Plant Sale - Come Get ‘What’s Hot’ This Year

Is your yard begging for some sprucing up this spring? UTAS presents a new twist for its 44th annual Spring Plant Sale. We’re offering a mixed bouquet of plants that are on many gardeners’ wish lists right now. Instead of a single Featured Plant, we’re bringing you an assortment of plant winners with our What’s Hot selections.

We will have a variety of reliable, popular landscape plants, including ‘Kleim’s Hardy’ Gardenia, ‘Pocomoke’ Crape Myrtle, ‘Burgundy’ Loropetalum, ‘Rose Creek’ Abelia, ‘Penny Mac’ Hydrangea, ‘Limelight’ Hydrangea, Indian Hawthorn and ‘Bright Edge’ Yucca from our What’s Hot collection.

Vendors offering trees, shrubs, perennials, herbs and edibles include Beaver Creek Nursery, Knoxville; East Fork Nursery, Sevierville; Greenbriar Nursery, Norris; Riverdale Nursery, Knoxville; and Sunlight Gardens, Andersonville.

Razzleberry Ice Cream Lab, Oak Ridge, will sell bratwurst, barbecue and their famous ice cream on Saturday only, so plan to make this a family outdoor outing.

All UTAS proceeds are used to benefit the Arboretum and its Endowment. This sale gives you the opportunity to buy high quality plants from local growers and to support this East Tennessee treasured asset.

Remember: Cash or check only; Members Only sale on Friday from 5-7, and you can join or renew that day; Saturday from 9-3, with food from Razzleberry.

See our plant page in this issue for detailed information on our What’s Hot plants.
President’s Letter

You should visit the Arboretum! We have bulbs blooming, plants leafing out, beautiful magnolia blossoms, and azaleas in so many colors. Even our parking lot and Visitor Center glow with color.

Many more of you are attending our programs, and seem to enjoy them. Debbie Roberts’ landscaping program was a big hit. A large crowd learned about tool maintenance, landscaping hints, and got some very practical practice in pruning. Our earthquake lecture by Dr. Robert Hatcher was a sellout, with only four empty seats in the City Room at Roane State. Arbor Day at Linden School was a splash of color as the kids all came to school that day wearing primary colors and sang as we planted the Bald Cypress. Our annual tour went to the Philadelphia International Flower Show and other stops nearby. If you have never joined us for one of these tours, planned by Dennis Superczynski, you need to put it on your vacation agenda: great places, good prices and lots of fun people to enjoy – not to mention the plants you come home with and the special meals and gift shops you get to visit. We just finished the second Father-Daughter trail walk with Jeff Holt at the Arboretum. We had over 80 people in attendance, father-daughter combinations of all ages. Thank you for your interest in our programs so far; we have another fourteen sprinkled through the year! Go to our web site, www.utarboretumsociety.org, to find the full schedule for the year. We’ll be adding another lecture of very unique nature by a chef from a very famous establishment in the area in a few weeks. Don’t forget to check the web site and publicity on this event. It promises to be quite a show.

Interested in learning about hollies? What varieties grow best here, how to care for them, how to prune them? Attend one of our Holly Work Days and you can spend several hours working alongside experts in the field who will be pleased to share their knowledge and experience with you. The next work day is April 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided.

Enjoy this spring, one of the best times of year in Tennessee. I already have a list that will require at least eight weeks of work in the next four – but isn’t it fun to think you can actually do that!!

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

Director’s Desk

Frequently we are asked about those curious-looking white posts, with red numbers, scattered throughout the Arboretum. I can imagine a visitor pondering the meaning of a two-foot four-sided wooden post with different numbers on each side, often sited by itself. What could it be? Hummmm….

To the Arboretum, these important posts are plot posts. If you find one, there should be other post about 200 feet away - exactly 200 feet away! The posts mark corners of a grid system that divides the Arboretum into 120, 200’ x 200’ square plots. The numbers on each side of the post are the plot numbers and they face the center of the plot. Why?

Keeping up with the location of hundreds of specimen plants in the Arboretum collection is a daunting task. If you are searching for a particular plant, it helps if you can narrow the search. The plot posts are only useful if the location information is associated with a plant. This association is found in our electronic plant inventory database.

Information, such as location, is in the plant inventory database that also contains information on correct scientific and common names, dates received, when planted, collector, country of origin, etc. Unique to each plant is another strange feature – the accession code. This code can be found in the bottom left-hand corner of most of the name plaques, and may look like this: “ILOP - D- 86.” Interpreted correctly it means: “Ilex opaca ‘Dana’ …planted/acquired in 1986.” This shorthand name follows the plant throughout its life at the UT Arboretum, sometimes engraved on the name plaque and always affixed to the plant in several places with a small embossed metal tag, helping to guard against the disassociation of the plant from its name and corresponding data.

Of special interest to UT Arboretum supporters, this electronic system of maintaining plant records in institutions such as ours was first conceived and developed in 1965 by Mr. Robert McDonald, the first director of the UT Arboretum. Bob refined this concept while he was at the UT Arboretum, and in 1970 established the American Horticulture Society’s Plant Record Center in Mount Vernon, Virginia, and became its director.

This is another behind-the-scenes look at the UT Arboretum’s inner workings!

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

~Richard Evans, Director
Upcoming Events

Holly Work Day
Saturday, April 2  9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  Holly Garden
Help the Holly Task Force weed, fertilize, prune and mulch the Elmore Holly Collection. Please bring a goose neck hoe for weed removal and mulching, pruning shears and a rake, and remember to bring your gloves. This is a great way to spend a few hours outdoors in the company of fellow plant enthusiasts. A light lunch and refreshments will be served. Contact Dennis Superczynski, 865-607-8512, jandport@tds.net.

Plant Sale Features What’s Hot
Friday and Saturday, April 15 & 16  Arboretum
We’ll have plenty of choices from a number of local growers, including hardy Gardenia, Hydrangeas and Yucca. We’ll also have edible landscape plants and some herbs. Don’t forget that Razzleberry Ice Cream Lab will be there on Saturday, selling bratwurst, barbecue and ice cream. Bring your family and enjoy more than just the plants! Norm Dobbs is Plant Sale chair.

Moth-er’s Night Out with Kris Light
Saturday, May 21  7:30 p.m.  Arboretum
Curious about moths and other night-flying insects? Come on down to enjoy an evening out at this family friendly event. Black lights and sheets will attract moths and more. Kris will give a short presentation, then after sunset we’ll go out to observe the insects that come to the sheets. Local moth enthusiasts will be available to help identify them. Learn what kinds of creatures come out in the woods at night. Besides moths, we might see beetles, stoneflies, mayflies, and even a few stick insects.

Lavender Festival
Saturday, June 18  8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  Jackson Square, Oak Ridge
UTAS will have a booth at this event, held during the weekend of the Secret City Festival. Historic Jackson Square will be filled with plants, food vendors, arts and crafts, music, demonstrations, and lots of fun. Stop in at the UTAS booth.

Richard Evans Retirement Party
Tuesday, June 21  4-6 p.m.  Arboretum
Everyone is welcome to come out and help celebrate as we bid a fond farewell to Richard Evans after many years of serving as Director of the UT Arboretum. We’ll have more details soon. Emily Jernigan chairs this event.

Stumped?

What are Yuccas doing growing in the Arboretum forests?
Several Yuccas can be seen along the North Forest Loop Road, the new Rock Pile Lead trail, and elsewhere on the Arboretum. These plants are known as Adam’s Needle, Bear Grass, or Spanish Bayonet (Yucca filamentosa) and most likely represent ones that were planted at or escaped from old home sites. They have sword-like pointed leaves (8-32 inches long) that radiate upward from very short woody stems at the ground surface. The margins of these fibrous leaves fray into stiff, filamentous, white threads that curl along the leaf edges.

Yucca filiflora’ Threads
Photo by Bob Reed

Yucca belongs to the plant family Agavaceae (though some botanists assign it to the Liliaceae). There are 40-50 species of Yucca present in our area – Yucca filamentosa and Y. flaccida – both commonly called Adam’s Needle. Some botanists consider these both to be Yucca filiflora. These species were most likely originally found along coastal areas of the Southeast but have become naturalized inland to the west and north.

One of the cultivars used in landscaping – Yucca ‘Bright Edge’ — will be available at the UTAS Spring Plant Sale.

Bob Reed provided the information for this answer. Thanks!

Welcome, New Board Members

Charles Samuels is from Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in History and from the University of Arkansas with an MS in Management. Charlie, his wife, Roseanne, and three of their four children moved to Oak Ridge in 1987 after Charlie retired from the Army. He has worked with several companies as a contracts manager. Although he says he’s not a tree or woody plant expert, he says, “You don’t have to be a biologist or master gardener to enjoy the Arboretum. It has something for almost everyone and is one of the treasures of Oak Ridge. UTAS dynamically supports the facility and performs community outreach with plant sales and programs. The Arboretum and the Arboretum Society are worthy of our continuing support.”

Charlie’s hobby is photography—you will rarely see him without a camera. He and Roseanne live in Oak Ridge.

Brenda Kimmel grew up in Paducah, Kentucky and Kingston, Tennessee. She is a retired ORNL employee and a longtime Oak Ridge resident. She and her husband, Bruce Kimmel, moved back to Kingston 10 years ago to live on Watts Bar Reservoir. Brenda is active in Master Gardeners of Roane County, Harriman Garden Club, Arissa Garden Club of Oak Ridge, and keep Roane Litter Free/Keep Roane Beautiful. She is pleased to serve as a new UTAS board member.
Committee Reports

Plant Collections
Richard Evans emailed this observation, of a recent Arboretum visitor, thanking Lynn Carlson and her committee for their work in making our new parking lot a destination in its own right: “Yesterday evening I observed a visitor admiring one of the new Magnolias in the parking lot. She studied the flowers, walked away, came back and took special note of the ID sign, walked away, came back and smelled the flower, walked away, came back and smelled again, walked away, came back again and admired the flowers and smelled several, and walked away and admired it for a full minute from a distance. It made me happy. Thanks for all your help with this project!!!” It obviously made the visitor happy, too. In response, Tom Row noted, “So nice to read your comments! Your observation is the payoff for those who volunteer. For the woman, it was something she could not have bought in any store or watched on TV, and will retain for a long time.” This group is now working on expanding the Viburnum collection that will be visible all the way up the road from the parking lot. If you’d like to volunteer for some of our plant projects that can bring happy moments and memories like these, contact Plant Collections Committee chair, Lynn Carlson, at lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu, or any of our other board members. You’ll have a great time helping out.

Native Plant Group
Lee Ann Dobbs heads this group that continues to keep the beds around the Visitor’s Center and on the hillside looking lovely. Like the parking lot, they are a destination area welcoming visitors to the Arboretum. They usually meet in the morning on the third Wednesday of the month, and sometimes meet more often. Contact Lee Ann Dobbs, leadob@bellsouth.net, 482-6566, to join in.

The Elmore Holly Collection Happenings
A Holly Workday was held on January 29 to construct additional deer fencing. Barry Shupe led the construction and installation. Twenty-one additional fences were installed with the help of volunteers Ken Farrell, Fran Scheidt, and Dennis Superczynski.
There will be three additional Holly Work sessions in 2011: April 2, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; July 16, 9 a.m. - Noon; and November 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dennis Superczynski, Holly Task Force

Arbor Day/Tree City Celebration
Oak Ridge’s 23rd Annual Tree City USA Award Ceremony was held at Linden Elementary School, with Tom Row, UTAS president, presiding. The students were learning their primary colors by observing Wacky Dress Day, wearing primary colored clothes and using colored markers on their faces and arms. Tom announced that he was changing the name of the ceremony to Wacky Arbor Day in Oak Ridge.
The Bald Cypress tree was chosen by the school as the tree to plant near their newly created wetlands area.
Lee Ann Dobbs coordinates this activity with the City of Oak Ridge.

Landscaping Maintenance - Tools and Ideas
Debbie Roberts, UTAS Board Member, Horticulutrist and owner of Plant Concepts, gave an excellent talk to a good crowd on proper pruning techniques, tool maintenance and landscaping hints. She followed this up with practical pruning demonstrations out in the Holly Collection. She answered many questions from the enthusiastic attendees on pruning and a wide range of topics. We all came away ready to tackle our landscape with some new ideas.

Earthquake Lecture
Our Earthquake lecture by Dr. Robert Hatcher, UT Professor of Tectonics and Structural Geology, was a sellout. The City Room at RSCC was filled with people eager to learn about potential earthquakes right in our own backyards. The terrible quake that struck Japan a few weeks ago reminds us of the tremendous power of these events. We’re very lucky not to be living in a tsunami zone!

New Sign Recognizes Huey and Barbara Sides’ Azalea Donations
A new sign has been erected to mark the area where azaleas donated by Huey and Barbara Sides are planted. The hillside area near the Visitor’s Center draws attention all spring as the blooms from their hybridized azaleas offer waves of color. Their generous donations enhance the experience of everyone who visits the Arboretum. The Native Plant Group maintains this area, as well as the beds around the Visitor’s Center.
Rogers Group Completes Pledge

The Rogers Group generously pledged $500,000 to the University of Tennessee Arboretum Endowment in 2006, and in December 2010, they fulfilled their commitment. This generous gift kicked off the $3 million Endowment campaign to secure the future of one the University of Tennessee’s greatest resources: the UT Arboretum. Their gift is still the largest cash commitment to any of the University of Tennessee Experiment Stations.

The Arboretum is fortunate to have a neighbor like The Rogers Group that values the Forest Resources Research Center and the Arboretum for their beauty and contributions to the ecological heritage of the area. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture needs neighbors such as The Rogers Group that understand the research, education, and outreach mission of our programs and invest in our future. We have named a trail at the Arboretum to honor The Rogers Group’s generous gift, and it demonstrates that we have partners in securing our future. When you see representatives of The Rogers Group, please thank them on behalf of the Arboretum. As we progress in our efforts to expand programs and facilities at the Arboretum, it would be great to continue to recognize the leadership of their company.

New & Renewing Members-Thanks!

Marion Alexander  
Jean Bangham  
Faye Beck  
Lydia Birk  
Dianne Blane  
Kathy Bracic  
Lynn Carlson  
Janet & Bob Cushman  
Deborah Cutler  
H.R. DeSelm  
Norman & Lee Ann Dobbs  
Terry & Betty Anne Domm  
Margaret Dory  
Ruth Ewald  
David Flitcroft  
Elwood & Roslyn Gift  
Linda Grandage  
Lynda & Chuck Haynes  
Cecil & Betts Higgins  
Dot and Robert Hightower  
Jeff & Lece Holt  
James S. Johnson  
Manfred O. Krause  
Barbara Landau  
Anne McKenzie  
Rosa Murr  
Edmond & Marsee Nephew  
Edward & Shirley Nicholson  
Jesse Mae M. Noritake  
Wendy Packan  
Ruth Pardue  
June E. Peishel  
Joel & Mary Prince  
Richard & Mona Raridon  
Davis & Susan Reed  
Dan & Eva Robbins  
William & Muriel Sirett  
Dr. Alan Solomon  
Paul & Barbara Taylor  
Rita Trusley  
Fred & Aase Vaslow  
Jenna & Mark Watson

View Branches Online

Look for an email reminder from UTAS with a link to Branches on our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org. 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 and check it out any time.

Email & Membership Notes

If your email address changes, please notify me, emily@jernigans.net. If your mailing address changes, please send an email to emily@jernigans.net. The Post Office charges us for every piece of returned mail.

Renew now! Check your Branches label for your membership expiration date! You’ll get a reminder, use the form on this page, 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

The Rogers Group announces its Endowment Pledge of $500,000 in the fall of 2006. Anyone spot a familiar face on the far left?
It was ‘Springtime in Paris’ at the Philadelphia International Flower Show

University of Tennessee Arboretum Society 2011 tour members, eager to get a head start on spring in early March, met in Philadelphia for this year’s UTAS tour. Arriving early for a private VIP tour, we stepped from one continent to another as we entered the 2011 Philadelphia International Flower Show. A stunning Parisian park filled with an allée of Cherry and Zelkova trees and blooming flowerbeds greeted us. The garden, planted in an Art Nouveau design, provided a luxurious setting for the 33-foot tall replica of the Eiffel Tower. From the 25,000 blooming tulips to the ubiquitous yellow, orange, and red. Inside the conservatory we immersed ourselves in a dazzling world of orchids where colorful blooms draped from walls, flow from pedestals, and are even fashioned into curtains. Through the end of March, Longwood Gardens filled the conservatory with a world of dazzling orchids featuring the best collectors and growers from Hawaii to South America. Along with the conservancy and its permanent collections from the plant world, our guests enjoyed listening to the 1930 Longwood Organ, the largest Aeolian organ ever constructed. It contains 10,010 pipes, and its restoration, begun in 2000, was completed in 2010, so we were very fortunate to be able to hear it played.

The morning of the second day brought us to Longwood Gardens for an escorted tour of the grounds leading to the Conservatory. Outside the conservatory the grounds were sprouting heads of thousands of spring bulbs planted last fall, while blooming witchhazels (Hamamelis) danced in the sunlight, displaying their flowers of yellow, orange, and red. Inside the Conservatory we immersed ourselves in a dazzling world of orchids where colorful blooms drape from walls, flow from pedestals, and are even fashioned into curtains. Through the end of March, Longwood Gardens filled the conservatory with a world of dazzling orchids featuring the best collectors and growers from Hawaii to South America. Along with the conservancy and its permanent collections from the plant world, our guests enjoyed listening to the 1930 Longwood Organ, the largest Aeolian organ ever constructed. It contains 10,010 pipes, and its restoration, begun in 2000, was completed in 2010, so we were very fortunate to be able to hear it played.

The afternoon we visited The Galleries of The Barnes Foundation. Here, we had the opportunity to view one of the finest collections of French early Modern and Postimpressionist painting in the world. Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, and a long list of renowned artists are represented on the walls of this original Albert C. Barnes house. It and 12-acre arboretum were bought in 1925 in Merion, Pennsylvania. Our group was fortunate to visit this original gallery, as it will close its doors forever when relocated to Center City Philadelphia in 2012.

Several of our guests elected to take advantage of our visit to the truly historical city of Philadelphia for an additional day, when we enjoyed a narrated trolley tour of the city followed with personal choice visits to the many attractions available. Some enjoyed the Philadelphia Museum of Art, viewing young athletes run briskly up the stairs in “Rocky” fashion, or this writer’s favorite, Independence Hall, for a narrated visit of the site where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were created.

UTAS Tours are offered for its membership at reduced prices.

~Dennis Superczynski, UTAS Garden Tour Director

Maria Compere & Her Daffodils

Over many years the Pellissippi Parkway has changed from a conventionally landscaped state highway to a beautiful springtime daffodil and flowering tree display. One woman, Maria Compere, 94 years young, has been the driving force behind this springtime beauty that we all enjoy. Her diligent efforts to plant and maintain these plantings on the Parkway have created this amazing transformation enjoyed by thousands every spring.

A recent Covenant Health Platinum Award winner, Maria Compere has sold 65,000 bulbs to the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge in the last 10 years, so that beauty continues into Oak Ridge. She has dreams of planting these bulbs all the way to the Knoxville airport. The Arboretum has also received bulb donations from Maria. About eight years ago, she called the Arboretum office and offered to donate 200 leftover daffodil bulbs from her Pellissippi project if we would plant them at the Arboretum. The offer came at a fortunate time, because Richard Evans was contemplating expanding a small daffodil bed that already existed just inside Arboretum entrance. With Maria’s bulbs, the bed grew to include the whole bank. Now, in spring, the Arboretum entrance is graced by a golden mass of daffodils and is a magnet to visitors wanting those Easter photos of children playing among this sea of flowers. Just a few weeks ago we planted approximately 300 more of Maria’s donated daffodils in our new parking lot area.

Thanks Maria, your generosity and vision contribute so much to the beauty of East Tennessee in the springtime!
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!

Debbie Roberts lead the Landscape, Tools and Pruning Workshop. Jeff Holt organized our Landscape, Tools and Pruning Workshop. Lee Ann Dobbs facilitated the Arbor Day Celebration. Barry Shupe led the creation of deer fencing for the hollies. Tom Row arranged the Earthquake lecture. Dennis Superczynski organized and led another outstanding tour. Bob Reed answered the Stumpy question and took photos for it.

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 recently fulfilled its pledge of a $500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The UT Arboretum Society has contributed over $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
P.O. Box 5382
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Getting off to a good gardening start, they help pick out plants they like. Come on out and choose your own!

See You at the Plant Sale
Friday, April 15, 5-7 p.m. for Members only. Join or renew at the door.
Saturday, April 16, 9-3 for All. Razzleberry Ice Cream Lab will be there with brats, bbq, and ice cream.

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

Upcoming Events

April 2       Holly Work Day
April 15 & 16  Plant Sale
May 21       Moth-er’s Night Out
June 18      Lavender Festival
June 21    Richard Evans Retirement Party
June 25    Nature Photography Workshop