark. Glass jars make good storage containers because they are airtight and rodent proof.

HORSES *to* TRACTORS

by Steve Ohmes, Assistant Farmpark Administrator



Horsepower Weekend
September 25 & 26
9 am to 5 pm

Horsepower Weekend on September 25 and 26 presents a great opportunity to witness the horsepower used to grow food from past to present. Horses and tractors will plow the fields side by side (weather permitting) and tractors will be on display in Festival Field.

The progression of technology in the past 100 years from horses to auto steer tractors guided by satellites is truly amazing. We can calculate physical horsepower, but what were the farmers of years past feeling as farm power switched from horses to combustion engines? I have been fortunate enough to have visited with individuals who lived through the transition. I would like to share some of their stories.

Combustion engines gave us the ability to work if there is fuel in the tank. When the tank is low, we fill the tank and go again. Horses, on the other hand, need breaks and can only work so long. My grandfather farmed with horses until the late 1940s in Greely, Kansas and said he would work one team until mid day, then switch horses and work until evening. The half day shifts would contain breaks for the horses to rest before continuing. If you watch the plowing demonstrations during Horsepower Weekend, pay attention to how the teamsters plow with the horses and how often they take breaks by reading the horses' body language. Test your skills at reading the horses' body language and what it is conveying.



An innovation that came with tractors was lights. Tractors enable us to farm all day and night due to the ability to add more fuel and lights that illuminate the dark. I hadn't thought much about that until I spoke with a woman who had grown up on a farm during the change from horses to tractors. When her family farmed with horses, her father and brothers would be in at dark since they could no longer see to perform their tasks. They were able to have dinner and spend time together as a family. Once her family switched to tractors with lights, her father and brothers would farm well past dark and she would be asleep before they came in for the night. She missed seeing them at the end of the day and as a child, she felt tractors took family time away from her.

Progression of technology brought with it the combine. This machine combined reaping and threshing. I remember my grandfather stating that once threshing rings ceased, neighbors didn't depend on each other as much. The threshing ring would go from farm to farm threshing the grain but when combines were introduced, that was no longer necessary.

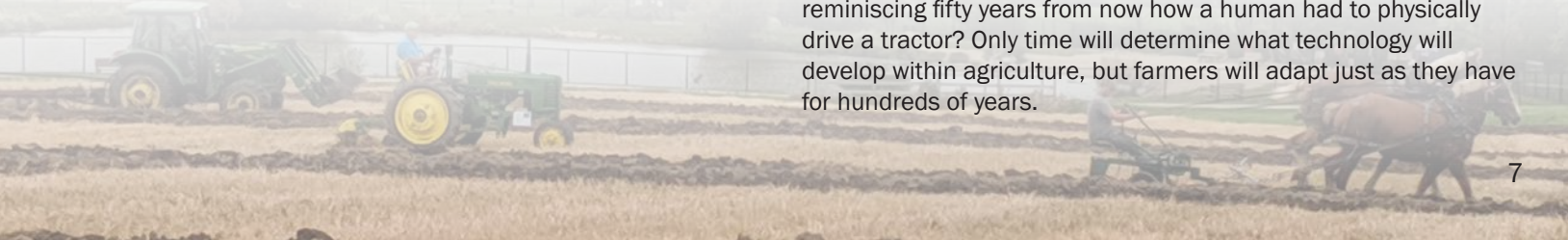
I have also spoken to a number of people who mentioned that they loved farming with horses because of the relationships they built with them. Many of the individuals remember working in the fields with the horses at about eight years old. They said they never felt alone because they always had the horses to keep them company. Working with horses day after day allows the development of a deep bond between horse and teamster. I will always remember a statement from Farmpark employee Ernie Hall who said, "If you can win a horse's heart it will do anything for you." This bond is never developed with a tractor. A gentleman from Amsterdam, Missouri described how he remembers standing in the driveway crying as he watched the last team of horses leave.



"Tractors are great, but you will never have a relationship with a tractor like he did with the horses. They were partners in the field."

Farming with horses is hard work, but there are still farmers out there who enjoy it and continue to share the tradition and knowledge with others. On your next visit to Farmpark, talk to the individuals driving and working with the horses. They have all been trained with knowledge handed down from generation to generation. If you are interested in gaining some in-depth knowledge about horse driving, we offer training classes throughout the year.

I share just a few of the stories from the transition of horses to tractors from individuals who experienced it. As agriculture moves forward many more changes will take place. Will farmers be reminiscing fifty years from now how a human had to physically drive a tractor? Only time will determine what technology will develop within agriculture, but farmers will adapt just as they have for hundreds of years.





Lake Metroparks Farmpark
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PHOTO BY STEVEN HALE

**Volunteer with Lake Metroparks
 during Halloween Drive-thru!**

**Have fun helping make
 memories for hundreds
 of families!**

Students can receive credit for
 community service hours.



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