

# Branches

The newsletter for members and friends of the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society

## UTAS 50th Annual Spring Plant Sale Coming in April!



The UTAS Plant Sale will be held April 7th and April 8th. The **Members Only** sale is Friday April 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. **Not a member and want to shop early? You can join and become a member at the sale and take advantage of this membership benefit.**

**Saturday's sale, April 8, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., is open to all.** The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society's 50th annual Spring Plant Sale will gather the best of four local nurseries in one location. Beaver Creek and Riverdale Nurseries from Knoxville, Sunlight Gardens from Andersonville and East Fork Nursery from Sevierville will be

offering a large and varied selection of shrubs, trees, wildflowers, perennials, annuals and edibles. **Two plant propagators from the Chattanooga area will have Japanese Maples and a few rare plants at this sale.** Additionally, an assortment of donated plants from Society members will be offered. On Saturday, Brad Greenwood Designs will be selling botanically themed copper garden ornaments and steel features for the home and yard and Dano's Hot Dogs from Lenoir City will be offering an expanded sandwich menu along with his famous lemonade. Retired U.T. horticulture professor **Dr. Will Witte** will consult with you about your specific needs, and answer your horticultural questions. Proceeds from this sale and other UTAS fund-raising events go toward the operating expenses and the endowment funds for the UT Arboretum. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards.



### March 4th – Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

(UTAS Members Only) All members are invited to the UTA Auditorium on Saturday, March 4, for an appreciation pancake breakfast from 9:00-11:00. We will cozy up to the fireplace and enjoy pancakes cooked right on the spot, as well as bacon, juice, and coffee. It's just a short hike from the Auditorium to the Elmore Holly Collection, so you can walk off the calories you consume with a tour of our spectacular hollies. Or extend your stay with a more challenging hike on any of our seven miles of hiking trails, where you can look for emerging signs of spring. Drop in at any time during the two-hour period, and let the UTAS Board show their appreciation for your support of our wonderful Arboretum!

**Not currently a member of UTAS? Applications will be available at the door!**

## Director's Desk

*Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow. The nation's best-known groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter when he saw his shadow, predicting a longer winter, ABC News reported on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.*

Based on the mild sun-shiny days that we have been receiving in East Tennessee for much of February, it doesn't seem like we will actually be impacted by the extended winter that the *great furry prognosticator* had previously predicted. In any event it has indeed been a busy time around the UT Arboretum this winter with what seems like increased visitor activity and traffic flow during the recent weeks. I have also been noticing more late afternoon walkers on the trails now that the days are getting longer and we have been the recipient of so many blue-bird sky days. As I write my Directors Report I remain hopeful that this fantastic weather pattern will hold for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Father-Daughter Hike scheduled for Saturday February 18th.

Since the beginning of winter the FRREC crew has been working on several projects that have enhanced the Arboretum grounds and gardens. One in particular was the installation of a new research project launched by the UT Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology focused on the *Woolly Adelgid*. Three new planting replications of various hemlock trees were planted as part of this experiment, with one that included a small group of five new hemlock trees which were added to the Dwarf and Unusual Conifer collection. Additionally, thanks to the generous donation (and construction supervision) by Mr. Morgan Maskewitz, the UT Arboretum now has a 22' X 32' shadehouse to store and stage our plants in. Morgan, several UTAS volunteers and the FRREC crew all worked together this past December to erect the shadehouse adjacent to our existing green house. The FRREC crew also finished the installation of the new metal powder-coated security gate at the front entrance of the Arboretum and recently re-painted the two older wooden traffic control gates adjacent to the office and parking lot.

In closing I urge you to take the time to visit the Arboretum during the annual winter state of nature, to view the forest and garden trails void of foliage, and to experience the multitude of wildlife **activity** that occurs this time of year. It is still likely that *Old Man Winter* will visit us again several times before the official start of spring in March, so we may yet have the opportunity to also experience this magnificent place at least one more time in a blanket of white. Even though I am ready for spring, I know my wife, daughters and grandson are all hoping for at least one more big snow event.

~Kevin P. Hoyt

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017



*Kevin P. Hoyt - Director*

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

President: Janet Bigelow  
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**Ex Officio:** Kevin Hoyt

## *President's Letter* - CALLING ALL UTAS VOLUNTEERS!

We all know that we live in "The Volunteer State," and as Tennesseans, we think of ourselves as Volunteers. The nickname comes from our state's overwhelming participation in both the War of 1812 and in the Mexican War, when the secretary of state got over 15 times the number of volunteers he wanted! So we know Tennesseans have the spirit to serve, but how can we collectively shape that spirit to the volunteering needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Several years ago, I read a book entitled The New Breed: Understanding and Equipping the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Volunteer by Jonathan McKee and Thomas McKee, a father-and-son team. Volunteering today is quite different from the way our parents and grandparents gave of their free time. The material in this book is worthy of a half-day seminar, but here is a summary of three main points:

- 1) Volunteers want **short-term projects** rather than long-term commitments.
- 2) Volunteers want to be **empowered** rather than micro-managed.
- 3) Volunteers want to feel that they are **making a difference** rather than simply making a contribution.

If you can fit volunteering for UTAS into your busy schedule, we can offer you jobs that meet those criteria. Our most urgent needs for UTAS volunteers in the next two months are listed below, along with the person to contact:

- **Native Plant Group** (Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>): Lee Ann Dobbs is in charge. Just show up at 9:00 to help maintain flower beds near the Visitors Center. For more information, see the Native Committee Plant Report at the bottom of the page.
- **Trails Committee** (March 10): Don Williams is in charge. The committee will be meeting at the Visitors Center at 1:00 on March 10 to plan their work. There is trail maintenance to be done, as well as new signage. If you cannot attend the meeting, email Don at [donwilliams54@gmail.com](mailto:donwilliams54@gmail.com) or call Don at 865-603-4310
- **Holly Work Day** (April 1): Dennis Superczynski is in charge of this opportunity to improve the holly collection through mulching, pruning, and other tasks. There is no need to call Dennis; just show up at 9:00. With enough volunteers, we finish quickly!
- **Spring Plant Sale** (April 7-8): Peggy Mahoney maintains the list of plant sale volunteers. Call her at (865) 482-4595 to work one of the time slots on Thursday (off-loading plants), Friday, or Saturday.

Finally, check out the UTAS website, our Facebook page, or emailed messages to stay up-to-date on volunteer opportunities as they arise. Let's show our Volunteer Spirit by turning out in record numbers for these important UTAS events!

~Janet Bigelow

## *Native Plant Committee Report*



The Native Plant Group will begin their 13th year of support for the Arboretum this Spring. This hard working, knowledgeable group of plant people meet twice a month to maintain the beds surrounding the Visitor Center and the Sides Azalea Hillside. They weed, prune and mulch to keep the area attractive for visitors. There is a core group of 10 UTAS members who have been meeting on the first and third Wednesday mornings of every month March through November. Anyone who enjoys gardening and has a couple of hours to spare would be welcome to join the group. You will find the morning enjoyable and satisfying as you work alongside other volunteers who are knowledgeable gardeners.

If you would like to be included on our roster please email Lee Ann at [leadob@bellsouth.net](mailto:leadob@bellsouth.net) or call 482-6656. You could help make this 13th year another one for the record books!!



## *Holly Task Force Committee Report, Fall 2016-Winter 2017*

16 volunteers joined the Holly Task Force on Saturday morning October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 to combine similar holly varieties into a large single mulched bed. Director Kevin Hoyt and Yvonne Hitchcock outlined the mulched area that will significantly ease maintenance of signage and mowing. This was a large undertaking but thanks to the following volunteers the task was completed in short order. Your work for the Elmore Holly Collection and the UT Arboretum is greatly appreciated. David and Betty Lou Alspaugh, Janet Bigelow, Lynn Carlson, Kathy Fahey, Pat Hunsicker, Charlie Jernigan, Lucie Jones, Jim Mee, Debbie Osborn, Gene Sanslow, Fran Scheidt, Randy Stewart, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Will Witte.

The Elmore Holly Collection is recognized by the Holly Society of America as an Official Holly Arboreta and Experimental Test Center. The Holly Task Force hosted a kick-off meeting for the newly formed South-East Region of the Holly Society of America on January 14, 2017 at the UT Auditorium. The Auditorium with its presentation facilities and a warm fireplace is an excellent venue for business meetings and gatherings and was welcomed by the Holly Society to announce its South-Eastern Region.

### **Holly Work Day, 2017**

The next Holly work day is scheduled for Saturday April 1st 9:00 am-noon at the Elmore Holly Collection.

Work will concentrate on fertilizing young hollies and installing a single large mulch bed within a grouping of hollies. For those that helped last fall, it will be a similar project that was completed in record time with help from the large number of volunteers that participated. Within the bed, we will prune and weed. Dr. Will Witte will be on hand to demonstrate proper fertilizing and pruning techniques. Publications from the Holly Society of America will be available free to those interested in learning more about growing and caring for holly plants.

Bring your recycled newspapers to spread as a weed barrier in the mulched area. A mulching fork, pruning shears, mulch cart, garden gloves, will also be helpful.

Look forward to seeing all at the Elmore Holly Collection April 1st  
The Holly Task Force  
UT Arboretum Society

### *Help Us Keep Our Trails Beautiful Volunteers Needed*

The UTAS Trails Committee will be doing some much needed trail maintenance this Spring and fixing benches that need repair. **The Trails Committee needs volunteers to help.** The Trail Committee could also use volunteers to map, clean, and repair Blue Bird Houses. So, if you would like to help, know some teens that would like to volunteer for service hours, or might know of a group or organization that can help us with trail maintenance please contact Don Williams at [donwilliams54@gmail.com](mailto:donwilliams54@gmail.com) or call Don at 865-603-4310 for more information.



## Colorful species include Twilight Bush Baby, Shadow Ghosts and Snappy Sync!



The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society will present a free program on "Fireflies and Glow-worms," by author and expert Lynn Faust, March 9<sup>th</sup> at the UT Arboretum Auditorium, 901 S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Lynn Faust will be discussing her book, "Fireflies, Glow-worms, and Lightning Bugs: Identification and Natural History of the Fireflies of the Eastern and Central United States and Canada." The program will be followed by a book signing. This book is the first comprehensive firefly guide for eastern and central North America ever published. It is written for all those who want to know more about the amazing world of lightning bugs and learn the secrets hidden in the flash patterns of the 75+ species found in the eastern and central U.S. and Canada. As an independent researcher working with numerous university teams, naturalist Lynn Frierson Faust, "The Lightning Bug Lady," has spent decades tracking the behavior and researching the habitats of these fascinating creatures.



## Yard Sale to Benefit UTAS

Board Members, Heather and Erik Ferragut will have a yard sale set up (Danbury Dr.) during the Briarcliff Community Yard Sale that is held each Spring (date TBD). **All proceeds to benefit the UT Arboretum Society.** Heather will be collecting items from UTAS members and friends for the sale in March/Early April.

If you have items to donate to the sale please contact Heather at 865-456-1002 or [heatherferragut@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherferragut@hotmail.com)



## Adopt a Bench Plaque to Honor a Loved One

Want to honor or remember a family member or special friend? UT Arboretum bench plaques can be purchased to honor a loved one. In general, plaques measure 2" x 8" (the width of a bench slat) and can be installed on any undesignated bench throughout the Arboretum, except the stone benches. The minimum donation for a plaque is \$500, with the money going to help benefit and maintain the Arboretum. The \$500 donation amount also qualifies you as a Patron.

To order a plaque, contact Janet Bigelow at (865) 675-3822 or at [janet\\_bigelow@tds.net](mailto:janet_bigelow@tds.net). You can stop by the Arboretum and obtain a special map from Gayle, the secretary in the Visitors Center, showing the location of all the available benches in the Arboretum. She also has a form for you to write your message on.

EINSTEIN Simplified



## COMEDY COMES TO THE ARBORETUM

Join the fun as renowned local comedy group Einstein Simplified makes us laugh!

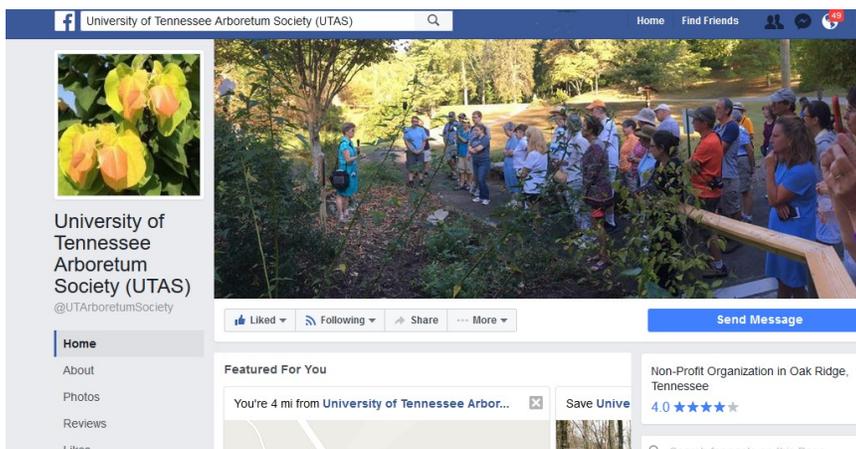
We have a special first-of-its-kind **event on June 11th**. Come enjoy the fun as a well-known Knoxville area comedy improv group entertains us with original, unrehearsed improv. If you like Second City, Saturday Night Live and that kind of original comedy, then this show is for you!

**Membership in the UT Arboretum Society has its privileges and we are thrilled to be able to present this performance to our members. Opening ticket sales will be FOR MEMBERS ONLY!** Seating is very limited. **We can only sell 90 tickets**, so be sure to get yours quickly once they are available. **Once 90 tickets are sold, ticket sales will end. There will be no tickets sold at the door.** We will announce on the website and through FB when tickets are available for sale. When the tickets become available for sale, the preferred method of ticket sales is online at [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org) If you are not able to purchase online, you can send a check to: Janet Bigelow, 10626 Forest Crest Road, Knoxville, TN 37922 made out to the UT Arboretum Society. Please put "Einstein Simplified" on the memo line.

Tickets are \$30 each. This includes light hors d'oeuvres, a ticket for one glass of wine (other beverages will be available) and the live show. We will have a cash bar and wine will be available for sale. The event is Sunday, June 11, 6:00 pm. at the UT Arboretum Auditorium. Gates open at 4:30. Social hour, with drinks and light hors d'oeuvres will be from 5:00 – 6:00. The show starts promptly at 6:00 and will end about 7:00 p.m.

Einstein has been a Knoxville staple for 23 years, having performed at Side Splitters and, for the past few years, every Tuesday night at Scruffy City Hall (Preservation Pub) in Market Square in Knoxville. These comedians are in demand, doing a weekly show and many special appearances. They will be one of the featured improv groups March 4 at the famous Gatlinburg Improv Fest. Several of our board members have seen Einstein Simplified and they have given rave reviews. For more information on Einstein Simplified check out their [Facebook](#) page. For information on this event, call 865-776-8227.

***Bring your spouse, significant other, friends and neighbors. But mostly, bring your sense of humor!!!!  
With today's roller coaster political climate, we expect a very funny show. Don't miss it!***



### Like US On Facebook

For updates on upcoming events and other UT Arboretum information please like us on Facebook  
**Facebook: UT Arboretum Society**



## Calendar of Events

### Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast (Members Only)

Saturday, March 4 from 9 to 11 AM  
UT Arboretum – Auditorium



A pancake breakfast and short hike is planned to thank our UTAS members. Drop in at any time during the two-hour period, and let the UTAS Board show their appreciation for your support of our wonderful Arboretum! **Not currently a member of UTAS? Applications will be available at the door!**

### Fireflies and Glowworms

Thursday, March 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
UT Arboretum Auditorium



Lynn Faust will give a lecture on Fireflies and Glowworms. She will also be doing a book signing.

### Members Only Event:

#### Tour of Randy Stewart's Greenhouses

Saturday, March 25, 2 PM to 4 PM



UTAS board member, Randy Stewart is offering a tour of his greenhouses and garden for UTAS members. Randy's greenhouses will be filled with plants that he will set out in his garden in April and May. This is a rare opportunity to visit his greenhouses, hear about some of his techniques, and enjoy talking about plants with other UTAS members. Randy lives not far off the Pellissippi Parkway near Hardin Valley. To RSVP and get address and directions, contact Randy Stewart at 567-5561 or [randystewart@comcast.net](mailto:randystewart@comcast.net).

### Holly Work Day

Saturday April 1, 9AM to Noon  
Elmore Holly Collection



Join the Holly Task force for a holly work day at the Holly Elmore Collection to mulch, prune, and other tasks. Volunteers can just meet up at 9 AM or after at the Elmore Holly Collection to participate. See page 4 for more information on the Holly Work Day.

Contact: Dennis Superczynski

[jandport@att.net](mailto:jandport@att.net) if you need more information.

### Spring Plant Sale

Friday April 7 – 5 PM to 7 PM (UTAS Members Only)  
Saturday April 8 from 9 AM to 2 PM (Open to ALL)  
Arboretum – Program Shelter



Beaver Creek and Riverdale Nurseries from Knoxville, Sunlight Gardens from Andersonville and East Fork Nursery from Sevierville, (and UTAS members/friends) will be offering a large and varied selection of shrubs, trees, wildflowers, perennials, annuals and edibles. **Two plant propagators from the Chattanooga area will have Japanese Maples and a few rare plants at this sale** Dr. Will Witte, will answer all of your plant questions. On Saturday, Dan's Hot Dogs will be here selling food/drinks and Brad Greenwood Designs will be selling metal garden ornaments. **Not a member and want to shop early?** You can join and become a member at the sale and take advantage of this membership benefit. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards at the sale.

### Spring Wildflower Walk/"Meet & Greet"

Sunday April 9, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Haw Ridge Trails

Naturalist and educator Kris Light will be leading a Spring Wildflower Walk at Haw Ridge Trails.



### "The Gatlinburg Fires-What Mother Nature is Telling Us" Lecture by Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer

Thursday, April 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Arboretum Auditorium



### Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods Workshop

Saturday, May 20th @ UT Arboretum

To register for this event call the Tennessee Forestry office at (800) 893-7403. Space is limited. Private landowners, professional foresters, and those in the wood industry are invited to attend. Registration is from 7 AM to 8 AM. After registration and welcome/introductions, participants will tour a field demonstration that features improper diameter cutting vs a proper timber harvest. [www.tnforestry.com/TN\\_Healthy\\_Hardwoods\\_Field\\_Days/](http://www.tnforestry.com/TN_Healthy_Hardwoods_Field_Days/)



### MOTH...er's Night Out

Saturday, May 20th from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Arboretum Visitors Center

Kris Light will give a short talk about moths in the Auditorium. Everyone then will go outside to wait for the moths to alight on the sheets Kris has prepared in advance. The black lights help attract these creatures of the night.



### "Tree Identification" Lecture by Dave Buckley & Josh Grainger at the Arboretum – Auditorium

Tuesday May 23rd from 4 PM to 7 PM



### Einstein Comedy Event

Sunday, June 11th, 5 to 7 PM,  
UT Arboretum Auditorium



Come enjoy the fun as a well-known Knoxville area comedy improv group entertains us with original, unrehearsed improv. **See page 6 for full details on this event.** Members will be notified through FB and email when tickets are available for sale. Ticket Sales will be open to UTAS members first. Ticket Cost \$30. This includes light hors d'oeuvres, a ticket for one glass of wine (other beverages will be available) and the live show. We will have a cash bar and wine will be available for sale. For more information on Einstein Simplified check out their [Facebook](#) page. For information on this event, call 865-776-8227.

### When Good Trees Go Bad: Walk & Talk Lecture

June 15th, 6 to 8 PM, Arboretum-Auditorium

Lecture and walk to be led by Jeff Holt. See page 11 for more on this topic.



## UTAS Awards Honorary Life Membership to Morgan Maskewitz

Morgan Maskewitz, an Oak Ridge native currently living in Maryland, was awarded an honorary life membership to UTAS last December in recognition of his numerous contributions to the Arboretum in 2016 and beyond. Last spring, he donated 50 plants from his nursery business; UTAS's Native Plant Group, led by Lee Ann Dobbs, quickly planted them around the Visitor Center for everyone to enjoy this spring. Morgan also donated the framework and other materials for a new shade house for Arboretum plants. He drove it from Maryland to Oak Ridge at his own expense and spent two days constructing the house, which has been full of plants since completion. The awarding of an honorary lifetime membership to Morgan is a small token of appreciation for all he has done for the Arboretum!



Photo: Lynda Haynes, Pat Hunsicker, Fran Scheidt, and Betty Lou Alspaugh chat with Morgan Maskewitz following the awarding of his honorary lifetime membership to UTAS

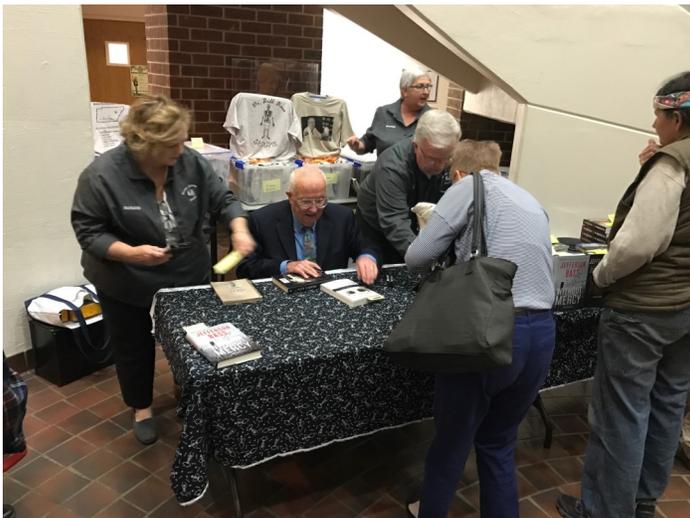


New UT Arboretum shade house.

Image contributed by Emily Jernigan

## Winter Event Round Up

*Thank You Dr. Bass for Presenting A Lecture On the "Body Farm" in February at PSCC*



On February 21, the Goins Auditorium at Pellissippi State Community College was packed with about 150 eager listeners for a thoroughly entertaining lecture by Dr. William Bass, retired UT professor and founder of the "Body Farm." Using humor to defuse the harsh reality of his forensic anthropological work, Dr. Bass captivated his audience with his stories and slides. He also signed copies of his books and t-shirts that were for sale and posed for pictures with eager fans. Thanks so much to Julie Watts, a faculty member at PSCC and a UTAS Board member, for making the arrangements for this joint UTAS/PSCC lecture.

Image: Dr. Bass signing books at the "Body Farm" lecture event

## Winter Event Round Up

### *New Year's Hike*



The New Year's Hike held Monday January 2 was a big success with over 40 participants. A special thanks to: Kevin Hoyt for leading the hike and his knowledgeable commentary on the trees, etc.; Charlie Jernigan for making the coffee and holding down the fort; Dennis Superczynski for speaking so well about our wonderful holly collection; Julie and Bob Watts for the donuts; Don Williams (and Jacob Wyre) for managing the parking; Tim Bigelow for being the sweep on the hike; Betty Lou Alspaugh for posting some pictures on our FB page.; and to the participants that made a donation at the event.



*Dennis Superczynski speaking about the Holly Collection. at the New Years Hike.*

### *UTAS Parade Float 2016*



UTAS volunteers led by Lynda Haynes built a beautiful float to represent the UT Arboretum in the Oak Ridge Christmas Parade this past December. The award winning float was jingle bell themed. Thank you to all those that helped build the float and walk the parade.

\*See more images of the float in the Online Branches Photo Gallery.

Image: Kevin, Hoyt Lynda Haynes, Chuck Haynes, Kathy Fahey, Bo Duncan, and Yvonne Hitchcock.

## Winter Event Round Up

### *Annual UTAS Dinner Held this Past November*

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 what is in the planning stages for next year.

**UTAS President Janet Bigelow presented the Distinguished Service Award to Marti Salk.** A new plaque recognizing all past recipients of the award will be located in the UT Arboretum office building.

Janet Bigelow on behalf of UTAS presented Tom Looney a check for \$7,500.00 for the Endowment Fund and a check for \$7,500.00 for the Operations Fund.

Special Thanks to Stephen Lyn Bales our guest speaker at the event who presented a fun and educational talk on Woodpeckers.

**Thank You to those that donated items to our November Silent Auction--**Lee Ann and Norm Dobbs, Julie Watts, Melanie Staten, Lynda and Chuck Haynes, Charles Samuels, Kathy Fahey, Teresa Brittain, Marti and Gary Salk, Heather Ferragut, Emily and Charlie Jernigan, Marese Nephew, Susan Reed, Barb Knight, Ann Mostoller, Buckhorn Inn, Warehouse Liquors, Dan Claus and Wendy Packan, Pat and Tom Row, Wild Birds Unlimited, Willow Ridge Garden Center, ORCMA, Janet and Tim Bigelow, Lynn Carlson, Jeff and Lecie Holt, Dennis and Jan Supercynski, Joanna Partain, and anyone else we might have missed that brought a donation the night of the event. **Special thanks to Lynda Haynes & Pat Row for organizing the silent auction for the Annual Dinner event.**

Three new Board members were elected at the Annual Meeting! We would like to welcome Erik Ferragut, Samuel Peyton, and Dave Snider to the UTAS Board. We would like to thank our out going board members Melinda Hillman, Gene Sanslow, Pat Hunsicker and past president Charlie Samuels for all their time and hard work on the board.



### *Thank You To Everyone Who Participated & Helped With this year's Father-Daughter Hike!*

Jeff Holt introduces himself to a crowd of 56 hearty father-daughter duos of all ages who turned out on a chilly February morning for the 8th annual hike. Jeff, a forestry expert, shares his extensive knowledge of the Arboretum's trees with attendees at this popular program.

## When Good Trees Go Bad

Arborist, Jeff Holt will lead a lecture and walk at the UT Arboretum on June 15th from 6 to 8 PM on identifying issues with trees. Below is a re-print of a 2009 Branches Article that we thought would be appropriate to re-publish since Jeff will be leading the lecture event this coming June.



### When Good Trees Go Bad: 7 Signs It is Time to Call an Arborist

~Jeff Holt, consulting arborist, is also a UTAS member

Trees, like all other living things, have a relatively fixed life span. Individual trees grow old, get diseases, and become injured. In a wilderness, none of these conditions matter much to people because they are part of the natural process of life. When they are in your yard and threaten your home, church or business, they can matter very much. A tree's lifespan varies by its species, setting and exposure. I've seen giant Sequoia that were entering their third millennium on our planet, and Lombardy poplars that were old and haggard after only 20 years. Many of the hardwood trees common in our east Tennessee yards, such as red and white oaks, sugar maples, and hickories, can easily live several hundred

years under the right conditions, while others become a risk to nearby structures in 75 years or less. A friend living on top of a ridge in Oak Ridge was awakened in the wee hours of a winter night a couple of years ago to find that a large white oak had come through the roof and was now in the living room. This tree had started life in the 1930s and met its end due to weakened roots and strong wind.

How can you avoid this unhappy awakening? Start by getting to know your trees a little better. I don't necessarily mean to hug them, but that won't hurt either. Start by looking at your trees from 100 feet or more away and from as many sides as you can safely see. The first thing to look at is the condition of the tree top (called the crown). Does it look healthy compared to other trees in the neighborhood? Is it full and relatively even, or are there large or small dead branches or patches with no leaves at this time of year? Some species will have normally shed some of their leaves by late summer. What you are looking for is naked branches. Walk up closer to the tree now. Do see any fungal shelves growing on the bark, either in patches or near the roots? This indicates dead wood-not a good sign. Are there wet patches coming down from the area where large branches or sections of the trunk come together? Are there "oozy" holes? Both of these are bad and may indicate a hollow, rotten section of trunk. Remember, once a tree has lost 65-75% of its diameter to rot it can break at any time. Look for large cracks or splits that let you see into the trunk. Look also to see if branches or sections of trunk have split so that the split has traveled down the trunk. Another area to look at is the relative straightness of the tree. Is the trunk still fairly vertical? If you have a plumb bob, or tie something heavy on a string, you can stand back and use the vertical string to compare to the tree. Also, look around the root area. Think of the roots of most of our trees as a giant round piece of plywood nailed on the bottom of the tree. When normal, you won't see it. If you see a hump on one side of the tree and a corresponding depression on the other, the root plate has begun to shift and the tree is waiting for wet soils or wind or just a bad time to fall down. Look as well for sawdust or carpenter ants. I have seen this around the roots of two large white pine trees in our area that fell (always at a bad time) within a year or two. The sawdust is your trees roots that have been chewed up. Assess your tree's condition. If you find any of these signs, or something else that doesn't 'look right,' look in the phone book and call a Certified Arborist. Just about any tree service can take down a tree away from your house...but only an *arborist* is trained to really diagnose problems and solve them in a way that might help you save your tree.

#### Seven Signs Its Time to Call an Arborist

1. Dead branches
2. Presence of fungus on bark or roots
3. Wet patches at branch junctions when it's not raining.
4. Evidence of hollow or rotting trunk
5. Cracks and splits on the trunk of the tree
6. Tree trunk noticeably off vertical especially if it has changed in the past few years
7. Unevenness of insect activity in the area within 5-6 feet of the tree trunk

## Thank You!



**Kris Light** – Thank you for hosting Moth’ers night out and the Fall wildflower hike this past Fall. We appreciate all your expertise and energy!

**Fall Plant Sale Volunteers** -Norm Dobbs and all his volunteer helpers put on another excellent plant sale this past October. Our regular vendors, Beaver Creek Nursery and Riverdale Nursery Knoxville; East Fork Nursery Sevierville; and Sunlight Gardens, Andersonville, were there. Finally, thanks to UT Arboretum Director Kevin Hoyt and his staff. Without everyone’s help our plant sales and UTAS’ resulting financial support to the UT Arboretum and the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund would not be possible.

**Moonlight Hike Volunteers** - Special thanks to Janet and Tim Bigelow, Charlie and Emily Jernigan., Charlie Samuels, Charley Hensley, and Kathy Fahey for hosting 61 attendees for the fall Moonlight Hike event.

**Katie Cottrell** and **Kathy Strunk** of the Clinch River Raptor Center for presenting at the Owl Prowl Event. It was again extremely popular with over 200 attendees. **Katie Cottrell** and **Kathy Strunk** of the Clinch River Raptor Center brought owls and their expertise about them to a captivated audience in the program shelter.

**Kevin Hoyt** and **UT Extension Staff** for hosting the URBAN Woods and Wildlife Field Day this past October. Thank you to all the UT Arboretum and UT Extension staff and volunteers that helped make the event possible.

**Pat Imperato** for leading the “Tree Workshop” in November which was attended by 50+ people.

**Jeff Holt** for leading our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Father Daughter Hike on February 18, 2017. Thank you to all the helped organize the event.

**Joanne Logan** for presenting a Climate Change Talk this past January 19<sup>th</sup> and those that volunteered to make the event happen.



**Thank You to everyone who contributed in response to our end-of-the-year letter.**

Donations were received from: Janet & Tim Bigelow, Frederick and Sandra Barry, Robert and Marie Cantrell, Anna G. Dobbins, Christine Hamilton, Fred and Theresa Holtzclaw, Chet and Jane Morris, Betsy Robinson, Mark K. Robinson, Dr. Robert S. Richmond, Marti Salk, Dr. and Mrs. Gary Schneider, Paul and Barbara Taylor, Jennifer and Randy Wylie.

**Because of those donations and other memorial gifts, UTAS is now about halfway toward the estimated amount for landscaping the new Auditorium.** We hope this is something that can be accomplished in this calendar year as it will enhance the venue for weddings, corporate events, and UTAS functions. **It is not too late to make a donation toward this goal! Donations can be mailed to: UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37830**

## New & Renewing Members



**David & Betty Lou Alspaugh**

Nancy Basford

Philip & Alison Beebe

**Teresa & Ray Brittain**

**Michael Brown/Betty Evans**

**Janet & Bob Cushman**

Lesley Cusick

Debbie Cutler

Dorothy Devan

Norman & Lee Ann Dobbs

Richard & Carole Evans

Kenneth Farrell

Erik & Heather Ferragut

David Graham

Jim & Melanie Harless

**James Henry**

John Hill

Ken & Shirley Kaiser

Peggy Mahoney

**Bruce & Paige Marshall**

Anne McKenzie

Victoria Medaglia

Fred & Linda O'Hara

Margarete Ohnesorge

**Joanna Partain**

Rebecca Phillips

Theron E Ragsdale

**Willow & Bob Reed**

Robert Skinner

**Melanie & Vince Staten**

Dan Steinhoff

**Irene Sullivan**

Dennis & Jan Superczynski

Janet R Townsend

**Bruce & Janet Waldschmidt**

Don & Janis Williams

\*Society Friends – **bold**

### Member Information

**Renewing Your Membership** – Check your *Branches* label for your membership renewal date! You'll get a reminder, or you can download a form at [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org).

**Join Our Email List** - To receive important notices from UTAS, please email [emily@jernigans.net](mailto:emily@jernigans.net) and we will add you to our database. Also notify Emily of any email or mail address changes. **We never share your address.**

**Electronic Newsletter Only Option:** If you'd like to receive only an electronic copy of *Branches*, send an email to [emily@jernigans.net](mailto: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.

**View Branches Online:** Look for an email reminder from UTAS with a link to *Branches* on our website. You can also see what else is going on at the Arboretum and UTAS. Just go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org) and check it out any time.

### UTAS Membership

#### Application

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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 37830

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382

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

Check the mailing label for your membership renewal date

## Upcoming Events

**Fireflies and Glowworms Lecture** Thursday, March 9 from 6:30 PM to 8 PM @ UT Arboretum Auditorium

**Holly Work Day** Saturday April 9 from 9 AM to noon, Elmore Holly Collection

**Spring Plant Sale** Friday April 7, 5 to 7 PM & Saturday April 8, 9 AM to 2 PM @ Program Shelter

**Spring Wildflower Walk/"Meet & Greet"** Sunday April 9, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. At Haw Ridge Trails

**"The Gatlinburg Fires-What Mother Nature is Telling Us" Lecture** Thursday, April 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### How to Find Us

Web: [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org)

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

GPS: 901 S. Illinois Ave.,  
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (35.9995, 84.2259)

Facebook: UT Arboretum Society



### Butterfly Festival

Saturday, July 29, 9 am to 2 pm  
 @ UT Arboretum

Branches Editor  
 Webmaster  
 Database Manager  
 Plant Sale Chair

Heather Ferragut  
 Charlie Jernigan  
 Charlie Jernigan  
 Norm Dobbs

# Branches Online Photo Gallery

## *Images from 2016 Christmas UTAS Float Making & Parade*



Image: Lynda Haynes



# Branches Online Photo Gallery

## *Images from 2016 Christmas UTAS Float Making & Parade*



Image: Charlie Jernigan and Gene Sanslow



Image: Kathy Fahey



Image: Kathy F. loaned this beautiful carousel horse that she painted/restored to UTAS for the float.

**Branches Online Photo Gallery**

*Images of Snow Fall at the Arboretum in January 2017*

*Images contributed by Kevin Hoyt*



# Branches Online Photo Gallery

## *Images of Snow Fall at the Arboretum in January 2017*

*Images contributed by Kevin Hoyt*

