

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No. 37 - Winter 2015

Dennis Horn Wildflower Expert

Heather Haley, WVLT
Meteorologist

Dr. Sue Hamilton, Director of UT Gardens

Read all about their
talks and more on our
Events lineup page.

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Florida Sunshine Garden Tour



The UTAS 2015 tour to
Central Florida April is
8-13. Come with us!

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Meet New Board Members

Three newcomers have
joined the UTAS
board. Learn more
about Gene Sanslow,
Melody Turner, and
Julie Watts

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Happy 50th Birthday to UTAS! We'll be Celebrating All Year



Calendar

March 19 Dennis Horn,
Tennessee Wildflowers
March 21 Heather Haley,
WVLT meteorologist
April 8-13 Florida Sunshine
Tour
April 16 Sue Hamilton, New
Trends in Plants and Gardens
April 17 & 18 Spring Plant Sale

The Auditorium is On Its Way!

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

"Every house begins with a solid foundation; we are laying that foundation brick by brick." Butch Jones, Head Coach, **UT Volunteers**

This quote by Coach Butch Jones a few years ago is now coming to fruition with the **UT Volunteers** finishing up the first winning football season and first major bowl win in over four years. Just as a house begins with a solid foundation, so has our new auditorium, which has taken shape over recent months. This auditorium foundation that I refer to is something that you can actually see and touch. It is also something that is more abstract and less visible at the surface. In our case, while the auditorium foundation is made of concrete, mortar, cinder blocks and stone, it is so much more than that, being also made of mission, vision, relationships, and teamwork.

The auditorium building footprint has been in a constant state of change since the first shovel was dug in October. Since then the foundation has been dug, concrete poured, brick and stone work formed, wood framing and composite wood wall panels installed, Douglas fir beams and metal structural steel work erected, and electrical and water utility lines have been delivered to the site. I am now told that that building roof system will be completed in the next week or so, with the interior utility conduit work to follow. It is indeed going to be a grand facility, featuring its unique architectural design, the use of sustainable wood products, and building craftsmanship in a truly pastoral natural setting.

Ultimately, by some time early this summer, we will realize the grand vision of the Arboretum Endowment Campaign by cutting the ribbon on the new UT Arboretum Auditorium. As I have been saying for the past several years, I truly believe that this auditorium will be the catalyst to drive more positive change, launch innovative education programs, provide a much needed revenue stream, and ultimately build our future membership base. We should all take great pride and satisfaction in knowing that we will be occupying the auditorium during the 50th Anniversary of the UT Arboretum Society, while having broken ground on this magnificent structure in the 50th Anniversary of the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, Oak Ridge Forest, and Arboretum.



Auditorium taking shape - early February 2015.
Photo by Kevin Hoyt.

President's Letter

As the year 2015 begins, we remember that the UT Arboretum Society was founded in 1965, a year after the Atomic Energy Commission donated more than 2000 acres to the University of Tennessee with the proviso that UT maintain an Arboretum on part of that land. So 2015 is the Society's 50th Anniversary, just as 2014 was the 50th Anniversary of the Arboretum itself.

One of the extraordinary things about UTAS is this: we are the oldest operating organization supporting the University of Tennessee. In today's dollars, we have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to the University for the Arboretums' support. This figure does not include intangibles such as the volunteer hours spent planting, weeding, building, repairing, hauling, and so on, or plant and other materials donated by our members.

The UT Arboretum Society is a remarkable organization. We are now and always have been an entirely volunteer, nonprofit organization. We raise money to support the Arboretum, an especially important activity since the Arboretum no longer receives funding from the state. These are the facts, but they do not explain how we have managed to exist and persist and provide the support that we do for so many years.

True confession: until very recently I had never walked the entire length of the Arboretum's trails. I have now walked six of them, and these treks have given me concrete experiences that I believe help explain the UTAS phenomenon.

Partly it is innate. Humans came from the woods and the Arboretum is an urban forest we can return to whenever we want. It is beautiful in all seasons, even in its winter dormancy. Like much of East Tennessee it is hilly, and the leafless winter trees open vistas for visitors.

Partly it is social. I walked with three generations of my family. We talked as we walked. The five 3 to 6 year-olds were absorbed by the uncommon adventure they were sharing with each other, their parents, and grandparents. They asked the same questions that I remember asking 60 years ago walking in the woods of north Florida.

So, having recently added these experiences to my personal history, and having been given the opportunity to be president of UTAS in this year of special commemoration, what can I do to help further the cause of this steadfast organization?

The answer is I can't really do much by myself. But we as UTAS members can do things together like we have for five decades. I have asked our board to focus this year on doing more of everything we have done well and finding new things that promise to help share the Arboretum experiences like my family just had, and the camaraderie that we share during our many activities.

The board gathered ideas for programs, lectures, and opportunities to learn, and almost 90 members ranked them via an email survey. About 35 ideas passed muster and we are exploring how and when we can bring them to fruition this year.

While discussing this, a new board member mentioned the idea of holding a New Year's Day hike like one she had read about. This idea resonated so well with the rest of us that in just a few weeks we had the plan in place to try this new event. Given the short lead time and the newness of the activity, we expected between 15 and 25 participants, with 35 as our best outcome.

We set up at the Visitors Center New Year's morning with coffee, hot chocolate, and some snacks. Equally important: the bathrooms were available! Before we knew it, the room was filled with people eager to experience the hike that seemed so promising to us. After some brief remarks, we set out for a group photo, all **110** of us preparing to have our own experiences in the forest with friends, family, and people we'd just met. Our new event hugely exceeded our most positive expectations!

We want to bring more of these kinds of events to you this year. Something every month. We want to engage and reengage as often and broadly as possible. And, as with the New Year's Day hike, if you have an idea you would like to see happen, let me or another board member know. We're actively seeking suggestions and new ideas.

Our new Auditorium is under construction and will open this year. We think we'll have a newly hired program coordinator to keep the facility busy. My aim is to usher in that staffed facility with a rich set of programs ready to take the Arboretum and the Arboretum Society forward to a new level of service to our community.

Remember, we are an all-volunteer organization. Some of us are "over volunteered" and can use some help. Some of us would just like a few extra helping hands. If you have some time and like what we do, or want to propose something new, please let me know that, too. UTAS is about much more than trees and plants, though those are our main focus. Our activities encompass wildlife, photography, hiking, trips, educating, and learning together. UTAS is a vibrant and growing organization; we have fun together as we support the Arboretum. Join us!

~Charlie Jernigan, UTAS President

charlie@jernigans.net, 865-482-4836

Upcoming Events

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

Dennis Horn: Wildflower Expert, Author Talks About Tennessee Wildflowers, More

Thursday, March 19 6:30 p.m. Roane State Community College Oak Ridge Campus City Room

UTAS is extremely pleased to present Dennis Horn, author of *Wildflowers Of Tennessee, The Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians*. His book has been called "... the most complete, comprehensive and informative field guide ever published on the flora of this region. Sponsored by the Tennessee Native Plant Society, this labor of love has been 14 years in the making. The result is a landmark achievement that brings the beauty and uniqueness of wildflowers to amateurs and experts alike." It has maps, drawings, and over 800 color photos.

Lone Pine Publishing (<http://www.lonepinepublishing.com/cat/9781551054285/author>) says, "Dennis Horn is an engineer, naturalist, amateur botanist, and wildflower photographer who makes his home in Tullahoma, Tennessee. ...For over 40 years, Dennis has traveled from the Mississippi River to the Blue Ridge Mountains studying and photographing Tennessee wildflowers."

After his talk we'll have a book sale and signing.

WVLT's Heather Haley - Weather Talk

Saturday, March 21 10 a.m. Roane State Oak Ridge City Room

Just in time for the often unpredictable spring weather, [WVLT Local8](#) meteorologist **Heather Haley** will help us better understand how they arrive at their forecasts. She will talk about the data used to put together a forecast and the tools available. She will also discuss how they work in partnership with the National Weather Service to expand their ability to prepare the people of East Tennessee for the weather ahead.

Born and raised in Knoxville and a UT graduate, Heather says she's seen it all when it comes to the weather of East Tennessee. She earned a Bachelors degree in Journalism and Electronic Media from UT Knoxville and then started working in television news. She went back to school and got her second degree in Meteorology from Mississippi State. Heather says, "Every day my goal is to use my experiences with East Tennessee weather to forecast to the best of my ability."

Melanie Staten arranged for this event.



Heather Haley, WVLT TV meteorologist
Photo provided by WVLT Local8 now.com

Visit Randy Stewart's Greenhouses

Saturday, March 28, 2-4 p.m. UTAS Members Only

UTAS Treasurer, garden enthusiast, and plant propagator Randy Stewart has offered to give UTAS members a tour of his greenhouses and garden. Randy's landscape reflects his love of gardening, plants, design, and propagation. His greenhouses will be filled with numerous plants that he will set out in his landscape in April and May, so late March is a great time to visit him and see what he's got in store.

Everyone will go home with landscaping ideas and one of the plants from his greenhouses.

This event is offered to UTAS Members Only. Details will arrive in an email from UT Arboretum Society.

Florida Sunshine Garden Tour

April 8 - 13 Florida

Are you ready for sunshine and tropical gardens, museums, and even a circus? Join the UTAS 2015 annual tour coming up in April. This special tour takes us to central Florida, new territory for a UTAS trip. We're celebrating our 50th anniversary this year, so a golden sunshine tour seems perfect for 2015. Read all about it in the full tour description and application found on separate pages in this issue of Branches. It's also on our website.

Act quickly - the deadline for your application is March 8.



Dr. Sue Hamilton: Gardening Trends and Hot New Plant Introductions

Thursday, April 16 6:30 p.m. Roane State Oak Ridge City Room

Just in time for our Spring Plant Sale, Dr. Sue Hamilton, Director of the University of Tennessee Gardens, will tell us all about new plants that we should think about adding to our gardens, and trends in the gardening world. More details coming in the next *Branches*.

Spring Plant Sale - Special Golden Plants and Brad Greenwood, Blacksmith & Copper Artisan

Friday, April 17, 5-7 p.m. Members Only.

Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open to All Arboretum

Planning for our Spring Plant Sale is well under way. We'll have some special plants in honor of UTAS' 50th Anniversary this year. Find out about our vendors' special selections of golden plants, and the "Rising Sun™" Redbud trees that Norm Dobbs found for us to offer, in the next issue of Branches. Artisan Brad Greenwood of Clinton, TN, who will return with his forge and metal art, too.

Our regular vendors, [Beaver Creek Nursery](#) and [Riverdale Nursery](#), Knoxville; [East Fork Nursery](#), Sevierville; and [Sunlight Gardens](#), Andersonville will be there with special selections of golden plants included with their array of offerings for our sale.



Holly Work Day

Saturday, April 25 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Elmore Holly

Collection at the UT Arboretum

Spring activities will concentrate on spring garden maintenance. We will fertilize, weed, prune, and mulch the plants. We encourage UTAS members and friends to help continue the holly legacy established 30 years ago and support this Holly Work Day.

Contact **Dennis Superczynski**, 675-8502, jandport@tds.net, for more information or to sign up.



Events Roundup

Fall Plant Sale

Norm Dobbs and all his volunteer helpers put on another excellent plant sale. Our regular vendors, [Beaver Creek Nursery](#) and [Riverdale Nursery](#), Knoxville; [East Fork Nursery](#), Sevierville; and [Sunlight Gardens](#), Andersonville, were there. **Dano's Hot Dogs** sold out, and artisan **Brad Greenwood** was a big hit. Brad had many pieces to sell and took special orders from several customers. They will all be back for our Spring Plant Sale in April.

Many thanks go to Center Director **Kevin Hoyt** and his staff members **Yvonne Hitchcock**, **Bo Duncan**, and **Mike Trammell** for their help.

Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell, Kathy Strunk, John Byrd, and the Clinch River Raptor Center

We had a very good turnout for this popular family oriented event. **Kathy Strunk**, **Katie Cottrell**, and **John Byrd** of the [Clinch River Raptor Center](#) brought some live birds to help us get more familiar with the raptors. After their presentation we went out into the woods to see if we could hear any owls. We're not sure, but some of the sounds we heard may have come from Neyland Stadium where the Vols were playing the Crimson Tide!

Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

More than 80 people enjoyed the UTAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, held again this year at the Elks Lodge in Oak Ridge.

After dinner and a very brief business meeting, Center Director **Kevin Hoyt** thanked all the UTAS volunteers who contribute so much to making the Arboretum the special place that it is. He gave a review of the past year, and talked about the Arboretum celebrating its 50th year in 2014. The Auditorium is under construction and the culmination of many years of fundraising and efforts by UTAS and UT. It will open in 2015. He also noted that the TN Farm Bureau magazine's November issue included an article on the Elmore Holly Collection at UTA.

Tom Looney, Director of Development at the UT Institute of Agriculture, updated us on the Endowment and reminded us that UTAS is the oldest society group supporting UT. UTAS presented checks for \$10,000 to support Arboretum operations and for \$7,500 to the Endowment.

After election of officers and the board, UTAS President **Charles Samuels** gave Distinguished Service Awards to **Nancy Smith**, **Bob Reed**, **Lee Ann Dobbs**, and **Norman Dobbs** for their ongoing work to support UTAS and the Arboretum.

Our speaker, **Richard Evans**, director of the Center for 39 years, presented a history of the Arboretum looking back on its 50 years. He included photographs of the property before it was part of the University of Tennessee and throughout its history. He was warmly welcomed by everyone.

Our very successful Silent Auction generated about \$2300. Thank you to all who donated to and participated in the silent auction. **Lynda Haynes** and **Pat Row** headed this event.

1st Annual New Year's Day Hike

Almost 110 people showed up at 9:30 on New Year's morning to spend a few hours getting 2015 started off on the right foot. We gathered in the Visitors Center for coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts and other snacks. At 10 we headed out for a walk led by UTAS immediate past president **Charlie Samuels**. Although it was a brisk 32° the sun shone and the exercise warmed us up as we hiked up the Old Hickory Trail. We then walked to the Elmore Holly Collection

where Holly Task Force head **Dennis Superczynski** gave a brief introduction to the collection. Many walkers had never visited either the Arboretum or the holly collection. They were amazed at the vast numbers of berries on all the hollies, and at the beauty and serenity of the arboretum itself.

We ended up back at the Visitors Center where we enjoyed more warm drinks and the company of other participants.

This event was inspired by new board member **Julie Watts** and organized by **Emily and Charlie Jernigan**, **Janet Bigelow**, **Julie Watts**, and **Charlie Samuels**.

Earthquake Lecture from Dr. Bob Hatcher

Dr. Hatcher, a UT Distinguished Scientist and Professor of structural geology and tectonics, presented his talk to about 60 people. His current research focuses on prehistoric earthquakes in the East Tennessee seismic zone. He showed a number of photos and graphs depicting evidence of seismic activity in the East Tennessee area that his research has, quite literally, unearthed. His personal anecdotes of his and his students' explorations, combined with his extensive knowledge of the subject matter, made for an informative and enjoyable evening.

Dr. John Skinner: The Vital Role of Honeybees and Pollinators

Dr. Skinner, UT Professor of Entomology, Extension Apiculturist, and Extension Coordinator, spoke to about 40 people about pollination, bees and other pollinators. He is also the Tennessee state apiculturist whose responsibilities include education, research, extension, and treatment recommendations about bees.

The issue of honeybee health is one of great importance because of their critical link in agriculture and horticulture. About a third of foods in Western nations rely on these bees. Bees contributed more than \$25 billion to U.S. crop production. Colony Collapse Disorder and other issues severely affect the ability of these bees to survive and thus pollinate plants that produce food for human and animal consumption.

UT has joined in a five-year, \$5 million program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to help monitor and maintain honey bee health. The effort is called the **Bee Informed Partnership**. This research group works with beekeepers across the US to better understand which bee management practices work best. According to their website, <http://beeinformed.org>, "Our project is built on a coalition of researchers, advisors and stakeholders from various industries that rely on honey bees for pollination. We collaborate with both domestic and international initiatives to make the greatest impact and to work with our partners across the globe."

A number of factors contribute to diminished honeybee populations and, sometimes, to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Recent and ongoing research seem to indicate that multiple factors are at play here. These include mites, viruses, pesticides, insufficient nutrition from a lack of variety and available of food sources, and stress. So there is not a single remedy for this pressing problem.

Dr. Skinner also talked about flowering plants in our home landscapes that encourage and nourish bees. Buckwheat, for example, is seldom grown in backyard gardens yet has lovely flowers that are very attractive to bees. Bees are particularly drawn to yellow, blue, and white flowers. Sunflowers are another plant that are very good for bees. They can't see red, but do see the ultraviolet spectrum!

Come to the UTAS Spring Plant Sale and pick up some honeybee-friendly flowering plants for your garden. We'll have lots of golden plants this year!

Committee Reports

Native Plant Group

This group of 8 to 10 regular members will begin meeting regularly again soon depending on the weather. They keep the beds around the Visitors Center and those on the Sides Azalea Hillside looking neat and tidy, and work in the parking lot beds when time allows. To participate, contact **Lee Ann Dobbs** at 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net.

Membership Committee

Melanie Staten, **Marti Salk** and **Emily Jernigan** are working on 2015 Society Friend and new member welcome letters. **Charlie Jernigan** discussed the results of the UTAS 50th Anniversary Special Event Survey. Engaging new members by telephone, letter, or invitation to join or attend activities was discussed. **Lynda Haynes** will continue with the welcoming notes and **Peggy Mahoney** will devise some sort of telephone contact. We suggested a more positive and active approach to people attending our events by current members by handing out post cards, membership cards, using donation cans, and talking to people as they attend the different events. Emily requested editorial help with *Branches*.

If you'd like to help us with our 50th anniversary or membership activities, contact **Emily Jernigan**, 482-4836 or emily@jernigans.net. We welcome newcomers and everyone's ideas and help.

Holly Task Force

Dennis Superczynski and **Fran Scheidt** brought back 17 new hollies from the Holly Society of America's Annual Meeting, held in Rutgers, NJ, this year. The committee potted them up on November 5 and will plant them in the collection in the fall of 2015.

Six of **Dr. Will Witte's** Korean hollies will be registered with the National Arboretum and the Holly Society of America. It is an honor for us to have these hollies in our collection that were hybridized by our own 'Answer Man' and holly expert.

On November 13 the task force hosted the Norris Garden Club and on January 22 they, along with the Arboretum, will host the Emory Valley Garden Club for a program on hollies. New dates for Holly Work Days are the first weekend in April and the third weekend in October. The 2015 UTAS tour is being planned for April.

Plant Collections Committee

A few viburnum will have to be replaced in the Viburnum Valley collection, but there are no new plans for that area. This project has run from 2007 to 2015 and will end except for ongoing maintenance. The next project could be the Conifer Collection or landscaping around the new auditorium.

~*Lynn Carlson, chair, Plant Collections Committee*

UTAS Awarded Tourism Council Grant to Create a Brochure

Charlie Samuels reported that UTAS has received a \$1,000 reimbursement grant from the **Anderson County Tourism Council** to develop and distribute a brochure that, "tells the Arboretum story" in a way that will help promote Anderson County as a great place for people to visit. This project will be completed by May 31, 2015. **Charlie Samuels** is spearheading this effort.

Elmore Holly Collection Featured in Farm Bureau Magazine

TN Home & Farm magazine featured an article about our very special Elmore Holly Collection in the November 2014 issue. They photographed the hollies in January, 2014 when berries are near their peak. The article quotes Center Director Kevin Hoyt saying, "It adds big-time to our outreach because there are so many people who are interested in holly all over the country. People come here specifically to see the holly collection. It's a way of showcasing hollies from around the world and those native to the U.S. and Tennessee." The article can be found online at <http://tnhomeandfarm.com/agriculture/holly-days-ut-arboretum/>

Fran Scheidt Honored by Holly Society of America

Mrs. Fran Scheidt, Holly Task Force leader, was recently honored with the prestigious Holly Society of America – Wolf Fenton Award. This award is given to an individual, not necessarily a member of the Society and not confined to the United States, for outstanding contributions and dedicated service in the field of holly. As the premier award of the Society and because of the high degree of achievement it recognizes, the Wolf-Fenton Award is not presented every year.

Center Director Kevin Hoyt, in a letter nominating Fran for this award, says, "Through Fran's dedication and hard work the Elmore Holly Collection has grown to be one of the main attractions at the UT Arboretum. She has been the driving force in keeping and updating the holly specimen record-keeping system, and as a member of Holly Task Force she has also coordinated annual planning meetings and work day events. Through all her focused efforts and other accomplishments, I truly believe she is most deserving of this prestigious award and recognition." Holly Society of America former president and registrar for the HSA Mike Pontti noted that he had several opportunities to register some of Fran's personal cultivars, including Fran's 'Frantastic' and 'Volunteer Orange'. Both these plants grow in the Elmore Holly Collection.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Participate in the 2015 Great Backyard Bird Count. February 13-16. Anyone anywhere in the world can count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and enter their sightings at www.BirdCount.org. The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track changes in bird populations on a massive scale. The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with partner Bird Studies Canada.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature and show love for the birds this Valentine's Day. Participation is free and easy. To learn more about how to join the count, download instructions, a slide show, web buttons, and other materials, visit www.birdcount.org. While you're there, get inspired by the winning photos from the 2014 GBBC photo contest.

You could even come out to the University of Tennessee Arboretum and count birds there.

Stumped?

The benches beside the stream near Illinois Ave. and across from the Visitors Center are a great addition. Who put them there?



According to the Center’s website, “The UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center hosted the City of Oak Ridge “Community Outreach Work Day” on Saturday June 21. Over twenty volunteers from the local community participated in a creek walk cleanup and the construction of three new wooden benches for the new creek access area near the entrance to the Arboretum. The event was scheduled as part of City’s initiative to become the first EPA designated Green Power Community in the Southeast. As a part of this milestone the City and TVA facilitated the ‘community outreach’ work day that would benefit the local community and say “thanks” for helping the City to achieve Green Power Community status.”

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

Fall Plant Sale Volunteers-Thanks!

David Alspaugh	Linda Mason
Faye Beck	Jim Mee
Janet Bigelow	Mary Mishu
Lynn Carlson	Evelyn Moyers
Katie Cottrell	Eileen Neiler
Janet & Bob Cushman	Gail Nichols
Lee Ann & Norm Dobbs	Joanna Partain
Ken Farrell	Hella Peterson
Kathy Fahey	Dick Raridon
Nancy Hardin	Susan Reed
Lynda Haynes	Don Searle
Lecie & Jeff Holt	Melanie Staten
Pat Hunsicker	Randy Stewart
Emily & Charlie Jernigan	Dennis Superczynski
Joan Johnson	Ken Taulbee
Clarence & Lynn Juneau	Fred & Asae Vaslow
Peggy Mahoney	

Welcome, New Board Members!

We are delighted to have three new members on the UTAS board.

Gene Sanslow grew up in southeastern Kentucky and graduated from Union College in Barbourville, KY. He has lived in Oak Ridge since 1963 and worked for the AEC (Atomic Energy Commission), which became DOE. Gene retired from DOE as a Nuclear Materials Accountant. He is married to Marsha Sanslow. They enjoy working with plants in their yard, traveling, and visiting all types of gardens. They used to work with the Oak Ridge Garden Club. They enjoy and appreciate the UT Arboretum. Gene has helped with UTAS plant sales and hopes to become more involved now that he is on the board.

Melody Turner grew up in rural Knox County and was taught to appreciate the trees and environs of eastern Tennessee by her dad who just celebrated his 100th birthday. She graduated University of Tennessee with a degree in Architecture and spent most of her career designing modifications for the structures within Y-12, K-25 and ORNL, as well as designing family homes. Now retired, Melody enjoys tending the perennial wildflowers and plants she and her husband Doug have planted in their yard in Oak Ridge. Her favorite place to read is by their water garden which is bordered with a variety of ferns, marsh marigolds, yellow flag iris, red and blue lobelia, monkshood, turtlehead, white and purple phacelia and celandine poppies.

Melody and Doug have three grown children, Diana, Matthew, and Amber. Melody is an active member of First Baptist Church Oak Ridge where she sings with the choir, plays piano, and teaches Sunday School. She also sings with the Oak Ridge Chorus and the Tennessee Ladies Chorus, and is a past board member of Habitat for Humanity of Anderson County.

Julie Watts grew up in Middle Tennessee and has lived in the Knoxville area since graduating from college. She retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory and currently is an instructor of mathematics at Pellissippi State Community College, Hardin Valley campus. She is a member of the Board of Advisors of the College of Veterinary Medicine and serves on the University of Tennessee President’s Council. She has served as a board member and is a past President of the Lady Vols Booster Club, and served on the Development Board of the UT Institute of Agriculture. She was a recipient of the YWCA’s annual Tribute to Women award in the Education category.

Julie is married to Bob DeVault, a native of Kingsport, TN. Her hobbies include reading, playing with her puppy, Aponi Cherokee, gardening (especially heirloom vegetables, daffodils, and perennials), sewing and quilting, and supporting the Lady Vols in all sports. She looks forward to working with the board and membership to further the cause of UTAS.

UTAS Parade Float Wins Chamber of Commerce Award

For the second year UTAS and the UTA worked together to create a float for the Oak Ridge Christmas Parade. The theme of the parade was “Holiday Homecoming” and our float won the Chamber of Commerce’s award for the outstanding entry presenting and illustrating the parade’s theme. Ours featured a fireplace constructed by **David** and **Betty Lou Alspaugh**, a snowman designed by **Kathy Fahey**, a tree from the Arboretum, lots of lights and gold all over the tree in honor of UTAS’s 50th anniversary in 2015, provided by **Linda Kimmel**. **Marti Salk** and **Janet Cushman** knitted red hats for all who rode the float or walked in the parade. **Janet Bigelow** created a huge red ‘story book’ of the Night Before Christmas. American and Marine Corps flags helped honor returning service members.

Lynda Haynes spearheaded this endeavor with her ideas, enthusiasm, hard work, and determination. Kevin Hoyt and his crew did much of the heavy lifting in getting the trailer ready to be decorated and providing all kinds of help with logistics, carpentry, and more.

Volunteers for Parade Float

Forest Resources Center Staff

Kevin Hoyt, Bo Duncan, Yvonne Hitchcock, Mike Trammell

UTAS Members Construction Crew

David & Betty Lou Alspaugh, Janet Bigelow, Janet Cushman, Norm Dobbs, Kathy Fahey, Lynda & Chuck Haynes, Pat Hunsicker, Emily & Charlie Jernigan, Linda Kimmel, Marti Salk, Gene Sanslow, Melody Turner

Float Riders, Walkers, Drivers

David Alspaugh, Chuck & Lynda Haynes with several children and grandchildren, Melinda Hillman & Sage, Charlie & Emily Jernigan, Don & Vickie Searle, Bo Duncan, Kevin Hoyt



Most of the 2014 Float Crew

Margaret Cumberland, UTAS and AMSE Volunteer

Margaret Cumberland, a very active volunteer at the Arboretum and at AMSE (American Museum of Science and Energy), embarked on an ambitious project she called AMSE Beautification Day. According to Margaret, the idea for this came to her after naturalist, artist, and educator Kris Light commented about the unsightly appearance of the landscaping in the front of AMSE. Kris suggested that Margaret contact the UT Arboretum Society. Margaret then talked with several UTAS members at the Fall Plant Sale, discussing the potential cleanup day for the front of AMSE, particularly the area that used to exhibit a biomass project. Around 15 hybrid poplars had to be removed from this area in 2013 and it was never replanted. UTAS members and Master Gardeners Peggy Mahoney and Hella Peterson agreed to help with the project and planned the area renovation with Margaret.

Margaret, Hella Peterson, Lee Ann and Norm Dobbs, Huey Sides, Dick Raridon, and some AMSE volunteers met in early December. They removed a ground cloth and dug through compacted soil and overgrown roots. They planted blueberries, hydrangeas, yarrow, asters, blue-eyed grass, silver bell, cone flowers, a yew, penstemon, sedum, and junipers. A large portion of the plants were donated by the [Sunlight Gardens](#) nursery in Andersonville. The rest were graciously donated by the volunteers. Besides this major project, they were able to trim hollies, replant the canisters in the entranceway, and trim back some English Ivy. The entire project was completed in 3 hours!

In the spring, they will keep an eye on what survived the winter, and then will have a follow-up day to replace some plants, and focus on a few other areas that they did not get to this time.

This project could not have happened without the help of **Hella Peterson**, Master Gardener, and **Dick Raridon**, AMSE and UTAS volunteer. Hella knew where to plant everything, and Dick was able to find people with plants to donate.

Some of the plants they planted: Blueberries, Hydrangeas, Yarrow, Asters, blue eyed grass, silver bell, cone flowers, a yew, penstemon, sedum, and junipers.

Besides the AMSE beautification project, Margaret has undertaken several significant projects at the UT Arboretum. Her work there includes removing a lot of grass, weeds, and even some tree seedlings from the ground Juniper area. She has also spent time on a survey of invasive plants (location and population size) in the Arboretum so a future management program or project can be implemented. The focal species she observed: Autumn Olive, English Ivy, Chinese Lespedeza, Tree of Heaven, Mimosa, Privet, and Japanese Stilt-grass.

Margaret moved to Oak Ridge due to her husband's job. While looking for employment, she offered to volunteer at both FRREC and AMSE. She has a Master's degree in Ecology with a focus on Plant Community Ecology, and is working on a certification in environmental education from the NCEE program. Margaret certainly put her background to good use at both places, which have benefitted greatly from her work. Thanks, Margaret!



Volunteers organized by Margaret Cumberland work on AMSE beautification. Photo provided by Margaret Cumberland.



Fran Scheidt and Will Witte in front of 'Frantastic' holly. Photo by Emily Jernigan.

Florida Sunshine Garden Tour

April 8-13, 2015

Tired of these cold cloudy days of January and February? Think SUNSHINE and join the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society 2015 annual garden tour that will take you into Central Florida. Our tour features some of Florida's finest gardens and museums, including the fabulous [Ringling Museum and Gardens](#), and a visit to the nursery where Tom Lakers of [Willow Ridge Garden Center](#) in Oak Ridge buys some of its premier supplies of bromeliads, orchids, and other rare and exotic tropical plants.

Our five-day tour begins in north Orlando, Florida on April 8, 2015. Everyone needs to arrange their own transportation to Orlando to arrive Wednesday afternoon April 8 and check into our group's hotel, [Springhill Suites](#) in Altamonte Springs/Maitland, Florida. Discounted fares and direct flights from Knoxville are available on [Allegiant Airlines](#) flying to Sanford (SFB). Other airline options are available to Orlando (MCO).

Shuttle service will be provided to the hotel from either airport, and is included in the cost of the tour. We will make arrangements when we know your travel plans. If you are driving, plan to arrive at the hotel after the 2 PM check-in time on April 8.

The Tour Details

Wednesday, April 8: Arrival on your own. Shuttle service from SFB or MCO airports to hotel included in cost of tour.

Spend the night at [Springhill Suites](#) in Altamonte Springs/Maitland, Florida. There are many restaurants in walking distance from this hotel and some of us may decide to eat dinner together nearby.

Day 1: Thursday, April 9

Meet tour bus in front of hotel lobby entrance with your luggage. Our destination is the [Edison & Ford Winter Estates](#) in Ft. Myers, FL. The 1929 historic landscape will inspire us first with a botanical garden tour, then the museum filled with hundreds of inventions reflecting why Thomas Edison and Henry Ford are two of the most influential figures in American history. We will lunch in the gardens and have free time to visit the garden and museum shops. On the way to Ft. Myers there will be a rest stop at [Parkesdale Market](#) in Plant City to enjoy their famous Strawberry Shortcake, a milkshake, or other treat. We will stay at the [Fairfield Inn and Suites](#) in [Venice](#), Florida, for two nights.

Day 2: Friday, April 10

Following the overnight in Venice we travel to [Ringling Museum and Gardens](#) in Sarasota, FL. Arriving at 9:30 AM, we are free to explore the [Museum of Art](#), [Circus Museum](#), and [Bayfront Gardens](#). At 10:30 & 11:00 AM you will have a choice of a guided tour to either Bayfront Gardens [Tour](#) (1.5 hr. starting at 10:30) or [Ca'd'Zan](#) (Ringling's private home) [Private Places Tour](#) (45 min starting at 11:00). All will enjoy the Ca'd'Zan main floor tour (30min) at 12:10 PM. A group luncheon will be provided in the [Treviso Restaurant](#) following the tours.

Day two continues in the afternoon to nearby [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#), a tropical, urban oasis featuring unparalleled horticulture displays and a Sarasota bay-front setting. A guided tour will feature separate gardens of ferns, bamboo, bromeliads, and epiphytes as well as mangroves, banyan trees, and a conservatory.

Day 3: Saturday, April 11

Following another evening in Venice, the tour bus takes us to [Tropiflora Nursery](#), a premier supplier of bromeliads, succulents, orchids, and other rare tropical plants. They grow over 7,000 different plant items, so this is a great opportunity to buy rare and unusual plants to take home. They can ship your plants if you don't have room to take them home now.

The coach then follows a path back to Orlando that will allow for a quick stop along the way at [Cockroach Bay](#) or [Apollo Bay Manatee Viewing Center](#) before arriving at [Bok Tower and Gardens](#) in Lake Wales FL. Famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., designer of Central Park in NYC, created this garden with its views of the 205-foot [Singing Tower](#) carillon. Concerts fill the gardens every day, and we will be there to enjoy them. A guided tour is provided as well as a luncheon in their [Blue Palmetto Café](#). We return for the evening to [Springhill Suites](#) in Altamonte Springs.

Day 4: Sunday, April 12

Board the bus in the morning for a guided tour of the [Harry P. Leu House](#) and Gardens in Orlando. The Leu House Museum is a restored 19th century home listed on the national register of historic places, you will enjoy the gardens scattered with outdoor sculptures. The Garden House Welcome Center features a variety of notable art exhibits and a garden shop for your enjoyment. Lunch on your own in the delightful downtown area of [Winter Park](#) with your choice of many local and quaint restaurants.

Also in Winter Park, after lunch we will visit the [Morse Museum](#), the world’s most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Time will be allowed to visit the gift shop before departing for the short trip to the [Albin Polasek Museum](#) and Sculpture Gardens, a fine collection focusing primarily on American representational sculpture with works by Czech-born American sculpture Albin Polasek.

Day 5: Monday, April 13

Monday, the final day of our tour when most commercial gardens and museums are closed, will be a leisure morning with visits to the City of Winter Park’s [Mead Botanical Garden](#) and [Kraft Azalea Garden](#). Lunch on your own in downtown Winter Park before heading to both airports and the hotel in Altamonte Springs.

The tour is limited to 30 participants, and is offered at this price with a minimum of 20 people. **Please return the attached registration form by March 8, 2015**, to secure your registration including a \$100 nonrefundable deposit per person in the form of a check made payable to UTAS. Please send to PO Box 5382, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382, Attn: “Florida Sunshine Garden Tour.” **Final payment is due on or before March 30, 2015.**

The tour includes round trip coach transportation from Altamonte Springs Florida, admission to all attractions and gardens, Thursday lunch at Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Friday lunch at Treviso Restaurant at Ringling Museum, Saturday lunch at the Blue Palmetto Café at Bok Tower and Gardens. All hotels include breakfast and have restaurants nearby.

The cost of the tour is outlined below for double occupancy. A \$50.00 discount is available to UTAS members. If not a member and you wish to join, please complete the membership application with your remittance.

Tour Cost per Person

Tour cost Per Person	\$865.00	Coach Transport in Florida, lodging for 5 nights, breakfast, 3 lunches, fees
UTAS member discount	- 50.00	UTAS Members discount
Cost with member discount	\$815.00	Double Occupancy
Single supplement	\$275.00	

Reservation Form “Florida Sunshine Garden Tour”	UTAS 2015 Membership Application
Name _____ Phone _____	Name _____ Phone _____
Additional members in your party: _____	Address _____
_____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Address _____	E-Mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Society Friend \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$45
E-Mail _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30
Amount enclosed \$ _____	Contribution \$ _____ (All memberships and contributions are tax deductible)
_____	Mail, with a separate check, to: UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382
Mail, with your deposit, <i>by March 8, 2015</i> , to: UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382	

For more information, please contact Dennis or Jan Superczynski at 865-675-8502, or Emily Jernigan at 865-482-4836 or emily@jernigans.net.

Email, Phone, & Membership Information

We need your email address so that you don't miss out on important notices from UTAS. We never share your address and send you only occasional updates about UTAS events. You may opt out of email notices at any time. If we don't have your email, please email emily@jernigans.net and we will add you to our database.

If your **phone number, email, or mailing address changes**, notify emily@jernigans.net or call 482-4836.

Renew now! Check your *Branches* label for your membership renewal date! You'll get a reminder, or you can 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, and more. 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.

Choose Email-Only Branches

If you'd like to receive only an electronic copy of *Branches*, send an email to emily@jernigans.net. Confirm that you no longer want us to mail you a paper copy of our newsletter. Be sure to include the email address you'd like us to use. If you change your mind, just let us know that, too. This is a *greener* option and helps UTAS conserve our fiscal resources.

New & Renewing Members

Nancy Basford	Anne McKenzie
Michael Brown/Betty Evans	Ellen Smith/Rich Norby
Myra Buffaloe	Margarete Ohnesorge
Deborah Cutler	David & Mary Ann Piper
Norman & Lee Ann Dobbs	Willow & Bob Reed
Gwen Erpenbach	Dr. Robert Richmond
Richard & Carole Evans	Fran Scheidt
Heather Ferragut & Family	Gary & Joretta Schneider
Elena Ganusova	Raelynn Smith
Emory Valley Garden Club	Melanie & Vince Staten
David Graham	Martha Stokley
James & Donna Henry	Irene Sullivan
Charlie Hensley	Dennis & Jan Superczynski
John Hill	Paul & Barbara Taylor
Michelle Honeycutt	Bruce & Janet Waldschmidt
Myron Iwanski	Nyta Wall
Charlie & Emily Jernigan	Warren & Linda Kemper
Dean & Linda Johnson	Webb
Ken & Shirley Kaiser	* Society Friend
Peggy & Mike Mahoney	



The UT Arboretum Society (UTAS) has a Facebook page. Go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and enter "UTAS" or "UT Arboretum Society" in the search box. You'll find us there.

We post meeting notices, photos, events, and interesting tidbits on our page. We also answer questions. Join the conversation!



Celebrating 50 Years



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. _____

____ Please send only an electronic copy of the quarterly newsletter, *Branches*.

Mail this form with your check to:

UTAS

P.O. Box 5382

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382



UTAS Resources

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

Thanks!

Norm Dobbs chaired the Fall Plant Sale.

Katie Cottrell, Kathy Strunk, and John Byrd presented another fantastic Owl Prowl.

Lynda Haynes and Pat Row organized the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction.

Richard Evans, former Center director, spoke at the Annual Dinner.

Charlie Samuels served 3 years as UTAS president.

Margaret Cumberland, Arboretum and AMSE volunteer, with **Peggy Mahoney** and **Hella Peterson**, organized a landscaping work day at AMSE.

Lynda Haynes and Kevin Hoyt spearheaded the Christmas Parade Float project.

Emily and Charlie Jernigan, Charlie Samuels, Janet Bigelow, Julie Watts, Yvonne Hitchcock, and Kevin Hoyt put on the New Year's Day Hike.

Dr. Bob Hatcher and Dr. John Skinner presented talks.

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.utarboretumsociety.org

Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

Facebook: UT Arboretum Society

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

*Design, writing, and editorial services donated by
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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 fulfilled its pledge of a **\$500,000** Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over **\$83,500** to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum. We have received pledges for more than **\$700,000** for the Auditorium. It's now under construction and will open this summer.

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. Email UTIAadvancement@tennessee.edu.

UT Arboretum - **Kevin Hoyt** - 865-483-3571

UT Arboretum Society - **Charlie Jernigan** 865-482-4836

To contribute to the Endowment or Auditorium Fund, make a check payable to the "University of Tennessee Foundation" and indicate in the memo line to credit your contribution to either the **UT Arboretum Endowment Fund** or the **Arboretum Auditorium Gift Fund**. Mail it to the UT Institute of Agriculture, Office of Institutional Advancement, 114 Morgan Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996.

For more information on Planned Giving visit this UT website: www.utfi.org/give-now.



P.O. Box 5382
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382

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Check the mailing label for your membership renewal date.



Upcoming Events

- March 19** Dennis Horn,
Tennessee Wildflowers
- March 21** Heather Haley, WVLT
meteorologist
- April 8-13** Florida Sunshine
Garden Tour
- April 16** Dr. Sue Hamilton,
Director, UT Garden
- April 17 & 18** Spring Plant Sale
- April 25** Holly Work Day