

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Committee Reports

Read about our Viburnum Valley Project, the Native Plant Group, Membership Committee and see our slate of board members and officers.

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Stumped?

I picked up a leaf of a tall shrub with shiny green leaves near the Juniper Garden and Shade Tree collection. It had a strong root beer odor. What is this plant?



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

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Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship with other plant enthusiasts, a silent auction, and our speaker, Andy Pulte.

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Hoooooot! The Owl Prowl is Here

This popular event gives everyone an opportunity to see some of these night creatures up close, and to explore their habitat at the Arboretum.

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Issue No. 28 - Fall 2012

Calendar

- Oct. 13 Fall Plant Sale
- Oct. 27 Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell, Kathy Strunk
- Nov. 13 Annual Dinner & Silent Auction
- Nov. 17 Holly Work Day

Fall Plant Sale Includes Birdhouses and More

Originally named "The Smart Gardener's Plant Sale," our 10th Fall Plant Sale will be held on October 13 from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. Quality plants will be available, as usual, from [Beaver Creek Nursery](#), [East Fork Nursery](#), [Riverdale Nursery](#), and [Sunlight Gardens](#). Other plants will be available from the Society, and from its members and friends, including Oak Ridge's own **Huey Sides** who has hybridized and raised many unique and beautiful azaleas. The Society's "Answer Man," **Dr. Will Witte**, will be on hand to answer all your plant questions.

New this fall: Birdhouses and cutting boards, built by Huey Sides from carefully selected and milled hardwoods, will be available. Oak Ridge's **Razzelberry's Ice Cream Lab and Kitchen** will be selling sandwiches and ice cream, so bring your family or some friends and enjoy a picnic or an ice cream treat after you shop for plants.

Society members who work at the sale have the opportunity to get to know other members



Razzelberry's delicious food and ice cream!
Photo by Charlie Samuels

better, serve as UT Arboretum ambassadors to the public and as recruiters for new Society members. Our Society volunteers are critical to making each of our plant sales a huge success. If you have not been contacted by **Beverly Woods** to work at this year's sale and wish to volunteer, please give her a call at 482-3212.

Remember: we accept only cash or checks.



Selecting plants is fun for all ages.
Photo by Emily Jernigan.



President's Letter

As we look to the Annual Dinner in November, I'd like to thank some folks for their dedication to UTAS. The staff of the UT Forestry Resources Research and Education Center (FRREC) put great effort into keeping the Arboretum a safe and attractive community resource and preparing for activities like UTAS Plant Sales and programs. Lynn Lucas, Administrative Assistant, and the Field Crew, Yvonne Hitchcock, Mike Trammell, and Bo Duncan - thanks for your efforts.

Volunteers are essential to the success of the Arboretum. The Native Plant Group, led by Lee Ann Dobbs, weeds, plants, and maintains the gardens that greet visitors as they enter the grounds. The Holly Task Force maintains the Arboretum's world-class holly collection. Dennis Superczynski, captain of the Holly Task Force, also coordinated a first-class tour of the gardens of Charleston, SC, this year. Norm Dobbs coordinates the Spring and Fall Plant Sales. His dedication, the supporting efforts of Beverly Woods and Debby Roberts, and the work of UTAS volunteers assure UTAS's viability. The Plant Collections Group, led by Lynn Carlson, has planned and is executing a Viburnum Valley along the road to the Program Shelter, a major addition to the Arboretum's collections. Past President Tom Row coordinated the UTAS-sponsored programs, and his insights and wise counsel have been invaluable. Melanie Staten has been outstanding in assuring the media receives timely notice of UTAS programs and activities. Emily Jernigan edits and is the driving force behind this excellent newsletter. Charlie Jernigan is our database guru who tracks our membership. Angie Dobbs, our webmaster, keeps our website up-to-date and attractive. UTAS owes a special debt of gratitude to these folks. We have a new board member, Debi Boody, to welcome. To the many volunteers whom I did not recognize individually, thank you for your dedication and effort.

Kevin Hoyt, FRREC Director, deserves a special note of thanks. A true partner to UTAS, he works to bring new ideas and to maintain traditional ties to our organization. We thank him and his family for their enthusiastic support of the Society.

Now, the most important thanks to all of you for continuing your support of the Society during difficult economic times. Thank you for your participation in our programs and activities, for your advice and counsel, and for your concern and interest. Without you, UTAS could not exist. Keep up the good work!

~Charles Samuels, UTAS President

samuels253@comcast.net, 865-482-3502

Director's Desk

"One cannot manage change; one can only be ahead of it." Peter Drucker As I reflect on the approach of the fall season that will bring change to the foliage within the Arboretum, I am reminded of how the change in demographics and technology is influencing every aspect of our lives. As an outreach organization, we should strive to embrace change by continually developing new programs, enhancing existing programs, and seeking out new avenues to build our membership base.

During the past year as your Director I have come to realize how passionately our community values the UT Arboretum; but it still remains relatively unknown by the masses that drive past the entrance sign everyday to and from work. I base this position on conversations I've had with people at my daughters' schools, parents at soccer practice, my fishing buddies, my Leadership Oak Ridge classmates, and others. Many people told me that they did not know there was a 250 acre Arboretum that contains over 2000 woody plants, several public gardens, and 7 miles of walking trails here in Oak Ridge. After my PR speech, many said they would definitely plan a future visit with their families. Even though this is a small sample, I truly believe they may be somewhat representative of the masses the drive past by the sign everyday.

As I understand it, over the last few years the UT Arboretum Society has made a targeted effort to introduce the community to the Arboretum with new nontraditional programs. Moreover, I have had the opportunity to experience several of these events first hand with my family, most notably the Owl Prowl and the Father-Daughter Hike. I understand that although our members actively participate, the events are also attended by nonmember families with young children. So here lies both the opportunity and the dilemma: we have a captured audience, and must now make our case for them to join UTAS. The ultimate challenge for us will be to stay true to our mission while embracing the change that can provide multiple avenues for growth.

At the end of the day the change we are facing is really about people and growth. Having more members will increase our financial support base, provide a greater volunteer workforce, and help expose the next generation of stakeholders to this wonderful place. Invite your friends, coworkers, and neighbors to join us. Send me your ideas about change that may help us grow.

See our website for more information:

<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

Upcoming Events

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

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 13 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. *Arboretum*

Remember: Cash or checks only.

Plant Sale chair Norm Dobbs, with Debbie Roberts of [Plant Concepts](#), have put together a great selection of plants from various vendors and from UTAS supporters. Because fall is often the best time to plant, our plant sale will be an opportunity to get some special plants in the ground and ready to take off next spring. We'll also have sandwiches and ice cream from [Razzleberry's Ice Cream Lab and Kitchen](#) in Oak Ridge. See the article on page 1 for more details.

Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell

Saturday, October 27 6:30 p.m. *Arboretum*

Remember: bring flashlights and dress for outdoor weather.

Come out to the Arboretum for an evening of family fun and learning. This is an opportunity to see owls up close, and to take a short walk through the grounds at night to perhaps hear owls prowling about and calling out to you. [Katie Cottrell](#) and [Kathy Strunk](#) of the [Clinch River Raptor Center](#) will bring owls from the Center and will share some of their knowledge about these nocturnal raptors.



A rapt audience in the presence of a nocturnal raptor at a previous Owl Prowl. Photo by Emily Jernigan

Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

Tuesday, November 13 6 p.m. *Elks Club Oak Ridge*

The UTAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction will begin at 6 p.m. At the Elks Club in Oak Ridge. This is currently the only time the UTAS membership and guests get together, so please take advantage of the opportunity to mingle with other plant enthusiasts for some social time. There will be a cash bar and time to browse auction items before the dinner buffet begins. After dinner and a very brief business meeting, our speaker, [Andy Pulte](#), a gardening expert from UT, will entertain and inform us about choosing plant colors and selecting some newer and unusual plants for your backgrounds and borders.

The **Silent Auction** is always popular, and we need donations for this fund raiser. Some items from previous auctions include gardening tools, plants, or bulbs; garden-themed items like birdhouses, fountains, sculptures, books, and wind chimes; gift certificates to area restaurants or garden centers like Willow Ridge; handmade crafts including woodwork or paper goods; and wine and food items. All proceeds go to help support our Arboretum. Contact [Lynda Haynes](#), 483-0525, lyndaandchuck@bellsouth.net, or [Pat Row](#), 482-9096, patrow@comcast.net, with your donation information.

Holly Work Day

Saturday, November 17 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. *Elmore Holly Collection*

Join the Holly Task Force and spend a few hours getting the collection ready for winter. Contact [Dennis Superczynski](#), 675-8502, jandport@tds.net, for more information or to sign up.

Andy Pulte Speaks at UTAS Annual Dinner

Our featured speaker, Andy Pulte, is a gardening expert and internationally certified arborist who teaches at the University of Tennessee. He contributes to several gardening publications, co-produces a monthly podcast, and hosts a weekly gardening [radio show](#) that stars Dr. Sue Hamilton and Beth Babbit. Additionally, he speaks regularly to diverse groups and travels extensively to feed his passion for people and plants.

Andy's topic for our dinner is, "Backgrounds and Borders: Design Theory and New Plants for Everyone." He says that paying attention to the specific emotions plant colors evoke is important. Colors can be beautiful in peaceful, happy, relaxing, invigorating and even sad ways. The colors you ultimately choose for a garden should reflect the mood you want to express. He will discuss this aspect of gardening along with a set of newer or unusual plants to consider adding to your landscape this year.

Andy Pulte grew up in the nursery industry in Grand Island, Nebraska. He received his Bachelors of Science in horticulture from the University of Nebraska and a Masters degree from the University of Tennessee in the area of public horticulture. He has worked at the National Arbor Day Foundation in the education department and the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska.



Andy Pulte. Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee.

Events Roundup

The UT Arboretum Society recently hosted a "Butterflies and Insects Workshop" on August 11 in and around the Forest Resources Research and Education Visitor Center. The informative event was led by **Kris Light**, Naturalist and Photographer. It featured an interpretive slide program and a field exercise focusing on the life cycles and identification of common Tennessee insects. Over 70 attendees from Oak Ridge and the surrounding region gained insight about the diversity of insect life on the Arboretum grounds.



Kris Light, kneeling, helps identify insects during the Butterflies and Insects workshop. Photo by Kevin Hoyt.

On Saturday, July 7, the UT Arboretum Society sponsored a Photography Workshop in the UT Forest Resources Research and Education Center's conference room. **Dr. R.E. McLaren**, a local amateur photographer, led the workshop. Dr. McLaren has a special interest in wildlife and landscapes. He is also an avid student of photography equipment and techniques, and enjoys interacting with others on these subjects. The session focused on a variety of the most frequently asked questions, with particular emphasis on camera settings, editing, and panoramas.

Committee Reports

Plant Collection Committee

The Viburnum Valley project is moving into its final phase. The UTAS board has authorized the purchase of 28 new plants for the valley, and we have located mostly local sources for all chosen cultivars. We are so fortunate that several of our loyal plant sale vendors have donated

plants or offered us plants at a reduced price, making it possible to expand the collection even more than anticipated.

Planting will occur in early November, after construction of the wetland area around the Oak-Hickory trail bridge is finished. Typical fall rains should



A view of the 2011 viburnum plantings from the Oak Hickory bridge toward the Visitors Center. Photo by Lynn Carlson

settle the new arrivals for good growth next year.

Stop by to look at the plants from Phase I, installed in November 2011. Several already bloomed this spring, and one, the tea viburnum (*V. setigerum*) has ripening berries—not many this year, but a promise for the future! If you'd like to be part of the ongoing projects of the Plant Collections Committee, contact the committee chair, Lynn Carlson.

Lynn Carlson, chair, Plant Collections Committee
lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu



*Ken Farrell and Lynn Carlson preparing for the Viburnum Valley project.
Photo by Kevin Hoyt*



*Tea Viburnum (*V. setigerum*), part of the Viburnum Valley Project.
Photo by Lynn Carlson.*

Native Plant Group Making Improvements

Besides maintaining the beds around the Visitor Center, the group has been making some improvements to the Azalea hillside. To control run-off and enhance growing conditions for the azaleas, which were donated by Huey and Barbara Sides, we are installing "log dams" and removing invasive perennials.

Additional azaleas will be planted in the fall and underperforming plants will be removed. This project is under the direction of Mr. Sides. We appreciate working with Huey; he teaches as he works and we learn by doing!

Except for special projects, the Native Plant Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. We always welcome members who like to work in the gardens. Call **Lee Ann Dobbs** at 482-6656 for more information.



Pat Hunsicker, Peggy Mahoney, Norm Dobbs, Lee Ann Dobbs, and Lynn Carlson, part of the Native Plant Group. Photo by Kevin Hoyt

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee met for an organizational meeting and decided to focus on the following items:

- Acknowledge new and renewing members, and Society Friends
- Set up a Facebook page for UTAS
- Use other forms of social media to connect with members and the public
- Investigate ways to allow people to join, renew, or donate online, or to pay at the plant sales using a credit or debit card
- Reach out to members who offer to volunteer
- Connect with non-renewing members and invite them to re-join

If you'd like to help us by serving on the committee, or have ideas about membership, please contact **Emily Jernigan**, emily@jernigans.net or 482-4836.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Lee Ann Dobbs, has proposed the following slate of Board Members and Officers for 2013:

1-Yr. Term Directors:

Pat Hunsicker
Emily Jernigan
Peggy Mahoney
Irene Sullivan

2-Yr. Term Directors:

Lee Ann Dobbs
Marti Salk
Melanie Staten
Debi Boody

3-Yr. Term Directors:

Stacey Fuller
Wendy Packan
David Alspaugh
Janet Bigelow

Officers:

President: Charlie Samuels
Vice-president:
Secretary: Lynda Haynes
Treasurer: Randy Stewart
Past President: Tom Row
Garden Club Rep.: Evelyn Lorenz

Stumped?

I picked up a leaf of a tall shrub with shiny green leaves near the Juniper Garden and Shade Tree collection. It had a strong root beer odor. What is this plant?



The shrub is Yellow Anise (*Illicium parviflorum*), which is a species native to Central Florida. Although unrelated to the Aniseed



*Yellow Anise flowers.
Photo by Bob Reed*

(*Pimpinella anisum*), which is the principal source of the culinary spice, Yellow Anise belongs to the same genus as Star-Anise (*I. vernum*), found in China and Vietnam that can be used as a substitute for Aniseed. However, all plant parts of Yellow Anise and a related species, Florida Anise (*I. floridanum*), are toxic and cannot be eaten. In August and September, the star-shaped fruits of Yellow Anise can be found on our specimen. Photos of the whole shrub, its small yellow flowers, and a relatively mature fruit can

be seen on the Featured Plant section of the Arboretum web page -- <http://forestry.tennessee.edu/plantsxyz.htm>

Bob Reed supplied this answer and photographs.

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

Refurbished Kiosk

Kevin Hoyt and his crew have worked hard to spruce up the kiosk that was removed when the parking lot was paved. It now sits at the edge of the parking area and offers improved access to all visitors. A little detail work remains to be done, but it looks almost brand new. They have installed a secure donation tube, so drop a little in when you stop by to look at it. Thanks to all those who worked to bring back the kiosk.



As good as new kiosk in the parking lot. Photo by Kevin Hoyt.

Email & Membership Notes

We need your email address so that you don't miss out on important notices from UTAS. We never share your address. If we don't already have your email, please send an email to emily@jernigans.net and we will add you to our database.

If your **email address changes**, please notify emily@jernigans.net.

If your **mailing address changes**, please notify emily@jernigans.net.

The Post Office charges us for every piece of returned mail.

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

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 going on at the Arboretum and UTAS. Just go to www.utarboretumsociety.org and check it out any time

New & Renewing Members -Thanks!

*David & Betty Alspaugh

Debi Boody

*Michael Brown/Betty Evans

Richard & Carole Evans

Margaret Gottshall

David Graham

Carolyn Haerr

Doug & Cyndi Jeffers

Lucie Jones

Brenda Kimmel

Kathleen Kitzmiller

Harold & Martha McCurdy

Beverly Milam

Joanna Partain

*Jim Reca

*Willow & Bob Reed

Fran Scheidt

Melanie & Vince Staten

Nyta Wall

J. Warren Webb

George & Lessie Werner

* Denotes Society Friend



Ilex aquifolium 'Harlequin' from the Elmore Holly Collection. Photo by Pat Postma.

UTAS Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

New Renewal

Society Friend \$100 Patron \$500

Family \$45 Individual \$30 Student \$15

Yes, I want to make an additional Contribution:

UTAS General Fund \$ _____

Elmore Holly Collection Fund \$ _____

All memberships and contributions are tax deductible.

Yes, I'd like to help with Society committees, special events or other needs. _____

Mail this form with your check to:

UTAS

P.O. Box 5382

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382



Board of Directors

Officers

President: Charles Samuels
Vice-president: Jeff Holt
Secretary: Lynda Haynes
Treasurer: Wendy Packan
Past President: Tom Row

Emily Jernigan
Peggy Mahoney
Debbie Roberts
Marti Salk
Melanie Staten
Randy Stewart
Irene Sullivan

Board Members

Lee Ann Dobbs
Ken Farrell
Stacey Fuller
Pat Hunsicker

Ex Officio
Kevin Hoyt
Evelyn Lorenz

Branches Editor
Webmaster
Database Manager
Plant Sale Chair
Emily Jernigan
Angie Dobbs
Charlie Jernigan
Norm Dobbs

Help Wanted

- The **Plant Sale** is coming up and extra hands are always welcome. Contact **Beverly Woods** at 482-3212.

Ongoing

- Native Plant Group** meets the third Wednesday most months.
Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
- Plant Collections Committee**: Viburnum Valley is its current project. **Lynn Carlson**, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu
- Elmore Holly Collection Task Force** meets several times a year. **Dennis Superczynski**, 607-8512 or jandport@tds.net

Thanks!

Kris Light presented a "Butterflies and Insects" workshop
Kris Light and Charlie Samuels led Wildflower Walks.
Bob McLaren held a photography workshop.

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



Looking to the Future...

The UT Arboretum Endowment Campaign

A \$3 million endowment campaign has been initiated to secure future funding for the UT Arboretum. The **Rogers Group** has fulfilled its pledge of a \$500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over \$40,000 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- **Robin R. Haefs** - 865-974-5779
UT Arboretum -**Kevin Hoyt** - 865-483-3571
UT Arboretum Society -**Charlie Samuels** 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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**Plant Sale: Saturday, October 13,
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Annual Dinner and Silent Auction with
speaker Andy Pulte:
Tuesday, November 13 at 6 p.m.**

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

UT ARBORETUM SOCIETY

BRANCHES Fall 2012



*Learning about Butterflies and Insects from Kris Light
indoors at the Visitors Center before going outside. Photo by
Kevin Hoyt*

Upcoming Events

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**October 27 Owl Prowl with
Katie Cottrell**

**November 13 Annual Dinner and
Silent Auction**

November 17 Holly Work Day