

# Branches

*Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends*

Issue No 20 - Fall 2010

**UTAS President's Message**

Tom Row gives an update of the Elmore Memorial dedication and encourages everyone to join in our upcoming activities.

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**Stumped? Ask us!**

What is that shrub at the Visitors Center with pink flowers on its stem in late August?

*Email questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our Green Thumb experts.*



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**Director's Desk Richard Evans**

Richard Evans reminds us to find the forest amid the trees, the trails, and the featured and other plants.

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**Harold Elmore Holly Garden Dedication**

The Elmore family, holly friends and UT representatives came to honor Harold and dedicate the holly collection.

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**Annual Dinner and Auction**

Fellowship, food, fun, and our silent auction. **Dr. Mark Fly**, UT Professor and Environmental Psychologist, will speak.

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**Upcoming Events**

- Sept 18 Wildflower Walk - Kris Light
- Oct 9 Plant Sale
- Oct 23 Owl Prowl - Katie Cottrell
- Oct 30 Holly Work Day
- Nov 4 Holly Society of America visit
- Nov 9 Annual Dinner/Silent Auction

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## The Elmore Holly Collection Dedication

On July 24 the Elmore Holly Collection dedication ceremony was held at the new stone entrance feature. The occasion gave 26 members of the late Harold ("Mr. Holly") Elmore's family an opportunity to gather and remember Harold. Joining them was a large group of holly friends, UT officials, UTAS members and others from the community. D. Ray Smith of Oak Ridge took photos and wrote an [article](#) about Harold and about the collection for the Oak Ridger.

Speakers at the dedication included Arboretum Director **Richard Evans**; UTAS President **Tom Row**; Holly Task Force members **Dennis Superczynski** and **Fran Scheidt**; **Dean Brown** and **Tom Looney** from UT; and members of the Elmore family. The large crowd enjoyed hearing about the history of the collection and stories about Harold's enthusiasm for hollies and his zest for life in everything he did.

Refreshments were served after the ceremony, and everyone especially appreciated the cool drinks on the warm summer day. UTAS members **Beverly Woods** and **Emily Jernigan** were in charge.

The Elmore Holly Collection now contains more than 200 cultivars of holly, including Native American, Chinese and Oriental, Hybrid, Tennessee, English, European, Western Asian Hollies, laid out in groupings.

The L-shaped stone structure, hand laid by UTAS volunteers with help from professional stone mason, **Ted Rosner** of Staten Island, New York, provides a stone pillar for plaques that designate the garden as the Elmore Holly Collection and as an Official Holly Arboretum by the Holly Society of America.

On November 4, the Holly Society of America, holding its annual meeting in Oak Ridge, will visit the collection and hold a rededication ceremony there.

Please stop by to visit this jewel nestled in the heart of the Arboretum.



*Members of Harold Elmore's family in front of the stone pillar at the dedication ceremony for the Elmore Holly Collection at the UT Arboretum, Oak Ridge, TN*



## President's Letter

Fall is almost here. Enjoy the cooler days and think about your plants – what to move, remove and add to make it almost perfect. That is, until the next article or catalogue starts you thinking about another change. That's the joy of gardening.

On July 24 we enjoyed the dedication of the natural stone entrance to the **Elmore Holly Collection**. Members of Harold's family joined us for the day, and everyone had a wonderful time talking about UT, UTAS, our Endowment and Harold.

**Kris Light's** annual wildflower walk on September 18 will be modified this year. We'll have two of them, at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. because the crowd last year was so large! We feel everyone will have a better experience with smaller groups. **Please call the Arboretum to tell us when you will attend, 483-3571.**

We want our community to continue to rely on the Arboretum as a beautiful place in all seasons, with great offerings for families! Your program ideas are welcome, so please contact me.

Our fall **Plant Sale** on Oct. 9, is moments away. Come out for the always popular **Owl Prowl** on Oct. 23. We have a **Holly Work Day** on Oct. 30 to prepare for members of the **Holly Society of America** who hold their meeting in Oak Ridge Nov. 4-7, with a tour of the Elmore Holly collection as a featured event. Harold was such a valued member of the Society for many years, and his contributions to the Arboretum and UTAS were many.

On Tuesday, November 9 we'll have our **Annual Dinner and Auction** at the Elks Club in Oak Ridge. Our speaker is **Dr. Mark Fly**, UT Professor and Environmental Psychologist. Read more about him elsewhere in *Branches*.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and use it to help Mother Nature in her continuing work to make your yard and our community such a beautiful place to live.

~Tom Row, UTAS President  
tomhrow@bellsouth.net, 865-482-9096

## Director's Desk

The large acreage of natural forests encompassed within the UT Arboretum program area adds a dimension that sets us apart from many arboreta. An arboretum, simply put, is a place where trees and shrubs (woody plants) are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes. The UT Arboretum's collection of over 1,500 species, cultivars and varieties of woody plants, plus its related educational and scientific programs, certainly meets the definition of being an arboretum. However, our 170 acres of natural forests, with their associated native vegetation, ecological niches, geologic features, and educational and scientific projects, pushes the bounds of programming into areas commonly associated with nature centers. Actually, we embrace the concept of being both an arboretum and nature center, with a strong emphasis on the educational and scientific elements afforded by both.

To many visitors, the most endearing feature associated with the Arboretum forests is the seven miles of walking trails. I've often said that the Arboretum trails are a reason to come to the Arboretum - equal to that of the plant collections. It is not only the experience of walking the trails that visitors seem to enjoy. It is more the up close and personal experience that comes along with being within, and exploring, these forests. The Arboretum's *Featured Plants* section of our web site (<http://forestry.tennessee.edu/featuredplants.htm>) underscores the point. Besides featuring woody plants in the Arboretum's collection, *Featured Plants* also brings attention to the native wildflowers, vines, fern, trees, mosses, and other interesting plants found along the trails that run throughout our forests.

The Arboretum is not just about plants. Plants are interesting in themselves, but putting a plant into context with its environment adds another dimension – ecology. The diversity of our forests in their variety and types of tree communities, age ranges, and their physical conditions, melded together with the associated land features such as slopes, aspects, soils; and past human influences; tells a story that is more intriguing than the mere identification of a plant species. Our forests offer us the opportunity to tell this story in dynamic ways that brings people closer to the fundamental nature of plants.

More than you might imagine, our forests also play a large role in the research and education mission of the Arboretum. These forests are used regularly for class study by students in forestry, wildlife, ecology, geography, and horticulture. They have been the subject of study in plant community changes brought on by invasion of nonnative plant species. Geography students have studied remnant charcoal found in the soil to determine the life history of fire and its affect on forest development. Forestry students spend days measuring and describing forest growth and, in so doing, apply their studies to real-world situations.

The UT Arboretum's forests are an integral part of our program and a treasured resource, as important as all others for which we are noted-and as beautiful!

Visit our website: <http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Richard Evans, Director



## Upcoming Events

### Two Fall Wildflower Walks with Kris Light

Saturday, September 18 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Arboretum



Kris's wildflower walks are so popular that we've had to add a second walk, and request that you call ahead to reserve your spot. Help us make sure that everyone enjoys all aspects of their walk. **Please call the UTA at 865-483-3571 to save your spot.**

### Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 9 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Arboretum

Come out to the Arboretum and find some special plants that'll make your landscape sing! Fall is the best time to plant trees and other woody plants. After we've been indoors, out of the heat, for much of the summer, October will be a great time to be outside. We'll have a varied assortment of plants, including some great bargains and some very unusual specimens. You'll get high quality plants, plus you'll support the Arboretum. **Norm Dobbs** is in charge of the sale.

### Owl Prowl - It's a Hoooooooot!

Saturday, October 23 6:30 p.m. Arboretum Shelter



**Katie Cottrell** shares her owl expertise, and brings some owls for all to see. Then we'll take off on a night hike to see if we can find any owls prowling around the Arboretum. Bring a flashlight for this fun, family friendly activity.

### Elmore Holly Collection Work Day

Saturday, October 30 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Holly Garden

Please join the Holly Task Force to help prepare for the **Holly Society of America** visit and entrance rededication in November. The Holly Society will have members visiting from many parts of the U.S. and from around the world. If you can participate all day or any part of the work day, the session will be split between morning & afternoon. A light luncheon and refreshments will be provided at noon. We hope to have many volunteers to help prepare the Elmore Holly Collection look its best for this visit from the Holly Society. Contact **Dennis Superczynski**, jandport@tds.net, 607-8512.

### Holly Society of America Visits Elmore Holly Collection for Rededication Ceremony

Thursday, November 4 4 p.m. Elmore Holly Collection

This international organization will visit the garden and tour the holly collection after a rededication ceremony led by Richard Evans. Harold Elmore was an active and enthusiastic member of the HSA.

### Holly Society of America Annual Meeting in Oak Ridge

Thursday, November 4 - Sunday, November 7

The **Holly Society of America** Annual Meeting, held this year in Oak Ridge, TN, will offer its participants an opportunity to visit a number of sites in east and middle Tennessee. They will visit the UT Gardens and the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum in Knoxville, and the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge before going to the UT Arboretum to rededicate the Elmore Holly Collection. They will also travel to middle Tennessee to Don Shadow's nursery and then to the Jack Daniel Distillery for a tour and dinner.

UTAS President, **Tom Row**, will address the group, which is staying at the Doubletree Hotel in Oak Ridge, on November 4. Local experts presenting talks on Saturday, November 6, include **Dr. Will Witte**, **Jim Cortese**, and **Dr. Mark Windham**. **Dr. Susan Hamilton**, director of the UT Gardens, will be the featured speaker that evening at the banquet.

UTAS member **Dennis Superczynski** has organized this meeting. For more information or to register for the meeting, please visit the Holly Society website, [www.hollysocam.org](http://www.hollysocam.org), or contact **Dennis Superczynski**, jandport@tds.net, 607-8512.

### Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

Tuesday, November 9 6 p.m. Elks Club Oak Ridge

Our **Annual Meeting, Dinner and Silent Auction**, held at the Elks Club, 684 Emory Valley Road, Oak Ridge, is always a great opportunity to get together with fellow plant enthusiasts. We'll have a social hour with a cash bar, an ongoing Silent Auction, and dinner. After a short business meeting, our speaker is **Dr. Mark Fly**, UT Professor and Environmental Psychologist. He directs the Human Dimensions Research Lab that he founded in 1992, and is the coordinator of the Wildland Recreation Concentration. Dr. Fly is an Environmental Psychologist who specializes in the interrelationship between people and nature. A new focus area of his research is on children and nature, which is tied to the growing national concern about children's health and lack of time outdoors in nature, particularly in unstructured play.

We'll also have our popular Silent Auction, giving attendees an opportunity to snag some terrific items, some of them one-of-a-kind treasures. All proceeds go to support our Arboretum.

The cost for the dinner is \$20, payable at the door. Contact **Pat Row**, 482-9096, or pdrow@bellsouth.net to make your reservation.

### Stumped?



*What is that shrub at the Visitors Center with pink flowers on its stem? (late August)*

That's **American Beautyberry** (*Callicarpa americana*), a native shrub. According to the [UTA website's 'Featured Plants' page](#), "American Beautyberry is a native shrub found in the southeastern US from Maryland to Florida, and west to Oklahoma and Texas. An excellent specimen of this plant can be seen in front of the Arboretum's Visitors Center. The pink flowers develop along the stem at the leaf nodes in early August. After pollination, the fruits develop as dense ball-like clusters of green drupes. These mature later in the fall into conspicuous purple fruits that may persist well into the winter months. The fruits provide a source of food for a variety of birds."

*Email questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our Green Thumb experts at [utarboretumsociety@gmail.com](mailto:utarboretumsociety@gmail.com)*



*Kris Light helps our (mostly adult) attendees learn more about the birds and the bees*

## View Branches Online

Look for an email reminder from UTAS with a link to Branches on our website. There, you can see it in color and link to websites, etc. You can also see what else is up at the Arboretum and UTAS. Just go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org) and check it out any time.

## Email & Membership Notes

**We need your email addresses** so that you don't miss out on important information. We never share your email address with anyone else. Please send an email to [emily@jernigans.net](mailto:emily@jernigans.net) and we will add you to our database.

**If your email address changes**, please notify me. You may need to add us to your address book so our emails don't get sent automatically to 'junk' or the trash.

**If your mailing address changes, please notify us.** The Post Office charges us for every piece of returned mail. Send an email to [emily@jernigans.net](mailto:emily@jernigans.net).

**Renew now!** Check your *Branches* label for your membership expiration date! You'll get a reminder, or go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org) and download a form there.

## Weddings at the Arboretum

Plan a wedding with the UT Arboretum as the perfect backdrop. Go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org) and click on 'Weddings' or call 865-483-3571 for more information.

### UTAS Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Society Friend \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$45 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (All memberships and contributions are tax deductible.)

Mail this form and a check to:

UTAS

P.O. Box 5382

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382

## Committee Reports

### Plant Collections

This summer, our committee has concentrated on the new parking lot area. It has been necessary to keep up a constant "water watch" on our new plants in that area, watering every week there has been insufficient rain. Thanks to our watering team, **Norm Dobbs, Stacey Fuller, Katie Cottrell, Bob Reed, and Tom Row**, things we planted are flourishing as we move into fall. Perhaps the cooler weather and adequate rain will help things keep going through their first full year. If you haven't had a chance to see what we've done, stop by and see how nicely things have progressed. Almost all these plants were donated by members or corporate sponsors. What would we do without such generosity?

There is still a lot of empty space in that area, though, and only one more committed tree to plant. If you'd like to help out with anything from occasional watering to selecting and planting items in our new parking area, contact the committee chair, **Lynn Carlson**, [lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu](mailto:lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu) or 592-5402. It's good way to get involved and make a difference with UTAS.

### Native Plant Group

Lee Ann Dobbs heads this congenial group that continues to keep the beds around the Visitor's Center and on the hillside looking good. Their efforts literally show, and all Arboretum visitors are welcomed with the much-improved display of native plants. They usually meet in the morning on the third Wednesday of the month, March through November. Contact **Lee Ann Dobbs**, [leadob@bellsouth.net](mailto:leadob@bellsouth.net), 482-6566, to join in the fun.

### The Elmore Holly Collection Happenings

The Holly Task Force has been busy preparing the Elmore Holly Collection for the two 2010 Holly Entrance Dedications, one that was held by UT, The Arboretum, and The Arboretum Society on Saturday July 24, and a rededication that will be held Thursday afternoon, November 4 for the Holly Society of America Annual Meeting in Oak Ridge.

A Holly maintenance session was held June 24 to enhance the beauty of the collection for the official entrance dedication in July. General weeding, pruning, and mulch was applied with special attention to the *ilex crenata* (Japanese Holly) Collection. We wish to express a special thank you to volunteers who assisted with this effort: **Lynn Carlson, Norm and Lee Ann Dobbs, Evelyn Lorenz, Tom Row, Marti Salk, Barry Shupe, Fran Scheidt, Dennis Superczynski**, and to **Richard Evans** and his staff for their support providing equipment for the tasks.

Dennis Superczynski, Holly Task Force

The Holly Task Force: **Carmen Gianforte, Fran Scheidt, Barry Shupe, Mike Stansberry, Dennis Superczynski and Will Witte**



*Fran Scheidt recounts the history of the Elmore Holly Collection to those gathered for the dedication ceremony.*



# UTAS Resources

## Board of Directors

### Officers

President: Tom Row  
 Vice-President: Lynn Carlson  
 Secretary: Lynda Haynes  
 Treasurer: Wendy Packan  
 Past President: Norm Dobbs

Emily Jernigan  
 Evelyn Lorenz  
 Eileen Neiler  
 Richard Raridon  
 Stan Richards  
 Debbie Roberts  
 Marti Salk  
 Melanie Berney Staten  
 Randy Stewart  
 Beverly Woods

### Board Members

Ted Ballard  
 Amy Fitzgerald  
 Stacey Fuller  
 Jeff Holt

*Ex Officio*  
 Richard Evans

Branches Editor Emily Jernigan  
 Webmaster Angie Dobbs  
 Database Manager Charlie Jernigan

## Help Wanted

### Ongoing

- **Native Plant Group** meets the third Wednesday most months. **Lee Ann Dobbs**, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
- **Plant Collections Committee:** identify existing specimens, select, buy and plant new and or replacement plants, etc. **Lynn Carlson**, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu
- **Choose Your Own Spot!** Let us know what tickles your fancy. **Email:** utarboreumsociety@gmail.com

## Thanks!

**Richard Evans** and his staff helped with the Elmore Holly Collection dedication ceremony, and with all of our other UTA activities.

**Bob McLaren** led a Nature Photography Workshop.

**Kris Light** continues to lead workshops at UTA.

## How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: [www.utarboreumsociety.org](http://www.utarboreumsociety.org)

Email: [utarboreumsociety@gmail.com](mailto:utarboreumsociety@gmail.com)

Via GPS: 901 S. Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
 35.9995, -84.2259



## Looking to the Future...

### The UT Arboretum Endowment Campaign

A \$3 million endowment campaign has been initiated to secure future funding for the UT Arboretum. The **Rogers Group** has pledged a **\$500,000** Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over **\$30,000** to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum.

Now we need to engage everyone to fully achieve our goal. You can assist this effort in many ways:

Become an ambassador for the Arboretum and spread the word about the Endowment:

- Include the Arboretum Endowment in your estate planning
- Help the campaign partners identify potential donors
- Talk about how much the Arboretum has meant to you, your children and the community
- Honor loved ones with memorials to the Endowment

The endowment will fund critical features of a grand vision for the future of the University of Tennessee Arboretum that will include:

- Expanded collections of plants
- Creation of an Arboretum coordinator position
- Improved facilities for public access and enjoyment
- Enhancement of the grounds, displays, and trails
- Perpetuation and care of existing plant collections
- Creation of vibrant education and outreach programs

If you have questions, need information, or wish to share your idea for funding the UT Arboretum Endowment, please contact:

UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Development- **Thomas Looney** - 865-974-8622

UT Arboretum -**Richard Evans** - 865-483-3571

UT Arboretum Society -**Tom Row** 482-9096

To contribute to the Endowment Fund, make your check payable to the University of Tennessee and indicate in the memo line that you want your contribution credited to the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund. Mail it to the UT Institute of Agriculture, Development Office, 107 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle, Knoxville, TN 37996-4502.

For more information on Planned Giving visit this University of Tennessee website:

[www.plannedgiving.tennessee.edu](http://www.plannedgiving.tennessee.edu)

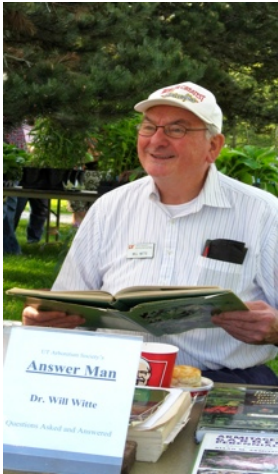
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*Dr. Will Witte, the UTAS Answer Man, helps people choose plants at all our Plant Sales*



*UT Institute of Agriculture Dean William Brown speaks at the Elmore Holly Collection dedication before the unveiling of the new stone entrance feature.*

## Upcoming Events

- Sept 18 Wildflower Walks - Kris Light  
10 am and 2 pm
- Oct 9 Plant Sale 9 am - 1 pm
- Oct 23 Owl Prowl - Katie Cottrell 6:30 pm
- Oct 30 Holly Work Day - 9 am - 3 pm
- Nov 9 Annual Dinner & Auction. Dr. Mark Fly, speaker
- Nov 4 Holly Society of America visit to the Elmore Holly Collection