


Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No. 26 - Spring 2012

<p>USA National Phenology Network What is Phenology? Learn more about it in this article. You may even decide to participate in their research by documenting and sharing your own observations. Page 3</p>	<p>Stumped? Ask us!  What are the clumps of dark green leaves scattered over the forest floor along the Oak-Hickory Trail in mid-March? <i>Email questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our Green Thumb experts.</i> Page 4</p>	<p>Plant Sale Collection This two-page feature will help you select some plants before the sale. You'll find details on several of our offerings, including photos. Pages 5 & 6</p>	<p>Spring Plant Sale Read all about this year's sale. We have so many in-demand and hard-to-find plants, selected to be good growers in our area. We'll have food on Saturday, too. Page 1</p>	<p>Upcoming Events Apr. 7 Holly Work Day Apr. 1 1-15 Tour to Charleston Apr. 20, 21 Plant Sale Apr. 26 National Bobwhite Quail Initiative talk May 12 MOTHERS Night Out May 15 Ants - Impact to Households and Property talk Page 3</p>
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Fill Your Red Wagon on April 20 & 21!

~Emily Jernigan

UTAS presents a repeat performance of specially chosen 'What's Hot' plants for our 45th Annual Spring Plant Sale on April 20 and 21. **Norm Dobbs**, Plant Sale chair, again teamed up with **Debbie Roberts**, local horticulturist and owner of [Plant Concepts Landscape and Design](#), to bring us an array of special featured plants. They have chosen sought-after plants that are well-suited to our area and easy to grow. Many are deer resistant and water efficient. They have also chosen some that are particularly good for smaller spaces or for containers, like the Drift Roses and dwarf Crape Myrtles. If you like things that are big, check out the 'Incrediball' hydrangea with blooms the size of soccer balls!

Some of our popular plants include: an assortment of Drift Roses from the [Knock Out® Family of Roses](#); 'Pocomoke' and 'Cherry Dazzle' dwarf Crape Myrtle; 'Burgundy' Loropetalum; 'Rose Creek' and 'Kaleidoscope' Abelia; 'Incrediball' and 'Limelight' Hydrangea; 'Minor' Indian Hawthorn; 'Rainbow' Leucothe; 'Prelude' Pieris; and 'Wine and Roses' Weigela. You can tell from the names that this is a bright and colorful group of plants!

Vendors offering trees, shrubs, perennials, herbs and edibles include [Beaver Creek Nursery](#), Knoxville; [East Fork Nursery](#), Sevierville; [Riverdale Nursery](#), Knoxville; and [Sunlight Gardens](#), Andersonville.

We also have plants grown by UTAS members and supporters. Some of these are unusual and not easily found in area nurseries, so come early for best selection of these and other plants. UTAS members as well as the plant

Answer Man, **Dr. Will Witte**, can help you choose appropriate plants and answer other plant questions.

Razzleberry Ice Cream Lab, Oak Ridge, will sell bratwurst, barbecue and their famous ice cream on Saturday only, so plan to make this a family outing.

All UTAS proceeds are used to benefit the Arboretum and its Endowment. This sale gives you the opportunity to buy high quality plants from local growers and to support this East Tennessee treasured asset.

Remember: Cash or check only; Members Only sale on Friday, April 20 from 5 - 7 p.m., and you can join or renew that day; Saturday, April 21, from 9 - 3, with food from Razzleberry.

See our plant page in this issue for detailed information on some of our plants. You may also find it on our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org, and see the plants in color at our 'Newsletters' tab.



President's Letter

The Arboretum is magnificent now, with many trees and wildflowers in bloom or coming into bloom between now and the end of May. Come out and visit this regional treasure located right here in Oak Ridge while its blooms are at their peak. Enjoy the new viburnum, along the road leading to the Program Shelter, that are in their debut spring season. **Lynn Carlson** and her committee, with help from UTAS volunteers and the UTA staff, organized and executed this project. The beds near the Visitors Center will dazzle you with their display of blooms, including a special array of azaleas, many donated by Oak Ridge azalea hybridizer **Huey Sides**. **Lee Ann Dobbs** chairs the Native Plant committee that tends these beds, planting, weeding, mulching, and fertilizing them throughout the year. Thanks to all whose efforts create these beautiful displays all Arboretum visitors can enjoy.

The Spring Plant Sale is April 20 and 21. Please come out and support UTAS and the Arboretum in this fund-raising effort. We need more volunteers, especially at 3 p.m. on Saturday to help with the inventory immediately after the Sale. Please contact me at samuels253@comcast.net (mention "Plant Sale Volunteer" in the subject line) or 482-3502, and tell me when you can help, providing your contact information. I will forward your information to the appropriate person who will then contact you to set up a work shift for you.

We have made significant progress towards the auditorium that will become a part of the Arboretum as a result of contributions to this Arboretum Endowment Fund. We'll be giving you more detail about this exciting endeavor soon. If you'd like to contribute to the Endowment, or would like more information, please contact any of the following: Tom Looney, UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Development, 865-974-8622; UT Arboretum Director Kevin Hoyt, 865-483-3571; UT Arboretum Society President Charles Samuels, 865-482-9096; or visit www.utalumni.utk.edu/givetout.

As always, thank you for your continuing support to the Arboretum and your loyalty to UTAS.

~Charles Samuels, UTAS President
samuels253@comcast.net, 865-482-3502



Director's Desk

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." ~Warren Buffett

This thought-provoking quote by Warren Buffett is timely, given that I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Oak Ridge Arbor Day Observance and Tree City Celebration at St. Mary's School. During this event I met some of the city officials, had a chance to publicly promote the UT Arboretum Society/Forest Resources Research and Education Center (FRREC), and visit with some of the St. Mary's fourth graders. In keeping with the Arbor Day Foundation's mission statement, "We inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees," I participated in planting a Red maple tree on the grounds of the school. It was truly an inspirational event. I enjoyed being a part of it, and am now motivated to plant some new tree specimens within the Arboretum grounds.

My first pre-springtime in the Arboretum has been awesome. The FRREC welcome sign is in plain sight; the daffodils proudly mark our entryway; the magnolias are in bloom; and the wildflowers are now appearing on the trail system. Thanks to Daylight Saving Time, we all have even more time in the evenings and on the weekends to enjoy this magnificent "oasis in the city."

As I think about springtime and all it brings to the Arboretum, I can't help but to think about my own life and how it has taken on a truly different and exciting path for my family. For instance, participating with my daughters, Brianna and Olivia, during last month's highly successful UTAS Father-Daughter Hike is now fondly stamped in my memory bank. I am so thankful that UTAS sponsors special events like this one, enabling us to entertain guests of all ages and introduce them to the marvels of this wonderful place.

Speaking of special events, I have been discussing the UTAS Spring Plant Sale with our staff, and we stand ready to help make this year's event another memorable success. I can hardly believe it has been almost a year since I visited the event last year as a candidate for the Director position. So I am really looking forward to being part of the entire planning process, giving me an opportunity to get to personally know many more UTAS members, and to share in the excitement of this big-time spring event.

See our website for more information:

<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

Upcoming Events

Please check our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org, for updated and additional information on our events.

Holly Work Day

Saturday, April 7 9 a.m. - noon, Elmore Holly Collection

Join the Holly Task force as they weed, fertilize, prune and mulch half of the young collection. Bring gloves, shovels and pruners if you have them. A light luncheon and refreshments will be served. **Dennis Superczynski**, 865-607-8512 or jandport@tds.net.

Charleston House & Garden Tour

April 11-15 Charleston, SC

Although the deadline for this tour is already passed, look for a report on it in the next edition of *Branches*.

Dennis & Jan Superczynski, UTAS Garden Tour Co-coordinators.

Spring Plant Sale

Friday and Saturday, April 20 & 21 Arboretum

Plant Sale chair **Norm Dobbs**, with **Plant Concepts** owner and UTAS board member **Debbie Roberts**, present a fine selection of both popular and rare plants. Come out and join us!

National Bobwhite Quail Initiative talk with Mike Black

Thursday, April 26 7 p.m. Roane State Oak Ridge, City Room

Mike Black, Forestry Coordinator of the National Bobwhite Quail Initiative, will discuss the longterm decline of this special bird, and the ongoing efforts to bring it back. According to their website, <http://bringbackbobwhites.org>, "The National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) is the unified strategic effort of 25 state fish and wildlife agencies and various conservation organizations - all under the umbrella of the National Bobwhite Technical Committee - to restore wild populations of bobwhite quail in this country to levels comparable to 1980." The University of Tennessee serves as the headquarters for this effort.

MOTH...ers Night Out with Kris Light

Saturday, May 12 7:30 p.m. Arboretum

Would you like to know more about moths and observe them up close? After a short talk, we'll get to see who shows up on the black-lighted sheets. Join Kris and other moth enthusiasts to learn more about them and their habitats. Bring your cameras, and your kids or grandkids to this family friendly event.

Ants - Impact to Households and Property talk with Dr. Karen M. Vail

Thursday, May 15 7 p.m. Roane State Oak Ridge, City Room

Dr. Karen M. Vail will discuss her research on Ants, their habitats, and combatting them in our homes. She will also talk about invasive Fire Ants and their progress into Tennessee. Some of her research is based here in OakRidge at the Forestry Center.

Committee Reports

Plant Care/Herbicide Use Workshop

Workshop participants heard about different types of mulch and successful ways to use it from **Jeff Holt**. Jeff also showed photos of good and bad examples of mulch used in local landscapes. **Dr. Matt Cutulle**, now a post-doc in Dr. Greg Armel's lab at UT, talked about different types of herbicides and effective and correct ways to use them.

Father-Daughter Hike Another Big Success

Jeff Holt organized another popular outing at the Arboretum. More than 60 fathers and daughters put on their warm clothes and headed out to explore some of the great outdoors at the Arboretum. Jeff led one group of about 30, and **Wes Tilley**, of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), took another group out to get some exercise, learn about walking in the woods, and have fun together.



Wes Tilley (center, kneeling) and his group of Fathers and Daughters, ready to explore the Oak-Hickory Trail. Photo by Kevin Hoyt

USA National Phenology Network

Do you keep track of when your daffodils bloom, or when the first robin appears in your yard? You may be interested in joining the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN). According to their website, the "...USA-NPN monitors the influence of climate on the phenology of plants, animals, and landscapes. We do this by encouraging people to observe phenological events like leaf out, flowering, migrations, and egg laying, and by providing a place for people to enter, store, and share their observations. We also work with researchers to develop tools and techniques to use these observations to support a wide range of decisions made routinely by citizens, managers, scientists, and others, including decisions related to allergies, wildfires, water, and conservation." This group's activities are funded by several organizations, including the U. S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service and the National Science Foundation. They encourage participants, ranging from backyard birdwatchers and gardeners to professional scientists, to share their observations through this network.

Visit their website, <http://www.usanpn.org/about>, for more information or to join and add your data to the network.

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 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 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.

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

Stumped?

What are the numerous clumps of dark green leaves scattered over the forest floor along the Oak-Hickory Trail in mid-March?



These emerging leaves are the first sign of a distinctive plant known as Fly Poison or Stagger Grass (*Amianthium muscitoxicum*). It is a monocot, as are grasses, but it belongs to the Lily Family (*Liliaceae*), not the Grass



Fly Poison Bloom
Photo by Bob Reed

Family (*Poaceae*). As spring progresses, Fly Poison develops stalks that are capped by striking clusters of white flowers. It not only highlights the Oak-Hickory Trail in late April and May; it may also be seen along the Backwoods Trail and elsewhere in the Arboretum. All parts of Fly Poison, especially the bulb, contain a toxic alkaloid. Crushed portions of the plant, mixed with sugar and/or honey, were once used to kill flies, hence the common name 'Fly Poison.' The name 'Stagger Grass' also reflects the toxic nature of the plant – it can be fatal to grazing cattle, which often stagger around before dying. You may see Fly Poison blooming earlier this year as spring is moving forward quickly.

Bob Reed supplied this answer and photographs.

Email questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our Green Thumb experts at utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

UTAS Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

New _____ Renewal _____

Society Friend \$100 _____ Patron \$500 _____

Family \$45 _____ Individual \$30 _____ Student \$15 _____

Yes, I want to make an additional Contribution:

UTAS General Fund \$ _____

Elmore Holly Collection Fund \$ _____

All memberships and contributions are tax deductible.

Mail this form with your check to:

UTAS

P.O. Box 5382

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382

New & Renewing Members - Thanks!

Margaret Baldauf

Marcia Bartlett

Nancy Basford

Sharon Bell

Marie Charles

Deborah Cutler

Norman & Lee Ann Dobbs

Susan S. Elmore

Kenneth Farrell*

Emory Valley Garden Club*

David Graham

Mr. & Mrs. Melvyn Halbert

Andrew Hartung

John & Nettie Hill

Barbara Isenberg

Peggy Kattine

Harold & Martha McCurdy

Anne McKenzie

Evelyn Moyers

Willow & Bob Reed

Robert Reynolds

Peter Scheffler

Fran Scheidt

Donald Snyder & Mary Sisson

Melanie Staten

Irene Sullivan*

Bruce Suttle

Paul & Barbara Taylor*

Barbara Tourtelote

Dr. & Mrs. Richard E. Williams

Adam Wright

**Denotes Society Friend*

PLANT SALE 2012

'WHAT'S HOT' COLLECTION

Source: www.floridageorgianursery.comSource: www.evergreenofjohnsoncity.comSource: www.beavercreeknursery.comSource: www.gardenality.com**'Burgundy'
Loropetalum***Loropetalum chinensis*
'Burgundy'

This woody ornamental was introduced by the National Arboretum, that says, "With flowers to 'knock your socks off,' these neon lights of the witchhazel family will delight you with their early April bloom." Its foliage is almost as dramatic as its flowers: reddish purple in spring, purple-green in summer, and bright red in fall. It flowers best in full sun, prefers moist, well-drained acid soil, grows to a 6-10' tall and wide graceful small tree/large shrub, so be sure to allow room for it to grow. Semi-evergreen in Zone 7.

'Cherry Dazzle'[®] Crape Myrtle*Lagerstromia* 'Cherry Dazzle'

One of 5 new 'Razzle Dazzle' collection of Crape Myrtles developed at the University of Georgia, 'Cherry Dazzle'[®] will eventually reach only about 3 x 3-5' at maturity. It has a compact, mounding shape. Its papery cherry-red blooms cover the plant from midsummer into early fall, just when your garden needs a lift. Then its foliage turns burgundy red for fall interest. Use it in containers, borders, as an accent or foundation planting. Plant it in full sun for best flowering. Deer and drought resistant, very hardy. Excellent for small spaces or for mass plantings.

'Rose Creek' Abelia*Abelia chinensis* 'Rose Creek'

This extremely hardy, small evergreen plant has shiny pinkish leaves that turn dark green, then almost purple in winter. It has a dense, mounded shape, 2-3 x 3-4 feet and needs full sun to partial shade. Clusters of tubular flowers begin pink then turn white. They are very fragrant and attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Use for foundation, specimen, walkway, groupings or container plantings. Good companions are Knockout Roses, Stella de Oro Daylilies and New Gold Lantana. Very deer resistant!

'Incrediball'[®] Hydrangea*Hydrangea arborescens*
'Incrediball'[®]

Incrediball[®]'s blooms are huge - about 12" - and emerge green, turn snow white, and then fade to pale green. An offspring of Annabelle, it produces about 4 times as many blooms from midsummer to frost on new wood. Unlike Annabelle, its stems are very sturdy and far less likely to fall over. It grows fast and sips water once established, reaching a moderate 4-5' x 4'. Plant it as a hedge, in a border, or as a specimen. Its massive blooms are wonderful as cut or dried flowers, and can provide excellent winter interest in your garden. It is extremely cold hardy and is a butterfly magnet.

PLANT SALE 2012 Drift Rose® COLLECTION



Pink Drift® Source: www.willowaynurseries.com



Red Drift® Source: www.worldrose.org



Peach Drift® Source: www.worldrose.org

Drift Roses

According to the Conard-Pyle website, <http://www.conard-pyle.com>, "From the introducers of The Knock Out® Family of Roses, comes the next big thing for small gardens. Like The Knock Out® Family of Roses, Drift® Roses are repeat-bloomers that are tough, disease resistant, winter hardy and virtually maintenance-free.

Drift® Roses are a cross between full-size groundcover roses and miniature roses. From the former they kept toughness, disease resistance and winter hardiness. From the miniatures, they inherited their well-managed size and repeat-blooming nature.

Continuously blooming from spring to frost (bloom cycle about every 5-6 weeks), they are naturally dwarf, with very attractive foliage. The low, spreading habit of Drift® Roses makes them perfect for small gardens, hillsides, perennial beds and even awkward areas. They brighten up borders, fill in empty spaces, and spread delicately around your favorite established plants.

Pink Drift® (Rosa 'Meijocos') is low-growing with distinctive mounded flowers that reach 1½' in height with a 3' spread. Deep pink flowers with a soft faded center bloom in abundance throughout the season.

Red Drift® (Rosa 'Meigalpio') has the most petite flowers of all of the Drift® Roses. It is perfect for use in front of border plantings. Red Drift® makes a beautiful statement when it drapes naturally over a rock wall or edge. Mature height is less than 1½' with a wider spread. Great flower power and disease resistance.

Peach Drift® (Rosa 'Meiggili') is one of the most floriferous dwarf shrubs available. Soft peach blooms cover the plant from mid-spring to the first hard freeze of late fall. Peach Drift® pairs well with existing perennials in any landscape. The mature plant is approximately 1½' by 2' and exhibits strong disease resistance.

The newest introduction to the popular Drift® series, **Icy Drift®** (Rosa 'Meipicdevoj') has small, pure white double blooms that form from late spring/early summer through frost. The flowers are borne abundantly in large clusters. The disease resistance is exceptional. Medium green glossy foliage helps to highlight the clean white blossoms. Its size is 1-2' by 2-3'."

All the Drift Roses need full sun and flower abundantly and repeatedly. They are very easy to care for, have generally low water and other maintenance requirements. They have no noticeable fragrance.



UTAS Resources

Board of Directors

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President: Charles Samuels	Emily Jernigan
Vice-president: Jeff Holt	Evelyn Lorenz
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	Kevin Hoyt

Branches Editor	Emily Jernigan
Webmaster	Angie Dobbs
Database Manager	Charlie Jernigan
Plant Sale Chair	Norm Dobbs

Help Wanted

- We always need volunteers to work at the Plant Sale. Contact **Norm Dobbs**, 865-482-6656 or nadobbs@bellsouth.net.
- Get a little spring outdoor exercise, learn about hollies, and help keep our Elmore Holly Collection in tiptop shape. Contact **Dennis Superczynski**, 865-607-8512 or jandport@tds.net

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: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

Thanks!

Jeff Holt(UTAS) and **Wes Tilley** (TWRA) led over 60 people on the Father/Daughter hike.

Jeff Holt and **Dr. Matt Cutulle** presented a Plant Care/Herbicide Use workshop.

Bob Reed supplied the photo and answer for Stumpy.

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.utarboretumsociety.org

Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

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

*Design, writing, and editorial services donated by
Emily Jernigan, WordsWorth*



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 recently fulfilled its pledge of a \$500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over \$40,000 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 - **Kevin Hoyt** - 865-483-3571

UT Arboretum Society - **Charlie Samuels** 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.utalumni.utk.edu/givetout



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See You at the Plant Sale
Friday, April 20, 5-7 p.m. for Members Only-
 Join or renew at the door
Saturday, April 21, 9-3 for All
 Razzleberry Ice Cream Lab will be there with
 brats, bbq, and ice cream

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.



*Dr. Will Witte, the UTAS Plant Sale
'Answer Man'*

Upcoming Events

- April 7 Holly Work Day
- April 11-15 Charleston Tour
- April 20, 21 Plant Sale
- April 26 National Bobwhite Quail
Initiative talk - Mike Black
- May 12 MOTH...ers Night Out!
with Kris Light
- May 15 Ants - Impact to
Households and Property talk -
Dr. Karen M. Vail