

# 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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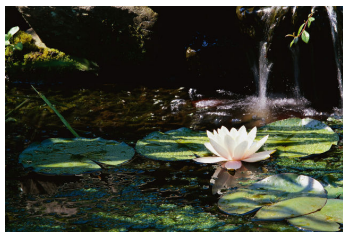
Quarterly Newsletter

Summer, 2007



***“The fastest-growing thing in your garden is an okra pod or zucchini you thought was not quite big enough yesterday.”***

***-Texas Bix Bender***



## **Pondorama Water Garden Tour Tickets Now Available!**

Meyer Aquascapes is holding their annual water garden tour on Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29. All ticket sales made through our group will be donated directly to the Friends of Boone County Arboretum. Tickets are \$10.00 and good for both days. See special lighted ponds Saturday evening from 8-11:00 p.m. Please call Laura Kline at 586-6101 for questions or to purchase your tickets.

## **A Tree for Future Growth at the Arboretum by Mike Klahr**

### **AMERICAN BEECH**

If you would like a big, beautiful shade tree that represents America, consider planting an American Beech in your landscape. Living up to 300 years, and native throughout the eastern third of the U.S. and west into Texas, this tree is about as stately as they come. J.U. Crockett stated it well when he noted that “If the word noble had to be applied to only one kind of tree, the honor would probably go to the beech.” The beech nuts were a favorite food of the now-extinct passenger pigeon, as well as squirrels, blue jays, titmice, grosbeaks, nuthatches, and woodpeckers. According to Fred Hageneder, in his book, *The Meaning of Trees*, shelled beech nuts can be roasted and used in bread and pastries, or even made into a coffee-like

beverage. A type of cooking oil can be extracted from beech nuts, since they are comprised of about 50% oil, which contains 23% protein. Native North American Indian tribes actively sought out beech nuts for food. In addition, the leaf buds and spring leaves are a healthy addition to vegetable salads and soups. In fact, the ancient Greek name for this tree, “Phegos”, is related to their word for “to eat” (“phagein”). And the hard, heavy wood has been used for making furniture, tool handles and bowls. If you’ve ever walked on a trail through the woods, you’ve probably noticed an old beech tree with a heart and two sets of initials carved into its smooth gray bark. This tradition has been going on for centuries, even though it is somewhat harmful to the tree, as it damages the phloem tissue that carries sugars from the leaves to the roots,

which can lead to winter damage. Deeper wounds into the bark can damage the vascular cambium and even the xylem, interfering with the uptake of water and nutrients. Of greater concern, however, is the fact that beech trees will not tolerate soil compaction. This fact must be taken into consideration before home construction begins on a wooded site containing beech trees. In addition to the beautiful, smooth gray bark that makes beech trees so easy to recognize in the woods or landscape, the toothed leaves of American Beech change to beautiful shades of bronze and golden yellow in the fall, then turn light brownish-gray and persist on the tree into the winter, protecting the smooth bark from sunscald. So consider planting an American Beech in your landscape this year. You won’t regret it.

## **Welcome New Members!**

Friends of Boone County Arboretum would like to welcome the new members of our Friends group that have joined since December, 2006:

**Jonathan Butcher  
Karen Dansberry  
Steve Danzer  
Joanna Ellena  
Ruth Epstein**

**Mary Ann Fedders  
Megan Girard  
Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Hannan  
Joan Jacobs  
Ginny Kohl**

**Alexa Manning  
Mary McIntosh  
Sharon Norberg  
Luanne Offenbacher  
Nancy Schwart  
Gary Shuler  
Betty Taylor  
Rev. Paul F. Tenhundfeld  
Jean Vogelsang  
Rose Warner.**

We encourage all new members to join us every 4th Monday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for our regular meeting. We

start with a short program and then discuss ways to better the arboretum. Refreshments are served. Mark your calendar for the following dates: July 23 (located at Boone County Arboretum, Shelter #1), August 27 (located at the Boone County Arboretum Shelter #2) and September 24, Shelter #1. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at the Boone County Extension Service.

## Tomato Maintenance

by Mike Klahr, Extension Agent/Certified Arborist

**Question:** Some of my tomatoes are starting to ripen, but they are rotting on the base. The bottom of the fruit is sunken, leathery, and brown or black, ruining the fruit. How can I prevent further damage?

**Answer:** The symptoms you describe are the result of "blossom end rot", a non-parasitic disease (not caused by fungi or bacteria). It is due to a lack of calcium in the developing fruit. The problem is more common on the first few fruit clusters of fruit each season. Blossom end rot occurs more frequently on tomato, but it may also affect peppers. The problem begins as a small, water soaked spot on the blossom end (opposite the stem) of the developing fruit. The spot develops into a dark brown, leathery area that may affect half the fruit. The surface of the spot shrinks and becomes flattened or sunken. Later, secondary

fungi may invade the affected area, resulting in further decay of the fruit.

### CONTROL:

1. Adequate calcium - A soil test should be run (free of charge at your local northern Kentucky county extension office) to determine if the soil is low in calcium. If calcium is needed, it can be applied as lime (preferably prior to planting).

2. Adequate and consistent water supply - Water supply plays a critical part in the uptake and distribution of calcium within the plant. Maintaining an even moisture supply is one of the most important ways of controlling blossom end rot. Irrigate plants regularly as needed, and use a mulch to conserve soil moisture. Keep plants moist, but

not wet. Avoid wetting leaves in the evening to prevent other diseases.

3. Nutrient balance - Excessive amounts of ammonium nitrogen tends to inhibit the uptake of calcium by plants. The use of urea or fertilizers high in ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>) should be avoided in favor of those high in nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>). Calcium nitrate is an excellent nitrogen fertilizer, although it is more expensive than other nitrogen sources. Read the label on the fertilizer container to learn what form of nitrogen is included.

4. Varieties - Tomato varieties can vary in their sensitivity to blossom end rot. Avoid planting highly sensitive cultivars.



## Lloyd Library: A Great Horticulture Resource

There is an exciting resource for area horticulture enthusiasts in the Cincinnati area. The Lloyd Library and Museum is located downtown Cincinnati and houses an extensive collection of botanical, medical, pharmaceutical and scientific books and periodicals, and works of allied sciences that serve the scientific research community, as well as constituents of the general public, through library services and programming that bring science, art, and history to life. The backbone of the Lloyd Library collec-

tion is over 200,000 volumes covering the fields of aromatherapy, botany, chemistry, complementary medicine, ethnobotany, exploration and travel, gardening and gardening history, herbal medicine, horticulture, natural products, and much more. The date range of these materials is from the just published to several hundred years old, many of which are considered quite rare. There are nearly 1000 linear feet of archival and special collections material. Currently featured at the Lloyd Library is an

exhibit featuring the Botanical Art by the late Charlie Harper.

Visit the Lloyd Libraries website at [www.lloydlibrary.org](http://www.lloydlibrary.org) for more detailed information as well as an extensive online catalog. The library is located at 917 Plum Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Phone: 513-721-3707.

Be sure to check out this fabulous resource!

## 30 Tips, 30 Days



The Boone County Arboretum is a partner with the State of KY's Earth Day Celebration. To show support year round, our newsletter will list a

few of the 30 tips you can easily accommodate into your lifestyle to make a difference in our environment.

Regularly change the air filter in your

### [www.earthday.ky.gov](http://www.earthday.ky.gov)

furnace/ac unit. This will make it more efficient, which saves energy and money.

Scrap tires are a fire hazard and can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Leave old tires with the retailer when buying replacement tires.

Reduce excess packaging and buy in bulk. A family of four can save \$3,000 a year by avoiding excess packaging and buying reusable products.

Regular oil changes reduce air pollution. Replacing the oil and oil filter regularly will improve your fuel economy in addition to making your vehicle last longer.

Conserve water by planting a rain garden! Aren't familiar with rain gardening? Come to our free class at the Extension Office on July 30 at 6:00 p.m. Please call 586-6101 to register.

# Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 24 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Boone County Extension Service

### How to Show Flowers & Vegetables at the County Fair

This class is open to both youth and adults who would like to do a better job of preparing and presenting their vegetables and flowers at the fair. Call 586-6101 or go to [www.ces.ca.uky.edu/boone](http://www.ces.ca.uky.edu/boone)

Monday, July 30 6:00 p.m.  
Boone County Extension Service

### Rain Gardening for Beginners

Rain Gardens are a unique way to capture and recycle storm water for your advantage, helping save money and the environment. In this class you will learn what rain gardening is, all the benefits, and how to plant one of your own. Help make your corner of the world "greener" by planting a rain garden. Free! Call 586-6101 to register.

Wednesday, August 1 6:00 p.m.  
Boone County Extension Service

### Autumn Glory: Planting for Fall Color

Attend an important class for those interested in a colorful fall garden. Spice up your garden with special annuals and perennials for a whole new growing season.

Tuesday, August 21 6:30 p.m.  
Boone County Extension Service

### Tomato Tasting Party

This event is for those people who grew tomatoes provided by the Extension Office this



spring and for people who just love tomatoes! Admission: tomatoes for sampling that are labeled by variety name or a tomato dish to share.

Come visit the Friends of Boone County Arboretum booth at the **Boone County Fair** August 6-11. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Laura Kline at 586-6101.

**Walking Wednesdays**-New for 2007! Each month we will explore a different section of the arboretum, enjoying each season with an interactive one-hour tour from an arboretum staff member. Participants should feel free to ask questions along our journey about trees, gardening and home landscape concerns. Remaining dates for 2007: August 1, September 5 and October 3. Meet at Shelter #2, rain or shine. Walks start at 10:00 a.m. There is no need to register!



Thursday, September 6 9:00 a.m.

### Best Annuals of 2007

Come to Shelter #2 at the Boone County Arboretum and find out what annuals did the best during the summer drought and heat. Evaluate the All-American Display Garden and get ideas for your spring garden. Rain or Shine! Call 586-6101 to register.

Saturday, September 22 8:00 a.m.  
Join local bird expert, Lee McNeely, for an early morning **bird hike**. Bring your binoculars and enjoy a crisp, autumn morning bird watching hike. Free! Class is limited to 15, please register by calling 586-6101.



Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30, 1-4 p.m. each day  
Boone County Arboretum

### Great Outdoor Weekend

Be part of a city wide event! The Greater Cincinnati Area celebrates nature each year with the Great Outdoor Weekend. Enjoy a sampling of the area's awesome nature resources. The Boone County Arboretum will be participating with fun, autumn activities. For more information on the event, please visit [www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org](http://www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org)

Tuesday, October 2 12:00 p.m.

### Lunch and Literature

Boone County Extension Service For our second Lunch and Literature book, we will be reading "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson. Multiple copies will be available at the Boone County Library, Scheben Branch starting August 14. Read the book before October 2 and bring a lunch to the extension office to discuss your favorite parts! Beverages and dessert will be provided. Please call to register at 586-6101.



## Volunteer Opportunities

The following days are scheduled for dig in the dirt work days. Meet at the concession stand at 9:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| July 30   | September 10 |
| August 6  | September 14 |
| August 17 | September 24 |
| August 27 |              |

Check our website at [www.bcarboretum.org](http://www.bcarboretum.org) for updates!

## Boone County Arboretum at Central Park

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



### The Arboretum Staff

Kris Stone, Arboretum Director  
Josh Selm, Arboretum Technician

Laura Kline, Volunteer Coordinator  
Mike Klahr, Extension Agent



### Friends of Boone County Arboretum Officers

Marea West, President  
Joan Klahr, Vice President  
Gretchen Radloff, Secretary  
Audrey Ney, Treasurer

### Friends of Boone County Arboretum, Board of Directors

Cathy Flaig, Betty Kasprovicz,  
John Kain, Mike Klahr, Laura Kline,  
Denny Mathis, Linda Padgett,  
Alvera Kincart, Carol Adams, Kris Stone,  
Ed Bowman, Vicky Tewes, David Whitehouse

**FRIENDS OF BOONE COUNTY ARBORETUM**

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Visit our website at:  
[www.bcarboretum.org](http://www.bcarboretum.org)

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
College of Agriculture

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



## Mock Zucchini Crab Cakes

Janice Geise, Boone County Farmer's Market

What to do with all those zucchini? This fun recipe and other great recipes like this can be found at the Boone County Farmer's Market webpage at [www.boonecountyfarmersmarket.org](http://www.boonecountyfarmersmarket.org)

Makes 4 big or 6 medium cakes

- 2 Cups coarsely grated zucchini
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp. Old Bay seasoning
- 1 egg, beaten

Combine all ingredients in a bowl (you can grate the zucchini and onion into a colander so some of the liquid can drain out). Texture can be adjusted. If it's too dry, add another egg; if too wet, add more crumbs. Heat oil in skillet. Form mixture into patties and fry over medium heat until golden brown on both sides, about 2 to 3 minutes per side. Serve with Dill Mayonnaise, Remoulade or Seafood Sauce.

