

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No 3 - Spring 2006

UTAS President's Message

Norm Dobbs sums up the start of the year, and invites members to help out with the Plant Sale.

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Stumped? Ask us!

What are "Little Girl Magnolias"?



Find out on Page 3

"Director's Desk" Richard Evans

Richard says hello and farewell to research projects- and the plants associated with them- through several decades at the Arboretum.

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Plant Sale

Our 40th annual spring Plant Sale features magnolias and dogwoods. Friday, April 21, 5-7 p.m., is reserved for members only. Saturday, April 22, 9-3, is open to all

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Look, in the sky...

It's a bird walk with Jim Evans, TN Wildlife Resources Agency. Organized by Katie Cottrell, UTAS Board member, this is for early birds only! 6:45 a.m. at the Arboretum, Saturday, May 6

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Upcoming Events

April 21-22: Plant Sale
 April 29: Festival on the Green, Farragut
 May 6: Bird Walk with Jim Evans
 May 13: Ramble with Kris Light
 May 17-22: trip to New York

June 16-17: Secret City Festival, Oak Ridge
 July TBA: Hypertufa Demonstration/Lecture, Susan Morgan

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Spring Plant Sale

Do you have a child named Ann? A grandchild named Jane? A friend named Betty? Honor them by planting one of our magnificent 'Little Girl Hybrid' deciduous magnolias - in your yard or theirs! We have plenty of Ballerinas and Powder Puffs, Saucers and Southerns, Cucumbertrees and Susans too. And all of these magnolias, and more, are available at our Plant Sale.



event, and all proceeds are used to support the UT Arboretum.

Following a long-standing tradition of highlighting a featured plant, we are showcasing both evergreen and deciduous Magnolias this year. Several different cultivars will be available, ranging from standard favorites to some of the newer varieties. For those with the space and the desire for a large tree, we have the evergreen Southern Magnolia and the deciduous Cucumbertree Magnolia. In the medium size range we'll offer



Saucer Magnolia, Sweet Bay and Star Magnolia varieties. If you want a smaller tree, 'Little Girl Hybrids' and others will be offered. Don't overlook 'Jon Jon' with flowers up to 12 inches across! Several others will also be available.

Last year Oak Ridge became the first community outside Knoxville to have a dogwood trail. The UT Arboretum Society supports efforts to beautify Oak Ridge by facilitating the planting of dogwood trees throughout the city. Working with Oak Ridge Rotarians, the City of Oak Ridge, and the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, we planted more than 230 dogwoods in Oak Ridge last December. Everyone may now enjoy the many blooms along the Dogwood Trail at the west end of the city and at the Emma Spray garden in Jackson Square.

At our sale we will offer many different dogwoods, including some developed at UT with help from research conducted at the Center here in Oak Ridge. Four named dogwood cultivars will be for sale: Appalachian Spring, Cherokee Brave, Starlight and Stellar Pink. Appalachian Spring is particularly resistant to the dogwood anthracnose fungus. We will also have several small pink species dogwoods and kousa dogwoods. Along with the magnolias and dogwoods, the UTAS Plant Sale will also be offering a variety of plants from local nurseries and UTAS members.



In addition to the magnolias and dogwoods, our vendors and members will have many other plants for sale. **Beaver Creek Nursery** will sell camellias, viburnum, magnolias and many other trees and shrubs. **Sunlight Gardens** will offer wildflowers and perennials. **Nantucket Farms Nursery** and **Ramsey's Greenhouse** will be back with a large assortment of perennials and annuals. **Evergreen Greenhouse** will have herbs, and **East Fork Nursery** will bring azaleas. We'll also have many unannounced treasures.

So please come out and join us for this fundraising event. You'll brighten up your landscape, and help support the UT Arboretum.



UTAS Resources

Branches Editor

Emily Jernigan

Board Members

Ken Carter	Evelyn Lorenz
Katie Cottrell	Richard Raridon
Norman Dobbs	Diantha Paré
David Flitcroft	Pat Row
Betts Higgins	Fran Scheidt
Jeff Holt	Don Searle
Pat Hunsicker	Dennis Superczynski
Emily Jernigan	Marie Walsh
Joann Johnson	

Help Wanted

Do you have a green thumb? We need a few people to grow 'featured plants' for future Plant Sales.

We need help with ordering and transporting plants for the Plant Sales.

Got a nose for news? Join our publicity team!

Contact Norm Dobbs to learn more or to volunteer. nadobbs@bellsouth.net

Web savvy? Our web master, Charlie Jernigan, could use some back-up.

charlie@jernigans.net

If you're interested in writing articles for Branches, or helping with correspondence or mailings, please let me know.

emily@jernigans.net

Look For Email Updates

Don't forget that we'll be sending out reminders, updates, and 'hot off the press' notices via email.

While Branches strives to offer comprehensive information to our members, it cannot reflect timely changes or additions to our events listings. Please keep an eye out for our email communications, and send us your email address if you haven't already done so. Thanks.

How to Find us:

Email: utas@discoveret.org

www.UTArboretumSociety.org

901 S. Illinois Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830

President's Letter

Our 2006 year began with a Beth Babbit Lecture at Roane State Community College in Oak Ridge and for this a big "thank you" goes to Emily Jernigan. UTAS was present at Knoxville Dogwood Arts Festival's House & Garden Show again this year, advertising our Spring Plant Sale and highlighting the UT Arboretum and the Society. Arbor Day in Oak Ridge was celebrated on a chilly morning at Linden School on Friday, March 3rd.

Our premier fund raising event is on the horizon and that's our annual Spring Plant Sale. We have elected to eliminate the Sunday afternoon portion of the Sale this year. The Members Only Sale will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, April 21 and the public sale will be from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter and in our advertisements, our featured plant is the Magnolia. We will also be offering several of the newer cultivars of Dogwoods and other plants from our usual vendors.

To be successful, our Plant Sale needs volunteers. You can aid us in preparing for the Sale by calling me or Lee Ann (482-6656) with your preference for a work task and shift (5-7 on Friday, 9-Noon and Noon-3 on Saturday). Specific duties include: sales staff (indicate your particular plant preferences), tally clerks, cashiers, the set-up/inventory duties on Friday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and parking. Please call early and reserve your slot to help us make the 2006 Spring Plant Sale as successful as last year's.

One final note; in order to conduct our Spring Plant Sales as we have in the past, we need either UTAS members or friends who have the facilities and are willing to act as "featured plant" growers. Additionally we need volunteers who are willing to help with the ordering or transportation of plants that we purchase from Middle TN (wholesale) nurseries. For more details or to volunteer for these tasks please contact me.

Norm Dobbs, UTAS President
nadobbs@bellsouth.net



In memoriam

George Eckerd
June 15, 1923 - March 2, 2006

We note with regret the recent death of George Eckerd. One of our charter members, George was president of UTAS from 1978 to 1981. In February he attended a luncheon for former board members at the Arboretum (see separate article). George was delighted to chat with the other guests and to see the improvements to the Visitor's Center. We send our condolences to his widow, Maggie Eckerd.



Director's Desk

"Hidden behind this cloak of beauty, unseen by the casual eye of the visitor, the research scientist probes for practical answers to problems like..."

This quote is from a narrated slide program I developed over 25 years ago. The sentence continued on to highlight several prominent research projects being conducted at the UT Arboretum – the shade tree project, the vegetative screening research, Christmas tree species trials, and a few others.

In the ensuing years, these projects were evaluated, findings were published, and the projects were terminated or "re-tooled" to explore new questions. The shade tree project is just one example of an old experiment with renewed life. In this case, selected leftover trees are now part of a root severing test that is designed to quantify the damage a tree may suffer if it had a portion of its roots removed; similar to what happens when a utility ditch is dug too near a tree's trunk – sacrificed to research. The fate of unselected trees is equally less glorious – they will be removed to make way for new research, in this case.

Other research projects have met similar fates. Most of the 500+ holly plants in the Korean holly evaluation trail have been removed, and others have been saved for further testing and use as propagation stock. The same process of evaluation and termination will soon befall the silverbell, redbud, and sourwood research projects.

It is hard to say good-bye to some of these trees and shrubs. In some cases, we have nurtured and cared for them for decades. Sure, they have given us pleasure as we have seen them grow and mature, and their legacy will be the knowledge they provide us about the care and culture of plants and how to improve our environment. Their offspring may be the special plant that you may someday purchase, take home, and establishment in your yard. You may be the one to carry on the legacy of caring for plants that had their beginning at the UT Arboretum, as we cared for their parents. Ultimately, we all are the benefactors of this research.

One Arboretum sign describes the Arboretum as a "Research, Education, and Nature Sanctuary." However, more to the issue of research, and to borrow another quote from 25 years ago: "So you see, the Arboretum is a busy place - where you are a witness to the drama of research in this theater of nature's grandeur – A Place for All Seasons".

See our revised web site for more information
<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Richard Evans, Director

Spring Plant Sale 2006

MEET SOME OF OUR STARS

Magnolia 'Ann'

A "Little Girl," Ann's flowers are deep red-purple and tulip-shaped. She grows best in full sun and will reach 6-9' with a 6-10' spread.

Magnolia 'Ballerina'

Ballerina's flowers bloom early and thickly, covering the tree with fragrant white blooms containing pink and yellow centers. This beauty has an upright structure and vigorous growth.

Magnolia 'Jon Jon'

An extremely late-blooming plant, Jon-Jon's flowers can measure up to 12 inches across! They are white blushing to soft pink and very fragrant, growing on a small rounded tree.



Magnolia 'Lennei'

This small slow-growing tree blooms in early spring with goblet-shaped flowers that are deep pink on the outside and white inside.



Magnolia 'Susan'

A U.S. National Arboretum introduction, forming a neat, rounded, vigorous small tree. 'Susan' sports narrow, goblet-shaped fragrant purple blooms followed by large mid-green leaves. This compact rounded tree turns yellow-bronze in fall.



Sweetbay Magnolia 'Henry Hicks'

This evergreen *virginiana* is an ideal specimen plant, growing to about 40 feet. The leaf undersides are whitish-green and the creamy lemon-scented flowers bloom from June to September. Red seeds, perfect for winter wildlife, add year-round interest.

Dogwood 'Appalachian Spring'

This cultivar, developed at the University of Tennessee, is especially resistant to the anthracnose fungus. It produces many large white flowers and has dark green foliage that turns bright red in fall.



Dogwood 'Cherokee Brave'

This cultivar has good resistance to powdery mildew and spot anthracnose. It grows quickly and has glowing burgundy flowers with white centers.

Dogwood 'Stellar Pink'

Do you want a pink cloud in your yard? This Rutgers-developed dogwood flowers freely, with large rounded, slightly overlapping soft pink bracts. It is a vigorous grower, and is highly resistant to anthracnose and other diseases.

Dogwood 'Starlight'

Another dogwood developed at Rutgers University, Starlight has very large (up to 5 inches) white blooms. It grows strongly with dark green foliage.

Syringa (Lilac) 'Tinkerbelle'

This new hybrid beauty is a dwarf, showing off her fragrant, rich pink single flowers in late May. Full sun is best, although 'Tink' has good resistance to powdery mildew.



Viburnum denatum 'Blue Muffin'

Although the flowers of this new hybrid are white, its berries are all blue! It will only reach a height and width of 3-5' so it's perfect for border, hedge, or foundation. **Extremely limited quantities!**

Weigela 'French Lace'

If you want a tropical look, look no further. A recent introduction, 'French Lace' combines dark green leaves with lime-colored margins and tops it off with a profusion of large, deep red flowers. Place in full sun and watch it take off - 6' tall and 4' wide.

We offer many other trees, shrubs, garden plants and perennials including

- Rhododendrons
- Azaleas
- Native Wildflowers
- Hollies
- Viburnum
- Redbuds
- Herbs
- Crepe Myrtle
- Mountain Laurels
- Hydrangeas
- Camellias
- Mountain Laurels
- Lilacs

JUST THE FACTS

When?

Friday, April 21, 5-7 p.m. Members-only sale
(Join or renew at the door)

Saturday, April 22, 9-3 All welcome

Where?

901 S Illinois Dr, Oak Ridge, TN

Drive up to the shelter - follow the signs

Stumped?

What are "Little Girl Magnolias"?

This group of 8 Magnolias was developed at the National Arboretum in 1955-56. These medium-sized trees bloom later than many other Magnolias, diminishing the opportunity for frost damage. Their fragrant blooms come in various shades of pink to purple. William F. Kosar selected and named them: Ann, Betty, Judy, Randy, Susan, Jane, and Pinkie. Come and buy one of our "Little Girls" at the Plant Sale.



Email your questions about trees, other plants, or wildlife to us at UTAS@discoveret.org.



Earth Day Celebration

UTAS will participate again this year at the Earth Day Celebration held at the First United Methodist Church in Oak Ridge. **Ann Arnold, Babs Carter, Emily Jernigan and Evelyn Lorenz** will help the participants plant seeds in peat pellets. They will also talk about the Plant Sale. **Wednesday, April 19**

Festival on the Green

A new event for UTAS-- Saturday, April 29

UTAS will have a booth on Saturday, April 29 at this event that takes place April 28-30 at Village Green Shopping Center in Farragut. We'll sell plants that remain after the Plant Sale, and promote UTAS and the Arboretum. Many of our members live in Knoxville and in Farragut. This gives those members an opportunity to volunteer a little closer to home! Please sign up to help. **Dennis Superczynski** chairs this activity. **Saturday, April 29**

Bird Walk

Set your alarm clock!
Jim Evans of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will lead us on a bird walk at the UT Arboretum.



Jim is a graduate of UT in the Wildlife and Fisheries Department, and has been with TWRA since 1977. He has been in Oak Ridge since 1985. He has led numerous bird walks at Freels Bend, and on the Oak Ridge Reservation over the last 10 years. Spring is a great time of year to view birds as they actively announce their territories with song and begin the new nesting season. There may also be some rarer species migrating through the area at that time. Please thank **Katie Cottrell, The Clinch River Raptor Center** (and a UTAS Board member) for organizing this activity.

Saturday, May 6, 6:45 a.m.
Bring binoculars for a closer look

Hypertufa Containers Lecture/Demonstration

Susan Morgan of HGTV will share her expertise as she demonstrates how to make a hypertufa container and then tells us how to plant it.

Hypertufa is an artificial material used to make planting containers that are often shaped into troughs or bowls. Peat moss, perlite, and Portland cement are the main ingredients used in making these 'mud pies.' **Susan Morgan**, garden expert at HGTV, will show us how to make them. Then she'll give us pointers on planting hypertufas and other containers. **July TBA** at Farragut Town Hall.



Native Plant Group

This volunteer group, headed by Lee Ann Dobbs, takes care of the beds near the Visitors Center. Their work has greatly improved the appearance of that area - thanks!

The Native Plant Group began the new season of tending to the beds around the Visitors Center on a warm afternoon in February. We weeded, removed some dead foliage and raked the area. We expanded our care-taking to include the small bed by the entrance where we exposed many daffodils reaching for the sunshine. We applied weed preventative to ward off some of those annual nuisances.

Nancy Smith has offered to make new plant labels for the natives around the building. Look for these when the new shoots announce the return of the growing season.

On March 15th the group expanded its mission just a little. We did some much needed removal of the root suckers that had formed on so many of the Magnolias. Since Magnolia is the featured plant for this year's Plant Sale, we thought it important to have the Magnolia Orchard looking its best! Eight of us got the job done in an hour. Many hands do make light work!

If you would like to join our group, you will find us at the Arboretum on the third Wednesday of the month. We generally meet at 9:00 a.m. **Call Lee Ann Dobbs for more information. 482-6656**

Upcoming Events

- April 19 Earth Day Celebration, First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge
- April 21 Members-only Plant Sale 5-7 p.m., Arboretum
- April 22 Plant Sale 9-3, Arboretum
- April 29 Festival on the Green, Farragut
- May 6 Bird Walk with Jim Evans, 7 a.m., Arboretum
- May 13 Ramble with Kris Light, 10 a.m., Arboretum
- May 17-22 Spring to New York garden tour
- June 16-17 Secret City Festival, Oak Ridge
- July TBA Demonstration/lecture, Susan Morgan of HGTV, "Hypertufa Containers: Make Them, Plant Them," Farragut Town Hall



Ramble with Kris Light

See the Arboretum in a whole new 'Light'!

Kris Light, local educator, photographer, and environmental expert, will lead us on an easy ramble through the Arboretum. Kris has a keen eye and a vast store of knowledge. She'll point out everything from critters to wildflowers you may never have noticed before. Join us **Saturday, May 13 at 10 a.m.**

New and Renewing Members- Thank you!

Vivian Abney
H. Ted Ballard
Nancy Basford
Lee B Billips
Lydia Birk
Christine R. Boake
Kris Brantley
Katie & David Cottrell
Janet & Bob Cushman
Dr Hal De Selm
Warren Devine
Terry Domm
Art Dworkin
Viola Ergen
David & Terry Freeman
Harvey Goranson
Peggy Gregory
Doug & Sally Gross
John & Nettie Hill
Teri L. Hodges
Doug & Cyndi Jeffers
Clara Joan Johnson
Lucie Jones
Barbara Keyes
Vernon Lix
Mr & Mrs Joseph A Mallard
Jim & Margaret Mason
Mr & Mrs Robert McClung
Harold & Martha McCurdy
Mr & Mrs E. L. Nicholson
Joe & Wanda Parks
Joanna Partain
Jacki F. Pavelka
Robert & Elizabeth Peelle
Margaret Phares
Vicky Richards
Dan & Eva Robbins
Murray & Mimi Rosenthal
Richard Schulz
Don & Vickie Searle
Sarah Sheppard & Ben Alford
Don Snyder & Mary Sisson
Randy Stewart
Barbara & Bob Stone
M. C. Stone-Shelton
Richard & Peggy Tippens
Becky & John Waddell
Barbara A. Walton
Julie Watts
Esther Webster
Evelyn A. Wilson
Susan Wilson



Into the ground goes a pink dogwood.

Arbor Day 2006

Linden School was the setting for the 2006 Annual Arbor Day Observance in Oak Ridge on Friday March 3. **Dennis Superczynski**, former UTAS president, served as Master of Ceremonies and **Norm Dobbs**, current president, presented a pink dogwood, donated by the Society, to Linden School. District Forester Darren Bailey distributed seedlings to all the students and encouraged them to take them home to plant in their yards. The students sang a song, with a calypso beat, about trees and the audience was delighted by their presentation.

Roger Ward, Principal, and Lou Dunlap, City Councilwoman, welcomed everyone to the ceremony. Forester Bailey also awarded the City of Oak Ridge its eighteenth consecutive "Tree City USA" award. Ellen Smith, Chairwoman of EQAB which serves as the city's tree board, Lou Dunlap, and Josh Collins Director of Recreation and Parks accepted the award on behalf of the City.

Beth Babbitt Lecture

Fifty members and others turned out to hear the delightful and knowledgeable Beth Babbitt discuss flowering trees. She told us to consider the following characteristics, other than blooms, when choosing flowering trees: bark and stem structure; fruit, both desirable (Dogwood) and undesirable (Golden Raintree); growth habit; its ideal environment; fragrance good (Wintersweet) and bad (Bradford pear); and cultural practices required (maintenance, pests, etc.). She particularly recommended the native White Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), Smoke Tree (*Cotinus coggygria*), and, of course, deciduous magnolias. She gave everyone a copy of Small Flowering Trees for Tennessee Landscapes, published by the UT Agricultural Extension Service. Copies are also available in the Visitor's Center. Thanks again, Beth.

Remember when...

As part of the ongoing project to document UTAS's gifts to the University over the years, **Ann Arnold, Emily Jernigan, and Lee Ann Dobbs** organized a lunch at the Arboretum for former board members. They were invited to bring along any documentation they had concerning our expenditures, and, equally importantly, their memories. **George Eckerd, Viola Ergen, Richard Evans, Larry Landau, John Million, Eileen Neiler, Diantha Paré, and Ted Rogers** joined us and reminisced about the 'good old days' of the Arboretum Society. They reminded us that we were sitting on chairs around a table that the Society had purchased in 1972! They remembered buying a truck in 1966 for \$500, and the fight about the airport, as well as Dr. Sharp and Harold Elmore. Laughter often filled the room as this compatible group of long-time Arboretum supporters gathered to share some of their Society stories. You'll be hearing more about them soon.



Diantha Paré, George Eckerd, and Viola Ergen



John Million, Richard Evans, and Ted Rogers

House & Garden Show Volunteers

*The following members promoted the Society at our booth during the Dogwood Arts show. Board member **Fran Scheidt** provided the eye-catching Black Pussywillow branches and **Kathy Mihalzo** of Erin's Meadow Herb Farm set up the beautiful herb display. **Betts Higgins, Lee Ann Dobbs, and Ann Arnold** organized this event. "THANKS!" to all of you.*

Ann & Lou Arnold
Jean Bangham
Dianne Blane
Ken & Babs Carter
Katie Cottrell
Norm & Lee Ann Dobbs
David Flitcroft
Kathleen Harrison
Ann Hensley
Betts and Cec Higgins
John & Nettie Hill
Jeff and Lecie Holt
Emily & Charlie Jernigan

Joann Johnson
Ruth Kerr
Sara Melton-Sumner
Cynthia Nelson-Runyan
Christine Northcutt
Diantha Paré
Madelon Perreault
Fran Scheidt
Don Searle
Muriel Sirett
Rita Trusley
Marie Walsh
Carole Willar



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Plant Sale

Members only*

-Friday, April 21 5-7 pm

All welcome

-Saturday, April 22 9-3

Featured plants:

Magnolia, Dogwood

***Join or renew at the door!**

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