

# Tour features gardens that are kind to planet

By BRITTNY DUNLAP

Environmentally friendly gardening will be showcased Sunday in the Simply Living Garden Tour.

Running from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, the featured gardens in Clintonville, the Northside area and Worthington that are maintained without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

"These gardens are at the cutting edge of environmental design," said Susan Webber, tour coordinator and owner of Urban Wild, 105 Piedmont Road.

Some of the gardens will have available samples of organic food from food vendors. A guide will be stationed at each garden to help answer questions, and some gardens will feature musical entertainment.

Tour stops include the garden of Michael Huck and Linda Crawford-Cloud, 1060 Morning Street in Worthington. Huck and Crawford-Cloud designed and planted the garden about a year and a half ago.

"We wanted something with minimal upkeep and that demonstrated a responsibility to the environment," Crawford-Cloud said.

The garden features all native plants, including liana, sunflowers and milkweed.

Webber, who designed the garden, said she used permeable landscaping materials to be more environmentally friendly. In place of grass, there are wood chips, stone and gravel.

The garden also features barrels located under downspouts to collect rain water, which is used to water the plants.

Sunday's tour is organized by the nonprofit group Simply Living and Friends of the Lower Otsego Watershed.

Simply Living was founded in 1992 to educate people to live responsibly and sustainably while enjoying relationships with the earth and one another, according to its Web site.

Webber said many people have the wrong idea about Simply Living. If they're aware of the organization at all,

"Some people's impressions are that to be a member you have to live in a tiny room with a yoga mat in the

corner," she said. "We wanted to let people know the wide range of possibilities to live under thecepts of the organization."

Tickets to Sunday's tour are \$10 and can be purchased at the Clintonville Community Market, 200 Creechview Ave.

Directions to the featured gardens are listed below.

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