

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No 6 - Spring 2007

UTAS President's Message

Norm Dobbs reminds UTAS members of the need to help fund the Endowment, and asks for volunteers to help with some of our new committees.

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Stumped? Ask us!

Help! I missed the pruning demonstration. Is there a good web site with tips for me?

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

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"Director's Desk" Richard Evans

A vision for the Arboretum's future, and some specifics about what the Endowment funds might provide.

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Spring Plant Sale

Rain or shine. Support UTAS! Featured Plant:

Viburnum

Fri. April 20 5-7, members only

Sat. April 21 9-3, all welcome

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Fun-Raising

Two new ways to support UTAS. We have Postcards and Gift Certificates. Spread the word!

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Upcoming Events

April 18 Earth Day Festival

April 20-21 Plant Sale

May 12 Bird Walk, Jason Mitchell

June 15-16 Secret City Festival

July TBA Invasive Plant Identification and Treatment, Jeff Holt
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Plant Sale Features Viburnum

Viburnums are versatile flowering shrubs that offer four-season interest, are easy to grow, and are the featured plant for the UTAS Spring 2007 Plant Sale. There are some 150 species of Viburnum, and numerous cultivars, with a large variation in shape, size and color. These adaptable plants are both evergreen and deciduous, and most offer fragrant spring flowers and beautiful, brightly colored fall berries. The flower clusters are usually white, although some are pink or pink-tinged.

Viburnums offer lovely and diverse fall leaf color. The flowers attract butterflies, and the fall berries are a magnet for birds.

Ranging in size from 2' to 30', they can be used for every-

thing from borders and foundation plantings to small specimens or elements of a mixed grouping. Some are perfect for container gardening, and many are deer-resistant. Most Viburnums prefer moist, well-drained and slightly acidic soil, and flower most freely with full sun. In general, these plants grow at a moderate to fast pace.



We will offer many different Viburnums, including some hard-to-find selections like 'Blue Muffin' and 'Mohawk.' We'll also have Shasta, Cardinal Candy, Mary Milton, Eskimo, Prague 3, setigerum, Kern's Pink, Newport, Popcorn, Summer Snowflake, and many others.

Joe Lamp'l, Certified Landscape Professional and host of "Fresh From the Garden" on the DIY Network, says about Viburnum: "If I were recommending only one genus to solve a multitude of landscape challenges, I can't imagine a more suitable plant."



In addition to Viburnum, our vendors and members will have many other plants for sale. **Beaver Creek** will have perennials, camellias, magnolias and small shrubs. **East Fork Nursery** will bring native azaleas, and other interesting plants. **Sunlight Gardens** will have wildflowers and perennials and more. Other vendors will sell perennials, shrubs, and unannounced surprises. Join or renew your membership at the door so you may shop early for best selection!

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





President's Letter

Our Spring Plant Sale is almost upon us. This year's featured plant is *Viburnum*. Thanks to Richard Raridon's efforts, we'll have several varieties from UTAS member Vivian Abney's East Fork Nursery in Sevierville, along with her always-awesome native azaleas.

We recently conducted two very successful events at the Arboretum. On March 10th, UTAS Board Member and Oak Ridge forester Jeff Holt led about 30 people on a two hour ramble, "Searching for Signs of Spring." That afternoon, over 100 people attended a "Pruning with the Pros" workshop. The Pros included Neal Denton, David Vandergriff, Tom Simpson and Richard Evans. The workshop attracted home gardeners and professional landscape personnel, with some people coming as far away as Johnson City. We collected over \$300 in donations from these events.

When asked for donations, many participants at the March 10th events indicated that they were unaware of the funding challenges facing the Arboretum. The University of Tennessee provides NO funding for the Arboretum or the Center out of its budget and earned funds. The Forest Center and the Arboretum are self-funded in that the monies we have to spend are either earned, from grants, or from donations/gifts.

UTAS's challenge and top priority now is to help provide monies that will support the annual operating expenses of the Arboretum and help publicize and fund the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund at least at the \$3 million level. We need to do this as rapidly as possible.

I urge all UTAS members to be good ambassadors for the Arboretum. You can aid the Society by renewing your membership, encouraging others to join, making financial contributions, and promoting the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund to friends and corporate citizens. Give us event suggestions and volunteer with our activities. Join one of our new committees. It's very easy to contact us. Simply go to our web site at www.utarboretumsociety.org and click on the 'contact us' link.

I see UTAS having three near-term goals: (1) significantly increasing revenues, donations and contributions, (2) increasing membership and (3) increasing the public's awareness and perception of UTAS and of the Arboretum: its presence, worth and benefit. We all need to work together to build excitement and interest in UTAS and the UT Arboretum.

To aid with these goals, our Board is now grouped into five committees: Fund-Raising, Public Relations, a Programs and Arboretum Enhancements, which will aid Richard Evans with plant collections, etc. We hope many of you will join one of these committees. Let us know if you're interested or desire additional information.

Norm Dobbs, UTAS President

nadobbs@bellsouth.net

Director's Desk

We continue to focus our efforts on the Arboretum Endowment. What exactly will the funds from the endowment be used for? We have a vision for using these funds in broad terms: expand the plant collection; improve facilities for the public's use and enjoyment of the Arboretum; enhance the care and maintenance of grounds and plants; employ an 'Arboretum Coordinator.' (See 'Looking to the Future' elsewhere in *Branches*.)

Let's start by revisiting the genesis of the vision. The focus of the Arboretum is people. It is not plants, trails, research, wildlife, etc., but what these features contribute to the welfare and quality of life for people. Our many and diverse constituents expressed a desire to have more and better Arboretum features to enhance their enjoyment and use of this facility. We used these desires to construct the vision. The most critical elements that emerged from an assessment of desires have been the enhancement of the plant collection, more education and outreach programs, and improved facilities like restrooms, benches, trails and paths, parking, etc. These enhancements cost money and this brings us to a point of diversion between needs and desires, and the challenging details of how to achieve our objectives.

The first objective, Phase 1, is to stabilize the loss and deterioration of those Arboretum amenities that presently serve the public's use: keep up the grounds maintenance, repair the trails, refurbish the plant labels and educational displays, etc. These cost about \$80,000 per year and are presently beyond our capabilities to sustain indefinitely. A second objective, Phase 2, would be to hire an Arboretum Project Coordinator. An additional person could help us grow the endowment, enhance programming, coordinate maintenance, development, and operations, and build a base of support from volunteers and docents. It takes about \$1M to fully endow the costs for a full time professional. That translates to about \$50-60,000 outlay per year.

For Phase 3 and beyond, an additional \$2M endowment (making a \$3M total endowment) can start us on the path of new initiatives, such as restroom facilities, more education programs and guided tours, enhanced plant collections, and other user-friendly features. The wish list is long and would be constrained by our imagination and the realities of "how, what, when, and where!"

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

~Richard Evans, Director

Spring Plant Sale 2007

MEET SOME OF OUR VIBURNUM STARS

'Aurora' (*V. carlesii*)

A relatively small (4-6') rounded plant. Its red buds become very fragrant, star-shaped, pale pink flowers in snowball clusters at the ends of its branches. Blue-black berries develop followed by wine-red fall foliage. It's a great butterfly attractant, and likes sun and medium-wet soil. A Royal Horticultural Society award winner.



'Blue Muffin' (*V. dentatum*)

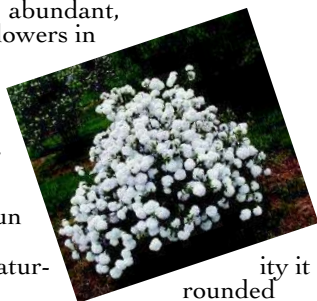
A Proven Winner®, this compact (3-5'), extremely durable Arrowwood Viburnum has many white spring flowers, and an amazing bounty of royal blue berries in fall. Glossy green foliage. The deer don't like it, but the songbirds do. Plant as a low hedge, a specimen, or in a container. Moderate growth rate, likes well-drained soil.

'Cardinal Candy' (*V. dilatatum*)

A Proven Winner®, this plant bears a profusion of creamy white flowers and thick clusters of shiny scarlet berries that appear in late summer. Deer resistant and drought tolerant, it grows to 5-6'. Multiple uses, including a specimen or foundation planting.

'Eskimo'

This has showy, abundant, white, tubular flowers in snowballs that attract butterflies in early May. It tolerates a variety of soils, but does best in partial sun with consistent moisture. At maturity it will be 4-5' in a rounded shape. Red fruits and good fall color add another season of interest. Dense, semi-evergreen foliage and easy care. Specimen, massed group, borders.



'Kern's Pink' (*V. plicatum tomentosum*)

A tried-and-true plant, this is similar to 'Mary Milton.' It has a charming mix of pink and white snowball flower clusters with distinct dark green and reddish-bronze foliage. It grows slowly to 6-10' tall.

'Mary Milton' (*V. plicatum*)

A pink Japanese Snowball doublefile cultivar, 'Mary Milton' is covered with powder pink snowballs in spring. The flower globes slowly turn white. It grows 8-10' in an upright form, and has red-blush new growth and dark green serrated leaves. Needs well-drained soil.

'Mohawk' (*V. x burkwoodii*)

A 1993 Gold Medal winner, 'Mohawk' combines fragrance, color, and easy growth. Dark red flower buds appear in March, followed by waxy, white/pink flowers that perfume the air with the spicy scent of cloves. Dark green leaves turn a beautiful orange-red in fall, accompanied by darker fruit. Grows to 8-10' tall and wide in sun with moist, well-drained soil. Disease-resistant.

'Newport' (*V. plicatum*)

Very compact cultivar of the Japanese snowball with creamy white, non-fragrant flowers in 3" clusters. Upright plant grows



moderately to about 4'. Prefers medium-wet, well-drained soil. Nice burgundy fall color, and no fruit. Easy to grow and maintain.

'Prague 3' (*V. 'Pragense'*)

An outstanding evergreen choice for foundations or border, or to add structure to a perennial bed. Its glossy, small leaves show off the pink buds that open to creamy white, fragrant blooms. A fast grower to about 10' that likes full sun to partial shade. It produces autumn fruit, and is very easy to grow.

'Popcorn' (*V. plicatum tomentosum*)

This snowball cultivar is notable for its numerous rounded clusters of pure white flowers that look like popcorn balls. It is a smaller grower (8') with sporadic production of red fruit.

'Shasta' (*V. plicatum tomentosum*)

Shines as a durable and popular deciduous doublefile. In spring the entire plant is covered with large (4-6") bright white flower clusters. Red berries follow in late summer. Shasta spreads horizontally to about 10' wide, and prefers full sun and moderate moisture. Deer resistant.

'Summer Snowflake' (*V. plicatum tomentosum*)

This unusual doublefile blooms almost continuously from May into early fall when bright red berries add another aspect of interest to this special plant. One of the very few repeat blooming Viburnums. The bright white flowers give a wedding cake effect to your landscape. It grows to about 6' and is striking as a specimen or in groupings. Deer resistant, non-fragrant, with good fall color, it needs ample water and good drainage.



We offer many other trees, shrubs, garden plants and perennials including:

- Rhododendrons
- Azaleas, including natives
- Native Wildflowers
- Hollies
- Viburnum
- Redbuds
- Herbs
- Crepe Myrtle
- Mountain Laurels
- Hydrangeas
- Camellias
- Mountain Laurels
- Lilacs

JUST THE FACTS

When

Friday, April 20, 5-7 p.m. Members-only sale
(Join or renew at the door)

Saturday, April 21, 9-3 All welcome

Where

901 S Illinois Ave., Oak Ridge, TN

Drive up to the shelter – follow the signs

SEE OUR WEB SITE,
WWW.UTARBORETUMSOCIETY.ORG,
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Fundraising & Program Ideas Wanted

The fund raising committee, headed by **Richard Raridon**, has several new activities in the works. UTAS will sell post cards, created by **Emily and Charlie Jernigan**, and have a Pancake Breakfast at **Applebee's** in Oak Ridge in September.

If you have other revenue-generating ideas, please contact Dick at raridon@hotmail.com, or any other UTAS board member.

Gift Certificates – A New UTAS Venture

We now offer gift certificates. These can be used at a plant sale, or towards a UTAS membership. This allows the lucky recipients to choose from among the many offerings at our plant sales, or to use their gift towards joining the Society. Contact Emily Jernigan, 482-4836, emily@jernigans.net, or any board member to order a gift certificate. You may also purchase one at the Plant Sale. This is a great new way to support UTAS.

Upcoming Events

Bird Walk at the Arboretum

Participate in Migratory Bird Day- May 12

Jason Mitchell will lead a Bird Walk on Saturday, May 12th, Migratory Bird Day, at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Mitchell is an avid birder and field biologist whose work as a biologist with TVA allows him to regularly travel and study birds across the southeast.

For the last 13 years he has worked for federal, state and non-governmental organizations. His specialization in natural history and ornithology are used to perform ecological assessments and to develop land management plans. He has written numerous environmental reports and has co-authored articles on bird life in *The Migrant* and in *Tennessee Wildlife Magazine*. Mr. Mitchell has conducted extensive work with shorebirds, neotropical songbirds, golden and bald eagles, game birds, and a variety of other bird groups. His topics cover policy, management, identification, distribution, and habitat assessment.

The walk will begin in the parking lot at the UT Arboretum - 901 S. Illinois Ave. (Hwy. 62) in Oak Ridge. **Please arrive by 6:45 a.m. - we leave promptly at 7. Bring binoculars and plan on a short hike to view the birds.**

Earth Day Celebration 2007

April 18 at First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge

Diantha Paré will head the UTAS Earth Day team this year. **Evelyn Lorenz** and **Marti Salk** will join her at First United Methodist Church's festival on Wednesday, April 18 from 5-7:30 pm. They will help children plant bean seeds in peat pots, and learn about the importance of taking care of plants. Plant Sale information will also be available at the UTAS booth.

Weddings at the Arboretum

UTAS continues to promote the Arboretum as a venue for outdoor weddings. We have a directory listing in the Knoxville edition of Premier Bride magazine and on their web site - www.premierbridgetn.com. Our ad provides information about arranging weddings at the Arboretum. **Lee Ann Dobbs** and **Pat Row** lead this effort.

The UT Arboretum

*The Perfect
Backdrop for Weddings*



University of Tennessee Arboretum
901 S Illinois Avenue
Oak Ridge
(865) 483-3571
www.discoveret.org/utarboretum/weddings.htm

Stumped?

Help! I missed the pruning demonstration. Is there a good web site with tips for me?



An excellent web site from Cornell University has a lot of gardening information, including an extensive guide to pruning ornamental trees and shrubs. Click on the link to 'Pruning Guide' at www.gardening.cornell.edu

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

'Mohawk' Viburnum Bloom



New! UTAS Postcards Now Available

The fund-raising committee, headed by **Dick Raridon**, announces UTAS Postcards. Designed by **Emily and Charlie Jernigan**, with input from the board, these cards feature the familiar 'Place for All Seasons' theme. They will be available at the Visitor's Center and in other local establishments. Support the Society - send a postcard or two!



UTAS Membership Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Society Friend	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron of the Arboretum	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$1,000 (min.)

In addition to my dues, I would like to make a contribution of: \$ _____ to either the UTAS General Fund or to the Harold Elmore Memorial Fund, dedicated for the care and improvement of the Elmore Holly Collection at the UT Arboretum.

This is a Gift Membership from _____

Make checks payable to: UTAS

* All membership fees and contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Pruning with the Pros

A Workshop and Demonstration

It seems like a lot of us have trees and shrubs that need a little trim! More than 100 people turned out on March 10 to learn more about pruning. Neal Denton and David Vandergriff from the UT Extension program, Tom Simpson from the TN Division of Forestry (Urban Forester), and the Arboretum's Director, Richard Evans, demonstrated, talked, and answered questions. Topics included pruning trees and shrubs around the home, maintaining tree crowns, choosing trees near utility lines, and basic care of trees and shrubs. **Richard Evans** pulled all of this professional expertise together for the workshop, and everyone went home knowing more about where to place their pruning cuts.



Searching for Signs of Spring

A Walk in the Arboretum Woods

Jeff Holt, a UTAS board member and forester, used his professional eye to help 30 people notice new things coming up in the Arboretum woods. For more than two hours participants walked the trails as Jeff pointed out features of trees and other plants as they prepare to wake up from their winter slumber. Thanks, Jeff, for an interesting and educational presentation.

Arbor Day & Tree City USA 2007

The UT Arboretum Society donated a Kwanzan Cherry Tree for the 22nd annual Oak Ridge Arbor Day Observance, held this year at St. Mary's School on Friday, March 2. **Dennis Superczynski**, past president of UTAS, served as Master of Ceremonies and **Norm Dobbs**, current Society president, presented the tree. David Bradshaw, Oak Ridge Mayor, and Sister Anne Catherine, Principal of St. Mary's School, welcomed students and visitors. Darren Bailey, District Forester, presented the 19th annual Tree City USA Award. Students sang a song before picking up shovels to help plant the tree on the Vermont Avenue side of the building.



The DoubleTree Hotel's Robin Castleberry represented their Teaching Kids to CARE® program, and donated cookies for everyone at a reception following the ceremony. **Lee Ann Dobbs** set up this event for us.

New and Renewing Members- Thanks!

Sandra M Barry
 Nancy Basford
 Christine R Boake
 Kris & Larry Brantley
 Dr S Martin Bronson
 Sharon Carlomagno
 Katie Cottrell
 Frances Cross
 Art Dworkin
 Barbara J Emery
 Ruth Ewald
 Terry Faulkner
 David & Terry Freeman
 Susan Gawarecki
 Harvey Goranson
 Doug & Sally Gross
 Lynda & Chuck Haynes
 Karen Henderson
 Sondra Jamieson
 Clara Joan Johnson
 Mary Kollie
 Christine Lee
 Vernon Lix
 Mr/Mrs Joseph A Mallard
 Mr & Mrs Robert McClung
 Harold & Martha McCurdy
 Janet R Michel
 Virginia S Milligan
 Margaret Phares
 Richard & Mona Raridon
 Murray & Mimi Rosenthal
 Rita Sass
 Don & Vickie Searle
 Don Snyder/Mary Sisson
 Phil & Doris Sklad
 Barbara A Walton
 Julie Watts
 Suzie Whisnant
 Susan Wilson
 Joan Worley

Patron: Oak Ridge Team,
 Wackenhut Services, Inc



UTAS Resources

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Norm Dobbs	Wendy Packan
Vice-President: Dick Raridon	Diantha Paré
Secretary: Diantha Paré	Hella Peterson
Treasurer: Pat Row	Bob Reed
Past President: Dennis Superczynski	Stan Richards

Board Members

Lynn Carlson	Marti Salk
Jeff Holt	Don Searle
Pat Hunsicker	Marie Walsh
Emily Jernigan	<i>Ex Officio</i>
	Evelyn Lorenz
	Richard Evans

Branches Editor Emily Jernigan

Help Wanted

Ongoing

- **Native Plant Group** meets the third Wednesday most months. Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
- **Tour Guides** assist groups visiting the Arboretum. Richard Evans, 483-3571.
- **Weddings** at the Arboretum require volunteers. Contact Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net or Pat Row, 482-9096, pdrow@bellsouth.net

Special Events

- **Spring Plant Sale** – help with set-up or work during the sale. Contact Dick Raridon, 483-4843/ raridon@hotmail.com or Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656/leadobbs@bellsouth.net

Thanks

We will miss board member **Joann Johnson's** expertise as a Master Gardener and in handling our publicity. With her enthusiastic attitude, Joann helped with everything from ArborFest to Earth Day and, more recently, publicity. She will continue to work with the Native Plant Group, and may have time to help out with a committee.

Charlie Jernigan has turned over web management to Angie Dobbs. We appreciate his hard work to update and maintain the website for several years. He will continue to handle the membership database.

Welcome

Angie Dobbs has taken over webmaster duties and has updated the site and added new features. Check it out!

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



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.utalumni.utk.edu/givetout/planned_giving/index.shtml



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Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382

Plant Sale

featuring

Viburnum

Friday, April 20 5-7 pm
Members only - Join or
renew at the door

Saturday, April 21 9-3
All welcome



Upcoming Events

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- April 20 Plant Sale 5-7 pm Members only (Join or renew at the door)
- April 21 Plant Sale 9-3 All welcome
- May 12 Bird Walk - Jason Mitchell 7 am
- June 15-16 Secret City Festival
- June 18-22 Tour Brandywine Valley
- July TBA 'Invasive Plant Identification & Treatment' - Jeff Holt