Retirement Party
The UT Arboretum Society hosted a retirement party for Center Director Richard Evans on June 21 at the Visitor’s Center at the Arboretum. About 75 people attended the party to honor and thank Richard for his 39 years of service to the UT Forest Resources Center and Arboretum. Among those speaking were Tom Row, UTAS President; Buddy Mitchell, UT Interim Chancellor, Agriculture; John Byrd, CRESO; Jim Evans, TWRA; and Homer Fisher, UT Senior Vice President Emeritus. Homer praised Richard and said that, “Richard has done more with less (funding) than anyone else I know!” Carole Evans shared stories about living at the Arboretum for so many years, highlighting some humorous events she and Richard experienced there. Carole also created a scrapbook for Richard that documented his work, and kindly allowed us to display it at the party. Arboretum volunteer Nancy Smith created a visual timeline featuring some of Richard’s many accomplishments during his tenure here. Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan presented Richard a key to the city, and pointed out the importance to Oak Ridge of the Arboretum and Richard’s work. The speakers told stories of their interactions with Richard, and all of them commended his dedication to his work, and his ability to manage many disparate jobs, often at the same time. Other speakers included a representative from the Rogers Group, which has contributed a $500,000 Founding Gift to the Arboretum Endowment Campaign, and UTAS members Norm Dobbs, Jeff Holt and Emily Jernigan. The final speaker was Richard and Carole’s daughter, Ashley Pedersen, who lives in Seattle and was unable to attend in person. She recorded a very moving video tribute to her father, and reminisced about growing up at the Arboretum. More photos and a link to the YouTube video are available at our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org.

Carole gave Richard a Purple Martin house, and UTAS gave him a Kindle and an Amazon gift certificate. Richard concluded the event by thanking everyone, and reminding us that he will still be on the job for six months with a post-retirement appointment as he helps the new Center Director transition into the post. Dr. Kevin Hoyt was named the new Director a few days after Richard’s party, and we will introduce him in the next issue of Branches. UT will host a retirement event for Richard this fall.

Emily Jernigan headed the party planning team that included Lee Ann Dobbs, Lynda Haynes, Pat Hunsicker, Lynne Lucas, Pat Row and Marti Salk.
President’s Letter

We have lots to celebrate at the Arboretum. We toasted and celebrated with Richard and Carole Evans at Richard’s retirement party at the Arboretum. Many people spoke about knowing and working with Richard through his 39 years at the Center. They were unanimous in their praise of his work ethic and his accomplishments. The University of Tennessee is supporting completion of a database of all the research projects at the Center, which will facilitate future research there. Read more about the party in this issue of Branches.

Special thanks go to our Retirement Party team, headed by Emily Jernigan with help from Lee Ann Dobbs, Lynda Haynes, Pat Hunsicker, Lynne Lucas, Pat Row and Marti Salk.

We all wish Richard and Carole the best as they move into the next phase of their life, enjoying free time, a nice big vegetable garden, and most of all, family. And many of us know that ‘family’ can be spelled another way: ‘grandchildren’!

A few days after this celebration, UT announced that Dr. Kevin Hoyt would be the new Director of the Forest Resources Research and Education Center and Arboretum. I had the privilege of representing UTAS as a member of the University’s selection team for the new director. I applaud UT’s process that was professional in every way and fair to all who applied.

Kevin is a UT graduate with experience in forestry, research and conservation. He comes to us from Crossville where he is a senior forestry analyst and sustainable forest manager. I predict that Kevin will be very successful during his tenure here. Richard will work alongside Kevin for six months to help ensure a smooth transition. We want everyone to get to know him better and to welcome him to Oak Ridge and the Arboretum.

UTAS members have received a letter from Dean Brown encouraging you to seriously consider a contribution to the Endowment Fund for the Arboretum. Our future looks very bright, and I hope most of you will be a part of making things like a new auditorium, extra staff, enhanced programs and increased visibility for the Arboretum happen. We’re well on our way, and we want you to join us in this important venture.

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

Director’s Desk

In nature, as in life, you can count on one thing for certain – change! Anyone who loves plants can attest to the certainty of change. Our plant-entangled yards that once embraced open space and green grass have succumbed to the shade of cute little plants that somehow outgrew their allotted space. The pace of change is sometimes slow, and at other times change roars in, ready or not.

The UT Arboretum is no stranger to change, and its character and appearance is an assimilation of, and adaptation to, changes. The February 1993 tornado that swept across the Arboretum is an example of how fast change can be laid at your doorstep. That event left several acres of once forested land in a tangle of blown-down trees. Some would say it was a disaster, but we took a different approach. We chose to look at it as an opportunity to convert these areas into much-needed space to expand the Elmore Holly Collection, to add more sites for research and for the introduction of new plant specimens.

In my 40 years as Center Director I’ve learned that opportunities always accompany changes. We are presently removing trees that were planted in 1967 for a shade tree research project. Yes, I cringe each time one of those trees hits the ground, for I have spent 40 years nurturing them and seeing them fulfill the role for which they were intended. However, there are new opportunities afforded by this change: a renewal of land and space to introduce new plant specimens to the Arboretum or to explore the scientific questions that relate to the resources we nurture.

The Forest Resources Center and Arboretum is entering a new period of change. With Dr. Kevin Hoyt assuming the leadership role as Center and Arboretum Director, we can embrace this change as a renewal of purpose, an opportunity to keep moving the Arboretum forward toward greater achievements in programing, education, and research, while preserving a place that brings enjoyment to so many people.

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

~Richard Evans, Post Retirement Appointment Director
Welcome, Dr. Kevin Hoyt!

Shortly after Richard Evans’ UTAS retirement party, Kevin Hoyt was named the new Center Director. According to a UT press release, “The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture has chosen a senior forestry analyst and sustainable forest manager from Crossville to serve as director of the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center and Arboretum. Dr. Kevin Hoyt will begin his new position on July 5.

Hoyt is no stranger to the UT Institute of Agriculture, having received his Bachelor of Science in Forest Management, Master of Science in Forestry and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources all from the University of Tennessee. In addition, he has worked as an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. His most recent experience is with Huber Engineered Woods, LLC, in Spring City.

Dr. Bill Brown, dean of UT AgResearch is pleased that Dr. Hoyt could join the UT AgResearch team. ‘Kevin brings a wealth of experience in industry that will benefit our students and research programs and his familiarity with sustainable forestry practices will continue to advance the Center’s traditions of environmental stewardship,’ Brown said.

Regarding his appointment, Hoyt is thrilled. ‘Being named as the new Director of the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education is truly an honor and fulfills my lifelong goal of working in public outreach, education and for the advancement of natural resources research at my alma mater,’ he said.

Hoyt added, ‘Following Richard Evans in this position is truly a humbling experience given his long tenure in the position. I hope to build on his foundation and legacy in sustaining the Center’s future programs and initiatives.’”

All of us at the UT Arboretum Society look forward to meeting Kevin and to working with him to support the Arboretum as we have been doing for the past 46 years. We will have a more personal introduction in the next issue of Branches.

Upcoming Events

Two Fall Wildflower Walks with Kris Light

Saturday, September 17  10 a.m. and 2 p.m.  Arboretum

Kris’s wildflower walks are so popular that we’ve had to add a second walk, and request that you call ahead to reserve your spot. Help us make sure that everyone enjoys all aspects of their walk. When the crowd gets too big, it’s more difficult to hear Kris and to see the wildflowers she’s talking about. Please call the Arboretum at 865-483-3571 to save your spot.

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 8  9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  Arboretum

Plant Sale chair Norm Dobbs will put together another tree-rific event this fall. Come out to the Arboretum and find an assortment of plants to spruce up your landscape. Look for more details in the fall issue of Branches.

Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell

Saturday, October 22  6:30 p.m.  Arboretum

Keep your eyes open for this very popular event! You never know what kinds of wild creatures you’ll find at night in the Arboretum, so mark you calendars for October 22.

UTAS Donates Funds to Endowment and Operations

UTAS president, Tom Row, presented a check for $5,000 to Tom Looney of the UT Institute of Agriculture Development Office at the party for Richard Evans. UTAS has now contributed more than $40,000 to the Endowment Fund. At the same event, Tom presented a check for $10,000 to Richard Evans for the ongoing operations at the Arboretum. UTAS has been helping to further the objectives of the Arboretum and the Center for 46 years now, and plans to continue this well into the future. We appreciate all that our members and others do to help us in this effort.

Tom Looney and Richard Evans both have checks from UTAS. Carole Evans and Lynne Lucas look on. Photo by Charles Samuels.

Homer Fisher commends Richard on his long and productive career with UT. Photo by Charles Samuels

Richard Evans and Kris Light. Photo by Charles Samuels

Lecie Holt, Eileen Neiler and Yvonne Hitchcock admire Carole Evans’ scrapbook. Photo by Charles Samuels
Workshops & Talks

Father-Daughter Walk with Jeff Holt
The Father Daughter Walk was a big hit! At least 80 participants turned out to enjoy a walk on an Arboretum trail, led by Jeff Holt, certified Forester and UTAS member. This is one of UTAS’s programs designed to provide entertaining and educational outdoor activities for children. Many thanks go to Jeff for leading the group, Charlie Samuels for the safety briefing, Richard Evans for his official UTA welcome, and Melanie Staten for great publicity.

Biofuels/ Switchgrass Talk by Dr. Sam Jackson
Dr. Sam Jackson spoke to about 60 people in the City Room of Roane State Community College on the development of switchgrass as a bioenergy feedstock. Sam, a former intern at the UT Research Station, is now a Research Assistant Professor at UT’s Office of Bioenergy Programs and a Vice President for Feedstock Operations at Genera Energy in Vonore, TN. He discussed his work with UT faculty, legislators and farmers to foster the growing of switchgrass and other materials to use as feedstock at the Genera Energy facility. Genera works closely with UT’s Biofuels Initiative, a $70.5 M state program designed to integrate the switchgrass feedstock supply chain with bioenergy and bioproducts industries in the state, leading to the establishment of nearly 5,000 acres of switchgrass in East Tennessee. The Vonore plant is one of the world’s first demonstration-scale cellulosic ethanol biorefineries. To learn more about Genera, visit http://generaenergy.net. Thanks go to Richard Evans for arranging this event.

Wild Edibles and Foraging: Jeff Ross, Garden Manager at Blackberry Farms
Jeff Ross captivated a large crowd at the UTAS-sponsored talk on foraging and wild edible. Using his knowledge of history, culinary arts and horticulture, Jeff pointed our plants all around us that are not just edible but are very tasty. The flowers and pods of the Honey Locust are edible, as are the young stems of Cattails. He encouraged us to finely chop the new growth tips of Hemlock, mix them with coarse salt and use them like Rosemary. Lamb’s Quarter is loaded with Vitamin C and is related to beets. Queen Anne’s Lace is a wild carrot, and is edible as long as there’s hair on the stems. Jeff said that Lovage has a celery-like flavor and that when their stem are older they become hollow - perfect for using as a straw! He said that we should consider eating the flowers of oregano, fennel, cucumber, radishes, clover, mint, and even rosemary. Pea tendrils are considered a rare delicacy in a salad. Jeff also shared some behind-the-scenes stories of gardening and cooking at world-famous Blackberry Farms. He offered samples of a Hemlock/ salt mixture for us to take home and try. We appreciate UTAS board member Stacey Fuller arranging for Jeff to come and talk with us.

Moth-er’s Night Out with Kris Light
Forty people attended the second annual Moth-er’s Night Out at the Arboretum to learn about moths and other nocturnal insects. After a presentation on moths, the group went outside and explored the gardens near the office looking for insects until nightfall when two white sheets illuminated by black lights attracted the insects. As the sun set, the moths, caddisflies, mayflies and even a huge fishfly soon landed on the sheets. The assortment of insects, including nearly 30 different species of moths, fascinated the participants. The moths included a White-spotted Leafroller Moth, a Grape Leafroller, a Tulip Tree Beauty, an Ultronia Under-wing, a Hebrew, and The Beggar moth. We appreciate Kris Light and her programs that help children and adults get excited about the natural world.

Enjoying Nature Photography in the Digital Age with Bob McLaren
Bob McLaren gave a short history of digital photography and discussed essential technology with about 18 participants at a Saturday morning Arboretum workshop. Do you know that the first digital camera was developed in 1975 and had a whopping 0.01 megapixels. Today you can buy a good digital camera with 14 megapixels for under $100! Bob told us that a full frame DSLR camera can have 24 megapixels with a very large sensor and price to match. He discussed different camera types and their advantages. He mentioned other equipment like filters, a tripod, flash and extra lenses that will help nature and other photographers take better pictures. He showed many examples of nature photographs, including landscape, panorama and wildlife photos. Bob is planning more photography talks, and we invite everyone to come listen and learn.

Butterflies and Insects with Kris Light
About 45 people showed up for the Butterfly workshop offered by UTAS and Kris Light. All the kids were excited to see and catch lots of insects. It was great to have so many people interested in getting their children outdoors and helping them explore different aspects of nature here in the Arboretum. All of our nature programs have been very well attended, and Kris hopes to continue offering these and other presentations in conjunction with UTAS. We hope she does, too!
Committee Reports

Plant Collections
The Plant Collections committee is working on the Viburnum Valley project that will start this fall. These viburnums will be planted along the road leading from the Visitor’s Center toward the shelter. The committee is still looking for some specific plants for Phase I of this project, and will need others to continue filling in the space next year. They are looking for 3-5 gallon sizes, to be grown in pots in the Arboretum shadehouse and planted this fall.

If you know a source for any of these plants, please contact Lynn Carlson at lbcarson@alumni.indiana.edu.

V. × pragense Prague viburnum. Need 5.
V. opulus ‘compactum’ would be an acceptable substitute, but the species (i.e., non-cultivar) would be too big for the allotted space.
V. × burkwoodii ‘Mohawk’ Mohawk viburnum. Need 3.
V. × juddii Judd viburnum. Need 1.
V. macrocephalum Chinese snowball bush viburnum. Need 2.
V. cassinoidea withered viburnum. Need 1.
V. dentatum ‘Northern Burgundy’ arrowwood viburnum. Need 1.

Native Plant Group
This group keeps the beds and other areas around the Visitor’s Center looking cheerful even in all this heat. They planted over 80 trilliums last fall that Craig Voris donated to the Arboretum. These ‘Little Sweet Betsy’ (t. cuneatum) trillium youngsters were all doing well this spring at their four locations. The group usually meets in the morning on the third Wednesday of the month, March through November. Contact Lee Ann Dobbs, leadob@bellsouth.net, 482-6566, to join in.

The Elmore Holly Collection Happenings
Thirteen volunteers turned out on April 2 to get the Elmore Holly Collection ready for spring. They fertilized the younger hollies, pruned, cleaned up and spread a full truck load of mulch. The UT Arboretum and the Collection were featured as scheduled events in the 2011 Dogwood Arts Festival, and we can be very proud of the spring holly display our visitors got to see.


On July 16, ten UTAS volunteers set out to deep water the younger hollies in the collection. They were aided in their efforts by heavy thunderstorms the previous day that cooled things off and minimized the amount of watering needed. They selectively pruned some of the hollies and performed general cleanup that revived the collection from summertime stress. Special thanks go to Yvonne Hitchcock, an outstanding Arboretum employee, for setting up the watering tank, pump, and lengthy hose.

Volunteers included Gary Salk, Marti Salk, Tom Row, Ken Farrell, Barry Shupe, Don Searle, Fran Scheidt, Carmen Gianforte, Dennis Superczynski and Yvonne Hitchcock.

The Holly Task Force completed the update of the official list of hollies in the collection and submitted it to Richard Evans. Several hollies from the greenhouse were identified for planting in the fall.

Dennis Superczynski, Holly Task Force

Stumped?

Should I prune my Crape Myrtle this fall?
NO! The best time to prune them is from January to April when the tree is dormant and the sap is not frozen. According to Richard Evans, a good online resource for information on Crape Myrtles is http://statesvilletrees.org/assets/crepemyrtle.pdf. This site notes, “For crape myrtles, pruning should be minimal, to remove basal suckers and damaged or crossed limbs. The natural round shrub or tree-form shape provides the best silhouette all year, promotes the healthiest growth of the plant, and costs the least amount of time and money to maintain.” This site also has a list of Crape Myrtle varieties and pointers on their care, including pruning dos and don’ts.

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

Plant Sale Volunteers-Thanks
Board member Beverly Woods did an outstanding job of recruiting these helpers for our sale. We appreciate her efforts and those of the volunteers. Very special thanks go to all volunteers who worked more than one shift and one day. Also, special thanks go to the UT Forest Resources Center Headquarters and Cumberland Forest staffs. Without their help our plant sales would not be possible.

*David & Betty Alspaugh
Kathy Bracic
Lynn Carlson
Cathy Cary
Katie Cottrell
Janet Cushman
Norm & Lee Ann Dobbs
Ken Farrell
Harvey Goranson
Chuck & Lynda Haynes
Chris Hamilton
Jeff & Lecie Holt
Pat Hunsicker
JoAnn Johnson
Noel Kawado
Larry Landau
Evelyn Lorenz
Peggy Mahoney
Beverly Milam
Eileen Neiler
Wendy Packan
Hella Peterson
Joel Prince
Dick Raridon
Susan Reed
Bob & Willow Reed
Bob Reynolds
Stan & Vicky Richards
Debbie Roberts
Tom Row
Gary & Marti Salk
Charles Samuels
Don Searle
Barry Shupe
William Sirett
Randy Stewart
Kathy Strunk
Irene Sullivan
Dennis Superczynski
* Jan Violet
Marie Walsh
* John & Peggy Wheeler
* Chris & Cathy Wieland
Will Witte
Beverly Woods

* Denotes first-time workers at a plant sale
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.

Weddings at the Arboretum

Plan a wedding with the UT Arboretum as the perfect backdrop. Go to www.utarboretumsociety.org and click on ‘Weddings’ or call 865-483-3571 for more information.

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

New & Renewing Members-Thanks!

Karin Adler
Dan & Carolyn Alexander
Mary F Alford
Bill & Lucretia Atterson
Ralph & Belinda Aurin
John Baranyi
Sandra M Barry
Mozelle R Bell
Jerry Black
Dianne Blane
Michael Brown/Betty Evans
Jonathan & Marie Bullock
Barbara Bunting
Julie Carey
Katie Cottrell
James H Day
Carol Dee
Laura Derr
Warren Devine
Kara Disbrow
Betty Dreyer
Art Dworkin
Peter & Mary Ann Emanuel
Viola Ergen
Richard & Carole Evans
Darren Fuller
Stacy Fuller
Carmen & Josie Gianforte
Harvey Goranson
Margaret Gottshall
Judi & Len Gray
David Greenwood
Doug & Sally Gross
Mary Herron
Doug & Cyndi Jeffers
Clara Joan Johnson
Karen Johnson
Jan Kern
Kathleen Kitzmiller
Mary H Kollie
Susan Kreke
Sabina & Tim LaClair
Christine Lee
Evelyn Lorenz
David Mabry
Peggy & Mike Mahoney
Joseph A Mallard
Debbie McCoy
Sara Melton
Beverly R Milam
Chandra Milam
Martha Orrin
Vince Stevens & Mary Palmer
David & Mary Ann Piper
Marian Poteat
Joan F Roberts
James A Rome
Murray & Mimi Rosenthal
Janie V Salyers
David H Scanlon III
Barrie Smith/Thomas Schmitt
Carole Schulman
Don & Vickie Searle
Margret Elgin/Dave Snider
Barbara & Bob Stone
Susan Thomason
John Trattar
Timothy Vane
Janice M Violet
Harold Waddle
Nyta Wall
Marie Walsh
Julie Watts/Robert Devault
George & Lessie Werner
John & Peggy Wheeler
Valerie Widgren
Chris & Cathy Wieland
Beverly S Woods
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!

Beverly Woods organized the UTAS volunteers for the plant sale.
Norm Dobbs headed up the plant sale.
Debbie Roberts and Stacey Fuller helped Norm choose and acquire plants for the sale.
Ken Farrell donated many plants to the plant sale.
Kris Light continues to lead workshops at UTA.
Bob McLaren led a digital photography discussion.
Jeff Holt led our Lavender Festival booth and Father-Daughter Walk.
Dennis Superczynski organized two Holly Work Days.
Razzleberry’s sold delicious food at 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 recently fulfilled its pledge of a $500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The UT Arboretum Society has contributed over $40,000 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

Sept. 17  Two Fall Wildflower Walks with Kris Light, 10 am, 2 pm
Oct. 8  Fall Plant Sale
Oct. 22  Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell
Nov. 8  Annual Meeting and Dinner
Nov. 22  Holly Work Day

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.