Plan for Our New Auditorium
We’re well on our way to funding the construction of this exciting new Arboretum structure. You can help us build it!

Meet our New Board Members
We welcome new board members David Alspaugh, Janet Bigelow, and Debi Boody, and thank Ken Farrell, Jeff Holt, and Debbie Roberts for serving.

Send your tax-deductible gift to:
The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Office of Institutional Advancement
114 Morgan Hall
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996

Please make checks payable to the “University of Tennessee Foundation” designated for the “Arboretum Auditorium Gift Fund.”

Contact information 865-974-5779 E-mail UTIAadvancement@tennessee.edu

Artist’s preliminary rendering of the Auditorium
President's Letter

2012 was an exciting year. UTAS completed Phases 1 and 2 of the Viburnum Valley ahead of schedule thanks to Lynn Carlson, the Plant Collections Group, and a number of volunteers. The Holly Task Force maintained the Elmore Holly Collection in world-class shape thanks to Dennis Superczynski and the dedicated Task Force members. Huey Sides and Norm Dobbs have done significant work on the azaleas along the Heath Cove Trail, and you will see trail maintenance and new benches on the trail thanks to an Eagle Scout project. Kevin Hoyt and his crew have finished refurbishing the informational kiosk in the parking lot, and we now have the donation tube back in place there. UTAS and the FRREC presented a number of informative, interesting, and enjoyable programs for diverse age and interest groups.

UTAS and the FRREC will continue to sponsor programs during 2013 that we hope will interest you and inspire you to increase your use of the Arboretum and participation in UTAS. Our various task forces and groups have never ceased their dedicated efforts to develop the Arboretum as a regional educational and recreational resource. We encourage you to visit the kiosk. UTAS will use the back side of the kiosk to publicize programs and activities, present information, and invite Arboretum users to join and participate in UTAS and support the Arboretum financially. And, of course, we continue to recruit new members and seek financial support for the Arboretum, its facilities and activities.

We're doing some new things, too. UTAS will sponsor a float in the 2013 Oak Ridge Christmas Parade. If you have a recommendation for a theme for the float or other ideas for this new project, please contact me by e-mail at samuels253@comcast.net.

The Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau (ORCVB) has consented to sell UTAS T-shirts and other merchandise in their Secret City Gift Store located in the Community Center (the old Wildcat Den) on the Oak Ridge Turnpike. We will expand the selection of items available for sale soon. Keep the ORCVB Gift Store in mind if you need unusual gifts related to the Secret City, including the Arboretum. As always, we want to hear from YOU. Contact any board member with comments and recommendations regarding UTAS and any of our activities. Please consider including a tax deductible gift to UTAS, and please recruit one new family or individual member for the Society during 2013.

On behalf of the UTAS Board, I wish you a wonderful, healthy and happy 2013. May your trees, vines, flowers, and other plants grow strong and tall - with no weeds!

~Charles Samuels, UTAS President

Director's Desk

“Who is there that can tell me the name of the first person who dared to plant a tree in the universe? I put it to you: who is there that can tell me the name of the first person who dared to plant a tree on this hot, red, sandy earth?”

Abraham Lincoln

This quote by one of our greatest Presidents provides an inspirational foundation to help us visualize and ultimately realize the grand vision of the UT Arboretum Endowment that is focused on:

• perpetuating existing plant collections
• expanding future plant collections
• enhancing the grounds and trail system
• creating vibrant educational outreach programs
• creating an Arboretum program coordinator position
• improving facilities for public access and enjoyment

Given that the present is built on the past, and the future is built on the present, we should embrace this grand vision as our focal point for 2013 and beyond. In the fall of 2006 the UT Arboretum celebrated the announcement of a $500,000 seed gift from the Rogers Group, Inc. that would become the foundation for establishing a $3,000,000 endowment. Since then we have received individual gifts and have secured additional corporate pledges.

We can continue this positive trend by making our own pledges to the UT Arboretum Endowment in 2013, and by identifying other potential donors that the UT Institute of Agriculture Development staff can contact. Make contributions to the Endowment payable to the “University of Tennessee Foundation” designated on your check to the “UT Arboretum Endowment” and send to the UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Institutional Advancement, 114 Morgan Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996. Potential donors may also call the Development Office at 856-974-5779 for more information.

As I think about the last grand vision item listed above, improving facilities for public access and enjoyment, I remain optimistic that the proposed auditorium can become a reality before long. Although I cannot predict how long that may be, I can say that the $426,000 in secured pledges provides the cornerstone to make that part of the grand vision a reality. We can specifically support the proposed auditorium by sending our contributions to the address listed above and designating them on our checks to the “Arboretum Auditorium Gift Fund.”

I truly believe that the proposed auditorium is the catalyst that will ultimately bring the other grand vision items to fruition. It is the keystone for enhancing our present programs, the building block for future programming initiatives, a potential focal point for future plant collections, and the springboard for increased community and educational outreach. We will work towards this grand vision one day at a time until we achieve our goals.

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

~Kevin Hoyt, Director
Upcoming Events

Please check our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org, for updated and additional information on our events.

Dr. Scott Schlarbaum: Climate Change and Our Forests

Thursday, February 6  7 p.m.  City Room, Roane State Oak Ridge

UT Professor of Forest Genetics Dr. Scott Schlarbaum will discuss, “Why All the Concern about Climate Change? Forests in the Future will be very Different with or without Climate Change.” Come out and listen to what this distinguished professor has to say about a topic that’s very current.

Father-Daughter Hike with Jeff Holt

Saturday, February 23  9 a.m.  Arboretum

Remember to dress for outdoor weather.

Looking for an opportunity for a little father-daughter quality time outdoors? Come on out to the UT Arboretum on February 23 and meet at 9 a.m. for a fun, short hike (1 to 1 ½ hours) on Arboretum trails. Make this a late winter occasion to get off the couch and spend some quality time with your daughter outdoors. Wear clothes appropriate to the weather and boots/good shoes for outdoor walking.

This workshop will be held outdoors. Led by Jeff Holt, a local forester and UTAS member. We will meet in the parking lot.

Holly Work Day

Saturday, April 6  9 a.m. - noon  Elmore Holly Collection

Join the Holly Task Force and spend a few hours getting the collection ready for spring. We will fertilize, prune, mulch, and perform general cleanup. Contact Dennis Superczynski, 675-8502, jandport@tds.net, for more information or to sign up.

Spring Plant Sale

Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20  Arboretum

Save the Date! We’ll have a wide assortment of plants and will help you choose good plants for your landscape. Norm Dobbs is in charge of our primary fund-raising event. We’ll tell you more in the next edition of Branches and on our website.

Events Roundup

Owl Prowl

We had another spectacular Owl Prowl this year with over 200 attendees. Katie Cottrell and Kathy Strunk of the Clinch River Raptor Center brought owls and their expertise about them to a captivated audience in the program shelter. The Owl Prowl is one of our most popular events, and we’re happy to have so many children outdoors with us.

Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

About 80 people enjoyed the UTAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. After dinner and a very brief business meeting, Center Director Kevin Hoyt gave his report. He recognized staff member Mike Trammell for 25 years of repair, joining fellow staff members Bo Duncan and Yvonne Hitchcock who have already achieved that milestone. Kevin thanked all the UTAS volunteers who contribute so much to making the Arboretum the special place that it is. He then gave a review of the past year, and his vision for the future that will achieve the following goals: sustain the legacy; think outside the box; forge long-term partnerships; and leverage the Endowment.

Tom Looney, Director of Development at the UT Institute of Agriculture, updated us on the Endowment and reminded us that UTAS is the oldest society group supporting UT. We now have about $569,000 in the Endowment Fund and $550,000 pledged for the auditorium.

UTAS presented checks for $2500 to support Arboretum operations and for $5000 to the Endowment.

After election of officers and the board, UTAS President Charles Samuels gave the Distinguished Service Award to Huey Sides who was unable to attend the meeting. Lynne Lucas, UT Administrative Specialist at the Center was given a Service and Dedication Award. He then gave his remarks about the Arboretum and UTAS.

Our speaker, Andy Pulte, a gardening expert from UT, gave a talk on “Backgrounds and Borders: Design Theory and New Plants for Everyone.” Andy suggested that we look at our landscape from inside our homes when designing it because we most often view it from that perspective. He then stated that we should choose colors to reflect the mood we want to express and that we should limit our designs to three major colors. He concluded by inviting us to remember these principles: get to know other gardeners; interact with our gardens; and have garden adventures!

The Silent Auction generated about $1200. Lynda Haynes and Pat Row headed this event.

Auction Donors - Thanks!

| Businesses: |
| Axton Brewery |
| Buckhorn Inn |
| East Tennessee Children’s Hospital |
| Salon 327, Oak Ridge |
| Willow Ridge Garden Center |

| Members: |
| Tim & Janet Bigelow |
| Dan Claus and Wendy Packan |
| Katie Cottrell |
| Norm and Lee Ann Dobbs |
| Lynda Haynes |
| Yvonne Hitchcock and UT Center Staff |
| John and Nettie Hill and Buckhorn Inn |
| Kevin Hoyt |
| Jeff Holt |
| Emily & Charlie Jernigan |
| Kris Light |
| Peggy Mahoney |
| Tom and Pat Row |

Everyone is all eyes at a previous Owl Prowl. Photo by Kevin Hoyt
Committee Reports

Plant Collection Committee
The Viburnum Valley Project rejuvenates and enhances the Arboretum’s viburnum collection with the addition of new cultivars, forms, and species. The Plant Collections Committee is pleased to report that the project is finished. The new plantings expand the Arboretum collection significantly, while allowing community visitors an opportunity to see these plants as potential landscape subjects.

The planning began in 2010; more planning, acquisition of plants, and actual planting took place in 2011 and 2012. Altogether, we installed 20 species of viburnum in 38 forms for a total of 67 plants.

As we worked, we made an effort to use species and cultivars available in the local nursery trade. The generous participation of our plant sale vendors, through donations and reduced prices, played an enormous part in making the project a success. Plant Concepts, Beaver Creek Nursery, East Fork Nursery, John Deere Landscapes, Sunlight Gardens, Riverdale Nursery, and Stanley’s Greenhouses were local suppliers. Mary’s Plant Farm in Hamilton, Ohio provided an unusual pink snowball (V. plicatum f. plicatum ‘Mary Milton’—look for it!), and several UTAS volunteers donated home-propagated plants.

The project took about 250 hours of volunteer time. It could never have been completed without the dedicated help of Arboretum staff and UTAS members Katie Cottrell, Lee Ann and Norm Dobbs, and Ken Farrell. Other occasional helpers lightened the load also, and the support of retired Director Richard Evans and current Director Kevin Hoyt cannot be overestimated.

On Jan 23, the temperature was in the 20s, but viburnums such as this Viburnum x pragense were reaching for the sunlight. Photo by Lynn Carlson

No landscape plan is complete without a record of the plantings, especially in an arboretum. There are two large-scale paper maps of the valley; one is in the Director’s office, and the other is in the UTAS records. In addition, there is an electronic file of the final report, including a set of maps and a list of the plants used. UTAS member Bob Reed has dedicated hours to setting up correct labels for the new plants, so visitors can identify particular plants that catch the eye.

Counting volunteer time and plants, the project represents a donation of nearly $6500 to the enhancement of the Arboretum—a contribution any group of volunteers can be proud of.

Take a stroll up the valley soon—there are already signs of spring!

Lynn Carlson, chair, Plant Collections Committee
lcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu

Native Plant Group
On a cold December morning Craig Voris, wholesale trillium grower and seller from Loudon, Tennessee, made his third annual trillium donation to the UT Arboretum. Craig planted 15 Trillium flexipes at three locations in the Arboretum: the southern edge of the hillside azalea garden, the bottom of the steps on the Old Hickory Trail, and the northern end of the southern Heath Cove Trail.

The hillside garden, near the Visitors Center and home to the donated azaleas from Huey Sides, has been upgraded over the past several months. With help from Ken Farrell and Norm Dobbs, Huey replaced and added more of his hybridized azaleas to this collection, installed log dams on the downhill side of most of these plants and mulched all the plants. Additionally, the Arboretum staff installed a water bar on the southern edge of this plant collection area. Huey and Norm have recently placed additional water bars at the top of the hill to minimize run-off from the limestone walkway onto this area.

Except for special projects, the Native Plant Group meets the third Wednesday of most months. They will start meeting again in March. We always welcome members who like to work in the gardens. Call Lee Ann Dobbs at 482-6656 for more information.

Membership Committee
The Membership Committee continues to meet and develop items to enhance membership experiences and opportunities for current members, and to devise ways to encourage membership growth.

Peggy Mahoney has taken the lead to explore UTAS logo caps and visors and we will be offering these soon. Debi Boody has arranged to sell our UTAS T-shirts at the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau (ORCVB) gift shop.

If you’d like to help us by serving on the committee, or have ideas about membership, please contact Emily Jermigan, emily@jernigans.net or 482-4836.

Holly Task Force
The Holly Task Force met on November 17 spent a beautiful fall morning completing many tasks in the Elmore Holly Collection. Dr. Will Witte supervised fertilizing some younger plants. Numerous plants were mulched and pruned, and invasives were removed. Carmen and Josie Gianforte took cuttings for propagation at their greenhouse. Dr. Witte, Fran Scheidt, and Yvonne Hitchcock inspected the collection, noting plant conditions, dead plants, and tasks needing completion.

They found that additional deer fencing is needed and that the Elmore Holly Collection brochure needs to be updated and reprinted. They also requested that the Arboretum Walking Tour brochure be updated to include the Elmore Holly Collection. They had several other recommendations regarding the Collection, including correcting some plant name plates and repositioning some plants.

They thanked Yvonne Hitchcock for her assistance with their work that day. She supplied tools, red wagons, and hot coffee before pitching in to help with the work.

Fran Scheidt for the Holly Task Force
Stumped?

Are those hollies that are growing out in the woods at the Arboretum?

You are likely seeing American Holly, Ilex Opaca, very visible in the woods now that other trees have shed their leaves. These American Holly are fairly easy to identify because they have the classic spiny evergreen leaves with bright red berries on the female plants that we often associate with Christmas decorations. The American Holly tolerate shade much more than most hollies. Other specimens of these and many other hollies can be found in the Elmore Holly Collection at the UT Arboretum. The Holly Society of America (http://hollysocam.org) has good information about hollies, too. Find out more about Featured Plants growing at the Arboretum here: http://forestry.tennessee.edu/featuredplants.htm

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

Plant Sale Volunteers - Thanks!

Janet Bigelow
Debi Boody
Kathy Bracic
Lynn Carlson
Katie Cottrell
Lee Ann & Norm Dobbs
Ken Farrell
Stacy Fuller
Chris Hamilton
Lynda Haynes
Jeff Holt
Pat Hunsicke
Emily & Charlie Jernigan
Joan Johnson
Evelyn Lorenz
Peggy Mahoney
Eileen Neiler
Dick Raridon
Wendy Packan
Hella Peterson
Susan Reed
Vicky & Stan Richards
Debbie Roberts
Pat & Tom Row
Charlie Samuels
Don Searle
Randy Stewart
Kathy Strunk
Irene Sullivan
Jan & Dennis Superczynski
Marie Walsh

Meet our New Board Members

David Alspaugh is a native of Oak Ridge. He attended Valparaiso University and UT Knoxville. He retired from Y-12 as a software project manager in 2006. He also worked at K-25, the IAEA in Vienna, and Hazelwood.

He and his wife Betty Lou enjoy hiking and exploring formal and less formal gardens far and near, and they spend considerable time in their own garden, dabling mostly in shade plants. They have helped with UTAS plant sales and their daughter Amy spent one summer tracking snakes in the Arboretum. The Arboretum is an important asset and attraction for the Oak Ridge and East Tennessee area, and David looks forward to being more involved by being on the board.

Janet Bigelow was born in Knoxville but grew up mainly in New York State. Just before her senior year in high school, her family moved to Walpole, MA, where she graduated from Walpole High School. She attended UT Knoxville, spending a year in Lyon, France, between undergraduate and graduate school. Both her BA and MA degrees are in French, which she taught for the first five years of her career. Janet taught for 38 years in all, the last 33 of which were spent at Webb School where she mainly taught sixth grade social studies. There she took classes of sixth graders on week-long trips to the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont for 25 years and to the Mountain Outdoor Trail School at Kanuga, NC, for the last six years. So she has a lot of experience with outdoor education.

She loves hiking, camping, gardening, reading, travel, and cross stitch. Her husband, Tim, is an electrical engineer at ORNL, and their daughter Rachel is studying to be a nurse.

Debi Boody grew up in Winter Haven, Florida. She has lived in Oak Ridge for the last 18 years. She worked at Oak Ridge Associated Universities for 16 years and has been the Office Manager of the ORCVB (Convention and Visitors Bureau) for almost 4 years now. Debi has 2 children, Magen, 28, and Brian, 24, and a stepson, Zachary, who is 17. Her first grandchild, Brock Allen Smith, is a year old and the light of her life! She is married to Mark Boody, a native of Oak Ridger. Her hobbies are reading, home decorating, and playing with her grandson.

Outgoing Board Members

The Society extends its thanks to outgoing board members Ken Farrell, Jeff Holt, and Debbie Roberts. Ken, Jeff, and Debbie plan to remain active with UTAS, helping with the Plant Sale, leading workshops or walks, and nurturing plants at home. We will miss them on the board, and appreciate their continued involvement with our Society.

UTAS held a board retreat in January to discuss our history and plan for our future. Board members (L to R) Janet Bigelow, Wendy Packan, Lynda Haynes, and Peggy Mahoney. Photo by Emily Jernigan
Email & Membership Notes

We need your email address so that you don’t miss out on important notices from UTAS. We never share your address. If we don’t already have your email, please send an email to emily@jernigans.net and we will add you to our database.

If your email address changes, please notify emily@jernigans.net.

If your mailing address changes, please notify 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, or download a form at www.utarboretumsociety.org.

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 going on at the Arboretum and UTAS. Just go to www.utarboretumsociety.org and check it out any time.

New & Renewing Members—Thanks!

Nancy Basford
Sharon Bell
Deborah Cutler
Norman & Lee Ann Dobbs
Linda Ducamp
Kenneth Farrell
Emory Valley Garden Club *
John & Nettie Hill
Charlie & Emily Jernigan *
Anne McKenzie
Dan & Eva Robbins
Martha Stokley
Irene Sullivan *
Dennis & Jan Superczynski
Bruce Suttle
Dr. & Mrs. Richard E. Williams
* Denotes Society Friend

UTAS Membership Application

Name_________________________ Phone______________
Address________________________________________
City_______________________ State_____ Zip__________
E-Mail____________________________________________
New____ Renewal____
Society Friend $100_____ Patron $500____
Family $45_____ Individual $30_____ Student $15____

Yes, I want to make an additional Contribution:
UTAS General Fund $________
Elmore Holly Collection Fund $_______
All memberships and contributions are tax deductible.

Yes, I’d like to help with Society committees, special events, or other needs. ______

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

The January Board Retreat was held in the Shed at the Arboretum. Lee Ann Dobbs, Tom Row (background), Charlie Jernigan, Charlie Samuels, Norm Dobbs, and Dennis Superczynski.

Peggy Mahoney and Hella Peterson working at the Fall Plant Sale. Photo by Emily Jernigan
UTAS Resources

Board of Directors

Officers
President: Charles Samuels
Vice-president: Pat Hunsicker
Secretary: Lynda Haynes
Treasurer: Randy Stewart
Past President: Tom Row

Board Members
David Alsapaugh
Janet Bigelow
Debi Boody
Lee Ann Dobbs
Stacey Fuller

Ex Officio
Kevin Hoyt
Evelyn Lorenz

Help Wanted

• The Plant Sale is coming up and extra hands are always welcome. Contact Beverly Woods at 482-3212.

Ongoing

• Native Plant Group meets the third Wednesday most months. Lee Ann Dobbs, 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
• Plant Collections Committee: Lynn Carlson, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu
• Elmore Holly Collection Task Force meets several times a year. Dennis Superczynski, 607-8512 or jandport@tds.net

Thanks!

Norm Dobbs organized the Fall Plant Sale
Beverly Woods recruited volunteer workers for the Plant Sale
Katie Cottrell and Kathy Strunk brought us the Owl Prowl
Lynda Haynes and Pat Row organized the Annual Dinner
Fran Scheidt led the Holly Task Force workday
Ken Farrell, Jeff Holt, and Debbie Roberts retired from the board

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

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 fulfilled its pledge of a $500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The UT Arboretum Society has contributed over $55,000 to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum. We have received pledges for more than $556,000 for the Auditorium.

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: Robin R. Haefs, 865-974-5779. Email UTIAadvancement@tennessee.edu
UT Arboretum - Kevin Hoyt - 865-483-3571
UT Arboretum Society - Charlie Samuels 865-482-9096

To contribute to the Endowment or Auditorium Fund, make your check payable to the “University of Tennessee Foundation” and indicate in the memo line that you want your contribution credited to either the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund or the Arboretum Auditorium Gift Fund. Mail it to the UT Institute of Agriculture, Office of Institutional Advancement, 114 Morgan Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996.

For more information on Planned Giving visit this University of Tennessee website: www.utalumni.utk.edu/giveto
Upcoming Events

Feb. 7   Dr. Scott Schlarbaum: Climate Change and Our Forests

Feb. 23   Father - Daughter Hike

Apr. 6    Holly Work Day

Apr. 19 & 20   Plant Sale

Fathers and daughters eager to start out on an Arboretum hike led by forester and UTAS member Jeff Holt. Join the fun this year on February 23.

Photo by Kevin Hoyt.