



Lake County

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2008 County Highlights

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- The \$72.2 million environmental dredging of the Ashtabula Harbor started in 2006 is complete. Work to remediate the habitat on the river and certify the remediation is ongoing. A clean river protects Lake Erie from contamination, allows increased commercial shipping, and provides new opportunities for marinas and other tourism-related businesses. In 2008, the Ashtabula River Partnership achieved its long-term goal of removing more than 635,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the Ashtabula River and placing it in a specially designed landfill. Ohio Sea Grant Extension was one of the founding partners of the Ashtabula River Partnership in 1994 and has provided research information, ideas, and assistance to clean up this important tributary.
- The IAGLR Outreach Committee and Lichtkoppler presented the first IAGLR Jack Vallentyne Outreach Award posthumously to Jack Vallentyne. His wife Anne was happy to accept the award honoring her husband's life work to increase awareness of Great Lakes issues. This is the first award for public outreach ever awarded by IAGLR and recognizes the importance of informing the public about Great Lakes science.
- The Lake County Agriculture and Sea Grant educators are developing a nursery survey to determine the trends in the industry. This survey will help determine what areas can be maintained as a viable industry and what will be lost to other uses. This will also help county governments plan for future expansion of services in eastern Lake County communities.
- Integrated Pest Management has been a major thrust in Lake County due to services of the OSU Nursery IPM program. The educator conducted 17 sessions that growers and scouts biweekly updates on pests control, proper timing and product selection, better cultural practices to create healthier plants with reduced fertilizer use, and proper weed control. Surveys have showed that 12 of the major container producers have reduced slow-release fertilizer by an average of 20%. Three nurseries have reduced pesticide application by ½ due to joint effort work with the USDA-ARS spray technology group. The nurseries that use ½ rate programs total 500 acres with an estimated savings of \$250 to \$400 an acre. The nursery industry has participants from over 88% of all the acreage farmed in Lake County.
- The agriculture educator working with USDA-ARS has developed a system that monitors water application and with pressurized systems can automatically apply water. This system has cut water use in two trial nurseries from 30 minutes to less than 9 minutes a day. The nursery saves dollars in energy costs, contaminates less recycled water, and grows better plants due to better water ratios and less fertilizer loss.
- Working with USDA-ARS the agriculture educator, with growers, is doing research on using drip irrigation systems for the proper injection of pesticides. The work has helped three large nurseries change injection practices and achieve 90% control of pests with little exposure to workers and less chemical per acre use. Future work on fertilizer injection will be started next year. The educator working with other researchers believes that we can drastically reduce fertilizer application (50%) if we know plant utilization times.
- More than 4,200 people learned the importance of recycling at eight community events.
- More than 9,900 people joined the effort to pick up litter and beautify Lake County during Lake County Clean and Green America Clean-up.
- 226,924 pounds (113,462 tons) of Household Hazardous Waste was collected to be recycled.
- The Lake County Master Gardener program trained seven additional MG interns this year bringing our group total to 59. We have provided 9 Advanced Training sessions for Master Gardeners in Lake County this year.
- Master Gardeners have researched, created PowerPoint presentations, and presented 38 programs to a total audience of 473 participants. Programs were presented to community groups covering 17 horticultural topics.
- Our 7th Annual Home Gardener's Workshop was held for 275 participants at Lakeland Community College. Ten horticultural experts offered classes on timely topics for the landscape. Master Gardeners planned and facilitated the entire day.
- 38 Master Gardeners staffed the Horticulture Hotline in the past year. They answered 629 requests for information and processed 185 plant samples from residents.

Preparing Youth for Success

- The 4-H Junior Leaders hosted a dinner and game day at the Ronald McDonald House in Cleveland. Seventeen families from the United States, Egypt, Mexico, Greece,

New Zealand, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, as well as a few other countries, enjoyed french bread, pizza, salad, and lots of desserts made by the Junior Leaders. Friendships were formed, games were played, and most of all, children from around the world laughed together while their families enjoyed a short respite from their overwhelming medical concerns.

- The Junior Leaders enjoyed a “working” overnight at 4-H Camp Whitewood during the Memorial Day weekend. The 4-H members spent their time painting, weeding, cleaning, and clearing debris from the hiking paths. This provided 4-H members an opportunity to complete valuable service projects for camp.
- 161 children attended the “Soup-er Fun and Fitness” Lake County 4-H Junior Camp. Thirty-two older youth completed 55 hours of intense leadership training in order to serve as counselors for the camp.
- 15 Lake County 4-H members hosted exchange students from the Oshkosh area of Wisconsin. The work included a two-day trip to Cedar Point and the islands of Lake Erie, a trip to Niagara Falls, Canada, a Cleveland Indians Game, picnics, and family trips throughout the Northeast Ohio Countryside.
- 525 4-H members and advisors completed ceramic bowls for the “Empty Bowls, Empty Stomachs” community service project. At the conclusion of this project, a soup dinner was served with the entire profit of \$1,056 being donated to area food banks serving Lake County residents.
- Staff presented 211 educational school programs on reduce, reuse, and recycle to approximately 5,275 children throughout Lake County.

Strengthening Families and Communities

- The Parent Project parenting class, which provides skills for parents with a strong-willed teen and a skill-building class for their teen, was offered to more than 100 teens and parents. Evaluations obtained from each class showed that 100% of the parents and teens made some significant change.
- The Peaceful Parenting class was offered in February to Perry School Parents and to several local communities. A total of 60 parents participated. The evaluation showed that 100% of the parents taking the class made significant gains as a result of the class. Classes were held at the Forbes House Battered Woman Shelter, Project Hope Homeless Shelter, and parenting students at the Lake Academy alternative school.
- The Red Ribbon Committee offered a senior wellness day for the senior citizens of Lake and Geauga counties

in October. This day provides programming to assist in improving the mental and physical health of senior citizens. A total of 150 participants were in attendance.

- Family Children’s First Council Planning and Public Awareness committee began the year completing goals to implement the development toolbox for parents of children 3–5 years old. The toolbox contains materials and practical information to facilitate school readiness skills and abilities in preschool children. A pilot group of two schools in the community were provided the toolbox for their children. This initiative was the result of the Keys of Success grant received by the FCFC.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Real Money Real World, a financial literacy program, was held at the Lake Academy in Willoughby, Perry High School, and Auburn for the parenting teens to over 285 students. Both programs were a huge success. Evaluations were completed and 99% of the participants reported that they learned something new about financial planning and the importance of career choice in planning for the financial future.
- The Navigating Success training program went for 16 weeks from April to August. Navigating success is a food nutrition program designed to assist facilities/educators in teaching families healthy meal planning, thrifty spending, making your food dollars stretch, and food safety. It was completed by the Extension educator and program assistant.
- Budgeting and thrifty spending classes were provided to Project Hope Homeless Shelter, Forbes House Battered Woman Shelter, the community, Neighboring Mental Health Center, Lakeland Community College students in the Healthcare Career Pathways program, the JFK Senior Citizen Center in Eastlake, students at Lake Academy alternative school, and the Council on Aging. Over 125 individuals participated in this program. The evaluations reported that 95% of the participants learned something new and planned to use at least one of the budgeting tools presented in the class and least one new spending skill.
- Lake County Master Gardeners continue to provide a weekly article on timely topics for the landscape for our regional newspaper the *News Herald*. The articles are based on Ohio State University Extension researched-based information. The column appears on Sundays and includes a calendar of Extension programs and events. Twenty-three Master Gardeners contributed articles in the past year.

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