

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.

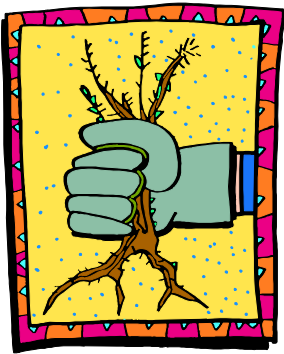
Volume 4, Issue I

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter/Spring, 2007

***A weed is a plant
that is not only
in the wrong
place, but
intends to stay.***

—Sara Stein



Spring Highlights at the Arboretum

Get your running shoes out of the closet after a cold winter and get ready to stretch your legs in the warm, spring air at the Dogwood Days Dash 5K Walk/Run to be held at the Boone County Arboretum. This fun event will be held on Saturday, April 21. Race registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the race begins at 9:00 a.m. All proceeds from the race benefit the Friends of Boone County Arboretum. If you would like to participate in the race, you can find a registration form on the back of this newsletter. We are always looking for sponsorships or private donations. If you are interested, please see sponsorship column.

Magnolia

(\$50)

Your name will appear on event publicity

Maple

(\$200)

Same as Magnolia plus your name appears on t-shirt

Dogwood

(\$500)

Same as Maple plus your logo is featured on t-shirt

We encourage everyone to come out on April 21 and enjoy the spring dogwood blooms. If you are interested in volunteering for the morning of the race, or would like to participate as a runner or walker for the 5K, please contact Laura Kline at 859-586-6101 or email at laura.kline@uky.edu, or fill out the registration form on the back and mail to Laura Kline, P.O. Box 876, Burlington, KY 41005. We look forward to seeing you out at the arboretum on April 21!

2007 Membership Drive

Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for our 2006 Volunteer of the Year:

Jan Taylor!

Jan spent 110 hours volunteering to better improve the arboretum. Her donated time is worth \$1930.50! We look forward to her return from Florida!

The 2006 membership year reached 84 paid memberships for the Friends of Boone County Arboretum; a new record! Thanks to all that have been renewing their memberships faithfully and to our new members, we thank you for joining us. Current memberships expire 3-31-2007. Please consider renewing your membership for 2007. We have exciting things happening with the purchase of 112 acres by the Extension Service (across

from the Arboretum), our growth in the community, and new classes and events for 2007. To renew your membership, please send a check made payable to "Friends of Boone County Arboretum" to Laura Kline, P.O. Box 876, Burlington, KY 41005.

Single	\$10
Senior (60+)	\$8
Supporter	\$50
Sponsor	\$75
Benefactor	\$150
Lifetime/single	\$500
Lifetime/joint	\$750

Be sure to take advantage of being a Friend of Boone County Arboretum by joining us on a private tour of Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum on Tuesday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. This fantastic horticulture tour is woven with the history and architecture of the 1800's. This tour is free, but space is limited. Please call 859-586-6101 to sign up.



Spring Flowering Bulbs by Norbert O'Hare

After we received a generous donation of spring flower bulbs from Natorp's, I considered writing about spring flower bulbs. After the experience of this terrible, cold February, and the resultant anxiety and cabin fever, it seemed just the thing to remind us that spring is already here. After all, the foliage and buds of those bulbs sprouted long ago and have been waiting under the snow. But wait! What's happening to them under there? Well, luckily, nothing. They're pretty well adapted to turns of weather and temperature. Unless buds are already open, they will withstand it. The worst is the loss of buds, but next year they'll be back. Yes, that's right, they are perennials that return every year and multiply as well.

Spring-flowering bulbs are planted in the fall because they need a period of

cold to bloom and complete their life cycle. October and early November are ideal times in our area. So, you see why the recent cold is normal for them.

After blooming, it's important to leave the foliage on them until it dies back naturally. You see, although they actually take many different forms and not all are technically bulbs, the one thing these plants have in common is that they store food and energy for next year underground. They need to photosynthesize to store the food that blooming has depleted. Otherwise there is no next year. I've noticed that columnists like myself like to write about what's new and "hot". In the interest of full disclosure, I can tell you that there is no new thing under the sun.

Frans Roozen, technical director of the International Flower Bulb Center in the Netherlands, says, "It is not unusual for the grandson to bring to market a tulip hybrid that was originally created by the grandfather." That's because the process and breeding, selecting, and then allowing the selections to mature to a saleable size takes many generations of flowers. Good for them that flower bulbs are among the very easiest to grow of plants.

Thanks to Norbert O'Hare for the submission of this article. You can find more information on bulbs at the Boone County Extension Office or www.bulbs.com.

Events and Volunteer Opportunities

The Cincinnati Flower Show is now recruiting volunteers for the April 21-29 week at Coney Island. If you are interested in volunteering for this fun event, please call Friend of Boone County Arboretum, Alexa Manning, at 513-872-9555 x.26 for more information.

Upcoming Events

Friends of Boone County Arboretum Monthly Meetings:

March 26, 6:30 p.m. Boone County Extension Office

April 23, 6:30 p.m. Boone County Extension Office

May 21, 6:30 p.m. Boone County Arboretum, Shelter #1

Classes:

Flowering Bulbs for Summer Beauty
March 14, 9-11:00 a.m. Boone County Extension Service

Nursery and Garden Center Update: What's New for the Gardening Public 2007?
March 27, 9-12 noon (approx. times)

Composting 101, March 28, 6:00 p.m.
Boone County Extension Service

Walking Wednesday at the Arboretum (Educational Walking Tour)
April 11, Boone County Arboretum, Meet at Shelter #2 10-11:00 a.m.

All classes are free and open to the public. Call 586-6101 for more details.

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.

1. Use Energy Star qualified lighting

www.earthday.ky.gov

in your home. If every household in the U.S. changed lighting in one room or their home to Energy Star qualified lighting, our annual energy savings alone would be equivalent to the annual output of more than 21 power plants.

2. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs. An Energy Star qualified light bulb that is used for an average of 4 hours per day will last for more than

4 years before it needs to be changed. If every household replaced 5 of its most used bulbs with ES rated bulbs, we would prevent more than one trillion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

(Personally, Laura Kline uses ES fluorescent light bulbs and can barely tell a difference in lighting quality!)

Tree Profile

by Mike Klahr, Extension Agent/Certified Arborist

Flowering Dogwood

What could be lovelier on a spring day than the soft pink and white flowers of the flowering dogwood? The graceful, horizontal branches of the dogwood reach out like billowy clouds in April, heavy-laden with giant blooms. Whether planted or occurring naturally in a Kentucky neighborhood, park, arboretum or woods, the delightful dogwoods of spring always make their presence known. Described as “the aristocrat of native flowering trees” by Michael Dirr, author of Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, the flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) stands out in any woodland or landscape setting. Although technically, the showy parts of the “flower” are not really petals but are modified leaves called “bracts”, and the true flowers are the small, greenish yellow centers that later become the clusters of fruits, overall, the effect is magnificent. In their book, Dogwoods, Paul Cappiello and Don Shadow point out that “few plants of the Northern Hemisphere are equally rivaled and as instantly recognizable.” They go on to explain the legend of the dogwood, which says that the tree once grew as tall as the oaks, but after its wood was allegedly used to make the cross of Christ, God rendered the tree useless for future cross-making by causing it to grow only as a short

tree with bent and twisted branches. Furthermore, the four “petals” were to be borne in the shape of a cross, with a rusty red nail mark at the tip of each, and a crown of thorns in the center of the blossom. After the dogwood blooms fade in late April or early May, the clusters of bright red fruits develop for added late summer and fall beauty, and the foliage turns to excellent shades of red and purple in the autumn. Unfortunately, the flowering dogwood is not the easiest tree to grow in Kentucky landscapes and subdivisions, where all the topsoil has been stripped away, and the tree gets planted out in the middle of the yard, in full sun, stuck in a hole of poorly drained clay soil with no organic matter included. Or in an urban planting, the dogwoods often suffer if planted in small tree wells along a city sidewalk or roadside in compacted soils where de-icing salts are used in the winter, and in the summer, the reflected heat off the concrete causes the dogwood’s leaves to scorch. The flowering dogwood is very tolerant of shade, but is very intolerant of flooding and poorly-drained soils. This dogwood needs acid soil (pH 5.5-6.5), so be sure not to add any lime around the tree. It helps if you can mix in some organic matter (compost, peat moss or composted manure) into the planting bed before setting the tree in the ground. Be sure to apply a 2 to 3-inch layer

of organic mulch (shredded bark or wood chips) around the base of the tree, extending outwards as far as possible. Keep the plant watered through summer droughts, since it is not extremely drought tolerant. If the tree is stressed in any way, it becomes susceptible to dogwood borers, which can kill it. Preventive trunk sprays for borers can therefore be helpful in the spring. Although the flowering dogwood does require some extra care during establishment and through a drought, it is well worth it as you see the beauty of the plant each season of the year.

QUICK FACTS:

Common Name: Flowering Dogwood
 Varieties to look for: ‘Cherokee Chief’, ‘Cherokee Daybreak’, ‘Cherokee Sunset’, ‘Cherokee Princess’, ‘Cloud 9’
 Color: white or pink “flowers”, red fruits, red or purple fall color. Some cultivars have variegated leaves.
 Blooming Period: April-May
 Size: 20-30’ tall and 25-35’ wide
 Exposure: Shade to part-shade, or full sun if kept mulched and moist.



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@boonecountky.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

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 Joan Klahr, Vice President
 Gretchen Radloff, Secretary
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FRIENDS OF BOONE COUNTY ARBORETUM

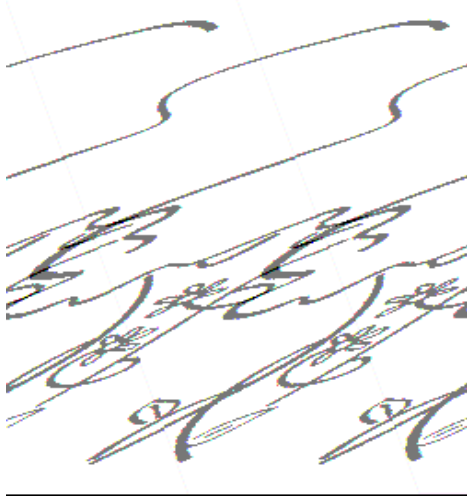
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Fax: (859) 586-6107
Email: laura.kline@uky.edu

Visit our website at:
www.bcarboretum.org



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



Dogwood Days Dash 5K Walk/Run Registration Form

\$15 Pre-Registration (postmarked by April 6th)

\$20 Race day Registration (after April 6th)

Name _____ Sex _____ Age as of 4/21/07 _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____

Runner **Walker** T-shirt size: **S** **M** **L** **XL**

Waiver: In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I hereby waive, discharge and release on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, assigns, and any party claiming by or through me, all claims of any nature whether to person or to property, known or unknown, including but not limited to damages, demands, actions, suits, whatsoever in any manner, arising from my participation in this event, and do hereby specifically release the Boone County Cooperative Extension Service, its agents, servants, employees, volunteers and the Dogwood Dash coordinators, staff, sponsors, workers, officials, and volunteers from any and all claims whatsoever arising from my participation in this event. I agree to abide by all the rules for participation, and acknowledge that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained for such an event and have full knowledge of the risk(s) involved and expressly assume all risk(s) in connection with my participation.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian (if under 18) _____ Date _____

Make Checks Payable to: Friends of Boone County Arboretum

Mail completed form to Boone County Extension Service; Attn: Laura Kline, P.O. Box 876, Burlington KY 41005