

“Florida Sunshine Garden Tour”

April 8-13, 2015

Tired of these cold cloudy days of January and February? Think **SUNSHINE** and join the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society 2015 annual garden tour that will take you into Central Florida. Our tour features some of Florida’s finest gardens and museums, including the fabulous [Ringling Museum and Gardens](#), and a visit to the nursery where Tom Lakers of [Willow Ridge Nursery](#) in Oak Ridge buys some of its premier supplies of bromeliads, orchids, and other rare and exotic tropical plants.

Our five-day tour begins in north Orlando, Florida on April 8, 2015. Everyone needs to arrange their own transportation to Orlando to arrive Wednesday afternoon April 8 and check into our group’s hotel, [Springhill Suites](#) in Altamonte Springs/Maitland, Florida. Discounted fares and direct flights from Knoxville are available on [Allegiant Airlines](#) flying to Sanford (SFB). Other airline options are available to Orlando (MCO).

Shuttle service will be provided to the hotel from either airport, and is included in the cost of the tour. We will make the arrangements when we know your travel plans. If you are driving, plan to arrive at the hotel after the 2 PM check-in time on April 8.

The Tour Details:

Wednesday, April 8: Arrival on your own. Shuttle service from SFB or MCO airports to hotel included in cost of tour.

Spend the night at [Springhill Suites](#) in Altamonte Springs/Maitland, Florida There are many restaurants in walking distance from this hotel and some of us may decide to eat dinner together nearby.

Day 1: Thursday, April 9

Meet tour bus in front of hotel lobby entrance with your luggage. Our destination is the [Edison & Ford Winter Estates](#) in Ft. Myers, FL. The 1929 historic landscape will inspire us first with a botanical garden tour, then the museum filled with hundreds of inventions reflecting why Thomas Edison and Henry Ford are two of the most influential figures in American history. We will lunch in the gardens and have free time to visit the garden and museum shops. On the way to Ft. Myers there will be a rest stop at [Parkesdale Market](#) in Plant City to enjoy their famous Strawberry Shortcake, a milkshake, or other treat. We will stay at the [Fairfield Inn and Suites](#) in [Venice](#), Florida, for two nights.

Day 2: Friday, April 10

Following the overnight in Venice we travel to [Ringling Museum and Gardens](#) in Sarasota, FL. Arriving at 9:30 AM, we are free to explore the [Museum of Art](#), [Circus Museum](#), and [Bayfront Gardens](#). At 10:30 & 11:00 AM you will have a choice of a guided tour to either Bayfront Gardens [Tour](#) (1.5 hr. starting at 10:30) or [Ca’d’Zan](#) (Ringling’s private home) Private Places

[Tour](#) (45 min starting at 11:00). All will enjoy the Ca'd'Zan main floor tour (30min) at 12:10 PM. A group luncheon will be provided in the [Treviso Restaurant](#) following the tours.

Day two continues in the afternoon to nearby [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#), a tropical, urban oasis featuring unparalleled horticulture displays and a Sarasota bay-front setting. A guided tour will feature separate gardens of ferns, bamboo, bromeliads, and epiphytes as well as mangroves, banyan trees, and a conservatory.

Day 3: Saturday, April 11

Following another evening in Venice, the tour bus takes us to [Tropiflora Nursery](#), a premier supplier of bromeliads, succulents, orchids, and other rare tropical plants. They grow over 7,000 different plant items, so this is a great opportunity to buy rare and unusual plants to take home. They can ship your plants if you don't have room to take them home now.

The coach then follows a path back to Orlando that will allow for a quick stop along the way at [Cockroach Bay](#) or [Apollo Bay Manatee Viewing Center](#) before arriving at [Bok Tower and Gardens](#) in Lake Wales FL. Famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., designer of Central Park in NYC, created this garden with its views of the 205-foot [Singing Tower](#) carillon. Concerts fill the gardens every day, and we will be there to enjoy them. A guided tour is provided as well as a luncheon in their [Blue Palmetto Café](#). We return for the evening to [Springhill Suites](#) in Altamonte Springs.

Day 4: Sunday, April 12

Board the bus in the morning for a guided tour of the [Harry P. Leu House](#) and Gardens in Orlando. The Leu House Museum is a restored 19th century home listed on the national register of historic places, you will enjoy the gardens scattered with outdoor sculptures. The Garden House Welcome Center features a variety of notable art exhibits and a garden shop for your shopping enjoyment. Lunch on your own in the delightful downtown area of [Winter Park](#) with your choice of many local and quaint restaurants.

Also in Winter Park, after lunch we will visit the [Morse Museum](#), the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Time will be allowed to visit the gift shop before departing for the short trip to the [Albin Polasek Museum](#) and Sculpture Gardens, a fine collection focusing primarily on American representational sculpture with works by Czech-born American sculpture Albin Polasek.

Day 5: Monday, April 13

Monday, the final day of our tour when most commercial gardens and museums are closed, will be a leisure morning with visits to the City of Winter Park's [Mead Botanical Garden](#) and [Kraft Azalea Garden](#). Lunch on your own in downtown Winter Park before heading to both airports and the hotel in Altamonte Springs.

The tour is limited to 30 participants, and is offered at this price with a minimum of 20 people. Please return the attached registration form by **March 8, 2015**, to secure your registration including a \$100 nonrefundable deposit per person in the form of a check made payable to **UTAS**. Please send to **PO Box 5382, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382, Attn: "Florida Sunshine Garden Tour."** Final payment is due on or before **March 30, 2015**.

The tour includes round trip coach transportation from Altamonte Springs Florida, admission to all attractions and gardens, Thursday lunch at Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Friday lunch at Treviso Restaurant at Ringling Museum, Saturday lunch at the Blue Palmetto Café at Bok Tower and Gardens. All hotels include breakfast and have restaurants nearby.

The cost of the tour is outlined below for double occupancy. A \$50.00 discount is available to UTAS members. If not a member and you wish to join, please complete the membership application with your remittance.

Tour Cost per Person

Tour cost Per Person	\$865.00	Coach Transport in Florida, lodging for 5 nights, breakfast, 3 lunches, fees
UTAS member discount	- 50.00	UTAS Members discount
Cost with member discount	\$815.00	Double Occupancy
Single supplement	\$275.00	

Reservation Form "Florida Sunshine Garden Tour"	UTAS 2015 Membership Application
Name _____ Phone _____	Name _____ Phone _____
Additional members in your party: _____	Address _____
_____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Address _____	E-Mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Society Friend \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$45
E-Mail _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30
Amount enclosed \$ _____	Contribution \$ _____ (All memberships and contributions are tax deductible)
_____	Mail, with a separate check, to: UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382
Mail, with your deposit, <i>by March 8, 2015</i> , to: UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382	

For more information, please contact Dennis or Jan Superczynski at 865-675-8502, or Emily Jernigan at 865-482-4836 or emily@jernigans.net.