



The Four Seasons

Letter From the Director

As we begin the New Year, 2011 looks to be busy and exciting to say the least. Expect to see an expansion of the Butterfly Garden near the front entrance. Also, we will be installing hundreds more new labels throughout the collections. Plans for the memorial garden will continue to be developed and the brick patio that is part of the Growing a Legacy program will be installed this spring.

Looking back at 2010, I think we can all say much was accomplished. Volunteerism has continued to increase, and there were always plenty of extra hands ready to help us meet garden demands throughout

the growing season. The success of our Growing a Legacy program also continued to improve with donations from new individuals and corporations coming in throughout the year.

Earned revenue from special events through Friends of the Arboretum remained steady. The Dogwood Dash 5k Run/Walk continues to be our largest source of special event income, followed by our plant sales and special programs that we charge a nominal attendance fee. With prospects of a slow improvement in the economy now evident, hopefully we will be able to raise greater

funds in the coming year and further advance the mission of our arboretum in the community.

If you are interested in helping us assemble new plant labels during the winter and early spring, be on the lookout for announcements of this volunteer opportunity, or feel free to let us know of your interest in helping. Happy Winter Gardening!

Sincerely,

Kristopher A. Stone

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The **Second Annual Tea Fundraiser** has been set for Tuesday, March 29 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Tickets are \$25.00 each. Space is limited. You must present payment at the time of registration. Stop into the Extension Office today to reserve your spot!

Winter Recipe: Loaded Potato Soup

Boone County Extension Homemaker's Cookbook

6 cups water
1 1/4 pounds Idaho Potatoes
1 (16 oz.) can chicken broth
1 Tablespoon salt
1 Tablespoon pepper
1 (11 oz.) can concentrated Cheddar cheese soup
2 Tablespoons minced garlic
2 sticks butter
3/4 cup flour
1 cup half and half
Garnishes
(chives, bacon bits, and parsley)

Bring water and chicken broth to boil in large stockpot. Peel potatoes and cut into 1/2 inch cubes. Add to water, along with salt and pepper. Cook about 12 minutes or until potatoes are half done. Add cheese soup and garlic and simmer 10 minutes.

Melt butter in saucepan; add flour and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, for 3-4 minutes. Whisk the flour mixture into the potato mixture. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer 3-4

minutes. Stir in half & half and heat just to serving temperature. Top with bacon bits, chives, and parsley.



Hot Plants

Dr. Mike Klahr, Extension Agent for Horticulture

JAPANESE FAN-TAIL WILLOW

Do you like plants with character? A little out of the ordinary? A bit twisted perhaps... or even strange? Well, here's an interesting plant that fits the bill. It's called Japanese Fan-tail Willow, or Dragon Willow (*Salix udensis* 'Sekka'). It's actually quite beautiful, and upon close inspection, many of the stems are curled, twisted, fasciated and flattened on the ends. Some may turn reddish-purple in exposure to sunlight. Thus, this is also a popular cut stem for florists. Leaves are typical willow-like, long and slender, glossy-green until turning yellow in the fall. 'Golden Sunshine' is a related cultivar that has yellow leaves throughout the growing season.

Sekka Fan-tail Willow, very popular in Japan, is a native of northeastern Asia. It is a large, spreading shrub, eventually reaching a size of 10-15 feet high, and even slightly wider. It is a male clone with showy yellow catkin-type flowers in March. Early spring would be a good time to plant this multi-season beauty.

QUICK FACTS:

COMMON NAME: Japanese Fan-tail Willow, Dragon Willow

BOTANICAL NAME: *Salix udensis* 'Sekka' (formerly *S. sachalinensis*)

CULTIVARS: 'Sekka', 'Golden Sunshine'

FOLIAGE COLOR: green, then golden yellow in the fall

FLOWERS: Ivory-yellow catkins, March

SOIL: Tolerates clay and all types of soil. Likes plenty of water.

SIZE: 10-15' tall and 12-18' wide

EXPOSURE: Full Sun to Part Shade

KEYS TO SUCCESS:

WATERING: one inch of water per week during the growing season. Keep moist.

WHEN TO FERTILIZE: Fertilize in late fall or very early spring, based on soil test results.

PLANTING & PRUNING: Plant in early spring; apply 2-3" of organic mulch over the roots. Prune after flowering, if needed, or prune back to 1' occasionally in early March to yield more contorted stems.

IN YOUR LANDSCAPE: Specimen plant; good multi-season plant



Membership Update

Please take a look and see if your membership is expiring soon. Visit www.bcarboretum.org to renew your membership online or print off a membership form to mail in. Be sure to check out our list of new and improved membership benefits! Call Laura Kline at 859-586-6101 or email at laura.kline@uky.edu for details.

Karen Czirr	3/31
Carol Dawson	2/28
David Fangman	2/28
Mary Alice Gruden	3/31
Kitty Haberz	2/28
John and Glenna Hughes	3/31
Betty Kasprovicz	3/31
Mike and Joan Klahr	3/31
Pat McLaughlin	2/28
Audrey Ney	3/31
Robert Phillips	2/28
Josh Selm	3/31
Jean Thompson	3/31

Donna Wilmhoff 3/31

Thanks to our new and renewing members!

Catherine Baker
 Michael and Cheryl Berkel
 Walter and Connie Bonvell
 Freda and Bob Carlin
 John Duke
 Kathy Gammon
 Jennifer Gulick
 Bonnie Hampton
 Alexis and Leslie Hannan
 Carrie and Kurt Hanscom
 Connie Householder
 Joan Jacobs
 Sara Kennedy
 Kathy and Brian Larcom *Benefactor*
 Denny Mathis

Diane McFalls
 Rob and Carol Montjoy
 Luanne Offenbacher
 Norbert O'Hare
 Steve Raines
 Jim and Carolyn Roth
 Marie Salazar
 Gwen Smith
 Kris Stone
 Paul and Ann Tagher
 Vicky Tewes
 Marge Webb
 Ginny Yahl

The Friends of Boone County Arboretum is filled with incredibly generous people. Not only do you provide support monetarily, but you are so generous with your time. On behalf of all arboretum staff, we deeply thank you for all your support.

Collection News

by Josh Selm, Curator

As we start 2011, a heightened focus will be on the plants and collections within the Boone County Arboretum. The plant collections committee, formed just last year, will be making recommendations on possible additions, removals, or changes to the plants represented in the various collection groupings. More plant labels will be installed throughout the arboretum, particularly in the magnolia area where virtually all plants will be labeled. The butterfly garden will be going through its own metamorphosis as it is expanded

into the surrounding area near the children's garden. Our invasive species demonstration area will also be developed in the spring to highlight invasive plant management and suitable replacements.

Other non-plant projects for this upcoming year include a new amphitheater near the children's garden and a new photo book for use during school visits. An "Emerald Ash Borer Community Awareness and Monitoring" conference will occur in early April, the result of a partnership with the Boone

County Urban Forest Commission and Boone County Extension Office.

The first half of the winter has given us an abundance of rain and snow to recharge the ground water levels. Hopefully adequate amounts of moisture will continue through the 2011 growing season.

See you at our next event!

Josh Selm
 Curator, Boone County Arboretum

The Arboretum Staff

Kris Stone, Arboretum Director
 Josh Selm, Arboretum Curator
 Mike Klahr, Extension Agent
 Laura Kline, Volunteer Coordinator

Friends of BCA Officers

Norbert O'Hare, President
 Joan Klahr, Vice President
 Martin West, Treasurer
 Janet Samples, Secretary

Friends of Boone County Arboretum Board of Directors

Catherine Baker, Ed Bowmann, Annette Dube, Alvera Kincart, Mike Klahr, Laura Kline, Denny Mathis, Linda Padgett, Gretchen Radloff, Kris Stone, Vicky Tewes, David Whitehouse

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.

Friends of Boone County Arboretum



**FRIENDS OF BOONE COUNTY
ARBORETUM**

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We're On The Web!
www.bcarboretum.org

COOPERATIVE
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College of Agriculture

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Burlington, KY 41005

Horticulture Concerns

Dr. Mike Klahr, Extension Agent for Horticulture

Question: *The road crews have been using lots of de-icing salt on the road in front of my house. Then the salty snow gets pushed up around my white pine trees. Is this apt to harm the plants? Are some trees more tolerant of salt?*

Answer: White pines are very susceptible to salt spray from roadside salt. When combined with poorly drained, heavy clay soils prevalent in this area, they will probably decline and die over the years. Salts in the soil make it difficult for roots to absorb water and nutrients. Salts affect plant growth in several ways: by accumulating specific ions in toxic concentration within plant tissues; by causing desiccation (drying); by altering mineral nutrition balances; and by altering soil structure. Healthy, mature plants will withstand salts better than young or newly-planted ones, or those suffering from drought, flooding, disease or insect attack. Soil salts can accumulate in plant tissues over several years, eventually reaching toxic levels. Effects appear on plants during the growing season

and include stunting and poor vigor, terminal dieback, premature leaf drop, leaf tip-burn and leaf marginal scorch. These symptoms may mimic those caused by drought. Plants may be stunted, and evergreens gradually thin out, becoming yellow-green in color.

The most commonly used salt for de-icing roads is sodium chloride (NaCl). Calcium chloride (CaCl₂) and calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) are less damaging to the environment, but due to their expense they are used less frequently on a large scale.

Salt damage to landscape plants along sidewalks and driveways can be minimized with a "preventive care" approach. Avoid or reduce the use of de-icing salt by substituting or mixing salt with sand, sawdust, or similar material whenever possible. Use alternative de-icing salts such as calcium chloride and calcium magnesium acetate when salts must be applied. In addition, thoughtful plant selection and timely maintenance can minimize the risk of salt injury. When landscaping, use plants known to be hardy if salt accumulation should

occur. Among the turfgrasses, tall fescue and perennial ryegrass will tolerate more salt than red fescue or Kentucky bluegrass. Even though we are in Zone 6, choose trees and shrubs hardy to Zones 3-5, since salt spray on the twigs decreases the plant's tolerance to cold temperatures. Select salt-tolerant species such as Ginkgo, Japanese Tree Lilac, Mugo Pine, Blue Spruce, Black Hills Spruce, Honeylocust, Junipers, Larch, Bush Cinquefoil (*Potentilla*), Black Oak and Red Oak. Avoid planting salt-sensitive species such as white pine, hemlock, yews (*Taxus*), red maple, sugar maple, Japanese maple, redbud, river birch, and little-leaf linden in areas along roadsides, driveways or sidewalks where de-icing salts are frequently used. Place sensitive trees at least thirty feet from the street, especially if the road carries a high volume of traffic. Drainage patterns should carry salts away from plant roots. Avoid planting where runoff collects. Where soil salt is a risk, consider drought-sensitive plants as salt-sensitive. A physical barrier such as a snow fence or a screen of salt-tolerant plants between the plants and the road can offer protection from salt spray damage.