

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No 8 - Fall 2007

UTAS President's Message

Norm Dobbs discusses recent events and praises the work of the Plant Collections and Bylaws Committees.

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Stumped? Ask us!

Don't trees make one ring every year?

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

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"Director's Desk" Richard Evans

Help others discover the Arboretum - we've got lots of untapped potential and want people to find out what they're missing.

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Fall Plant Sale

Rain or shine Support UTAS! Shop early for best selection.

Featured Plant:

Dogwood

Sat. Oct 13 9-3

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Annual Dinner/ Membership Meeting

New venue (Sagebrush), silent auction, plant lovers galore! Dr. Henri D. Grissino-Mayer reveals the secret stories told by tree rings.

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 13 Plant Sale 9-3
- Oct. 27 Owl Prowl
- Nov. 6 Annual Meeting & Dinner
- Nov. 10 Holly Work Day
- Nov. 17 Garden Tools Tuneup/Workshop

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Plant Sale Features Dogwood -

Saturday, October 13 9-3

The red wagons are ready!

It's time to breathe some new life into your landscape. The weather has taken us, and our plants, on a wild ride this year: a warm winter, a deadly spring freeze, record heat, and months of drought. Many of our plants have survived, but quite a few now lie on the compost pile.



The UTAS Plant Sale can help get your garden going again. We'll have lots of stock from our vendors, **Beaver Creek Nursery, Sunlight Gardens, East Fork Nursery,** and others. We're featuring dogwoods, one of East Tennessee's most popular small trees, and we'll offer plenty of other local favorites. You may



spy a 'Cherokee Brave,' a 'Cherokee Princess,' or even find yourself next to 'Cloud 9!' We'll have a few surprises, and some unusual selections, too, so shop early.

Dr. Will Witte, the 'Answer Man' will be available to answer your horticulture questions and suggest appropriate plants

for your landscape. Knowledgeable UTAS members will also help you select your plants.

Fall is the best time to get those trees, shrubs, and other plants in the ground. Before you know it, you'll be enjoying spring blooms.



Visit our web site, www.UTArboretumSociety.org, for more information on our sale.



President's Letter

I'm writing this letter after a summer of record-breaking temperatures and, of course, our drought. Hopefully when you read this newsletter we will have gotten a respite from being a slave to our hoses and have gotten reacquainted with rain and cooler temperatures. A few UTAS members (Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Tom and Pat Row, Joan Johnson and Lee Ann and I) got a short break from our East Tennessee weather by joining members of the Holly Society of America on their Garden Tour of England in August. One thing I'll remember from this tour is what one of our English garden tour guides told us: "You know it's really very easy to garden in England." If that isn't the truth with the rich top soil and temperate climate of England. And then we returned to the land of red clay, hot temperatures, wind and no rain...

With the approach of fall and as the 2007 year begins to wind down, it's an ideal time to reflect on our accomplishments this year. I'm pleased that UTAS has conducted or been represented at 15 events as you read this newsletter, and with several more scheduled to occur later this year. I trust that you have noticed that we are getting our name into the local media more and more as the host for events of interest to plant people and for other special interest events which help to showcase the UT Arboretum to the public. A big "thank you" to the many UTAS volunteers who have helped to plan and execute these events. I encourage all of you to be good ambassadors for both UTAS and the Arboretum as you encourage others to join with us to help sustain and improve upon our recent successes and this great natural resource, the UT Arboretum.

Of our many accomplishments and initiatives this past year, the one which I feel will have the most long-lasting benefit to the Arboretum is the work which our newly formed Arboretum Plant Collections Committee has begun. Led by Lynn Carlson, and including Bob Reed, Marie Salk and new member Barry Shupe, this group has worked closely with Arboretum Director Richard Evans to identify current and long-term specimen plant needs at the Arboretum. They also help identify which plants may need to be removed or replaced, where special work days may be needed to assist in plant maintenance, and where plant labels are needed. This effort was given a huge boost through the help of Dick Raridon's son-in-law, Clifton Lambreth of Nashville. He put us in touch with the owner of Riverbend Nursery near Nashville, Steve Bennet. Mr. Bennet generously donated 34 specimen plants to the Arboretum, valued in excess of \$1,000. These plants, which are currently in the Arboretum's greenhouse, will be used to help landscape the new parking lot and will enhance the Arboretum's plant collections around the Visitors Center and elsewhere. The Plant Collections Committee is working to identify, locate and obtain other priority specimen plants to add to the Riverbend plants for fall or winter planting at the Arboretum this year.

I urge all of you to attend our Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner on Tuesday, November 6 at the Oak Ridge Sagebrush Steakhouse. Please come at 6:00 and take advantage of the Social Hour and "Silent Auction" fundraiser again this year. One of the business items at this year's meeting will be a membership vote on a completely revised set of UTAS Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee, led by Marti Salk with Emily Jernigan, Eileen Neiler and Diantha Paré, worked extensively to update our Bylaws. Many thanks to them for all their hard work.

~Norm Dobbs, UTAS President nadobbs@bellsouth.net

Director's Desk

The UT Arboretum depends heavily on friends and supporters to be our ambassadors for outreach into the community. As much as we try, the Arboretum, working alone, can not reach the masses. Word of mouth is still one of the most effective ways to let people know about what they might find upon visiting the Arboretum or attending a program or event there. I am continually amazed by the number of first-time Arboretum visitors who comment, "I've driven past this place for years and never known what I've been missing!" I'm a firm believer that once we get them in the door, these folks come back time and time again. They often become some of our most ardent supporters. However, we have to get them here the first time if we want to make this connection.

Over the last few years the Arboretum Society and Arboretum have made a concerted effort to introduce newcomers to the Arboretum. We've had numerous successful events – Owl Prowls, Spring and Fall Wildflower Walks, Tree Care Workshops, Boy Scout Days, Professional Short Courses and Field Days, Outdoor Dramas, Weddings, etc. At times, more than 180 people have attended an event. We have also succeeded in getting publicity in area and regional news media outlets. However, even with all of these successes, we still have lots of potential for growth.

Why are people important to the Arboretum? Because people translate into support and support is a major key to success! Without the support of people, all of our efforts go unappreciated and unrecognized. For all of us who understand the value of this great resource, the challenge is for our current supporters to become enthusiastic ambassadors for the Arboretum. I encourage you to tell everyone what they are missing by not being an Arboretum patron. Invite them to come, see, experience, learn, enjoy, and support *their* UT Arboretum

~Richard Evans, Director

See our web site for more information:
<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

Annual Meeting, Dinner & Silent Auction - Nov. 6th

Food, Shopping, Hurricanes, and More!

Tuesday, November 6 at 6 pm we'll meet in the private dining room of the **Sagebrush Steakhouse** (*note new venue*) 390 S. Illinois Ave in Oak Ridge. The restaurant is located at the front of the Kroger/Kmart shopping center. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. There will be a cash bar.

Our speaker is **Dr. Henri D. Grissino-Mayer** of the Department of Geography at The University of Tennessee. Stories of people affected by Hurricane Katrina abound; they're inspiring and often heart-wrenching. But there's a scientific Katrina story yet to be told that could help change our understanding of such devastating storms.

And the storytellers couldn't be more unusual—they are tree rings. This professor and other researchers are helping us better understand hurricanes by looking to this unusual source. Come and hear the stories of tree rings, and all that they tell us, through the eyes of Dr. Grissino-Mayer, pictured here with a fire-scarred tree snag in the Great



Smoky Mountains National Park. For more information about our speaker or Dendrochronology, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~grissino>.

Members will also vote on proposed bylaws changes, and on officers and board members for the coming year.

Bring your checkbooks for the Silent Auction fundraiser. We'll offer many unique items again this year. You can shop and to support UTAS at the same time.

Going once! Going twice! Some auction items:

Buckhorn Inn, 2 nights for two people including breakfast each morning
 One week stay in Sunset Beach, NC, beach house "Professors' Place"
 \$75 gift certificate from Willow Ridge Garden Center
 Indian Cherry bowl, hand-turned by Daniel Scott Claus, 7-1/4" x 21/4" (heavy weight)
 Box Elder bowl, hand-turned by Daniel Scott Claus, 7" x 3-1/4" (light weight)
 Walnut frame for a hanging basket
 A giant plastic leaf collection bag
 Two 16" diameter concrete compass rose stepping stones
 One 20"x16"x 8" hypertufa trough with "English risers"
 Caboose ride with Secret City Railroad Museum Train
 Chandelier Star Tree Topper "ornement pour cime du sapin" from Potterybarn
 Hand-made Rustic, Wood Birdhouse
 Wine

Upcoming Events

Plant Sale - Saturday, October 13 9 am -3 pm

Join us at the UT Arboretum - See page 1 for details

Owl Prowl and Night Noises

On Saturday, October 27th, at 7 pm, we will present an Owl Prowl and Night Noises program at the UT Arboretum. The evening event will begin at the Program Shelter. The Clinch River Raptor Center will present the program featuring owls found in East Tennessee.

Kathy Strunk and Katie Cottrell will bring live birds for display and will give information about their natural history. Kathy and Katie have been co-directors of the Raptor Center for over twenty years, and have given hundreds of programs on birds of prey in East Tennessee.

After the initial program Kathy and Katie will lead a walk on the grounds of the Arboretum, with the goal of hearing some Night Noises from owls or other creatures. This event takes place before October 31st, so it may be a little early for werewolves!



Bring a flashlight if you plan to participate in the walk.

Annual Meeting, Dinner & Silent Auction

See opposite column for details.

Holly Work Day

The fall Holly Work Day is Saturday, November 10 from 9-12 at the Elmore Holly Garden. Bring work gloves, pruners, and shovels. Lunch will be served following the work.

Please RSVP to **Fran Scheidt** (584-0467, francy@esper.com) or **Dennis Superczynski** (675-8502, jandport@charter.net) for this event.

Garden Tool Workshop

Let the pros help you solve your garden tool woes!

Dull? Rusty? Bring your garden tools to the Program Shelter at the Arboretum on Saturday, November 17th at 9 am. The pros will show you how to clean, sharpen and care for your garden tools before putting them away for the winter. We'll have information and demonstrations on tools such as knives, pruners, loppers, shovels and spades. Discover the best sharpening devices and techniques. We'll even show you some quick and easy chain saw sharpening methods. The cost is \$5 per person.

Bylaws Changes

The Bylaws committee (**Marti Salk**, chair, **Emily Jernigan**, **Eileen Neiler**, and **Diantha Paré**) pored over the nuts and bolts of the UTAS bylaws, and recommended some changes to the board. The board then voted to accept, reject, or emend each of the proposed changes.

The document enclosed with this issue of *Branches* details the thinking behind the changes and shows the original text as well as the revisions. This version reflects the consensus of the board, and the board recommends that the membership approve these changes.

All members present at the Annual Meeting will be asked to vote on the proposed changes. Please keep this in mind as you read them.

New & Renewing Members

Richard & Edith Allshouse

Fran Hopper

Beaver Creek Nursery

Margaret Larson

Lynn C Fox

Atie Rothmeyer

Cecil & Betts Higgins

Sunlight Gardens

John & Nettie Hill

Sue Williams

Elmore Holly Collection Entry

The UTAS board has approved the conceptual design of an entryway for the Elmore Holly Collection. A stone bench area at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, visited on the UTAS Brandywine Valley tour this summer, inspires the design. Look for the new entrance, honoring Dr. Harold Elmore, early in 2008.

Outdoor Drama

The Outdoor Drama with Lynn Fox was a big hit with a crowd of nearly 100 people who attended his presentation. Lynn Fox, local historian and descendant of a King's Mountain battle hero, shared stories of Tennessee heroes Davy Crockett and John Sevier. Dressed in authentic garb of the era, Lynn entertained those gathered on the lawn with 90 minutes of stories and little-known facts about the vision, determination and fortitude of these Tennessee legends.

Pancake Breakfast

Applebee's in Oak Ridge generously allowed us to have a pancake breakfast fundraiser there. We appreciate the following UTAS members who waited tables, poured coffee, and collected tickets for approximately 70 guests:

Charlie Jernigan

Tom Row

Norm and Lee Ann Dobbs

Dick Raridon

Jeff Holt

Marie Walsh

Don Searle

Peggy Turner

Vicky and Stan Richards

Jean Bangham

Bob Reed

Larry Landau

Melanie Berney

Marion Burger

Evelyn Lorenz

Pat Hunsicker

Wendy Packan

Carole and Richard Evans

Wildflower Walk

Kris Light, local educator, photographer, artist and wildflower expert helped about 30 people discover the joy of fall wildflowers on a guided walk at the Arboretum. This enthusiastic group is now eager to return for the spring show.



Fall Herb Workshop

On a perfect early fall morning more than 60 people listened as **Kathy Burke Mihalcz**, owner of **Erin's Meadow Herb Farm**, demonstrated techniques on planting fall herbs and on drying and freezing herbs. She recommended herbs for fall planting, including rosemary and oregano, and offered an array of plants for purchase. She donated a percentage of the sales to UTAS. **Dennis** and **Jan Superczynski** provided refreshments, and **Starbucks of Oak Ridge** donated coffee.



Stumped?

Don't trees make one ring every year?

Not always. Sometimes they make 2, and sometimes none, and some trees, like palms, never make rings. Weather often affects tree growth. Come to the **Annual Dinner** and learn more about Dendrology.

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



UTAS Resources

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Norm Dobbs	Eileen Neiler
Vice-President: Dick Raridon	Wendy Packan
Secretary: Diantha Paré	Diantha Paré
Treasurer: Pat Row	Bob Reed
Past President: Dennis Superczynski	Stan Richards
	Marti Salk
	Don Searle

Board Members

Lynn Carlson	<i>Ex Officio</i>
Jeff Holt	Evelyn Lorenz
Pat Hunsicker	Richard Evans
Emily Jernigan	

Branches Editor Emily Jernigan

Help Wanted

- **Native Plant Group** meets the third Wednesday most months. Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
- **Plant Collections Committee:** Help shape the public face of Arboretum plants. Lynn Carlson, lcarlson@earthlink.net, 865-692-5402
- **Arboretum Weddings.** Contact Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656, leadob@bellsouth.net or Pat Row, 482-9096, pdrow@bellsouth.net

Thanks!

Val-U-Signs (valusigns@bellsouth.net) of **Oak Ridge** is a long-time UTAS supporter. They donated much of the cost of our new banner that announces "UT Arboretum Society Event Today" in bright colors.

Riverbend Nursery (www.riverbendnurseries.com) of Nashville donated over \$1000 in plants to UTAS. **Dick Raridon** was instrumental in obtaining this significant gift.

East Fork Nursery owner **Vivian Abney** donated 7 large hollies for the Elmore Holly Collection.

Beaver Creek Nursery (www.beavercreeknursery.net), **Sunlight Gardens** (www.sunlightgardens.com) and **East Fork Nursery** have participated in our Plant Sales through many years. They'll be back again this fall.

Erin's Meadow Herb Farm (www.erinsmeadowherbfarm.com) owner **Kathy Burke Mihalcz** gave a program on herbs for fall and donated part of the proceeds from plants sold at the workshop to UTAS.

Kris Light (www.easttennesseewildflowers.com) led another Wild-flower Walk at the Arboretum, and donated to UTAS some of the proceeds from her photos and cards sold after the event.

General Shale Brick donated one strap of brick pavers for the Visitor's Center.

Applebee's of Oak Ridge provided UTAS with the opportunity to host a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser there.

Starbucks of Oak Ridge supplied coffee for the Fall Herb Workshop.

We will miss **Marie Walsh's** contributions to the board. She'll remain active with UTAS activities as her time permits.

Ann Arnold, former board member, has spent numerous hours compiling data to document the historical record of all tangible UTAS contributions to UT. We use this information to update our status with UT's donor benchmarks. Thanks for all your service to UTAS through many years, Ann.



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 UT Institute of Agriculture Development Office, Arboretum Director, Arboretum Society President, and several Arboretum Society members have been working in partnership for many months to lay a foundation for a successful campaign.

The **Rogers Group** was recently honored for its \$500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. **UTAS** made a \$5,000 initial contribution, continuing its strong support of the Arboretum.

Now it is time to engage everyone in this endeavor 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

This endowment will fund critical features of a grand vision for the future of the University of Tennessee Arboretum that will include:

- Expanded collections of plants
- Creation of an Arboretum coordinator position
- Improved facilities for public access and enjoyment
- Enhancement of the grounds, displays, and trails
- Perpetuation and care of existing plant collections
- Creation of vibrant education and outreach programs

If you have questions, need more information, or wish to share your idea for funding the UT Arboretum Endowment, please contact:

- UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Development-Rhodes Logan - 865-974-1928
- UT Arboretum -Richard Evans - 865-483-3571
- UT Arboretum Society -Norm Dobbs - 865-482-6656

For more information on Planned Giving visit this University of Tennessee website:

www.utamumni.utk.edu/givetout/planned_giving/index.shtml

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.UTArboretumSociety.org

Email: utas@discoveret.org

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



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