

Central Great Lakes Region Summer Conference
July 29- 30, 2011

We will meet at the Berlin Hotel and Suites, one mile West of Berlin in Holmes County, just off of State Route 39. We have reserved a block of 20 rooms at a reduced rate for Friday July 29. Rooms will also be available on the 28th and the 30th at the same rate. This rate will be held until July 15. After the 15th rooms can be had, if available, at the regular rate.

The registration fee included two dinners, the bus tour and the speakers. The two lunches will be choosing from the menu and on your own. There will be a special registration fee for Saturday only and another for the tour and dinner on Saturday at Werther's.

Registration will be at 11 AM Friday in the conference room of the hotel. Lunch will be at noon in the hotel's restaurant nearby. The bus for our tour will arrive at 12:45 PM and leave at 1 PM. The tour will be a narrated drive through Amish country with commentary about the Amish way of life. It includes stops at OARDC (Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center) in Wooster, the Secrest Arboretum, and Lehman's Hardware in Kidron. This hardware consists of three pre- Civil War buildings and much unusual merchandise. Our tour concludes at an Amish home for a traditional Amish meal. The lady of the house is a avid gardener and uses her garden produce and flowers in her cooking. The family sometimes entertains with a song after dinner. Another after dinner feature will be a neighbor who will tell about her flower arranging business.

Following dinner there will be a short business meeting back at the hotel in the conference room. Also there will be a time for fellowship.

On Saturday we will have a continental breakfast together in the conference room at 7:00 to 8:30 AM.

Our speakers are Denise Ellsworth, Educational Director for Summit County Extension, who will speak on pest control in the garden. Our other speaker will be from OARDC. Checkout at the hotel is at 11:00 AM.

We will meet at Keim's Lumber in Charm at noon for lunch and shopping. At 2:00 PM we are to meet at Heini's Cheese for a guided tour, cheese tasting and shopping. At 3:30 PM will will meet at Breitenbach Winery for a tour, wine tasting and shopping. Saturday's agenda concludes with a private tour and dinner at Werther Carvings and Gardens in Dover, tour at 5:00 PM and dinner at 6:00 PM. Following dinner will be the traditional awards ceremony by Rodney Toth. If you own any knives from Werther's bring them along to be resharpened for free.

There will be no horticultural show at this conference. This was voted on at the regional meeting in April.

A note to the drinkers in the group. Holmes County is dry and also no alcohol permitted at the Amish dinner. Therefore, if you wish to have a drink at the time of fellowship on Friday evening and at dinner at Werther's bring your own.

For those who may not want to follow the suggested agenda there will be provided a list of other attractions in the area. Since there is some driving involved on Saturday maps will be provided for drivers.

If you need a room mate we will try to match you up. Room rates are for a double. There is a lower rate for three in a room and even lower for four in a room.

This area in Holmes and surrounding counties is said to be the largest Amish settlement in the country. Most attendees at the April regional meeting indicated they had been to Amish country but we hope that at this conference they will experience something different.