

The Four Seasons Newsletter

The mission of Friends of Boone County Arboretum is to create community awareness and participation at the arboretum by involving individuals, families, schools, sporting groups, community organizations, garden clubs, and other interested parties through memberships, donations and active volunteerism.

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Quarterly Newsletter

Fall, 2005

“Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.”

-Stanley Horowitz

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Fall Highlights at the Arboretum

Fall is a very unique time of year. The trees put on their bright and colorful fall costumes before winter arrives. Come to the arboretum this fall to see all the wonderful color. Here are a few highlights.

The Japanese Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamelia*) is a drought tolerant



Japanese Stewartia

tree that prefers well-drained, sandy or clay soil, and can be planted in full sun or full shade. It flowers at a time when not many other trees are flowering, July-August,

and has camellia-like white flowers. The mature trees have polished bark and vibrant autumn color.



Sugar Maple

The Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) is a great tree to check out for awesome fall color. The color ranges from clear yellow to golden brown to orangish red. The Sugar Maple can grow up to 100 feet and takes full sun to partial shade, well-drained soil and ample moisture.



The leaves of a Green Ash

Marshall's Seedless Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) is a vigorous, well-adapting tree that can reach up to 60 feet. It is very tolerant of wet conditions and does best in full sun. In the fall, the leaves will turn a wonderful yellow color.

Some trees may start to turn as early as mid-September; others will be later in the fall season. Let's get out and see all the color while the weather is still beautiful. I hope everyone has a wonderful autumn season!

Welcome New Members!

Friends of the Arboretum would like to welcome the new members of the summer: **Tom Adams, Jesse and Marilyn Alford, Gretchen Radloff, Margaret Stewart and Haley Ammon Taylor.** We encourage new members to join us every fourth Monday of the

month at the Boone County Extension Office at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments, fun and a meeting to discuss the development of the Arboretum. All ideas are welcome! Our next meeting will be held on September 26 at the Boone County Extension office at 6:30 p.m.

Please contact Laura Kline at 586-6101 if you have any questions.

Correction: In the section "Thinking Ahead" of the Summer Newsletter, "Bill and Jane Maurer" should read "Bill and Jane Smith." We apologize for this inconvenience.

Sweetgums and Serviceberries

Norbert O'Hare

With this issue, I'd like to acquaint you with two trees that I really like for fall color, though I don't think they're as well known as they ought to be. They are the sweetgum and the serviceberry.

Sweetgums are tall (up to 100 feet), native trees that I've often seen with a bright orange color in the fall.



Arborists say that they can have a wide range of yellows, oranges, reds, and even purples. The arboretum has some examples of the species and also a

cultivar, 'Rotundiloba,' which generally exhibits some of the darker shades.

If the species had no nasty traits, why would we need cultivars? How many research botanists would that put out of business? Never fear, flannel nerds! Sweetgums are known for a heavy set, hard and spiky seed pods that are about 1.5" long. 'Rotundiloba' is fruitless; some researcher's work was "fruitful."

The serviceberry was so named because in Appalachia, its blooming signified that the spring thaw had advanced enough to allow the burying of the winter dead, along with the attendant funeral services. Actually, these trees have many names, such as huckleberry, shadblow, and shadbush.

(Huckleberries picked along the Rancocas Creek in southern New Jersey made the best pie

Grandma ever made!) Our Autumn Brilliance apple serviceberry is a cultivar of a naturally occurring hybrid. It's a small tree, maybe 25 feet at maturity. It has showy white blossoms, dark, blueberry-like fruits, and orange fall color.



Get out this fall to see these and many more colorful trees at the arboretum.

Thanks to Friends member, Norbert O'Hare for submitting this article. If you would like to add an article, story, recipe, or anecdote, please contact Laura Kline.

Arboretum Update

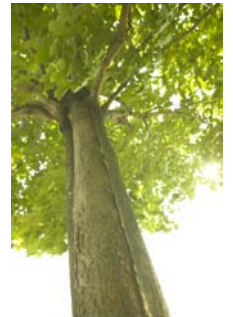
An **educational cart** was purchased for the Friends of Boone County Arboretum's mission to promote awareness of nature and our environment to the public. This is a great tool to have available during the weekends, at events or anytime there is a crowd enjoying the arboretum to explain the benefits of nature, green space and learning about trees. We also hope to gain new members and volunteers who see our fun program! Anyone inter-

ested in helping develop programs to utilize the educational cart can contact Laura Kline at 586-6101.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the **labeling project** at the arboretum. This would involve researching facts about a certain tree or shrub and filling out an information sheet. It takes about 30 minutes to complete one information sheet. This is a great way to actively volunteer during the cold

winter months and make a huge difference in the progress of labeling each tree and shrub in the arboretum. You may learn something new about a tree you didn't already know!

Please contact Josh Selm at (859) 384-4999 for more information.



Upcoming Events

The Friends of Boone County Arboretum **Member and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic** will take place Friday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m. under Shelter #2 in the Arboretum. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Family members are welcome! Please R.S.V.P. to Laura Kline at 586-6101 by September 16.

Fall **Dig in the Dirt** days are September 24, and 26, October 8, 10, 22, and 24 from 9-11 a.m. Bring your favorite gardening tool and meet at the concession stand. Refreshments will be served.

Our fall **Friends Meetings** will take place at the Boone County Extension Office on Monday, September 26, Monday, October 24 and

Monday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and discussion about the Arboretum.

The Friends of Boone County Arboretum's annual **Holiday Party** will be held December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for refreshments, fun and Friends! Enjoy a short presentation dedicated to the Volunteer of the Year.



Horticulture Concerns: Fall Pansies

Mike Klahr

Question: Will pansies usually survive the winter if planted in the fall? Is this a good idea?

Answer: Yes, this is a great time to plant pansies in northern Kentucky. Your spring display of pansies will be even more spectacular if you set out plants in early fall. This gives plants time to become well established before cold winter weather. Fall planting will reward you with three seasons of colorful blooms. You should have some blooms from now until Christmas and again from late February to late March, depending on winter and spring weather. The peak show will be from about mid-April to mid-

late-spring. Summer heat causes a decrease in flower production and size as plants start to decline in mid- to late-June. Few flowers can match the pansy for diversity in colors. The standards are combinations of yellows, blues and bronzes with black and white markings that resemble a face. However, also look for nearly solid whites, yellows, blues and some maroons that are almost red. Most varieties will do well in Kentucky. For best results, plant pansies in a well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade. Plants put in partial shade generally will produce flowers later into the spring; but will produce fewer blooms. Keep plants watered

but not too wet. Put a mulch of straw, bark or other organic matter around pansies to conserve soil moisture and prevent alternate freezing and thawing of soil during the winter that can lift plants out of the ground. As winter weather approaches, you will notice the foliage has turned a dull green and leaves have started to wilt. Although this is a natural response to cold weather, it also is a signal for you to take protective measures to ensure that the pansies make it through the winter. Pull back straw when the weather warms up; otherwise the plants might suffocate as they resume growth in the spring.

New at the Arboretum

A new nature trail is being created in the woods of the arboretum with help from local Boy Scouts. Patrick Hayden from Troop 702 in Union approached the arboretum staff earlier this year for a possible Eagle Project within the arboretum. Josh Selm, Arboretum Technician, went through the woods marking the trail with survey tape, making sure the trail would be wide enough to drive the arboretum work carts through. After the trail had been

clearly marked, Patrick led a team of volunteers in the creation of the trail. The first day of work was dedicated to clearing the path, and by the end of the second work day, over half the trail had been covered with wood chips. Kris Stone, the arboretum director, and Josh have selected about 40 trees to highlight along the trail. Patrick and his Troop will be back to level a few parts of the trail, add a small walking platform over a damp area, cut stumps down to the ground and

finish wood chipping. The path is projected to be finished by mid-fall 2005 and will be a great way to utilize the arboretum's native woodland areas.



The Arboretum Staff

Kris Stone, Arboretum Director
Josh Selm, Arboretum Technician

Boone County Arboretum at Central Park

9190 Camp Ernst Road, Union, KY 41090
phone: (859) 384-4999
fax: (859) 384-6888
www.bcarboretum.org
arboretum@boonecountyky.org

Friends of Boone County Arboretum Officers

Joan Klahr, President
Denny Mathis, Vice President
Laura Kline, Secretary
Tim Schwartz, Treasurer



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Cathy Flaig, David Whitehouse,
Denny Mathis, Mike Klahr,
Kris Stone, Linda Padgett,
Laura Kline

FRIENDS OF BOONE COUNTY ARBORETUM

P.O. Box 876
Burlington, KY 41005

Phone: (859) 586-6101
Fax: (859) 586-6107
Email: laura.kline@uky.edu

Visit our website at:
www.bcarboretum.org

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
College of Agriculture

P.O. Box 876
6028 Camp Ernst Road
Burlington, KY 41005



Lemon Balm Fruit Torte –developed by Bonnie Kareth

Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*) is one of my favorite herbs. It is a member of the mint family and has a distinct lemony flavor and aroma. Lemon Balm contains polyphenols which are very healthy for us. When used topically, lemon balm helps to soothe insect stings.

–Bonnie Kareth

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter
3 Tablespoons minced
Lemon Balm (divided)
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
2 cups flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder

3 to 4 cups sliced peaches
2 to 3 cups blueberries
1/3 cup sugar
1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon

Generously butter then flour a
9 x 13 inch pan.

Cake Batter: Cream together butter and minced Lemon Balm; this allows the oils and flavor of the lemon balm to blend well into the recipe. Slowly add sugar and mix well. Add eggs, one at a time and mix well. In a small bowl, sift together the flour, salt and baking powder. Slowly stir flour mixture into the lemon balm mixture. Spread cake batter evenly into prepared pan; distribute fruit over batter.

Topping: Mix together 1/3 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon minced Lemon Balm and 1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon. Sprinkle over the fruit.

Bake in preheated oven: 325 degrees for glass (350 degrees if using a metal pan) for about 1 hour or until tooth pick inserted into the cake comes out clean. (Check the cake after it's been baking for ½ hour; if it is browning too quickly, adjust the oven temperature.)

Cool; serve with whipped cream and top with additional lemon balm, freshly minced. Enjoy a last taste of summer!

