

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 III

Quarterly Newsletter

Fall, 2006

October gave a party; the leaves by hundreds came. The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples, and leaves of every name. The Sunshine spread the carpet, and everything was grand, Miss Weather led the dancing, Professor Wind the band.

-George Cooper

Special Thanks!

What a busy season this has been! A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the County Fair, Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, Plant Sale, Dinsmore Heritage Festival, GOW, Dig in the Dirt and Adopt a Plot. Volunteers are the reason we can accomplish so much! Thank you!

Fall Highlights at the Arboretum

Usually, this column is reserved for trees that are blooming or have interesting seasonal attributes. We have an exceptional highlight to share with our members this fall. Thanks to a generous donation by the Boone County Garden Club, the Children's Garden committee and the help of the Arboretum Director, Kris Stone, the Arboretum Technician, Josh Selm, Extension Horticulture Agent, Mike Klahr, and recent Master Gardener Graduate, Mary Kramer, we were able to significantly improve the entrance of our Children's Garden.

This area had been reserved for seasonal annuals, but changing the whole area twice a year became costly and time consuming.



Children's Garden Entrance: Before

After a few informational meetings, the Children's Garden Committee, headed by Jan Taylor, agreed with the suggestions and design of Master Gardener, Mary Kramer. Each plant was selected to bring color,

texture, and interest at all different times of the year.



Children's Garden Entrance: After

Some new perennials, trees and shrubs that have been planted are: varieties of Winterberry Hollies, Chokeberries, a Magnolia, Serviceberry, Coneflowers and more. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped plant the new entrance. It could not have been done without you!

Welcome New Members!

Friends of Boone County Arboretum would like to welcome our new members! A friendly welcome to: **Robert and Julia Griffin, Daniel and Evelyn Hance, Mary Kramer, Janet Samples, Marge Webb and Ginny Yahl.** We encourage new members to join us every fourth Monday of the month at the Boone County Extension Office at 6:30 pm for refreshments, fun and a meeting

to discuss the development of the arboretum. All ideas are welcome! Looking forward, the Friends of Boone County Arboretum's meeting in November will be held on **Thursday, November 27**, with a presentation from Mike Klahr, Horticulture Agent and his wife, Joan Klahr, on their recent trip to Alaska. They will be showing pictures of the rich vegetation and scenery of Alaska.

Mark your calendar now for our Holiday Party—**Monday, December 11** at 6:30 p.m. Due to a remodeling project at the Extension Office, the Holiday Party will be held at the Public Safety Campus Building, 3000 Conrad Lane in Burlington. Details will be announced after our November meeting.



Does Litter Bug You?

The Litterbug Spotter Program is one branch of the Boone County Pride Posse, a coalition of local residents and county authorities that is dedicated to stopping litter in our communities. Spearheaded by concerned citizens in our community, the Litterbug Spotters are trusted and trained to notice and report litterbugs.

When they witness people in Boone County litter out of a vehicle, they safely make note of the license plate number, and the litterbug is sent a letter explaining the illegality and thoughtlessness of their action. Unfortunately, only a Sheriff Deputy who witnesses a littering incident can issue a citation. However, we are able to get the message out to those who are trashing our neighborhoods.

If you would like to get involved, please call or email Boone County Solid Waste and make sure to include your name, address, phone number and email address. We can be reached by phone at 859.334.3151 and by email at mshinkle@boonecountyky.org.

Businesses and other entities that commit 100% of their employees to the Spotter Program will be featured in the Boone County Recorder and the Boone County Solid Waste webpage.



Stopping Litterbugs is a BIG job-and we can only solve the problem together.

Get involved in your community by joining our Pride Posse.

Plant Sale Success and Other Events

The Friends of BCA's first plant sale was a huge success! Held on October 7 at the arboretum, plants that were donated by Baeten's Nursery, Rightway Nursery, and members and volunteers of the Friends group sold plants from 9 am to 12 pm. In that short time, the Friends group made over \$500! Most volunteers helping with the sale were Master Gardeners, and the public responded enthusiastically to all their knowledge. Thanks to everyone who helped make our first plant sale a success!

Upcoming Events

November 14 Natural Decorating for the Holidays with Joan Klahr, 1:00 p.m., Boone County Extension Office (must register)

November 27 Friends of BCA Monthly Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Boone County Extension Office

December 11 Friends of BCA Holiday Party, 6:30 p.m., Public Safety Campus Building, 3000 Conrad Lane.



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.

Do not run water continuously while

www.earthday.ky.gov

brushing your teeth or shaving. More than 11% of all water used in the home goes down the bathroom sink.

Take this test: if a playing card fits in the crevice of an outside door or window, you need more weather stripping. Weather-strip doors and windowsills to keep cool air inside in the summer and warm air inside in the winter.

Cars pollute the most during the first

five miles of travel while warming up. Ride a bike or walk for shorter trips.

Limit engine idling. Instead of idling your engine for longer than a minute, turn it off. Once you're underway, idling for more than a minute will burn even more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it.

Select the proper size pans for cooking. Large pans require more cooking water.

Best Time to Prune

by Mike Klahr, Extension Agent/Certified Arborist

Question: Is this a good time to prune my maple trees and my forsythias and lilac bushes?

Answer: There is a popular myth or misbelief that circulates around at this time of year. It says that fall is the time to do most of your pruning of trees and shrubs, as you “clean up the landscape” for winter. Well, actually that is bad advice for this part of the country. Late summer and fall is a time when trees and shrubs naturally “acclimate” or “harden off” for winter. As the days grow shorter and temperatures cool down, this process takes place naturally... unless we interrupt it by pruning or fertilizing heavily with nitrogen at this time of year. Pruning and fertilizing are invigorating processes, stimulating the tree into sudden growth. This is just the opposite of what is best for the tree right now, as it is attempting to “shut down and harden off for winter”. New growth now, or even the internal changes and “dehardening” processes which precede actual visible growth, will result in tender plant tissue that is easily damaged by cold weather, which could lead to a weakened or dead plant by next summer. Pruning cuts now would also leave fresh wounds exposed to the cold. Here are some pruning and fertilizing guidelines for trees and shrubs...

*Landscape trees and shrubs with showy flowers in the spring (flowering before June 1) should be pruned within two weeks after their flowers fade (this includes white-flowering spireas, most lilacs, redbuds, deciduous magnolias, forsythias, etc.). Pruning these plants any time from July through May would be like removing potential flowers, since they make their flower buds the previous season and then bloom on old wood.

*Shade trees can be pruned in March or June (including all types of maples, ash, oaks, honeylocust, etc.). Some trees (like birch, yellowwood, elm, and maple) may “bleed”, or lose sap after being pruned in March. This does not actually harm the tree, but if you want to avoid it you can wait until June to prune these species (although branches will be heavier and bulkier to haul away due to all the leaves at that time).

*Most evergreens are best pruned in March or April, but prune pines in June.

*Never “top” trees (rounding them off by cutting all the branches to the same height (also known as “dehorning” or “hat-racking”). This is very harmful and disfiguring to

the tree. Hire a certified arborist to prevent this common practice.

*Dead wood, basal sprouts, and other minor pruning can be done at any time of year without harming the plant.

*Hazardous branches or trees should be removed immediately.

*Apple and pear trees should be pruned in late February to early March.

*Peach and nectarine trees should be pruned just after bloom, so that pruning can be modified based on the number of flowers surviving late spring freezes.

*Fruit trees should be fertilized in February, based on soil test results.

*Landscape trees and shrubs should be fertilized in late November or early March, based on soil test results.

*Evergreens will need a heavy watering in late fall.

Following these guidelines will help assure strong, healthy trees in the years ahead.



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Fall Recipe: Laura's Mom's famous Stuffed Acorn Squash



It may not be famous any other place than my parents' home, but, there is one meal that sums up all my favorite things

about fall. This recipe has apples, squash, sunflower seeds and spices we love to pull out this time of year. My mom has made this every year for me and now that I don't live near home anymore, I get to make it for myself and my husband. I hope you enjoy my favorite fall meal!



- 2 large acorn squash
- 2T + 5t oleo or butter
- 3/4 pound ground beef, brown and drain
- 1 small onion-chopped
- 2 celery stalks
- 1 cup cooked rice
- 1 cooking apple, unpeeled, chopped
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds
- 1t curry powder
- 5t brown sugar
- Salt

Cut squash lengthwise, clean and bake 20 minutes at 375 degrees (or microwave, cover in plastic wrap).

In skillet over medium heat, melt 2T oleo or butter. Add ground beef, onion and celery. Cook until tender. Add rice, apples, sunflower seeds, curry, 1 teaspoon brown sugar, salt to taste. Remove from heat. Set aside. Place 1 teaspoon oleo or butter, 1 teaspoon brown sugar in each shell. Pick with fork, bake 5 minutes more. Stuff squash, cover and bake 10-15 minutes.

