### UTAS President’s Message

Norm Dobbs, incoming president, shares his vision for the coming year. Dennis Superczynski, outgoing president, sums up 2005.

### Spring Trip to New York

Join us for an exciting tour of gardens, nurseries, and even a winery! Act fast—reservation forms are due by February 1!

### “Director’s Desk”

Richard Evans

Can it be? Richard’s topping trees in his own backyard! Find out what he’s up to.

### Benefactor’s Society

UTAS officially joins this group of donors to the University of Tennessee whose cumulative gifts are at least $100,000

### New Board

Current and new board members, new officers, and a fond farewell to two long-standing board members.

### Upcoming Events

Highlights include a Beth Babbit lecture, the Dogwood Arts show, the Spring Plant Sale, our trip to New York, and several new events

### Benefactors Society

Quick! How much money do you think UTAS has contributed to the UT Arboretum over the last 40 years? We don’t know exactly, either. We can, however, document over $275,000 after a preliminary check of Arboretum records. That’s very impressive, but it’s not the final total.

The University of Tennessee recognized the UT Arboretum Society in December with membership in the Benefactors Society. Those individuals or organizations belonging to the Benefactors Society have recorded gifts or pledges of at least $100,000. The UT Arboretum Society appreciates this official acknowledgment of our contributions to the University through our support of the Arboretum. These gifts are not limited to monetary donations, and encompass most tangible items. We are well on our way to the next giving level, which requires donations or pledges of $500,000.

Do you know that a $100 donation to UTAS in 1965 translated into more than $630 in today’s dollars? And why is that important? Because UTAS has been making gifts to UT for 40 years, so our early-year donations ‘count’ for much more than their dollar value in the year they were given. We need to track down all our contributions by year when possible in order to receive appropriate credit.

As a part of our search for documentation of our gifts, we are on a quest for records of past contributions. These must be tangible contributions, which may include plants and other materials, the shelter, monetary awards, etc. Labor, unfortunately, does not count—at least in this regard. We are just beginning our exploration, and this will take some time to do it right. If you have any records that might be germane to this effort, please contact Ann Arnold, annandlou@comcast.net, 482-3369, or Emily Jernigan, emily@jernigans.net, 482-4836. You may also contact Richard Evans, revans6@utk.edu, 483-3571.

Additionally, our committee plans to meet soon with a group of former Society board members, etc., to reminisce about Society projects during the past 40 years. We hope that collectively we can come up with a more complete accounting of UTAS gifts. You will hear much more about this as we document our contributions.

Dedication, persistence, and a lot of hard work enabled the Society to achieve this remarkable success. “Thanks!” to all of you who have done so much for the Society and for the Arboretum.

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### Spring Plant Sale

**New Time Schedule**

- Friday, April 21, 5-7 pm “Members Only” Sale
- Saturday, April 22, 9 am–3 pm Open to all

**Featured plants:** Magnolias

Please note revised hours this year—Friday and Saturday only, no Sunday sale
President’s Letter

As we all begin 2006, let me introduce you to your new UTAS Board Members and Officers, as well as pay tribute to those who retired from the UTAS Board in 2005. First, I want to recognize Dennis Superczynski for his past two years as our President but, also, for his long-term and expected continued service to our Society as leader of our outstanding annual UTAS Tour and as a member of the Holly Committee. Dennis has assured us that he intends to be an active Past President and I look forward to working with him. I recognize and applaud both Nancy Hardin and Larry Landau for their long-term service to the Society, and share with everyone Larry’s distinction of being a charter member of our 41-year old organization. Please take the time to thank each of these individuals when you see them at one of our UTAS events.

Joining me as an Officer this year is Richard Rairdon as my Vice-President. I look forward to working with Richard and learning from his tremendous experience with the Society, especially in regards to our annual Spring Plant Sale. Richard is looking for someone or ones to take over the responsibility of this rewarding and essential role for the Society. I, for one, will be helping Richard and “picking his brain” to see how and who he interfaces with to arrange for our vendors and to acquire the plant stock we normally sell at this, our premier annual, fund-raising event. Anyone who would be interested in learning more about this role or how they can help make the Spring Plant a success, is encouraged to contact either Richard or myself so we can properly integrate you into the planning and management of this April’s sale. Our ability to conduct successful plant sales of the quality you and the public have come to expect will be possible only if we have an experienced staff of volunteers to make it possible. More details about this year’s spring (April) Plant Sale will be forthcoming in separate UTAS mailings and public publicity.

Your UTAS Board and I are very fortunate to have the “plant smarts” and leadership skills of five new Board members this year. These include Ken Carter, Katie Cottrell, Jeff Holt, Pat Hunsicker and Marie Walsh. I welcome all of these new Board Members to our “brain trust” and look forward to utilizing and learning from their expertise and special skills, all of which, I’m confident, will be of a great benefit to the Society.

I want to assure the over 100 UTAS members who responded to the 2004 Membership Survey that I am committed to being responsive to the many ideas and suggestions that were received. Additionally, I am also committed to working cooperatively with Richard Evans and his University of Tennessee management team as UTAS strives to accomplish our mission of furthering the objectives and programs of the Forest Resources Research and Education Center and Arboretum Project. I also believe that until sufficient and sustainable operating funds are available to the University of Tennessee to support the Center and the Arboretum Project that the Society’s emphasis should be focused upon very specific near-term goals. These objectives should be to develop activities and events that will increase the public’s awareness of the Arboretum, and to raise and donate funds to the maximum extent possible for the Arboretum’s operation.

This, the second edition of our newsletter, Branches, will be our primary publicity document until we can obtain the services of an editor for our historical technical publication The Leaflet. Please take notice of our tentative calendar of 2006 events. Some are still in the planning stages, but it is my intent to plan and conduct as many on-site events at the Arboretum as possible for the benefit of both our membership and to attract the public’s attention to this valued, backyard jewel in Oak Ridge. Be watchful for future announcements for these and possible other UTAS sponsored events this year in this forum, on our web site (www.utarboretumsociety.org), in e-mails, or in local newspapers. If you visit the Knoxville Dogwood Arts Festival’s House and Garden Show during February 23-26, stop by our UTAS booth on the upper concourse, across from the meeting rooms at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Upcoming Lecture

Tuesday, January 24 6 pm
City Room, Roane State Community College, Oak Ridge
Beth Babbit will speak on
“Blooming Trees for Tennessee”
Beth is perhaps best known as co-host of the “Garden Girls” radio show aired each Sunday afternoon at 2 pm on WNOX, 100.3. (http://garden girls.tennessee.edu).

Coffee and light refreshments will be available

Past President’s Letter

As we begin a new year at the Arboretum, I would like to thank the UTAS Board members, the Director of the Arboretum, and especially all the volunteers who participated in UTAS activities in 2005 that made the year successful and rewarding. Those who attended our Annual Meeting in November learned how UTAS is strategizing to improve membership benefits and better support the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge. Your response to a survey in 2004 provided valuable input for the board to develop goals in 2005 to accomplish these objectives. UTAS has increased membership through its efforts to increase presence in the community with outreach to local organizations. Our plant sales were especially successful in 2005 with offerings of disease resistant dogwoods developed by the University of Tennessee and grown by Don Shadow Nursery. UTAS was proud to have Mr. Shadow speak on “Dogwoods” at our first ever ArborFest Celebration last fall. In addition to plant sales, ArborFest featured crafts, garden demonstrations and talks, food, and music. A true festival enjoyed by the entire family at your Arboretum.

Looking forward to 2006, you can expect to see more Shadow dogwoods at the plant sales in addition to our featured spring sale plant, Magnolia. I personally hope to see you all at the arboretum in 2006; your continued support and volunteer efforts are very much appreciated and important for the Arboretum’s continued success.

Dennis Superczynski
Past President, UTAS

Norm Dobbs
Director’s Desk

Tree Topping in the Arboretum...Yes!

“Tree Topping Hurts” is a catchy slogan fashion by the International Society of Arboriculture. The point of their message is that indiscriminate removal of major limbs from a tree’s crown, referred to as topping, causes damage to long-term health and vigor of a tree. Although Tennessee is not the “Show Me” State, the UT Arboretum has established a demonstration to punctuate this message. Although it’s hard to believe, and it was difficult to do, we’re topping trees!

Part of the Arboretum’s Urban Forestry Grant initiative, the newly established demonstration shows the good, the bad, and the ugly of pruning mature shade trees. Four sugar maples and four pin oak trees, once part of the old Shade Tree Experiment located near the Sharp Program Shelter, were pruned differently. Some trees were pruned to demonstrate good and bad practices for the health of the tree. Others are practices used for a specific purpose, like reducing the height of a tree. However, some trees were purposely subjected to pruning practices that are considered harmful to trees, like topping! As these trees respond to each pruning practice over the years the effects will become more obvious and a continuous record of the trees’ responses will be kept to punctuate the lesson.

There are eight newly established urban forestry demonstration projects scattered throughout the Arboretum. Each demonstration offers visitors the opportunity to see and learn how to care for their trees. More about this will highlight in future issues of Branches.

See our revised web site for more information http://forestry.tennessee.edu

~Richard Evans

Stumped?

The fruit of the magnolia looks like a cone. Is it actually a cone or what is it?

Although it may look like a cone, it is actually an aggregate fruit that is woody. This flowering structure has changed little over millions of years. Magnolias are some of the most primitive of all flowering plants, but the seeds are enclosed in the fruit during their development, and therefore they must be classified as angiosperms, not as gymnosperms—the group to which conifers belong. As the fruit matures, scale-like areas on it split apart and the seeds, covered in a red fleshy aril, are exposed as they are in gymnosperms.


Email your questions about trees, other plants, or wildlife to us at UTAS@discoveret.org.

UTAS Board

The following slate of officers was approved at the Annual Dinner:

President: Norm Dobbs
Vice President: Dick Raridon
Treasurer: Pat Row
Secretary: Diantha Paré

Current board members:
Past President: Dennis Superczynski
3-year terms: Ken Carter, Pat Hunsicker, Joann Johnson, and Marie Walsh
2-year terms: Ann Arnold, David Flitcroft, Jeff Holt, and Emily Jernigan
1-year term: Katie Cottrell, Betts Higgins, Don Searle, and Fran Scheidt

The UTAS board has five new faces: Ken Carter, Katie Cottrell, Jeff Holt, Pat Hunsicker, and Marie Walsh. We’re glad to have them join us. Dennis Superczynski retires as president of the organization after serving two years in that capacity. Dennis provided strong and able leadership during a difficult transitional time for our organization, and we are all very grateful for his contributions to the Society. He will remain on the board.

We also say farewell to two long-time board members. Larry Landau is a charter member of UTAS, past president, and a stalwart of our organization. After 40 years of giving his time and energy to UTAS he’s taking a well-deserved break. We hope he’ll continue to advise us. Thank you, Larry, for your enduring service. Also retiring from the board is Nancy Hardin, another former president and long-time volunteer with the Society. Nancy has served most recently as publicity chair, and we appreciate her dedication throughout the years. She will continue to maintain the kiosk in the parking lot, and help with our efforts to gather historical data about UTAS. Thanks, Nancy.

Dogwood Planting Event

On Saturday, December 10 a hardy group of UTAS volunteers joined Oak Ridge Rotarians and planted over 230 dogwood trees throughout Oak Ridge. Tom Row coordinated this activity in collaboration with the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce, the City of Oak Ridge, Rotary Club of Oak Ridge, and UTAS. Now that Oak Ridge has an official Dogwood Arts trail, the city is encouraging residents to plant more of these beautiful trees – and is setting a great example by planting them too. Look for lots of those blooms next spring!

Elmore Holly Collection

The Holly Task Force organized and supervised two work days last fall. After a great amount of work weeding, cleaning and mulching the area, the group enjoyed a delicious brunch provided by Fran Scheidt and Jan Superczynski. As usual, Dr. Willard Witte, a member of the Holly Task Force, supervised the pruning and fertilizing of the hollies. Volunteers included: Ann Arnold, Katie Cottrell, Jim and Melanie Deaderick, Lee Ann and Norm Dobbs, Susan Elmore, Richard Evans, Katherine Greer, Nancy Hardin, Betts and Cecil Higgins, Evelyn Lorenz, Diantha Paré, Dick Raridon, Vickie Richards, Cheryl Rucker, Fran Scheidt, Don Searle, Jan and Dennis Superczynski, Marie Walsh, and Will Witte.
Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner

Fifty-two members attended the Annual Dinner at the Doubletree Hotel in Oak Ridge. Lee Ann and Norm Dobbs did an excellent job of planning this event. UT Extension director and local TV personality Neal Denton gave an amusing talk. We heard from Dr. Roland Mote, Assistant Dean of the Agricultural Experiment Station. He praised Richard Evans for his work at the Center. He also noted that he is incredibly impressed by the unique 40-year history of UTAS and its many accomplishments and contributions to UT. He referred to a university capital campaign that will begin some time in 2006, and that will include some funding efforts for the Arboretum. He also said that he would be asking for our help at the appropriate time.

Outgoing president Dennis Superczynski gave a slideshow overview of Society activities and achievements from 2005. After Norm Dobbs reviewed the proposed changes to the by-laws and dues structure, the membership approved them.

Door Prize Winners

David Cottrell won the ‘grand prize’: a Full Moon maple (Acer japonicum) tree donated by Beaver Creek Nursery

Margaret Phares and Emily Jernigan won bags of bulbs courtesy of ArborFest. Joann Johnson and Don Searle won gift packs of travel mugs and water bottles from Proven Winner perennials.

Thanks to our sponsors for these contributions that added to the festivities of our Annual Dinner.

Dr. Will Witte at ArborFest

Upcoming Events

January 21 Board Workshop 9-12
January 24 6 pm “Blooming Trees for Tennessee” lecture by Beth Babbitt, Extension Area Specialist, Urban Horticulture and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

City Room, Roane State Community College, Oak Ridge Campus. Coffee and light refreshments served.

February 1 Deadline to reserve a spot for the “Spring to New York” trip
February 23-26 Booth at Dogwood Arts Festival House and Garden Show
March 3 Arbor Day tree planting at Linden Elementary School, Oak Ridge
March TBA Workshop at Arboretum by Natural Resources Recovery – “Bed Preparation and Rejuvenation”
April 21-22 Spring Plant Sale, featuring Magnolias
May TBA Kris Light Arboretum walk
May 17-22 Spring Trip to New York
May TBA Bird Walk at Arboretum - Katie Cottrell
June 16-17 Oak Ridge Secret City Festival
July TBA Tour of Arboretum or Cumberland Forest Research Center
September TBA Owl Prowl and Night Sounds at Arboretum - Katie Cottrell

The following members joined or renewed in November and early December:

Marie Binger  
John Byrd  
Kate & Dick Crawford  
Janet Fisher  
Arissa Garden Club  
Ben Kadas  
Elizabeth Rainwater  
Claudia Rawn  
Paul & Barbara Taylor  
Doug & Melody Turner

Volunteers Needed!

We have our busiest time of the year coming up, and you’ll be hearing from us. We appreciate all of you who step up often, and we look forward to seeing some new faces, too.

First up, the Dogwood Arts Home and Garden Show booth, February 23-26. Sign up for a two-hour shift to hand out materials and tell others about UTAS and the Arboretum. You’ll be helping out your Society, and you’ll get free admission to the show – a $10 value.

Next is the Spring Plant Sale, April 21-22. We need members for many different tasks, so please come on down! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and a lot of fun, too.

The Native Plant Task Force meets regularly on the third Wednesday of the month. This group focuses on the collection of “natives” around the Visitor’s Center. Planting, weeding, mulching, etc. are the order of the day. Contact Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656, to join in. The next time this group meets is Wednesday, February 15. Come and work off some of those Valentine candy calories!

Weddings: Now that Richard Evans and his staff have established procedures for weddings at the Arboretum, they would like to train some more volunteers to help out with the events. If you’re interested in this project, please contact Richard – revans6@utk.edu, 483-3571.

UTAS Web Site: If you’re web-site savvy and would like to donate several hours a month, please contact Charlie or Emily Jernigan – Charlie@jernigans.net, Emily@jernigans.net, 482-4836.

New and Renewing Members

All of you should have received your membership renewal letter in December. “Thank you” to those of you who have already renewed. We are grateful for the contributions some of you added to your membership. All of our proceeds go toward helping the Arboretum, and your memberships and contributions are fully tax deductible as allowed by law. If you have not renewed yet, we urge you to do so. You will find an application in Branches if you need one. Remember: Your membership will be activated the month we receive your payment, and will be valid for 12 months.
University Of Tennessee Arboretum Society
“Spring To New York Garden Tour”
The Bronx, Long Island, and Manhattan
May 17–22, 2006

Looking forward to spring? How about visiting the magnificent gardens and nurseries on Long Island, tour a winery on the East End, visit the celebrated New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, a stroll through Central Park. Just a few of the exciting activities you will enjoy on the UTAS Spring Garden tour.

Following a morning non-stop flight from Knoxville to NY LaGuardia you will be escorted to Wave Hill Gardens in the Bronx for a guided tour. Then spend the afternoon in the New York Botanical Gardens for lunch in the cafe followed with a guided tour of the gardens and conservatory.

The tour includes four overnight stays with full breakfast in central Long Island at the Melville Marriott. On Thursday morning, tour The Ultimate House and Garden at Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay. Enjoy the afternoon at Old Westbury Gardens for a leisure lunch and tour of the gardens. We will spend the day Friday on the East End in Riverhead with a tour of Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and a variety of area interests including a winery tour. Saturday will be more leisurely with visits to local nurseries and private gardens.

On Sunday morning, our shuttle service will return us to New York for an overnight at the Marriott Renaissance, Times Square. Schedule your own time in Manhattan, maybe a Broadway play; visit one of New York’s famous museums, a walk in Central Park. You will also have time Monday morning to view the Today Show, shop on Fifth Avenue, all walking distance from the Marriott. We depart New York Monday May 22, on a 4:00 PM Delta flight leaving from LaGuardia.

The tour is limited to 30 participants and will be “first come, first served”. To reserve please complete the attached registration form to be received no later than February 1, 2006 with a $400 per person deposit in the form of a check made payable to UTAS. The deposit will purchase a non-refundable ticket on Delta that can be redeemed for a future flight within one year of issue less a $50 change fee. Please send to PO Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382, Attn: “Spring to New York Garden Tour” (Full payment must be received by April 19, 2006).

The tour cost includes round trip airfare from Knoxville on Delta Air Lines, five night’s hotel accommodations including four full breakfast at the Marriott in Melville Wednesday-Saturday, two garden lunches, and admission to all gardens. The cost of the tour for single and double occupancy is outlined below. A $30.00 discount is available to UTAS members. If not a member and you wish to join, please complete the membership application and remit with a separate check.

**Tour Cost Single or Double Occupancy**

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For more information, please call Dennis or Jan Superczynski 675-8502 or Fran Scheidt 584-0467
UTAS is an all-volunteer organization, and we rely on our members to help us achieve our objectives. Please indicate below where you would like to help out.

Please contact me with information and opportunities to help in the following areas.
Check as many as you wish:

- Special Events
  - UTAS Spring and/or Fall Plant Sale/Festival
  - Oak Ridge Arbor Day Celebration event
  - UTAS informational booth at such events as the Knoxville Dogwood Arts Festival’s House & Garden Show, Oak Ridge Secret City Festival, etc.
- Plant Sales Coordinator
- Arboretum Garden Collections (Holly, Wildflower, etc.)
- Lectures, Demonstrations, Nature Hikes, etc.
- Publicity and/or Administrative tasks
- Publications, Website, Database management
- Public Outreach/Fundraising
- Other:

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<th>Reservation Form</th>
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<td>Patron $500  Individual $30</td>
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<td>Please indicate amount enclosed $______</td>
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Mail along with your deposit (By February 1, 2006)
UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382

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Volunteers for ArborFest 2005

We needed 55 people to help out with ArborFest. Many thanks to all of these members who agreed to work when Lee Ann Dobbs called. Together they put in more than 325 hours. Our volunteers included:

- Ben Alford
- Ann and Lou Arnold
- Lucretia Atterson
- Faye Beck
- Tim Bigelow
- Mary Campbell
- Lynn Carlson
- Katie Cottrell
- David Cox
- Janet and Bob Cushman
- Lee Ann and Norm Dobbs
- Chris Hamilton
- Nancy Hardin
- Jim Hawk
- Karen Henderson
- Sandra Herrera
- Betts and Cecil Higgins
- Nettie and John Hill
- Pat Hunsicker
- Emily and Charlie Jernigan
- Joann Johnson
- Paula Keefe
- Ruth Kerr
- Kathryn LaMance
- Barbara and Larry Landau
- Terry McGown
- John Million
- Eileen Neiler
- Jesse Noritake
- Diantha Paré
- June Peishel
- Hella Peterson
- Richard Raridon
- Bob Reynolds
- Pat and Tom Row
- Cynthia Runyan
- Peggy Turner
- Don Searle
- Fran Scheidt
- Muriel and William Sirett
- Jan and Dennis Superczynski
- Aase and Fred Vaslow
- Marie Walsh
- Will Witte

ArborFest 2005

Ann Arnold and Emily Jernigan chaired this new Society event that combined our fall plant sale with craftspeople, lectures, food, and entertainment. This became a Dogwood Arts sanctioned and sponsored event, with a focus on planting dogwoods to enhance the beauty of the east Tennessee landscape. Arborfest joined with Richard Evans’ Dogwood Field Day, and included lectures and book signings by Don Shadow. The event generated a great deal of free publicity, goodwill, and intangible benefits for UTAS and the Arboretum, and also some income for the Society to help support the Arboretum. Thanks to the rest of the committee that gave many hours to this activity: Joann Johnson, Dick Raridon, Lee Ann Dobbs, Betts Higgins, and Dennis Superczynski. Richard Evans and his staff helped immeasurably with Arborfest.

Editor’s Extras

Landmark Trees

How would you like to plant a little bit of history in your yard? You could have a sapling from the seed of an Overcup Oak growing on Abe Lincoln’s birthplace. Or an apple tree from the last known living apple tree planted by Johnny Appleseed. A Walden Woods Red Maple or even an Elvis Presley Sweet Gum. These “Landmark” or “Historic” trees are available from the American Forests Historic Tree Company. This is a division of American Forests, the nation’s oldest nonprofit citizens conservation organization. The Tree Company is “…dedicated to bringing history alive by propagating and selling the descendents of famous and historic trees.” Check out their web sites, and if you get the itch to sit in the shade of Clara Barton’s Redbud, you can order one.

www.historictrees.org/store
www.americanforests.org

Look For Email Updates

Don’t forget that we’ll be sending out reminders, updates, and ‘hot off the press’ notices via email. While Branches strives to offer comprehensive information to our members, it cannot reflect timely changes or additions to our events listings. Please keep an eye out for our email communications, and send us your email address if you haven’t already done so. Thanks.

www.utarboretumsociety.org

Don Shadow

More than 60 people attended Don Shadow’s very interesting and informative lecture at Roane State Community College, Oak Ridge on Thursday, October 13. Don showed us many slides of his plants, including some of his new cultivars like the PeeWee hydrangea and Pygmy dogwood as well as of his favorite Appalachian Spring dogwood. He also treated us to images of some of his more than 600 animals, including camels, tapirs, and Chinese Red Pandas. Of course, he has to grow bamboo and other plants just to feed them, too! After his talk, he signed copies of his new book, Dogwoods that UTAS sold as a fundraiser. Member Doug Turner won the drawing for a copy of the book.
Upcoming Events

January 24  6 pm “Blooming Trees for Tennessee” lecture by Beth Babbit, Extension Area Specialist, Urban Horticulture and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
City Room, Roane State Community College, Oak Ridge Campus. Coffee and light refreshments served.

February 1  Deadline to reserve a spot for the “Spring to New York” trip

February 23-26  Booth at Dogwood Arts Festival House and Garden Show

March 3  Arbor Day tree planting at Linden Elementary School, Oak Ridge

March TBA  Workshop at Arboretum by Natural Resources Recovery – “Bed Preparation and

“Blooming Trees for Tennessee”
Beth Babbit, UT Urban Horticulture specialist and “Garden Girl” radio host talk
Tuesday, January 24
6 pm
City Room, Roane State, Oak Ridge
coffee & refreshments served
No admission fee

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