

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No. 25 - Winter 2012

UTAS President's Message

New board president Charlie Samuels introduces himself and describes some of his ideas and goals for UTAS and the Arboretum.

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Stumped? Ask us!

If Chestnut trees aren't extinct, what's going on with them, and can I start growing some?

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

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Director's Desk Kevin Hoyt

Kevin Hoyt tells us a little about his first few months as our new Center Director and lays out some of his plans for the future.

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Viburnum Valley Project

Phase I is now complete. Read Committee Chair Lynn Carlson's report about what we've done, and what comes next.

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Spring Tour

Dennis and Jan Superczynski have organized another special tour, this time to Charleston, SC. Fill out the registration form and join the fun!

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Upcoming Events

- Feb. 25 Father / Daughter Hike
- Mar. 10 or 17 (TBD) Plant Care Workshop
- Apr. 7 Holly Work Day
- Apr. 11-15 Tour to Charleston
- Apr. 20, 21 Plant Sale

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American Chestnuts - Redwoods of the East

By Emily Jernigan

The American chestnut restoration program was our guest speaker's topic at the UTAS Annual Meeting and Dinner.

Bryan Burhans, president and CEO of **The American Chestnut Foundation** (TACF), <http://www.acf.org>, described these majestic trees as having once been one of the most important aspects of Eastern US forests.

These tree giants grew up to 100 feet tall with straight, relatively lightweight, durable, rot-resistant wood. Many had no branches for 50 feet or more, making them ideal for lumber. They grew so large that dynamite was often used to fell the trees!

American chestnuts were useful for timber that was made into everything from telegraph poles to roof shingles and fine furniture. They supplied valuable food crops in their protein-rich nuts, sometimes producing more than 6,000 nuts in one year from a mature tree.

Although people harvested, ate, and sold the nuts as a cash crop, animals like deer, birds and bears benefited from them, too.

All of this began to change when the Asian fungus blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) was first spotted in New York City in 1904. Our American chestnuts did not have the genetic tools to fend off this fungus. In about 50 years most of the trees had succumbed to the disease. TACF estimates that 188 million acres of forestland were affected by the loss of about 4 billion of the American chestnuts.

One common misperception is that the American chestnut is extinct. As the ACF [explains](#), "What one can term the chestnut is that they are 'effectively extinct.' The American chestnut tree is threatened with extinction from blight because very few trees are producing nuts. Very few of the small sprouts will live long enough to flower, and when trees do flower, they tend to die fairly quickly." Even after the trees die, their rot-resistant stumps can continue to produce suckers that can live for a number of years before succumbing to

the blight. To read more about 'lost chestnuts' at the Arboretum, see this article by **Richard Evans**, <http://forestry.tennessee.edu/Chestnut.htm>.

TACF and others are researching ways to help restore these valuable trees to our forests. TACF has more than 300 chestnut breeding orchards run by state chapter volunteers. Through successive backcross breeding techniques with Chinese chestnuts, they now have some trees that are 94% American chestnut and that seem to be blight-resistant. UT is among many institutions conducting [studies](#), including some at the Arboretum, to help develop blight-resistant hybrids, and to evaluate their potential use to reclaim coal strip mines and quarry spoils.

Many more years of studies are needed for this promising research, but it now looks like we may be on the cusp of having these giants again grace our Eastern forests. You can help these efforts by supporting the work of [TACF](#). You can also support UT's forest [research](#) programs, [UTAS](#) and the [Arboretum Endowment](#).



President's Letter

What a daunting job it will be to follow **Tom Row** as UTAS president! Tom is the force so many good things in Oak Ridge. I pledge to you, the members of UTAS, my best efforts to meet the challenges of 2012.

The purpose of UTAS is support the UT Arboretum, a project of the UT Forestry Resources Research and Education Center (FRREC). Here are some of the things that are currently going on there. Phase I of the Viburnum Valley, planned and installed by the Plant Collections Committee under the able leadership of **Lynn Carlson**, is in place. The committee will maintain Phase I during 2012 and will get ready for Phase II in 2013. The Holly Task Force, a dedicated and cooperative effort coordinated by **Dennis Superczynski**, has made the Elmore Holly Collection a world-class venue. The installation of deer fences is the most visible accomplishment of this hardworking group, but their efforts, which will continue in 2012, go far beyond what a visitor easily sees. Dennis also coordinates the UTAS Annual Tour, traveling this year to Charleston, South Carolina, April 11 - 15. I encourage you to sign up. The Native Plant Group, headed by **Lee Ann Dobbs**, creates and maintains the striking display of color that you see near the FRREC office area. Their 2012 program is to maintain the current collection. Our Spring Plant Sale, coordinated by **Norm Dobbs**, will be April 20 and 21. We will need volunteers and, of course, your support. UTAS will continue to sponsor events and presentations that we hope will be of interest to you and others in the community. We also need to continue to increase our membership during 2012. The long term viability of our organization depends on this. I challenge each of you to add one member to UTAS during 2012. Memberships make great, reasonably priced gifts, too. On behalf of the UTAS Board, I thank you for your past support and hope that your support will continue, and possibly increase, during 2012. Finally, come out to the Arboretum. Walk the trails. Visit the collections. Sit on the benches and enjoy the quiet. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and questions.

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



Director's Desk

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." - Vince Lombardi

This profound quote by the great NFL football coach sums up my view of the first six months of my career as Center Director. During this time I have consistently been impressed by the efforts and passion for the Arboretum by the Forest Resources Research and Education Center Staff, the UT Faculty and Administrators, and the UT Arboretum Society members. Truly, we are all on the same team as we together build on the past success and stewardship to reach a common goal of sustaining this magnificent resource for future generations.

Since my last report I have had the opportunity to learn even more about the history of the Arboretum, the plant collections and trail system contained within the 250-acre oasis, and the people that have invested their time and efforts to ensure its future. I also attended my first UT Arboretum Society dinner with my wife, Lisa, in November. It was one of the highlights of the year for me to be introduced as the new Director and to get to meet many of the UTAS members that I hope to know better over the coming months and years.

Moreover, the future holds exciting changes for us as we build our endowment and hopefully break ground on the new auditorium. This new facility will ultimately provide greater opportunities for future programming efforts, a vehicle for us to build our membership base, and a tool to strengthen our outreach efforts throughout the regional community. I also eagerly look forward to participating in the Arboretum workdays and helping to coordinate our ongoing programming efforts. We hope to add to the established calendar of events with several new programs that support the Arboretum's mission and long-term goals.

On a personal note, I wanted to let everyone know that my family is all settled into our new "house in the woods" and we greatly enjoyed our first holiday season at the Arboretum.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank **Richard Evans** for all his years of dedication and hard work in laying a solid foundation upon which I can now help build a promising future for this jewel of a place. I also want to thank the FRREC staff for their combined efforts, help and ever-present teamwork in helping me "see the forest through the trees."

See our website for more information:

<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

Upcoming Events

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

Father/Daughter Hike

Saturday, February 25 9 a.m. Arboretum

Jeff Holt will lead another of these popular hikes. It's a great way to get outdoors in winter, to spend some time with your daughter or granddaughter, and to reconnect with Mother Nature. The hike will last about an hour. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and outdoor walking shoes. No reservations required. Contact Jeff Holt, jholtor@hotmail.com, for more information.

Plant Care Workshop

Saturday, March 10 or March 17 - Date TBC

Check our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org, for updated information.

Holly Work Day

Saturday, April 7 9 a.m. - noon, Elmore Holly Collection

Join the Holly Task force as they weed, fertilize, prune and mulch half of the young collection. Bring gloves, shovels and pruners if you have them. A light luncheon and refreshments will be served. **Dennis Superczynski**, 865-607-8512 or jandport@tds.net.

Spring Plant Sale

Friday and Saturday, April 20 & 21 Arboretum

Plant Sale chair **Norm Dobbs** has again teamed up with [Plant Concepts](#) owner and UTAS board member **Debbie Roberts** to put on another outstanding plant sale. Watch for full details in the next *Branches*. As always, proceeds from this and other Society events go to support and secure the future of the UT Arboretum.

Historic Charleston House & Garden Tour

April 11-15, 2012 Sign up by March 1!

The UTAS Spring Garden Tour to the Old & Historic District of Charleston and area gardens signup sheet is in this issue of *Branches*. The tour is sponsored by UTAS in cooperation with the [Historic Charleston Foundation](#). The reservation deadline is March 1. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come basis, so be sure to get yours in early.

Contact **Dennis & Jan Superczynski**, UTAS Garden Tour Co-coordinators, for more information: 865-675-8502.

Committee Reports

Holly Task Force

The Elmore Holly Collection was featured in a December 22, 2011, [article](#) by Wayne Waters in the Knoxville News-Sentinel. The task force is making its plans for 2012, and they include new ideas for watering the plants; getting 10 new hollies in the ground this fall; updating the plant labeling and nomenclature; investigating alternative deer fencing protection for young plants; and finding ways to encourage additional donations to the [Elmore Holly Collection Fund](#).

Plant Collections: Viburnum Valley Planting, Final Report for Phase I

Project Goal:

To rejuvenate and enhance the Arboretum's viburnum collection with the addition of new cultivars, forms, and species.

Objectives:

1. To design a large planting of viburnum plants for the valley road, from the three-trunked tulip poplar to the dwarf and unusual conifer collection (scale map attached as Figure 1*).
2. To include many different species and cultivars of viburnums suitable for the southeastern US, for visitors' education and enjoyment.
3. To emphasize various aspects of viburnums as landscape subjects, including berries, fall color, flowers, and scent.
4. To emphasize plants which are locally available, but give some attention to unusual and new cultivars.
5. To design the planting as a low-maintenance landscape.

Summary:

In late 2010 University of Tennessee (UT) Arboretum Director Richard Evans proposed a major landscaping project for the arboretum. The project was tentatively dubbed the "Viburnum Valley Project," with the goal and objectives shown above, and turned over to the UTAS Plant Collections Committee for planning and execution.

The committee met several times over the succeeding months, developing the project timeline in the Appendix. The timeline allowed for mapping the site, plant research, selection, acquisition, site preparation, and plant installation by the end of 2011.

A smaller group of committee members convened several times in the first half of 2011 to plan the plantings. This group decided to separate the project into two phases, I and II. Phase I involved the north side of the valley road and the area between the Oak-Hickory Trail trailhead and the Visitors Center, leaving the relatively large space on the south side of the road, east of the Oak-Hickory trail, as Phase II. This will allow for development of a walking trail in that area, although the exact path has not been settled at this time (November 2011).

The concept developed for Phase I involved choosing plants to demonstrate the following landscape possibilities with viburnum species and cultivars:

- As evergreen screening
- As native woodland plants
- As flowering plants with significant fall color
- As a wildlife food source with colorful berries
- As fragrant landscape plants

The final landscape plan developed for Phase I is available in the UT Arboretum Director's office; a large-scale copy is attached to this report.* It included 3 large viburnums (*V. macrocephalum*, Chinese snowball) in the Phase II area, to divide it into smaller, more manageable design areas in the future.

During the summer of 2011, plants were acquired by donation and purchase; a list of sources and plants is given in the Tables that follow.* In all, 33 shrubs and trees were obtained and installed in November on two workdays, with the help of UT Arboretum staff.

To carry the project through to the end of Phase I required 140 volunteer hours and about 15 hours of staff time, with an estimated value of nearly \$4000 to the Arboretum. There is more detail in the Appendix.*

The new plantings expand the Arboretum collection of viburnum species and cultivars significantly, while allowing the community and visitors an opportunity to see these plants as potential landscape subjects. New viburnum cultivars are introduced every year. Phase II, when undertaken, should provide an opportunity to enhance this collection even further.

*Attachments are available on our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org.

Lynn Carlson, UTAS Plant Collections Committee Chair
lbcarlson@alumni.Indiana.edu, November 23, 2011.

Charleston House & Garden Tour
Visit Historic Charleston's Annual Festival of Houses and Gardens
April 11-15, 2012

The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society 2012 annual garden tour will transport its guests to visit Charleston's romantic charm set among the ambience of the city's Old and Historic District. This lovely bus tour will feature five days and four nights at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel located in the heart of the Charleston Historic District.

Begin day one in Charleston with a horse-drawn carriage tour for an introduction to *The District*, focusing on the areas history, architecture, and culture, followed by free time for shopping, browsing, and exploration. In the afternoon we will participate in the Glorious Gardens Tour featuring 8 to 10 private gardens in the Old and Historic District. A wine and lemonade reception will follow in the garden of the Nathaniel Russell House. Evening dinner will be on your own.

On Friday morning our chartered bus will escort us to a tour of the Ashley River Plantation, beginning with a guided tour of the gardens of Magnolia Plantation (c. 1761) followed by a guided tour of Middleton Place Gardens (c. 1741), including a traditional Low country Buffet Lunch. We return in the afternoon to attend the King Street Tour of 8-10 private houses and gardens offered as part of Historic Charleston's 65th Annual Festival of Houses and Gardens. Evening dinner will be on your own.

Saturday morning will begin with a private, connoisseur's tour of the Nathaniel Russell House (c. 1808). This grand federal-style dwelling is considered to be one of the finest houses in the city. Then we will have an interpretive walking tour to 3 private gardens that exemplify Charleston garden style, including picnic lunch at a house and/or garden. After some time in the afternoon for shopping or browsing, we will meet as a group for a farewell dinner at a private room at Anson's Restaurant.

Group rooms have been blocked with the Marriott Renaissance Charleston Historic District Hotel. The group room rate is \$250 per night, single or double occupancy. Reservations must be made individually no later than **Tuesday March 6, 2012, by calling Marriott at (843) 534-0300 using reference: University of Tennessee Arboretum Society Room Block.** If you are a Marriott Rewards member be sure to include your Rewards Number with your reservation to earn points.

*The tour is limited to 40 participants. Please return the attached registration form by **March 1, 2012**, to secure your registration including a \$100 non-refundable deposit per person in the form of a check made payable to UTAS. Please send to **PO Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382, Attn: "Charleston House & Garden Tour"** Final payment is due on or before **April 1, 2012.***

The tour includes round trip bus transportation to Charleston, admission to all attractions and gardens, Friday lunch at Middleton Place, a picnic lunch on Saturday, and Saturday farewell group dinner at Anson's Restaurant. The cost of the tour is outlined below. A \$50.00 discount is available to UTAS members. If you are not a UTAS member and wish to join, please complete the membership application with your remittance.

Tour Cost Per Person

Tour cost Per Person	\$725.00	Transportation & Garden Fees
Less UTAS discount	<u>-\$50.00</u>	UTAS Members discount
Cost less members discount	\$675.00	Total for Members

For more information, please call Dennis or Jan Superczynski 675-8502

Reservation Form 2012 Charleston House & Garden Tour	UTAS 2012 Membership Application
Name_____Phone_____	Name_____Phone_____
Additional members in your party:	Address_____
	City_____State____Zip_____
	E-Mail_____
Address_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Society Friend \$100 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family \$45
City_____State____Zip_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30
E-Mail_____	Contribution: UTAS General Fund \$_____
Please indicate amount enclosed \$_____	Elmore Holly Collection Fund \$_____ <i>All</i>
	<i>memberships and contributions are tax deductible.</i>
Mail with your deposit, by March 1, 2012, to:	Mail, with a separate check, to:
UTAS	UTAS
P.O. Box 5382	P.O. Box 5382
Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382	Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382

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

Email & Membership Notes

We need your email addresses so that you don't miss out on important information. We never share your email address with anyone else. Please send an email to emily@jernigans.net and we will add you to our database.

If your email address changes, please notify me. You may need to add us to your address book so our emails don't get sent automatically to 'junk' or the trash.

If your mailing address changes, please notify us. The Post Office charges us for every piece of returned mail. Send an email to emily@jernigans.net.

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

UTAS Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

New _____ Renewal _____

Society Friend \$100 _____ Patron \$500 _____

Family \$45 _____ Individual \$30 _____ Student \$15 _____

Contribution: UTAS General Fund \$ _____

Elmore Holly Collection Fund \$ _____

All memberships and contributions are tax deductible.

Mail this form and a check to:

UTAS

P.O. Box 5382

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382

Stumped?

If Chestnut trees aren't extinct, what's going on with them, and can I start growing some?

The page 1 article describes how American chestnuts are only 'effectively extinct.' Growing your own blight-resistant specimen, one that's 94% American chestnut and has been developed by [TACF](http://www.tacf.org), is somewhat of a challenge. According to TACF's website, "TACF's breeding program is based on a minimum of six generations. We began testing our sixth generation seed in 2007 and will continue to test for the foreseeable future. ...TACF has limited quantities of backcross chestnuts that are expected to be highly blight-resistant and very American in character. These seed are for initial testing and research and are not available to the general public. However, small amounts of



seed are available to TACF members on a seniority basis, i.e. the longer one has been a member the more likely one will be able to receive seed for the cost of shipping and handling. Additionally, TACF Sponsor-level members now have access to some of these seeds for testing purposes. For more information on this program, click [here](#)." You can contact the [TN chapter](#) of TACF and find out more about their activities and perhaps volunteer to help with some of their projects.

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

'Foster Parents' for Plants Dig In

Eight UTAS volunteer plant growers gathered at the UT Arboretum greenhouse on Saturday, January 12, to pot-up over 90 plant liners.

These work session volunteers were joined by four other "foster plant parents" who will care for the plants until the 2013 Spring Plant Sale. The plants included two crape myrtle varieties, 'Whit II' [Dynamite](#) and 'Whit III' [Pink Velour](#) and [Vitex agnus-castus \(Chastetree\)](#) 'Shoal Creek'. The plant growers include: **Barbra Bunting, Lynn Carlson, Janet Cushman, Lee Ann & Norm Dobbs, Ken Farrell, Stacy Fuller, Pat Hunsicker, Dick Raridon, Tom Row and Irene Sullivan**. If you're interested in this project, call **Norm Dobbs** at 482-6656 or nadobbs@bellsouth.net.



Ready, set, plant! Volunteers will care for plants until they 'grow up' and get big enough for our Spring 2013 Plant Sale. Photo by Norm Dobbs.

Trillium Planting

On December 22, 8 UTAS volunteers planted 50 *Trillium luteum* that were donated by Craig Voris of Dyrad Woodworks, a seed-propagated trillium nursery in Loudon, TN. This is the second year that the Arboretum has benefited from Craig's generosity. After selecting the planting locations and being given specific instructions, the volunteers began putting the 8-year old trilliums in the ground. In the spring, look for their yellow blooms on either side of the wooden steps on the Lost Chestnut Trail, south of the Valley Road. UTAS trillium planting volunteers included **Janet and Bob Cushman, Norm Dobbs, Ken Farrell, Stacey Fuller, Evelyn Lorenz, Peggy Mahoney and Bob Reed**.



Trillium planters resting after adding 50 new plants to the Arboretum grounds. Photo by Norm Dobbs.



UTAS Resources

Board of Directors

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President: Charles Samuels	Emily Jernigan
Vice-president: Jeff Holt	Evelyn Lorenz
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Treasurer: Wendy Packan	Debbie Roberts
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Ken Farrell	Irene Sullivan
Stacey Fuller	Beverly Woods
Pat Hunsicker	<i>Ex Officio</i>
	Kevin Hoyt

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

Help Wanted

- Get a little spring outdoor exercise, learn about hollies, and help keep our Elmore Holly Collection in tiptop shape. Contact **Dennis Superczynski**, 865-607-8512 or jandport@tds.net
- We always need volunteers to work at the Plant Sale. Contact **Norm Dobbs**, 865-482-6656 or nadobbs@bellsouth.net.

Ongoing

- **Native Plant Group** meets the third Wednesday most months. **Lee Ann Dobbs**, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
- **Plant Collections Committee**: identify existing specimens, select, buy and plant new and or replacement plants, etc. **Lynn Carlson**, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu
- **Choose Your Own Spot!** Let us know what tickles your fancy. Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

Thanks!

Beverly Woods, outgoing board member, provided invaluable help, particularly in getting volunteers for our plant sales and in assisting with several of our social events. We'll miss her!

Katie Cottrell and **Kathy Strunk** of Clinch River Raptor Center, and **John Byrd**, for bringing owl joy to more than 200 adults and children at the last Owl Prowl.

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 recently fulfilled its pledge of a \$500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over \$40,000 to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum.

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- **Thomas Looney** - 865-974-8622

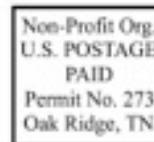
UT Arboretum -**Kevin Hoyt** - 865-483-3571

UT Arboretum Society -**Tom Row** 482-9096

To contribute to the Endowment Fund, make your check payable to the University of Tennessee and indicate in the memo line that you want your contribution credited to the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund. Mail it to the UT Institute of Agriculture, Development Office, 107 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle, Knoxville, TN 37996-4502.

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

www.otalumni.utk.edu/givetout



P.O. Box 5382
 Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.



*Our dedicated UT Forestry Resources Research and Education Center (FRREC) staff:
 Front row – (L-R) Martin Schubert, Kevin Hoyt, Tony Garner
 Second row – (L-R) Brian Madden, Yvonne Hitchcock, Lynne Lucas, Bo Duncan, Todd Hamby, Mike Trammel*

Upcoming Events

Feb. 25 Father/Daughter Hike - 9 a.m.

Mar. 10 or 17 (TBD) - Plant Care Workshop

Apr. 7 Holly Work Day - 9 a.m. - noon

Apr. 11-15 Tour to Historic Charleston

Apr. 20, 21 Plant Sale