

LCN Historical Scrapbook

We are a blessed family. Over the years we've been able to help Mother Nature paint the landscape for today, tomorrow and for generations to come. We hope you enjoy a brief walk through the past and will continue to grow with us in the future.

Celebrating
60 Years
1946 2006



Egidio & Josephine Zampini

Egidio & Josephine Zampini immigrate to America from Frosolone, Italy. They settle in Painesville, Ohio.

Vincent & Anna Sallay immigrate to America from a little town south of Budapest, Hungary. They settled in Numine, Pennsylvania before moving to Painesville, Ohio.

Both Egidio and Vincent began as laborers in the coal mines, had backgrounds in agriculture and finally both eventually went to work for Storrs and Harrison in Painesville, Ohio, then the world's largest nursery.

1931

Mary Sallay & Felix Zampini marry. They have 5 children: Jimmy, Freddy, Carol, Marie & Patty. Both Carol & Marie die in infancy from pneumonia.



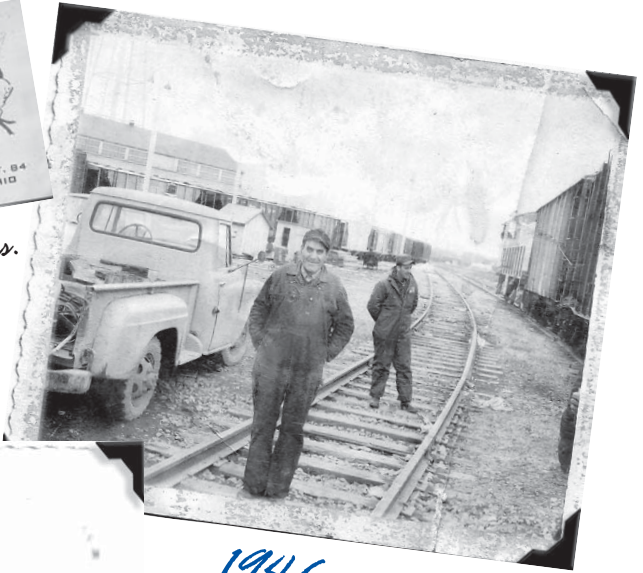
*Vincent Sallay
pictured on the right.*



*Pictured left to right: Felix, Jim
and Mary Zampini.*



1948 \$358 in sales.



1946 Felix Zampini



1949 First Tractor -

(pictured above with Jim)
Homemade from a Model A
Ford front and the rear of a
Greyhound bus - Cost \$250.



1949 Jim Zampini

Jim Zampini graduates from Harvey High School in Painesville, Ohio and works as a Produce Manager at Fisher Foods in Geneva, Ohio while continuing to work part time at the family nursery.



1952

Purchased used Farmall tractor (pictured to the left being driven by Jim) - Cost \$850.

1954

Bought used Ford Ferguson Tractor with disc - Cost \$1000.

1955

The nursery buys their first new tractor; a Farmall A Cost - \$1800.



1957

Mary Sallay Zampini (pictured on the left) passes away from breast cancer at the age of 44.



1957

Storr's & Harrison Nursery employees.

Felix Zampini purchases a 25 acre nursery in Perry, Ohio from Nicholas Messman. Felix's son Jim begins working full time at the nursery. The picture above was taken in 1921 at Storr's and Harrison Nursery. Felix is 13 years old and is pictured second from the right in the front row. Nicholas Messman is located on the far right.



Margaret Louise Oresko
1958

Jim's sister Patty plays matchmaker, setting him up on a blind date with a nice young nurse at her doctor's office. Margaret, from Windber, Pennsylvania, moved to Fairport Harbor, Ohio to live with her sisters and work at the former NEO Hospital. She would go on to become the first nurse for the family physician, Dr. Bill Stoerkel.



1961

Mr. and Mrs.
James W.
Zampini

Jim and Marge marry at Immaculate Conception Church in Madison, Ohio on October 14th. As always, Mother Nature is unpredictable and the day brings sunshine, rain and snow.



1962 *Felix, Patty & Jim Zampini*

Felix (also known as Zeke) "retires". Jim assume total ownership and management of the nursery. He re-names it Lake County Nursery Exchange.



The Zampini Family

The Zampini family first lived in the upstairs apartment in a house on the nursery's main farm. Patty and Felix lived in the apartment below. Jim and Marge would purchase the home next to the main farm. Joe and his wife Marci and their daughters Abby Rose and Kayla Grace now live in the family home. Jim and Marge moved back to Fairport harbor and enjoy sunsets on Lake Erie from their living room window.



1962

Maria Ann Zampini
Maria is born August 28th.



1967

Joseph Anthony
Zampini
Joe is born on his father's birthday, February 28th, just as Jim predicted!

Early 1970's

Besides offering plant material B&B and bare root, LCN starts producing plants in containers.

1972

LCN purchases the 300 acre H. J. Champion & Son Nursery in Perry, Ohio. Through the late 60's and 70's, as Jim was able to acquire more land, they added flowering shrubs made by hardwood cuttings. Then, items such as poplars, red barberries, lilacs, Mt. Ash and crabapples were added to production.

1973

Pictured at right, left to right; Past President, Lake County Nurserymen's Association, Homer Hollar from Horton Nursery, Directors Jim Sabo, of Cottage Gardens, Bob Setzer of Horton Garden Center, and Gail Ruckel of Warner Nursery and President, Jim Zampini. Not pictured was Director Brian Gilson of Gilson Gardens.



Jim Zampini is named President of the Lake County Nurserymen's Association.

1973

LCN hosts their first LCNA Field Day July 10th.



1974

LCN opens a retail garden center in Perry, Champion Garden Towne. It is opened as an outlet for excess LCN nursery stock. Over the years it would continue to build in size. Besides nursery stock it would also include fresh produce and gourmet foods,

local wines, a florist and greenhouse, gift shop, garden and birding departments and much more. It's unique weekend festivals became yearly family traditions for many customers.

Jim Zampini is presented the Floriculture award for Lake County, Ohio at the 32nd Annual Farmers Club Reception in Cleveland, Ohio.

1975

LCN hosts second Field Day. Dr. Donald Egolf, the United States National Arboretum, formally introduces his new series of Viburnums at this event. LCN offers them for sale; Viburnums Alleghany, Erie, Mohican and Onondaga.

1977

Jim Zampini is granted his first plant patent - #4038 on Weeping Candied Apple® crabapple. Jim said he named it Weeping Candied Apple® because he had fond memories of going to the fair, holding his father's hand and looking at all the big, bright red candied apples wishing he could have one.



United States Plant Patent #4038



Early 1980's

Jim Zampini organizes the first LCN "Old Timers" Day. It was held at the Old Tavern in Unionville, Ohio.

1980

Jim Zampini officially starts a new division at LCN; New Plants Research and Development. It is created to test and evaluate numerous plant introductions discovered by himself, LCN employees or from hybridizers. Dr. Les Nicholas, from the Pennsylvania State University motivates Jim to emphasize on developing new hybrid crabapples. Dr. Don Egolf, from the United States National Arboretum encourages Jim to continue his natural hybridization work as he states, 'The way you're doing it is better than ours because your plants have already been tested by Mother Nature'.



1985

The company name is shortened to Lake County Nursery, Inc. The Exchange is dropped because it misled customers to believe the nursery was a broker, when in truth, 95% of the nursery stock sold was grown on site.

LCN hosts third Field Day. Madonna® and Molten Lava® crabs, Celebration® maple and Scarlet Curls® willow are formally introduced to the trade at this event.

1986

Founder Felix "Zeke" Zampini on his famous #110 tractor, passes away on May 24, 1986.

1991

Pictured at right: Jim and Marge Zampini dedicate the new Mary Elizabeth Show Garden in honor of Jim's Mother, Mary Elizabeth Sallay Zampini. Jim created the garden layout. There was no formal plan drawn, except the one he envisioned in his mind. Many of the garden features (such as the waterfall and pond, landscape timbers, bricks and paving) were obtained by trading nursery stock for products and services.



1992

LCN opens a new distribution yard, the Express Plant Center™. This allows for better service to customers who want to stop in and pick out their own nursery stock versus having an order pre-placed and pulled for pick-up or delivery.



1996

Pictured above: Jim Zampini received the Distinguished Contribution Award from the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association. It is presented by then president Peter Scarff, Scarff's Nursery, New Carlisle, Ohio. At that same ONLA Annual Meeting Luncheon, Maria Zampini Pettorini is elected to the ONLA Board of Directors. She is the second woman to serve on the Board.

LCN hosts fourth Field Day in August.

1994

Pictured below: Jim Zampini accepts the grant check in the amount of \$5000 from the Ohio Department of Agriculture Director, Dale Locker. This matching grant will go toward publishing the first LCNA color map.



1996

*Fred Zampini passes away May 26th.
Jim, Mary and Fred Zampini on
Memorial Day 1957.*

Mid 90's

First drip irrigation system installed at the Champion Farm. The piece of ground used previously had a crop of hemlocks growing on it. This meant that particular growing area would have been tied up for 8-10 years before harvest. Taking that same piece of ground and converting it to a container drip area meant that we could harvest 1 – 2 crops a year off the same piece. From this time through present day, LCN would eventually move all deciduous shrubs from being grown in the field to containers. In addition, smaller size trees, up to 1 ½" are also grown in pots.

2000

LCN enters the H2A government guest worker program to help compensate for a lack of workers. At present, about ½ of LCN employees are through the H2A program.

2001

Pictured on right: Maria Zampini Pettorini serves as President of the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association. She is the first female President since its inception in 1908.



2004

LCN closes its retail garden center, Champion Garden Towne to allow Jim and Maria to devote more time to their research and development of new plant introductions.

2005

LCN New Plant introductions go global. Besides having over 100 licensed growers in the US, Canada and Australia, two agents are licensed in Italy and France to distribute throughout Europe.



Jim Zampini receives Honorary from the Nursery Growers of Lake County, Ohio.

2006

LCN hosts fifth Field Day on August 8th. Crimson Pointe™ flowering plum is introduced and everyone gets a sneak peak of future introduction Golden Ruby™ barberry.



*The "Growing" Team
Pictured left to right,
front row; Pat Zampini,
Bob Pettorini, Maria Zampini Pettorini and Whitey.
Back row; Jeff Hyzue, Joe Zampini, Jim Zampini and Chris Linville.*