



Jim Ratliff, NYP, at Sharing Across Borders IPPS event

Nursery History Corner

Martin's Nursery
3728 North Ridge Road
Perry, Ohio 44081
Www.martins-nursery.com

By Laurie Martin

Martin's Nursery is a family owned business that has been in operation for four generations. Gaza Martin, a Hungarian immigrant, worked at Storrs & Harrison Nursery. In 1934 he purchased 10 acres on Route 20 in Perry and built his home from a Sears's kit. Like many other nursery workers, Gaza would take home a few cuttings in his lunchbox and eventually he established his own wholesale nursery. After he died, his son, Zoltan, took over the operation of the nursery. He died in 1954, leaving the nursery to his wife and their two sons. David and Dennis expanded the nursery to include a landscaping business. When David was drafted and went to Viet Nam, Dennis started D.G. Martin Landscaping Company, specializing in small commercial projects. He landscaped over 100 gas stations in Lake and Cuyahoga Counties and in 1976 he received the American Association of Nurserymen's National Landscape Award, signed by Betty Ford, in recognition of his beautification of a Shell gas station in Lakewood, Ohio. Eventually, Dennis and his wife, Laurie, [a graduate of Lake Erie College], bought the nursery from his mother. For a brief period of time he was manager of Champion Garden Towne and then greenhouse manager at Gales Garden Center keeping the nursery as his part-time business. But, like his grandfather and father before him, Martin's Nursery was his passion. He soon decided to open a retail garden center at Martin's Nursery with a landscape division. His two children, Rob & Josie, grew up working in the nursery but Rob decided to make it his vocation as well. He graduated from Ohio State's Agricultural Technology Institute with a dual major in Landscape Construction and Nursery Management. In 1998, soon after Rob graduated, Dennis died of a heart attack at the age of 52. Rob took on the management of the landscape division and his mother, a soon to be retired school librarian, became president of the corporation in charge of accounts receivable and payable. They are very fortunate to have loyal employees and the business continues to grow and prosper.



The Historic Nursery Belt of Lake County Ohio

By Mark Gilson

People often ask why Lake County became such a mega-center for nurseries. In the beginning, 1854, the first nursery resulted from the vision of one man, Jesse Storrs, who moved his family and nursery to Painesville from Cortland, New York... [Press control-click to open link to articles, part 1 and part 2.]<http://www.gardenopoliscleveland.org/2018/06/the-historic-nursery-belt-of-lake-county-part-1/>