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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
College of Agriculture

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Burlington, KY 41005



**THE PANICLE HYDRANGEAS** Mike Klahr, Ph.D., Boone County Extension Agent for Horticulture

The nice thing about most hydrangeas is how long the flowers last. And that is certainly true of the Panicle Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea paniculata*). Summer landscapes just would not be the same without all the large, showy white and pinkish flower heads of this group of hydrangeas in full bloom. Probably the most cold-hardy species of hydrangea (Zone 3), they are also well adapted to the diverse soils and microclimates found across the commonwealth. Happy in sun or partial shade, the panicle hydrangeas are considered the most adaptable, most urban tolerant, and the overall toughest and hardest to kill of all the hydrangeas, thriving even during times of neglect by beginning gardeners.

Numerous cultivars are popular, including the 8-12' tall, white flowering types such as 'Grandiflora' ('PeeGee') and 'Snow Mountain', and the 6-8' tall white flowering varieties like

'Tardiva', 'Barbara' ('The Swan'), 'Kyushu', 'Little Lamb', 'Quick Fire' and 'Unique'. Most of these have white summer flowers that change to some shade of pink as they age. 'Limelight' is a newer cultivar that gets 6-8' tall with lime green flowers. 'Pink Diamond' has pink buds that open white, then turn to a rich pink color, and 'Pinky Winky' has white flowers that turn rich pink.

**QUICK FACTS:**

**COMMON NAME:** These "Panicle Hydrangeas" each go by their unique cultivar name.  
**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Hydrangea paniculata*  
**TYPE:** Deciduous  
**FLOWERS:** white to pink  
**SOIL:** Adaptable; tolerates clay, prefers loamy, moist, well-drained soil  
**SIZE:** varies w/ cultivar; 6-12' tall and wide  
**EXPOSURE:** Sun to part shade

**KEYS TO SUCCESS:**

**WATERING:** one inch of water per week during the growing season  
**WHEN TO FERTILIZE:** Fertilize in late fall or early spring, based on soil test results.  
**PLANTING & PRUNING:** Plant in early spring or fall; Prune in early spring.  
**IN YOUR LANDSCAPE:** Great for the shrub border.



Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'

# 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.

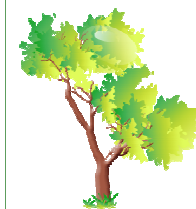
Volume 6, Issue III

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer, 2009

**A Letter from the Director**

by Kris Stone, Director of the Boone County Arboretum



This summer has certainly been a refreshing change over the last two previous summers. An absence of drought and high heat is doing wonders for everyone's gardens and the Arboretum's plants. Trees and shrubs that have suffered from stunted growth have grown more this year than in the past two to three years combined, thanks to the plentiful rainfall and relatively mild temperatures. Unfortunately this is also highlighting a few plants that have scars from the freeze of 2007 and cumulative

effects of droughts in both 2007 and 2008. Some plants were simply damaged too badly or attacked by borers while in such a weakened state that they will likely never recover. The Arboretum has two Turkish Filbert trees that are suffering such a fate with severe cambium damage from the spring freeze of 2007. While they are not dead, we will be searching for their replacements in the coming months.

In development news, we are happy to announce the completion of the new AAS vegetable display garden. The plants are thriving thanks to a generous donation of compost from Mr. Bob Maurer. We already

have good sized tomatoes, and are ready to harvest the first wave of ripening sweet peppers here in early August. I would like to thank everyone that came together to help us get this project up and running and make it such a great success, especially the landscape class from Cooper High School. We look forward to working with the high school in the future on many more projects that can benefit both the school and the Arboretum's mission in the community.

Sincerely,

Director, Boone County Arboretum

“A Garden is Nature’s Super-market.”

-Texas Bix Bender

**Quick Gardening Tip**

**Brown Patch Fungus Disease:**

Prevention involves mowing at the proper height, avoiding excessive nitrogen applications, especially during the summer, mowing off only 1/3 to 1/2 the leaf blade length in any one mowing, and avoiding frequent, light watering, especially in the evening.

**Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday Walk**  
August 5, 10:00 a.m.  
Meet at Shelter #2

**Story Time in the Children’s Garden**  
August 19, 10:00 a.m.  
Meet at the Children’s Garden, event will be canceled if it is raining.

**Growing Figs**  
August 21, 10:00 a.m.  
Meet at Concession Stand

**Friends of BCA Meeting**  
August 24, 6:30 p.m.  
Meet at Shelter #1

**Wednesday Walk**  
September 2, 10:00 a.m.  
Meet at Shelter #2

**Rain Gardens**  
September 3, 10:00 a.m.  
Meet at the Boone County Extension Service

**Fall Plant Sale!**  
September 12, 9-12 noon  
Shelter #2, Rain or Shine

**Make a Hypertufa**  
September 30, 2:00 pm  
**YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS!!**

**Dig in the Dirt Days:**

August 11, 9-11:00 a.m.  
August 18, 9-11:00 a.m.  
August 25, 9-11:00 a.m. **and** a special evening 5-7 p.m.  
August 29, 9-11:00 a.m.

September 1, 9-11:00 a.m.  
September 8, 9-11:00 a.m.  
September 15, 9-11:00 a.m.  
September 22, 9-11:00 a.m. **and** evening 5-7 p.m.  
September 26, 9-11:00 a.m.  
September 29, 9-11:00 a.m.

All morning work days include a free lunch!

## Use Those Tomatoes!

### Recipes from the Boone County Farmer's Market

#### Tomato and Onion Salad

Ingredients:  
(Dressing)  
1 1/2 teaspoons red wine vinegar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 teaspoon Dijon mustard  
2 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil  
(Salad)  
2 medium red tomatoes cut into bit size wedges  
2 medium yellow tomatoes cut into bit size wedges  
1/2 small onion, thinly sliced  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

Directions:  
In a bowl, toss salad ingredients to mix. In a small bowl, mix dressing ingredients except oil. Slowly add oil, beating with a wire whisk until well blended. Pour dressing over salad and toss to coat.

#### Tomato Bacon Pie

Ingredients:  
1 9-inch unbaked deep dish pastry shell  
3 medium tomatoes cut into 1/4 inch slices  
10 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
1 cup mayonnaise

Directions:  
Bake pastry shell according to package directions and cool. Place the tomatoes in the crust and sprinkle with bacon. In a bowl combine the cheese and mayonnaise. Spoon over the bacon in the center of the pie leaving 1 inch around the edge. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes or until golden brown. Cover



the edges with foil if necessary to prevent over-browning.

## Membership Updates

Please take a look and see if your membership is expiring soon. Visit [www.bcarboretum.org](http://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!

Marilyn Alford 8-31

Gwen Birthelmer 7-31

Walt and Connie Bonvell 7-31

Janice and Gene Cantrall 7-31

Freda and Bob Carlin 7-31

Lee Duncan 8-31

JoAnne Ellena 7-31

Dolores Fink 7-31

Robert and Julia Griffin 7-31

Jennifer Gulick 8-31

Jacqueline Herrmann 7-31

Donna Nickerson 7-31

Pat and Thomas O'Hara 7-31

Norbert O'Hare 7-31

LaDonna Perry 7-31

George Saliba 7-31

Nancy Schwart 7-31

Paul and Ann Tagher 7-31

Thanks to all our new members and to those who have renewed their memberships of the Friends of Boone County Arboretum!

#### Renewed Membership:

Carol Adams  
Wayne and Carol Beckwith  
Ruth Epstein  
Alexa Manning  
Denny Mathis  
Gretchen Radloff  
Tim and Sue Schwartz  
Martin and Marea West  
Vince Versluis

Thanks and welcome to all our **new members!**

Pat Brown *Supporter*  
Donald Burke *Supporter*  
Carol Dawson  
Robert and Annette Dube  
Hidden Valley Garden Club *Supporter*  
Joan and James Kruer  
Kathleen McGurn  
Jean Sturtevant

## Collection News

### by Josh Selm

Beginning in late June our newest set of plant labels started to arrive in small bundles. Arboretum staff began experimenting with different glues, epoxies, and tapes and have settled on the most time efficient and hopefully strongest bonding product. With the help of volunteers we assembled the new signs onto the new posts created for us by the parks department. After a few days curing time in the basement the signs were placed in front of the plants by the interns. This process goes much quicker now that we do not

need to dig an anchor hole for each sign. Research work continues to create the text for the next order of signs. With the drought loss replacement project now called to a close the plant database and online interactive map are now up to date. A new printed map can be created as our stock gets lower. In your next visits through the summer be sure to check out new plants such as *Corylus fargesii*, *Franklinia alatamaha*, and *Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Glauca'. See you at the next event!



Left: Franklinia alatamaha

## Horticulture Concerns by Mike Klahr, Extension Agent/Certified Arborist

**Question:** When I treat my lawn with pesticides for grubs, and when I treat my garden for insects, does that have an impact on the beneficial earthworms?

**Answer:** That depends on which chemicals you are using, since they vary in their toxicity to earthworms. It's usually not much of a problem in gardens, orchards, or flower beds, where the pesticide is sprayed directly on the plant, not on the soil. It does become more of a factor in lawns, however.

Once called the "intestines of the Earth" by Aristotle, earthworms are both indicators of soil health and help to improve the soil as they move through it. Earthworms tunnel deep within the soil, creating channels for air and water to pass through. As they tunnel, they bring up nutrients from below and carry organic matter from the surface, mixing it into the soil. Earthworms can consume their own weight in organic matter each day, and Charles Darwin in his 39 years of studying earthworms, found that in a healthy environment they can create as much as 36,000 pounds of Nitrogen-rich castings per acre. A soil rich in earthworms helps plants to grow. In home lawns, earthworms can also help prevent harmful thatch build-up as they

consume dead roots and stems and mix soil into the thatch layer. This soil encourages microbial activity that helps break down the thatch even more quickly. Unfortunately, many of the things we do to create a green lawn can be harmful to earthworms. Excessive applications of Nitrogen can reduce earthworm populations. Earthworms are generally intolerant of acidic soils (pH < 6.0). Soil samples can determine lime requirements and what kind of fertilizer is needed to maintain healthy turf.

Many commonly applied fungicides and pesticides can damage earthworms too. Remember to treat only when necessary, using the least toxic product for the job. Use spot treatments rather than whole lawn applications where possible, and try to avoid applications when earthworms are most active near the surface. The following toxicity information for earthworms was obtained during a 3-year research project by the University of Kentucky entomology department. Within each toxicity class, products are listed by their Common Name – then Brand Name.

**Low Toxicity** (0% to 25% reduction in earthworm numbers when applied to soil): chlorothalonil –

Bravo, fenarimol – Rubigan, foscetyl – Aliette, iprodione - Chipco 20619 (Rovral), mancozeb - Dithane M-45 (& Manzate 200), metalaxyl – Ridomil & Subdue, myclobutanil – Nova & Rally, propiconazole – Banner & Tilt, tebuconazole – Folicur, triadimefon – Bayleton, dicamba – Banvel, dithiopyr – Dimension, isoxaben – Gallery, pendamethalin – (Pre-M, Prowl, Herbicide 2), prodiamine – Kerb, 2,4-D - (2-4,D), trichlopyr – Garlon, bifenthrin – Talstar, cyfluthrin – Baythroid (Tempo), fluvalinate – Mavrik, isophenphos – Oftanol.

**Moderate Toxicity** (26% to 50% reduction): chlorpyrifos – Dursban & Lorsban, diazinon – Diazinon & Spectracide, isazofos – Triumph, trichlorfon – Proxol. **Severe Toxicity** (51% to 75% reduction): thiophanate – Fungo & Cleary-3336, thiophanate-methyl - Topsin-M.

**Very Severe Toxicity** (76% to 100% reduction): benomyl – Benlate & Tersan-1991, bendiocarb – Turcam, carbaryl – Sevin, ethoprop – Mocap, fonofos – Crusade & Dyfonate, phorate – Thimet.



#### 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

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#### Friends of Boone County Arboretum Officers

Marea West, President  
Denny Mathis, Vice President  
Janet Samples, Secretary  
Martin West, Treasurer



#### Friends of Boone County Arboretum, Board of Directors

Betty Kasprovicz,  
John Kain, Mike Klahr, Laura Kline,  
Denny Mathis, Linda Padgett,  
Alvera Kincart, Carol Adams, Kris Stone,  
Ed Bowmann, Mary Alice Gruden,  
David Whitehouse, Jan Taylor