



Branching Out

Fourth Annual Arboretum Day

*By Laura Cline, Boone County Extension
Service Horticulture Technician*

The Boone County Arboretum at Central Park is the nation's first arboretum within an active recreation park setting. We are located just outside Union, KY at 9190 Camp Ernst Road; Camp Ernst is accessible via Highway 18. A short 25 minute drive southwest from downtown Cincinnati, OH will put you in Northern Kentucky's only arboretum. There is no charge for admission or parking.

The Arboretum is open daily from dawn to dusk for your year-round enjoyment of our more than 2,700 trees and shrubs. Our collections will captivate everyone from the avid plantsman to the average homeowner. You will see specialized arrangements of plant families to obscure selections rarely observed by the public eye. To insure our plants thrive in even the worst of droughts, we have a 41,000 linear foot computerized irrigation system.

The Arboretum encompasses 121 acres and has over 2 miles of paved walking trails winding through our various plant collections, woodland settings, and athletic fields. Three informational kiosks are located at the main trail entrances. Here you will find horticultural information, Ex-

tension class offerings, and our Arboretum map, all free to the public. Special attractions at the Arboretum include the Children's Garden, a Wildlife Viewing area in our Native Kentucky Prairie, and our new Woodland Walking Trail.

Throughout the year we offer various classes and programs for all age groups. In addition, many of the Boone County Extension Service horticulture classes are taught on site at the Arboretum. Keep your eye on our website, www.bcarboretum.org, or call 859-586-6101 for more information on volunteering, events and classes.

The Boone County Arboretum will be hosting the fourth annual Arboretum Day, formerly known as Spring Fling, on June 3, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We invite the public to this fun-filled day of environmental displays from nurseries, garden clubs and shops, and different environmental agencies that can answer questions for homeowners. Enjoy guest speakers, Ask a Master Gardener booth, children and family activities, food and guided tours of the arboretum. The event is free and open to the public.

AMERICAN LINDEN, BASSWOOD

Tilia americana

By Kris Stone, Chairperson, NKY Urban & Community Forestry Council

Few of our native forest trees achieve the magnificent splendor of our beloved American Linden, also commonly known as Basswood. The name basswood is derived from the fibrous inner bark known for its "bast" fibers. "Bass" became a corruption of the word "bast" and henceforth the common name basswood developed. The inner bark of the tree has been used in the past as a source of fiber for rope, mats, fish nets, and woven baskets.

In modern times the tree is more commonly found as a large specimen growing in parks and other open areas, and occasionally as a street tree with several cultivars developed specifically for such use. A potentially large growing tree, the straight species typically matures with an oval shape at 70' in height with a spread of 50', though the cultivars vary in habit and ultimate size. Known for usually growing a very straight trunk, more narrow selections of this tree offer stunning visual effect when planted down boulevards where the columns of trunks can be appreciated. American linden has rather large heart-shaped leaves with a pale silvery-green underside which adds a splash of color on windy days to

the canopy. In autumn the foliage usually turns a dull yellow, though some selections have improved color.

American Linden is fairly tolerant to various types of soils and moderately tolerant to drought once well established (deep watering is crucial the first couple of years during dry periods to avoid borer problems). American Linden often needs some corrective pruning when young to avoid weak crotches and crowded limbs to insure a strong branching system develops. Other drawbacks to the tree include aphids which can secrete honeydew, and suckering at the base of the trunk requiring occasional removal of sprouts. Despite a few problems the tree may have, it is a comparatively easy to grow tree for areas where space allows. This is definitely a great native tree that should not be overlooked in the urban forestry landscape.

Commonly Available Selections:

'Bailyard' (Frontyard®), similar to **'Fastigiata'** - A symmetrical grower, this pyramidal-rounded selection will reach 75' tall and 40' wide.



'Boulevard' - A tailor-made street tree, this plant grows to 60' tall but has limited spread (perhaps 30') due to its pyramidal growth habit with upright branches. The summer foliage is middle green with yellow fall color.

'Continental Appeal' - Previously included as a cultivar of *Tilia heterophylla*, this plant has a wide, dense crown supported by narrow, ascending branches. Thus, it is much taller than wide. The leaves have attractive silvery undersides, plus the tree is easily grown and tolerates poor environmental conditions.

'Wandell' (Legend™) - This is a handsome pyramidal selection with symmetrical branching and a strong leader. It will grow to at least 60' tall and 40' wide, with quality foliage that remains clean in summer. Young stems and dormant buds are reddish in winter.

'Redmond' - The most common cultivar in the trade, this purported hybrid selection has been widely employed as a street/lawn tree due to its uniform pyramidal habit to 60' tall with a spread of 30'. The large, lustrous green leaves may color yellow in fall.

Specimens of *Tilia americana* can be viewed in Northern Kentucky at Boone County Arboretum in natural areas, and within the collections where the cultivar 'Redmond' can be found.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kentucky Division of Forestry, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, is pleased to announce the availability of the 2006 Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Grant applications. This competitive grant program provides funding for projects designed to improve urban areas through proper tree management, educational projects, and urban forest renewal programs.



The Pass Through Grant Program, Newsletter, Public Workers Seminar, and the Arbor-

ist Training Program are valuable assets which have been funded in the past, and we look forward to continuing the partnership between the NKU&CF Council and the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Please note that grant application requirements have changed from last year, and must also meet the US Forest Service's "Performance-Based Methodology for Allocating Urban and Community Forestry Program Funds." This document, as well as the grant requirements, are available through the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and are available by request, and will be

sent out to organizations currently funded by the KY U&CF grant. The deadline for the application is: **4:30 PM EDT on May 1, 2006.** Send applications to 627 Comanche Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601

If you have any questions concerning grant application instructions or eligibility, please contact Sarah Gracey, State Urban Forestry Coordinator, at (502) 564-4496.

Sarah.Gracey@ky.gov
www.forestry.ky.gov

The Kentucky chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture traditionally sponsors a Landscape Architecture lecture series in coordination with the University of Kentucky. As part of the April Landscape Architect Month Activities, the chapter will be hosting a reception after the April lecture. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the profession with both regional professionals and guests attending the lecture. The April lecture will feature Keith Bowers, President of Biohabitats, Inc. who will discuss the David Spaeth memorial in a lecture titled *Regenerative Design*. The lecture will take place on April 19th, 2006 at 6:30 Yount Library Auditorium, University of Kentucky with the reception immediately following. Please check the Kentucky Chapter website for more information at www.kyasla.com

Classes Approved for I.S.A. Certified Arborist C.E.U.'s

Instructor: Mike Klahr, Boone County Extension Agent for Horticulture

Spring Tree & Shrub Identification Walk at the Arboretum

Boone County Arboretum at Central Park, Union, KY

April 13 1:30-3:00 p.m. 2 C.E.U.'s

Pruning Landscape Trees & Shrubs

Boone County Arboretum at Central Park, Union, KY

May 11 1:00-3:00 p.m. 2 C.E.U.'s



Pre-registration required by calling the Boone County Extension Office at 859-586-6101, or register on-line at <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/boone>

All class are free of charge

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY URBAN &
COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL**

c/o Boone County Extension Service
P.O. Box 876
Burlington, KY 41005

Phone: 859-572-2600

*Creating an awareness about the value of urban
forestry in Northern Kentucky Communities.*

We're on the web!
www.nkyurbanforestry.org

SPRINGTIME MAINTENANCE ON TREE BEDS: A LESSON TO BE LEARNED

*By Tom Davis, Covington Urban Forester
and ISA Certified Arborist (OH-0023)*

Well, it is springtime and the yard is looking its usual post winter self. The beds around the trees in my yard are looking as though they could use some sprucing up. So after I rake the old leaves and some twigs out of the mulch, I am ready to do some edging and put a nice new crisp ring around the trees. As I begin to cut a deep edge with my razor sharp spade, I realize that I keep banging into those pesky tree roots that have begun to grow out into the yard. It occurs to me that the tree has grown bigger since last year and that gets me thinking about whether I need to make the bed larger. As I pull up the soggy spring clay, I begin to notice just how many fine little tree roots are in those big chunks of clay I'm tossing into the wheelbarrow. I wonder if those roots grew last year

when the tree was getting larger and if those roots are really necessary. Well, after talking to a Certified Arborist, I now realize the tree needed those roots I removed. You see, those fine little roots that don't look like they could amount to a hill of beans are in fact the very ones the trees use to absorb water and minerals from the soil, sending it all the way up to the food factory of the tree...the leaves! The tree roots grow up into the soil and the grass roots grow down. So how do I find a middle ground? Hmm...I like the trees more than the grass and besides, I have plenty of grass in the yard so I decide to cut the turf down only as far as I meet resistance with the tree roots. Yeah, it takes longer to be careful not to cut through the roots. But with the help of a pair of those rubber landscape gloves, I

am able to pull the sod up. It's only an inch or two instead of the 4 to 5 inches I filled my wheelbarrow up with. Hmm... less clay to get rid of—another good thing! I know I will probably have some grass coming up in the bed, but I will spray it with round-up as it comes through the mulch. I know the tree is better off for the care it was given. This edging, along with 2-3 inches of mulch kept at least 4 inches from the trunk, and I'm all set for spring. Let the blooming begin!

