

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.

Volume III, Issue I

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring, 2006

“Your garden in the spring is never as big as it was when you placed your seed catalog order last winter.”

- Texas Bix Bender

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Spring Highlights at the Arboretum

The Red Buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*, is a unique spring flowering tree that is a beautiful addition to a homeowner’s landscape. This native, deciduous tree can be planted in zones 4-8, needs to have sun to partial shade, and must have moist well-drained soil. It’s height can reach anywhere from 10-20 feet, sometimes reaching as high as 30 feet. The dark green leaves produce little fall color, but lose their leaves early in the season. The spring time is when this



tree really shines. The 6” panicles of salmon to medium red flowers open

early in the season to attract hummingbirds and bees.

Another great specimen to check out at the arboretum this spring is the *Fothergilla gardenii*. Fothergilla is a 4-6’ tall shrub that works great as



a shrub border. The beautiful flowers will bloom in mid-May and are

slightly fragrant. The shrub will light up in the fall with bright orange, red or yellow colors. The Fothergilla prefers partial shade to full sun, moist, acidic, well-drained soil and can be planted in zones 5-9.



The Ann Magnolia, blooming in mid to

late March, is a clear sign spring is coming. This deciduous shrub is slow-growing and can reach heights of 8-10 feet that will grow into a round shrubby shape. The exquisite 4-6 inch blooms are what really separates this magnolia from the rest of the landscape.

Remember to celebrate spring with a walk through the arboretum and enjoy the blooms. Remember to look for the new tree and shrub labels while you there; 1/3 of the 1200 labels will be planted this spring!

New Membership Begins!

The annual renewal of your Friends of Boone County Arboretum membership is here! Included with your membership are discounts at local participating nurseries, this quarterly newsletter publication, access to members only events, and discounts or free admission

to some events and classes. Thank you for supporting the Boone County Arboretum, both with your time and with your membership. Please fill out the enclosed form and return with payment to:

Laura Kline
Boone County Extension
P.O. Box 876
6028 Camp Ernst Road
Burlington, KY 41005

The current membership will expire March 31, 2006. The new membership will be valid from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. Thank You!

Spotlight On: Magnolias by Alvera Kincart

The Magnolias make up one of the most exquisite blooming trees at the arboretum. Collections of Magnolia blooms surely indicate that spring has arrived. Two varieties featured here are available for viewing at the arboretum.

Magnolia soulangiana (Saucer Magnolia)

Leaves: Alternate

Buds: Terminal

Stem: Brown, glabrous with grayish lenticels, fragrant when crushed with prominent stipular scars

Size: 20-30' in height with variable spread, often same as height

Hardiness zone: 4-9

Culture: Transplant balled, bur-

lapped or from a container; soil moist, deep and acid (pH 5.0 to 6.5). Full sun, will withstand light shade.

Diseases and insects: Black sooty mold, leaf blight, leaf spots, magnolia scale, algal spot, wood decay

Landscape value: Small specimen tree, flowers when 2-5 feet tall.

Flowers: dark pink to purplish on the outside, petal are white inside, flowers are cusped shaped.

Magnolia stellata (Star Magnolia)

Leaves: Alternate, simple, narrow

Buds: Densely pubescent, 1/3 to 1/2" long

Stem: Slender, brown

Size: 15 to 20 feet high with spread of 10—15 feet

Hardiness: zone 4-8

Habit: Dense oval to rounded shrub or small tree

Rate: slow, 3-6 feet over a 5-6 year period

Texture: medium in all seasons

Bark: smooth, gray

Flowers: white, fragrant

Diseases: Basically trouble free

Thanks to Friends member, Alvera Kincart for submitting the information for this article. Please let Laura Kline know if you would like to submit an article, story or recipe.

Arboretum Update

Many of our members and volunteers have asked us when the new labels that some of you have helped research are coming in. The first batch is finally here! The new labels have unique information about the tree or shrub and will be "planted" in front with a sturdy cement planter. Volunteers will be needed to "plant" the already assembled labels in the ground. The planned sessions will be held on the following dates, weather permitting:

Friday, March 24

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and/or
1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday March 31

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and/or
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

If anyone has a post hole digger or cement mixer you would be willing to let the arboretum staff borrow, please call Laura Kline at 586-6101.

Another exciting project that has been completed is the new map upgrade. The new maps feature four seasonal pictures of the arboretum with bright colors that show beautiful aspects of the arboretum all year. Unlike the last map, this new map shows elevation areas of the arboretum, more detail and over 200 new trees and shrubs. The maps are available for free at the Boone County Extension Office, the arboretum, and will be available for pick up at the next Friends meeting.

Adopt-A-Plot

Arboreta across the country have utilized a program called Adopt-a-Plot to help maintain the arboretum during the year. The Boone County Arboretum will be implementing their own program starting this spring. This is a supplemental program to Dig in the Dirt. Adopt-a-Plot volunteers will work with each other to keep their assigned areas of the arboretum weeded, watered, mulched, and looking great.

Volunteers are welcome to come to the arboretum to work on their section at their convenience. This means you do not have to wait for a Dig in the Dirt session to volunteer. Volunteers would report to their group leader, who is required to be a Master Gardener or have a Horticultural degree, and with your group, make sure that at least one person has gone to the designated section at least once per week.

These volunteers will be the "eyes" of the arboretum for the staff.

We will also be looking for Master Gardeners or those with Horticultural degrees to be leaders of each group. If you are interested in either volunteer position, please contact Laura Kline (859) 586-6101 or laura.kline@uky.edu.

Tree Profile: Washington Hawthorn

By Mike Klahr, Extension Agent/Certified Arborist



Do you need a small, ornamental tree in your landscape that offers beauty in all seasons of the year? Then you may want to consider planting at

least one Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*). This tree's aesthetic value has been widely appreciated since it was first introduced into cultivation in 1738. It occurs in native stands from Virginia to Alabama and Missouri, including the southern half of Kentucky. Hardy to Zone 4, this tree performs well throughout the Commonwealth. In native stands, growing in the vicinity of sassafras, persimmon, eastern red cedar, Osage orange, red mulberry, sumac, and dogwood, the Washington Hawthorn can live up to 100 years, and has achieved heights of nearly 40 feet, with an equal spread. The tree is usually rounded to oval in shape, and quite densely branched.

As a hedge plant, the hawthorn has been used in the Old World for centuries—the word “haw” coming from the Anglo-Saxon and meaning fence or hedge. Washington Hawthorn is a tough

plant with strong wood, thriving in the heavy, compacted clay soils often found in subdivisions and other home landscapes across the state. Resistant to heat, drought, air pollution, and damage from wind or ice, this tree is often used in urban plantings which are subject to extremely poor soil, including areas near parking lots and between sidewalks and buildings. Its tolerance of soil types and soil pH helps it survive in most soils from pH 6.1 to 8.0.

Don't let the long spines along the branches of this plant scare you away from planting it, any more than you would shy away from roses because of their thorns. After all, this is a member of the rose family. The beauty of Washington Hawthorn begins in the spring, when the new foliage slowly starts unfolding from the winter buds, revealing tinges of reddish purple, eventually changing to lustrous dark green and remaining quite glossy throughout the summer and late fall, when the leaves change to brilliant hues of orange, scarlet or purplish-red. By mid-to-late May, the tree is completely covered by a display of white flowers, blooming about two weeks after its cousin, the Winter King Hawthorn. The showy flowers resemble apple or pear blossoms in their abundance and beauty.

The outstanding show of large clusters of ¼-inch, bright orange-red fruits in September and October continues into the winter to help this plant assert itself as a true 4-season beauty in any landscape setting. Usually by January or February, the fruits are devoured by hungry robins and other songbirds passing by for a winter snack. The fruits, high in pectin, have also been used to make jelly.

So if you're looking for a tough, reliable plant that will provide year-round beauty in your landscape, try planting at least one Washington Hawthorn this spring, and then sit back and enjoy its beauty throughout each season of the year.

QUICK FACTS:

Common Name: Washington Hawthorn

Varieties to look for: 'Clark' (heavy fruiter), 'Fastigiata' (columnar), 'Princeton Sentry' (upright, nearly thornless), 'Vaughn' (abundant, glossy fruits)

Color: white flowers, red fruits, red/orange/purple Fall Color

Blooming Period: May

Size: 25-30' tall, 20-25' wide

Exposure: full sun for best fruit and foliage color

“Awakening” by Vicky Tewes

March winds are here, attacking the heaped up leaves around the base of the trees and shrubs as if it were a giant leaf blower. It is nature's way of uncovering the things that needed protection over the winter and is no longer necessary.

Last year's Robins have returned, scurrying across the ground, as if in a meticulous frenzy, scratching the browned-out grasses of a season ago for a meal. The Carolina Wren hastily searches for the finest bedding

materials for her nest, and upon completion, she shall sing to all the promises of a new year. The Greening Rain will soon come, a tonic transforming rain that overnight will return the earth's trees and meadows to a most greenly green.

As the earth is giving up its winter rigidity, a fragrance not yet of blossoms or of new unfolding leaves exudes from its' surface. The abundant and bountiful breast of the earth has begun to stir, breathing and perspiring its new life.



Thanks to Friends member, Vicky Tewes for submitting this article. If you would like to add a story, recipe, or anecdote, please contact Laura Kline.

“A Sign of Spring” by Sharon Landers, Master Gardener



Growing up in this area, I always looked forward to one of the most evident

signs that spring was just around the corner – the appearance of trees dotting the landscape with their multitudes of reddish-purple blooms. Of course I'm talking about the Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*); a member of the Pea Family (Fabaceae), which is one of the first spring blooming trees we see in the Northern Kentucky region. The tree is very prominent in the spring because it flowers before other trees have leaves. Flowers appear in March and April in clusters of two to eight, and can be

found on old twigs, branches, and often on the trunk. The flowers precede the leaves which usually appear 2-3 weeks after they bloom. Once the leaves appear, the flowers drop, giving way to summer leaves which are deep green and heart shaped. The Redbud has been called the Judas tree because Judas Iscariot, after betraying Jesus, was said to have hanged himself from a *Cercis siliquastrum*, which is a relative of our Redbud and grows in Europe and Western Asia. According to the legend, the blooms of the tree, originally white, turned red with shame. Considered a native tree, it is particularly abundant in natural landscapes on south-facing slopes where sunlight tends to be more intense. It is also shade tolerant, and appreciates moist soils that are well-drained. Redbuds have a multi-trunk tendency and the

bark is usually brownish black and scaly. The fruit is a flat reddish-brown seed pod, which is 2-4 inches in length. Fall color is yellow, and once leaves drop they allow a clear view of the seed pods which turn brown. If propagating from seed, keep in mind that the seeds do require scarring because they are very hard. Soaking in boiling water can soften them. Mature trees can reach 25-35 feet in their natural surroundings. The growth rate is approximately 12-18 inches per year! Unfortunately the longevity is usually less than one hundred years, but while they are here they put on quite a show. It won't be long before those familiar reddish-purple blooms begin to appear, and we will know that spring is on its way.

Trips and Tours for 2006

Two trips have been planned by the Boone County Arboretum for 2006. The first is a guided tour of **Split Rock Conservation Park** on Saturday, April 22 from 9-12 noon. Split Rock is named for the unique glacial formations deposited in the area thousands of years ago. Enjoy a guided morning hike to learn more about this unique area. Admission is \$6/child and \$7/adult. The park is closed to the general public. This is a special opportunity

to see this preserved park as a group. Participants may bring a lunch to enjoy after the tour. Limit: 25 people.

On Wednesday, July 19, meet at **Marvin's Organic Gardens** in Lebanon, OH for a behind the scenes tour of Marvin Duren's completely organic garden. Marvin himself will be giving the tour, followed by a power point presentation on "Organic Alternatives in Landscape." Free for Friends members,

all others \$2.00.

The Boone County Extension Office is sponsoring two trips this summer; one is a day trip to the UK arboretum in **Lexington, KY**. The second is a three day trip to **Chicago**, experiencing the famed Morton Arboretum among others. Space is limited and filling up quickly. Please call 586-6101 for details.

Classes for 2006

The Boone County Arboretum will be offering a series of classes to the community that will include everything from bird watching to decorating naturally for the holidays. Listed below are the classes to be held this spring. You can check www.bcarboretum.org for the complete year round listing.

Saturday, April 15 10:00 am-12 noon "**Dogwoods**" a lecture from nationally recognized author and Executive Director of Yew Dell Gardens, **Dr. Paul Cappiello**. Free! Boone County Extension Office

Tuesday, May 23 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm Join **Mary Carol Cooper** from the Salato Wildlife Educational Center

in Frankfort as she discusses planting your landscape to **attract birds** and bird identification. Free! Boone county Extension Office

Thursday, May 25 1:00-4:00 pm Learn how to build a dry stack **rock wall** to enhance and accent your landscape. Free! Boone County Arboretum. Register at (859) 586-6101/ laura.kline@uky.edu.

Calling All Volunteers! Arboretum Day 2006

Arboretum Day, formally known as Spring Fling, will be held June 3, 2006 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm at the Boone County Arboretum. Plans have already started for our big event and we need your help to make it happen. Listed below are the volunteer opportunities that are available with a short description. Please take a look and consider where your talents are and what you might like to do to help the day run smoothly!

Arboretum Prep

Mulch, weed, plant flowers for the big day.

Operations

Golf cart driver, front entrance greeter

Set Up

Organizing tables, chairs, decorations, etc.

Speaker Tent

Set up/clean up for each speaker

Food Tent

Keeping area clean, emptying trash cans, helping food vendors set up/take down

Exhibitor Tent

Helping with set up/take down of exhibitor booths, keeping area clean, emptying trash cans, assisting exhibitors with needs

Children's Area

Provide information to parents/kids about the children's garden, assisting in stories and games.

Information Booth

Help answer questions for the general public

Docent

Help provide guided tours of the arboretum throughout the day (training will be provided)

Take Down

Empty tents, stack chairs and tables, clean up arboretum

Publicity

Help distribute flyers throughout the community, etc.

Please contact our Volunteer Committee for more details or to sign up:

Alvera Kincart: (859)534-5470
aldon@fuse.net

Gail Weller:(859)750-6376

Dig in the Dirt

You know spring is around the corner when the arboretum staff has scheduled Dig in the Dirt dates! The following are the weather permitting dates that have been scheduled for spring.

Saturday, April 1
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Monday, April 10
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Saturday, May 6
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Monday, May 15
9 a.m. to 12 noon

We ask that you bring your favorite gardening tool and meet at the concession stand. Volunteer opportunities will include pruning, weeding, planting and watering. Dig in the



Dirt sessions will be lead by the Arboretum Director, Kris Stone, or Arboretum Technician, Josh Selm. See you there!



The Arboretum Staff

Kris Stone, Arboretum Director
Josh Selm, Arboretum Technician
Laura Kline, Volunteer Coordinator

Boone County Arboretum at Central Park

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Visit our website at:
www.bcarboretum.org

COOPERATIVE
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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
College of Agriculture

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



Spring Recipe: Feta Stuffed Chicken

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup crumbled basil and tomato feta cheese
- 2 tablespoons fat-free cream cheese (1 ounce)
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- Dash salt
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/4 cup chicken broth
- 1 10-oz package pre-washed fresh spinach, trimmed
- 2 tablespoons walnuts or pecan pieces, toasted
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Directions:

1. In a small bowl, combine feta cheese and cream cheese; set aside. Using a sharp knife, cut a horizontal slit through the thickest portion of each chicken breast half to form a pocket. Stuff pockets with the cheese mixture. If necessary, secure openings with wooden toothpicks. Sprinkle chicken with pepper and salt.
2. In a large nonstick skillet, cook chicken in hot oil over medium-high heat about 12 minutes or until tender and no longer pink, turning once (reduce heat to medium if chicken browns too quickly). Remove chicken from skillet. Cover and keep warm.
3. Carefully add chicken broth to skillet. Bring to boiling; add half of the spinach. Cover and cook

about 3 minutes or just until spinach is wilted. Remove spinach from skillet, reserving liquid in pan. Repeat with the remaining spinach. Return all spinach to skillet. Stir in the nuts and lemon juice. To serve, divide spinach mixture among 4 dinner plates. Top with chicken breasts. If desired, garnish with lemon slices. Makes 4 servings.

Add a serving of broccoli or asparagus to make this a light meal after a winter of filling, heavy dinners.
Welcome Spring!



Recipe source:
Better Homes and
Gardens online
www.bhg.com/recipe