

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No. 35 - Summer 2014

Community Work Day

Oak Ridge's initiative to be the first EPA-designated Green Power Community in the Southeast included a partnership with UT FRREC for a volunteer work day at the Arboretum.

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Stumped?

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



Are daylilies native to TN? I see many new ones in a variety of colors in the Arboretum parking lot. Are they from a local source? How do daylilies differ from other lilies?

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Geocaching Workshop for Kids

August 5, at the UT Arboretum, educator Janet Bigelow will help rising 5-8 graders learn the ABCs of GPS and more.

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Viburnum Valley Update

Lynn Carlson gives us a report on the viburnum that were planted several years ago at the UT Arboretum.

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Calendar

Aug. 5 Geocaching Workshop

Soon

Groundbreaking on the Auditorium!

Oct. 11 Fall Plant Sale

Nov. 15 Holly Work Day

Arboretum Monarch Waystation Designation

Emily Jernigan

Former UTAS board members **Stacey Fuller** and **Jeff Holt** proposed development of a Monarch waystation at the Arboretum to help preserve the habitats of these amazing migratory butterflies. **Lee Ann Dobbs**, chair of the Native Plant Group, suggested that we apply to have the area around the Visitors Center designated as a Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch. They just approved our application based on plants already in this area, including a lot of milkweed and other Monarch-friendly plants, and other requirements.

According to their website, www.monarchwatch.org, "Monarch Watch is a nonprofit educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration."

The organization encourages creation of waystations/habitats to help ensure that the Monarchs have the resources they need to survive their migrations. Their website has information about Monarchs and how individuals, schools, gardens, etc., can help. Recommended plants for the butterflies pre- and post-emergent needs include varieties of milkweed, coneflowers, Joe Pye Weed, Scarlet Sage, and zinnias. We have a sign in the area noting its Monarch Waystation designation.

This is a worldwide effort to sustain the Monarchs whose survival is threatened by loss of habitat (2.2 million acres per year in the US), increased pesticide use, industrial farming, and deforestation. According to a June, 2014 article in *Science Daily* (www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140604203056.htm), "Planting milkweed in the south and central United States would provide the largest immediate benefit [to Monarchs]." [Willow Ridge Garden Center](#) in Oak Ridge recently hosted a Monarch butterfly release and they, along with other area nurseries, offer an array of butterfly friendly plants. We want to create another butterfly area at the Arboretum before long.

We hope the Monarchs visit our new, official Waystation at the Visitors Center soon, and that many of you will stop by, too, to see them in the area so beautifully maintained by the UTAS Native Plant group and Arboretum staff.



Milkweed at the UT Arboretum Visitors Center's newly designated Monarch Waystation. Photo by Norm Dobbs



Tree Canopy at UT Arboretum. Photo by Charlie Samuels.

President's Letter

It's summer, and it's HOT! The almanacs agree that this summer will be a bit hotter and drier than normal. So, let's talk about hot weather and the Arboretum—no, not about how the trees tolerate the hot weather, but what you can do to weather the hot weather.

The first thing is basic: come to the Arboretum. It is a great summertime place. Many of the trails are under a double canopy of foliage, so the air temperature near ground level is cooler than in the open. The forest also seems to catch the breezes, giving added relief from the heat. You can walk the trails and take advantage of one of our 47 benches for a break or some rest.

The Arboretum also has quiet, sheltered places like the dwarf juniper collection along the entrance road. This collection needs some attention, but you can sit on one of the benches within the ring of trees and shrubs and be sheltered from both sun and noise from the outside, and somehow the breeze comes inside. It's a great place to rest and an easy one to reach. The Program Shelter also is an excellent place to escape the heat and for bird watching.

When you stay safe and take care of yourselves! Here are a few commonsense suggestions:

Take plenty of liquids. Most of the folks I see on Arboretum trails have no water or other liquid. Your body needs hydration even for short walks during the heat of the summer. If you are going to hike one or more of the Arboretum's seven miles of trails, respect them as you would a hike in the Smokies. Take along sufficient liquid to keep everyone in your group hydrated. And please carry the container out with you.

Protect yourself from the sun. Even though you are in the shade, the sun can still tan or burn your skin. Use sunscreen or long-sleeve shirts and long pants.

Know what poison ivy looks like and avoid it. "Leaves of three; let them be."

Watch your steps, and stay on the trails. "Mr. Grabber," the root or stone that pops up to trip you, lives on every hiking trail that I have ever walked. Be careful. There are a number of unseen and unforeseen hazards off the trails—this is a forest.

So, come to the Arboretum often this summer. Take a few basic precautions to keep yourself protected and safe, and respect the place and its inhabitants. You will enjoy the summer there at any time of day, and will probably experience wonderful and unusual sights and sounds. The Arboretum is such an exceptional resource and is truly "A Place for All Seasons."

~Charles Samuels, UTAS President

samuels253@comcast.net, 865-482-3502



Director's Desk

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~James Dent, *Good Housekeeping*, August, 2009

Now that summertime has finally arrived I am reminded of the beauty, solitude, and comfort that the season brings – and the amount of grass mowing and bush hogging that our staff is tasked with. That being the case it is still amazing to me that our staff spends over 50% of their time in the summer mowing, weed-eating, bush hogging, and debris pickup/removal to keep this magnificent place in tiptop shape for our visitors and clientele. In fact, we are still picking up and removing debris from the recent 15-minute microburst weather event. Some of the major areas affected by the storm were the Heath Cove, Tulip Poplar, Oak-Hickory, Backwoods, and Lost Chestnut Trails. So far we have removed and disposed of over a dozen large truckloads of woody debris, limbs, and small firewood logs. We will remove several truckloads of saw logs and haul them to the sawmill in the coming weeks to fully use the downed trees from this destructive event. Hopefully, we will complete cleanup by the beginning of next week and all of our trails will be safe and open for the public again.

On a more positive note, it looks like the UT Arboretum auditorium project will be moving forward this summer. The call for bids was advertised in late May and we recently hosted the pre-bid contractors meeting last week up at the program shelter. Eight contractors showed up for the briefing, which we hope will yield an acceptable bid by the end of June. If all goes well in the bidding process we might see a formal ground breaking by late summer. This event would then kickoff the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Oak Ridge Forest and Arboretum. Other events celebrating this milestone, will take place later this fall. To help celebrate this event, **Nancy Smith**, center volunteer, has redesigned our official logo, now proudly displayed on our website. It will be used on other outreach events at the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center in the future.

As I have said many times before, we have all contributed to building a lasting legacy for the UT Arboretum. And now, sometime soon, we should realize the grand vision of the Arboretum Endowment Campaign by breaking ground on the new UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center/ Arboretum Auditorium. It will most definitely be a catalyst to drive positive change, launch innovative education programs, provide a much needed revenue stream opportunity, and ultimately build our future membership base.

Please visit our website: <http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

Upcoming Events

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

Geocaching Workshop for Kids with Janet Bigelow



Tuesday, August 5 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Arboretum

This is an introductory class on geocaching, the worldwide treasure hunting game. We will learn the basics of using a GPS device: determining your location, inputting waypoints, following a short course, hiding a cache, and finding caches hidden by others. It will be held at the Arboretum, 901 S. Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge.

UTAS board member **Janet Bigelow** teaches this workshop with help from other UTAS members. She is a semiretired middle school teacher with 40 years of indoor and outdoor classroom experience.

The workshop is open only to **rising 5th through 8th graders**. We will all use identical GPS devices supplied by UTAS, and we will provide snacks, drinks, and small "treasures," but participants need to bring a sack lunch and rain gear. **Cost is \$15** and payable in advance. Visit our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org, for details. **Advance registration is required, and there is a limit of 16 participants.**

Call **Janet Bigelow** at 865-675-3822 or janet_bigelow@tds.net, or visit the UTAS website, www.utarboretumsociety.org, for more information.

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 11 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Arboretum



We look forward to seeing all who come out to support UTAS and the Arboretum at the sale. **Norm Dobbs** chairs the Plant Sale.

Events Roundup

Spring Plant Sale

Norm Dobbs organized the sale that sold out. Packing up after the sale was a breeze for volunteers and vendors because there was hardly any inventory left. Thank you to all who came out to buy plants and support UTAS and the Arboretum. Thanks, also, to our plant vendors, [Beaver Creek Nursery](#) and [Riverdale Nursery](#), Knoxville; [East Fork Nursery](#), Sevierville; and [Sunlight Gardens](#), Andersonville.

MOTH-ers Night Out with Kris Light

We had about 30 people, including several of children, attend this unusual and informative event. **Kris Light** gave a short talk about moths in the Visitors Center. Everyone then went outside to wait for the moths to alight on the sheets Kris had prepared in advance. The black lights help attract these creatures of the night.

We went BAT-ty at the Arboretum!

Gerry Middleton, a Biologist III with the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, DOE-Oversight Office, helped about 40 people understand a whole lot more about bats. Inside the Visitors Center he shared some results of his 2-year survey of bats present in the Arboretum. Then everyone went outdoors where he demonstrated the boxy devices that can read the bats' sonar and translate it into sounds that we can hear.

There are 3 main types of bats in the area, and he can distinguish the type and gender of bat based on the sounds. He can also tell when a bat catches something to eat! It was a rare treat to 'hear' bat sounds and learn so much about these mysterious animals.

Lavender Festival Booth

UTAS had a booth again this year at the Lavender Festival. Jackson Square was filled with many people during the morning despite the heat and bright sunshine. All that changed shortly after noon when a severe thunderstorm with significant wind struck. Most everyone folded up their tents when it was safe, and we did, too. **Charlie Samuels** stayed in the booth most of the time, assisted by **Tom Row** and **Melanie** and **Vince Staten**. **Lynda Haynes** and **Norm** and **Lee Ann Dobbs** helped with setting up and taking down the tent.

'Bluegrass Brilliance' Kentucky Tour

Twenty-eight UTAS members thoroughly enjoyed the four-day bus trip to Lexington and Louisville Kentucky, with stops at other sites along the way. Look for a full report and photos in the next issue of *Branches*. **Dennis** and **Jan Superczynski** organized and led the tour again this year.

Committee Reports

Native Plant Group

This group of 8 to 10 regular members currently meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 9 a.m. Due to the heat, they are meeting more often for a shorter duration. They keep the beds around the Visitors Center and those on the Sides Azalea Hillside looking neat and tidy, and work in the parking lot beds when time allows. The beds are ready for visitors, including Monarchs! Contact **Lee Ann Dobbs** at 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net.

Stumped?



Are daylilies native to TN? I see many new daylilies in a variety of colors planted around the Arboretum parking lot. Are they from a local source? How do daylilies differ from other lilies?

In the spring of 2013 UT Arboretum Society volunteers planted approximately 50 new daylily cultivars, which had been donated by **Peter Shea**, adjacent to the Arboretum parking lot. These plants represent just a few examples of the many thousands of daylily cultivars that have been developed by horticulturists over the past two centuries, mostly since the 1930s. Native to China, Siberia, Korea, and Japan, daylilies belong to the plant genus *Hemerocallis* – the genus name assigned by Linnaeus from the Greek meaning "beauty for a day." Although similar to lilies in appearance, daylilies have been placed in a separate plant family, the Xanthorrhoeaceae.

Daylilies differ from true lilies (e.g., *Lilium*) in a variety of ways. Their roots are tuberous or fibrous rather than bulb-like. The linear, grass-like leaves form clumps that give rise to leafless flower stalks (scapes) that typically bear a number of flower buds. In contrast, the flower buds of true lilies are borne on the same stem as the leaves. For most daylily cultivars, the flowers open one at a time and last for only a single day. Lily flowers, however, may last for several to many days. Many daylily flowers bloom in the morning and wither as evening approaches, while flowers of other cultivars bloom only at night.

The Orange or Tawny Daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*) has been widely planted as an ornamental and has escaped from gardens. In our area, it is conspicuous in June growing in extensive clumps along roadsides, ditches, and old home sites. In some areas (e.g., Wisconsin) it is considered an invasive species.

A good discussion of daylilies from a gardener’s perspective can be found in *Daylilies, The Perfect Perennial* by Lewis and Nancy Hill.

Bob Reed supplied this information and photos.

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



‘You and Eye’ Daylily



Daylily Bed at UT Arboretum

Viburnums Thrive at the Arboretum

Lynn Carlson, text and photos

UTAS members will remember the beginning of our UT Arboretum Viburnum Valley Project in 2011. Two years into the project, we begin to see some results.

The goal was a low-maintenance, deer-resistant planting that would survive the occasional harsh winter in East Tennessee without coddling. After installation in the fall of 2012 and 2013, the plants have received no supplemental watering, one round of fertilizer in spring 2013, and one deep mulching, with no other care except spraying the mulch for weeds occasionally. Thank you, UTA staff!

As a rule of thumb, it looks as if deer, with an extensive buffet to choose from, like the smooth leaves but are likely to leave the fuzzy ones alone. They are not much interested in the fragrant Mohawk and Judd viburnums or the evergreen viburnums ‘Prague’ and ‘Conoy’ (all fuzzy), but are a serious threat to cranberry bush, *nudum* and *dentatum* cultivars, and mapleleaf viburnum (smooth), unless the plants are caged. Doublefile viburnums and snowballs (both forms of *V. plicatum*), and *V. dilatatum* (represented by the cultivars Cardinal Candy™ and ‘Michael Dodge’), are also smooth-leaved but they are relatively deer-proof. It’s noteworthy that the most heavily browsed specimens are native to the US.

Cold weather also took a toll this winter. We pushed the hardiness envelope a bit too far with laurustinus (*V. tinus*) and Chinese evergreen viburnum (*V. propinquum*). One Chinese evergreen has died completely, and the other two are struggling back from the ground, while the one laurustinus is completely gone. We’ll experiment next time with something more robust!

Most viburnums will take some shade, but there can be too much. Three Chinese snowball viburnums (*V. macrocephalum*) that anchor the east end of the plantation are not thriving in high shade from two directions at once. We may move them to a sunnier location when planting time rolls around again in the fall, so they have a better chance of reaching their majestic 15’ x 15’ size at maturity.

Clearly there are some lessons to learn. With a little maintenance, a few deer cages, and no watering, nearly all the plants look good. Yet we will need to review the use of a few of them. Come see them at the Arboretum, and try a few at home. Just remember: in your hands, in your microclimate, with your deer, your mileage may vary, as they say. And who knows what deer will eat when they’re hungry enough!

Deer pressure on Viburnum Valley plants 2011–2014

Species	Common name	Deer browse
<i>V. rufidulum</i>	Rusty blackhaw	Heavy when young
<i>V. dentatum</i>	Arrowwood species, ‘Blue Muffin’ and ‘Red Feather’	Heavy when young
<i>V. nudum</i>	Winterthur viburnum	Heavy when young
<i>V. prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw	Heavy when young
<i>V. trilobum</i>	Cranberry bush viburnum	Heavy when young
<i>V. acerfolium</i>	Mapleleaf viburnum	Heavy when young
<i>V. setigerum</i>	Tea viburnum	Heavy when young
<i>V. plicatum f. tomentosum</i>	Doublefile viburnums ‘Molly Schroeder’, ‘Shasta’, ‘Mariesii’	No serious damage
<i>V. plicatum f. plicatum</i>	Snowball viburnums ‘Kern’s Pink’, ‘Mary Milton’, ‘Newport’, ‘Popcorn’	No serious damage
<i>V. x ‘Nantucket’</i>	Nantucket viburnum	No serious damage
<i>V. x ‘Pragensis’</i>	Prague viburnum	No serious damage
<i>V. x Conoy</i>	Conoy viburnum	No serious damage
<i>V. dilatatum</i>	Michael Dodge’, Cardinal Candy™	No serious damage
<i>V. lentago</i>	Nannyberry	No serious damage
<i>V. bracteatum</i>	‘Emerald Luster’	No serious damage



V. setigerum is a vase-shaped viburnum with reliable berry set. The green berries will be brilliant red by fall.



‘Summer Snowflake’ is an unusual doublefile (*V. plicatum f. tomentosum*) because it will continue to bloom occasionally throughout the summer.

UTAS Donates \$6,000 to Arboretum Operations Fund

The UTAS Board voted to donate \$6,000 to the Arboretum Operations Fund, using proceeds from our Plant Sale. This money will go to support the ongoing operations costs of the Arboretum.

UT FRREC Hosts City of Oak Ridge Community Work Day

Kevin Hoyt

The UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center hosted the City of Oak Ridge Community Outreach Work Day on Saturday, June 21. Over 20 volunteers from the local community participated in a creek walk cleanup and the construction of three wooden benches for the new creek access area near the entrance to the Arboretum.

The event was part of Oak Ridge's initiative to become the first EPA-designated Green Power Community in the Southeast. As part of this milestone the city and TVA facilitated the 'community outreach' work day that would benefit the local community and say "thanks" for helping Oak Ridge achieve Green Power Community status.

The volunteers who participated in the event were **Karen Crutchfield, Alex Crutchfield, Angie Nabe, Greg, Nabe, Daniel Black, Charles Young, Tashia Larlhin, Christopher Law, Brandon Edington, Mike Casey, Jacob Chavvin, Michael White, Johnathon Huckabey, Elizabeth Huckabey, Savannah Huckabey, Joe Huckabey, Daniel Huckabey, Stephanie Huckabey, Will MiMilin, Christy Brooks, Jack Suggs, and Marlene Witt**, who coordinated the event.

We're grateful for their help and very happy that they chose this partnership with the Arboretum!



The Oak Ridge Community Work Day creek cleanup and bench construction teams pose with the fruits of their labors.

Photos by Kevin Hoyt



Plant Sale Volunteers - Thanks!

A very special thanks to all the volunteers, especially those who worked more than one shift and one day. Also, special thanks go to UT Arboretum Director **Kevin Hoyt** and his staff. Without their help our plant sales would not be possible. **Peggy Mahoney** was in charge of getting all our volunteers who worked at this sale.

Norm Dobbs

David Alspaugh	Wendy Packan
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Linda Mason	Dennis & Jan Superczynski
James Mee	Marie Walsh
Mary Mishu	Will Witte
Evelyn Moyers	Gene (Richard) & Gerry Williams
Eileen Neiler	



This young *V. dilatatum* Cardinal Candy™ is fading (late May 2014) but still puts on a good show, with berries yet to come. *Photo by Lynn Carlson*

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 renewal date! You'll get a reminder, or you can 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.

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.

Yes, I'd like to help with Society committees, special events or other needs. _____

___ Please send only an electronic copy of the quarterly newsletter, *Branches*.

Mail this form with your check to:

UTAS

P.O. Box 5382

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382

New & Renewing Members - Thanks!

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UTAS Resources

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Norm Dobbs

Thanks!

Norm Dobbs organized one of our best Plant Sales ever!

Peggy Mahoney recruited volunteers for the Plant Sale.

Gerry Middleton gave a talk and demonstration about bats at the Arboretum.

Kris Light presented MOTH-ers Night Out.

Dennis and Jan Superczynski organized and led the 'Bluegrass Brilliance' tour to Kentucky.

Lynn Carlson continues to shepherd the Viburnum Valley Project.

Bob Reed provided information and photos for Stumpy.

Nancy Smith created the new logo for the 50th Anniversary of the Oak Ridge Forest and Arboretum.

Lee Ann Dobbs, Stacey Fuller, Jeff Holt, and Kevin Hoyt helped with the Monarch Waystation.

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
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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 \$76,000 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 ground 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 UTIAadvancement@tennessee.edu.

UT Arboretum - **Kevin Hoyt** - 865-483-3571

UT Arboretum Society - **Charlie Samuels** 865-482-9096

To contribute to the Endowment or Auditorium Fund, make a check payable to the "University of Tennessee Foundation" and indicate in the memo line to credit your contribution 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 UT website: www.utfi.org/give-now.



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A Monarch butterfly recently released at Willow Ridge Garden Center, Oak Ridge, as part of an educational program. The flowers shown were chosen because they attract butterflies. *Photo by Emily Jernigan*

Upcoming Events

**August 5 Geocaching
Workshop for Kids**

**Soon Groundbreaking
on the Auditorium**

October 11 Fall Plant Sale

November 15 Holly Work Day