

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No 16 - Fall 2009

UTAS President's Message

Row's Ramblings: new programs in the works for next year, upcoming events, and a tribute to Harold Elmore and his legacy.

Page 2

Stumped? Ask us!

What are the small trees near the holly garden with large, greenish, oblong fruits right now?

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



Page 4

Director's Desk Richard Evans

Is the Arboretum *really* part of UT? Richard Evans explains how it fits into the University structure. And yes, it is!

Page 2

Fall Plant Sale

Don't pass up this opportunity to get some terrific trees in the ground during prime planting time this fall. We've got a great selection.

Page 1

Eye on the Forest

Jeff Holt, UTAS board member and consulting forester, tells all about *When Good Trees Go Bad*. Will there be a happy ending? Read on...

Page 6

Upcoming Events

- Oct 10 Plant Sale 9-3
 - Oct 24 Owl Prowl 6:30
 - Nov 10 Dinner & Auction, Dr. Sue Hamilton, speaker
 - Nov 14 Holly Work Day 9-12
 - TBD Construct stone entrance to Holly Garden
- Page 3

The Red Wagons are Waiting - We've Got Dogwoods & More

Saturday, October 10 9-3

October and late fall are ideal for planting as this helps plants establish a healthy root system and prepares them for the spring growing season. UTAS will offer 3-gallon sized trees. The sale will highlight dogwoods, one of east Tennessee's most beloved trees. '**Cherokee Brave**' is a very popular red-flowered dogwood with excellent resistance to powdery mildew and is quite fast growing. Its larger than usual burgundy red bracts shade to a white center. Spring foliage is red-tinged, and it has brilliant fall color and berries. It likes partial shade, especially in the afternoon.

'**Cherokee Princess**,' a heavy bloomer, produces very large snow white bracts, 5 inches in diameter, on a broad-spreading and dense plant. The horizontal branches create a layer cake effect. We'll also have the increasingly popular **Kousa** dogwoods that bloom a bit later, after they've leafed out.

Magnolia 'Jane' blooms later (early May) to avoid frost, and is one of the Little Girl Magnolias. '**Jane**' is a vigorous grower and a hardy specimen. Crape myrtle '**Pink Velour**,' is a semi-dwarf with bright reddish pink crinkly flowers that last all summer. '**Tonto**,' another semi-dwarf crape, has watermelon red flowers against deep green foliage and is very easy to grow.

Our traditional plant vendors, **Beaver Creek Nursery**, **East Fork Nursery** and **Sunlight Gardens** will offer a

fine selection of trees, shrubs, and perennials, many not found at other nurseries. Shop early for best selection.



Magnolia 'Jane' offers tulip shaped tri-color blooms (deep pink, purple, and, inside, white) that are softly scented and profuse. It reblooms intermittently into fall. 10-15' tall and 10' wide.



President's Letter

Summer is indeed on the way out as leaves begin to fall and we look forward to those autumn chores that allow us to think about what we will do next year. The Arboretum continues to grow and change, too. Our new parking lot will soon have that finishing touch of landscaping when our Plant Collections committee and other volunteers get plants out of the greenhouse and into the beds there.

We have some exciting plans for new programs next year. These include an expansion of **Kris Light's** offerings, including butterflies, additional wildflower walks, and a stream ecology workshop—a great chance for kids and adults to get their feet wet in our stream! Look for nature photography workshops and programs on hiking and Appalachian music, too. We want our community to continue to rely on the Arboretum as a beautiful place in all seasons, with great offerings for families! Your program ideas are welcome, so please contact me.

Our fall **Plant Sale**, on October 10, is moments away and will offer many opportunities for that final surge of plantings. Come out for always popular **Owl Prowl** on October 24 and the **Annual Dinner** on November 10. We end the year with a **Holly Work Day** on November 14.

After several years of planning, we'll construct a natural stone entrance to the **Harold Elmore Holly Collection** in October. We are privileged to have the **Holly Society of America** hold their annual meeting in Oak Ridge in November 2010, with a tour of the Elmore collection as a featured event. Harold was such a valued member of the Society for many years, and his contributions to the Arboretum and UTAS bring a flood of pleasant memories to all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and use it to help Mother Nature in her continuing work to make your yard and community a beautiful place to live. And don't forget to give back – be a volunteer!

Tom Row, UTAS President

tomhrow@bellsouth.net, 865-482-9096



Director's Desk

'Is the Arboretum part of the University of Tennessee?' Often people are curious because we have the outward appearance of a park, leading some to wonder about our affiliation. After all, why would the University maintain a park? This newsletter goes out to folks who probably understand the Arboretum's affiliation with UT, but I offer a short review of how we are organized for those who might not know. Warning: acronyms ahead!

The UT Arboretum exists within The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA). UTIA includes four primary units: the College of Agriculture Science and Natural Resources; College of Veterinary Science; Agriculture Research (AgResearch); and UT Extension. The Colleges are mostly responsible for the teaching programs; Extension are the folks you know primarily through the Extension Agents at your county Extension Office; and AgResearch is that unit responsible for conduction of research (bet you couldn't have guessed the last one). Many of the UTIA faculty may have appointment in one or more of these units, i.e. doing teaching, research and/or extension work.

Within AgResearch there are Departments and Centers. The Departments - Agriculture Economics, Animal Science, Plant Science, etc.- are the academic homes of the research faculty. The Centers, better known as Research and Education Centers (RECs), are scattered across the State, ten in all, including the Plateau (Crossville) and Middle TN (Spring Hill) RECs. Each of these RECs have research, demonstration, and outreach projects and programs in one or more focus areas: agronomic crops; animal husbandry; dairy; fruits and vegetables, etc. One REC is headquartered in Oak Ridge: the UT Forest Resources Research and Education Center (FRREC). The UT Arboretum is a UT Institute of Agriculture-AgResearch Project organized under, administered by, and part of, the UT Forest Resources Research and Education Center.

Although I'd rather write about the attributes of the Arboretum, I hope that this brief explanation will strengthen our common understanding of how the UT Arboretum fits into, and is part of, the great University of Tennessee. And, once more... Yes, we are part of The University of Tennessee!

See our web site for more information:

<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Richard Evans, Director

Upcoming Events

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 10

9 am - 3 pm at the Arboretum

Take advantage of this opportunity to add new, less common plants to your yard, and to support the Arboretum. We'll have several dogwood selections, including

'Cherokee Brave,' 'Cherokee Princess,' and Kousas. We'll also

have selections of **Crape myrtle**, **Magnolia** and many other shrubs and perennials. Come and fill up your red wagon-it's a beautiful time to be outdoors, and a perfect time to get plants in the

ground that will beautify your yard for years to come.



Ready to Plant



Kousa Dogwood Bloom



Crape Myrtle 'Tonto'

Owl Prowl - Come on Down!

Saturday, October 24 6:30 pm at the Arboretum

Don't be spooked, these owls are pretty tame. **Katie Cottrell** brings her raptors to the Arboretum for another nighttime



Saw Whet Owl

discussion and a walk through the grounds. You'll learn some specifics about these creatures of the night, and get to see them up close before heading out to hunt for owls and more. Bring a flashlight for this fun, family friendly presentation.

Help Construct Holly Garden Entrance

Date TBD, depends on the weather Elmore Holly Garden-Arboretum

Have you been working out at the gym? Want to do some moderately heavy lifting? Help UTAS build the new stone entrance to the Elmore Holly Collection. Work alongside **Ted Rosner**, stone mason, and other UTAS volunteers using stone donated by **Tony and Amber Bow**, owners of **Basses Creek Stone** in Crossville, TN. You'll pick up tips on how to construct a stone wall in your own yard along with those blocks and stones. Call **Tom Row** to volunteer, 482-9096.

Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

Tuesday, November 10 6 pm at the Elks Club, Oak Ridge

Please join us, and bring some friends to the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction at the Elks Club, 684 Emory Valley Road, Oak Ridge. Mingle with fellow plant and gardening enthusiasts for a festive evening. The cash bar is open as you chat and ponder the silent auction offerings before a delicious buffet dinner starts at 7. Our speaker, **Dr. Sue Hamilton**, director of the UT Gardens and an herbaceous ornamental plants specialist, will begin by 8. Cost is \$20. Contact **Pat Row** at 482-9096 or pdrow@bellsouth.net to make reservations.

Holly Work Day

Saturday, November 14 9 am-noon Arboretum

Come out and help us tuck the hollies in for the winter. This is a great chance to get a little exercise outdoors in the company of fellow gardeners, and to see the brand new entrance to the Elmore Holly Collection. A luncheon will be provided for volunteers at the new entrance wall. **Dennis Superczynski**, 607-8512, jandport@tds.net.

UTAS Donates Outdated Computers

Meet **Dan Sherwood**, Arboretum supporter and computer refurbisher:

Although UTAS is generally on the receiving end of donations, we had 3 computers, previously donated to us, that we could no longer use. **Richard Evans**, his assistant **Lynne Lucas**, and **Charlie Jernigan** came to the rescue. They, with **Norm Dobbs**, coordinated the effort to reuse, not dispose of, the computers.

Dan has long been a fan of the Arboretum, helping keep the weeds in the trails under control by walking them often for over 15 years. He worked in Oak Ridge from 1976 to 2005, often walking the trails during his lunch break, after work and on weekends. He retired 4 years ago and still drives over from his west Knoxville home about twice a week to hike.

He decided that refurbishing older computers would help keep his mind and body busy, and provide a much-needed service to folks who couldn't otherwise afford a computer system. Dan receives donated computer systems and computer parts from many sources. If they work, they are cleaned of data and he installs Linux operating systems. Otherwise they are disassembled and salvaged for parts.

Dan depends on word of mouth to locate deserving people or agencies for refurbished computers. Over the last 3 years, he has donated over 30 systems to needy individuals and nonprofit agencies. He also volunteers as the lead lab technician and refurbisher for Computers for Homebound & Isolated Persons, CHIPs, run by Knox County's Office On Aging.

UTAS is happy our computers have new homes, and that we were able to work with our longtime supporter, Dan Sherwood.

Stumped?

What are the small trees growing in a group along the road below the holly garden that have large, green, oblong fruits at this time of the year and dark red, weird flowers in the spring?



Pawpaw Flowers

This planting is a group of Pawpaw cultivars from a variety of sources. The fruits ripen in the early fall and taste a lot like bananas. You can find groups of Pawpaws along a number of the Arboretum trails, but they rarely flower or produce fruit under a forest canopy. Read



Pawpaw Fruit

more about Pawpaws on the Arboretum webpage under Featured Plants.

Thanks to **Bob Reed** for this information and photos.

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

We Need Your Help

Parkers for Owl Prowl

October 24

We need 5 or 6 people to make sure that everyone attending the Owl Prowl makes their way up to the shelter parking area. If you can come out around 6 pm on Saturday, October 24 for a few hours, give Tom Row a hoot: 482-9096 or tomhrow@bellsouth.net.

Silent Auction

November 10

The auction has become a much-anticipated event, and generates additional funds to support the Arboretum and Endowment Fund. We encourage members to help out by contributing items to the auction themselves and soliciting items from local businesses.

Popular items in previous auctions have included a stay at your vacation home or in an area bed & breakfast; handmade items like wooden bowls and bird houses; baked goods; garden items (decorative, planters, etc.); gift certificates to garden centers or for landscape services. All proceeds support the Arboretum. Please contact **Tom Row** at 482-9096 or tomhrow@bellsouth.net with your donation or questions. All items should be turned in by October 30 or earlier. Thanks!

Wildflower Walk Wildly Successful- Draws a Record Crowd!

Talk about a wild event... If you weren't one of the 150 or so people who turned out to learn about fall wildflowers at the Arboretum from **Kris Light**, you really missed a great event. We had almost 90 cars parked all over the area



The crowd searches for wildflowers



Butterfly Pea-
Centrosema virginianum

by the shelter, some from as far away as Florida and North Carolina, as well as from 10 Tennessee counties. **Charlie Jernigan** got several good pictures to give you an idea of the crowd-take a look. Everyone who turned out enjoyed the gorgeous, sunny fall day at the Arboretum, discovering wildflowers in the company of other plant, nature, and wildflower enthusiasts.



Blue Curl
Trichostema dichotomum

Committee Reports

Plant Collections Committee

This committee looks forward to getting some trees and other plants into the beds in the new parking lot. We have quite a few we've been tending in the greenhouse, and are ready to plant in early October. Remember, this is prime planting time! If you'd like to help out, contact **Lynn Carlson**, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu.

Native Plant Committee

You can see signs of this group's efforts around the Visitor's Center. They meet the third Wednesday of most months at 9 am. Bring gloves and any other hand tools you may need for weeding, digging, planting. **Lee Ann Dobbs** manages this group, 482-6656, leadob@bellsouth.net.

A Big Thank You to Charles Samuels

Charles Samuels is a wonderful photographer and a great friend to UTAS and the Arboretum. When he puts those two things together, it means we have a collection of photo images to use in Branches and other publications. We appreciate his efforts in capturing some of the beauty of our Arboretum and then sharing them with us!

Diantha Paré Recognition Party



Diantha Paré holds panoramic photo of Arboretum by Charles Samuels - This photo courtesy of Charles Samuels

The UTAS board and other guests celebrated **Diantha Paré's** contributions to the Society over many years. She and Vic will soon be leaving Oak Ridge for Ohio to be closer to family members. Diantha sets the standard for volunteer work in a community. For almost 60 years she has offered her time, energy, and considerable skills to a variety of organizations. We wanted to thank her for her devotion to UTAS.

She and Vic certainly enjoyed seeing all who attended, including city and UT officials, and active board alumni. **Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan** made Diantha an Honorary Citizen so that even when she lives elsewhere, she'll still be an Oak Ridger. He also gave her a gold key-to-the-city necklace. **Richard Evans** gave her a handmade rustic bird condo, made with materials from the Arboretum grounds. **The Society** gave her a framed panoramic photo print of the Arboretum by **Charlie Samuels**. **Pat Row** coordinated the refreshments for the event and many members brought outstanding snacks. Many thanks to all for making this possible. We will miss Diantha and all that she does for the Arboretum, the Society, and Oak Ridge, and wish her well in her new community.



Amy Fitzgerald Helps Diantha Paré with her new Key to the City

View Branches Online

Look for an email reminder from UTAS with a link to *Branches* on our website. There, you can see it in color and link to websites, etc. You can also see what else is up at the Arboretum and UTAS. Just go to www.UTArboretumSociety.org and check it out any time.

Email & Membership Notes

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

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

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

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

New & Renewing Members-Thanks!

- Richard & Edith Allshouse
- Emory Valley Garden Club
- Andrew Hartung
- John & Nettie Hill
- Harold & Martha McCurdy
- Chet & Jane Morris
- Phil & Doris Sklad
- Donald Snyder & Mary Sisson

Welcome New Board Member

Lynda Haynes is our new secretary and board member, taking the place of Diantha Paré who is moving away. She was born and raised in Oak Ridge, and is married to Charles (Chuck) Haynes. For 25 years she worked at K-25 and then spent 15 years at Y-12. She retired 2 years ago and volunteers one day a week at Methodist Medical Center, and golfing and hiking with Chuck. They joined the UTAS because in retirement they have more time to spend working in their yard and want to become more educated about plants and landscaping.

UTAS Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Society Friend \$100 Family \$45

Patron \$500 Individual \$30

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

Mail this form and a check to:

UTAS

P.O. Box 5382

Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382



When Good Trees go Bad: 7 Signs that it's Time to call an Arborist

~Jeff Holt, consulting arborist, is also a UTAS board member

Trees, like all other living things, have a relatively fixed life span. Individual trees grow old, get diseases, and become injured. In a wilderness, none of these conditions matter much to people because they are part of the natural process of life. When they are in your yard and threaten your home, church or business, they can matter very much.

A tree's lifespan varies by its species, setting and exposure. I've seen giant Sequoia that were entering their third millennium on our planet, and Lombardy poplars that were old and haggard after only 20 years. Many of the hardwood trees common in our east Tennessee yards, such as red and white oaks, sugar maples, and hickories, can easily live several hundred years under the right conditions, while others become a risk to nearby structures in 75 years or less. A friend living on top of a ridge in Oak Ridge was awakened in the wee hours of a winter night a couple of years ago to find that a large white oak had come through the roof and was now in the living room. This tree had started life in the 1930s and met its end due to weakened roots and strong wind.

How can you avoid this unhappy awakening? Start by getting to know your trees a little better. I don't necessarily mean to hug them, but that won't hurt either. Start by looking at your trees from 100 feet or more away and from as many sides as you can safely see. The first thing to look at is the condition of the tree top (called the crown). Does it look healthy compared to other trees in the neighborhood? Is it full and relatively even, or are there large or small dead branches or patches with no leaves at this time of year? Some species will have normally shed some of their leaves by late summer. What you are looking for is naked branches. Walk up closer to the tree now. Do see any fungal shelves growing on the bark, either in patches or near the roots? This indicates dead wood-not a good sign. Are there wet patches coming down from the area where large branches or sections of the trunk come together? Are there "oozy" holes? Both of these are bad and may indicate a hollow, rotten section of trunk. Remember, once a tree has lost 65-75% of its diameter to rot it can break at any time. Look for large cracks or splits that let you see into the trunk. Look also to see if branches or sections of trunk have split so that the split has traveled down the trunk.

Another area to look at is the relative straightness of the tree. Is the trunk still fairly vertical? If you have a plumb bob, or tie something heavy on a string, you can stand back and use the vertical

string to compare to the tree. Also, look around the root area. Think of the roots of most of our trees as a giant round piece of plywood nailed on the bottom of the tree. When normal, you won't see it. If you see a hump on one side of the tree and a corresponding depression on the other, the root plate has begun to shift and the tree is waiting for wet soils or wind or just a bad time to fall down. Look as well for sawdust or carpenter ants. I have seen this around the roots of two large white pine trees in our area that fell (always at a bad time) within a year or two. The sawdust is your trees roots that have been chewed up.

Assess your tree's condition. If you find any of these signs, or something else that doesn't 'look right,' look in the phone book and call a Certified Arborist. Just about any tree service can take down a tree away from your house...but only an *arborist* is trained to really diagnose problems and solve them in a way that might help you save your tree.

SEVEN SIGNS

1. Dead branches
2. Presence of fungus on bark or roots
3. Wet patches at branch junctions when it's not raining
4. Evidence of hollow or rotting trunk
5. Cracks and splits on the trunk of the tree
6. Tree trunk noticeably off vertical especially if it has changed in the past few years
7. Unevenness of insect activity in the area within 5-6 feet of the tree trunk



UTAS Resources

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Tom Row	Evelyn Lorenz
Vice-President: Lynn Carlson	Eileen Neiler
Secretary: Lynda Haynes	Stan Richards
Treasurer: Wendy Packan	Debbie Roberts
Past President: Norm Dobbs	Marti Salk
	Melanie Berney Staten

Board Members

Ted Ballard	Randy Stewart
Amy Fitzgerald	Beverly Woods
Jeff Holt	<i>Ex Officio</i>
Emily Jernigan	Richard Evans

Branches Editor	Emily Jernigan
Webmaster	Angie Dobbs
Database Manager	Charlie Jernigan

Help Wanted

Ongoing

- **Native Plant Group** meets the third Wednesday most months. Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
- **Plant Collections Committee:** identify existing specimens, select, buy and plant new and or replacement plants, etc. **Lynn Carlson**, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu
- **Choose Your Own Spot!** Let us know what tickles your fancy. Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com, call Tom Row, 482-9096
- **Owl Prowl:** we need 5 or 6 helpers with parking. No experience required. Tom Row, 482-9096, tomhrow@bellsouth.net

Thanks!

Bob Reed has resigned from the board. Although he is no longer a board member, Bob plans to stay involved with UTAS and the UTA, working on the 'Featured Plants' for the web site and other projects. Bob has contributed a great deal to our organization, much of it behind the scenes, and we're grateful for his ongoing efforts on behalf of the Arboretum.

Welcome

Lynda Haynes has joined the board and will serve as secretary, filling in for Diantha Paré who is moving to Ohio. Read more about them elsewhere in this issue.

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.UTArboretumSociety.org

Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

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

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Looking to the Future...

The UT Arboretum Endowment Campaign

A \$3 million endowment campaign has been initiated to secure future funding for the UT Arboretum. The **Rogers Group** has pledged a **\$500,000** Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed **\$25,000** to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum.

Now we need to engage everyone to fully achieve our goal. You can assist this effort in many ways:

Become an ambassador for the Arboretum and spread the word about the Endowment:

- Include the Arboretum Endowment in your estate planning
- Help the campaign partners identify potential donors
- Talk about how much the Arboretum has meant to you, your children and the community
- Honor loved ones with memorials to the Endowment

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

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

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

UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Development- Thomas Looney - 865-974-8622

UT Arboretum -Richard Evans - 865-483-3571

UT Arboretum Society -Tom Row 482-9096

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

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

www.utalumni.utk.edu/givetout



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Don't miss our Annual Dinner & Auction
Tuesday, November 10, 6 pm
Elks Club, Oak Ridge

Plant Sale

Featuring
Dogwoods, Crapes & Magnolia

Saturday, October 10 9-3
At the Arboretum



Upcoming Events

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- Oct 24 Owl Prowl - Katie Cottrell 6:30 pm
- Nov 10 Annual Dinner Meeting & Auction
- Nov 14 Holly Work Day - 9 am - Noon
- TBD Help construct new stone entrance to the Elmore Holly Garden