

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No 19 - Summer 2010

UTAS President's Message

Tom Row talks about plants and programs, and discusses the need for reservations for some of our most successful activities.

Page 2

Stumped? Ask us!

How many calories do I burn when I'm gardening?

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



Page 3

Director's Desk Richard Evans

Richard Evans goes behind the scenes again, this time looking at the UTA landscape and the efforts that go into creating and maintaining it.

Page 2

Harold Elmore Holly Garden Dedication

We honor the late Harold Elmore and his efforts to assemble a significant holly collection at the UT Arboretum.

Page 1

New Phenology Garden

Dr. Bill Klingeman describes the new Phenology Garden at UTA. They're studying seasonal flowering and plant growth characteristics.

Page 5

Upcoming Events

- July 24 Elmore Holly Garden Dedication
 - July 31 *Moth-er's* Night Out
 - Aug 7 Nature Photography Workshop
 - Aug 14 Birds & Bees
 - Sept 18 Fall Wildflower Walks
 - Oct 9 Fall Plant Sale
- Page 3

A Tribute to "Mr. Holly," Harold L. Elmore

For his inspiration, dedication, and expertise with the genus *Ilex*, the University of Tennessee Arboretum is recognizing the **Elmore Holly Collection** with the construction of a stone feature for its holly collection. This stone structure will serve as a permanent reminder of **Harold Elmore's** volunteer spirit and unselfish contributions to the Arboretum. From 1977 until his passing in 2002 he passionately pursued his goal of assembling specimen holly plantings representing over 200 different *Ilex* species and cultivars at the Arboretum. The present collection, initially proposed as the *Holly Garden*, was established in 1984. Originally designed by the late **Lois Good** (then-UTAS President and a landscape designer), the first planting was made in 1985 in an effort spearheaded by Harold Elmore. Additional cultivars continue to be planted in this ongoing effort. In April

2004 **Richard Evans**, Arboretum Director, officially designated the holly collection in the University of Tennessee Arboretum as the **Elmore Holly Collection**.

Born in Etowah, Tennessee, Harold Elmore, a chemist, horticulturist, author, World War II Navy veteran, Boy Scout leader, and owner of Holly Haven Hybrids, was a man of many skills and talents. As a member and former president of The Holly Society of America, his expertise as a holly hybridizer gave him frequent opportunities to share his knowledge internationally, and he became known as 'Mr. Holly.' In Harold's honor, The Holly Society of America will be recognized with a plaque embedded in the new structure with the designation 'Official Holly Arboreta and Experimental Test Center.' This signifies that the UT Arboretum is an institution that will, "Educate plant lovers in the use of holly in the landscape and comply with HSA guidelines."

Construction of the Collection's stone feature began in October 2009. Holly Task

Force and UTAS volunteers, working with Richard Evans and his staff, under the direction of professional stone mason **Ted Rosner** of Staten Island, New York, worked on the feature. The wall-bench concept was inspired by the stone bench walls at Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, seen during the UTAS 2007 garden tour. We owe special gratitude to **Tony and Amber Bow**, owners of **Basses Creek Stone, Inc.** (www.bassescreekstone.com) in Crossville, Tennessee, for their generous donation of Tennessee fieldstone and caps used to construct the feature.

UTAS and The University Institute of Agriculture will host a formal dedication of the **Harold L. Elmore Holly Collection** on Saturday morning, July 24. Members of Harold's family will be present at this event and invitations are extended to UTAS members, friends and supporters of the Arboretum, and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture.

~Dennis Superczynski, Holly Task Force



President's Letter

Summer has arrived with its high, persistent heat and little rain, so carefully monitor and water your plants! UTAS volunteers are busy watering the plants around the new parking area, and this steady use of hoses has resulted in the decision to buy new hoses and to add a tool to the hydrant near the parking lot for easier and better watering capability. We care about this beautiful place and are willing to work to keep it looking great for our visitors. Join us!

Our enlarged program agenda is experiencing just a few growing pains, mostly because some are too popular. The Virginia Garden Tour and our Lavender Festival participation were very successful. The Stream Ecology workshop had enthusiastic attendees but did not reach our attendance goal. We had asked people to call and reserve a spot because of limitations in the site size and safe transit issues. We also wanted participants to have an enjoyable learning experience with hands-on opportunities. Those who did attend had an absolutely wonderful experience.

We're also asking people to call ahead for our Fall Wildflower Walk with Kris Light. This event set an all-time attendance record last year. Since we want to provide an optimal experience for everyone, this fall we'll have two walks on September 18, at 10 am and 2 pm. We need your help in letting potential attendees understand the reasons we sometimes have a call-ahead requirement: it allows us to optimize our programs for attendees.

Why so much program emphasis? Programs are an integral part of our mission, and as we move through our Endowment Campaign and get closer to realization of our goals in that Campaign we want to have a full menu of activities that will use those new additions to the Arboretum.

Have you thought about your gift to the Endowment? A number of naming opportunities are possible and you should be receiving information on this very soon. Enjoy these summer days, and save some of your energy for volunteer work at the Arboretum. It needs TLC just like home does, and we appreciate all the volunteer hours that go into making it a Place for All Seasons!

~Tom Row, UTAS President
tomhrow@bellsouth.net, 865-482-9096



Director's Desk

In my last column I promised to follow up with more looks behind the scenes at the Arboretum. I hope I can give our supporters an appreciation for how resources are allocated to the maintenance of grounds, facilities and infrastructure. On a broad scale, one feature of our landscape seems to be most appreciated: the grand pastoral settings and vistas configured within a blend of open spaces and forests, and, nestled within this landscape, plantings of trees and shrubs that cause one to pause and view the beauty of nature. This feature is more than just a backdrop for highlighting our collection of special plants which makes our Arboretum an arboretum; it is a canvas which holds the creation. Like an artist's canvas that the painting on it obscures, the canvas is the foundation.

I was recently reminded of the importance of the grand view of the Arboretum's landscape when I stopped to talk to a visitor who had taken up a relaxed position on a bench near the Program Shelter. I was hesitant to disturb him as he was obviously enjoying the moment. I offered a brief greeting. He simply said, "This is my favorite place to sit." I let him be.

Later, I went back and sat on that bench and to see what made that particular spot so inviting. I, too, was taken in by the vista, the pastoral setting – all of it, but nothing in particular. Then I thought of the canvas and knew what he meant.

The canvas is the work behind the scene. It is the hours our staff spends on the mowers, on maintaining the mowers, the cost of gas, and long list of untold incidentals to maintain that scene. I once figured that it took our three-person crew two days a week, from spring to fall, of continuous work just to maintain the open grass areas. The associated costs mount up fast: gas for the mowers is over \$140 a week; and depreciation and maintenance expenses for our commercial size mowers, each costing over \$7500, would be about \$3000 a year. Then there are all of those incidentals: herbicide; gravel for the roads; tractors; vehicles; shop tools; oil; grease; even Band-Aids! I'd better stop there - I'm starting to hyperventilate. My point is this: the canvas is a necessary and expensive item that is mostly under-appreciated and unrecognized. Without it, though, the Arboretum would lose its vital structure.

See our website for more information:

<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Richard Evans, Director

Upcoming Events

Elmore Holly Garden Dedication

Saturday, July 24 10 a.m. The Holly Garden at the Arboretum

UTAS and The University Institute of Agriculture are hosting a formal dedication of the Harold L. Elmore Holly Collection on Saturday, July 24. Members of Harold's family will attend, and UTAS members, friends and supporters of the Arboretum, and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture are invited. See related article, p. 1.

Nature Photography with Bob McLaren

Saturday, August 7 10 a.m. Arboretum

Learn some ABCs of nature photography in this workshop on the grounds of the Arboretum. Oak Ridge photographer Bob McLaren will help you capture some of nature's finest, right on your camera!

Moth-er's Night Out with Kris Light

Saturday, July 31 7:30 p.m. Arboretum

Curious about moths and other night-flying insects? Come on down to enjoy an evening out at this family friendly event. Black lights and sheets will attract moths and more. Kris will give a short presentation, then after sunset we'll go out to observe the insects that come to the sheets. Local moth enthusiasts will be available to help identify them. Learn what kinds of creatures come out in the woods at night. Besides moths, we might see beetles, stoneflies, mayflies, and perhaps even a few stick insects.



Birds and Bees with Kris Light

Saturday, August 14 10 a.m. Arboretum

Kris will give a short presentation, and then we'll go out to the gardens to look for butterflies, bees, beetles and other insects.

Two Fall Wildflower Walks with Kris Light

Saturday, September 18 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Arboretum

Kris's wildflower walks are so popular that we've had to add a second walk, and request that you call ahead to reserve your spot. Help us make sure that everyone enjoys all aspects of their walk. **Please call the UTA at 865-483-3571 to save your spot.**

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 9 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Arboretum

Trees love to be planted in the fall, and it's a great time for gardeners, too. The weather is cooler, the bugs are mostly gone, and you can even work off some of those tailgate party calories! You'll get high quality, far from run-of-the-mill plants, plus you'll support the Arboretum.

Stumped?

How many calories do I burn when I'm gardening?

It depends on the activity. According to Jeffrey Restuccio, author of *Get Fit through Gardening*, weeding burns 364 calories an hour while watering uses only 122. Although there's no scientific basis for this, Stumpy's pretty sure that digging in Oak Ridge clay soil burns at least 1,000 calories in the half hour it takes to get a 9" hole. Find a more complete list at motherjones.com/blue-marble/2010/04/econundrum-gardening-exercise-calories

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



Our Plant Sale Helpers - Thank You!

Lucretia Atterson	Eileen Neiler
Ted Ballard	Marese Nephew
Kathy Bracic	Wendy Packan
Lynn Carlson	Dick Raridon
Katie Cottrell	Davis & Susan Reed
Bob & Janet Cushman	Bob & Willow Reed
Norm & Lee Ann Dobbs	Stan & Vicky Richards
Amy Fitzgerald	Debbie Roberts
Chuck & Lynda Haynes	Tom Row
Chris Hamilton	Marti Salk
Jeff & Lecie Holt	Don Searle
Pat Hunsicker	Barry Shupe
JoAnn Johnson	Kathy Strunk
Charlie & Emily Jernigan	Dennis Superczynski
Noel Kawado	Marie Walsh
Larry Landau	Will Witte
Evelyn Lorenz	Beverly Woods

Special thanks also go to the UT Forest Resources Center Headquarters staff who help make our plant sales possible: Richard Evans, Jimmie (Bo) Duncan, Yvonne Hitchcock, Lynne Lucas and Mike Trammell. Martin Schubert, Kelly Hamby and Todd Hamby of the Cumberland Forest staff helped with site preparation.

New & Renewing Members - Thanks!

Mary F. Alford	Barry Shupe & Noel Kawado
Debbie Allen	Brenda Kimmel
Sharon Annis	Kathleen Kitzmiller
Ann Bales	Susan Kreke
Sandra M. Barry	Evelyn Lorenz
Nancy Basford	David Mabry
Tim Tracy & Sarah Bateman	Harold & Martha McCurdy
Mozelle Bell	Sara Melton
Jonathan & Marie Bullock	Evelyn Moyers
Barbara Bunting	Robert Murdock
Cathy Cary	Dan Nable
James H. Day	Marian Poteat
Warren Devine	Jim Reca
Linda Ducamp	Dan & Eva Robbins
Peter & Mary Ann Emanuel	Rita Sass
Ruth Ewald	Mary Jane Sill
Joe Freeman	Randy Stewart
Susan Gawarecki	Susan Stockdale
Harvey Goranson	Barbara & Bob Stone
Margaret Gottshall	Jan Violet
David Greenwood	Nyta Wall
Doug & Sally Gross	Julie Watts/Robert Devault
Jon Hetrick	Valerie Widgren
Barbara Isenberg	Sue Williams
Doug & Cyndi Jeffers	Amy Wolfe
Clara Joan Johnson	

Committee Reports

Plant Collections: Plant Donations for the Parking Lot Now in Place

UTAS has begun landscaping of the Arboretum's new parking lot, with the formerly bare mulch now containing some fledgling shrubs, perennials, and ground covers. Many thanks are due to members **Marian Poteat**, for several papa-bear-size *yucca filamentosa*, and **Cleva Marrow**, for many divisions of named cultivars of hardy geraniums and *epimedium*. **Andy Sessions** of **Sunlight Gardens** gave us nine smaller *yuccas* to fill out the display, and **Andre Viette** of **Viette's Beautiful Gardens** in Fishersville, Virginia, endowed us with ten gorgeous daylily cultivars during the recent UTAS garden tour. Viette also gave us a number of variegated *Solomon's Seals* that will be installed in the Native Plant Garden at the Visitors Center.

We're doing our best to keep these wonderful new plants watered through the potentially dry summer months ahead, planning for supplemental watering whenever the rainfall at the Arboretum is less than an inch per week. If you'd like to help with that, contact the Plant Collections Committee chair, Lynn Carlson, at lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu. It's a brief commitment, only once or twice during the summer—a good way to get involved and make a difference with UTAS.

Native Plant Group

Lee Ann Dobbs reports that this group continues to keep the weeds in the beds around the Visitor's Center and on the hillside at bay. They are now edging the beds, and doing ongoing maintenance in this area. Their efforts are really paying off, and all Arboretum visitors are welcomed with the much-improved display of native plants. They usually meet in the morning on the third Wednesday of the month, March through November. Contact Lee Ann Dobbs, leadob@bellsouth.net, 482-6566, to join in.

The Elmore Holly Collection Happenings

The Holly Task Force and UTAS volunteers welcomed spring in April with a work session in the Elmore Holly Collection. Ten volunteers cleared winter's debris and undergrowth and applied a spring feeding for the younger hollies. **Will Witte** supplied fertilizer and directed its application and selective pruning. One new holly was planted: #45 'Yule Brite' (*ilex x koeheana*) 'Conayule'. This holly was donated to the collection by **Beaver Creek Nursery** and is another product of Mrs. Meserve's breeding program. This distinctly upright pyramidal grower produces an abundance of bright red fruit that persists well beyond the New Year and will provide a wealth of holiday decorating material. **Carmen Gianforte** and **Dennis Superczynski** prepared an assessment of missing and damaged signage labels in the collection. **Jan Superczynski** prepared a luncheon for volunteers to conclude the morning session.

The Holly Task Force thanks all those that participated in this effort: **Norm Dobbs, Sally Gross, Lee Ann Dobbs, Fran Scheidt, Richard Evans, Dennis Superczynski, Carmen Gianforte, Jan Superczynski, Josie Gianforte and Will Witte.**

In May we worked to finish the patio area around the holly collection entrance feature. Coordinated by **Norm Dobbs**, the session was led by **Chuck Haynes**, experienced in mortar applications. With brick trowels in hand, nine UTAS volunteers hand-placed mortar in adjoining patio stones with near-professional results, completing the project in record time.

Thank you to all those who participated: **Chuck Haynes, Carmen Gianforte, Bob Reed, Norm Dobbs, Dennis Superczynski, Lynn Carlson, Katie Cottrell, Richard Evans, and Tom Row.**

We appreciate the signage **Carmen Gianforte** created and installed for nine of the new or damaged holly labels. All the known holly varieties in the collection are now properly labeled.

We encourage UTAS Members to join our task force to help 'tidy our garden' in preparation for dedications of the Elmore Holly Collection first for UTAS and the UT Institute of Agriculture on July 24, and again on Thursday, November 4 for the Holly Society of America Annual Meeting.

Dennis Superczynski, Holly Task Force

The Holly Task Force: **Carmen Gianforte, Fran Scheidt, Barry Shupe, Mike Stansberry, Dennis Superczynski and Will Witte**



Applying mortar - one of the last steps - are Bob Reed, Lynn Carlson, Norm Dobbs, Carmen Gianforte and Chuck Haynes

Lavender Festival Booth a Success

We had a booth at the Lavender Festival in Jackson Square, Oak Ridge, on June 19. With a simple display using plants and UT Arboretum benches, the booth looked a little bit like a trail junction (squat and hold your head sideways a bit here). We sold most of the plants, including all the Dawn Redwood seedlings, indicating the public's thirst for reasonably priced tree seedlings. **Jeff Holt** organized UTAS' participation with great help from **Stan Richards, Wendy Packan, Marti Salk, Janet Cushman, Eileen Neiler, Norm and Lee Ann Dobbs**, who staffed the booth. Vital to our effort were those who helped behind the scenes: **Bob Reed, Dick Raridon, and Lecie Holt.** Lecie's creativity was on display with the lavender and sage green swag she sewed to decorate the canopy lent by Dick Raridon.

Workshops & Walks Draw Participants of All Ages

Jim Evans, TWRA officer, led a group of about 20 on Migratory Bird Day through the Arboretum on an early morning hike.

Jeff Holt introduced an enthusiastic group to the basics of reading a topographic map with an indoor presentation at the Arboretum. The group then took to the woods to put their new knowledge into action.

Kris Light showed her Stream Ecology group slides of creatures they might find in Arboretum streams. After carpooling to the stream they found insects, crawfish, minnows and more that they caught, examined more closely, and released them back to their habitat.

Spring Plant Sale a Big Success

Norm Dobbs, Plant Sale chair, with help from **Debbie Roberts**, chose some outstanding hardy Camellias for this year's sale. Along with our three traditional vendors, **Beaver Creek Nursery**, **East Fork Nursery**, and **Sunlight Gardens**, we were treated to a return engagement by **Scott Williams** of **Lashbrooke Nursery** and their Japanese Maples, and we welcomed new Oak Ridge plant vendor **Aquatic & Natural**

Landscaping. **Bob Reynolds** donated Tube Roses. Our choice of Camellias proved to be so popular that we sold all 140 of the 10 varieties that we offered. We also generated about \$14,000 to support the UTA. We appreciate everyone who came out to support UTAS, the UT Arboretum, and our local vendors.

What's Growing On? The UT Phenology Garden Pilot Study

~Dr. William Klingeman, Associate Professor, UT Plant Sciences

Frequent visitors to the UT Arboretum may have noticed something new about the hillside just southeast of the Harold Elmore Holly Collection. We cleared the ground and the first plants are in place and mulched in support of a new UT Arboretum/Department of Plant Sciences research initiative that will explore *plant phenology*, or seasonal flowering and plant growth characteristics, as a tool to aid monitoring for key pests and plant diseases affecting landscape trees and shrubs. The garden plots at the UT Arboretum are just one piece of a much larger research initiative.

Bill Klingeman (Associate Professor, UT Plant Sciences) and **David Held** (Assistant Professor, Auburn University Entomology and Plant Pathology) have been working since 2007 to launch a Phenology Garden initiative for the southeastern U.S. In Alabama, during the fall of 2009, **Dr. David Held** and graduate student **Ray Young** established five replicated garden plots at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, Mobile Botanical Garden, Auburn University Campus, Auburn Wiregrass Research & Extension Center, and at Oak Mountain Middle School in Birmingham (for more information on the Auburn University Phenology Garden project and sites, visit <https://sites.auburn.edu/academic/ENPL/phenology/Pages/default.aspx>).

In March 2010, **Bill** and **Phil Flanagan** (Research Associate, UT Plant Sciences) worked with regional cooperators **Frank Hale** (Professor, UT Entomology and Plant Pathology), **Beth Babbit** (Urban Horticulture Specialist and State Master Gardener Coordinator, UT Plant Sciences), and **Richard Evans** (Director, Forestry Experiment Station and Arboretum) to install the first gardens in Tennessee. Duplicate plots in Tennessee have been installed outside the Soil, Plant and Pest Center at Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville and at the Knoxville Botanic Garden and Arboretum (www.knoxgarden.org). Bill chose the same palette of plants for each site as were installed in Alabama gardens in late 2009. Both the Tennessee and Alabama pilot studies will be used to advance a larger regional effort tracking sentinel plant flowering phenology across the eastern U.S.

The Phenology Garden at the UT Arboretum covers about 0.4 acre, and when complete will include four replicated plantings of at least 13 clonal sentinels (Table 1). Researchers chose plants that have easily recognizable and sequential phenologies that provide a flowering continuum of from early spring through November. At each garden location, garden plots are sited on nearly level ground with even sun exposure. Sites were also chosen so that plants would not be influenced by heat reflected from man-made structures or roadways creating undesirable microclimates. By using four replicated plant sentinels of each species, researchers will receive an average phenophase measurement for each species.

In addition to tracking seasonal plant flowering activity, the team will also use insect pheromone and floral attractant lures, as well as wild-

collected egg masses, to track emergence and seasonal flight activities of several key insect pests that are perennial problems in landscapes around the southeastern U.S. Among the rogue's gallery of landscape pests are clearwing moths, including the dogwood borer, peachtree borer, lilac and lilac/ash borers; Japanese beetles; fall armyworm; black cutworm; green June beetle; bagworms; and eastern tent caterpillars. In the future, the group also hopes to correlate plant flowering activity with activity of several problem plant diseases (e.g., powdery mildew of dogwood) and even germination of large crabgrass and several emerging weed concerns (e.g., mulberry weed, chamberbitter).

Other national projects have been initiated with objectives to evaluate plant phenology as a way to assist in tracking different plants, animals, and insects, as well as climate change. For more information about these efforts, visit the USA National Phenology Network (www.usanpn.org) and Project Budburst (www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/index.php).

If you have an interest in volunteering to collect phenology data or to help maintain the phenology garden plots, please contact Bill Klingeman (wklingem@utk.edu), Richard Evans (revans6@utk.edu), or Beth Babbit (ebbabit@utk.edu) by email or through the Department of Plant Sciences (865) 974-7324.

Table 1 Phenology Gardens in Tennessee and Alabama include replicated plantings of 13 sentinel species and varieties that provide sequential flowering or phenophases from early spring through late fall.

Cultivar	Flowering Time
'Lynwood Gold' Border Forsythia	mid to late March
'Ice Follies' Daffodil	late March to early April
'Yoshino' Cherry	mid to late March
'Eleanor Tabor' Indian Hawthorne	mid to late April
'Ruby' Loropetalum	mid April
'Ellen Huff' Oakleaf hydrangea	early to mid May
'Natchez' Crapemyrtle	May
'Happy Returns' Daylily	June
'Hummingbird' Clethra alternifolia	late June to early July
Majestic' Liriope	late June
'Crown of Rays' Goldenrod	August to September
'Lemon Queen' Perennial Sunflower	September
'Winter's Joy' Camellia sasanqua x C. oleifera	October



Dr. Klingeman, Jimmy Duncan (FRRE Center Sr. Field Worker, on the tractor) & Phil Flanagan (Res. Associate) establishing the new Phenology Garden

Explore Virginia Garden Tour

Early in June 31 UTAS travelers departed Oak Ridge on a bus for gardens and historical venues in colonial Virginia. Our first stop was Charlottesville, Virginia's **Michie Tavern**. With an eighteenth century

tavern life atmosphere, Michie Tavern offers a hearty Midday Fare with servers in period attire, giving us a wonderful prelude to our afternoon visit to the nearby house and gardens of Thomas Jefferson's

Monticello. The stately house and plantation were designed by Thomas Jefferson himself, and sit on a small mountain named

Monticello, *Little Mountain* in Old Italian. After a captivating tour of the house that overlooks spacious gardens, a rain-shortened afternoon allowed only our most intrepid travelers to venture onto the grounds.

The following morning, bright and refreshed, we visited the **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden** in Richmond. Colorful flowers, theme gardens, a classical domed conservatory, and a special glass exhibit by world famous flame-work glass artist Godo Frabel contribute to the

fascination of this exciting, young public garden. The glass sculpture exhibit began this spring and features over 100 glass sculptures mounted in pools and fountains throughout the garden and conservatory. Brilliant banners, entitled *Bright Spots, 2010*, mark the most dramatic seasonal displays throughout the gardens.

One may wonder what Lancashire, England and the Irwell River have in common with Richmond, Virginia, and the James River. We found out at **Agecroft Hall**, the remarkable Tudor estate that was dismantled, shipped across Atlantic in the 1920s, and reassembled in Richmond on the banks of the James River. Originally constructed in Lancashire in the late 15th century, a guided tour of the interior and gardens of this remarkable estate catapulted us into the life of the landed gentry in England's Tudor and early Stuart periods. The sunken garden, based on the pond garden at England's Hampton Court Place, connected the gardens of Agecroft Hall and the Virginia House immediately next door. **Virginia House** was also bought in a demolition sale in the 1920s and constructed from the materials of a 16th century English Manor House. We had a delightful foray into British history without leaving the United States.

Traveling farther east on the James River, we arrived at **Berkeley Plantation** the next morning. Here, at the most historic plantation on the James River, settlers observed the first official Thanksgiving in America in 1619. It is birthplace of Benjamin Harrison V., signer of the Declaration of Independence, and of William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison, the 9th and 23rd Presidents of the United States. A tour of the Georgian mansion followed by a leisurely walk down to the James River concluded the morning visit.

Then it was time for a visit to the private garden of Scott and Beth Burrell's **Giving Tree** (www.givingtreeltd.com). We strolled their lovely manicured garden paths while enjoying a wine & cheese reception, and then could purchase some special plants. Beth Burrell is a garden Design Specialist at Giving Tree.



Lewis Ginter Garden, English Cottage



Glass clowns dot the water

Then **Sandy's Plants, Inc.** (www.sandysplants.com) gave us a treasure trove of container perennials, ground covers, and ornamental grasses. Short on time, they gave us electric golf carts to roam the nursery in search of 'must have' perennials. I had Sandy navigate with me to search for *Salvia* 'Sensation Rose'. It was a plant-lover's delight!

Although not on the itinerary, we could not resist a visit to the **Jefferson Hotel** in downtown Richmond. Some members of our group dined that evening in the elegant Lemaire Restaurant, named for Jefferson's maitre d'hotel during his years in the White House. After dinner, we found the Grand Staircase, believed to be the model for the Atlanta mansion staircase in the movie *Gone With The Wind*.

Our return trip to Oak Ridge featured a tour of **Viette's Beautiful Gardens** (www.viette.com) in Fishersville.

Andre Viette met our bus for a stroll through their display gardens. We discovered beautiful daylilies beginning to bloom, and Andre's discussion of the importance of non-native plant varieties was both enlightening and informative. Andre generously donated 10 specialty daylilies to the UT Arboretum that are now planted in the new parking area beds. At Viette's Beautiful Gardens you'll find only the highest quality plants and gardening equipment.

Andre recommended the **Edelweiss German Restaurant** in Staunton. A surprising and welcome treat, we enjoyed a bit of Germany in the Blue Ridge Mountains, with authentic, traditional German food.

UTAS Tours are offered for the enjoyment of its membership at reduced prices. This tour was planned by the 2009 Garden Tour Committee: **Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Joanna Partain, Faye Beck, and Fran Scheidt**.

~Dennis Superczynski, UTAS Garden Tour Director

Tour Participants: Debbie Allen, David & Katie Cottrell, Norm & Lee Ann Dobbs, Liz Elliott, Donald & Linda Grandage, Christine Griffin, Doug & Sally Gross, John & Nettie Hill, JoAnn Johnson, Brenda Kimmel, Cheri Lane, Peggy Mahoney, Joanna Partain, Arnetta Peters, Hella Peterson, David & MaryAnn Piper, Dick & Mona Raridon, Jim Recca, Tom Row, Rita Sass, Dennis & Jan Superczynski, Nyta Wall, Will Witte



The Grand Staircase

Plant Lovers are a Trip - An Ode to the Virginia Garden Tour

~Mona Raridon

I really don't need more plants
But I don't have one of those.

I'm looking for a ...
You don't have it?!

Sold out?!
But I wanted one!

Boxwoods? Why?
They smell and are really boring.

Fifty acres in 20 minutes?
Dennis, we need more time.

Just one more plant,
I'll find a place for it.

Visiting gardens is nice
But bringing home plants is better.

Oh, look at that one over there!



UTAS Resources

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Tom Row
 Vice-President: Lynn Carlson
 Secretary: Lynda Haynes
 Treasurer: Wendy Packan
 Past President: Norm Dobbs

Emily Jernigan
 Evelyn Lorenz
 Eileen Neiler
 Richard Raridon
 Stan Richards
 Debbie Roberts
 Marti Salk
 Melanie Berney Staten
 Randy Stewart
 Beverly Woods

Board Members

Ted Ballard
 Amy Fitzgerald
 Stacey Fuller
 Jeff Holt

Ex Officio
 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

Thanks!

Beverly Woods organized the UTAS volunteers for the plant sale.
Bob Reynolds donated tube roses to our plant sale.
Jeff Holt led our Lavender Festival booth and several workshops.
Norm Dobbs headed up the plant sale.
Carmen Gianforte created and installed signage for 9 hollies.
Kris Light continues to lead workshops at UTAs.
Jim Evans and **Katie Cottrell** lead and arranged for the bird walk.
Dennis Superczynski organized and led another outstanding tour.
Basses Creek Stone, Crossville, donated stone for the Holly Garden wall feature.

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.utarboretumsociety.org
 Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

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

Design and editorial services donated by 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 pledged a **\$500,000** Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over **\$30,000** 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



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 273
Oak Ridge, TN

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



Please join us as we dedicate the Harold L. Elmore Holly Collection on Saturday, July 24 at 10 a.m.



*Back to the 'Stone Age': Not a typical high-tech Oak Ridge project. Volunteers Dan Claus, Tom Row, Randy Stewart, Ted Rosner, Jeff Holt, Dennis Superczynski, Richard Evans, & Stan Richards start the Elmore Holly Garden wall feature. Not pictured: Norm Dobbs, Will Witte, Brian Superczynski
Photo by Scott Fraker, The Oak Ridger*

Upcoming Events

- July 24 Elmore Holly Garden Dedication**
- July 31 *Moth-er's* Night Out**
- Aug 7 Nature Photography Workshop**
- Aug 14 Birds & Bees**
- Sept 18 Fall Wildflower Walks**
- Oct 9 Fall Plant Sale**
- Oct 23 Owl Prowl**