UT Institute of Agriculture Dean William Brown Visit

William Brown assumed his duties as Dean for Research and Director of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station on July 1, 2008. In June, he met with UTAS members and Director Richard Evans to learn more about our organization, and to discuss ways in which UTAS and UT can work together for our common good. UTAS president, Tom Row, painted a picture of the role UTAS has played in supporting and enhancing the Arboretum throughout its 44 year history. He gave Dean Brown a partial listing of the benefits from the partnership of the two organizations, including our monetary donations, our hours of service, and our community outreach activities. Joining Tom were board members Norm Dobbs, Ted Ballard, and Emily Jernigan.

We touched on the nationally recognized Elmore Holly Collection, our guided walks, and the workshops linking Master Gardeners and UT faculty with the local community. Dean Brown noted that he is particularly interested in the interface of research, public outreach and the extension service, and remarked that our UTAS activities are additive to the Arboretum’s programs.

Funding, always a challenge, is even more difficult because of the budget cuts imposed by the state throughout the university systems, and by our overall economy. Our Forest Resources Research and Education Center is almost fully funded by product sales, supplemented with grants and, of course, by UTAS contributions.

Joining Dean Brown were Rhodes Logan, Campaign Director and Director of Development, and Tom Looney, Director of Development, both from the Institute of Agriculture. They facilitated the discussion about our Endowment Campaign, and how its success can help us fund critical features of the Arboretum. Children and youth programs will play a big part in that future as we are able to focus more on giving them opportunities to investigate and enjoy the outdoors.

We appreciate the time that Dean Brown spent with us, and his interest in exploring ways to enhance and strengthen the UTAS/UTA ties to the University.
President’s Letter

This spring is certainly a change from the recent past! All the rain has helped relieve the serious drought of the last few years. Now, my yard requires weekly attention and the plants are expressing their appreciation with record blooms and foliage.

I hope you made our Spring Plant Sale. We had a crowd, and sold almost 200 Japanese Maples that will brighten yards in the area for years to come. We’ll see you again at the fall sale.

Special describes our Georgia Garden Adventure tour arranged by UTAS member Dennis Superczynski. Four days of private gardens, botanical gardens and nurseries! You can read Dennis’s account of the tour in this issue of Branches. Some highlights included the sculpture at Smith-Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw; the University of Georgia Trial Gardens where we learned about the important role trial gardens play in bringing to market suitable plants for use in our area; and Callaway Gardens where our guide’s detailed knowledge and planning were truly amazing.

If you’re looking for reasons to join us on a tour, just ponder the surprise visit we made to the home gardens of former Georgia football coach, Vince Dooley, described as a ‘born again gardener,’ whose home and plantings certainly confirmed this. That’s a treat unavailable to the general public. Who knows where we will go next - Dennis keeps planning better tours each year! We hope you can join us next time.

I encourage each of you to think about how you can be involved with the UT Arboretum. Go to our web site, www.utarboretumsociety.org, and find out about our activities. Call or email me to volunteer, and join the Society if you haven’t already done so. We have a lot going on and you don’t want to miss out on these opportunities to learn and participate with us. We have these superb garden tours planned each year. They are a real bargain, and you’ll enjoy the company, while seeing many private gardens and nurseries that are open only by special arrangements. The many trails at the UTA are open and our new parking lot is nearly finished and will soon be beautifully planted by the staff and volunteers.

Our Endowment Campaign is under way. The goal is to add facilities and staff, and to expand the scope of the facility. We especially want to enhance our programs to help children experience the grand outdoors and to provide Oak Ridge and the surrounding area with enhanced experiential and learning opportunities.

Don’t miss this special place in your own backyard. Slow down and turn off into UTA as you drive by, and enjoy a true gem right in our local area. You will be amazed at how the environment will immediately enhance your day. Hope to see you there soon. Information? Call me.

Tom Row, UTAS President  tohmrow@bellsouth.net, 865-482-9096

Director’s Desk

There is much more to the UT Arboretum than our collection and display of woody plants - trees, shrubs, vines, etc. The Arboretum is equally about nature, and our relationship with the natural world. It is far more intriguing to know about plants in the context of the way they fit into the web of life; their possible uses; their uniqueness in adaptive features linked to survival; their ecological dependencies that cradle them as they forge an existence; their association with the basic elements of soil, water, and air; and a thousand more things to observe and ponder. To see a plant is to see a book just waiting to be read. Some people have spent their entire career trying to discover all there is to know about one single species of plant, animal, fungi, insect, or bacteria only to realize that the more they learn, the more questions they have.

One of my favorite books is Nature Studies, written by Anna B. Comstock in 1911. A guide for teachers, it discusses ways to introduce children to nature studies; to stimulate their curiosity; and to encourage them to explore their environs. Even as an adult I am drawn into her excitement of discovery. Comstock’s extraordinary powers of perception and observation are presented in such compelling ways that one cannot help but be caught up in her enthusiasm for nature study. The UTA website segment on Featured Plants follows Comstock’s model, with interesting tidbits and did-you-know tantalizers that encourage everyone to explore and learn more.

On one level, the Arboretum is a formal teaching and research laboratory supporting a myriad of University faculty and student projects. However, it is much more than that. Most of us see the Arboretum as our own personal place to explore, discover, and scratch that itch of curiosity about the whys, wheres, and hows of all things natural. Among the pages of the Arboretum’s book are wondrous discoveries for the curious reader.

One day you might just happen to flip to an as-yet unread page and say, “I discovered it myself!”

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

~Richard Evans, Director
Upcoming Events

Wildflower Ramble with Kris Light
Saturday, September 5, 10 am at the Arboretum

Although spring is a wonderful time to view wildflowers, a fall walk at the Arboretum with wildflower specialist Kris Light can open your eyes to a whole new world. Kris has been documenting her 'life list' of wildflowers since 1985, and has over 2300 on her list. This includes 715 different wildflowers in East Tennessee alone!

Visit her web site, www.easttennesseewildflowers.com to learn more about Kris, see her stunning photographs, and find out more about hiking and identifying wildflowers. Come out and meet Kris and see what's flowering on September 5 at the Arboretum. You'll also have a chance to buy some of her photographs and note cards. You can share a little bit of East Tennessee beauty with friends and family, and help support the Arboretum, too.

Fall Plant Sale
Saturday, October 10 9 am - 3 pm at the Arboretum

Trees love to be planted in the fall, and it’s a great time for gardeners, too. The weather is cooler, the bugs are mostly gone, and the pace of life slows down a bit. Come on down to the Arboretum for our annual fall Plant Sale. We’ll have dogwoods and other trees and shrubs, as well as perennials and other items. You’ll get high quality and far from run-of-the-mill plants, plus you’ll support the Arboretum.

Owl Prowl - We Want to See Yooooooou!
Saturday, October 10 6:30 pm at the Arboretum

Join Katie Cottrell and her feathered friends for an entertaining evening. Owls are fascinating, rarely seen creatures and Katie lets us see them up close and personal. The kids eyes get almost as big as the owl’s.

UTAS Contributes to Endowment Fund & Arboretum

As part of our overall mission to support the UT Arboretum, the UTAS board voted to donate $5000 to the Endowment Fund, bringing our total contributions to the fund to $25,000. We also decided to donate $11,000 to the operation of the Arboretum, including $1000 for the parking lot. When you become or remain a member of UTAS, buy plants at our sale, or participate in any of our activities, you, too, are contributing to the ongoing sustainability of the UT Arboretum.

Thank you!

Stumped?

I bought a Japanese Maple at the Plant Sale. Any pointers for taking care of it?

According to http://mendocinomaples.com/index.php?sc_page=45, keep this in mind:

- Mulch loosely with 4-6 inches of wood mulch after planting, keeping mulch several inches away from the trunk, to reduce the need for frequent watering and for protection of their shallow roots. Water deeply and keep soil moist but not soggy. Do not fertilize newly planted trees until the second growing season. Provide morning sun and afternoon shade for most maples.

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

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 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 and we will add you to our database.

If your email address changes, please notify us. 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.

Renew now! Check your Branches label for your membership expiration date! You’ll get a reminder, or go to www.utarboretumsociety.org and download a form there.

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
Georgia Garden Adventure

~Dennis Superczynski, former UTAS president and Tour Director

In early June, twenty-eight gardening enthusiasts boarded a motor coach and headed south, seeking garden adventures in Georgia. Arriving in Kennesaw at the Smith-Gilbert Gardens, rain showers enveloped us, giving the sculpture-filled gardens a uniquely fresh appearance. The rose garden leads to the dwarf conifer collection, a perennial border, rock garden, and a pond and waterfall feature that all contribute to this charming garden located near Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. The garden, originally established to attract birds, now waits for Buckeyes to bloom, foreshadowing the arrival of hummingbirds.

Colorful flowers, theme gardens, majestic trees, and a three-story tropical conservatory all contribute to the fascination of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens. This garden, under the auspices of the University of Georgia, offered an afternoon delight following our day of travel. Here, Allan Armitage, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Georgia, joined our tour. The International Garden and the Heritage Garden display formal garden grids centered with a Giant Egret Fountain surrounded by English style hedges of boxwood and holly. Shade trellises and benches invited us to linger in the gardens.

All about Dooley: Vince Dooley, that is; former UGA athletic director and famed college football coach of the Georgia Bulldogs. Allan Armitage surprised us with an invitation to visit the Dooley’s home and private Gardens to start our second day tours. His home is surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens, a water feature, and woodland trails scattered with ‘Dooley’ Hydrangeas. The blue mop-headed cold hardy Hydrangea macrophylla ‘Dooley,’ discovered by Michael Dirr, can be ordered from www.rarefindnursery.com. The remainder of morning took us to the University of Georgia Trial Gardens, started in 1982 by Allan Armitage and Michael Dirr. Here we discovered a wealth of information about the evaluation of new introductions of annuals from around the world that are grown in raised beds from seed. One of Dennis’s favorites was Vinca, ‘First Kiss Blueberry,’ a lovely shade of blue-violet from Benary seeds, a plant breeder located in Hann. Münden, Germany. Allan spent a lot of time with us, and sent us off with several free trays of annuals grown for the test garden.

We spent the afternoon exploring the Atlanta Botanical Gardens in the heart of midtown Atlanta on our way to Calloway Gardens. How delightful! From the shady woodland with its cool fern glade, to the Japanese garden, to the fragrant rose garden, to the blooms of the Hydrangea Collection in peak bloom in late May and June - these gardens had it all. A special exhibit there of the Henry Moore in America collection of monumental sculptures is the largest ever presented in the U.S. This English sculptor was one of the first to create large outdoor sculptures, and 20 magnificent works are on loan from the Henry Moore Foundation. For those who visited the Moore Exhibit in Kew Gardens in London in 2007, this was an excellent representation of his work. If you did not travel with us on the Georgia tour be sure to visit the Atlanta Botanical Gardens in 2009 to see this marvelous collection.

Calloway Gardens, although a repeat visit for UTAS, did not disappoint us. Along with our guided bus tour through the gardens, Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center, and Mr. Cason’s Vegetable Garden, we were treated to a special ‘behind the scenes’ tour of the greenhouse hosted by its director, Brian Kanotz. We discovered that operating a greenhouse is more than growing plants: special attention must be given to insect control, plant disease, and the timing of blooms, especially important for a display garden like Calloway. Even a week’s delay in timing could be very disappointing to guests attending seasonal displays that are arranged up to a year in advance. Brian was very generous with his time and no one was disappointed with the free annuals he gave our group.
Fuller E. Callaway, Sr., was a very successful textile manufacturer and founder, with his wife Ida Cason Calloway, of Callaway Gardens. They bought Hills & Dales, a 35-acre estate located in LaGrange Georgia, in 1911. Our visit included a tour of the house with its original furnishings, bought by the Calloways on a shopping extravaganza in Europe. The house itself is a beautiful Italian Villa sitting on the crest of a gently rolling hill. It blends with the splendid formal boxwood gardens planted in the mid-nineteenth century by former owner Sarah Coleman Ferrell. Leaving the boxwoods intact, they added pieces of classical statuary to complement and enhance the Italianate character of the garden. The Callaways continued to improve the grounds, adding highlights such as the Ray Garden, currently planted with perennials and annuals for seasonal color. Some of our favorite plantings here included the holly shaped leaves of Osmanthus and scented Gardenia. This was our final garden, but we stopped on the way home at two lovely nurseries where we found many of the plants that we’d seen on the tour.

Wilkerson Mill Collections (www.hydrangea.com) in Palmetto, Georgia, specializes in Hydrangeas. Here we found splendid selections of mophead, lacecap, panicle, oakleaf, and native varieties as well as the Osmanthus and Gardenias we saw at Hills & Dales. It was truly a gardener’s shopping paradise. At our final stop we were offered refreshments as well as perennials galore. Erbin and Ruth Baumgardner, our gracious hosts and founders of Mouse Creek Nursery (www.mousecreekperennialfarm.com) in Riceville, Tennessee, offer a large variety of perennials and unusual annuals for sale. We were all delighted with our finds.

UTAS Tours are offered for the enjoyment of its members and guests at reduced prices and are specially planned with plant lovers in mind. The 2009 Garden Tour Committee was Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Ted and Kimball Ballard, Faye Beck, and Norm and Lee Ann Dobbs.

Spring Plant Sale a Big Success

Norm Dobbs, Plant Sale chair, brought us an outstanding feature this year with the Japanese Maples and West Coast Conifers provided by Lashbrooke Wholesale Nursery in Louisville. Scott Williams, nursery manager, attended both days and proved to be treasure trove of information about all 50+ different maples he was selling, as well as about the conifers. We sold almost 200 maples that will now brighten up landscapes all over Oak Ridge and the surrounding area. Our other major vendors, Beaver Creek Nursery, East Fork Nursery, and Sunlight Gardens, offered an excellent selection of perennials, shrubs and other plants. One of the reasons people love our sale is that year after year we offer quality plants, many of which are rare or difficult to find, at reasonable prices. We appreciate everyone who came out to support UTAS, the UT Arboretum, and our local vendors.

Perk Up Your Summer Garden - We Have a Few Plants for Sale

We’d love for you to give these plants a home. Crape Myrtles ‘Tonto’ and ‘Pink Velour’ are now about 6’ tall; cost is $15. Contact Norm Dobbs, nadobbs@bellsouth.net or 482-6656 to buy one of these beauties. Dick Raridon has a selection of perennials, most in 4” pots. They include Gaura lindheimeri (whirling butterflies), Dianthus ‘Bath’s Pink,’ Leucanthemum ‘Becky,’ Salvia ‘May Night,’ Delosperma ‘John Proffitt,’ Coreopsis ‘Moonbeam,’ Euphorbia myrsinites (myrtle spurge), Columbine ‘Clementine’ mix, Veronica longifolia ‘Sunny Border Blue,’ Catmint ‘Walker’s Low,’ Ceratostigma, dwarf plumbago, Euphorbia (purple wood spurge). Contact him at 483-4843 or raridon@hotmail.com

Secret City Festival

The Secret City Festival was hot and crowded both days, and visitors to our booth lapped up the ice cold water as well as the information about UTAS and the Arboretum. Jeff Holt chaired the activities again this year. He provided several samples of wood so visitors could count the tree rings or just think about the forest. Bob Reed made a poster with images of leaves from trees found at the Arboretum. We also sold perennials from Dick Raridon’s greenhouse.

The Front Entrance to ‘Hills and Dales’

Quite an array of lovely plants at the Ray Garden, Hills and Dales

Trent Brick & Zeke Charles Count Tree Rings with Amy Fitzgerald and Emily Jernigan
New & Renewing Members Thanks!

Sandra M Barry
Nancy Basford
Mozelle Bell
Melanie Berney
W Barry Bingham
Thomas & Susan Bishopberger
Jerry & Norma Black
Kris & Larry Brantley
Barbara Bunting
James H Day
Carol Dee
Laura M Derr
Karen & Mark Downing
Linda Ducamp
David & Anne Dunthorn
Ruth Ewald
Dan & Beth Fetzer
Homer Fisher
Rosemary Gilson
Harvey Goranson
Margaret Gottshall
David Greenwood
Jim & Donna Henry
Doug & Cyndi Jeffers
Clara Joan Johnson
Karen Johnson
Lucie Jones
Brenda Kimmel
Eph & Mary Ellen Klots
Susan M Kreke
Gerald Largen
Evelyn Lorenz
Janie V Love
David Mabry
Sheryl Martin
Claude McCuiston
Sara Melton
Rosa Murr
Joanna Partain
Marian Poteat

Kevin Przewrocki
Jim Reca
Debbie Roberts
Joan F Roberts
Fran Scheidt

Plant Sale Volunteers

We appreciate our 54 volunteers, plus Richard Evans and his staff, who turned out to help make our plant sale such a success. We couldn’t do it without you, and hope all the first-time workers will come back in the fall. And if you missed this opportunity, sign up for October 10.

Lucretia Atterson
Julia Ball
Loy Ball
Ted Ballard
Mozelle Bell
Kathy Bracic
Lynn Carlson
Katie Cottrell
Norm Dobbs
Lee Ann Dobbs
Viola Ergen
Jill Frazier
Terry Freeman
Harvey Goranson
Nancy Hardin
Chuck Haynes
Lynda Haynes
Lecie Holt
Jeff Holt
Pat Hunsicker
Charlie Jernigan
Emily Jernigan
Noel Kawado
Larry Landau
Evelyn Lorenz
John Million
Evelyn Moyer
John Moyers
Marese Nephew
Diantha Paré
June Peishel
Hella Peterson
Dick Raridon
Bob Reed
Willow Reed

Robert Reynolds
Stan Richards
Debbie Roberts
Pat Row
Tom Row
Charlie Samuels
Don Searle
Barry Shupe
William Sirett
Randy Stewart
Dennis Superczynski
Jan Superczynski
Peggy Turner
Marie Walsh
Paul Whalen
Rose Whalen
Carole Willard
Will Witte
Beverly Woods
David Woods

Secret City Helpers

Amy Fitzgerald
Jeff Holt
Emily & Charlie Jernigan
Dick Raridon
Bob & Willow Reed
Stan Richards
Pat & Tom Row

Shop ‘Til You Drop - Maples Galore!
UTAS Resources

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Vice-President: Lynn Carlson
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Amy Fitzgerald
Jeff Holt
Emily Jernigan

Branches Editor
Webmaster
Database Manager
Emily Jernigan
Angie Dobbs
Charlie Jernigan

Help Wanted

Ongoing
• Native Plant Group meets the third Wednesday most months. Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656 or 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
• Choose Your Own Spot! Let us know what tickles your fancy. Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

Thanks!

Barry Shupe has resigned, with regret, from the board. We will miss him, and look forward to seeing him at our activities.
Beverly Woods, new board member, organized the volunteers who worked at the plant sale. She did a superb job of recruiting 54 helpers, including 15 newcomers.

Ann and Lou Arnold donated funds in memory of former UTAS president, Ted Rogers. With help from Tom Lakers of Willow Ridge Nursery, Norm and Lee Ann Dobbs acquired a Paperbark Maple that was planted near the Visitor’s Center.

Welcome Back

Melanie Berney Staten has returned to Knoxville and will resume her position on the board. Melanie does a superb job with our publicity and we are delighted to have her back.

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.UTArboretumSociety.org
Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com
Via GPS: 901 S. Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
35.9995, -84.2259

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 long-standing 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

Design and editorial services donated by WordsWorth
Georgia Gardens on Their Minds: the Tour Group

Upcoming Events

Sept 5   Wildflower Walk - Kris Light 10 am
Oct 10   Plant Sale        9 am - 1 pm
Oct 24   Owl Prowl - Katie Cottrell 6:30 pm
Nov 10   Annual Meeting
Nov 14   Holly Work Day - 9 am - Noon