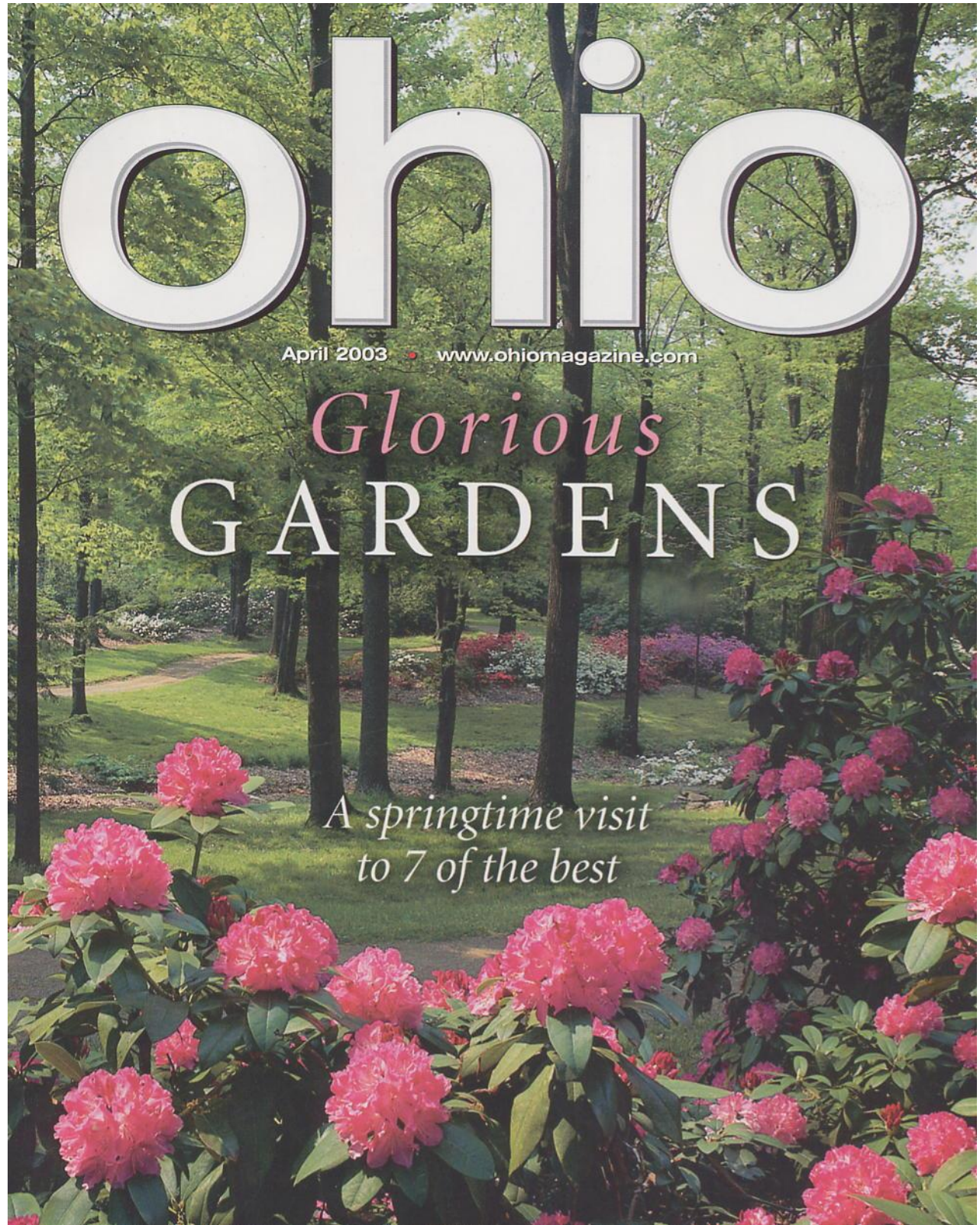


Ohio Glorious Gardens  
Ohio Magazine April 2003

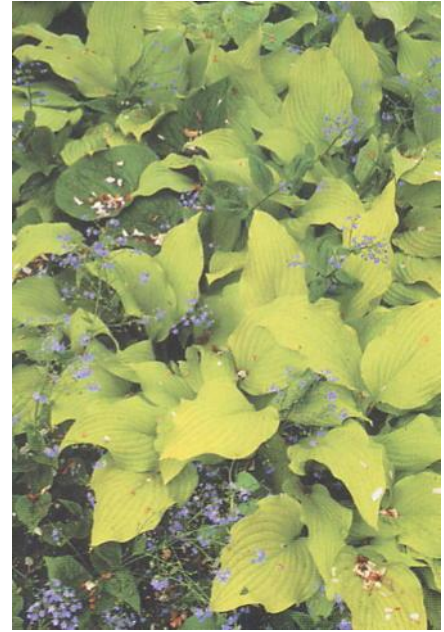
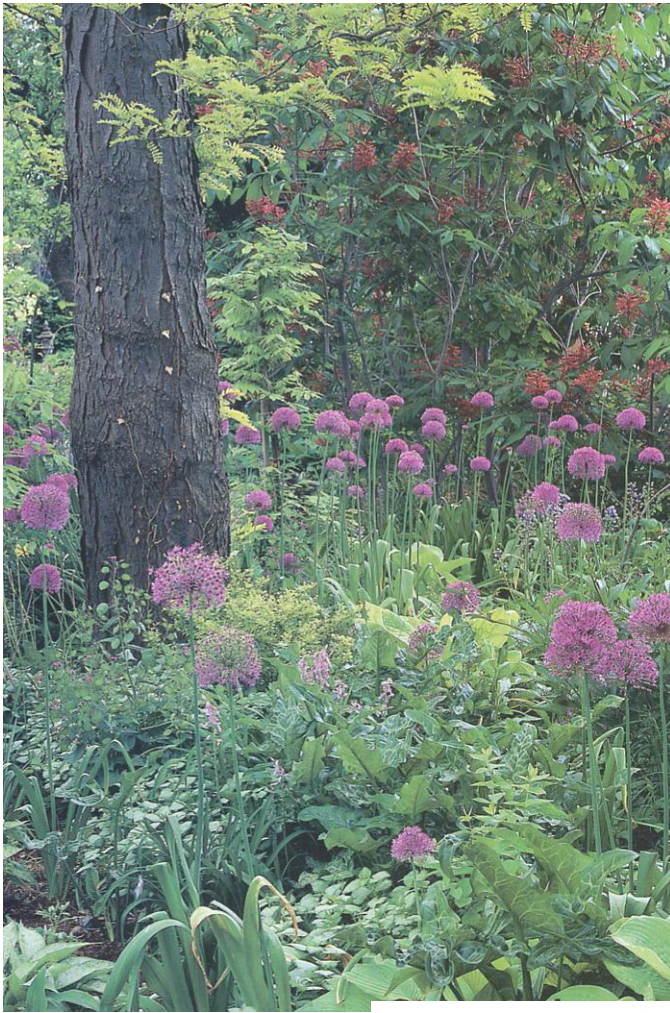


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*Glorious*  
GARDENS

*A springtime visit  
to 7 of the best*





#### GARDENVIEW HORTICULTURAL PARK

There are gardeners, and then there are *gardeners*. Henry Ross, without question, falls into the second category. Ross got the horticulture bug when he was just eight years old. He would read about the legendary gardens of England and France, hoping one day to be able to see a garden as amazing as those in the books. He never thought he would create one.

In 1949, after earning a degree in horticulture from The Ohio State University, Ross saw a “for sale” sign on a 16-acre plot of land in the then-undeveloped suburb of Strongsville, near Cleveland. The plot was “covered with bramble and weeds,” Ross says. Since that day, he has dedicated his life to making his gardens and arboretum a beautiful place for the public to enjoy. The six-acre garden is “acres of English cottage gardens made up of rare and unusual plants collected from all over the world, with a specific emphasis on plants with variegated silver or golden foliage,” Ross explains. Ten acres of arboretum house more than 2,000 trees with 500-plus varieties of flowering crabapples. In spring, daffodils sprout underneath the crabapple trees.

A place like this doesn't just happen, which is possibly the most amazing feature of this public garden. Ross, now 76, was a one-man show until eight years ago when Mark LaRosa came to Gardenview to work as his assistant. Ross once put in 18 hours each day, seven days a week. “It's about nine or 10 hours a day now,” he says. But he has his reasons for being such a workhorse. “A real garden is never complete,” he observes. 16711 Pearl Rd., Strongsville, 440/238-6653. [www.geocities.com/heartland/cottage/9303/](http://www.geocities.com/heartland/cottage/9303/). April 1-Oct. 15, Sat.-Sun. noon-6 p.m. Adults \$5, children, \$3. Memberships available and groups welcome by appointment.