

# Branches

*Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends*

Issue No 17 - Winter 2010

**UTAS President's Message**

Join Tom Row as he daydreams of warmer weather and a back yard that looks like the ones in the catalogues he's reading. Zzzz....

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**Stumped? Ask us!**

Why do some of the deciduous trees we see along Arboretum winter trails still have their leaves?

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



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**Director's Desk Richard Evans**

Guess which season is Richard Evans' favorite? Winter. Find out what he loves about the forest, wildlife and more during this season.

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**New Auditorium Fossil Tree Arrives is on the way**

Four Oak Ridge companies give a combined total of \$500,000 towards the construction of a new auditorium at the Arboretum. Wow!

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What's new and 300 million years old, too? A Fossil Tree (Lycopod) now graces the UTA Visitor's Center lobby thanks to ORNL's Ken Isham.

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**Upcoming Events**

- Feb 20 Basic Compass Workshop
- Mar 5 Arbor Day Event
- Mar 20 Father-Daughter Hike
- Apr 6 Camellia Talk
- Apr 10 Holly Work Day
- Apr 16-17 Plant Sale
- June 3-6 Tour: Explore Virginia Gardens

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## \$500,000 for New Auditorium - UT-Battelle, B&W Technical Services, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, & Energy Solutions Contribute

UT-Battelle, B&W Technical Services and Oak Ridge Associated Universities were honored on November 2 at a reception hosted at the Arboretum by UTAS and the UT Institute of Agriculture. The three companies announced generous donations totaling \$450,000, with \$200,000 from UT-Battelle, \$150,000 from B&W Technical Services, and \$100,000 from ORAU. Since that time, Energy Solutions has donated \$50,000 towards this effort. The new funds will be used for construction of an auditorium-type facility, capable of holding 80-100 people, located near the current Visitor's Center. ORNL Director Thom Mason, B&W Y-12 President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst, and Oak Ridge Associated Universities President and CEO Andy Page presented the checks. Joining the donors was Bill Chesney of the Rogers Group, which pledged \$500,000 in 2006 as the lead gift to the \$3M Endowment Fund Campaign.

This new space will provide indoor classroom space, enhanced technology, and will allow the Center to offer educational programs during inclement weather and after sundown. It will also provide an ideal space in the Oak Ridge area for youth and environmental programs, including participation in a summer youth science camp, Agriculture Extension programs and other

community events. UT Vice President for Agriculture Joseph DiPietro said, "The new facility will allow us to have even greater contact with the Oak Ridge community by having a topnotch facility to conduct educational programs, community events and extension activities for youth and adults."

Homer Fisher, working with Rhodes Logan and Tom Looney of the UT

Institute of Agriculture Office of Development, has been instrumental in coordinating the fund-raising effort, which will continue in the Oak Ridge community for the next two years. These extremely generous gifts will enable the UT Arboretum and UTAS to expand and enhance their public programs, especially those involving young people.



*Thom Mason, Andy Page & Darrel Kohlhorst with a preliminary sketch of the addition*



## President's Letter

The coldest January in some time is behind us, and I noticed that the daffodils are pushing their heads out of the ground. So despite the gray days that continue, spring can't be far away. The seed and flower catalogues are arriving each week and I think of how great it would be to have those massive flower beds and all those other things that look so magnificent, and I know that I will never get around to creating them. But it is fun to dream as I sit in the living room by the fireplace with catalogues by the recliner and two cats asleep in my lap.

I hope you are putting down dates you will find through the rest of Branches like our two hiking special events and the Spring Plant sale and plan to attend them. The plantings in the new parking lot will soon start to leaf out, and so will the bulbs planted on the sides of the parking spaces. Look for some unusual patterns that some of us enjoyed planting! Stay tuned this year as we add some new and different events. We have targeted some exciting options that we will be developing over the next couple months.

One of our very faithful and hard working members, Charlie Jernigan, had a very serious illness in December and January, but with excellent medical care and his plucky spirit is on the road to recovery. It will take some time, but we rejoice that he is doing very well at this point.

The Endowment campaign is doing well and we hope that each of you are considering how you will participate. We continue to contact major donors and the results have been outstanding as we approach the \$1M mark! Preliminary plans for the new auditorium have been drafted, and thoughts of Science Camps, local meetings and enlarged events, and new opportunities to present the Arboretum in a very appealing way are starting to be developed as we look to the future.

I hope this finds you looking forward to this year as a very special one for the Arboretum – we think it will be.

Tom Row, UTAS President, [tomhrow@bellsouth.net](mailto:tomhrow@bellsouth.net),  
865-482-9096

**Editor's note:** Tom has a new knee as of late January, so it'll be spring before he can even think about digging in the dirt. He's making a wonderful recovery, however, and the UTAS board sends continuing good wishes his way.



## Director's Desk

I like wintertime at the Arboretum! It is not that I dislike the other seasons, but winter is my favorite. One might assume that during the winter the pace of work around the Arboretum slows down, and thus my affinity for winter might be understandable. I assure you that this is not the case; if anything the pace of work speeds up. No, I like winter because the "bones" of the trees and forests are unveiled, unobstructed by the clutter of leaves and other green matter. It is in the winter that we can view the full majesty of the trees and contours of the earth.

I am not alone in my fondness for wintertime enjoyment of the Arboretum. The numbers of visitors are certainly fewer, but not by much. A snow will bring out many hardy souls; however a bright, sunny, blue-sky winter day rivals the best of spring, fall and summer days when it comes to visitation. Winter is not limited to just viewing bare trees and open woods: wildlife abound. Seeing a buck deer in full antler is cause enough to don heavy clothes, boots, hat and gloves and walk a few of the forested trails. Although wildlife may retreat to tree and ground dens, nest, or dense vegetative cover in the most harsh of winter conditions, the woods are otherwise a scurry of activity as animals search for food. Observing the interplay between wildlife, weather, food, and shelter is to study nature at the most challenging, intriguing, and rewarding level of understanding.

By the time you receive this issue of Branches, winter will be giving-way to spring. Some say that spring is a time of renewing. I say that spring is the start of a seasonal process which will eventually bring me back to my favorite time of year... winter. Call me crazy, but I love it!

See our web site for more information:

<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Richard Evans, Director

## Upcoming Events

### Basic Compass Workshop

Saturday, February 11 9 a.m. Arboretum Program Shelter

Ever wondered how a compass works and how it relates to using a map? Learn basic map and compass use with a short field exercise in a following a compass line. Bring a compass if you have one. Wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots/good shoes for outdoor walking as this workshop will be held outdoors. Led by **Jeff Holt**, an experienced forester and compass user.

### Arbor Day/Tree City Celebration

Friday, March 5 10 a.m. Woodland School

On March 5 the Society will cosponsor the Annual Arbor Day Observance with the City of Oak Ridge. Woodland School hosts this year's observance. We play a coordinating and publicity role, sending invitations and providing the school with a tree of their choosing. City Parks and Recreation staff does the heavy lifting; we provide the emcee and plan the photo op. The public event is one of the requirements for the Tree City Award which Oak Ridge has received for the past 22 years. **Lee Ann Dobbs** coordinates this effort.

### Father-Daughter Hike

Saturday, March 29 9 a.m. Arboretum parking lot

Looking for a little father-daughter quality time outdoors? Come out for a fun short hike (about an hour) on Arboretum trails. Wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots/good shoes for outdoor walking. Led by **Jeff Holt**, an experienced forester.

### Learn about Camellias

Tuesday, April 6 7 p.m. City Room, Roane State Oak Ridge

**Debbie Roberts**, owner of **Plant Concepts** and UTAS board member, will introduce us to hardy Camellias, the featured plant at our Spring Plant Sale. She will give details on both spring and fall blooming camellias, with tips on choosing an appropriate type for your landscape, how to site and plant them, and caring for them after planting. Join us, and bring a friend.

### Holly Collection Spring Cleanup

April 10 9 a.m. - noon Elmore Holly Collection, Arboretum

Help get the Elmore Holly Collection ready for spring. Join the Holly Task Force at the Elmore Holly Collection as they prune, fertilize, mulch, weed, and clean. Please bring a gooseneck hoe for weed removal & mulching, pruning shears, and rake. The session will end promptly at noon, followed by a light luncheon. Please contact **Dennis Superczynski** 865-607-8512, [jandport@tds.net](mailto:jandport@tds.net).

### Plant Sale Features Hardy Camellias

Friday and Saturday, April 16 & 17

The featured plant for our 2010 Spring Plant Sale will be hardy camellias. UTAS will offer 8 different varieties: 4 spring blooming and 4 fall blooming plants. More details about these camellias will be in the 2010 spring edition of *Branches* and in news articles. Come out to the sale; you'll support UTAS and find an outstanding selection of high quality, often hard-to-find specimens. **Norm Dobbs** is the plant sale chair.

### Explore Virginia Garden Tour

June 3-6 Save the date.



Reserve the dates for the UTAS 2010 garden bus tour to historic Virginia. Highlights include a visit to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, then on to Richmond for select house and garden visits. We'll tour Agecroft Hall, the 16th century house and gardens from Elizabethan England, and the lovely gardens of the Virginia House next door; the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden with a classical domed conservatory and spectacular gardens; and the Berkley Plantation, the most historic plantation on the James River. We plan additional private garden and nursery visits, including a shopping stop at Andre Viette's beautiful gardens in Fishersville, Virginia on the return trip. More details and registration information will follow in the next issue of *Branches*. **Dennis Superczynski** heads the group that plans these UTAS tours that are always a big hit.

### Stumped?

Why do some of the deciduous trees we see along Arboretum winter trails still have their leaves?

Most of the deciduous trees along the trails that retain their leaves during the winter are American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Such leaves are termed marcescent and are typically seen on younger trees. In the fall, when deciduous leaves stop photosynthesizing, an abscission layer forms at the base of most leaf stalks (petiole). Eventually, the leaves will separate at this abscission layer and fall to the ground.



Marcescent leaves do not fall because this separation layer does not form. The reasons for an abscission layer not developing are not fully



Beech leaves in snow. Bob Reed

understood. Research suggests, however, that retention of dry leaves with poor nutrient content on branches may reduce the amount of browsing by deer and other ungulates, thus providing an ecological advantage for the tree. The presence of marcescent leaves in a forest also provides a ready source of dry tinder for building camp fires. Thanks to **Bob**

**Reed** for this information and photos. Email your questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our *Green Thumb* experts.

### Annual Dinner, Auction, Awards

About 70 people enjoyed the camaraderie and meal at the Annual Dinner and Auction. **Dr. Sue Hamilton**, newly named director of the UT Gardens and an herbaceous ornamental plants specialist, spoke about the UT Gardens and the social benefit of public horticulture. UT has one of only three programs in public horticulture in the US, and students work on everything from a garden project with the Children's Museum in Oak Ridge to kitchen and enabling gardens and GPS tags for each plant in the test gardens. We raised \$1600 to support the Arboretum from the Silent Auction and appreciate all those who donated or bought items.

UTAS president Tom Row presented a **UTAS Award for Service to Norm** and **Lee Ann Dobbs**, recognizing their many contributions to UTAS over the years. Norm served as board president for 3 years and has now assumed the duties of plant sale chair. He championed the cause of creating an Endowment for the Arboretum, and remains involved in many aspects of UTAS. Lee Ann was a board member and has coordinated the Arbor Day event for many years, and now chairs the Native Plant group, which has greatly enhanced the appearance of the grounds around the Visitor's Center. UTAS and the Arboretum have benefited enormously from their ongoing efforts, and this recognition is well-deserved.

## View Branches Online

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

## Email & Membership Notes

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

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

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

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

## Weddings at the Arboretum

Plan a wedding with the UT Arboretum as the perfect backdrop. Go to [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org) and click on 'Weddings' or call 865-483-3571 for more information.

## New & Renewing Members-Thanks!

H. Ted Ballard, PhD  
 Jean Bangham  
 Donald A. Barbour  
 Faye Beck  
 Lydia Birk  
 Dianne Blane  
 Kathy Bracic  
 Lynn Carlson  
 Janet & Bob Cushman  
 Deborah Cutler  
 H.R. DeSelm  
 Norman & Lee Ann Dobbs  
 Terry & Betty Anne Domm  
 Margaret Dory  
 Stacy Fuller  
 Arissa Garden Club  
 Elwood & Roslyn Gift  
 Jeffrey & Linda Gilpin  
 David Graham  
 Linda Grandage  
 Carolyn Haerr  
 Lynda & Chuck Haynes  
 Cecil & Betts Higgins  
 Dot and Robert Hightower

Jeff & Lecie Holt  
 Fran Hopper  
 James S. Johnson  
 Manfred O. Krause  
 Joan Lane  
 Cleva M. Marrow  
 Anne McKenzie  
 Edmond & Marese Nephew  
 Edward & Shirley Nicholson  
 Bill & Ruth Pardue  
 June E. Peishel  
 Madelon M. Perreault  
 Richard & Mona Raridon  
 Davis & Susan Reed  
 Willow & Bob Reed  
 Robert A. Reynolds  
 Vicky & Stan Richards  
 William & Muriel Sirett  
 Dr. Alan Solomon  
 Irene Sullivan  
 Paul & Barbara Taylor  
 Rita Trusley  
 Fred & Aase Vaslow  
 Travis Witherington

**UTAS Membership Application**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Society Friend \$100    Family \$45

Patron \$500    Individual \$30

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

Mail this form and a check to:

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

## Fall Plant Sale Volunteers-Thanks!

*Board member Beverly Woods did an outstanding job of recruiting these helpers for our sale. We appreciate her efforts and those of the volunteers.*

Lucretia Atterson  
 Kathy Bracic  
 Lynn Carlson  
 Lee Ann & Norm Dobbs  
 Amy Fitzgerald  
 Jeff Holt  
 Emily & Charlie Jernigan  
 Noel Kawado  
 Barbara & Larry Landau  
 Evelyn Lorenz  
 Eileen Neiler  
 Marese Nephew

Wendy Packan  
 Madelon Perreault  
 Vicky & Stan Richards  
 Eva & Dan Robbins  
 Charlie Samuels  
 Don Searle  
 Marry Shupe  
 William Sirett  
 Randy Stewart  
 Dennis Superczynski  
 Marie Walsh  
 Beverly Woods

# Eye on the Forest - Jeff & Lecie Holt

## Off the Couch and Into the Woods: Hiking Basics

Jeff Holt, UTAS board member and longtime Oak Ridger, has a BS in Forest Management from UT and is a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester

The recent weather has a lot of people thinking about how comfy it is on the couch and how reliable the weather is there. At the same time, many are thinking how nice it would be to have something to do. Something nearby, something green, something affordable. Taking a hike at the UT Arboretum fills the bill with the benefit of being good for you and outdoors...but how do you get started?

The basics of taking a hike and enjoying it in any weather focus on what you wear, how you prepare, and what your expectations are. First, you don't have to spend much money to get ready. Fabrics and materials used in outdoor equipment have made enormous strides the last couple of decades. The equipment you need includes good shoes or boots. Medium to tall boots will protect ankles and feet from mud, rocks, and whatever else they get into. You can wear athletic shoes on a nice dry day, but a boot with outdoor tread and some waterproofing technology like Gore-tex will give better footing and dry, warmer feet. These start around \$50 and go up as high as you can imagine. If you're just getting started, any pair of sturdy shoes will do. Boots will do better. Socks should never be cotton. We favor wool and wool blends year-round. Some advocate wearing liner socks to wick moisture away from feet and reduce friction and blisters.

Next you want to dress in layers that can be adjusted to your activity level and exposure. Typical winter days at the UT Arboretum start in the 30s and warm into the 40s or 50s. A fleece jacket and wind/rain shell feel good when you get out of the car at the trailhead, but are too much once you are warmed up. A small knap sack (like a middle schoolers book bag) is handy to carry water, lunch, a map, sunscreen, and your fleece and shell when you're not actively using them. As to clothes, we feel cotton jeans and other cotton clothes do not generally work well outdoors because once they get damp, they stay damp, making you sopping wet in summer and cold and clammy in winter. Inexpensive polypropylene long underwear can be found at big box stores, and when worn under pants and shirt will keep you comfortable. Wool pants are a good choice when the temperature moves into the lower 20s. One scout troop in Oak Ridge encourages members to look for men's old wool suit pants to hike in during winter

and nylon in summer. A basic polypropylene fleece sweater is ideal as a removable layer and easy to find. A lightweight rain shell will keep wind and rain off. Be sure your clothing is not tight fitting. It's easier to squat or take long strides in clothing that is not binding. Also, wear a hat to protect both head and eyes. Bring enough water to last the length of the hike you plan to take.

We find that drinking some at the car before a hike is a good way to stay hydrated, and having another waiting for when you get back is good, too. The less you carry around the more fun you will probably have.

Okay, you are dressed in a wicking under layer and a not-too-much cotton outer layer with your fleece, shell, water, and something to nibble on in your knapsack. What now? Get on the UT Arboretum website, <http://forestry.tennessee.edu/trailsystem.htm>, and click on the trail system map at "Trail System Map" in the upper right. The Oak Hickory and Lost Chestnut Trails will be a nice little hike of a bit over

one mile, and would be an easy place to start. Print the trail map off the web and head out to the UT Arboretum. Park in the visitors parking lot, swing on your knapsack, and head up the valley to either end of this trail. They're marked and easy to find if you forget your map from home. Follow the trail and markings, stopping to notice the little things, listen to the birds, or maybe sit and enjoy the original high-definition view of nature. See you at the Arboretum.

## A Fossil Tree Comes to UTA

Now on display in the UT Arboretum Visitor's Center lobby, this amazing fossil tree donation was made possible by Ken Isham of ORNL. At 300 million years, it's a bit older than the other trees at the Arboretum and new to UTA. Stop by to see it!

This fossilized "scale tree" is known as a lycopod, which lived approximately 300 million years ago. It was discovered by a group of scientists from the ORNL Biology Division as a result of regular Sunday morning hikes taken in the surrounding Cumberland Mountains during the 1960's and early 1970's. These hikes were under the leadership of Dr. Alexander Hollander, who established the division and served as its Director for many years. They were a longstanding tradition for the original staff and for associates and guests of the division. After its recovery, the fossil resided in the lobby of Building 9207, near the administrative offices of the Biology Division, which was one of the divisions merged in 1997 to form Life Sciences Division. Its display, both then and now, is a symbol of scientific curiosity and a representation of the continuity of the research process and the division's research community.



Ken Isham with the Fossil Tree he helped bring to UTA

Lycopods are a group of plants which include the club mosses. Although club mosses today rarely reach over 10 inches in height, their ancient relatives (such as this fossil) sometimes reached a height of 100 feet! This specific type of lycopod is known as Sigillaria. The leaves were similar to large blades of grass. The cones of the tree were 4-8 inches long, and hung down from long stems attached to the tree trunk. Lycopods were the first plants in the fossil record with true leaves and roots.

Tennessee, during the period of this tree's growth, was covered with a shallow layer of water as the sea advanced and retreated over eastern North America. The result was a vast humid swamp—an ideal paradise for ancient plant life. Plants that flowered and bore fruit, dinosaurs, birds, and mammals came later to the area. Through geological processes, the remains of these plants were turned into coal. Occasionally one of the plants, such as this fossil, was turned into rock. Rock formed when sediment replaced the decayed wood of the tree. The result is a perfect cast of this ancient lycopod, which was found in the coal beds surrounding the Oak Ridge area.



Dr. Dick Setlow, one of those who found the fossil tree in the mid-1960s



Lecie Holt at a Trail Sign

## Committee Reports

### Fall Plant Sale

Our three traditional plant vendors again supported the Fall Plant Sale. These include Brenda and Mike Stansberry of **Beaver Creek Nursery** in Powell, Vivian Abney of **East Fork Nursery** in Sevierville, and Andy Sessions of **Sunlight Gardens** in Andersonville. At future plant sales, UTAS members are encouraged to personally thank these vendors for their long-standing support, and to use and recommend them to friends for home landscaping projects.

For our Fall Plant Sale, **Dr. William Klingeman** of UT's Plant Sciences Department, supplied over 70 surplus plants from his research projects. They included really fine trees such as Sweet Bay Magnolia, Dawn Redwood, Black Gum and Sourwood. Our Fall Sale was also supplemented by the generosity of UTAS member **Katie Cottrell** and of Oak Ridge azalea hybridizer **Huey Sides**. UTAS volunteers helped Katie dig, divide and package more than 1,000 rare King Alfred daffodils from her yard this past summer for the Fall Sale. Huey Sides donated 45 azaleas, all of them one-of-a-kind plants dug from his yard and potted by Huey in 5-7 gallon containers. All of Huey's azaleas sold to happy buyers. We appreciate their support, and thank everyone who came out to the sale and supported UTAS and the Arboretum. **Norm Dobbs** is Plant Sale chair.



Wendy Packan and Eva Robbins, cashiers

### Holly Task Force Fall Work Day

The UT Arboretum thanks all those who donated time and effort to pruning and cleaning up the Elmore Holly Collection last November. Volunteers pruned, aerated, mulched and cleared debris. Work also continued with laying a stone patio for the apron of the newly constructed entrance feature. The formal stone entrance will honor the late Harold Lane Elmore for his contributions in developing this holly collection. Its first planting was in 1985 and today it has over 200 cultivars of the genus *Ilex*. The UT Holly Collection was renamed the **Elmore Holly Collection** in April 2004 in recognition of Harold's volunteer spirit and unselfish contributions. The following volunteers helped maintain his legacy with their work that day: **Lee Ann Dobbs, Richard Evans, Stacy Fuller, Carmen Gianforte, Josie Gianforte, Joann Johnson, Noel Kawado, Mary Kollie, Tom Row, Barry Shupe, and Dennis Superczynski**.

We thank **Richard Evans and his staff** for providing mulch and equipment for the task, **Jan Superczynski** for organizing our luncheon, and the generous retail establishments listed below for their contributions and support. Please mention the UT Arboretum next time you visit and thank them for their support.

**KFC** in Harriman and Dandridge, franchised by Alan & Kim Pruitt, provided lunch; **Starbucks** in Turkey Creek, managed by Beth Boag, provided coffee; **Basses Creek Stone** in Crossville donated fieldstone for the entrance feature and provided cut stone caps; **Beaver Creek Nursery** on Pelleaux Road, operated by Mike and Brenda Stansberry, donated *Ilex Verticillata* 'Sun Splash,' *Ilex Opaka* 'Emily' and 'Manig,' and *Ilex x Koeheana* 'Yule Bright' for the Holly Collection.

The Holly Task Force: **Barry Shupe, Mike Stansberry, Dennis Superczynski, Dr. Will Witte**

### Owls Up Close at the Arboretum

About 80 people joined **Katie Cottrell, Kathy Strunk**, their student helpers and their owls from the **Raptor Center** in Clinton for an entertaining and educational evening. Many children joined the adults to learn about these spellbinding and captivating creatures.



Kathy Strunk and feathered friend

### Plant Collection Committee

The warm spell in December gave a window of opportunity for UTAS volunteers to help the Arboretum staff begin landscaping the new parking lot. About 24 trees and shrubs went in the ground, and a heavy rain the next day settled the new plants. Magnolias and ninebarks, and hollies, oh my! Many have buds, and should bloom this spring.

There is always more to do, and more to plant. If you'd like to help with these kinds of projects, contact **Lynn Carlson**, chair of the Plant Collections Committee, at [lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu](mailto:lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu).

### Native Plant Group

Our small but very effective interest group has seen great progress in our fifth year. Most of the natives have reached maturity and are shoulder-to-shoulder, filling in the beds surrounding the Visitor's Center. The azaleas and pink tiarella we planted on the hillside of the building presented a colorful display in the spring. We thank **Huey Sides** for the azaleas and **Sunlight Gardens** for the foamflowers. **Janet Cushman** planted some ferns she had grown from spores. **Katie Cottrell** continues to share natives from her garden. **Eileen Neiler** has given the Arboretum a collection of pink daffodils that we will plant on our next workday. **Bob Reed** donated materials to enlarge our honeysuckle support; he and **Norm Dobbs** assembled it around the vine. More perennials that were left over from the Spring Plant sale found a home in the garden.

Our most labor-saving technique this year came when we adopted a weed control program using quarterly applications of PREEN, a commercial weed preventive. This expenditure will become a permanent item in our budget because it has ALMOST freed us from the irksome task of digging weeds every month.

Our usual meeting date is the third Wednesday of the month, March through November. This year we doubled up on workdays in April and May so we could plant 5 more azaleas and apply mulch to all of them. We always welcome extra hands! Contact **Lee Ann Dobbs**, [leadob@bellsouth.net](mailto:leadob@bellsouth.net), 482-6566.

### New Board Orientation

**Norm Dobbs, Tom Row, and Richard Evans** led a workshop in January for new and recent appointees to the UTAS Board. Members **Debbie Roberts, Randy Stewart, Stacey Fuller, Beverly Woods, Amy Fitzgerald, Jeff Holt, and Lynda Haynes** braved the bitter cold temperatures to attend the orientation at the Arboretum. Norm dubbed the group the 'UTAS Polar Bear Merit Badge Awardees.'

Richard traced the Arboretum's history, and discussed forestry research and other initiatives at UT. Norm gave a history of UTAS and its support for the Arboretum. The presentations gave the members better insight into UT, the Arboretum and UTAS. The group discussed potential opportunities to strengthen UTAS support. UTAS board members will visit some of the research areas at the Arboretum and in Morgan County in warmer weather.



# UTAS Resources

## Board of Directors

### Officers

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

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

### Board Members

Ted Ballard  
 Amy Fitzgerald  
 Stacey Fuller  
 Jeff Holt

*Ex Officio*  
 Richard Evans

Branches Editor Emily Jernigan  
 Webmaster Angie Dobbs  
 Database Manager Charlie Jernigan

## Help Wanted

### Ongoing

- **Native Plant Group** meets the third Wednesday most months. Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656 or [leadob@bellsouth.net](mailto:leadob@bellsouth.net)
- **Plant Collections Committee:** identify existing specimens, select, buy and plant new and or replacement plants, etc. **Lynn Carlson**, [lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu](mailto:lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu)
- **Choose Your Own Spot!** Let us know what tickles your fancy. Email: [utarboretumsociety@gmail.com](mailto:utarboretumsociety@gmail.com)

## Thanks!

**Huey Sides** of Oak Ridge donated 45 large azaleas, which he hybridized, and other plants to the Fall Plant Sale.

**Dr. William Klingeman** of UT's Plant Sciences Department, gave more than 70 surplus research plants to the Fall Plant Sale.

**Ted Rosner**, stone mason, and other UTAS volunteers worked many days to create the new stone entrance to the Elmore Holly Collection using stone donated by **Tony and Amber Bow**, owners of **Basses Creek Stone** in Crossville, TN.

## Welcome, New Board Members

**Stacey Fuller** and **Richard Raridon** have joined the Board. Stacey is a newcomer; Richard served on the board for 20 years, including many years as Plant Sale chair.

## How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org)  
 Email: [utarboretumsociety@gmail.com](mailto:utarboretumsociety@gmail.com)

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



*Design and editorial services donated by WordsWorth*

## Looking to the Future...

### The UT Arboretum Endowment Campaign

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Development- **Thomas Looney** - 865-974-8622  
 UT Arboretum -**Richard Evans** - 865-483-3571  
 UT Arboretum Society -**Tom Row** 482-9096

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

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

[www.utalumni.utk.edu/givetout](http://www.utalumni.utk.edu/givetout)



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*Beech trees with winter leaves. Photo by Bob Reed*

# Donor Reception at the UT Arboretum



## Upcoming Events

- Feb 20 Basic Compass Workshop 9 a.m.
- Mar 5 Arbor Day Woodland School 10 a.m.
- Mar 20 Father-Daughter Hike 9 a.m.
- April 6 Camellia Lecture RSCC Oak Ridge 7 p.m.
- April 10 Holly Work day 9-12
- April 16-17 Plant Sale
- June 3-6 Virginia Gardens Tour