

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.

Volume 5, Issue 11

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring, 2008

Director's Letter



True to form from last year, 2008 is off to an interesting start in the weather department as we were inundated with over 10 inches of rain in the month of March. This has delayed our spring plantings and cleanup schedules at the Arboretum, but is providing our plants plenty of water in stark comparison to last year. In fact it was just a little over a year ago in April of 2007 that we were reeling from the after effects of one of the worst late-spring freezes on record after a very early and mild start to spring last year.

Expect to see a lot of planting activity going on this year at the Arboretum as we go through and replace

all of the drought damaged plants, and material that has been lost gradually over the years from deer damage and other acts of nature. If all goes as planned, the planting should be completed by May 15th.

In other news, we are proud to announce that Friends of Boone County Arboretum Inc. is one of several non profit recipients of Eisen Management Group's Operation Outreach 2008. This awards pro bono marketing and public relations assistance to Friends. This is one of several new partnerships that we have been fortunate to develop in recent months, including a few other large corporations throughout the metro who are interested in

us as they focus on improving their corporate image as "Green Friendly".

Best wishes this spring in your gardens and we'll hopefully see you at upcoming events, classes, or volunteer projects.

Sincerely,

Kristopher A. Stone

Director, Boone County Arboretum

Gardening is a kind of disease. It infects you, you cannot escape it. When you go visiting, your eyes rove about the garden; you interrupt the serious cocktail drinking because of an irresistible impulse to get up and pull a weed.

-Lewis Gannit

Upcoming Events

Join us for the exciting upcoming classes and events.

- Wednesday Walks, Wednesday, May 7 10:00 a.m. at the arboretum. Shelter #2, rain or shine.
- Bamboo in the Landscape, Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 pm, Shelter #1. Call 586-6101 to register. Canceled if it rains.

- Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, May 17 9:00 a.m. to 12noon. Shelter #1. Now accepting plant material! Call Laura Kline at 586-6101.
- Arboretum Day: Family Garden Show. Saturday, June 7. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Gardening events, speakers, food, kid's activities and more! Free!
- Summer Annuals

Tour, Friday, June 20, 9:00 a.m. at Shelter #2. Call 586-6101 to register.

Dig in the Dirt Work Days:

- May 6
- May 8
- May 20
- May 22
- May 31
- June 3
- June 5
- June 17
- June 19
- June 21

Dogwood Days Dash 2008 a Success!

Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers and participants in making the 2nd annual Dogwood Days Dash a success! There were 158 participants ranging in age from 3 years old to 81. The Friends of Boone County Arboretum raised \$1842.77, a great profit! I would like to personally thank all the great volunteers that made this happen, especially Mary Alice Gruden who was a great source information on racing and went above and beyond her call of duty making the race happen. A special thanks to all those

who helped prepare for the race, who helped the day of the race and to those that ran the race. We couldn't have done it without you. Another special thanks to all our sponsors:

Meters and Miles
PNC Bank
Summit Medical Group
Didio Chiropractic Center
Radiant Fitness
Northern KY Water District
Panera Bread
Boone County Cooperative Extension

Boone County Parks
Sauley Homes
Yesterday's Café and Tea Shop



Vegetable Soup with Fennel, Herbs and Parmesan Broth

2 Tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
4 garlic cloves, minced
3 carrots
2 celery ribs
2 leeks
Cut the last three vegetables in half lengthwise and thinly slice crosswise.
1 fennel bulb, halve, core and thinly slice
1 medium tomato, peel, cut into 1/2 and dice
2 bay leaves
6 cups water
One 3 inch Parmigiano-Reggiano rind
1 Tablespoon chopped flat-leaf parsley
1 Tablespoon chopped basil
Salt and freshly-ground pepper
1/4 cup freshly-grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Heat the oil in large soup pot. Add the garlic and cook over moderate heat, stirring, until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Add the carrots, celery, leeks and fennel and cook, stirring, until the vegetables begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Add the tomato and bay leaves and cook until the vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes. Add the water and the cheese rind and bring to a simmer. Cover partially and cook over moderately low heat until the vegetables are very tender, about 30 minutes.

Discard the cheese rind and bay leaves. Stir in the parsley and basil and season the soup with salt and pepper. Ladle into bowls and sprinkle with grated cheese and serve.

ONE SERVING 180 calories, 10 gm fat, 2.5 gm sat fat, 19 gm carb, 4.8 gm fiber

NOTE I loved this soup, which is light and vegetable laden with a subtle flavor. It's a perfect accompaniment to a sandwich or with cheese and crackers for a light lunch. I did not have the cheese rind to use so that is optional. I used dried basil (1 t.) since I made it in the middle of winter.

This recipe was submitted by Friends member and Secretary, Janet Samples.



Membership Update

Thanks to all those members that updated their memberships with the Friends group! Your continued support with memberships, volunteering and positive word of mouth is making a difference. Currently, there are close to 70 members of the Friends of Boone County Arboretum. The following is a list of memberships that will expire by the end of May:

Marilyn Alford
Karen Dansberry

JoAnne Ellena
Ruth Epstein
Christine Godsey
Jennifer Gulick
Joan Jacobs
Virginia Johnson
Keri Kaeding
Ginny Kohl
Lori Leatherbee
Diane McFalls
Sharon Norberg
Luanne Offenbach
Norbert O'Hare

Betty Taylor
Rev. Paul Tenhundfeld
Martin and Marea West

With memberships starting as low as \$8 for seniors, I invite you to consider renewing.

\$8 senior
\$10 individual
\$15 family
\$50 supporter
\$75 sponsor

Make checks to: Friends of BCA

Horticulture Concerns: Carpenter Bees by Mike Klahr, Extension Agent/Certified Arborist

Question: There are bumble bees living in round holes in the lumber around my deck. How can I kill them and keep them from coming back?

Answer: Those are actually carpenter bees. In the spring and early summer, homeowners often notice large, black bees hovering around the outside of their homes. These are probably carpenter bees searching for mates and favorable sites to construct their nests. Male carpenter bees are quite aggressive, often hovering in front of people who are around the nests. The males are quite harmless, however, since they lack stingers. Female carpenter bees can inflict a painful sting but seldom will unless they are handled or molested.

Carpenter bees resemble bumble bees, but the upper surface of their

abdomen is bare and shiny black; bumble bees have a hairy abdomen with at least some yellow markings. Despite their similar appearance, the nesting habits of the two types of bees are quite different. Bumble bees usually nest in the ground whereas carpenter bees tunnel into wood to lay their eggs. Bare, unpainted or weath-

ered softwoods are preferred, especially redwood, cedar, cypress and pine. Painted or pressure-treated wood is much less susceptible to attack. Common nesting sites include eaves, window trim, fascia boards, siding, wooden shakes, decks and outdoor furniture. Carpenter bees overwinter as adults in wood within abandoned nest tunnels. They emerge in the spring, usually in April or May. After mating, the fertilized females excavate tunnels in wood and lay their eggs within a series of small cells. The cells are provisioned with a ball of pollen on which the larvae feed, emerging as adults in late summer. The entrance hole and tunnels are perfectly round and about the diameter of a pencil or the end of your

finger. Coarse sawdust the color of fresh cut wood will often be present beneath the en-

try hole, and burrowing sounds may be heard from within the wood. Female carpenter bees may excavate new tunnels for egg laying, or enlarge and reuse old ones. The extent of damage to wood which has been utilized for nesting year after year may be considerable. Carpenter bees prefer to attack wood which

is bare, weathered and unpainted. Therefore, the best way to deter the bees is to paint all exposed wood surfaces, especially those which have a history of being attacked. Wood stains and preservatives are less reliable than painting, but will provide some degree of repellency versus bare wood. To further discourage nesting, garages and out-buildings should be kept closed when carpenter bees are actively searching for nesting sites.

Liquid sprays of carbaryl (Sevin), or a synthetic pyrethroid (e.g., permethrin or cyfluthrin) can be applied as a preventive to wood surfaces which are attracting bees. Residual effectiveness of these insecticides is often only 1-2 weeks, however, and the treatment may need to be repeated. Tunnels which have already been excavated are best treated by puffing an insecticidal dust (e.g., 5 percent carbaryl or Sevin) into the nest opening. Aerosol sprays labeled for wasp or bee control also are effective. Leave the hole open for a few days after treatment to allow the bees to contact and distribute the insecticide throughout the nest galleries. Then plug the entrance hole with a piece of wooden dowel coated with carpenter's glue, or wood putty, and paint over it. This will protect against future utilization of the old nesting tunnels and reduce the chances of wood decay.



Carpenter Bee



Bumblebee



The Arboretum Staff

Kris Stone, Arboretum Director
Josh Selm, Arboretum Curator

Laura Kline, Volunteer Coordinator
Mike Klahr, Extension Agent

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



Friends of Boone County Arboretum Officers

Marea West, President
Joan Klahr, Vice President
Janet Samples, Secretary
Catherine Baker, Treasurer

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David Whitehouse, Jan Taylor

FRIENDS OF BOONE COUNTY ARBORETUM

P.O. Box 876
Burlington, KY 41005

Phone: (859) 586-6101
Fax: (859) 586-6107
Email: laura.kline@uky.edu

Visit our website at:
www.bcarboretum.org

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
College of Agriculture

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



Collection News

by Josh Selm, Curator, Boone County Arboretum

Spring is finally here! Song birds are filling the warm morning air with their melodies, days are getting longer, and our yellow daffodils are creating a brilliant splash of color in the entrance beds. The star magnolias, forsythia, Douglasfir, and leatherwood are already in full bloom, with the fothergilla, redbuds, dogwoods, and azaleas coming along in short order (in general, most cultivars of a species will be blooming within a close timeframe). At this time of the year, many of us keep our cameras in hand, ready for the next picture opportunity. Feel free to send us any interesting pictures you snap at the Arboretum. During our tours and classes at the Arboretum, we often hear someone say, "I didn't know that tree had flowers!" Not all flowers are showy, some are small and inconspicuous. If you are interested in a scavenger hunt of the smaller flowers, try looking for flowers on barberry,

holly, beech, boxwood, ginkgo, and oak trees.



As we head through this spring, the weather continues to create a tricky situation. Our drought loss replacement project has been stalled due to the completely saturated soil. Not only do the soggy conditions make it tough to drive equipment, it also increases the chances of 'glazing' the sides of the hole, which creates an additional interface for the new roots to penetrate. The contract was awarded to McAfee

Mowing and Landscaping. We have been working with them to coordinate the planting efforts according to collection areas to get it done a section at a time.

See you at the next event. Until then, stay dry, and happy flower hunting.

Josh Selm

Curator, Boone County Arboretum



Hally Jolivette Cherry
(*Prunus x 'Hally Jolivette'*)