



Streetsboro lavender farm invites public to visit property

by **Bob Gaetjens**
Editor

STREETSBORO – The lavender at Day-Break Lavender Farm is at near its aromatic peak, and co-owner Jody Byrne said the community is welcome to the visit and pick some of the herb to take home.

Through Aug. 15, the farm will be open to visitors Monday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

“To take some of the pressure off Saturdays, we are going to open on Sundays as well,” said Byrne. Sunday hours are noon to 4 p.m.

People who want to pick the aromatic herb for cooking or potpourri should try to visit this week, she said.

“I think the lavender has maybe another week,” she said July 24. “All the essential oils are in the flower bud, and once the buds open, all the essential oils escape, and that’s what makes the fragrance.”

The farm was hopping July 25, with about 20 people wandering the rows of lavender, walking down along the pond, and just enjoying the farm, which Byrne said she loves to share.

“It makes a nice outing for somebody to sit on a bench and have a picnic, and watch kids run around and scream,” said Byrne. “It makes me happy to see people enjoy the land.”

Byrne said she and co-owner Michael Slyker decided they wanted to buy the farm without seeing the inside of the modest farmhouse on the property because the land itself had such great appeal.

“The woods, to me, looked like a cathedral because all the trees were the same height,” she said. “You can fix a house. A house can be anything you want it to be.”



Brad Nelson, left, of Hudson, gets some lavender tips from DayBreak Lavender Farm Coowner Michael Slyker July 25.

*RPC Photo
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The 14 acres of rolling fields and woods on Frost Road, between Page Road and Elliman Road, have been home to DayBreak Lavender Farm for eight years, but this is the first year Byrne and Slyker have sent an open invitation to the community to visit the farm throughout the peak lavender season.

For the past several years, they’ve hosted the Ohio Lavender Festival early in July, but Byrne said they decided to scrap plans for the festival this year.

“The threat of bad weather was too scary,” she said.

As they have during the festival, Byrne, Slyker and others who work for the farm and are associated with the store at the corner of Route 14 and Diagonal Road are sharing recipes, growing tips and information about lavender’s many uses with visitors at the farm.

Byrne said turnout at the farm has been strong during visiting hours.

“People of all kinds just love lavender,”

she said. “There were people here last week in the rain with umbrellas picking lavender.”

Growing tips

Byrne said lavender should be sold as a perennial, not an annual, in Ohio.

Although it is possible to grow plants from clippings in a greenhouse, DayBreak Lavender Farm plans to buy new plants when it’s time to replant the current crop, which Byrne said is eight years old.

“You should never grow lavender from seed,” she said. “The germination rate is 20 percent, and that’s in a hothouse.”

She said three popular varieties, which grow at DayBreak, are hidcote, munstead and grosso lavender. Provence lavender, which is best for culinary use, also grows there.

For more information about lavender, visit www.daybreaklavenderfarm.com.

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