

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No 10 - Spring 2008

UTAS President's Message

Norm Dobbs has a summary of recent Society activities and discusses the upcoming Plant Sale. Think Red!

Page 2

Stumped? Ask us!

Do all Crape Myrtles need pruning?

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

Page 5



"Director's Desk"

Richard Evans gives us a peek into the Arboretum's historical record and some of his plans for sharing this with visitors.

Page 2

Spring Plant Sale

Select some red *Crape Myrtles* for your landscape: **Dynamite, Red Rocket, Tonto**, and more.

April 18 & 19

Page 6

New Trail Opens

Cub Scouts cut the grapevine and the new forest loop trail is officially open. Come see it for yourself.

Page 5

Upcoming Events

April 18 & 19 Plant Sale
May 10 Bird Walk - Jim Evans
June 16-21 Northwest Gardens Tour
June 20 & 21 Secret City Festival

Page 5

The red Crape Myrtles are coming!

Dr. Will Witte helped us put together a special selection of red Crapes to offer at our Spring Plant Sale. He has nurtured many of these plants himself, making them an even more special plant for your



Red Rocket is the fastest-growing Whitcomb, with flower clusters up to 24" long.

landscape. Some of these exciting new cultivars include many developed by Dr. Carl Whitcomb. With names like **Dynamite, Siren Red, Red Rocket, Burgundy Cotton, and Raspberry Sundae**, you know that these plants offer great color along with their other outstanding attributes. We'll have more Crapes, too, as well as dogwood and many other outstanding plant choices.

Crape Myrtles are easy to grow, generally disease-free, drought-tolerant, and require little maintenance. They are very adaptable, growing in most soils. They thrive in heavy loam or clay soils, so they're perfect for our area as long as they have good drainage.

Crapes make excellent specimen plants, and may be used as privacy screens or in landscape groupings. They also work very well as foundation plantings. They come in a wide variety of sizes, from dwarf to 20 feet or more. Crapes like sun, and many of the red cultivars' blooms will fade with too much shade. The deer don't like them at all!

Most of the newer varieties are repeat bloomers, which means that you don't even need to prune the tips. The blooms last a very long time - up to 120 days or more! Many flower clusters are very



Dynamite, the first Whitcomb introduction, has true red blooms, typically lasting 120 days, on an upright plant.

large and showy, so these plants stand out wherever they are. Additionally, they offer the advantage of beautiful fall foliage and very interesting bark so they're truly four-season plants. The key, as with any plant, is to choose plants that are right for your landscape.



President's Letter

It's April and time for our annual Spring Plant Sale. We are thankful for the advice from Dr. Will Witte who brought to our attention the new variety of crape myrtles developed by Dr. Carl Whitcomb of Lacebark Inc. in Stillwater, OK. Following up on Will's recommendations, we obtained six varieties of Whitcomb's crape myrtles and Will has been growing and caring for these plants. Red is a color rarely seen in nature in the heat of the summer, so plant enthusiasts will be thrilled with the true red varieties of Whitcomb crape myrtles. We will offer 'Dynamite,' 'Red Rocket,' and 'Siren Red' among others. Another advantage of crape myrtles is that they are drought tolerant plants, which should be appealing after last summer's experience. We will also be offering 'Appalachian Spring' dogwood, selected by Horticulture Magazine in 2006 as its best pick among all dogwood cultivars. Please spread the news about our Spring Plant Sale to your friends and neighbors and encourage everyone to come early, on Friday evening, to the "Members Only" sale. Anyone can join UTAS there. We will also offer our new UTAS T-shirts (both short and long-sleeve), baseball caps and visors.

Since the last edition of Branches many events have occurred either at the Arboretum or been sponsored by the Society. In February, we had a good turnout for the new trail opening ceremony. Dr. Jennifer Franklin's lecture "Will My Plants Recover from the 2007 Freeze and Drought" enlightened and informed the attendees of what to be watchful for and what measures to take to help our plants and trees recover. March had three events. A good crew of workers showed up to spruce up of the holly collection and plant the first three plants in the new Tennessee Holly Collection. Rain pushed the Society's cosponsorship of Oak Ridge's annual Arbor Day Ceremony inside for the first time in 23 years. A few hardy students donned rain gear and helped plant Willow Brook's willow tree anyway. Rain also prompted the venue change for the "Lawn and Garden Tool Workshop" to the Arboretum's maintenance building. For the first time, Oak Ridge's Downtown Hardware joined with the Society to cosponsor this event.

Another accomplishment deserves mention. Over the past few months, a small task force has joined me to review and reorganize the Society's nearly 43 years of records. I am grateful to Lee Ann Dobbs, Nancy Hardin, Eileen Neiler, Diantha Paré and Pat Row for this effort. All our records are now organized and filed in labeled folders in the filing cabinets in the Library of the Visitor's Center. Future officers and directors of the Society are encouraged to routinely file record copies of the Society's documents in these folders. If any former officers and directors have documents in their possession which might be of historical benefit to the Society, please contact me.

Lastly, I remind everyone of the importance of the **UT Arboretum Endowment Fund** to the Arboretum's future. Support our UT Arboretum through support to the Endowment Fund!

Norm Dobbs, President

nadobbs@bellsouth.net

Director's Desk

At the "No Name Trail" ribbon cutting event in February, I had the pleasure of introducing participants to some of the natural and human heritage associated with the Arboretum. Over the years I've met many people who had lived on this property before 1941-42 when the United States Government bought the land for the development of the Oak Ridge Manhattan Project. I've taken time to glean information from these residents' stories of life back then and, in the process, have heard some interesting and adventurous tales. In addition, I've been able to accumulate a few old family photos, acquire 1935 and 1942 aerial photos from TVA and US Army Corp of Engineers, piece together land parcel maps, and obtain pictures of the actual home and outbuilding structures associated with each land parcel. These photos, documents, and oral histories can give us a peek back into the past, and compare conditions then with what we find today. I never tire of looking at these early photos and maps; especially when I'm standing at the same photo-point observing features as they appear today, and surmising what had transpired over the last 60+ years.

This experience is more than a nostalgia trip back in time or an exercise in historic reconstruction. It is a way to learn about forest succession and better understand the associate biological and ecological processes that created these forests. When standing in what was once a pasture, tilled field, or degraded wood lot, one can better appreciate the dynamic processes that have worked together to create the diverse forest and forest ecosystem we find in the UT Arboretum. To share these wonderments of nature with visitors we are developing new interpretive displays as windows into the past for understanding and learning about our forest of today.

See our website for more information:

<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Richard Evans, Director

New Arboretum Trail Officially Opens



On February 16, Director Richard Evans led over 60 children and adults on an inaugural hike along the Arboretum's new .7 mile forest loop trail. He also explained how past human activity, weather and other factors have changed the forest over many years, and pointed out examples of these changes along the trail. Several Cub Scouts had the honor of cutting the ceremonial grape vine upon reaching the eastern entrance to the new "No Name" trail, officially opening the trail.



Using 1930s pictures and aerial photographs, Richard gave the hikers a rich and informative history of this area of the Arboretum. He related stories that former residents or their family members had shared with him over the years.

Several of the newly designed Arboretum trail benches have been placed along the new trail. Check the Arboretum's website (<http://forestry.tennessee.edu/newtrail.htm>) for more photos and information. You may even download a construction plan for the trail benches.

Upcoming Events

Plant Sale 2008 Features Crape Myrtle and Dogwood

Friday, April 18, 5-7 p.m. - Members Only

Saturday, April 19, 9-3 - Public Sale

Featured Plant: Crape Myrtle, especially the red varieties developed by Dr. Carl Whitcomb, and Dogwood, notably Appalachian Spring.

Support UTAS and find an outstanding variety of high quality plants, including many hard-to-find specimens.



Spring Bird Walk with Jim Evans

Saturday, May 10, 7 am at the Arboretum

Set your alarm clock and bring binoculars!

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.



Secret City Festival

Friday, June 20 & Saturday, June 21

The Oak Ridge Secret City Festival presents a number of activities and entertainment in a fun, family friendly atmosphere. UTAS has a booth and we pass out information on the Society and the Arboretum, sell plants, and have something for the kids. **Jeff Holt** will coordinate this event, and is looking for volunteers to work in our booth. No experience needed!

UTAS Plant Collections Committee Gets Busy

In our first year of operation, the UTAS Plant Collections Committee was able to focus on what all of us like best: picking out and buying beautiful plants to enhance the Arboretum areas open to the public. It's been a busy year for committee members **Lynn Carlson, Bob Read, Marti Salk, and Barry Shupe**. Here are a few of the things we have been able to accomplish.

The easiest project involved identifying a native ornamental shade tree to grace the Visitor's Center, to replace a box elder that had been cut down a few years ago. Director **Richard Evans** located a specimen-size yellowwood tree (*Cladrastis kentukea*) and installed it this fall—be sure to stop by and see it. Maybe it will even bloom this year!

Some new plant material was acquired serendipitously. **Riverbend Nursery**, in the Nashville area, offered the Arboretum a donation. Our only task was to go through their plant inventory and make up a wish list. We had all the fun of reading a catalog, without the usual pain in the pocketbook. This effort resulted in the donation of nearly \$1000 worth of plants to the Arboretum: some of the magnolias, but also butterfly bush, rhododendron, viburnum, junipers, oh my! All are in the greenhouse, awaiting the entryway construction for best placement.

There are some new signs on the Oak-Hickory Trail, too. Thanks to the efforts of committee member Bob Reed, we have reviewed the old signs and developed a new set of tree id signs and a few new interpretive signs for that trail. We hope to turn the trail into a mini-classroom, where the first part of the trail has identifying signs posted on trees, and the return half has "Who am I?" signs. At present the signs are laminated, because the Arboretum is in need of a new engraver to develop more permanent signage. Someday we might have one.

Our big project for the year was an ambitious plan to "buy some magnolias" to beautify the Arboretum even further. It's amazing how that project has evolved, but it's nearing completion at last! We quickly discovered that our desires were much bigger than our budget, and opted for smaller trees to grow on, rather than specimen sized trees ready to install—more trees for less money. Right now in the Arboretum greenhouse there are *Magnolia x 'butterflies'* (a yellow saucer-type), *M. 'Leonard Messel'* (rose stellata type), *Jon-Jon*, *Big Pink*, and *Daybreak*. We also have a *'Henry Hicks'* *M. virginiana* and several types of *M. grandiflora*. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of the UTAS board, there are more to come! We'll let you know as they appear.

Look for these trees to be installed in the next year or so, as they get larger and better able to withstand transplanting, and as the construction around the Arboretum entrance is completed. Some will be used in landscaping the new parking area, while others will replace dying or poorly formed trees in the areas close to the road. As they grow and develop, they should provide a good show when viewed from the road, and will also provide both visual and olfactory delights as you wander among them.

In the next year we will continue to work on the magnolia acquisition and the sign development, and will try to develop a plan for renewing the rhododendrons and azaleas in the Heath Cove area. The conifer collections will also get a look.

It's thanks to the generous support of Arboretum Society members, and the tireless advice of the Director that these acquisitions have been

possible. You all contribute with your time and money to beautify this tremendous public resource. Keep up the good work!

Would you like to be a part of all this? Picking out plants is one of the most rewarding aspects of horticulture. The committee is always looking for members who would like to be a part of the team. Call **Lynn Carlson, 692-5402, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu**, if you would like to help with next year's projects.

Dr. Jennifer Franklin Lecture

"Will My Plants Recover from the 2007 Freeze and Drought?"

Dr. Jennifer Franklin, UT Asst. Professor, addressed this issue to a crowd of over 60 people at a UTAS-sponsored lecture on February 25. The TN average March temperature for 2007 was 7.8 degrees greater than the average over the past 100 years, and then we had an extremely cold and windy spell in April. She told us that 2007 was the driest growing season on record, and that records go back to 1895. As we all know, this created all sorts of problems for our plants.

Dr. Franklin showed us how to look carefully for damage, and then gave us some pointers on how to deal with what we find. Watering is extremely important, and to promote healthy roots, we should water less often but for a longer time. Mulch with a light colored, organic mulch to help keep the soil cooler (more hot and dry weather is expected) and to preserve water. Fertilize with extra phosphorous, not nitrogen, and ease up on pruning because the plants need the leaves to rejuvenate themselves. Sometimes the plant is too severely damaged to survive and should be replaced.

She said to choose plant species in the middle of their range, and gave us some examples of plants more and less likely to be successful here. Be somewhat wary of Rhododendron, Red Maple, Elm, and Spirea. Good choices include Oaks, Holly, Dogwood, Cherry, Ninebark, Serviceberry, Cedar, Juniper, Trumpet Creeper and our **Plant Sale featured plant, Crape Myrtle**.



Holly Work Day- Spring 2008

The UTAS Holly Collection Task Force thanks those who donated time and effort to cleaning up and planting in the Elmore Holly Collection:

Ted Ballard, Lee Ann Dobbs, Norm Dobbs, Richard Evans, Noel Kawado, Evelyn Lorenz, Brian Matheny, Diantha Paré, Bob Reed, Pat Row, Tom Row, Barry Shupe, Bill Sirett, Mike Stansberry, Dennis Superczynski, Jan Superczynski, and Will Witte

Your participation enabled us to prune, fertilize, aerate and freshen mulch on most of our 200 hollies. This was especially important for the newer plantings. We cleared fallen debris, spread an entire truck load of mulch, and planted eight new hollies. Al-



though the collection lost 11 hollies to last year's drought, most remain in good health.

We planted Ilex Meserrvae 'Castle Spire", Ilex(Pernyi x Cornuta) 'Clara Burns', Ilex Crenata 'Sky Pencil", Ilex Aquifolium 'Lewis', and Ilex Aquifolium 'Crinkle' Variegated. We also planted the three Bruner Tennessee Hollies donated to the Arboretum by Vivian Abney: Ilex 'Emily Bruner', 'James Swan', and 'Ginny Bruner.'



We thank **Jan Superczynski** and **Pat and Tom Row** for a wonderful tailgate luncheon, and **Richard Evans** for providing heavy equipment that lightened the task.

The Holly Task Force:

Barry Shupe, Mike Stansberry, Dennis Superczynski, Dr. Will Witte

Arbor Day 2008

On March 7, a very cool and rainy morning, the Society and the City of Oak Ridge joined to observe Arbor Day just like we have been doing for the past 23 years—with one exception. The program was held **inside** the Willow Brook Elementary School Gymnasium. Everyone from City officials, State Foresters, teachers and fourth graders met the challenge as we honored and sang about trees and then presented awards. The City was given a Tree City Flag recognizing its twenty year history as a Tree City USA.

Dennis Superczynski, UTAS past president, served as the Master of Ceremonies and **Norm Dobbs**, current president, presented a Willow tree to the school to be planted **outside** after the rain stopped.

In Tennessee, Arbor Day is celebrated the first Friday in March. School children have planted trees in the cold, in the rain and the snow, and even on beautiful warm, sunny days. This year they planted their Willow wearing oversized ponchos. Assistant Principal Tom Gentry and Mary Ruth Little, of the Parks and Recreation Department, helped students plant the tree when the rain subsided at the end of the program. **Lee Ann Dobbs** coordinated this event.

Stumped?

Do all Crape Myrtles need pruning?

No, most do well with little or no pruning if sited properly. Most of the red Whit cultivars do better with no pruning as they naturally repeat-bloom. For more information on red Crapes, visit www.lacebarkinc.com (Dr. Whitcomb's site) and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP256> (U of FL)



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

Lawn and Garden Tool Workshop

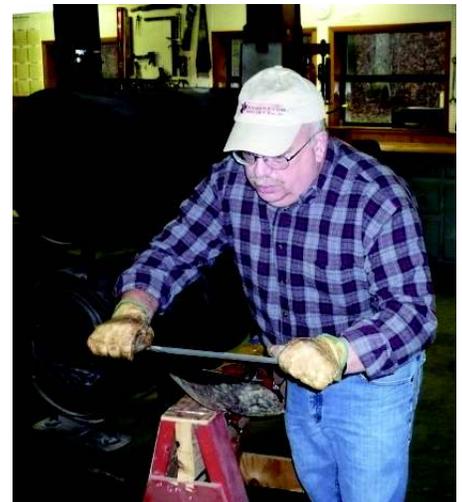
Downtown Hardware partners with UTAS

With rain in the forecast, the March 15 Lawn and Garden Tool Workshop was moved into the Arboretum's Maintenance building where about 20 attendees were dry and warm. **Roger Clary, Josh Gibson** and "**Doc**" **Ferguson** from Downtown Hardware gave



pre- and post-season advice on the care and maintenance of leaf blowers, weed eaters and lawnmowers.

Norm Dobbs gave general garden hand tool care and cleaning hints and tips; **Jeff Holt** demonstrated techniques in the sharpening of shovels and hoes; and **Richard Evans** answered individual chain saw questions and gave a demonstration of chain saw sharpening techniques.



New and Renewing Members - Thanks!

Deborah Allen
 Sandra M. Barry
 Nancy Basford
 Mozelle Bell
 Melanie Berney
 Kris & Larry Brantley
 Sharon Carlomagno
 Katie Cottrell
 Laura M. Derr
 Deborah & Joseph DiPietro
 Linda Ducamp
 Art Dworkin
 Ruth Ewald
 Jennifer Franklin
 David & Terry Freeman
 Harvey Goranson
 Doug & Sally Gross
 Katherine Hall
 Lynda & Chuck Haynes
 Karen Henderson
 Sondra Jamieson
 Doug & Cyndi Jeffers
 Patricia Jobe
 Barbra Keyes
 Mary Kollie
 Christine Lee
 Janie V. Love
 David Mabry
 Robert McClung
 Margaret Phares
 Shelley & Kevin Przewrocki
 Dan & Eva Robbins
 Murray & Mimi Rosenthal
 David H. Scanlon III
 Sarah Sheppard/Ben Alford
 Don Snyder & Mary Sisson
 Phil & Doris Sklad
 Randy Stewart
 Jan Violet
 Marie Walsh
 Barbara A. Walton
 Paul & Rose Whalen

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 items. 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.

Renew now! Check your *Branches* label for your membership expiration date! You'll get a reminder, or you may use this form.

Check out our new gear!

Show your support for UTAS and the Arboretum: take home more than plants at the Plant Sale, and look cool in our T-shirt or cap.



Merchandise For Sale

Support the
Arboretum Society!

\$15 Short-sleeve t-shirts Cotton poly blend Sizes M-XXL	\$18 Long-sleeve t-shirts 100% cotton Sizes M-XL	\$15 Caps & Visors
---	---	---



UTAS Resources

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Norm Dobbs
 Vice President: Dick Raridon
 Secretary: Diantha Paré
 Treasurer: Pat Row
 Past President: Dennis Superczynski

Emily Jernigan
 Evelyn Lorenz
 Eileen Neiler
 Wendy Packan
 Diantha Paré
 Bob Reed
 Stan Richards
 Marti Salk
 Barry Shupe

Board Members

Ted Ballard
 Melanie Berney
 Lynn Carlson
 Jeff Holt
 Pat Hunsicker

Ex Officio
 Richard Evans

Branches Editor Emily Jernigan
 Webmaster Angie Dobbs
 Database Manager Charlie Jernigan

Help Wanted

Special Events

- **Secret City Festival** - Join fellow UTAS members at our booth for a few hours. Contact **Jeff Holt**, 621-9306, jholtor@hotmail.com
- **Arbor Day** - **Lee Ann Dobbs** would like to transition out of this event, and is willing to train someone. The ceremony is once a year in the spring and is coordinated with the city of Oak Ridge.

Ongoing

- **Native Plant Group** meets the third Wednesday most months. **Lee Ann Dobbs**, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
- **Tour Guides** assist groups visiting the Arboretum. **Richard Evans**, 483-3571
- **Trail Rangers** will help with maintaining and improving the Arboretum's trails, and will also be available to answer visitors' questions. This group is just starting up, so get in on the *ground floor*! **Richard Evans**, 483-3571, revans6@utk.edu

Thanks

Evelyn Lorenz and Diantha Paré will keep the parking lot kiosk up to date with information about Society and Arboretum activities, etc. Take a look next time you're out there.

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.UTArboretumSociety.org
<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

Email: utas@discoveret.org

Via GPS: 901 S. Illinois Ave (Highway 61), 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 of the UT Arboretum. The UT Institute of Agriculture Development Office, Arboretum Director, Arboretum Society President, and several Society members have been working to lay the foundation for a successful campaign.

In 2006 the **Rogers Group**, long-time corporate citizen of Oak Ridge and neighbor of the Arboretum, gave a **\$500,000 Arboretum Endowment Founding Gift**, spread over 5 years. As of November 2007, the **Arboretum Society** has contributed **\$15,000** to this fund.

Now we need to engage everyone to fully achieve our goal. You can assist 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

This 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 more information, or wish to share your idea for funding the UT Arboretum Endowment, contact:

UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Development- Rhodes Logan - 865-974-1928

UT Arboretum -Richard Evans - 865-483-3571

UT Arboretum Society -Norm Dobbs - 865-482-6656

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:

<http://www.utalumni.utk.edu/givetout>



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 273
Oak Ridge, TN

P.O. Box 5382
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382



Plant Sale

features

Crape Myrtle & Dogwood

Members only**

-Friday, April 18 5-7 pm

All welcome

-Saturday, April 19 9-3

**Join or renew at the door



Upcoming Events

- April 18 Plant Sale 5-7 p.m.
Members only - Join or
renew at the door
- April 19 Plant sale 9-3 All
welcome
- May 10 Bird Walk - Jim Evans
- June 16-21 Northwest Gardens Tour
- June 20-21 Secret City Festival
- Sept 6 Outdoor Drama
- Sept 13 Wildflower Walk -Kris
Light