

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No 7 - Summer 2007

UTAS President's Message

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Stumped? Ask us!

Just what are 'Invasives' and why should I care?

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

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"Director's Desk" Richard Evans

Richard Evans tells us about ongoing changes at the Arboretum— from the new NOAA station to 'no more' exotic hollies.

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2007 Tour

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Aug 18 Walking in the Footsteps of History: Outdoor Drama by Lynn Fox

Sept 15 Pancake Breakfast

Sept 15 Wildflower Walk -Kris Light

Sept 29 Fall Herb Workshop with Erin's Meadow Herb Farm

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Find Your Space Invaders!

Do you have predators living in your garden or yard? Not the four-legged kind, but plants. Before you attend For-ester and UTAS board member **Jeff Holt's** workshop on Invasive or Exotic plants, you might want to take a look at your landscaping. Many of these Invaders look quite innocent and common-place around our homes.



Most of us in the South know that Kudzu is invasive because we see it at the roadside taking over large swaths of land. Even though it's an obvious Invader, it's

hardly the worst offender. After reading Jeff's article (page 3) I did a little sleuthing and found these potential problem plants in my own yard: Orange Daylily, Butterfly Bush, Sawtooth Oak, Tree of Heaven, Common Periwinkle, Glossy Privet, and English Ivy. I even have Parrot Feather thriving in the pond! I'm sure that I have other troublesome



plants growing nearby waiting to be discovered. Come to Jeff's workshop and we'll learn to identify and then control some of these pesky plants before they become more widespread nuisances.



Saturday, July 21 at 9 a.m. at the UT Arboretum Visitor Center.

~Emily Jernigan

~Photos by Charlie Jernigan





President's Letter

As summer 2007 arrives, I am sure that many of you are still reacting to the effects of Mother Nature's triple whammy: the early warm spring followed by a spring freeze and now a drought. This year's growing season may prove to be quite challenging for many of us plant lovers. One good thing about pruning the dead wood caused by the spring freeze is that it may have given you, like me, the opportunity to cut out crossed and wayward branches on the woodies. Unfortunately, some of my delicate Japanese Maples suffered the loss of several years' growth and, not to be outdone, a mature Pin Oak may eventually have its canopy significantly raised due to the asymmetrical die back of several of its lower branches.

Moving on to Society business and activities, your UTAS Board members have been busy with our new committee assignments and are proceeding on many fronts. You will learn about their activities in this and future newsletters. Also, I call your attention to our calendar of events for 2007, as listed and described here and on our web site (www.UTArboretumSociety.org). For example, be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning, September 15th at Applebee's in Oak Ridge, and then come to the Arboretum to join Kris Light for a Fall Wildflower Walk later that same morning.

I am proud to report that the Society was recently able to give \$17,500 to the University of Tennessee to assist with the operating costs of the Arboretum. This represents half of our annual goal. Additionally, we made an additional \$5,000 donation to the UT Arboretum Endowment, totaling \$10,000 to date. For those of you who would like to contribute to the UT Arboretum Endowment, personal checks can be sent to either the Society's address at P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 or to the Arboretum Director at 901 South Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Make checks payable to the University of Tennessee and then indicate on the memo line that the monies are for the UT Arboretum Endowment. For information and assistance in special gift giving or estate planning to the Arboretum Endowment, you should contact Rhodes Logan of the UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Development at 865-974-1928
Norm Dobbs, UTAS President

nadobbs@bellsouth.net



Director's Desk

If you only "occasionally" visit the Arboretum, you may miss out on many small and continuous changes that go on all the time. Not only is there the natural ebb and flow of changes in the plants, forests, and wildlife, but other changes may skip your notice – new interpretive signs, new demonstration and research, additions to the plant collections, changing of trail routes, refurbishing of landscapes, and unique developments which support the greater Arboretum mission. Some of these changes are hard to ignore, like the new weather station with its instrumented and skyward-reaching 10 meter tower. However, you could easily miss the 50+ Japanese Holly that suddenly disappeared from the holly research plots – noting only the bare soil and more open space, and wondering, 'Weren't there some hollies there last time I visited?' Changes are part of Arboretum landscape and, in some ways, are measures of its vitality.

The new weather station has significance to the Arboretum's programs, beyond our mere interest in rainfall, temperature, humidity, etc. This weather station is an official National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Division (NOAA/ATDD) site, and counterpart to the Oak Ridge NOAA/ATDD Air Resources Laboratory. Instrumentation at this site is both elaborate and important to the mission of NOAA and the UT Forest Resources Center and Arboretum. It will give the Arboretum some important data for comparing growth and performance of plants in trial's test – drought and temperature tolerance, flowering phenology, and maintenance practices. Already, a UT faculty member is setting-up a project to test the sensitivity of several cloned plants to atmospheric ozone, although it is with tobacco plants growing in "float beds" (hydroponics water trough), but still basic to the health, performance, and concerns for all other plants.

Other Arboretum improvement projects include some much needed maintenance for the rhododendron collection in the Heath Cove; removal of the exotic holly species that invaded nearby native forests; beginning work on a new nature trail; the addition of Urban Forestry interpretive displays; and new test plantings of native and Chinese redbuds, to mention only a few. Coming soon, you may want to watch for new plant additions – magnolias, boxwoods, and new shade tree and shrub varieties.

The Arboretum is a place of change, and exciting changes are always afoot here in this place of nature's grandeur... visit soon.

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

~Richard Evans, Director

Eye on the Forest by Jeff Holt

Invaders in Our Midst - At the UT Arboretum and Around Town

Jeff Holt, UTAS board member, is a long-time Oak Ridger. A Society of American Foresters Certified Forester, he has worked in the forests of Tennessee and California for thirty years.

I had a friend in another city who gardened up a storm and enjoyed putting all kinds of plants in his yard. Most of these plants not only



survived. They thrived. They thrived in his yard, they thrived in his neighbors' yards, and they thrived all over the neighborhood. The reason that he was such a 'successful' gardener was that he had been planting, watering, and fertilizing invasive exotic plants. These included the privet (*Ligustrum spp*) he used for hedges, the winter-

creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) and English ivy (*Hedera helix*), that grew so well as a ground cover and up his trees, the bush honeysuckle (several species of *Lonicera* that grow as bushes) and autumn and silver thorn olives (*Elaeagnus umbellata* and *Elaeagnus pungens*) that had such pretty berries and attracted wildlife. They grew well in his yard and spread everywhere the neighborhood birds could fly.

Invasive exotic plants are defined as any species, including its seeds, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem; and whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive exotic plants have been spreading in the United States for over 100 years. At least one serious pest got its North American start right here in Knoxville.

Not everything that you may think of as a 'weed' is an invasive exotic, and not every exotic is invasive. Invasive plants can crowd out desirable plants in our gardens, lawns, and even in the forest. An organization called the Tennessee Exotic Plant Pest Council (www.TNEPPC.org) has taken the lead role in Tennessee to get the word out about invasive exotics, and classifies known invasive exotics into several tiers based on their invasive characteristics. Almost everyone has invasives in their landscape, and the UT Arboretum is no exception. Exotics present challenges to the research there, as well as opportunities to learn more about plants like a member of the grass family known as Japanese stilt grass or Nepalese brown top (*Microstegium vimineum*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), autumn olive, etc.



The first step in managing the invasive exotic plants on any property is recognizing them. The next step is finding information on controlling each species. The Internet offers many fine websites that have pictures, lifecycle descriptions, and control techniques. The last step is persistently applying these control techniques for however long it takes. Persistence is key. It has been reported that a well-established kudzu patch can require 10 years of well-timed effort!

The UT Arboretum Society is sponsoring my workshop on July 21, 2007 at 9 AM at the UT Arboretum. I will help you learn to recognize invasive exotic plants in your yard, give you informative websites, and take you on a walk to view some invasives up close and personal. See you at the Arboretum.

Upcoming Events

'Walking in the Footsteps of History' Outdoor Drama from Lynn Fox

Meet Davy Crockett and John Sevier at the UT Arboretum. Saturday, August 18th at 7:00 p.m. Lynn Fox, local historian, storyteller, and descendant of a King's Mountain battle hero, will bring stories of Tennessee's early history to life. Lynn Fox has performed "Walking in the Footsteps of Tennessee History" for over 20 years, including appearances at the Museum of Appalachia with last year's Arboretum Outdoor Drama storyteller, Mike Dahl.



Bring your picnic baskets, coolers, blankets and lawn chairs and come for an hour of entertainment, humor and little-known Tennessee history as Lynn captures the vision, determination and fortitude of several Tennessee legends.

All Davy Crockett admirers, young and old - wear your coonskin hats! Admission is \$5 per person, children under 12 are free.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Our pancake breakfast is scheduled at Applebee's in Oak Ridge from 8-10 am on Saturday, September 15th. Tickets, \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children, are available from any board member or at the door.

Walk off those pancakes with Kris Light!

Kris leads a Wildflower Walk at the Arboretum at 10 am on Sept. 15. Discover fall flowers. Purchase Kris' photographs and note cards and help support the Arboretum.

Preserving the Herbal Harvest and Fall Planting in The Herb Garden - A UT Arboretum Society & Erin's Meadow Herb Farm Event

Learn about drying and freezing herbs from your garden, and recommended herbs for fall planting. We'll have informational hand-outs, refreshments and herbs available for sale. 10% of your herb purchases will be contributed to support the UT Arboretum. Saturday September 29, 2007 at 10 am at the Arboretum. Cost is \$5 per person.



Stumped?

Just what are 'Invasives' and why should I care?

An invasive plant can thrive and spread aggressively outside its natural range, and may impact and displace native vegetation and habitats. Jeff Holt explains all at our Invasive Plant Workshop on July 21.

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

Garden Treasures in the Brandywine Valley- UTAS' 2007 Tour

Some refer to it as The Brandywine Valley, others The Delaware Valley, but to all who enjoy the rapture of gardens this is truly Paradise Valley. Located just north of Wilmington and southeast of Philadelphia, this was the destination for the UTAS 2007 summer garden tour. Chronology is the best way to describe the gardens we visited. Each provided its unique inspiration.



The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College displays some of the finest trees, shrubs, vines and perennials of the Delaware Valley, fulfilling its mission to display plants suited for home gardens. Founded by the Quakers in 1864, the Arboretum is integrated throughout the college campus. A favorite grass in the summer bloom border was 'Karl Foster' (*Calamagrostis x Acuitiflora*) with its tall violet seed heads.

Near Swarthmore, the private garden of Charles Cresson, "Hedgeleigh Spring," features stone retaining walls, grade changes, and a creek that divide the property to create intimate spaces and microclimates. We enjoyed the coolness of the Fern Dell with its path that continued across the Little Crum Creek & Dam into the Wildflower Meadow. A hardy 'Needle Palm' (*Rhapido-phyllum Histris*) intrigued us, growing safely in zone 6-7 and comparable to East Tennessee.

Traveling west into the Brandywine Valley we visited the private garden of Wayne and Doris Guymon, a display garden most of us only dream about. Being unpretentious, the Guymons have no illustrated write up or plant list, just the remarkable energy and talent to design a world-class gem. Upon entering the garden there is an immediate view of the lake pond in the valley graced with hundreds of Hosta, Iris, and colorful per-

ennials surrounded by a backdrop of native and carefully selected trees and shrubs. Hardscape features gracefully placed throughout the garden include a Japanese Pond and colorful bridge to an island, which harmonize beautifully with the landscape. We then proceeded up the hillside amongst a sea of Hosta planted in orderly rows of color, to the patio where we enjoyed wine & cheese overlooking the ribbons of Hosta flowing to the lake below.

The du Pont family has a rich heritage in the Delaware Valley that has left its legacy of gardens of equal acclaim to their industrial success. We first visited Mt. Cuba Center on the gently rolling hills of the Delaware Piedmont. Mt. Cuba is an estate with extensive grounds, a manor house, and one of America's finest wildflower gardens. Early morning was the perfect setting for our tour meandering through wooded paths filled with plants native to the Piedmont. 'Wild Bleeding Heart' poppy (*Dicentra eximia*) was a group favorite.

Winterthur, another du Pont heritage estate and garden, was chosen by USA Today as one of America's "10 great places of historical proportions". Our narrated Garden Tram tour took us to the early 20th century museum and country estate. Beautifully maintained with its unsurpassed collection of antiques and Americana, it is an ideal place to rediscover America's heritage.

On the banks of the Brandywine River in historic Chadds Ford, the historic Brandywine River Museum is a unique home for American Art. This Civil war era gristmill, converted to an art museum, features collection of works by N.C., Andrew, and Jamie Wyeth, three generations of artists who embody the family's distinctive artistic legacy. Many American illustrators also display works representing the artistic heritage of the Brandywine Valley.



"Chanticleer," the name of the rooster in the French Fable Reynard the Fox and of the aptly-named Pleasure Garden in Wayne, PA. Today ageless rooster sculptures perch proudly on the columns leading from the house to the garden. Opened to the public in 1990, this 35 acre site was originally the home and gardens of the Rosengarten

Family, famed chemists whose business evolved into Merck & Co. The tropical teapot in the entrance courtyard is the theme of a carefully orchestrated garden with diverse plantings. We entered the dense woodland garden and then the water and stream gardens. After a short rest on the natural stone sofa, the tour culminated in the Ruin Garden. Using ruined structures to enhance landscaping is called the 'Picturesque Movement.'



Just north of Chanticleer in Philadelphia, the Morris Arboretum features its prized collection of mature and stately trees. The path leading from the woodland leads to the "Orange Balustrade" adorned with orange accented landscape materials and plantings like the brilliant Paper bark Maple. The Rose Garden includes plantings of perennials and annuals providing added seasonal beauty. Throughout the gardens, low stone-walls made of Wisahickon Chist (silicon stone) added structure to the Victorian Landscape. The Fernery, the only freestanding fernery in the country, houses hundreds of rare fern species. A special treat is the Garden Railway Display. The G-scale trains wind through a whimsical village of miniature historic buildings, waterfalls, tunnels, and trestles. They capture the historical beauty of The Great American Train Stations with replicas of authentic train stations and structures.

Unlike the natural gardens of Mt. Cuba Center and Winterthur, Longwood Gardens is a premier display garden promoting the art and enjoyment of horticulture to the public. Here plants are changed out regularly to offer seasonal displays. Its no wonder our itinerary al-

lowed an entire day to explore this garden established by Pierre S. du Pont in 1906. The Flower Garden Walk bordered by exuberant flowers is always in season. The Italian Water Garden with its tiled pools and sparkling fountains is nestled in a woodland setting. At noon we enjoyed the waterspout display at the Main Fountain



Garden, which is even more spectacular in the evening with reflective lighting. The Exhibition hall and main

conservatory help make Longwood a year round attraction. Our tour was fortunate to include a behind the scenes look at the Production Facility not offered to the general public. Visit and explore Longwood Gardens, a lush place like no other.

UTAS Tours are offered to UTAS members at reduced prices and are specially planned by the Garden Tour Committee, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Will Witte, and Fran Scheidt.

Dennis Superczynski, UTAS Garden Tour Leader



The UTAS Plant Collections Committee

As part of a larger effort to make deliberations translate into actions in a timely fashion, the UTAS Board of Directors has established a committee called the UTA Plant Collections Committee. Our committee assists UTA Director Richard Evans in planning changes and improvements to all Arboretum plant collections and features (e.g., trails, parking areas), following priorities set by Richard and working within budget constraints as approved by the UTAS Board. Current members are **Lynn Carlson** (chair), **Bob Reed**, and **Marti Salk**. We meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Arboretum.

As our first task we identified a native flowering tree to shade the Visitor's Center—watch for the yellowwood that we hope to plant in the fall. Currently, we are searching for some new and unusual cultivars to add to the Magnolia collection, and in the future we will select late-blooming plants, and plants that showcase interesting textures and fall leaf color. As the parking lot renovation continues, we also plan to suggest plants for that area that will be a microcosm of the larger collections deeper within the Arboretum.

The committee could use another member. If you are interested in helping shape the public face of the Arboretum in plants, call or email me for the time of the next meeting. You don't need to be a member of the Board of Directors to help with this rewarding task!

Lynn Carlson, lbcarlson@earthlink.net, 865-692-5402

News about Natives

The Native Plant Group is the new name for the Wildflower Task Force, a long-standing Society committee that has always encouraged the showcasing of native plants at the Arboretum. This is the third year this dedicated group has taken on the task of maintaining and expanding the collection of plants found around the Visitor's Center. We meet once or twice a month to work in the beds: planting, weeding, watering and mulching.

Last June a storm took out the remaining shade trees around the building and presented us with new challenges. The group responded by planting more sun tolerant plants, all shared from their own gardens. The Native Plant Group would like to acknowledge Meredith Clebsch of Native Gardens Nursery in Greenback. She helped the group select and purchase Red and White Buckeye, honeysuckle, Tennessee coneflower, silk grass, Baptisia and Joe Pye Weed. Richard Evans provided a Ninebark and Prairie Dropseed grass. Members continued to bring plants from home: cardinal flower, ageratum, spiderwort, yarrow, goldenseal and coreopsis. Bev Milam purchased two deciduous Azaleas for our collection and Fran Scheidt provided a Culver's Root. These and many other plants are now thriving in their new home.

If you would enjoy a little hands-on time at the Arboretum please join us at our next work day. (Deer need not apply!) We meet the third Wednesday of the month and always welcomes new members. Call Lee Ann Dobbs for more information. 482-6656. .

Crape Myrtles are On the Way

Dick Raridon, Lee Ann Dobbs and Will Witte potted up crape myrtles for the spring 2008 Plant Sale. Varieties include the first true red Crape Myrtle, 'Dynamite,' as well as 'Burgandy Cotton,'



'Raspberry Sundae,' 'Red Rocket,' and 'Siren Red.' These were all developed by Dr. Carl Whitcomb in Oklahoma.

New and Renewing Members- Thanks!

David & Betty Alspaugh
 Jim & Kay Bailey
 H Ted Ballard
 John & Marcia Baranyi
 Melanie Berney
 Lydia Birk
 Jerry Black
 Larry & Debbie Bryant
 Charles Callis
 Babs & Ken Carter
 Ed & Meredith Clebsch
 Carolyn Crowder
 Clare Cunningham
 Mark Cunningham
 Beverly A Davis
 James Day
 Carol Dee
 Karen & Mark Downing
 Mary Frances Drake
 David & Anne Dunthorn
 Bobby H Ely
 Emory Valley Garden Club
 Judi Gray
 Katharine Andes Greer
 J Robert Hightower
 Teri L Hodges
 Scott Hoekstra
 Doug & Cyndi Jeffers
 Lucie Jones
 Barbra Keyes
 Eph & Mary Ellen Klots
 Walter Koncinski
 Evelyn & Richard Lorenz
 Gerard & Gail Ludtka & Family
 David & Nancy Martin
 Sheryl Martin
 John & Kathy Mason
 Sara Melton-Sumner
 Beverly R Milam
 Ginny Miles
 Lee Monasmith
 Evelyn & John Moyers
 Judy Myshrrall
 Mr & Mrs E L Nicholson
 Susan Pffifner / Tom Phelps
 Gregg Rawls
 Joan F Roberts
 Victor Rudis
 Marty Salter
 W J Scheib
 David & Cande Seay
 Betty & Fred Sloop
 Kathleen Stephens
 Randy Stewart
 Barbara & Bob Stone
 Carolyn K Susano
 Lucky Vogt
 Jennifer Waller
 Richard C Ward
 Kenneth & Helen Warren
 John & Peggy Wheeler
 Valerie Widgren



UTAS Resources

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Branches Editor Emily Jernigan

Help Wanted

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

Thanks!

We will miss **Hella Peterson's** contributions to the board, and are glad that she will continue her valuable work with the Native Plant Group. Thanks for all of your efforts on behalf of UTAS, Hella.

Meredith Clebsch, UTAS member and owner/operator of **Native Gardens**, provided wonderful plants and help with selections for the beds around the Visitor's Center.

Fran Scheidt thanks all of the volunteers who came to spruce up the Elmore Holly Collection at the **Holly Work Day**.

General Shale Brick donated one strap of brick pavers that **Norm Dobbs** used to edge two beds on the west side of the Visitor's Center.



Welcome

Eileen Neiler, current UTAS Historian, has agreed to fill **Hella Peterson's** remaining term on the board. Eileen has been a part of the UTAS family for many years, and we welcome her back to the board.

The **Oak Ridge Team, Wackenhut Services, Inc.**, has joined UTAS as a Patron of the Society.

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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Upcoming Events

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- Aug 18 ‘Walking in the Footsteps of History’: Outdoor Drama by Lynn Fox
- Sept 15 Pancake Breakfast Applebee’s
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