

Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Issue No. 38 - Spring 2015

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Plant and Gardening
Trends**

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**“The Rising Sun™”
Golden Redbud**

Read all about this very special and hard-to-find plant that UTAS is offering at the Plant Sale in honor of our 50th Golden Anniversary.

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Stumped?

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

I see lots of Redbuds at the Arboretum. Why are some near the Program Shelter so much smaller?

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



Calendar

April 8-13 UTAS Florida Tour

April 16 Dr. Sue Hamilton, Trends in Plants and Gardens

April 17 & 18 Spring Plant Sale

April 19 Hike with Smoky Mountains Hiking Club at UTA

April 25 Holly Work Day

Go for the Gold at the Spring Plant Sale!

~Emily Jernigan

Spring has finally arrived and it's time to get things growing in your landscape. This is UTAS's 50th anniversary year and our 48th annual Spring Plant Sale - quite a record! We will provide the best of four local nurseries in one location. Plant vendors offering flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, wildflowers, and edibles include [Beaver Creek Nursery](#) and [Riverdale Nursery](#), Knoxville; [East Fork Nursery](#), Sevierville; and [Sunlight Gardens](#), Andersonville. We'll also have plants grown by UTAS members and supporters. **Dr. Will Witte** will again sell books from his personal horticulture library and be available as the 'Answer Man' for your horticultural questions.

In honor of our 50th birthday UTAS is delighted to offer a limited supply of “The Rising Sun™” Golden Redbud. This incredible new introduction with golden foliage was found as a seedling and introduced by Ray and Cindy Jackson of plant wholesaler Jackson Nursery in Belvidere, TN. Our plants are in 4-gallon pots and ready to plant! Read all about it on page 5. Our vendors have been encouraged to bring and highlight golden plants, too.

The sale is on **Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18**, at the UT Arboretum. The **Members Only** sale is from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 17, and you can become a member that day. On Saturday the sale is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to all. We will sell caps and gardening aprons with the UTAS logo, too. **Dano's Hot Dogs** of Lenoir City will offer hot dogs, chips, lemonade and soda on Saturday, so enjoy a bite to eat before you go home and start digging.

Brad Greenwood will be back with his forge. He will sell his blacksmith and copper works products and demonstrate blacksmithing techniques. He also takes special orders so if you have something in mind, talk to him about it.

Proceeds from this sale and other UTAS fund-raising events go toward the operating expenses and the endowment and auditorium funds for the UT Arboretum – as we've been doing for 50 years now.



Gorgeous leaves of “The Rising Sun™” Redbud
Photo from www.jacksonnursery.net

Director's Desk

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." Mark Twain

As I was thinking about my report for the spring issue of *Branches*, I thought about the myriad winter weather events that we experienced here at the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center this year. Although we were not affected by 136 different kinds of weather, we did experience rain, freezing rain, sleet, snow (wet, crystalized, and dry powder snow!), and ice over a two-week period in late February/early March. Fortunately that weather pattern did not wreak havoc on the Arboretum's plant collections, trails, roads, and buildings like it did in Cumberland County.

Now that we are past all the tough winter weather, the staff and I are focused on the tasks, projects and programs required to prepare the Arboretum for the annual spring influx of visitors, guests, families, researchers, and students. Roads and trails will be a major part of our effort over the coming weeks since they provide the access to everything else that the Arboretum has to offer. We will do the best we can with limited resources, staff, and supplies to keep these public walkways safe and open for our clientele. This is no small task given that our mature forest is in a dynamic state of change, and we have seven miles of trails and access roads in the Arboretum. Some fallen trees, depending on where they fall, will be left to decay in the woods, while others will be cut and hauled away for internal use and/or wood processing.

We will also be working on much-needed maintenance for some of our signature gardens, like the Boxwood collection at the program shelter and the adjacent Juniper Garden area, so that we have them looking good for the UTAS spring plant sale. These collections near the program shelter area have been affected by the new auditorium construction project, and, as such, will be a work focus area over the coming weeks.

Speaking of the auditorium, the project has continued to move forward despite the deluge of late fall rains and recent winter storms. The interior concrete floor space has been poured, the stone masonry work is nearing completion, and the exterior walls and storefront will go up soon. Given this recent progress, we still hope to be able to occupy the building sometime in June.

Please visit our website: <http://forestry.tennessee.edu>

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

President's Letter

We are a quarter of the way through the UT Arboretum Society's 50th Anniversary year, and I have some progress to report.

Our overarching goal this year is to celebrate with at least one significant event per month. So far, we're seriously overachieving our goal! We are averaging three events per month and the next few months' schedule shows no letup.

After a New Year's Day hike, we had our annual Father/Daughter Hike and presented lectures on Earthquakes in East Tennessee; Honeybees and Pollinators; and weather in East Tennessee with WVLT's meteorologist Heather Haley. We held a spectacular talk by Dennis Horn, the author/editor of *Wildflowers Of Tennessee, The Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians* who signed books long after the event ended. The finale was a double header on the last Saturday in March. It began with a tremendous morning presentation by Oak Ridge's own family hardware store, **Downtown Hardware**, on garden tool maintenance, operation, and safety practices. This was followed in the afternoon by a special Members Only visit to UTAS Treasurer **Randy Stewart's** garden to see his extensive greenhouse operations. We also had two local Garden Clubs visit the Arboretum this year for a presentation and guided visit.

That was a great first quarter. I hope most of you were able to experience at least some of these events.

Of course, the second quarter has our annual UTAS Garden Tour, this year to Florida in April, followed by our Spring Plant Sale, organized by **Norm Dobbs**, on April 17 for Members Only and on April 18 for the public. As a kickoff to the plant sale, **Dr. Sue Hamilton**, Director of UT Gardens, will talk about this year's new and unusual plants and garden trends.

As you can see we are not taking our foot off of the accelerator!

It is fun to plan and carry out these events, and we would love to share some of that fun with you. As an all-volunteer organization, UTAS needs your help. Some of our members single-handedly serve in roles that should be team efforts. Please drop me an email and we will find a match for you, your interests, and your time.

Join us and actively help UTAS support the University of Tennessee Arboretum during our 50th Anniversary!

~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.

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.

The free program is cosponsored by the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, which celebrated its 50th year in 2014.

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

Our Spring Plant Sale is almost here. We'll have some special plants in honor of UTAS' 50th Anniversary, including the "Rising Sun™" Golden Redbud trees that sale chair Norm Dobbs found for UTAS to offer. Artisan Brad Greenwood of Clinton, TN, will return with his forge and metal art, and Dano's Hot Dogs will be available, too.

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

Hike with Smoky Mountains Hiking Club (SMHC) and UT Arboretum Society (UTAS) at the UT Arboretum

Sunday, April 19 noon UT Arboretum parking lot

UTAS and SMHC team up to help celebrate UTAS's 50th Anniversary year with a pleasant afternoon walk over 4.5 miles of the Arboretum's 7 miles of trails. This walk, considered easy by many, will have a 200 foot elevation gain. The Arboretum, part of UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, is at 901 S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge. GPS: 35.9995, -84.2259

Join us to meet some like-minded outdoor enthusiasts with time for conversation and exercise in a beautiful setting. Questions? Contact Tim Bigelow, 865-607-6781 or bigelowt2@mindspring.com.

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, relocate, and mulch the plants. We will also repair deer fencing and have a general cleanup of the collection. We want it to look its best in 2015 as we expect to have many visitors in our 30th year.

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

Dennis Horn, Wildflower Expert

Dennis Horn, author of *Wildflowers Of Tennessee, The Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians*, drew a crowd of almost 100 people for his March 19 talk on wildflowers. His humor, as well as the breadth of his knowledge of wildflowers and knockout photographs, captured the attention of his audience that filled the City Room at Roane State Community College in Oak Ridge. His book, sponsored by the Tennessee Native Plant Society, has maps, drawings, and over 800 color photos. Although he brought 25 copies of his book for people to buy, more people wanted them, so he agreed to provide them soon. He also signed some well-used copies of his book that attendees brought. We are delighted to have had Dennis come and share some of his knowledge with us.

WVLT's Heather Haley – Weather Talk

[WVLT Local8](#) meteorologist Heather Haley came to Roane State to talk with about 45 people who turned out to learn more about the work of weather prediction. Heather was an informative and gracious speaker who helped us understand the data she and others use to figure out weather patterns and forecasts. Our East Tennessee topography makes this an especially challenging area for forecasts – and Heather says she really enjoys this aspect of her job! She invited UTAS to come down to WVLT for a tour of the station, so watch for news of this event later in the year. Thanks, Heather, and Melanie Staten, who arranged this event.

Lawn & Garden Tool Maintenance Workshop

Representatives from Downtown Hardware brought mowers, chainsaws, weed eaters, pruners, and more to a workshop they cosponsored with UTAS. On March 28, about 20 people came to learn how to properly use and care for these and other lawn and garden tools. Everyone left with new ideas for keeping gardening tools in great working condition, and how to use tools and sharpeners. Thanks go to Downtown Hardware's Roger Clary and his team.

Randy Stewart's Greenhouses

UTAS Board member, garden enthusiast, and plant propagator Randy Stewart gave about 35 UTAS members a tour of his greenhouses and garden on March 28. Randy told us how he put together his greenhouses, including some power and water issues he had to learn the hard way. Everyone got to see his many trays filled with geraniums, impatiens, and other plants in various stages of growth. He discussed 3 types of propagation techniques he uses, the different media he uses for propagation, and how he hardens off the plants to get them ready to be put in the ground.

Randy's landscape reflects his love of gardening, plants, design, and propagation. Besides the greenhouses, we saw his potting shed filled with decorative garden banners for all seasons, trays waiting to be filled with plants, and much more. Randy's wife, Ann, offered everyone hot chocolate, coffee, lemonade, and an assortment – a perfect addition to a chilly yet sunny day outdoors. Thanks, Randy and Ann!



Committee Reports

Native Plant Group

This group is celebrating its 10th birthday in 2015, and they have decided to meet twice a month this year. They kicked off their work on March 18 when they weeded and neatened up the beds around the Visitors Center and the parking lot. The next week they weeded, trimmed, mulched, and treated the area around the Visitors Center with a weed preventative. Fortunately, some rain came at the most opportune time and washed the preventative down into the mulch where it can best do its job!

They have been very busy and their efforts greatly enhance the appearance of the Visitors Center! To participate, contact **Lee Ann Dobbs** at 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net.

Membership Committee

The Membership Renewal letters have been printed and **Marti Salk** will mail them each month for those whose renewal is due. The Society Friends letters of thanks, which also serve as documentation of the donation to UTAS for tax purposes, will also be mailed by Marti.

We continue to work on ways to make new members feel welcome and to help them find a spot to volunteer or join in an activity in a spot that works for them. The Spring Plant Sale requires many helpers, and **Peggy Mahoney** and **Joan Johnson** are making calls to fill those slots. This is a good opportunity for newcomers to spend a few hours getting to know other UTAS members and have fun out at the Arboretum, and many have agreed to help out.

Janet Bigelow has crafted name tags with our 50th anniversary logo for board members. She will also make adhesive tags that indicate 'New Member' in an effort to help current and new members get to know one another better.

We discussed the topic of charging for events. **Julie Watts** and **Marti Salk** will investigate other arboreta and similar venues and bring information back to the committee and then to the entire board.

Melinda Hillman suggested that we send announcements to the Oak Ridge Schools office about activities suitable for children. Once the event is approved, they will email it out to parents.

Kathy Fahey, a new member, offered to help at our events by greeting people, handing out UTAS rack cards, and asking for donations.

After discussion, the group voted to recommend to the board that we not participate in the **Lavender Festival** this year. We also heartily endorsed **Heather Haley's** invitation to visit the WVLT Local 8 television station for a tour.

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.

Plant Collections Committee

The viburnum collection is beginning to bloom. There should be a sequence of blooms throughout spring and early summer to watch for, so stop by early and often. The collection is located along the valley road leading from the parking lot up the hill.

~Lynn Carlson, chair, Plant Collections Committee

Stumped?

I see lots of redbuds at the Arboretum. Why are some near the Program Shelter so much smaller?



According to the Center's [website](#) the smaller trees near the shelter are younger than the larger ones nearby. "One of the most beautiful and conspicuous trees at the Arboretum in April is the Redbud. This tree is most commonly seen at forest edges, in disturbed areas, or in managed landscapes. Redbud is a member of the bean family (*Fabaceae*), and in a natural setting is an early invader of disturbed areas where it grows quickly but is generally short lived (20-25 years). Distinguishing characteristics of Redbud include its rose-pink, pea-like flowers, its heart-shaped leaves, and its flat, brown, bean-like pods.

At the Arboretum you will see Redbud along several trails and bordering some open areas. A research planting near the Program Shelter is in full bloom. The larger trees in this area are survivors of a failed research study originally planted in 1995. A new planting of redbuds was made in 2007 next to these older trees; the young trees are just becoming established. The objective of the current study is to evaluate Chinese Redbuds and ones from a northern location in the United States for potential introduction in Eastern Tennessee."

Besides the lovely Redbuds lighting up the Arboretum with their pink blooms, come to our Spring Plant Sale and discover a brand new Golden Redbud, "The Rising Sun."™ It'll knock your socks off!

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

White Oak Reforestation Project Established at Arboretum

The UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center (FRREC) has recently provided two research plot areas for a White Oak reforestation project on the back of the Arboretum. The project site can be viewed along the Backwoods Trail in the Forest Resources Research Conservation & Demonstration area. The project is a research partnership between UT Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries (FWF) – Tree Improvement Program and the US Forest Service (USFS) – Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management Research Work Unit, Southern Research Station. The long-term project objectives are to study various methods of artificial oak regeneration using genetically improved nursery seedling stock. The project study site was harvested and cleared by the FRREC crew this past fall and the White Oak seedlings were planted by FWF, USFS and FRREC field staff this past March. The project is being led by **Dr. Stacy Clark**, Research Forester, USFS, and **Dr. Scott Schlarbaum**, Professor of Forest Genetics and UT FWF Tree Improvement Project Leader.

Article from the [website](#) of the University of Tennessee Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center (FRREC).

"The Rising Sun™" Golden Redbud - *Cercis canadensis* 'JN2'

Accolades abound for this wonderful and hard-to-find plant that we are so fortunate to have at our sale. Thanks go to **Norm Dobbs** for locating the plant and arranging for it to be sold at our Plant Sale as part of UTAS's 50th anniversary golden celebration year. Thanks also to **Kevin Hoyt**, Center Director, for transporting the plants to the Arboretum, and to all those who helped pot them up.

From [Jackson Nursery](#), the source of this plant: "A new and distinct variety of *Cercis canadensis*, an eastern redbud tree found and introduced by Ray and Cindy Jackson of Jackson Nursery. This native, heart-shaped leaf tree is a durable and rugged variety. It is heat and drought resistant and cold hardy also, and that's just the beginning!

"The Rising Sun™" is a vigorous grower with full rounded shape. It almost looks as if the branches are layered. It stylishly holds its color on up into the autumn. It starts out early in the early spring with sweet-pea type flowers, rosy-orchid in color.

The flowers appear before the foliage and are attractive to bees and butterflies. Then the bright golden foliage starts emerging, gorgeous! Even the bark is smooth tan with yellow-cast, distinctive from other redbuds. As the growth continues to mature you will end up with green leaves, bright green-yellowish with speckles in them and finally the new growth will be orange making this an array of colors that are to pleasing to just about everyone! It is believed to get about 12' in height. The redbud is perfect for the smaller gardens and in-town neighborhoods as well as specimen and accent planting.

"When I first saw this redbud I went wild," says enthused grower Ray Jackson! "Fellow nurserymen have said it is the most outstanding golden colored redbud they have ever seen, and I can attest to it's vigorous growth and it's tolerance to not only heat and drought, but it is cold hardy too. We joined up with [Greenleaf Nursery](#) in 2010 and they added "The Rising Sun™" Redbud to their 'Garden Debut' Program. This plant has already been



awarded 'The 2012 Gold Medal Award' from The [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#)."



[Wayside Gardens](#): "Heat-tolerant and burn-resistant, this is the most beautifully colored Eastern Redbud yet. The most brilliantly colored selection of the Eastern Redbud yet, this brand-new introduction offers spring foliage of deep apricot-orange, maturing to yellow and then speckled lime-green in summer, only to return to its rich golden tones for autumn. Coupled with abundant rosy-orchid blooms and vigorous yet compact growth, The Rising Sun™ is an absolute essential for the sunny garden."

Mark Krautmann, [Heritage Seedlings](#), Inc., Salem, Oregon: "Occasionally in a nursery career an exciting new plant come along that has the potential to be a "plant for the ages." "The Rising Sun™" is clearly one of those prospects. ...In the heat of the Midwest and SE, it doesn't burn; that just makes it grow faster. We think you'll be amazed at its incandescent attractiveness."

[Sooner Plant Farm](#): "'The Rising Sun™" is a vigorous grower with a full, rounded shape and stylishly holds its color into autumn. A third season of interest is provided in early spring by sweet pea-type flowers, rosy orchid in color. The flowers appear before the foliage in spring and are attractive to bees and butterflies. New foliage is a bright rosy-apricot; even the bark is a smooth tan with a yellowish cast, distinctive form other Redbuds."

Garden Guru [column](#), *Savannah Morning News*: "'The Rising Sun™", simply put, is spectacular. To know that it has those glorious purple rose spring blooms is just icing on the cake. The leaves, however, with their fiery glow that persists all summer are the real reward. I spotted these growing 100 yards away and was drawn like a computerized missile.

Since it is such a new variety you may have to diligently search yours out and by all means ask your favorite progressive garden center to get them for you. I say them because this is such an awesome variety you will probably want three or four to spread though out the landscape. Typically you think of a redbud in companionship with other spring bloomers like azaleas, dogwoods and spring flowering bulbs. This would certainly work, but the vibrant summer colors means that you could use it in a tropical-like setting where coarse textured foliage from elephant ears, cannas and bananas would create a stunning partnership."

[White Flower Farm](#): "NEW! *Cercis canadensis* "The Rising Sun™." A stunning gold-leaved form of our native Eastern Redbud, "The Rising Sun™" starts the season with golden-orange foliage that brightens to yellow, then matures to a speckled lime green before turning buttery yellow in fall. Amazingly, this foliage won't scorch in the sun. Proven to be drought resistant as well as cold hardy." *Already sold out!*

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

Marty Adler-Jasny	Marese Nephew
Herbert Glatt & Lynn Barrett	Margarete Ohnesorge
Vivian Baylor	Joanna Partain
Faye Beck	Pat Postma
Raycene Brewer	Davis & Susan Reed
Bob & Marie Cantrell	Betsy Kay Robinson
Roger & Maria Goetz	Dave & Tia Snider
Lynda & Chuck Haynes	Julie Watts & Robert Devault
Evelyn Lorenz	
Jim & Anita Maurer	* Society Friend
Harriet McCurdy	
James C. Mee	



The UT Arboretum Society (UTAS) has a Facebook page. Go to 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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Norm Dobbs

Thanks!

Dennis Horn drove over from Tullahoma to present a talk on wildflowers and sign his books afterwards.

Heather Haley, meteorologist with WVLT Local 8 TV came over to help us learn more about local weather forecasting.

Downtown Hardware's Roger Clary and his team brought their tools and gadgets to the UT Arboretum for a timely demonstration of safety and maintenance tips.

Randy Stewart and his wife, Ann, invited UTAS members to their home to learn how Randy manages his greenhouses and propagates plants. Ann provided the refreshments.

Lee Ann Dobbs has got the Native Plant Group off to a stellar start on the 2015 tasks near the Visitors Center.

Norm Dobbs arranged for us to sell "The Rising Sun™" Golden Redbud at the Spring Plant Sale and **Kevin Hoyt**, Center Director, transported the plants here for us.

Melanie Staten arranged for WVLT's Heather Haley's talk.

Peggy Mahoney and **Joan Johnson** are calling volunteers to work at the Spring Plant Sale.

Dennis Superczynski has arranged another exciting tour, this year to Florida in early April.

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
 Emily Jernigan, WordsWorth*



Looking to the Future...

The UT Arboretum Endowment Campaign

A \$3 million endowment campaign has been initiated to secure future funding for the UT Arboretum. The **Rogers Group** has fulfilled its pledge of a \$500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The **UT Arboretum Society** has contributed over \$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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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 273
Oak Ridge, TN

Spring Plant Sale

April 17 5 – 7 p.m. Members Only

April 18 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Open to All

Vendors: Beaver Creek, Riverdale, East Fork, and Sunlight Gardens Nurseries

Special Golden Plants, including “The Rising Sun™” Golden Redbud!

Check the mailing label for your membership renewal date.



Upcoming Events

April 8 – 13 Florida Sunshine Garden Tour

April 16 Dr. Sue Hamilton, Director, UT Garden

April 17 & 18 Spring Plant Sale

April 19 Hike at the Arboretum with Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

April 25 Holly Work Day

Online Only Photo Page



Randy Stewart's Greenhouse Tour - Refreshments & Conversation



Randy Stewart's Greenhouse Tour



The Auditorium taking shape - late March



Heather Haley, WVLT, & Melanie Staten, UTAS, at the Weather talk



UTAS Volunteers Work on the AMSE Beautification Project



Emory Valley Garden Club visits the Arboretum to learn more about hollies and the Elmore Holly Collection from Task Force members Fran Scheidt, Dennis Superczynski, and Dr. Will Witte.



Dr. John Skinner, UT Professor & Kevin Hoyt, Center Director, at the Honeybees and Pollinators Lecture