

# Branches

The newsletter for members and friends of the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society

## UTAS Spring Plant Sale Coming in April!



**\*The Members Only sale is Friday April 20, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** – Not a member and want to shop early? You can join and become a member or renew your membership at the sale. By joining UTAS on Friday night, people can enjoy the membership benefit of having the first pick of our beautiful selection of plants, some of which sell out that evening."

**Saturday's sale, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., is open to all.**

The University of Tennessee Arboretum Society's 51st annual Spring Plant Sale will gather the best of four local nurseries in one location. Beaver Creek and Riverdale Nurseries from Knoxville, Sunlight Gardens from Andersonville and East Fork Nursery from Sevierville will be offering a large and varied selection of shrubs, trees, wildflowers, perennials, annuals and edibles. Two plant propagators from the Chattanooga area will have unusual and a few rare plants at the sale. Additionally, an assortment of donated plants from Society members will be offered. Dr. Josh Granger, recent doctoral student graduate of the UT Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries has donated over twenty trees for the 2017 UTAS spring plant sale! These

trees were part of his personal collection that he has decided not to transport down to Starkville, MS when he reports to his new job in the Mississippi State - College of Forest Resources. On Saturday, Brad Greenwood Designs will be selling botanically themed copper garden ornaments and steel features for the home and yard. Dano's Hot Dogs from Lenoir City will be offering an expanded sandwich menu along with his famous lemonade. Retired U.T. horticulture professor **Dr. Will Witte** will consult with you about your specific needs, and answer your horticultural questions. Proceeds from this sale and other UTAS fund-raising events go toward the operating expenses and the endowment funds for the UT Arboretum. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards.



**Raffle - Chance to Win This Bird Bath at UTAS Members Only Plant Sale on Friday**

**Night** Raffle tickets available to Members ONLY at the Members Sale Night April 20, 5 pm -

7 pm **Non-members can join on the member's sale night.** \*Each member who attends the Friday night plant sale will get a chance to enter. You will write your name/number on back of the ticket and you will be contacted if you win!

### **Author Talk/Book Signing Events in April**

UTAS is pleased to announce they will be hosting two Author/Book signing events this April. **David Brill** will discuss his new book, Into the Mist on April 10 and **David Haskell** will be talking about his new book The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors on April 24.

**\*See the Events Calendar on pages 7 and 8 for times, locations, and more details.**

## Director's Desk

*People, Projects and Programs* are three things I have spent a great deal of time thinking about lately. All of these important UT Arboretum focal areas are in play as we transition from our winter mode of operations into the spring and summer field season.

*People:* We are continuing to experience the contributions that a whole bunch of people are bringing to the table. The UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center staff have been focusing on re-arranging, cleaning, repurposing, and maintaining various office/operational processes and equipment over much of the winter. Michelle Campanis has been busy planning a great slate of educational outreach programs as well. She is also working hard to line up a variety of revenue-generating event rentals for the auditorium in the coming months and is working to firm up the summer environmental science day camp. Nancy Smith and Bob Reed, our center volunteers, completed all of the required mapping, plant labeling, and updating of our website to get us ready for the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC) – *Tennessee Certified Arboreta* ... level-four re-certification program. I learned last week that we have in fact passed the February on-site tree ID field inspection (and all other program requirements) and will receive our new front-entry re-certification sign sometime during the week of the spring plant sale. This certification will gain us increased state-wide arboreta recognition, the potential to compete for future public/private arboreta grants, and hopefully gaining the *Center of Excellence* recognition by the TUFC at some point in the future.  
<https://www.tufc.com/programs/tree/arboreta/>  
<https://www.tufc.com/programs/educational/centers-of-excellence/>

*Projects:* The staff took advantage of the extremely cold weather in January and put down a new wood floor in the UT Arboretum office conference room. The new laminate flooring and associated trim molding looks great and will truly enhance the use of this room for all types of future UT Arboretum Society business, educational outreach events, and revenue-generating meetings. Some of the other projects that are in our planning pipeline are re-working the Valley Road ditch and surface to provide for improved travel and safety. We are also planning to replace the degrading "hitching posts" that are used to mark road culvert locations and parking spaces in the auditorium parking lot. A couple of projects that are currently "works-in-progress" are the new bluebird nesting box trail and the additional of a rain garden on the west

side of the auditorium. Both of these projects will ultimately provide enhanced opportunities for research, education and outreach. A couple of other TBD Eagle Scout bridge projects are set to begin sometime this spring or summer.

*Programs:* Finally ... the program slate continues to grow and evolve as UT Arboretum Society Board members, committee chairs, volunteers, partners, UT researchers/extension personnel, and our staff continue to work together in bringing new and innovative programs/events to the calendar. I won't go into this list as there are too many to name and the titles/dates will be featured in detail throughout this winter edition of Branches. If you have an idea for a program please send me an email and I will be sure to bring it up during the next event team planning session. I believe we are really gaining momentum in our programming efforts since opening our new auditorium, hiring our new education program coordinator, and through the ever-increasing volunteer efforts of the UT Arboretum Society.

*Kevin P. Hoyt - Director*

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

President: Janet Bigelow  
 Vice President: Pat Row  
 Secretary: Lynda Haynes  
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#### Board Members

Kathy Fahey  
 Erik Ferragut  
 Heather Ferragut  
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 Charlie Jernigan  
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 Don Williams  
 Ex Officio: Kevin Hoyt

## President's Letter ~Janet Bigelow

To say that I am ready for spring is the understatement of this New Year! I grew up in Niagara Falls (American side!), on the shore of Lake Ontario, where winters were long and brutal. So you might think I would be used to the bone-chilling cold we have endured these past few months. But I'm not, and it needs to end. While I was dog-sitting this past Saturday (February 10), I saw that my daffodils were coming up, and I got so excited I almost forgot to walk my daughter's dog. Another thing that has really gotten me pumped for warmer weather was the UTAS lecture on February 6 about bluebirds. Chuck Cruickshank of the Tennessee Bluebird Society (TBS) spoke about these beautiful harbingers of spring. The best part of his lecture was a 12-minute video showing the inside of a nest box from the time the female built the nest until all five babies fledged. This is the first year in the 21 years that Tim and I have lived in our West Knoxville home that we have had bluebirds at our feeder in the winter. The lecture inspired me so much that I headed to Wild Birds Unlimited the next day to buy an EcoTough nesting box and a special feeder for mealworms that other birds can't get into. But it seems almost everyone who heard Chuck's lecture for UTAS or another one he gave a few days earlier at Wild Birds Unlimited had the same idea. So now I have to wait until more bluebird supplies come in to spread out the welcome mat for *my* bluebirds. Meanwhile, Michelle Campanis and I are getting teams of Bluebird Buddies organized to monitor and record data along a bluebird trail to be erected soon at the Arboretum. The TBS makes exquisite nesting boxes out of red cedar; over time, they have come up with some clever modifications to try to protect the birds from predators and extremes of weather. This is such an exciting new project for UTAS and the Arboretum. We hope we can partner with TBS in the near future to have a *Make & Take* event where attendees can put together their own bluebird nesting box. But meanwhile, look for signs of spring in your own yard and while hiking at the Arboretum. If you take a picture of something at the Arboretum that you would like to share, email it to me at [janet\\_bigelow@tds.net](mailto:janet_bigelow@tds.net). I will try to see that as many pictures as possible get posted to our Facebook page – especially ones of bluebirds!

## Native Plant Committee Report



The Native Plant Group meets twice a month to maintain the beds surrounding the Visitor Center and the Sides Azalea Hillside. They weed, prune and mulch to keep the area attractive for visitors. Come join us on the first and third Wednesday mornings of every month March through November. Anyone who enjoys gardening and has a couple of hours to spare would be welcome to join the group. If you would like to be included on our roster please email Lee Ann at [leadob@bellsouth.net](mailto:leadob@bellsouth.net) or call 482-6656.

## Like Us on Facebook



For updates on upcoming events and other UT Arboretum information please like us on Facebook.

Facebook: UT Arboretum Society







## *Holly Task Force Committee Report*

A special thank you for the volunteers that participated in the HOLLY WORK DAY Saturday October 14, 2017. With their brilliant efforts all the tasks outlined for the morning were accomplished. Beginning the session Dr. Will Witte instructed us on layering newspapers beginning on the outside edge of the Japanese Holly Collection spreading toward the center. Everyone, young and old spread a heavy layer of mulch over the newspapers providing protection from invasive weeds while retaining moisture for enhancing the collection. Erik Ferragut and his two sons, Jacob and Nathan, worked hard and diligent spreading and carting mulch. Our stalwart supporters Lucie Jones, Jim Mee, and the Holly Task Force leaders worked effortlessly. A new addition to the work day, John Skinner led the way to remove bittersweet and other invasive climbing weeds high into the top holly branches (No little task). A special note of thanks to Kathy Fahey for staying with us into the early afternoon and following up on Monday with arboretum staff to finish mulching new hollies and install deer fencing. And thanks not least to Kevin Hoyt and the arboretum staff for delivering fine mulch to the work areas, applying round up to the perimeter of the Japanese collection, holes augured for planting sixteen new holly additions, constructing deer fencing, and Kevin personally for watering in the new holly additions.

The work day concluded planting sixteen new holly varieties from "Barbie" to "Virginia". These hollies were selected by Fran Scheidt and some brought back from the Holly Society of America Annual meeting in 2015 where they were cared for in the arboretum green house and grown to ideal planting size. Fran also selected the planting sites for these which relate to the varieties already planted in the respective areas. Fran maintains an up to date inventory of every holly planted in the Elmore Holly Collections and is an invaluable part of the Holly Task Force.

This was a rewarding conclusion to the Fall 2017 Holly Work Day.

**SAVE THE DATE- please note date change!**

The next Holly Work Day for Spring is scheduled for Saturday April 14, 2018 9:00 AM till Noon. This is the perfect time to apply fertilizer to your trees and shrubs and that will be the emphasis for our holly work day. Bring gloves, pruning shears, rake or goose neck forked hoe to remove weeds and rake in fertilizer. Pruning will consist of removing lower holly branches that are obstructing sign posts and trim back overgrown Japanese hollies in the center of the Elmore Holly Collection. Dr. Will Witte will be on hand to direct proper pruning activities. We look forward to your membership support to help maintain and grow our world-wide known holly collection at the UT Arboretum.

Dennis & Jan Superczynski

Dr. Will Witte

Fran Scheidt

And the entire Holly Task Force leadership

## *Trails Committee Report*

The UTAS Trails Committee will have their next trail work day on April 14. If you would like to help, know some teens that would like to volunteer for service hours, or might know of a group or organization that can help us with trail maintenance please contact Don Williams at [donrwilliams54@gmail.com](mailto:donrwilliams54@gmail.com) or call Don at 865-603-4310 for more information.





## Upcoming Event- Wild Edibles Foray Workshop

at the UT Arboretum Auditorium and Program Shelter on Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to be led by Pandy English and Windy Hunter. Participants **must** pre-register by Monday, April 23. Cost is \$25 for UTAS members and \$30 for non-members. The class is limited to 30 participants, so register early as we expect this to fill up quickly. We will maintain a waiting list and fill vacancies as they occur.

Contact Janet Bigelow at: [janet\\_bigelow@tds.net](mailto:janet_bigelow@tds.net) and (865) 675-3822 to reserve a spot and pay in advance. Leave a message on the answering machine, if necessary.

Pandy English and Windy Hunter are two very experienced foragers of woods, fields, and streams and have taught wild edibles to many groups. Everything from bread, preserves, teas, tonics, poultices, dyes, greens, roots, dried fruits, nuts and natural medicinals will be shared. Participants will learn the skills of wild foraging as well as how to prepare the harvest. Safe identification will also be stressed. Come ready to enjoy preparing and sampling nature's bounty. This event will take place rain or shine. Participants should dress appropriately. This includes walking boots, pants, gloves, rain gear and insect repellents.

## UTAS Fundraiser Comedy Event

COMEDY RETURNS TO THE UT ARBORETUM MAY 6

*Enjoy an early Mother's Day w/ renowned comedy group Einstein Simplified*

The UT Arboretum Society again presents an evening of laughter and live improv on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge. Come enjoy the fun as this well-known Knoxville area comedy improv group entertains us with original, unrehearsed improv. If you like Second City and Saturday Night Live, this show is for you! Given today's roller coaster political climate, we expect a very funny show. Don't miss it! Due to popular demand in 2017, the group is returning to the Arboretum for the second year.



Tickets for this UT Arboretum Society fundraiser are now on sale and they are selling quickly. Due to space limitations, only 90 tickets can be sold. All tickets will be sold before the event. There are no walk-up sales. Various cheeses will be served, a ticket for one glass of wine and the live show are included in the ticket price. Soft drinks will be provided. A wine tasting cash bar will be offered before, during and after the show. The preferred method of ticket sales is online at the UT Arboretum Society website. To purchase tickets, go to: [utas2018.bpt.me](http://utas2018.bpt.me) Tickets are \$30 each plus fees. If you are not able to purchase online, you can send a check to: UT Arboretum Society, 10626 Forest Crest Road, Knoxville, TN 37922 made out to the UT Arboretum Society. Please put "Einstein Simplified" on the memo line. For information call 865-776-8227.

The event is Sunday, May 6, at 5:00 p.m. at the UT Arboretum Auditorium, 901 S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge. Gates open at 4:30. Social hour, with drinks and a variety of cheeses and crackers from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The show starts promptly at 6:00 p.m. and will end about 7:00 p.m. \*Though the contents of the program are equivalent to a PG rating, this performance is not recommended for children. Einstein has been a Knoxville staple for 24 years, having performed at Side Splitters and, for the past few years, every Tuesday night at Scruffy City Hall (Preservation Pub) in Market Square in Knoxville. These comedians are in demand, doing a weekly show and many special appearances. Last month, they were one of the featured national improv groups at the famous Gatlinburg Improv Fest. For more information on Einstein Simplified check out their [Facebook](#) page.

*Bring your spouse, significant other, friends and neighbors. But mostly, bring your sense of humor!!!!*

## New Blue Bird Trail at UT Arboretum

### Bluebird News from the University of Tennessee Arboretum!

By Michelle Campanis



Last fall I met a member of the Tennessee Bluebird Society at a festival and expressed interest in starting a Bluebird trail at the UT Arboretum where I am the coordinator of education programs. It only took one comment for several members of the Tennessee Bluebird Society to express interest in helping us and since then we have had programs for children, adults and installed a new bluebird trail here!

We started with a planning meeting with Chuck James, Chuck Cruickshank and Stan Colburn. We identified a possible trail site in the arboretum and made a plan for UT Arboretum Society volunteers to be trained to properly monitor the bluebird boxes. We planned two programs for our local community to stimulate interest and knowledge of bluebirds. The first program, Bluebird Basics, had 60 people attend! Chuck Cruickshank and Stan Colburn shared about bluebirds and stayed to answer questions from the standing room audience. The second program, Bluebird Nest box Monitoring Training was specifically geared to train our monitoring volunteers, who have named themselves "bluebird buddies", the proper methods for monitoring and we also had several members of the community join us.

Local schools have showed a lot of interest in learning about bluebirds! Chuck and Stan went with me to Willow Elementary where they had a bluebird program for Brownie Troop 21158. Jerry Luckmann and her troop helped build four birdhouses with Stan and Chuck's guidance that they donated for the new trail at the UT Arboretum. I provided a program for a kindergarten class at Linden Elementary on February 22<sup>nd</sup> where the students learned ways to help bluebirds thrive. They have two bluebird boxes on their playground that they will be watching.

February 22<sup>nd</sup> was an exciting day for us -while I was doing the program at Linden Elementary, Chuck, Stan, UT Arboretum Society volunteer, Don Williams, and our director, Kevin Hoyt, installed the first phase of the new bluebird trail at the UT Arboretum. We will be getting our bluebird monitoring teams busy this spring and are excited to see who moves in for the first season in our new bluebird houses. **We will be making a map to include the new bluebird trail and would love to have you visit us at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge.**

## Rain Gardens for Tennessee

*Learn how to make the most of rain water in your landscape*

### CREATE A RAIN GARDEN AT THE UT ARBORETUM

The UT Arboretum Society is offering Rain Gardens for Tennessee a class/workshop on building a rain garden on Monday, April 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The lecture session is from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and the outdoor workshop is from 10:00 a.m. to noon where participants will learn to build a rain garden at the arboretum.

During the class session, participants will learn how a rain garden will improve landscape. Please wear proper work clothes and footwear for the outdoor work project session.

**Registration is required. Lunch for participants in the work session will be provided by the UT Arboretum Society. The fee is \$5.** To register, call Janet Bigelow at 865-675-3822 by Friday April 6. Attendance is limited to 25. Volunteer credit is available for the work session. To learn more about this class or the UT Arboretum Society, go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org). For more information on the program, call 865-483-7277.

Teaching the class will be Dr. Andrea Ludwig, Associate Professor of Ecological Engineering in the Biosystems Engineering and Soil Department at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Ludwig is the co-director of Tennessee Smart Yards, a sustainable landscaping educational program that seeks to certify private property across the state as "Tennessee Smart Yards." Dr. Ludwig has worked as the State Stormwater Management Specialist for UT Extension since 2010. In that role, she works with local municipal governments to help support their green infrastructure programs. In addition, she holds a Ph.D. in Biological Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech.



Image: Andrea Ludwig



# Calendar of Events

## Members Only Event:

### Tour of Randy Stewart's Greenhouses

Saturday, March 31, 2 PM to 4 PM

UTAS board member, Randy Stewart is offering a tour of his greenhouses and garden for UTAS members. Randy's greenhouses will be filled with plants that he will set out in his garden in April and May. This is a rare opportunity to visit his greenhouses, hear about some of his techniques, and enjoy talking about plants with other UTAS members. Randy lives not far off the Pellissippi Parkway near Hardin Valley. To RSVP and get address and directions, contact Randy Stewart at 567-5561 or [randystewart@comcast.net](mailto:randystewart@comcast.net).



## Hometown Habitat Film Screening

Thursday April 5, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

RSCC City Room

Screening of the Film Hometown Habitat. This event is Co-sponsored with Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning TCWP. Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home features renowned entomologist Dr. Douglas Tallamy, whose research, books and lectures on the use of non-native plants in landscaping, sound the alarm about habitat and species loss. Producer/Director, Catherine Zimmerman and film crew spent two years traveling the country to visit Hometown Habitat heroes.

Free and open to the public—**suggested donation of \$2**

## Holly Work Day

Saturday April 14, 9AM to Noon

Elmore Holly Collection

Bring gloves, pruning shears, rake or goose neck forked hoe to remove weeds and rake in fertilizer. Pruning will consist of removing lower holly branches that are obstructing sign posts and trim back overgrown Japanese hollies in the center of the Elmore Holly Collection. This is the perfect time to apply fertilizer to your trees and shrubs and that will be the emphasis for our holly work day. Dr. Will Witte will be on hand to direct proper pruning activities. We look forward to your membership support to help maintain and grow our world-wide known holly collection at the UT Arboretum. Contact: Dennis Superczynski [jandport@att.net](mailto:jandport@att.net) if you need more information.



## Rain Gardens For TN Class/Workshop

Tuesday, April 9, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m

@ UT Arboretum

\*See page 6 for cost, details, and contact information.



## Author Talk & Book Signing: David Brill, *Into the Mist*

Tuesday, April 10, 7 PM to 8:30 PM

UT Arboretum Auditorium

*Into the Mist: Tales of Death and Disaster, Mishaps and Misdeeds, Misfortune and Mayhem in Great Smoky Mountains National Park* is the newest book by author David Brill. Books will be available for sale at the program. Between 1931 and 2013, 468 persons lost their lives in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Author David Brill's new book, *Into the Mist*, chronicles some of those tragedies, as well as several epic storm events and heroic rescues. Brill will discuss the book and read from its 13 chapters. Autographed copies of *Into the Mist* and Brill's first book, *As Far as the Eye Can See: Reflections of an Appalachian Trail Hiker*, will be available at the program. *As Far as the Eye Can See*, is now in its 7th printing, 4th edition and include three bonus chapters



## Trail Work Day

Saturday, April 14, 8 am to noon



If you would like to help please contact Don Williams at [donrwilliams54@gmail.com](mailto:donrwilliams54@gmail.com) or call Don at 865-603-4310 for more information.

## Lecture: It's Not Dirt - It's Soil: Exploring the Activity of Life Underground

Thursday April 19, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

UT Arboretum Auditorium

Join Dr. Mac Post, a Senior Scientist in ORNL Environmental Science Division, in a hands-on exploration of decomposition, soil, physical and biogeochemical processes, and their impacts on the Arboretum forest ecosystems and watersheds. Dr. Post is also a staff member of ORNL's Climate Change Science Institute (CCSI) and an Adjunct Professor at UT-Knoxville. Dr. Post is a recognized expert on soil carbon dynamics, nutrient relationships between soil and vegetation, & the impact of species composition on ecosystem processes.



## Spring Plant Sale

Friday April 20—5 PM to 7 PM (UTAS Members Only)

**Saturday April 21 from 9 AM to 2 PM (Open to ALL)**  
Arboretum—Program Shelter

Beaver Creek, Riverdale Nurseries, Sunlight Gardens, East Fork Nursery, and UTAS members/friends will be offering a large and varied selection of shrubs, trees, wildflowers, perennials, annuals and edibles. **Dr. Will Witte**, will answer all of your plant questions. On Saturday, **Dano's Hot Dogs** will be here selling food/drinks and Brad Greenwood Designs will be selling metal garden ornaments. **Not a member and want to shop early?** You can join and become a member at the sale and take advantage of this membership benefit. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards at the sale.



# Calendar of Events

## UTAS Hike (Held Every Third Saturday)

Saturday, April 21 start time 9 AM

The hike will be led by Arboretum staff or a member of the UT Arboretum Society. The hike will begin at the parking lot near the Visitors Center at the entrance to the Arboretum. This is approximately a one-hour fun, short trail hike. Please wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots or good shoes for outdoor walking. This event is free.



## The Songs of the Trees Lecture/Book Sale

Tuesday, April 24, 7 pm to 8 pm

UT Arboretum Auditorium

David Haskell, Pulitzer Prize finalist for General Non-fiction, will be talking about his new book The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors. He is a British-born American biologist, author, and professor of biology at Sewanee: The University of the South, in Sewanee, TN. Copies of his book will be available for sale from Union Avenue Books, and the author will be signing books purchased at the event before and after his talk.



## Wild Edibles Foray Workshop

Saturday, April 28, 10 AM to 3 PM

UT Arboretum Auditorium and Program Shelter



Participants **must** pre-register by Monday, April 23. Cost is \$25 for UTAS members and \$30 for non-members. The class is limited to 30 participants, so register early as we expect this to fill up quickly. We will maintain a waiting list and fill vacancies as they occur. Contact Janet Bigelow at: [janet\\_bigelow@tds.net](mailto:janet_bigelow@tds.net) and (865) 675-3822 to reserve a spot and pay in advance. Leave a message on the answering machine, if necessary.

## Spring Wildflower Walk/"Meet & Greet"

Saturday May 5th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Naturalist and educator Kris Light will be leading a Spring Wildflower Walk at Haw Ridge Trails.



## Einstein Comedy Event

Sunday, May 6, 5 to 7 PM,

UT Arboretum Auditorium

Come enjoy the fun as a well-known Knoxville area comedy improv group entertains us with original, unrehearsed improv. Ticket Cost \$30. \*\*The preferred method of ticket sales is online at the UT Arboretum Society website. To purchase tickets, go to: [utas2018.bpt.me](http://utas2018.bpt.me) Tickets are \$30 each plus a small fee to purchase the tickets online. If you are not able to purchase online, you can send a check of \$30 to: UT Arboretum Society, 10626 Forest Crest Road, Knoxville, TN 37922 made out to the UT Arboretum Society. Please put "Einstein Simplified" on the memo line. Ticket price includes one glass of wine and large selection of cheese and crackers. Sodas are also available at no additional charge. Additional glasses of wine will be available for sale \$5 per glass. For more information on Einstein Simplified check out their [Facebook](#) page. For information on this event, call 865-776-8227.



## UTAS Hike (Held Every Third Saturday)

Saturday, May 19, start time 9 AM

Meet at the parking lot near the Visitors Center at the entrance to the Arboretum. This is approximately a one-hour fun, short trail hike. Participants are asked to wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots or good shoes for outdoor walking. This event is free.



## MOTH...er's Night Out

Saturday, June 9th from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Arboretum Visitors Center

Kris Light will give a short talk about moths in the Auditorium. Everyone then will go outside to wait for the moths to alight on the sheets Kris has prepared in advance. The black lights help attract these creatures of the night.



## UTAS Hike (Held Every Third Saturday)

Saturday, June 16, start time 9 AM

Meet at the parking lot near the Visitors Center at the entrance to the Arboretum. This is approximately a one-hour fun, short trail hike. Participants are asked to wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots or good shoes for outdoor walking. This event is free.



## UTAS Summer Children's Programs

June 20 – June 22 @ UT Arboretum

Dr. Jerome Grant from UT Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology will lead a 3 day program for grade school students June 20-22. Dr. Grant and his students have delighted our guests at the Butterfly Festival with the Insect Zoo. NOTE: Kris Light will also be leading a one day science program on July 10. More information on both programs will be available in April on our website or by contacting UT Arboretum Education Coordinator, Michelle Campanis at [mcampani@utk.edu](mailto:mcampani@utk.edu) or 865-483-7277



## Butterfly Festival

Saturday, August 4

10 am to 1 p.m.

@ UT Arboretum





## Winter Event Round Up

### Third Straight Year for a Winning Christmas Parade Float



The 2017 Christmas Parade Float theme was "Toyland" and our float won the "Chamber of Commerce Award". The parade was held on Saturday, December 9. The volunteer team was led again this year by Lynda Haynes. Volunteers consisted of Chuck Haynes, Kathy Fahey, Lee Ann Dobbs, Norm Dobbs, Charlie Jernigan, Don Searle, Randy Stewart, Janet Bigelow, Janet Cushman, Melody Turner, Fran Scheidt, and Gene Sanslow. A special thanks goes to the UT Arboretum Staff for their tremendous amount of help. More pictures from the event can be found in the Online Version of Branches in the Photo Section at the end of the newsletter.

Lee Ann Dobbs, Kathy Fahey, Norm Dobbs, Janet Bigelow, Janet Cushman, Lynda Haynes, and Chuck Haynes

**Annual UTAS Dinner Held this Past October-** About 80 people enjoyed the UTAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. After dinner and a very brief business meeting, Center Director **Kevin Hoyt** gave his report. He thanked all the UTAS volunteers who contribute so much to making the Arboretum the special place that it is. He then gave a review of the past year, and talked about what is in the planning stages for next year. **UTAS President Janet Bigelow presented the Distinguished Service Award to Melanie Staten. Melanie was recognized for the excellent work she has done coordinating publicity for events along with other UTAS volunteer activities. Two new Board members were elected at the Annual Meeting!** We would like to welcome Jeff Holt and Hella Peterson to the board. We would like to thank two out going board members Melody Turner and Julie Watts for their superb service and support. At the annual meeting, UTAS gave \$10,000 to the UTA Endowment Fund and another \$5,000 to Kevin Hoyt for the UTA Operations Fund. This is in addition to our mid-year donation of \$7,500 to the UTA Operations Fund. Tom Looney accepted the \$10,000 for the UTA Endowment Fund and thanked UTAS for all their hard work. The Endowment Fund now totals \$890,000. Thank you to our guest speaker at the UTAS dinner, **Kathryn Aalto**. She talked on her book, *The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: A Walk through the Forest that Inspired the Hundred Acre Wood*. Aalto focused on the forest known as the Hundred Acre Wood, the setting for A. A. Milne's classic tales of the musings and adventures of Pooh, Piglet, Tigger, Eeyore, and the rest of the gang. **Thank you to everyone who donated silent auction items and who purchased items at the event. Special thank You to Lynda Haynes & Pat Row for organizing and running the silent auction for the Annual Dinner event.** The silent auction raised over \$1,600 for UTAS projects!

**The Bats of Tennessee: ALL 16 SPECIES!** November 6, 2017- Pandy English, assistant chief of biodiversity for TWRA, and longtime naturalist drew one of our largest crowds ever for this "bat-tastic" program! We had 150 people packed into the auditorium to learn about the different types of bats we have in Tennessee, the issues facing our bats, including white nose fungus, and how we as individuals can help the bats of Tennessee thrive. We were thrilled at how many people are interested in bats and hope to make this an annual program.

**Seven Classic American Naturalists-**November 7, 2017 Oak Ridge pastor, Randy Hammer, who is a certified naturalist through the Treemont Institute delighted the audience with a PowerPoint presentation and readings from seven of American's most important though not all well-known naturalists- William Bartram, John James Audubon, Henry David Thoreau, John Burroughs, Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Rachel Carson. The workshop covered brief biographical sketches of these naturalists; some ways that they influenced each other, as well as the establishment of America's national parks system; and famous quotations from some of their works.

**Restoration of the American Chestnut: A Marriage of Breeding and Biotechnology-** January 23, 2018-Ben Jarrett-Southern Region Science Director for the American Chestnut Foundation gave an enthusiastic and inquisitive audience of all ages an update on the status of the ACF's research status in restoring the much loved American Chestnut. Ben shared the efforts for providing a disease resistant American chestnut through both cross breeding and genetic modification. Ben is working with UT Arboretum/FRREC director, Kevin Hoyt, to establish an American chestnut demonstration planting at the UT Arboretum. This topic is one of great interest in our community and we plan Ben back to give up more updates.

## Winter Event Round Up Continued:

**New Year's Day Hike** -The thermometer read 14°F on January 1, so the UTAS Board members who assembled a little before 9:30 in front of the roaring fire in the Auditorium were not expecting much of a turnout. But 32 hearty hikers showed up, eager to brave the elements and see what wonders were to be seen on a freezing winter morning. After enjoying coffee and donuts, the hikers set out in two directions: one group led by Jeff Holt, the other group by Tim Bigelow, with Hella Peterson and Randy Stewart acting as sweeps. Perhaps the neatest sight of the morning was that of frost flowers, formed when water in plant stems freezes and turns a non-descript heap of dead flora into an amazingly beautiful sculpture. The hikes ended at the Elmore Holly Collection, where Dennis Superczynski talked about our hollies and answered questions. Thanks to our four hike leaders and Dennis, as well as to Marti Salk, Kathy Fahey, and Janet Bigelow, who kept the fire going in the Auditorium. It was a tough job, but somebody had to do it!



**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Hikes** --Did you know that UTAS is now sponsoring a hike the third Saturday of every month? The hikes will begin in the parking lot by the Visitors Center at 9:00 a.m. Hella Peterson and Jeff Holt led the first hike on January 20, with Janet Bigelow acting as sweep. Although the snow had melted on the roads and in sunny spots, there was still snow in the woods as the group of 42 people hiked the Oak Hickory Trail and then went to see the Elmore Holly Collection. Thanks to Jeff Holt, UTAS Board member, for suggesting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday hikes! If you are a UTAS member who is interested in leading one of the hikes, contact Janet Bigelow at [janet\\_bigelow@tds.net](mailto:janet_bigelow@tds.net).

\*30 people attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday hike held on March 17. See Branches Online Photo Gallery for images from that hike.

*Image: Hella Peterson leading the hike.*

**Brunch & Learn: Holiday Decorations from Your Garden** -Michelle Campanis, our (still relatively) new UT Arboretum Education Program Coordinator, is more than eager to showcase her talents as a floral arranger. When UTAS hosted our first ever *Brunch & Learn* event on November 16, Michelle wowed everyone with her beautiful arrangements made with natural materials: some in pumpkins, others in everyday containers, still more using materials woven into wreaths. Attendees enjoyed egg casserole, muffins, fruit salad, juice, and coffee while watching Michelle work her magic. The one-and-a-half-hour demonstration concluded with a drawing for door prizes, which were either arrangements Michelle had made or some of the tools of her craft. Check out our Facebook page for future *Brunch & Learn* (or perhaps *Lunch & Learn*) events! *Image: Sue Havard examines one of Michelle Campanis' creations at the event.*



**Fall Trails Workday**- December 2 was devoted exclusively to improving the *No Name Trail* leading from near the lower parking area up to the Auditorium. The beginning of this trail is rather steep, so the work focused on adding more water bars to divert water off the trail and to spreading a load of gravel to help prevent erosion. Thanks so much to Don Williams for heading up the Trails Committee and to John Skinner, Tim Bigelow, Kevin Hoyt, and Janet Bigelow for helping that day. The next workday is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Contact Don Williams at [donrwilliams54@gmail.com](mailto:donrwilliams54@gmail.com) if you can help with this important maintenance work on the Arboretum's seven miles of hiking trails!

*Image: Kevin Hoyt, John Skinner, Don Williams, and Tim Bigelow working to repair a water bar on the No Name Trail.*



## New Summer Children's Programs June 2018 at UT Arboretum



Image: Dr. Jerome Grant

The UT Arboretum will host its first children's summer programs beginning in June of 2018! We are thrilled to have Dr. Jerome Grant from the University of Tennessee Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology with us for a 3 day insect camp program for rising 3rd-4th grade school students June 20-22. Dr. Grant and his students have delighted our guests at the Butterfly Festival with the Insect Zoo. We have learned to love and value all things buggy!



Image: Kris Light

Local naturalist and environmental educator, Kris Light, will be conducting a one day science program "The Science of Nature" for rising 5th-6th grade students on July 10 . Registration details soon.

More information on both programs will be available in April on our website or by contacting UT Arboretum Education Coordinator , Michelle Campanis at [mcampani@utk.edu](mailto:mcampani@utk.edu) or 865-483-7277.

## New & Renewing Members

### Renewal Members

Ken and Jackie Williams  
 Ken Farrell  
 Alan Soloman  
 Robert and Beverly Skinner  
 Kathleen Kitzmiller  
 Jewel Tabor  
**Bob and Willow Reed**  
 Margaret Ohnsesorge  
 Theron E. Ragsdale  
**Charlie and Emily Jernigan**  
**Joan C. Koehn**  
 Mary C. Hall  
**Irene Sullivan**  
**Emory Valley Garden Club**  
 C. Joan Johnson  
 Jeff and Lecie Holt  
 Richard and Carole Evans

### **Michael Brown and Betty Evans**

Peggy Mahoney  
 John Hill  
 Don and Janis Williams  
**D. Ray Smith**  
 Ann McCurdy  
 Anne McKenzie  
 Nancy Basford  
**Lee Ann and Norm Dobbs**  
 James and Melanie Harless  
**Julie Watts and Robert DeVault**  
**Bruce and Janet Waldschmidt**  
 Dennis and Janet Superczynski  
**Melanie and Vince Staten**  
 Debbie Cutler  
 Lucie Jones  
 Faye H. Beck  
 Kathy Wagner-Selbach  
 Harriett McCurdy  
**Jean Banghan**  
 Margaret Dory  
 Terry and Bettye Anne Domm  
**Doug and Sally Gross**  
 Vivian Baylor

### Rachel Carlson

**Susan and Davis Reed**  
 Melvyn and Edith Halbert  
 Chet and Jane Morris  
 Kathy Bracic  
**Janet and Bob Cushman**

### New Members

Ralph and Sue Summers  
 Sheri Lee  
 Paulette F. Corcoran  
 Margaret and Riley Cumberland  
 Phil and Barbara Gardner  
 Eileen PontBriant  
 Jennifer Payne  
 Cathy Waitinas  
 Ruthie Froning  
 Carol Hoffner  
 Jessica Vinson  
 Jimmy Groton



## Thank You!

**Kris Light** – Thank you for hosting the Fall wildflower hike this past Fall. We appreciate all you do!



**Fall Plant Sale Volunteers** --Thank You Norm Dobbs for organizing our Fall plant sale. Thanks to all those that volunteered at the sale this past October. Janet Bigelow, Lynn Carlson, Janet Cushman, Norm & Lee Ann Dobbs, Kathy Fahey, Ken Farrell, Erik & Heather Ferragut, Lynda Haynes, John & Betty Held, Jeff & Lecie Holt, Teresa Holzclaw, Joanie Koehn, Lisa LaForest, Sharon Lucking, James Mee, Mary Mishu, Hella Peterson, Dick Raridon, Susan Reed, Stan Richard, Tom & Pat Row, Gene Sanslow, Huey Sides, Melanie Staten, Randy Stewart, Irene Sullivan, Dennis & Jan Superczynski, Doug & Melody Turner, Huey Sides, Marie Walsh, Julie Watts, and Don Williams.

**Thank You to our regular Fall Plant Sale vendors**, Beaver Creek Nursery and Riverdale Nursery Knoxville; East Fork Nursery Sevierville; and Sunlight Gardens, Andersonville.

Image: Gene Sanslow & Lee Ann Dobbs volunteering at the Fall Plant Sale

**Very special thanks to all volunteers who worked more than one shift and one day at the Fall Plant Sale.** Thanks to Beverly Woods for doing the calling. Finally, thanks to UT Arboretum Director Kevin Hoyt and his staff. Without everyone's help our plant sales and UTAS' resulting financial support to the UT Arboretum and the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund would not be possible.

**Thank You to organizers, volunteers, and participants of the Father's Day Hike.** A special thanks to Jeff Holt for leading the hike. Jeff is in the green jacket on the far right leading the hike at the UT Arboretum.



**Thank You to Neal Delton** for presenting on winter care for plants this Past February!

**Thanks to everyone who contributed to UTAS in response to our end-of-the-year request,** donations in December totaled nearly \$ 2,500! Such donations allow UTAS to provide funding to help keep the Arboretum as a free community resource, open 365 days a year for everyone to enjoy. **Special thanks go to the following members who donated in December:** David and Betty Lou Alspaugh, Jean Bangham, Fred and Sandra M. Barry, Nancy Basford, Philip Beebe, Dean Cheatham, Margaret Cumberland, Amy and Michael Fitzgerald, Carol and Gary Grametbauer, Christine Hamilton, Fred and Theresa Holtzclaw, Clara Joan Johnson, Carl and Sigrid Ludemann, J. Louise Markel, Richard Raridon, Betsy Kay Robinson, Mark Robinson, Marti and Gary Salk, Fran Scheidt, Irene Sullivan, Paul and Barbara Taylor, and Fred and Aase Vaslow.



**Thank you to the members that participated in the Adopt-A-Creek Program this past year.** A total of 12 large bags of waste was retrieved from the water and the banks of the Scarborough Creek that runs through the UT Arboretum property. Image: UTAS members participating in the clean-up sessions were David and Betty Lou Alspaugh, Chuck and Lynda Haynes.

Image: Chuck Haynes, David Alspaugh, Betty Lou Alspaugh, Lynda Haynes

## Adopt a Bench Plaque to Honor a Loved One

Want to honor or remember a family member or special friend? UT Arboretum bench plaques can be purchased to honor a loved one. In general, plaques measure 2" x 8" (the width of a bench slat) and can be installed on any undesignated bench throughout the Arboretum, except the stone benches. The minimum donation for a plaque is \$500, with the money going to help benefit and maintain the Arboretum. The \$500 donation amount also qualifies you as a Patron.

To order a plaque, contact Janet Bigelow at (865) 675-3822 or at [janet\\_bigelow@tds.net](mailto:janet_bigelow@tds.net). You can stop by the Arboretum and obtain a special map from Gayle, the secretary in the Visitors Center, showing the location of all the available benches in the Arboretum. She also has a form for you to write your message on.

### Membership Information

**Renewing Your Membership** – Check your *Branches* label for your membership renewal date! You'll get a reminder, or you can download a form at [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org).

**Join Our Email List** - To receive important notices from UTAS, please email [emily@jernigans.net](mailto:emily@jernigans.net) and we will add you to our database. Also notify Emily of any email or mail address changes. **We never share your address.**

**Electronic Newsletter Only Option:** If you'd like to receive only an electronic copy of *Branches*, send an email to [emily@jernigans.net](mailto: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.

### View Branches Online

Look for an email reminder from UTAS with a link to *Branches* on our website. You can also see what else is going on at the Arboretum and UTAS. Just go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org) and check it out any time.

### UTAS Membership

#### Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

New      Renewal

Society Friend \$100      Patron \$500

Family \$50      Individual \$35      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 37830

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382

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

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

Check the mailing label for your membership renewal date

## Upcoming April Events

**Into the Mist Lecture & Book Signing** Tuesday April 10 from 7 PM to 8PM @ UT Arboretum Auditorium

**Lecture: Its Not Dirt-It's Soil** Thursday April 19, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. @ UT Arboretum Auditorium

**Spring Plant Sale** Friday April 20, 5 to 7 PM & Saturday April 21, 9 AM to 2 PM @ Program Shelter

**Davis Haskell -The Songs of Trees**, April 24 , 7 p.m. UT Arboretum Auditorium , Book signing and sales

**Wild Edibles Foray Workshop**, April 28, 10 a.m. -3 p.m. UT Arboretum Auditorium /Sharp Program Shelter

**3rd Saturday Monthly UTAS Hike** April 21, May 19, and June 16 – Start time 9 AM @ Visitor Center Parking Lot

## How to Find Us

Web: [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org)

Email: [utarboretumsociety@gmail.com](mailto:utarboretumsociety@gmail.com)

GPS: 901 S. Illinois Ave.,  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (35.9995, 84.2259)

Facebook: UT Arboretum Society





**Butterfly Festival**  
Saturday, August 4  
10 am to 1 p.m.

*Branches* Editor  
Webmaster  
Database Manager  
Plant Sale Chair

Heather Ferragut  
Charlie Jernigan  
Charlie Jernigan  
Norm Dobbs



Branches Online Photo Gallery

2017 Christmas UTAS Float Making & Parade



## Branches Online Photo Gallery

### *2017 Christmas UTAS Float Making & Parade*



Image: UT Arboretum Staff - Jake Wrye and Bo Duncan helping with the parade float.





## Branches Online Photo Gallery

### *Images*

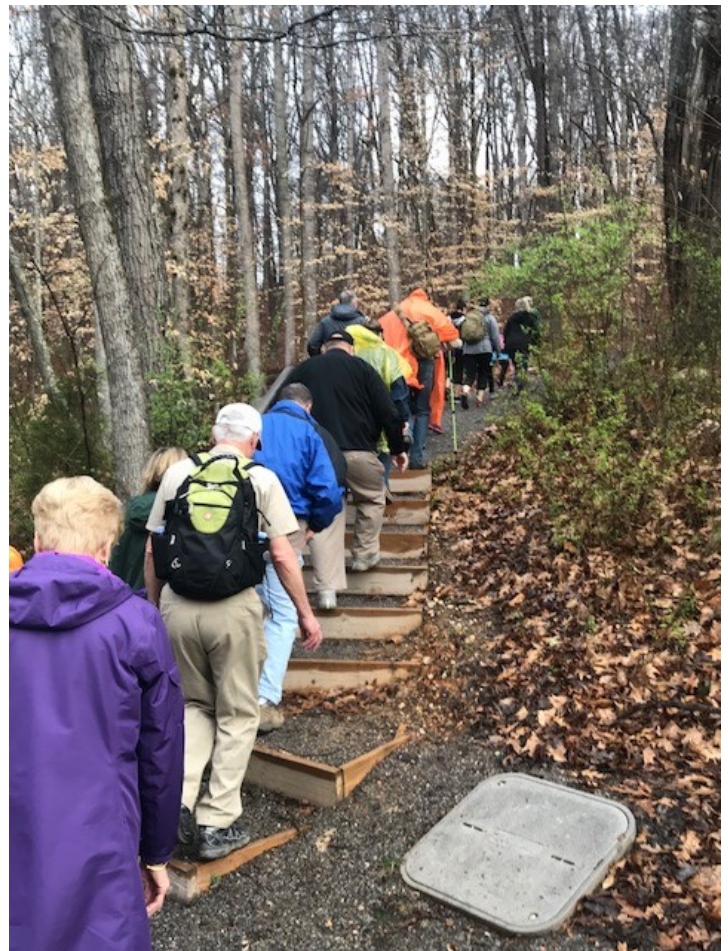


Frost Flower – Image taken by Tim Bigelow on New Years Day Hike



# Branches Online Photo Gallery

*Images from 3rd Saturday Hike on March 17 - Images taken by Tim Bigelow*





# Branches Online Photo Gallery

*Images from 3rd Saturday Hike on March 17 - Images taken by Tim Bigelow*

