

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 III

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer, 2008

Director's Letter


During the last week of June, Josh and I were able to attend the American Public Garden Association's annual conference, in Pasadena, California. Just as we have each time in the past, we came back this year with a whole bunch of tips and ideas for our Arboretum. There were six sessions of informational programs ranging from creating a branding strategy to designing for the visitor experience to introducing new ways of connecting people with the plants. The lessons we learned from these classes will be digested and used as soon as possible. At such a conference, there are plenty of garden tours. Our first, the Huntington

Botanical Gardens, was absolutely wonderful with succulent gardens and the just opened first-phase of the Chinese Garden. At a cost of \$18.3M (just for phase one), the Chinese Garden includes ponds, buildings and gardens, all constructed onsite with artisans flown in from China specifically for the project. The Children's garden featured incredible design concepts for fountains and play areas for children. Of course we took plenty of pictures! We quickly found ourselves at Descanso Gardens, wandering through their roses and immaculate camellia collection. Josh was able to tour Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden which limits itself to only

trees, shrubs, wildflowers and succulents that are native to California. On our final evening, we were able to tour Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, which has been part of the set for many TV shows and movies, and is a showcase of plants from around the globe. Every continent has a specific collection area which highlights the prominent plant species from that particular area of the globe. In addition there are areas with gardens which were developed with various themes in mind; some formal, some artistic and some more whimsical. Each garden we went to was exquisite and offered numerous examples of different design possibilities. The conference also provides


the opportunity to network with people in the public garden and design communities. One connection we made is with Mark Wourms, the new Executive Director of Bernheim Arboretum, one of our neighbor gardens near Louisville. He is leaving as Director of LA County Arboretum to lead Bernheim into their next era of planning and development. As we continue our own development at Boone County Arboretum, we look forward to working with Mark and other Bernheim staff to help build the awareness of horticultural institutions in our own area.

Sincerely,
Kristopher A. Stone
Director, Boone County Arboretum



"Summer afternoon - Summer afternoon... the two most beautiful words in the English language."

- Henry James



Upcoming Events

Join us for the exciting upcoming classes and events!

- Wednesday Walks, Wednesday, August 6, 10:00 a.m. at the arboretum. Shelter #2, rain or shine.
- Story Time in the Children's Garden, Wednesday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. Kids ages 4-9
- Composting 101 Wednesday, August 20, 10:00 a.m. at the

Boone County Extension Office. Learn the basics of composting!

- Lunch and Literature Friday, August 22 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. This month's book selection is "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv. Bring a lunch and we'll discuss this fascinating book about getting our kids back in touch with nature.

- A Lesson in Hypertufa Monday, September 29 2:00 p.m. under Shelter #1 at the arboretum. You must register for this class; space is limited. 859-586-6101.

Dig in the Dirt Work Days:

August 5	September 9
August 7	September 11
August 19	September 23
August 21	September 25

Looking Ahead to September

On Saturday, September 20, the Friends of Boone County Arboretum will be having the annual Fall Plant Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A great new addition to the plant sale for this fall will be a guest speaker, a children's craft, and cider and donuts to help celebrate fall. We do rely on donations to sell at this fundraiser, so please think of what you would like to dig or divide and donate to the plant sale. You can even start the items in pots now so the plants look fantastic by September

20. You can drop them off at the arboretum office anytime the week of the plant sale. We just ask that the pot have a label on it describing what the plant is and if it takes sun or shade. If you need pots to plant up your items, let Laura Kline know at 859-586-6101.

Another exciting event this September is the Great Outdoor Weekend, taking place all over the tri-state on Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28. The arboretum will be

having activities on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our theme is "Fall Fun" and will be pumpkin painting with the kids. We will be partnering with Success by Six and hosting their 2nd annual Fall Early Childhood Fair, encouraging families to get their kids moving! There will be exhibitors lining the trail through the Evergreen section with free information and interactive activities for the kids. There will be something for everyone that day so get out and enjoy the last few days of fall!

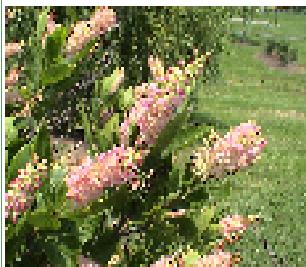
Hot Plants

by Mike Klahr, Extension Agent/Certified Arborist

Summersweet Clethra

Would you be interested in a medium-sized landscape shrub that attracts hummingbirds with its spicy-fragrant, pink or white summer flowers that are beautiful for four to six weeks during July and August? And what if I told you that this shrub is easy to grow, is remarkably free of insect pests and disease problems, and thrives in sunny or shaded locations? And of course it also tolerates clay and poor drainage, and it just happens to be resistant to flooding and deicing salts, plus tolerating winter temperatures down to minus 30 degrees

F. Well, if this sounds too good to be true... it's not! For I have been describing an East Coast native,



the Summersweet Clethra (*Clethra alnifolia*). Summersweet Clethra should be utilized more in Kentucky landscapes. Its lustrous, deep green summer foliage gives way to hues of yellow in the autumn, with several weeks of added color. Great for use near a deck or patio, where the enticing summer flowers can be enjoyed by both humans and hummers.

QUICK FACTS:



COMMON NAME:
Summersweet
Clethra

BOTANICAL
NAME: *Clethra alnifolia*

CULTIVARS:
'Hummingbird',
'Pink Spires', 'Rosea',
'Ruby Spice'

TYPE: Deciduous

FLOWERS: White or pink, fragrant

FALL COLOR: light yellow

SOIL: Likes clay, pH 4.5-6.5

SIZE: 4-8' tall X 4-6' wide

EXPOSURE: Full sun to part shade

KEYS TO SUCCESS:

SOIL: Not picky, but likes moist, acid soil best.

WATERING: One inch/week during growing season. Tolerates flooding.

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

IN YOUR LANDSCAPE: Outstanding for the patio, deck, or shrub border. Good choice for wet or shady areas.

New Background Check Requirements

A requirement that is being implemented by all programs under the University of Kentucky umbrella are background checks. Until recently, only 4-H volunteers were required to go through the background check process. Now, all volunteer programs that work with at-risk participants (kids under 16, the elderly, and physically and mentally handicapped) will be required to go through the process. It's simple and at no cost to you. You'll simply fill out a volunteer position description form and a background check

form. The background check form will be mailed from the Boone County Cooperative Extension Office to Frankfort and then will be returned to the office where it will be kept in a locked, fire-proof safe. Your information will be kept private. We are still trouble-shooting this process and appreciate your patience. Before you volunteer next, please call Laura Kline to get your background check in progress. Unfortunately, you cannot volunteer without a background check once the program is in full

swing. We hope everyone can see beyond the hassle and accept that all volunteer programs across the United States will be adopting the background check procedure. Those brand new volunteers that stop by at a Dig in the Dirt work day will be supervised by a staff member, then welcomed back with a completed background check. You do not need one if you only attend Friends Meetings or social events. Once you want to volunteer for any activity or event, however, you'll need one completed.

Horticulture Concerns: Start a Fall Garden Now!

by Mike Klahr, Extension Agent/Certified Arborist

Question: I've heard about the concept of a "Fall Vegetable Garden", and even gardening into the winter. When should such a garden be planted, and what types of vegetables would do well in the fall?

Answer: Gardening doesn't have to end with your summer grown crops, since some vegetables are suitable for late summer planting. You can follow your spring and summer gardens with a fall garden so that you can have fresh produce well into the winter.

Plant crops according to your planting plan, grouping plants to be sure short ones are not shaded by tall ones. To encourage good germination, fill each seed furrow with water and let it soak in. Keep the soil moist until seeds have germinated. Fall vegetables are harvested starting in early September, and continuing into November or even later if some form of cold protection is put in place.

Fall garden crops consist of two types:

1. the last succession plantings of warm-season crops, such as corn and bush beans, and...
2. the true "cool-season" crops, which grow well during the cool fall days and can even withstand frost. The cool nights of fall do slow down the growing process, so crops take longer to mature in the fall (and spring) than in the summer. Keep this slower pace in mind when you check seed catalogs or

seed packets for the "average days to maturity."

Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during fall's warm days and cool nights. These environmental conditions add sugar to sweet corn and cole crops, and crispness to carrots.

The vegetables listed below can be successfully planted into the garden in July for a fall harvest.

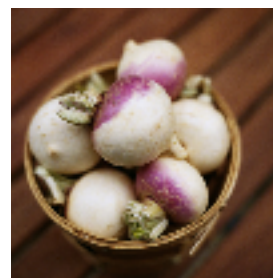
Often, you will want several seeding dates to extend the harvest over a longer time.

In July, start seeds directly in your garden for fall harvests of beets, Bibb lettuce, carrots, Chinese cabbage, collards, endive, green beans, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, mustard greens, rutabaga, sweet corn, turnips, and turnip greens. Wait until August to plant seeds of snow peas and spinach in your garden, and wait until September to plant radish seeds.

If you can find seedling transplants for sale at this time of year (or if you have already grown your own) of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower, you can transplant these to the garden now as well. Otherwise, if you now plant these from seed immediately indoors under lights, you could have transplants ready for planting in the garden by the end of August, but it might be risky getting the

plants to harvest size before the winter hits, unless we have a mild November. For future reference, the seeds for growing your own fall transplants should be sown around the first of July.

If, however, you want to provide some type of late fall and/or winter protection for your crops, you can extend the harvest much later... even throughout the winter for the cool-season crops (with coldframes and hotbeds). Polyethylene row covers might prove useful to gardeners wishing to extend the harvest of frost-sensitive crops (i.e., tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers). The row cover's objective is to trap heat and protect the crop from cold night temperatures which might deform fruit or kill the plant. Many times in Kentucky, a period of mild weather will follow the first killing frost. If you protect frost-sensitive vegetables at a few critical times in the fall you could extend the harvest season by several weeks. Cool-season crops can be planted inside cold frames or hotbeds as late as December or January for harvest throughout the winter.



The Arboretum Staff

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Collection News

by Josh Selm, Curator, Boone County Arboretum

I hope your spring schedule allowed you to come out and enjoy the wonderful floral displays at the Arboretum. This year was exceptionally beautiful with more than adequate rainfall and no late freezes to burn the flowers back. It is quite possible last year's drought had a little hand in it also – the stressed trees perhaps set more flower buds than normal to ensure survival of the species.

As we head deeper into the summer, we are still seeing some lingering effects of last year's drought. A few more trees have died and some of the shrubs don't look so good. A drought of that magnitude could very well have triggered a downward spiral, and we might not yet see the full effect of the collective disease problems, insect invasions, and dieback started last year. We should all expect to see shrubs and young trees struggling

this year and perhaps into next. Large trees will be struggling for the next 2 or 3 years. So while the blooms this year look excellent, we should not think our plants are out of the woods. They will need to be pampered for quite some time to come.

The tree replacement project hit a few road bumps along the way, so we didn't get everything in the ground before the weather turned hot. We have postponed the project until the fall when the plants will have a better chance of establishing in the cooler weather. In the meantime, the hydrangeas and southern magnolias are looking great, and you should definitely check out the entrance display beds - they were designed by our interns this year.

See you at our next event!

Josh Selm

Curator, Boone County Arboretum

