Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Spring Plant Sale

On April 11 and 12 we'll present another great lineup of plants, some offered only at our plant sale. We'll have Dano's Hot Dogs too.

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Stumped?

I saw a row of 5 green 🌂 shrubs with vicious thorns near Arboretum Drive and the western end of Shade Tree Lane. What are they, and how are they used?

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

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UTAS Tour

Save the dates of June 26 - 29 for our 'Kentucky Brilliance' tour, put together by Dennis Superczynski. More details and an application will be in the next Branches.

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Honors Bestowed

Former Center Director Richard Evans and Holly Task Force member Carmen Gianforte were honored respectively by the Tennessee Forestry Association and the Holly Society of America.

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Calendar

April 5 Holly Work Day

April 11 & 12 Spring Plant Sale

June 26-29 'Kentucky Brilliance' UTAS tour

UTAS/FRREC Float in Oak Ridge Christmas Parade

For the first time we joined the Oak Ridge Christmas Parade with our float, themed 'Deck the Halls.' UTAS members and the Arboretum staff planned and decorated the float. Center Director Kevin Hoyt and his staff members Bo Duncan, Yvonne Hitchcock, and Mike Trammell constructed the framework on the trailer and made sure it was safe and electrified.

Lynda Haynes and Emily Jernigan headed up the UTAS team. The UTAS crew also included Charlie Samuels, Charlie Jernigan, Norm and Lee Ann Dobbs, Pat Hunsicker, Don Searle, Wendy Packan, Fran Scheidt, Jeff and Lecie Holt, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, David Alspaugh, Janet Bigelow, Randy Stewart, and Janet Cushman.

For the float's Christmas tree Kevin and his staff cut down a 9.5 foot Douglas Fir that was planted years ago for a previous research project and needed to be removed. About 20 of us met at the workshop a week before the parade to decorate. We added lots of lights, ribbon, and holly sprigs to the tree. The sides of the trailer featured large bows and many more boughs of holly, taken from a collection planted by Dr. Will Witte for research many years ago, that needed pruning. A lighted snowman's head and holly branch body completed the float. Once our work was done we enjoyed a chili lunch and more camaraderie.



The finished float, ready for the parade. Photo by Emily Jernigan.

The night of the parade it spirits. Those riding on the

was quite cold and drizzly but that did not dampen anyone's

float, or walking alongside it, were Chuck and Lynda Haynes and Syndey, Melinda Hillman and Sage, Emily and Charlie Jernigan, Don Searle, and David Alspaugh, with Kevin Hoyt and Bo Duncan in the truck. Charlie Samuels took photos along the route. We later donated the tree, minus its decorations, to the Holiday Bureau.

We think this may be the beginning of a fun new Arboretum tradition. ~Emily Jernigan



Some members of the Float Crew after decorating all morning. Photo by Charlie Samuels.



President's Letter

Welcome to 2014 at the UT Arboretum. The Arboretum is celebrating its 50^{th} anniversary this year, and its 50 years of service is the theme for the year. I hope that you visit the Arboretum and participate in the activities and events offered there this year.

The annual Father-Daughter Hike kicked off the 2014 event season on February 15. Jeff Holt and Wes Tilley were the leaders. We have a full schedule of events, programs, and activities. We will join the Arboretum in presenting programs on the management of storm water, bat research at the Arboretum, the Nature Conservancy's Healthy Trees program, and others. **Kris Light** returns to offer her popular programs, and we will again present a class on geocaching for middle school students and may present the same class for adults. The event schedule is still in development. The UTAS web site, www.utarboretumsociety.org, has the current events schedule.

There are always opportunities to volunteer to support the Arboretum through UTAS. Our Native Plants Group will start to work on the gardens in March (usually the second Wednesday morning). The Holly Task Force has a Holly Work Day on April 5, and the Spring Plant Sale, scheduled for Friday, April 18 (Members' Night, 5-7pm) and Saturday, April 19 (Public Sale, 9am-3pm) needs a number of volunteers. The Plant Collections Group will need volunteers to help to maintain the viburnums planted over the past year. You can be a "silent" volunteer by walking the trails, picking up and disposing of litter that others might have overlooked. If you wish to volunteer, or if you know more about volunteering opportunities, email us at utarboretumsociety@gmail.com, or contact me by telephone at (865) 482-3502.

Keep in mind that the UT Arboretum Society provides financial support as well as volunteer support to the Arboretum. You have been most generous in your support of the Arboretum through contributions to the UT Arboretum Endowment. UTAS also needs your support. Memberships cover the basic expenses of operating UTAS and purchasing supplies supporting the gardens and collections. Direct tax-deductible contributions to UTAS enable us to donate directly to Arboretum operations and programs. UTAS needs your continuing support through membership and contributions in 2014. Thank you; and, since this is my first opportunity this year to contact you, here's wishing you the best of everything in 2014!

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



Director's Desk

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." ~Hal Borland, nature journalist

As I sit here at my desk pondering this cold January day and watching the snow gently fall, I can't help but to wish for an early spring and warmer weather. At the same time, the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center and Arboretum remains "a place for all seasons." Winter definitely provides a quiet time to enjoy the tranquility of the Arboretum, especially when we have snow on the ground. The recent snows certainly did not deter visitors to the Arboretum, despite the hazardous road conditions and slippery trail system. The bright sunshine and bluebird skies will most likely continue to bring out more people, especially when Oak Ridge schools and many area businesses are closed due to the weather. Really, the only downside of this continuing bout of extreme cold winter weather for me personally are the frozen pipes in the Directors house and the Arboretum office.

As I think about the future and 2014 I remain focused on continuing to work with the UT Arboretum Society on building our membership base, enhancing our programming and outreach efforts, and growing the Arboretum endowment. I truly believe that the Arboretum auditorium project will ultimately be the catalyst that will greatly enhance all of these endeavors. Incidentally, the UT AgResearch office is continuing to work on finalizing the building design and plans in an effort that we hope will allow us to break ground on the building in 2014. What a great day that will be when our grand vision becomes reality!

See our website for more information: http://forestry.tennessee.edu

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

Photo taken January 29, 2014, by Kevin Hoyt

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Upcoming Events

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

Holly Work Day

Saturday, April 5 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Elmore Holly Collection

The next Holly Volunteer Work Day is Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to noon. We'll perform spring maintenance in the collection.

Contact **Dennis Superczynski**, 675-8502, <u>jandport@tds.net</u>, for more information or to sign up.

Spring Plant Sale

Friday, April 11, 5-7 p.m. For Members Only. Saturday, April 12 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open to All Arboretum

We now accept credit cards!

A wide selection of high quality plants will be available from <u>Beaver Creek Nursery</u>, East Fork Nursery, <u>Riverdale Nursery</u>, and <u>Sunlight Gardens</u>. The UT Arboretum Society's members and friends will also have an array of plants for sale. **Dano's Hot Dogs** will be there, too.

This severe winter weather has damaged or killed many plants. Our sale is a good time to restock, and we can help you choose plants suitable for your landscape and that are wacky-weather friendly!

Income from this sale and other Society events goes to support and secure the future of the UT Arboretum. Come out and get some new plants to cheer up your yard and help sustain this gem of an arboretum at the same time. **Norm Dobbs** chairs the Plant Sale.

Events Roundup

5th Annual Father-Daughter Hike

We had a good turnout of fathers and daughters for this hike. **Jeff Holt and Wes Tilley**, local foresters, led the group on about a 2 hour hike that covered a little more than 3 miles on trails through the Arboretum.

Owl Prowl

The Owl Prowl was again extremely popular with over 200 attendees. **Katie Cottrell** and **Kathy Strunk** of the <u>Clinch River Raptor Center</u> brought owls and their expertise about them to a captivated audience in the program shelter. The Owl Prowl is one of our most popular events, and we're happy to have so many children outdoors with us.

Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

About 80 people enjoyed the UTAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. After dinner and a very brief business meeting, Center Director **Kevin Hoyt** gave his report. He thanked all the UTAS volunteers who contribute so much to making the Arboretum the special place that it is. He then gave a review of the past year, and talked about the 50th anniversary of the UT Arboretum in 2014. Kevin mentioned that there were 13 research projects, 3 demonstration projects, 3 teaching sessions, and 3 new Eagle Scout projects completed in 2013.

Tom Looney, Director of Development at the UT Institute of Agriculture, updated us on the Endowment and reminded us that UTAS is the oldest society group supporting UT. We now have the funding for the auditorium and construction should begin in 2014.

UTAS presented checks for \$10,000 to support Arboretum operations and for \$15,000 to the Endowment.

After election of officers and the board, UTAS President **Charles Samuels** gave the Distinguished Service Award to **Lynn Carlson** for her work as chair of the Plant Collections committee that recently completed the multiyear Viburnum Valley project. He then gave his remarks about the Arboretum and UTAS.

Our speakers, **Dr. John Hodges, III**, and **Dr. Robert Trigiano**, spoke respectively on the Auditorium project and on developing new dogwood cultivars. Dr. Trigiano told of being part of the team that developed the 'Appalachian Spring' dogwood. He said that 7 of 10 dogwoods in the US begin their lives in Tennessee. Much of the experimentation with dogwood research is done right here at our UT Arboretum station.

The Silent Auction generated about \$1300. Thank you to all who attended and participated in the silent auction. **Lynda Haynes** and **Pat Row** headed this event.

Auction Donors - Thanks!

We appreciate everyone who donated items to our Silent and all those who bought the items.

Buckhorn Inn in honor of John & Nettie Hill

UT Research Center Staff

Janet Bigelow

Lynn Carlson

Lee Ann & Norm Dobbs

Linda Ducamp

Lynda & Chuck Haynes

Jeff & Lecie Holt

Emily & Charlie Jernigan

Joann Johnson

Wendy Packan & Dan Claus

Tom & Pat Row

Huey Sides

Melanie Staten

Will & Jean Witte

Save the Date - 'Bluegrass Brilliance' Kentucky Garden Tour June 26 – 29

Travel with UTAS to visit some of Kentucky's select gardens in Lexington, Louisville, Crestwood, and Clermont – all recommended by the American Horticulture Society. This tour features public and private gardens. It will depart in the morning of June 26 for four days and three nights and will include coach transportation, hotel, meals, and entry fees.

Look for more details and registration information in the next issue of *Branches*.

Dennis Superczynski, UTAS Tour Coordinator

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Committee Reports

Native Plant Group

This group will start up again in March. They normally meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. They keep the beds around the Visitor Center and those on the Sides Azalea hillside looking neat and tidy, and work in the parking lot beds, including the new daylily areas, when time and hands permit.

Anyone wanting to adopt a specific area and work on their schedule could be gratefully accommodated. Contact Lee Ann Dobbs at 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net.

Holly Happenings 2013

The Holly Task Force held its annual fall work day on November 9, 2013. This very successful event was expanded and titled "Holly Fest" and included tours of the Elmore Holly Collection led by Ms. Fran Scheidt and Dr. Will Witte, and holly plant care demonstrations; pruning; planting; mulching; and irrigation. Seven new or replacement hollies were planted, most of them donated by Vivian Abney's East Fork Nursery. Twenty-one people participated in the event; Ken Farrell, David Samples, Richard and Barbara Dyer, Clarence and Lynn Juneau, Janet Bigelow, Jackie and Tom Dean, Fran Scheidt, Lucie Jones, Pat Hunsicker, Charles Samuels, Don Searle, Rachel Ketelle, Peggy Mahoney, Dr. Will Witte, Lee Ann Dobbs, Lynda Haynes. Yvonne Hitchcock, and Dr. Kevin Hoyt. The task force hopes to expand and grow into an annual holiday event.

At the time the Holly Fest event was taking place, the Holly Society of America honored **Mr. Carmen Gianforte**, Holly Task Force member with the prestigious Wolf-Fenton Award at their 66th Annual Meeting in New Harmony, Indiana. The award is presented annually to an individual for outstanding contributions and dedicated service in the field of holly. Also at this meeting four replacement hollies were donated to the Elmore Holly Collection by Bill Kuhl from **McLean Nursery** in Baltimore Maryland; *Ilex crenata* 'Snow Flake', *Ilex aquifolium* 'Ingramii", *Ilex Pendunculosa* (Female) Longstalk Holly, and *Ilex opaca* 'Bear Crossing.' These hollies will be included with the fall 2014 planting in the holly collection.

The first UT Arboretum Christmas Parade float in Oak Ridge was adorned with fresh holly cuttings from the Korean hollies growing in the UT Arboretum. The green leaves with bright red berries were carefully attached to the perimeter of the float by volunteers as were handmade holly wreaths. One of these unnamed holly cultivars won "Best in Show" for the Professional Division in the Holly Sprig Contest at the 2014 Holly Society of America Annual Meeting.

Look for the new holly display wall at the Visitors Center of the UT Arboretum. The display includes framed certificates of registration of the Tennessee Hollies. These are hollies that were propagated in Tennessee by Tennessee residents and registered with the Holly Society of America. Each cultivar includes a complete descriptive write-up of the features of the holly.

The Holly Task Force:

Carmen and Josie Gianforte, Fran Scheidt, Mike Stansberry, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, and Dr. Will Witte

Welcome, New Board Member

Melinda Hillman and her husband, Ron, live in Oak Ridge with their granddaughters, Sage, 6, and Grace, 2. Melinda has worked in administration at Roane State Community College for 15 years. She has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The Hillmans enjoy gardening, bird watching, reading and traveling to new places to see the world through their granddaughters' eyes. The UT Arboretum provides a living classroom for the children to learn about nature. Walking the paths, sighting birds and identifying indigenous plants are just part of why the Hillmans enjoy spending time at the Arboretum.

Fall Plant Sale Volunteers-Thanks!

David Alspaugh Sara Melton
Lucretia Atterson Mary Mishu
Janet Bigelow Gail Nichols
Lynn Carlson Karen Oland
Terry Domm Wendy Packan
Lee Ann & Norm Dobbs Vicki Richards
Ken Farrell Tom Row

Stacy Fuller Marti & Gary Salk
Harvey Goranson Charlie Samuels
Lynda Haynes Gene Sanslow
Lecie & Jeff Holt Ann Sayer
Pat Hunsicke Don Searle
Emily & Charlie Randy Stewart
Jernigan Irene Sullivan

Larry Landau Dennis Superczynski

Evelyn Lorenz Marie Walsh



Jan Superczynski and Fran Scheidt put the finishing touches on a package that will go under the tree on the float. *Photo by Charlie Samuels*.

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Stumped?

I was surprised to see a row of five green shrubs with vicious thorns near the junction of Arboretum Drive and the western end of Shade Tree Lane. What are these, and how are they used?

These deciduous shrubs with conspicuous yellow-green stems in the winter are known as Hardy Orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*) or Trifoliate Orange. They are closely related to the Citrus genus and bear orange fruit in the fall. Although edible (used for fruit juice or marmalade), the fruits are known to produce stomach pain when eaten and skin irritation. The compound leaves have three leaflets (trifoliate), and the stems are flattened into thorns often an inch or more long. Clusters of 5-parted, white flowers appear in the spring. Originally native to China and Korea, Hardy Orange was introduced into the US as both an ornamental shrub and a hedgerow plant – the thorns make hedges practically impenetrable. This shrub has become naturalized in parts of the South.

Bob Reed supplied this answer and photographs.

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



L to R: Hardy Orange (Poncirus trifoliata): fruit, thorns, shrubs. Photos by Bob Reed

Richard Evans Receives Tennessee Forestry Association Award

Richard Evans, director of the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center for 39 years until his retirement in 2011, recently received a significant honor from the Tennessee Forestry Association. According to a press release, "Richard Evans, former Director of the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, was honored with the Tennessee Forest Resources Award by the Tennessee Forestry Association at their regional meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee on January 23, 2014. The "Tennessee Forest Resources Award" award is presented annually to a person making a recognized contribution to forestry in Tennessee, not necessarily through TFA activities. Richard's

award recognition was partly for his lifelong service to the profession of forestry throughout the state of Tennessee, and his past service to TFA as a lifelong member, and past leadership position as the East Tennessee Vice President of the organization. We are very proud of Richard's lifelong accomplishments and wish him well in his ongoing retirement from the Center."



Richard Evans (R) is presented the Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA) "Forest Resources Award" by Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director of TFA.

Mr. Carmen Gianforte Honored by the Holly Society of America

Mr. Carmen Gianforte, Holly Task Force member, was recently honored with the prestigious Holly Society of America – Wolf Fenton Award. This award is given annually to an individual for outstanding contributions and dedicated service in the field of holly. Mr. Gianforte is known within the Holly Task Force as the guy who propagates baby hollies to help perpetuate the UT Arboretum collection. He also has the boyhood nickname as the man with the "holly green thumb."



Carmen Gianforte, left, a member of the Holly Task Force, receives the Holly Society of America's prestigious Wolf-Fenton Award from Holly Society president Mike Pontti.

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Email & Membership Notes

We need your email address so that you don't miss out on important notices from UTAS. We never share your address. If we don't have your email, please email emily@jernigans.net and we will add you to our database.

If your email or mailing address changes, notify emily@jernigans.net.

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

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 going on at the Arboretum and UTAS. Just go to www.utarboretumsociety.org and check it out any time.

Choose Email-Only Branches

If you'd like to receive only an electronic copy of *Branches*, send an email to emily@jernigans.net . Confirm that you no longer want us to mail you a paper copy of our newsletter. Be sure to include the email address you'd like us to use. If you change your mind, just let us know that, too. This is a *greener* option and helps UTAS conserve our fiscal resources.



(L to R) UTAS members ready for the Christmas Parade: Lynda Haynes, Charlie Jernigan, Emily Jernigan, Don Searle, David Alspaugh. Photo by Charlie Samuels.

UTAS Membership Application

New & Renewing Members - Thanks!

Nancy Basford	Kathleen Kitzmiller
Michael Brown/Betty Evans	Anne McKenzie
Deborah Cutler	James A. Mee
Norman & Lee Ann Dobbs	Mrs E.L. Nicholson
Susan S. Elmore	Dr. Robert Richmond
Richard & Carole Evans	Fran Scheidt
Emory Valley Garden Club	William & Muriel Sirett
Lynn Barrett & Herbert Glatt	Dave & Tia Snider
Margaret Gottshall	Martha Stokley
David Graham	Irene Sullivan
John & Nettie Hill	Dennis & Jan Superczynski
Melinda & Ron Hillman	Paul & Barbara Taylor
Charlie & Emily Jernigan	Bruce & Janet Waldschmidt
Kenneth & Shirley Kaiser	Warren & Linda Webb
Brenda Kimmel	Dr. & Mrs. Richard E. Williams
Terry & Leigh Kiraly	
	* Danatas Cariaty Eriand

Name	Phone	
Address		
City	State Zip	
E-Mail		
New Renewal		
Society Friend \$100 Family \$45 Indivi	Patron \$500 dual \$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.		
Yes, I'd like to help with Society committees, special		
events or other needs		
Please send only an electronic copy of the quarterly newsletter, <i>Branches</i> .		
Mail this form with you	ır check to:	
UTAS		
P.O. Box 5382		
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5	382	

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Officers	Lee Ann Dobbs
President: Charles Samuels	Melinda Hillman
Vice-president: Charlie Jernigan Secretary: Lynda Haynes Treasurer: Randy Stewart Past President: Tom Row	Pat Hunsicker
	Emily Jernigan
	Linda Kimmel
	Wendy Packan
	Marti Salk
D 116 1	Melanie Staten

Board Members	
David Alspaugh	Ex Officio
Janet Bigelow	Kevin Hoyt
Debi Boody	Evelyn Lorenz
Janet Cushman	,

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

Thanks!

Norm Dobbs chaired the Fall Plant Sale and **Beverly Woods** arranged for the volunteers.

Katie Cottrell and **Kathy Strunk** presented the Owl Prowl.

Dr. John Hodges, III, and **Dr. Robert Trigiano** spoke at the UTAS Annual Dinner.

Fran Scheidt and Dr. Will Witte organized the Holly Fest.

Lynda Haynes and **Pat Row** coordinated the Annual Dinner.

Lynda Haynes, Emily Jernigan, and Kevin Hoyt led the float project.

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 fulfilled its pledge of a \$500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over \$70,000 to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum. We have received pledges for more than \$700,000 for the Auditorium and think we will break soon.

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: Robin R. Haefs,

865-974-5779. Email <u>UTIAadvancement@tennessee.edu.</u>

UT Arboretum - Kevin Hoyt - 865-483-3571

UT Arboretum Society - Charlie Samuels 865-482-9096

To contribute to the Endowment or Auditorium Fund, make your check payable to the "University of Tennessee Foundation" and indicate in the memo line that you want your contribution credited to either the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund or the Arboretum Auditorium Gift Fund. Mail it to the UT Institute of Agriculture, Office of Institutional Advancement, 114 Morgan Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996.

For more information on Planned Giving visit this University of Tennessee website at http://www.utfi.org/give-now/planned-giving.

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P.O. Box 5382 Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 273 Oak Ridge, TN

Spring

is surely just around the corner. It's one of the most beautiful times to walk the trails at the Arboretum. Come out and enjoy the outdoors and our dogwood, magnolia, viburnum, azalea, and other blooms.

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

UT ARBORETUM SOCIETY

BRANCHES Winter 2014



Santa's workshop, alias the FRREC workshop. We were very fortunate to have a warm and dry space to construct and decorate our float! We owe Kevin Hoyt and his staff a big 'Thank You!' for their significant contributions to this inaugural float project. UTAS and FRREC are great partners. *Photo by Charlie Samuels.*

Upcoming Events

April 5 Holly Work Day

April 11 & 12 Plant Sale

June 26 – 29 UTAS 'Bluegrass Brilliance' Kentucky tour