Did this dreary, gray winter get you down? One way to cheer up your yard, and yourself, is to plant hardy Camellias. They bloom like crazy, and they bloom when most other flowering plants are snoozing away the winter. This plant, often called the ‘rose of winter,’ will win you over with its array of colors and bloom types, striking green leaves, and easy care. Hardy Camellias are long-lived, seldom need pruning, have low water requirements, and are shallow-rooted so they may be planted near foundations or other plants. They like acid soil that’s well drained and loose, and need partial shade, especially in the morning and late afternoon. Their requirements are similar to those of azaleas and rhododendrons.

Camellia sasanqua cultivars can start blooming in September and continue blooming into December. They have glossy green leaves, like the C. japonicas, and their flowers tend to be smaller than those of the japonica and are more likely to be single. The sasanquas are extremely cold hardy, and often do best if planted away from prevailing winds since most trees are bare when they’re blooming. The japonicas can start flowering later in fall, and continue on until spring. Many japonicas are double or semi-double bloomers, with some having blooms as large as 5 inches. Come see for yourself!

Other vendors will be there with perennials, natives, shrubs and more. We’ll have selected perennials from Mouse Creek Nursery Perennial Farm of Riceville, too. Plant vendors at the sale include Beaver Creek Nursery, East Fork Nursery, Lashbrooke Nursery (specializing in Japanese Maples), and Sunlight Gardens.

Get out into the warm, sunny weather and brighten up your landscape with these high-quality plants that are not widely available in retail centers here. You’ll help UTAS support the UT Arboretum at the same time.
President’s Letter

Take advantage of the expanded offerings that UTAS offers this year. Take a look at our 2010 Virginia Garden Tour. Having enjoyed a number of them, I can tell you without reservation that the team headed by Dennis Superczynski always puts together excellent tours, so please join us! As usual, we’ll fill the luggage bays on the bus with those special plants that ask to go home with us!

Don’t miss the lecture and Plant Sale featuring Camellias suitable for our area. You’ll be pleased to learn that their care is much easier than you imagine. Join us at the Roane State Oak Ridge campus for the lecture and at UTA for the sale. Get there early; I predict they’ll move quickly like the Japanese maples did last year.

Look at our enlarged Schedule of Events. The changes reflect our efforts to enlarge the opportunities we present to the public. Jeff Holt’s Compass/Map course and recent Father-Daughter walk had capacity crowds. Kris Light, well known teacher in our area, will add several new events this year besides her wildly successful Wildflower Walks.

The Endowment Campaign is making great progress and we hope that all of you have either made a contribution or anticipate doing so. The addition of an auditorium and a full time staff member to develop programs will add so much to this beautiful place we call the UT Arboretum. The large firms operating Department of Energy facilities and programs have been outstanding in their appreciation of the utilization that can be made of this addition for science camps and year round programs.

Last, but certainly not least, drop by and see the new plantings at the entrance, the beautifully maintained beds around the office complex and the plantings added to our new parking lot. We are dressed up and ready for spring company!

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

Director’s Desk

Visitors to arboreta, botanical gardens and similar venues where plants are displayed for educational purposes expect those features to be labeled. Designing, making, maintaining, replacing and displaying signs and labels are also some of most dreaded and endless tasks of these institutions. Pristine labels and signs usually indicate either a well endowed budget or a startup whose signs haven’t had time to age. The UT Arboretum, now 45 years old, does not fall into either of those categories.

The UT Arboretum has tried to maintain its plant labels, given our obvious constraints. Many labels associated with older specimen plants now show their age, though most are still acceptably legible. We initiated a complete relabeling of the Elmore Holly Collection in 2007, buying commercially produced aluminum plaques with funds from the Harold Elmore Memorial donations. Recently, Arboretum volunteer Bob Reed has crafted many new, bright and shiny engraved plastic signs to label newly planted specimens using our in-house 40-year-old engraving machine.

Over the years plastic sign material has improved, so they may last and look good for ten years. However, the materials and the time invested in engraving cost $12 to $15 for each, excluding the cost and upkeep of the engraving machine. We have used other labeling techniques, mostly for temporary use, but we much prefer the engraved plastic sign. Making a label with our machine is tedious, much like setting type on the old printing presses, and then tracing the letters one at a time. One slip and you have to start all over. Computer-driven engraving machines greatly improve this process, but they cost more than $10,000.

Here at the UTA, we keep sign information simple: common and scientific names in the largest font size possible to make it readable from a distance. We may give other information, such as male/female, country or region of origin, and an accession code. The accession code is a discrete series of numbers and letters used to associate that plant to data stored in the Arboretum Plant Database – planting date, location, procurement source, condition, etc. We also place a duplicate accession code, embossed on an aluminum strip, on the plant in case the sign gets lost or destroyed.

There are many aspects to the inner workings of the UT Arboretum which mostly go unnoticed and are under-appreciated. In a future Director’s Desk I will better acquaint you with more of the operational features of the Arboretum from a “behind-the-scenes” perspective.

Visit our website for more information: http://forestry.tennessee.edu

~Richard Evans, Director
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. Refreshments will be available.

Explore Virginia Garden Tour

June 3-6  Reserve by April 15!

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 plan additional private garden and nursery visits, including a shopping stop at Andre Viette’s beautiful gardens in Fishersville, Virginia on the return trip. Dennis Superczynski heads the group that plans these UTAS tours that are always a big hit. See insert for complete details and application form.

Holly Collection Spring Cleanup

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

Lavender Festival

Saturday, June 19  8 a.m.-3 p.m.  Historic Jackson Square, Oak Ridge

UTAS has decided to participate in the Lavender Festival this year for the first time. Stop by our booth at this event that features plants, gardening items, herbs and herbal products, and arts and crafts items. There will also be food booths and live music, cooking demonstrations and other educational programs. Jeff Holt leads this effort.

Elmore Holly Garden Entrance Dedication

Saturday, June 26  10:30 a.m.  Elmore Holly Collection, UT Arboretum

The Elmore Holly Collection has a new stone entrance. The formal dedication ceremony takes place on Saturday, June 26, at 10:30 a.m.

Stream Ecology Workshop with Kris Light

Saturday, June 26  10 a.m.  UT Arboretum

Join Kris for this hands-on, get wet discovery workshop at the UT Arboretum. Space is limited. Look for more information in the media and on our website, utarboretumsociety.org.

Stumped?

Can Camellias really thrive in this climate zone? I thought they couldn’t tolerate our cold weather.

William L. Ackerman, a research geneticist retired from the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., has hybridized many Camellias, focusing his efforts on creating Camellias that are very hardy. He states that, “The New England region of the U.S. has never been considered “camellia country,” yet these plants are thriving in coastal regions of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. A hardy camellia is no longer a dream. Gardeners who live in areas where the winter extremes do not fall below -26 degrees C (Zone 5b), and where some protection from winter wind and early morning sun can be provided, should be encouraged to try these durable and exciting hybrids.” (http://camellia-ics.org/_ics/ackerm1.htm) We’ll have some of his, and other hardy Camellias at our Spring Plant Sale in April. Email your questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our Green Thumb experts.

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. 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.

Migratory Bird Day: Walk with Jim Evans

Saturday, May 8  7 a.m. - arrive at 6:45  UT Arboretum

Bring binoculars!

Katie Cottrell gives us another opportunity to look for birds as we walk with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency officer Jim Evans. Jim has led many walks on the Oak Ridge Reservation and at the Arboretum. He is a very knowledgeable birder, and previous walks have turned up some interesting birds. Participants should arrive by 6:45 as the walk will start at 7 a.m. Bring your binoculars and join us!

Basic Topographic Map Use

Saturday, May 22  9 a.m.  Arboretum Parking Lot

What does it all mean? Learn how to find the right topographic map for your planned trip. Figure out how to read a USGS 7.5 minute topographic map. There will be a short time spent in a class and more time walking in woods to see how to turn squiggles into an understanding of the terrain. Bring a compass if you have one and your favorite topo map. Wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots/good shoes for outdoor walking. We’ll meet briefly inside and then outdoors for less than two hours. Led by Jeff Holt, an experienced forester and map reader. See you at the Arboretum.

Can Camellias really thrive in this climate zone? I thought they couldn’t tolerate our cold weather.

William L. Ackerman, a research geneticist retired from the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., has hybridized many Camellias, focusing his efforts on creating Camellias that are very hardy. He states that, “The New England region of the U.S. has never been considered “camellia country,” yet these plants are thriving in coastal regions of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. A hardy camellia is no longer a dream. Gardeners who live in areas where the winter extremes do not fall below -26 degrees C (Zone 5b), and where some protection from winter wind and early morning sun can be provided, should be encouraged to try these durable and exciting hybrids.” (http://camellia-ics.org/_ics/ackerm1.htm) We’ll have some of his, and other hardy Camellias at our Spring Plant Sale in April. Email your questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our Green Thumb experts.

Upcoming Events
Arbor Day/Tree City Celebration

On March 5 the Society cosponsored the Annual Arbor Day Observance with the City of Oak Ridge. Woodland School hosted this year’s observance. A Cub Scout troop and other Woodland students helped UTAS president, Tom Row, Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan and other city officials plant the tree. 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.

Plant Collections Committee Needs Specific Plant Donations for the New Parking Lot

Are you growing any of the plants, listed below, that are overcrowded and in need of dividing? The UTAS plant collections committee would love to have some of your large divisions to help beautify the new parking lot area. If you’d like to help us out with these plants, we would greatly appreciate having them:

- Geranium sanguineum—any color
- Muhlenbergia capillaries—pink muhly grass
- Yucca, especially the variegated types

Just drop them off during business hours at the Visitors Center, or bring them to the plant sale on April 16 and 17—just add a note, “for the parking lot.”

Spring is a great time to divide these exuberant growers, and we hope some of you can help us out! Plant Collections Contact: Lynn Carlson, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu or 692-5402.

Father - Daughter Hike

We had one of the prettiest days of the year for the inaugural Father Daughter hike. Forty participants, mostly father-daughter pairs (though we did have one dad and three daughters), all seemed to have a great time. Most of the girls were ages 5-12, the target audience, and several dads were introduced to UT Arboretum and liked what they saw when they got there. A little 2 ½ year old, riding on her dad’s shoulders, was very sad as we got back to the parking lot because she didn’t want the hike to end. Jeff Holt led this hike, and plans to lead a Mother - Son hike soon.

Native Plant Group

This group continues its work under the leadership of Lee Ann Dobbs. They are working on the area around the Visitor’s Center, and welcome anyone who’d like to join in. The usual meeting date is the third Wednesday of the month, March through November. Contact Lee Ann Dobbs, leadob@bellsouth.net, 482-6566.

Visitor Orientation/Information Interactive Display Now Available to Arboretum Visitors

Many visitors come to the UT Arboretum with a host of questions: what are the best trails for spring wildflowers; how long is this trail; where are the Holly, Dogwood, Azalea Collections; what tree is this. To better serve them, we have installed computer-driven Visitor Orientation/Information Interactive Display in the Arboretum visitors lobby area. UTAS member and Arboretum volunteer, Bob Reed, had the vision and generously donated the 23” Full High Definition Monitor, the critical piece of equipment needed for this project. To round out the hardware needs, the University repurposed a computer and wireless mouse, bringing together the full complement of technologies necessary to developing this information display.

Bob provided additional, crucial support in helping us develop much of the information available to visitors through this media, especially the Arboretum Plant Gallery, Plant Collection and What Tree is That segments. An equally critical part of the project development was provided by Nancy Smith, Center Volunteer, and Lynne Lucas, Center Administrative Assistant. They designed the presentation and programmed the computer to give a seamless and intuitive visitor experience. Nancy is also the architect of the overview on the Forest Resources Center and Arboretum Trails segments.

All of the information about this display is also available on the Center/Arboretum website, http://forestry.tennessee.edu/
April Blush
*C. japonica 'April Blush'
Its shell pink, profuse, semi-double blooms are striking against its deep green, relatively dense leaves. This compact bush has a slow to moderate growth rate and blooms early to mid spring. Extremely cold hardy.

April Melody
*C. japonica 'April Melody'
Rose red, single blooms cover this compact shrub. With an erect structure and moderate growth, April Melody is a strong grower with an extended blooming season, beginning in early spring. Extremely cold hardy.

April Snow
*C. japonica 'April Snow'
Its rose-form, profuse double blooms are very fragrant and pure white, set off against its large, shiny, dark green leaves. The flowers open in early spring on this fairly slow-growing, compact (5-8’ x 4’) plant. Extremely cold hardy.

Jerry Hill
*C. japonica 'Jerry Hill'
This Ackerman cultivar with broad, glossy leaves and rose pink, formal double blooms grows at an average rate. It has an upright shape with dense growth and blooms relatively late in winter. Extremely cold hardy.

Frost Princess
*C. sasanqua 'Frost Princess'
Its peony-style large double blooms are a deep, iridescent lavender pink. A strong grower and a compact plant, it blooms from early November to mid-December. One of the most conspicuous bloomers of the Ackerman introductions. Extremely cold hardy.

Londontowne Blush
*C. sasanqua 'Londontowne Blush'
With pale, creamy pink single to semi-double blooms, this Ackerman selection exhibits vigorous though compact growth. It blooms from November to December on a rounded shrub (4-5’ high and wide) and is extremely cold hardy.

Snow Flurry
*C. sasanqua 'Snow Flurry'
One of the earliest fall bloomers, Snow Flurry has arching branches abundant with pure white, peony to anemone-style blooms. Its extended blooming season starts in late September and lasts until mid-November. Extremely cold hardy.

Winter's Charm
*C. sasanqua 'Winter's Charm'
The semi-double blooms are lavender-pink, medium-sized (3 1/2”), and peony form. It slowly grows in an upright shape to about 7’ with dark green, glossy oval leaves. Blooms October through November and is extremely cold hardy.
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

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Mail this form and a check to:
UTAS
P.O. Box 5382
Oak Ridge TN, 37831-5382

New & Renewing Members-Thanks!

Dan & Carolyn Alexander
Marion Alexander
Bill & Lucrecia Atterson
Ralph & Belinda Aurin
Charles & Marion Burger
Bob & Betty Dreyer
Barbara Dugger
Art Dworkin
Ruth Ewald
David & Terry Freeman
The Gardeners’ Forum
Carmen & Josie Gianforte
Judi & Len Gray
Lynda & Chuck Haynes
Mary Kedl
Jan Kern
Mary H Kollie
Peggy W Mahoney
Joseph A Mallard
Beverly R Milam
Jessemay M Noritake
Martha Orrin
Wendy Packan
Margaret A Phares
David & Mary Ann Piper
Jim Reca
David H Scanlon III
Barrie Smith/Thomas Schmitt
Theresa Tunnell/Dave Snider
Dennis & Jan Superczynski
Marie Walsh
George & Lessie Werner
Diana Wolfram
Beverly S Woods

Weddings at the Arboretum

Plan a wedding with the UT Arboretum as the perfect backdrop. Go to www.utarboretumsociety.org or http://forestry.tennessee.edu/arbpage.htm and click on ‘Weddings,’ or call 865-483-3571 for more information.

![Wedding Image](image-url)
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!

Bob Reed donated the 23” Full High Definition Monitor for the Visitor’s Center new interactive display system. He also developed much of the information for the users.

Nancy Smith and Lynne Lucas designed the presentation and programmed the computer for the same display system. Nancy also helped create several of the presentations.

Lee Ann Dobbs again took on the Arbor Day activity.

Jeff Holt lead several workshops, including the Father-Daughter hike.

Norm Dobbs heads up the plant sale.

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 $30,000 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
Upcoming Events

April 6  Camellia Lecture RSCC Oak Ridge
April 10  Holly Work day
April 16-17 Plant Sale
May 8    Bird Walk with Jim Evans
May 22   Topographic Map/Compass Use
June 3-6 Virginia Gardens Tour
June 19  Lavender Festival
June 26  Holly Entrance Dedication
June 26  Stream Ecology Workshop with Kris Light

Plant Sale
features
Hardy Camellias
Explore Virginia Garden Tour
Charlottesville and Richmond
June 3-6, 2010

*Sic Itur Ad Astra* (Thus do we reach the stars) is the motto for Richmond, Virginia, the destination city for the 2010 UTAS Garden Tour. And the theme of this years UTAS four-day garden bus tour as we again go on the road. Our first stop and overnight is in Charlottesville. We’ll lunch in the context of 18<sup>th</sup>-century tavern life at Michie Tavern, just minutes away from our private tour of The Jefferson Monticello House and Gardens.

The following morning we travel directly into Richmond for a tour of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens featuring mid-Atlantic’s only classically styled Conservatory and spectacular display gardens. Agecroft Hall and the Virginia House will be our afternoon visit, featuring the 16<sup>th</sup> century house and gardens from Elizabethan England overlooking Virginia’s James River. Overnight accommodations will be provided in Richmond near Agecroft Hall.

Saturday morning we board the bus for a short ride to Berkeley Plantation for an escorted tour of the original Georgian mansion occupying space on a landscaped hilltop overlooking the historic James River. Following a luncheon at the Plantation we will have opportunity to visit one or two private gardens in Richmond as time allows.

During our return to Knoxville on Sunday we will break up the ride with a tour and shopping at Viette’s Beautiful Gardens in Fishersville, VA. We have a personal invitation from Andre Viette who will open the gardens to serve us privately. Our bus driver has promised that he will have sufficient space to transport our plant purchases.

*The tour is limited to 45 participants and will be first come, first served. To reserve, please complete the attached registration form to be received no later than April 15, 2010 with a non-refundable $50 per person deposit in the form of a check made payable to UTAS. Please send to PO Box 5382, Oak Ridge TN 37831-5382, Attn: “Explore Virginia Garden Tour” (Full payment must be received by May 1, 2010)*

The tour includes three night’s hotel accommodations, bus transportation from Oak Ridge, admission to all attractions and gardens, three buffet breakfasts, and two garden luncheons. The cost of the tour for single and double occupancy is outlined below. A $100.00 discount is available to UTAS members. If not a member and you wish to join, please complete the membership application with your remittance.
### Tour Cost Single or Double Occupancy

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<td>Cost, less members discount</td>
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For more information, please call Dennis or Jan Superczynski 675-8502

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Mail along with your deposit (By April 15, 2010)

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

For more information, please call Dennis or Jan Superczynski 675-8502