

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No. 41 — Winter 2016

Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring Garden Tour

This year's tour takes us to outstanding gardens and includes private tours hosted by Pearl Fryar and Jenks Farmer, acclaimed plantsmen.

Pages 8 & 9

Spring Plant Sale

We have more of the special 'Rising Sun™' Redbuds that sold out first thing last year. And we're adding another new Redbud, 'Alley Cat', a variegated-leaf beauty. miss out!

Page 4

Calendar

Feb. 25 Rain Gardens/Stormwater lecture with Dr. Andrea Ludwig of UT

Feb. 27 Plant 50,000 Tree Day

Apr. 2 Holly Work Day

Apr. 2 Wildflower Walk with Kris Light

Apr. 14 "Landscaping with Native Plants" talk by Hank Bruno, horticulturist

Apr. 15-16 Spring Plant Sale

Memorial & Honorific Bench Plaques Now Available

UTAS and the UT Arboretum are happy to announce that we now offer memorial and honorific plaques for those who would like to remember or honor someone special. These plaques will be placed on wooden benches sited throughout the Arboretum. Only one plaque may be attached to each bench and the wording and general appearance will conform with our approved standards. Currently the minimum donation for a plaque is \$500 and this goes to benefit, maintain, and preserve the UT Arboretum.

Our first two benches have plaques in place. One is a memorial to Edwin and Margaret Phares by their daughters, Patty and Anne. The other is a memorial to Laurie and John Bigelow by their son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Janet Bigelow. Contact the Arboretum office, 865-483-3571, if you'd like more information about the plaques or to join the Phares and Bigelows and have a bench with a plaque made just for you.



Patty and Anne Phares



Edwin & Margaret Phares



Tim Bigelow

Director's Desk

"When I no longer thrill to the first snow of the season, I'll know I'm growing old" ~Lady Bird Johnson

Although the first snow of the season can bring a myriad of issues and surprises it also brings a level of excitement, wonder, and eager anticipation. I have fond childhood memories of my Doylestown, Pennsylvania elementary school being cancelled after the first big snowfall. We'd spend the whole day sledding and building snow forts. Now it's February 2016 and as I sit here at my computer, anticipating this winter's snow, I can't help but to think about last year's snows that began in December and continued through the early part of February. Throughout that time UT closed down many times and I had to close the gate at the Arboretum due to snow and ice safety issues. Not only did we get above average snowfall during that 2+ month time, we got freezing rain and ice that covered the grounds, roads, and trails. The parking lot and my driveway were transformed into a solid sheet of ice that persisted for several days. I hope that won't happen this year.

Despite some of these issues, I really enjoy the wintertime snows at the Arboretum. So do visitors! Last winter's "crystalized water-vapor" events brought them out in droves to enjoy the Arboretum in its snowcapped blanket. This even occurred when the gate was locked and we were officially closed by UT. People just parked on the Illinois Avenue shoulder and walked in to enjoy and experience the magnificent winter wonderland. The snows truly provide the public with an opportunity to experience the Arboretum in a tranquil, quiet state, and to view the abundant wildlife that tend to be more active in search of food. Observing this interaction of winter weather, wildlife, and woodland is truly one of life's great experiences, and the UT Arboretum offers that to all who visit us.

We have many activities planned throughout this year so stay tuned for notices about the events. Please visit our website: <http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

Presidents' Letter

2016 is a year of important changes for UTAS. Last year was our 50th year of support for the Arboretum. We celebrated by ramping up our activities from approximately one per month to at least two per month. This year we will keep up that pace and expand our capacity for larger public participation numbers.

For example, last year 120 people attended the first New Year's Day Hike, about 90 more than expected. This year, despite Tennessee's noon bowl game, almost 100 people started off 2016 at the Arboretum.

Our Father-Daughter Hike, led by Jeff Holt for 7 years, has a similar pattern. This year more than 80 fathers and daughters were led on hikes by Jeff and Arboretum Director Kevin Hoyt, many for the first time.

A new 2016 activity is a butterfly-themed festival on July 30. Taking place at the auditorium and the program shelter with a variety of events throughout the day, it brings a different kind of family focused experience to UTAS and the Arboretum. Stay tuned!

Our organizational infrastructure is also expanding. Janet Bigelow and I are Co-presidents this year. We're adding members to our teams involved with public outreach, event planning, and membership. **Melanie Staten** continues to pump out publicity many people rely on for information on our events. And our UTAS email list will exceed 500 in the next couple of months.

UTAS continues to move forward with new ideas and new people. We're building on our traditional activities and have many new faces among our experienced members and volunteers. If we keep this up, we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary, too!

These expansions only add to our ongoing efforts, including the Native Plant Group; the events and membership committees; the Holly Task Force; the plant sales; and our Christmas Parade Float team.

Clearly, the success that UTAS enjoys is a group effort and it is fun. As I have said before, if you are interested in joining any of these activities to learn and share your knowledge, or if you have any ideas beyond these, I invite you to contact Janet or me.

~Charlie Jernigan, charlie@jernigans.net,
865-482-4836

~Janet Bigelow, janet_bigelow@tds.net,
865-675-3822

Co-presidents

Upcoming Events

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

“More Sponge, Less Duck: How to Make a Water-Healthy Landscape” talk by Dr. Andrea Ludwig

Thursday, February 25 6 p.m. Arboretum Auditorium

This program will be presented by **Dr. Andrea Ludwig**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science at the UT Institute of Agriculture.

Taking advantage of the last bit of the evening’s daylight, the program will begin with a walk outside the auditorium to look at a site slated for a rain garden. Dr. Ludwig will discuss the “stormwater footprint” of the auditorium building and how building a rain garden will help reduce runoff downstream.

Conventional development practices often leave landscapes thirsty for rain due to the increase in impervious surfaces and prevalence of poor soils quality. These conditions impede rainwater from soaking into the soils and nourishing plants. In this presentation Dr. Ludwig will discuss ways to improve our community and residential landscapes with techniques like rain gardens and grassy swales that allow the rain to soak in.

An ecological engineer, Dr. Ludwig works in the areas of stream restoration and watershed management. She conducts research into effective practices for decreasing non-point source pollution in the state’s watersheds.

50K Tree Planting Day

Saturday, February 27 11 a.m. 299 Edgemoor Rd.

The 50K Tree Day is a statewide effort to plant 50,000 trees in one hour throughout Tennessee. On Saturday, February 27th, Oak Ridge's Healthy Waters Program will host a tree planting at 299 Old Edgemoor Rd, across the street from Centennial Golf Course. Planting will begin at 11 AM and end at 12 PM. We want to plant as many trees as possible. It is free to participate, but you must sign up. Trees are donated by the TN Dept. of Forestry, and the number of trees we receive depends on the number of volunteers we have.

David and Betty Lou Alspaugh, Janet Bigelow, John Bryd, Kathy Fahey, Lynda Haynes, Charlie Hensley, and Gene Sanslow are the UTAS volunteers, a group organized by **Lynda Haynes**.

To sign up, email or call Stephanie Carlson at scarlson@oakridgetn.gov or 865-805-4678.

Garden Tools Workshop with Downtown Hardware


Saturday, March 5 10 a.m. to Noon Arboretum Auditorium

A spring garden tool workshop will be offered on March 5, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the UT Arboretum Auditorium Follow the signs from the Arboretum parking lot up to the Auditorium where parking will be provided for the event.

The workshop will be led by **Roger Clary of Downtown Hardware** and **David Waugh of Husqvarna**. The workshop will focus on the use and maintenance of chainsaws, lawnmowers, garden hand tools and sprayers.

This is a free event and we welcome donations to help support the UT Arboretum Society and its programs.

Holly Days

Saturday, April 2 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Elmore Holly Collection 

Join the Holly Task Force and learn about hollies: planting, pruning, mulching. Complimentary holly information booklets will be available from the Holly Society of America for identifying and caring for your hollies. Our own **Dr. Willard Witte** will be available with expert advice on hollies. Earn Master Gardener credits while you support and help maintain the world-acclaimed Elmore Holly Collection in The University of Tennessee Arboretum..

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

The Holly Task Force: Carmen and Josie Gianforte, Fran Scheidt, Mike Stansberry, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Dr. Will Witte

Spring Wildflower Walk with Kris Light

Saturday, April 2 12 p.m. Arboretum

Kris Light will again lead a fun, educational and easy walk to hunt for the wildflowers blooming at the Arboretum. Kris is an expert naturalist, educator, and photographer.

Participants may want to bring a camera to take pictures of the many wildflowers on the Arboretum grounds.

“Give it Up for a Cause” Chamber Event

Tuesday, April 5 8 to 9:30 a.m. Pollard Auditorium

This Oak Ridge Chamber-sponsored Rise & Shine event is a gathering that provides networking opportunities for area not-for-profit groups. Kevin Hoyt and UTAS volunteers will have a table with information about the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, the Arboretum and UTAS. Volunteer to help out or stop by and say hello.

Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring Garden Tour

Tuesday, April 5 through Thursday, April 7

Read all about our fantastic tour in this edition of *Branches*. We'll visit gardens large and small with everything from topiaries to orchids; have a private tour of a large nursery; and even go see a 134-year-old opera house. These tours are filled with others who like travel, plants, good food, and friendship. We'll have two tours presented by extraordinary plantsmen who will tell us about their creations and show us the results of their imaginations and persistence and hard work - something unavailable to most travelers. Join us for a fun and garden filled 3 days.

“Landscaping with Native Plants” talk by Hank Bruno

Thursday, April 14 6:30 p.m. Arboretum Auditorium

Hank Bruno currently works on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina, for SSC Service Solutions of Knoxville. Previously he has held the position of Director of Horticulture at Callaway Gardens in Georgia and at Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, North Carolina. His extensive background in horticulture and his longtime interest in native plants will be a perfect kickoff to our 2016 Spring Plant Sale.

Spring Plant Sale

Friday, April 17, 5–7 p.m. *Members Only - Join at the door.*
Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. *Open to All Arboretum*



We accept credit cards. Sale now ends at 2 p.m.

Good news! We will have two very special Redbuds at our sale this spring. The "Rising Sun™" Redbud with its bright golden foliage and "Alley Cat", a beautiful new variegated introduction, will both be offered. We have about 100 of these Redbuds available for this sale. The "Rising Sun™" plants sold out very early last spring. Become a member at www.utarboretumsociety.org or join at the sale if you don't already belong to UTAS. Then you can shop on Friday, April 15 when the sale is open to Members Only.

A group of volunteers led by **Norm Dobbs** potted up the 100 Redbuds that will be sold at the sale.

Our regular vendors, [Beaver Creek Nursery](#) and [Riverdale Nursery](#), Knoxville; [East Fork Nursery](#), Sevierville; and [Sunlight Gardens](#), Andersonville will be there, helping support the Arboretum and UTAS. We'll also have plants from the UT Arboretum Society's members and friends. **Dr. Will Witte**, the Society's "Answer Man," will be there to answer all your plant questions and help you choose plants suitable for your particular circumstances.

Proceeds from this sale and other Society events go to support and secure the future of the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge.

Events Roundup

Fall Plant Sale

Norm Dobbs and all his volunteer helpers put on another excellent plant sale. Our regular vendors, [Beaver Creek Nursery](#) and [Riverdale Nursery](#), Knoxville; [East Fork Nursery](#), Sevierville; and [Sunlight Gardens](#), Andersonville, were there. Many thanks go to Center Director **Kevin Hoyt** and his staff members **Yvonne Hitchcock**, **Bo Duncan**, and **Mike Trammell** for their help.

Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell, Kathy Strunk, John Byrd, and the Clinch River Raptor Center

We had a very good turnout for this popular family oriented event. **Kathy Strunk**, **Katie Cottrell**, and **John Byrd** of the [Clinch River Raptor Center](#) brought some live birds to help us get more familiar with the raptors. After their presentation we went out into the woods to see if we could hear any owls.

Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

More than 80 people enjoyed the UTAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, held again this year at the Elks Lodge in Oak Ridge. **Lynda Haynes** and **Pat Row** headed this event.

After dinner and a business meeting, Center Director **Kevin Hoyt** thanked all the UTAS volunteers who contribute so much to making the Arboretum the special place that it is. He gave a review of the past year, highlighting the completion of the Auditorium in October after many years of fundraising and efforts by UTAS and UT.

Tom Looney, Director of Development at the UT Institute of Agriculture, updated us on the Endowment and reminded us that UTAS is the oldest society group supporting UT. UTAS presented checks for \$15,000 to support Arboretum operations and \$10,000 to the Endowment.

After election of officers and the board, UTAS President **Charlie Jernigan** gave a Distinguished Service Award to **Lynda Haynes** for

her many years of work in a variety of areas to support UTAS and the Arboretum.

Our speaker was **Morton Massey**, a passionate birder for much of his life. He helped organize and start the Friends of Seven Islands Birding State Park in 2015 and now serves as President of that organization and volunteers there several days a week.

We had another very successful Silent Auction. Thank you to all who donated to and participated in the silent auction. **Ann & Lou Arnold**, **Lynda Haynes**, **Pat & Tom Row**, **Julie Watts**, **Janet Bigelow**, **Wendy Packan & Dan Claus**, **Charles Samuels**, **Evelyn Lorenz**, **Emily & Charlie Jernigan**, **Lee Ann and Norm Dobbs**, **Huey Sides**, **Willow Reed**, **Will & Jean Witte**, **Lynn Carlson**, **Melody Turner**, **Marti & Gary Salk**, **Peggy Mahoney**, **Dennis Superczynski**, **the Buckhorn Inn**, **Wild Birds Unlimited**, and **Willow Ridge Nursery**

2nd Annual New Year's Day Hike

About 90 people showed up at on New Year's morning to start 2016 by gathering in the new Auditorium before starting off on one of 3 different hikes of varying degrees of difficulty. Some of the attendees were newcomers to the Arboretum, and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie as well as the exercise. The Elmore Holly Collection was again a highlight with its berry-covered plants shining brightly in the winter sun.

This event was organized by **Janet Bigelow**, **Emily and Charlie Jernigan**, **Julie Watts**, and **Charlie Samuels** with a lot of help from **Kevin Hoyt** and **Yvonne Hitchcock** of the Center.

"Eye on Japan" talk by Jeff Holt

Longtime UTAS member and forester **Jeff Holt** shared numerous slides demonstrating the incredible diversity and beauty of design elements in Japan. Jeff and Lecie visited their son and daughter-in-law who were living there. Jeff took photos during 2013 stay in a traditional Japanese house in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture in western Honshu, about an hour outside of Hiroshima. The images depicted objects large and small, manmade and the natural environment, closeup and long range. He shared some of them with a group of about 50 people who attended his talk. It was a visual feast for all of us. Thank, Jeff.

Federated Garden Clubs and HGTV Home and Garden Show Booth

For the first time in several years UTAS had a table at this show. We joined forces with the Holly Society of America to help advertise UTAS and our activities, including the Spring Plant Sale. Our table was at the upper level near the escalator so many people passed by during the 3-day event and saw our posters and the camellia, witch hazel, and holly plants that [Beaver Creek Nursery](#) provided as part of our display. Volunteers included **Julie Watts**, **Bob DeVault**, **Janet Bigelow**, **Wendy Packan**, **Kevin Hoyt**, **Randy Stewart**, **Lynda Haynes**, **Kathy Fahey**, **Charlie & Emily Jernigan**, **Melody & Doug Turner**, **Will Witte**, **Dennis & Jan Superczynski**, **Mary Ann Piper**, **Fran Scheidt**, and **Mary Mishu**.

Committee Reports

Holly Task Force

The Holly Task Force met on Saturday morning October, 10 for its annual Fall Holly Work Day, providing an opportunity for volunteers to plant 13 new holly cultivars. Some of these hollies were brought back from the Holly Society of America 2014 Annual Meeting at Rutgers and others were donated by Vivian Abney of East Fork Nursery. All were repotted last fall and overwintered in the Arboretum greenhouse.

The work day was scheduled earlier this year since the customary November date has proven to be too uncomfortable for outdoor activities. Although the Friday and Saturday rain was welcome, it reduced the number of volunteers available for the work day. However, thanks to Norm & Lee Ann Dobbs, Lucie Jones, Jim Mee, Fran Scheidt, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Dr. Will Witte, and Arboretum Director Kevin Hoyt, all designated hollies were planted, mulched, and protected with deer fencing. Before the work day the Holly Task Force met with Director Hoyt to determine the plant locations. Holes were then dug by arboretum staff. This helped tremendously to ease the planting process and we met all the objectives for our annual fall planting and maintenance of the Elmore Holly Collection.

Following the work day, a special celebration by the Oak Ridge Garden Club was held in the Elmore Holly Collection to recognize Sarah Aldridge, a longtime member of the Oak Ridge Garden Club. Sarah was being recognized for her countless hours of dedication to the Oak Ridge community as four time President of the Oak Ridge Garden Club, a judge in wildflower competitions, and for decorating the entrance lobby of Oak Ridge Museum of Science and Energy. An Ilex attenuate 'Blazer' holly was planted in the Elmore Holly Collection to honor Sarah for her years of service to the community. 'Blazer', acquired from Beaver Creek Nursery, is a female holly displaying bright red berries against its glossy dark green leaves. Thirty-six people, including Director Kevin Hoyt, Holly Task Force members, family members, and friends, attended the celebration followed by a reception in the Arboretum office.

On November 12 the Holly Task Force invited The Gardener's Forum, a Knoxville group of men and women with the interest in gardening, conservation, beautification, and plant life, to visit and explore the Elmore Holly Collection. Dr. Witte led the nine participants, explaining the history and significance of the collection. The session concluded with planting I. opaca 'Princeton Gold' a female American holly with dark green spiny leaves and vivid golden yellow berries that persist into the winter. This holly was donated to the Elmore Holly Collection by Pleasant Run Nursery in Allentown, Pennsylvania at the 2014 Holly Society Meeting at Rutgers University. You can't miss it driving or walking the road to the arboretum shelter; it's on the left just as you pass the entrance to the holly collection.

~Dennis Superczynski

The Holly Task Force: Carmen and Josie Gianforte, Fran Scheidt, Mike Stansberry, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Dr. Will Witte

Native Plant Group

Lee Ann Dobbs, chair of this group, reports that in March they will resume their work of improving the grounds around the Visitors Center and in the parking lot. Contact her if you'd like to help with this group that has fun while helping keep the Arboretum look its best. **Lee Ann Dobbs**, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net.

UTAS Parade Float Wins Chamber of Commerce Award For 3rd Year!

For the third year UTAS and the UTA worked together to create a float for the Oak Ridge Christmas Parade. The theme was "Winter Wonderland" and our float won the Chamber of Commerce's award for the outstanding entry presenting and illustrating the parade's theme. Our 2016 float consisted of winter scenes with a snowman, a Christmas tree provided by the UT Arboretum, and a ski mountain and a skier just off the slope. The float was covered with snow, icicles, and snow flakes. **Marti Salk** knitted white ski hats and **Janet**

Cushman made white scarves decorated with sparkling snow crystals for the walkers.

Lynda Haynes spearheaded this endeavor with her ideas, enthusiasm, hard work, and determination. We could not have done this without the help of **Kevin Hoyt** and his crew, **Yvonne Hitchcock** and **Bo Duncan**, outstanding members of Kevin's team. Yvonne and Bo even showed up for the parade to drive the truck pulling the float and fix last-minute details despite being sick.

Walking and handing out candy this year were **Betty Lou and David Alspaugh, Lynda Haynes, Jeff and Lecie Holt, Charlie Jernigan, and Don Searle**.

Helping to build the float were **David Alspaugh, Janet Bigelow, Lee Ann Dobbs, Kathy Fahey, Lynda and Chuck Haynes, Gene Sanslow, and Melody Turner**.

Stumped?



I've seen people working on the outside of the Visitors Center. What's going on?

The exterior of the building is getting a fresh coat of paint now. The sidewalk entry to the building will be leveled and repaved. This spring it will get a new roof and this summer the deck on the back of the building will be rebuilt. We have about 30,000 visitors to the Arboretum every year and this work will present a fresh and improved face to them.

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

New & Renewing Members -Thanks!

John & Val Alexander	John Hill
David & Betty Lou Alspaugh	Kevin & Lisa Hoyt
Nancy Basford	Ken & Shirley Kaiser
Teresa & Ray Brittain	Joanie Koehn
Michael Brown/Betty Evans	Anne McKenzie
Julie Carey	James C Mee
Rachel Carlson	Fred & Linda O'Hara
Evelyn Crass	Faye O'Neal
Deborah Cutler	Rebecca Phillips
Norman & Lee Ann Dobbs	Willow & Bob Reed
Richard & Carole Evans	Gary & Joretta Schneider
Kenneth Farrell	Nicholas St Sauveur
Heather, Erik, Jacob, & Nathan Ferragut	Melanie & Vince Staten
Arissa Garden Club	Irene Sullivan
David Graham	Dennis & Jan Superczynski
Gary & Carol Grametbauer	Bruce & Janet Waldschmidt
Mary Hall	Nyta Wall
James Henry	Don & Janis Williams
Charlie Hensley	* Denotes Society Friend

Fall Plant Sale Volunteers-Thanks!

A very special thanks goes to all volunteers who worked more than one shift and one day. Thanks also to **Joann Johnson** and **Peggy Mahoney** for doing the calling. 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.

David Alspaugh	Peggy Mahoney
Nancy Basford	Jim Mee
Faye Beck	Mary Mishu
Janet Bigelow	Eileen Neiler
Kathy Bracic	Gail Nichols
Lynn Carlson	Joanna Partain
Julie Carey	Hella Peterson
Janet & Bob Cushman	Susan Peterson
Lee Ann & Norm Dobbs	Dick Raridon
Kathy Fahey	Susan Reed
Ken Farrell	Pat Row
Eric & Heather Ferragut	Gary & Marti Salk
Gail Hawkins	Charlie Samuels
Lynda Haynes	Gene Sanslow
Lecie & Jeff Holt	Fran Scheidt
Theresa Holzclaw	Don Searle
Pat Hunsicker	Huey Sides
Paula Keefe	Melanie Staten
Joanie Keehn	Dennis Superczynski
Larry Landau	Ken Taulbee
Evelyn Lorenz	Melody & Doug Turner
Sharon Lucking	Julie Watts

Outgoing Board Members

We bid a fond farewell to board members **David Alspaugh**, **Janet Cushman**, and **Linda Kimmel**. Although they are leaving their board positions, they are not leaving UTAS. David and Janet are faithful volunteers with the Native Plant Group, and Linda is part of the Membership Committee. Thanks, David, Janet, and Linda, for your work on the board.

Welcome, New Board Members!

Kathy Fahey: I graduated from UT from many years ago. My roots run deep in Tennessee and my blood runs orange. I am excited to be a part of the Arboretum Society. I love the great outdoors and am looking forward to helping the society progress and achieve its goals of helping sustain the UT Arboretum. I also will welcome any advice the members can share with me because rocks seem to be the only thing I can't kill. I look forward to working with you, Kathy Fahey.

Editor's note: Kathy has been active in UTAS for several years already. She'll conduct a workshop in August on making a leaf print in concrete.

Heather Ferragut grew up in rural northeast Pennsylvania on a farm. She received her undergraduate degree in Sociology/Anthropology from Ursinus College in PA. She obtained a Masters in Nonprofit Management from Regis University and Masters in Sociology from Sam Houston State University.

Heather currently works from home as a full time Sociology Instructor for Columbia Southern University. Heather has been married for 18 years to Erik who is currently employed at ORNL as a Mathematician. She has 15-year-old twin boys. Heather enjoys gardening, playing tennis, and walking. She is looking forward to being part of the UT Arboretum Society board and learning more about plants and birding.

Editor's note: Heather and her family have helped at the plant sales. She has also agreed to become the new Editor of Branches this summer.

Patricia D. (Pat) Row: I am a "recycled" board member in that I was a member of the UTAS board for 13 years in the 90s and early 2000s. I was born in Harlan County, Kentucky, and lived from the age of 5 in Briceville in Anderson County, TN. I am married to Tom Row. We have a blended family of 7 children and their spouses and our wonderful 18 grandchildren. We also have 4 rescued cats who are all seniors now. I have one brother who lives in Andersonville, TN with his wife. I went to Lake City High School and Roane State Community College. I worked for 42 years in the administrative and project management fields before retiring in 2006.

My philosophy on life is that all things are possible through faith in our Creator who gives us strength, mercy, and grace. Prayer is a great conversation with God, and it is a powerful tool for all who believe. The ten commandments are the only laws necessary to keep us humane.

I look forward to again being part of the support group for the UT Arboretum. The Society is an important organization whose mission is to help sustain the Arboretum for the community. It is one of the jewels in our area that is a well-kept secret. We as a board continue to work to make the Arboretum a well-known community resource that is available for all our neighbors and visitors from other areas.

Editor's note: Pat has been an stalwart member of UTAS and the board for many years. We're delighted to have her back on the board.

Don Williams was born and raised in Oak Ridge and lives there now with his wife, Janis. Janis is also a native Oak Ridger and she and Don met in the third grade. Together they raised two girls, Meg and Sarah, who each attended Oak Ridge schools. Don graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee with a major in history. Also a Phi Beta Kappa honoree, he earned a Master's degree in Modern European History there before switching to Law. He received a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1980.

Don started working for Southeast Service Corporation as a part-time janitor while he was in school. He held many different positions in his 38-year career there, serving his last 20 years as CEO and President of the company after the death of the death of its founder and his mentor, Baxter Lee.

An avid reader and hiker, including at the UT Arboretum, Don retired in late 2014 so he and Janis could travel together, with a special emphasis on keeping up with their two granddaughters. Don also keeps busy with two business interests, Northshore Pellissippi Storage, a climate controlled self-storage facility, and Tennessee Naturescapes, LLC, a native plants and shrub nursery located just outside Oak Ridge.

Editor's note: Don has jumped right in, volunteering for the trails committee and helping bring the idea of a Butterfly Festival to fruition this year.

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.

Windows

~Lynne Lucas

For the past 20 years I have witnessed the daily operations of the UT Forest AgResearch Center and Arboretum from two windows. First is the official office window, where everyone approaches with their questions and /or comments, and where I have been taught to give everyone the attention they deserve. Where all questions are important and all first impressions of the staff at the Center are initially made. It is from this window that I have seen and greeted visitors, some for their first visit. They often seem a bit lost, yet they are eager to learn what our Center is all about. I've seen parents and teachers who bring young people in to show them the wonder of the woods. And I have seen the joy in those young faces as they are enlightened by the bird nests, fossils, pinecones and other items we display.

The other window is beside my computer, where my eye strain is revived by the changing seasons, and scenes that travel across my vision. I've witnessed the wonderful work of the UTAS gardeners - who work magic in the gardens, share their bounty, and give of themselves so others can enjoy nature's beauty. There are also special treats that I see so unexpectedly; like the time I was typing away, and a deer came up to my window, enjoying the daylily blossoms. She was less than a foot from me, in no hurry, enjoying her lunch. It felt like a gift on a busy day. My window has provided the perfect view of the wildlife on the Center, be it deer in the mornings, or seeing the occasional turkey strut by—and I do love the chipmunks as they race across the asphalt, seeking shelter under some leaves. But I also like the still, quiet times – like after a shower or snow fall, when everything stops for just a moment, and you hold your breath and enjoy the view.

Both windows have given me friendships. Some lasted only a season, others a lifetime. There are my "ladies (and gentlemen) who walk." They visit several times each week, sometimes they chat, sometimes they just wave, but we both benefit from knowing we see each other and we are checking in. Many of the UTAS folks I count as friends. I've known some of you since my first day here, others are newer friends who are equally as special, and I am grateful to all of you for your help and friendship over the years.

Windows let in light, they protect us from the elements, and they give us a view of the world around us. I have been lucky. My windows have also given me a job that I loved for 20 years, and now an opportunity to discover a new and a different life beyond the glass.

Editor's note: Lynne Lucas retired after 20 years as an administrative specialist with the Center in December 2015. Her office at the Visitors Center looks out onto the Arboretum and into the Visitors Center. For all these years Lynne has been the friendly face that greets and helps most people who enter the building. UTAS members will miss her and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Welcome, Gail Gitens!

Gail Gitens now sits at that desk and has the view out two windows that Lynne had for 20 years. She transferred from the UT Forensic Academy. Stop by and introduce yourself to her.

Season's Turnaround

Dennis Superczynski

'Reasons abound for season's turnaround
 Morning light, misty and bright
 Gentle breeze, soft and light
 Stream gently through leafless branch
 Dewdrops ablaze in morning sun
 Resemble glittering lights of Christmas bright
 Snow in the glade resting in shade
 Holly berries delight
 With sight of sun's perfect light
 Red and Gold dance on backdrop of green and white
 Winter's Solstice not far behind
 Trees barren of leaves prepare for winters rest
 An abandoned nest, Evidence of new life.
 A blanket of snow on frozen ground,
 Shelter spring bulbs, Await season's turnaround.



Winter Wonderland Welcome at the UT Arboretum. Photo by Kevin Hoyt.



Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring Garden Tour



April 5—7, 2016

The 2016 University of Tennessee Arboretum Society annual garden tour takes us primarily to South Carolina. It features a diverse group of gardens, both nights in the same hotel, topiaries, orchids, and a garden center.

The 3-day bus tour begins on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 a.m. in Oak Ridge and Knoxville. Our first destination is lunch at [Pixie and Bills](#), Clemson's original fine dining establishment. After lunch it's only 5 minutes to Clemson University for a guided tour of the [South Carolina Botanical Garden](#). This 295-acre garden has a diverse collection of gardens, including those devoted to camellias, hydrangeas, dwarf conifers, hostas, wildflowers, xeriscape, flower displays, and hortotherapy. They also have an art gallery in the Visitors Center and a geology museum.

Our next stop is not far: the 30-acre [Asia Garden](#) and adjacent [Place of Peace](#) at Furman University in Greenville. Furman University has a long-term exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata, Osaka, Japan. The Asia Garden, formerly known as the Japanese Garden, reflects this relationship, and includes a small teahouse. The Place of Peace, an inter-generational temple, Hei-Sei-Ji, was located in Nagoya, Japan. A gift to Furman from the Tsuzuki family, it is the first authentic Japanese temple ever to be dismantled and fully reconstructed in America. In 2008 a team of thirteen Japanese artisans worked together to reconstruct the temple here on campus, connecting over 2,400 interconnecting pieces without the use of nails or screws. Since then, the Place of Peace and the adjoining Asia Garden have stood as an iconic centerpiece of Furman's campus.

We depart Furman and arrive for dinner at [Soby's](#) New South Cuisine restaurant, also in Greenville. After a delicious meal we'll head to the [Hampton Inn Opera House](#) in Newberry where we'll stay both nights of this tour.

On Wednesday morning we go to Bishopville for a visit to the internationally acclaimed [Pearl Fryar](#) Topiary Garden. We are so fortunate to have **Pearl Fryar** himself leading our group on a tour of his imaginative, whimsical, and inspiring topiary-filled garden. A documentary film about Pearl, *A Man Named Pearl*, has been shown in theaters and on PBS, and he has received numerous awards for his topiaries and his humanitarian work. Afterwards, we'll go across the street for a boxed lunch at Harry's and Harry's Too.

From Bishopville we travel to Columbia for a stroll through a couple of residential gardens in [Historic Columbia](#) before the short trip to [Riverbanks Zoo and Garden](#). Their website says, "Hailed by *Horticulture* magazine as one of 10 gardens that inspire and by HGTV as one of 20 great public gardens across America, Riverbanks Botanical Garden boasts 70 acres of unparalleled beauty." That endorsement is only part of the allure of this site for us. Renowned horticulturist and plantsman **Jenks Farmer** has graciously and generously offered to lead us on a tour of Riverbanks. He was the first curator of this garden and served as its director for 10 years. According to his [website](#), Jenks was also the "...founding horticulturist of [Moore Farms Garden](#). His designs for homes, museums, and businesses have received recognition and awards and have delighted hundreds of thousands of visitors with the joyful, easy exuberance of hand-crafted gardens." He and his partner, Tom Hall, also own and operate LushLife Nursery that specializes in crinum lilies. A number of crinums are planted at Riverbanks.

After our personalized tour we'll head to dinner at a local restaurant before we return to Newberry for the night.

Thursday morning after breakfast and check out at our hotel we walk across the street to the [Newberry Opera House](#) for a short guided tour of the restored 184-year-old facility.

We then board the bus for a 10 minute trip to [Carter and Holmes Orchids](#). One of their professional growers or staff members will talk about their company and show us different types of orchids. Afterwards we'll have a tour of the sales area and greenhouses with orchids and other tropical and hardy plants. Each tour member will be given a coupon for a \$6 discount on a plant purchase.

We return to Newberry for lunch at [Cabana](#) and then drive about 2 hours to [BB Barns Garden Center](#), a premier garden and landscape center near Asheville, NC, and a stop highly recommended by Faye Beck. BB Barns has 7 acres of plants, products, and gifts and will be the perfect final stop on our tour. Therese Figura will show us around the grounds and we will also meet with Ned Gibson, one of the owners. They are giving everyone a **20% discount** on one item! After loading our purchases into the bus, we head for home, perhaps stopping for a snack along the way.



Tour Details

The tour is limited to 30 participants, and is offered at this price with a minimum of 20 people. **Please return the attached registration form by March 8, 2015**, to secure your registration including a \$100 nonrefundable 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: "Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring GardenTour." **Final payment is due on or before March 22, 2015. We have a limited number of rooms at the hotel so reserve your space early!**

The tour includes round trip coach transportation from Oak Ridge and Knoxville, TN, admission to all sites, 2 nights at the [Hampton Inn Opera House](#) in Newberry, and Wednesday lunch at Harry's and Harry's Too in Bishopville. Breakfast is included with the hotel.

The cost of the tour is outlined below for double occupancy. A \$50.00 discount is applied for UTAS members. If you are not a member and wish to join, please complete the membership application with your remittance.

Tour Cost per Person

Tour cost per person	\$400	Bus transportation, hotel with breakfast, entrance fees, 1 lunch
UTAS member discount	-\$50	
Cost with member discount	\$350	Double Occupancy with UTAS membership
Single supplement	\$100	

For more information contact Emily Jernigan at 865-482-4836 or emily@jernigans.net or Peggy Mahoney at 865-482-4595 or peggymike13@comcast.net.

Reservation Form "Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring GardenTour"

Name _____ Phone _____

Additional members in your party:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail with your deposit **by March 8, 2016**, to:
UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382

UTAS 2016 Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Society Friend \$100 Family \$45

Patron \$500 Individual \$30

Contribution \$ _____ (All memberships and contributions are tax deductible)

Mail, with a separate check, to:
UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382

Plant a Pollinator Garden and Enjoy the Many Benefits

~ Melinda Myers, nationally recognized gardening expert

Whether planting a garden, enjoying the beauty of your landscape or sitting down to a delicious meal, you have bees, butterflies and other pollinators to thank. These essential members of our ecosystem are responsible for much of the food and beauty we enjoy each day.

Unfortunately pesticides and habitat loss are threatening their existence. There is something you can do to help. Turn your garden, backyard or balcony into a pollinator's habitat.

Plant a variety of flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen throughout the season. Planting masses of natives, herbs and other pollinator favorites like sedum, zinnias, alyssum, cosmos, and columbine will attract these beauties to your landscape. Include a variety of day and night blooming flowers in a variety of colors and shapes to support the widest range of pollinators. But don't let a lack of space dissuade you; even a window box of flowers can help.



Photo: Melinda Myers, LLC.

Keep your plants healthy and blooming with proper care. Match the plants to the growing conditions, provide needed water and fertilize with an organic nitrogen fertilizer like Milorganite when needed. You'll promote slow steady plant growth that is less susceptible to drought and pests. Plus the slow release low nitrogen won't interfere with flowering which is essential to the health and well being of our pollinators.

Supplement pollinators' diets with a bit of rotten fruit. And be sure to provide trees, shrubs, parsley, dill and other

plants that caterpillars, grubs and the immature stage of other pollinators prefer to feed upon. Put away the pesticides and tolerate a few holes in the leaves of their favorite plants. With a diversity of plants you can easily overlook the temporary leaf damage. Plus, this is a small price to pay for all the benefits they bring to the garden.

Provide pollinators with shelter from predators and the weather. Include a variety of trees, shrubs and perennials. Leave patches of open soil for ground nesting bees and some leaf litter to shelter some butterflies, bumblebees and other pollinating insects. Supplement natural shelter with commercial or homemade nesting boxes. You'll find do-it-yourself plans on the internet from various educational sources.

Puddles, fountains, birdbaths and even a damp sponge can provide needed water. Include water features with sloping sides or add a few stones to create easier access. Or sink a shallow container of sand in the ground. Keep it damp and add a pinch of sea salt for the butterflies and bees.

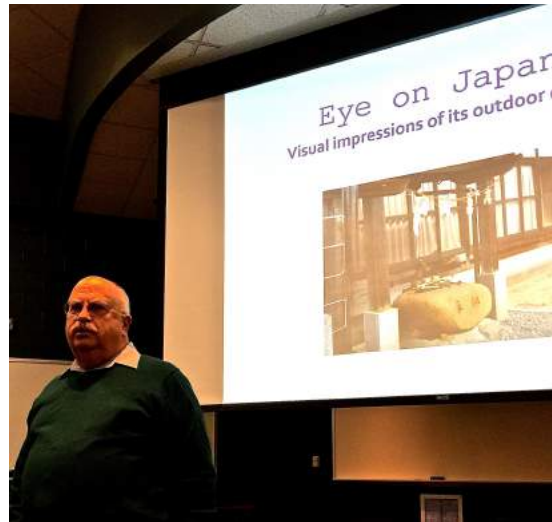
Maximize your efforts by teaming up with your neighbors. Together you can create a larger more diverse habitat that provides pollinators with the resources they need to thrive.

Your efforts will be rewarded with greater harvests, beautiful flowers and colorful birds and butterflies visiting your garden.

Article submitted by gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers. She has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and the Midwest Gardener's Handbook. She hosts the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments and is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' web site, www.melindamyers.com, offers gardening videos and tips.



UTAS Board retreat in the beautiful new Auditorium.



Jeff Holt talks about Japanese design.



The Laurie and John Bigelow memorial plaque.



UTAS Resources



**Celebrating
50 Years**



Board of Directors

Officers	Melinda Hillman
Presidents: Charlie Jernigan & Janet Bigelow	Pat Hunsicker
Vice-president: Pat Row	Emily Jernigan
Secretary: Lynda Haynes	Wendy Packan
Treasurer: Randy Stewart	Marti Salk
Past President:	Gene Sanslow
Charlie Samuels	Melanie Staten
	Melody Turner
	Julie Watts
	Don Williams
Board Members	<i>Ex Officio</i>
Kathy Fahey	Kevin Hoyt
Heather Ferragut	

Branches Editor Emily Jernigan
 Webmasters Charlie Jernigan & Betty Lou Alspaugh
 Database Manager Charlie Jernigan
 Plant Sale Chair Norm Dobbs

Thanks!

David Alspaugh, Janet Cushman, and Linda Kimmel for serving on the UTAS board
Kris Light led another Wildflower Walk
Norm Dobbs chaired the Fall Plant Sale
Katie Cottrell, Kathy Strunk, and John Byrd presented another fantastic Owl Prowl.
Morton Massey spoke at our Annual Dinner
Lynda Haynes and Pat Row organized the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction.
Lynda Haynes, with Kevin Hoyt and his crew, spearheaded the Christmas Parade Float project.
Emily and Charlie Jernigan, Charlie Samuels, Janet Bigelow, Julie Watts, Yvonne Hitchcock, and Kevin Hoyt put on the New Year's Day Hike.

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.utarboretumsociety.org
 Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com
 Facebook: UT Arboretum Society
 Via GPS: 901 S. Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
 35.9995, -84.2259



Like us on Facebook. Go to Facebook.com and enter "UTAS" or "UT Arboretum Society" in the search box to find us. We post meeting notices, photos, events, and interesting tidbits on our page. We also answer questions. Join the conversation!

*Design, writing, and editorial services donated by
Emily Jernigan, WordsWorth*

Looking to the Future...

The UT Arboretum Endowment Campaign

A \$3 million endowment campaign has been initiated to secure future funding for the UT Arboretum. The **Rogers Group** has fulfilled its pledge of a **\$500,000** Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over **\$101,000** to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum. We have received pledges for more than **\$700,000** for the Auditorium. It is now open!

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 Jernigan** 865-482-4836

For more information on Planned Giving visit this UT website: www.utfi.org/give-now.

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



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



Center Director Kevin Hoyt points out different areas of the Arboretum at the Father-Daughter hike. Photo by Charlie Jernigan

Check the mailing label for your membership renewal date.

Upcoming Events

- February 25** “More Sponge, Less Duck: How to Make a Water-Healthy Landscape” with Dr. Andrea Ludwig
- February 27** 50K Statewide Tree Planting Day
- March 5** Garden Tool Workshop with Downtown Hardware
- April 2** Holly Work Day
- April 2** Spring Wildflower Walk with Kris Light
- April 5—7** Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring Garden Tour
- April 14** Landscaping with Native Plants by
- April 15 & 16** Spring Plant Sale