Fall Plant Sale – Plus Copper and Blacksmith Artisan Brad Greenwood

The UT Arboretum Society’s Fall Plant Sale will be Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the U.T. Arboretum, 901 S. Illinois Ave. in Oak Ridge. Follow the signs to the Program Shelter.

New this fall is Brad Greenwood, a copper and blacksmithing artisan from Clinton. Brad will bring his forge and demonstrate his blacksmithing skills throughout the day. He will be selling his unique, botanically-themed home and garden treasures.

Fall is the ideal time to add plants to the landscape. Milder temperatures, more dependable rainfall, and the fact that plants are devoting all their resources to developing a stronger root system, rather than putting energy into their top growth, will give them a head start in the spring and a much better survival rate. The weather is cooler so it’s easier to work outside. Many summer pests are gone, making it better for the gardener and the plants.

Beaver Creek Nursery and Riverdale Nursery, Knoxville; East Fork Nursery, Sevierville; and Sunlight Gardens, Andersonville will be there with a wide assortment of plants. UT Arboretum Society members and friends will also offer high quality plants. Dr. Will Witte, the Society’s “Answer Man,” will answer your plant questions and help you choose good plants for your particular needs.

Dano’s Hot Dogs will be there, too, with his popular dogs and lemonade.

Huey Sides, Oak Ridge plantsman and woodworker, made and donated a copper-lined cedar planter for UTAS to raffle off at the sale. It’s a lovely piece sure to enhance your patio or porch.

Proceeds from this sale and other Society events go to support and secure the future of the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge.
President’s Letter

Autumn is beginning to show in the Arboretum, with some trees showing a bit of color. The hollies are bearing berries, and a myriad of yellow composite flowers and other autumn blooms have sprouted along the creeks and trails. Autumn, a transitional season, is a busy time in the Arboretum and for UTAS. Check our upcoming events in this issue, on our website and FaceBook page. We have the Plant Sale, Owl Prowl, Annual Meeting, a lecture, a float in the Christmas Parade, and more on the horizon.

Our Fall Plant Sale will have colorful, healthy, and hearty plants for sale. This year we will feature an artist who makes copper yard art, selling and demonstrating his craft. This sale is a significant fund raiser for your Arboretum Society. Please come, volunteer, and support UTAS.

2015 will be a really special year. It is the 50th anniversary of the UT Arboretum Society. A number of special events are being planned. Stay tuned!

As the 2014 Society year draws to a close, I want to thank all of you for your continuing support of this wonderful organization, the oldest volunteer organization within the UT system. Without you, there would be no financial resources and volunteers, no vision or motivation, and no purpose or innovation. You are the engine that makes this organization run in every sense of the word, and we are grateful. Special thanks to the UTAS Board and Task Force Leaders for navigating a challenging year. Thanks, admiration, and gratitude to the Arboretum field staff, Kevin, and Lynn for keeping the gates open and maintaining the Arboretum as one of the crown jewels of the community. To all of you, please continue your exemplary support.

In that regard, please consider additional support to the Arboretum through UTAS as tax giving season approaches. The adverse weather last summer was really rough on the Arboretum. The small field staff (3 people) is doing its best to balance restoration of the damaged areas with ongoing maintenance, special projects, and support to the research areas of the Center. Your additional support to UTAS will enable us to be responsive to the Arboretum when they need our help.

Finally, a “good-bye.” You will elect a new UTAS president in November. The new president will need your continuing support and efforts to meet the challenges of the Society’s 50th year. Working with you has been a fulfilling and humbling experience. I look forward to continuing to support UTAS and the new president in another capacity. My parting words as president: Sincere thanks to all of you.

~Charles Samuels, UTAS President

samuels253@comcast.net, 865-482-3502

Director’s Desk

“It’s football time in Tennessee” ~ Bobby Denton

When I think of fall in Tennessee, I can’t help but think of Bobby Denton, the UT football announcer at Neyland Stadium who passed away earlier this year. Bobby’s span of 47 years covering my beloved Vols is said to be one of the longest in college football history. He will be greatly missed by all UT fans who will long remember his voice bellowing out across the stadium on those beautiful fall days.

We are now officially in fall and it has been a great start here at the UT Arboretum. Although the trees have barely started to turn, the Tulip Poplar and Sycamore leaf color, and the recent fantastic morning temperatures remind me that fall is on the way. Another reminder is the huge increase in Arboretum visitor traffic and the multitude of UT Arboretum Society programs coming up soon.

The Fall Wildflower Walk officially kicked off our fall slate of programs, and as in years past, was well attended. As we move into October the Arboretum will be a featured at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture “Ag Day” celebration on October 4 (right before the UT–Florida game) and will receive special recognition for the 50th anniversary of the UT Oak Ridge Forest and Arboretum then.

The Fall Plant Sale is October 11, and the Owl Prowl is next on October 25. Also on October 25, the UT Arboretum Society and the UT FRREC will host a “Meet & Greet” outreach event from 9 to 11 a.m. UTAS members and I will be on hand to greet Arboretum visitors in our tent booth outside the Visitors Center with information on UTAS membership, the Arboretum, the trails, and our signature gardens. We will have coffee to share with our visitors as we enjoy the anticipated brisk fall air and bluebird skies.

Fall, especially October, is truly my favorite time of year, in part due to the amount of time I spend watching my beloved Vols take on SEC and other national college football powerhouses. But it is really more than that. It’s also a time to make great family memories spending time together on a hike, a weekend getaway to a cabin in the Smokies, or just sitting around a campfire, enjoying each other’s company. And for the past 3+ years I have come to appreciate fall even more, working outside in the crisp air with the dedicated FRREC staff, and living with my family under the Arboretum’s fall foliage. Truly, this beautiful place that shows off its fall colors so vibrantly is now permanently burned into my memories as well. I am truly blessed to be serving as the Director of the Arboretum and hope to continue to build on the legacy of those who came before me, while also leaving a sustainable future for those who come after me.

Please visit our website: http://forestry.tennessee.edu

~Kevin Hoyt, Director
Upcoming Events

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

Ag Day at UT

Saturday, October 4  4 hours before UT vs FL football game

The UT Arboretum will be a featured at the University of Tennessee – Institute of Agriculture “Ag Day” celebration on October 4, right before the UT-Florida game. We will receive special recognition for the 50th anniversary of the UT Oak Ridge Forest and Arboretum at the event. Please join us for this fun celebration.

Fall Plant Sale + Brad Greenwood, Copper and Blacksmith Artisan

Saturday, October 11  9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  Arboretum

We now accept credit cards!

Join in the fun of our Fall Plant Sale. An added attraction this year is artisan Brad Greenwood of Clinton, TN, who will offer his lovely metal art. Brad will also bring his forge and will treat us to demonstrations of his craft all day. This gives us a rare opportunity to see a blacksmith in action as he swings his hammer and creates new items right in front of us. You can get a hot dog and lemonade from Dano’s Hot Dogs to munch while watching Brad work.

Our regular vendors, Beaver Creek Nursery and Riverdale Nursery, Knoxville; East Fork Nursery, Sevierville; and Sunlight Gardens, Andersonville will be there, helping support the Arboretum and UTAS.

Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell, Kathy Strunk, and the Clinch River Raptor Center

Saturday, October 25  6:30 p.m.  Arboretum

Remember: bring flashlights and dress for outdoor weather.

The Owl Prowl is one of our most popular events. It features owls found in East Tennessee. Kathy Strunk and Katie Cottrell of the Clinch River Raptor Center (http://www.cresosnake.com/crrc.html) will bring live birds for display and will give information about their natural history. This activity is suitable for all ages and is perfect for some pre-Halloween fun and learning

The Raptor Center was started by John Byrd 29 years ago at Clinton Middle School. To date 2,090 birds have come to the Raptor Center to be rehabilitated. Kathy and Katie have shared the responsibility as co-directors of the Raptor Center for over 25 years, and have given hundreds of programs in East Tennessee on birds of prey.

The initial program will be followed by walks on the grounds of the Arboretum led by Kathy, Katie, and John Byrd. We hope that we’ll get to hear some owls. Those who do not wish to go on the walks may stay at the shelter and visit with the center’s educational owls.

Meet & Greet at the Arboretum

Saturday, October 25  9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  Arboretum

Come out on Saturday morning and help us welcome visitors to the Arboretum. FRREC Director Kevin Hoyt will be with us as we offer hot coffee, information about UTAS and the Arboretum’s trails and gardens, and the opportunity to check out the Visitors Center, which is normally closed on weekends.

Viburnum Work Day

Thursday, November 6  9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  Arboretum

The UTA Viburnum Collection needs a bit of fall sprucing up. We’re tentatively planning a work day Thursday, November 6, from 9 to 12. We need to add a few plants to replace shrubs that have failed to thrive, and spread some mulch because much of it washed away in the heavy summer rains. If you might be able to help that day or to sign up Lynn Carlson at lbcarlson@alumni.mayo.edu.

Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

Tuesday, November 11  6 p.m.  Elks Club Oak Ridge

The UTAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction will begin at 6 p.m. at the Elks Club in Oak Ridge. The dinner cost is $25 per person and there will be a cash bar. This is currently the only time the UTAS membership and guests get together, so please take advantage of the opportunity to mingle with other Arboretum enthusiasts for some social time. There will be a cash bar and time to browse auction items before the dinner buffet begins. Please remember that the Silent Auction is the only way we raise money at this dinner, and all proceeds go to support our Arboretum. After dinner and a very brief business meeting, we’ll hear a recap of “50 Years of the Arboretum” from Richard Evans, Director of the Center for 39 years.

The Silent Auction is always popular, and we need donations for this fund raiser. Some items from previous auctions include gardening tools, plants, or bulbs; garden-themed items like birdhouses, fountains, sculptures, books, and wind chimes; gift certificates to area restaurants or garden centers like Willow Ridge; handmade crafts including woodworking or paper goods; and beer, wine, and food items. All proceeds go to help support our Arboretum. Contact Lynda Haynes, 483-0525, lyndaandchuck@bellsouth.net, or Pat Row, 482-9096, patrow@comcast.net, with your donation information.

Holly Work Day

Saturday, November 15  9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  Elmore Holly Collection at the UT Arboretum

This year and next mark the 30th anniversary of the Elmore Holly Collection at the UT Arboretum. In 1984 the UT Arboretum Society Board of Directors approved a proposal to establish a formal “Holly Garden” and UTAS adopted it as a central program objective. They created the Holly Task Force, which is still very active today.

The site selected was a 3 to 5 acre sun-drenched grassy field on a domed hill just east of the Rhododendron vale. The first planting was in 1985 following the ‘Big Freeze’ of January 1985 (–24 °F). Today there are over 200 Ilex species and cultivars planted by UTAS member-volunteers during “Holly Planting Days.”

The Elmore Holly Collection is recognized by the Holly Society of America, Inc. as an Official Holly Arboretum and Experimental Test Center and continues to grow with the help of the Holly Task Force and UTAS volunteers.

We encourage UTAS members and friends to help continue the holly legacy established 30 years ago and support the Holly Work Day on Saturday, November 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. Under the direction of Dr. Will Witte, we will perform general maintenance and cleanup. Volunteers are invited to collect live holly cuttings for use in their personal holiday decorations. Your participation is truly appreciated.

Contact Dennis Superczynski, 675-8502, jandport@tds.net, for more information or to sign up.
Richard Evans is Featured Speaker at UTAS Annual Dinner

Our featured speaker, Richard Evans, is well known to most of our members. He was Center Director for 39 years before retiring in 2011. Richard will discuss “50 Years of the Arboretum.” We are completing the 2014 anniversary of 50 years that the Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, and preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of UTAS in 2015. Richard is uniquely qualified to take us for a stroll through our history because he was instrumental in all that happened here during his long tenure. It will be a special treat to have him share his perspective with us.

Events Roundup

Wildflower Walks with Kris Light

More than 80 people came out to enjoy a beautiful day of sunshine and to walk with naturalist and educator Kris Light as she led 2 groups of wildflower enthusiasts on walks at the Arboretum. Laryngitis prevented Charlie Samuels from leading the afternoon tour, but he was there to take photos. We appreciate Kris filling in for him that day.

Committee Reports

Native Plant Group

This group of 8 to 10 regular members currently meets monthly. They keep the beds around the Visitors Center and those on the Sides Azalea Hillside looking neat and tidy, and work in the parking lot beds when time allows. To participate, contact Lee Ann Dobbs at 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net.

Membership Committee

Our committee met and began planning for UTAS’ 50th anniversary next year. We generated an extensive list of ideas for activities, programs, and more. After discussion with the board, Charlie Jernigan created a survey and sent it to current board members and others to get a snapshot of interest levels in the various activities. We also asked for suggestions. We will use the results as a guide for decisions about events in 2015 to celebrate this significant occasion. UTAS is the oldest organization in support of UT and we want to have a very festive and special series of events that will honor our longstanding commitment to a stroll through our history because he was instrumental in all that happened here during his long tenure. It will be a special treat to have him share his perspective with us.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, chaired by David Alspaugh, with committee members Lee Ann Dobbs and Tom Row, proposes the following slate of Board Members and Officers for 2015.

I-Yr. Term Directors:
- David Alspaugh
- Marti Salk
- Janet Cushman
- Wendy Packan

2-Yr. Term Directors:
- Melinda Hillman
- Pat Hunsicker
- Emily Jernigan
- Linda Kimmel

3-Yr. Term Directors:
- Debi Boody
- Gene Sanslow
- Melanie Staten
- Julie Watts

Outgoing Board Members

We bid a fond farewell to board members Lee Ann Dobbs, Evelyn Lorenz, and Tom Row. We will miss Lee Ann’s extensive knowledge of Society history, based on her longtime involvement with UTAS, her insight, and ideas. She is a vital member of the Membership and Native Plant Committees and has also been instrumental in helping get Branches properly mailed out using our bulk mail permit. It is a confusing and seemingly capricious process! She plans to continue her active participation in UTAS, including in her role as head of the Native Plant Group, which takes care of the beds around and near the Visitors Center.

Evelyn Lorenz has served for many years as the appointed representative of the TN State Federation of Garden Clubs. She has also served as a member of the mailing team for Branches and other Society mailings. Evelyn volunteers with the plant sales and offers a helping hand with other UTAS activities.

Tom Row is finishing up a board tenure that includes 3 years as UTAS president and 3 years as past president. He has also been chair of the nominating committee and of the events team. He, too, has wrestled with the bulk mailing process! Tom’s commitment to UTAS is noteworthy and he has made significant differences in many ways to the overall health of the Society. He may be leaving the board but he is not leaving the organization.

We will miss them at our board meetings and appreciate all of their efforts on behalf of UTAS. We are all very happy that they will continue to participate in most of their previous activities.

Christmas Parade Float

The Arboretum Society will again enter a float in this year’s Oak Ridge parade. The parade is Saturday, December 13 beginning at 6:30 p.m. We’ll use some holly and other items from our Arboretum to decorate.

We need some volunteers to help with planning, building, and decorating the float. If you’d like to help out, please contact Charlie Samuels at samuels253@comcast.net or 482-3502 or Lynda Haynes at Lynda Haynes, 483-0525, lyndaandchuck@bellsouth.net.
Margaret Phares Memorial Donation

A donation was made to UTAS in memory of Margaret Phares this summer. Margaret, who died May 9, 2014, at age 95, had lived in Oak Ridge since 1948 when her husband, Edwin, began a job as a chemist at ORNL. Edwin, who died in 2003, was a board member of UTAS for many years, including a term as president from 1976 to 1977.

Margaret loved to garden and belonged to UTAS and to the West Village Garden Club, where she was president and a judge for many flower shows. With Ed’s help she planted and maintained flower beds along the western part of the Oak Ridge Turnpike and at the Visitor Center when it was adjacent to the Museum of Science and Energy. Since the 1960s, she had been responsible for flowers at her church on Sundays and at church activities, sometimes making arrangements from her own garden flowers or wildflowers.

Anyone can make a memorial or honor donation to UTAS by sending a check to UTAS, P.O. Box 5382, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382.

UTAS Kentucky Tour

Here are a few photos from our ‘Bluegrass Brilliance’ visit to Kentucky. Look for a report on this tour in the Winter issue of Branches.

Stumped?

I’m looking for some drought-resistant plants. Any ideas?

According to Birds and Blooms (http://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/drought-tolerant-gardening/40-drought-resistant-flowers-plants), the following are good plants with small appetites for water. A word of caution from them: “We selected more than 40 plants that will thrive in climates that see both rain and drought. Plants like these, tolerant of difficult conditions, are often weeds or invasive in certain areas, so do some research before planting.”

You may be able to find some of these at our Fall Plant Sale.

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<td>Creeping phlox</td>
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<td>Creeping thyme; wooly thyme</td>
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<td>Culinary sage</td>
<td>Sedum of any kind</td>
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<td>Dianthus</td>
<td>Sun rose (Helianthemum)</td>
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<td>Gaillardia</td>
<td>Thread-leaf coreopsis</td>
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<td>Gaura</td>
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<td>Globe thistle</td>
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<td>Swallowtail cultivar</td>
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Email questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our Green Thumb experts at utarboretumsociety@gmail.com.

A Jon Carloftis-designed rooftop garden at a shop in Lexington, KY. Photo by David Alspaugh.
Email, Phone, & Membership Information

We need your email address so that you don’t miss out on important notices from UTAS. We never share your address and send you only occasional updates about UTAS events. You may opt out of email notices at any time. If we don’t have your email, please email emily@jernigans.net and we will add you to our database.

If your phone number, email, or mailing address changes, notify emily@jernigans.net or call 482-4836.

Renew now! Check your Branches label for your membership renewal date! You’ll get a reminder, or you can 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, and more. 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.

Choose Email-Only Branches

If you’d like to receive only an electronic copy of Branches, send an email to emily@jernigans.net. Confirm that you no longer want us to mail you a paper copy of our newsletter. Be sure to include the email address you’d like us to use. If you change your mind, just let us know that, too. This is a greener option and helps UTAS conserve our fiscal resources.

New & Renewing Members - Thanks!

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Kathleen Kitzmiller
Susan Kreke
Evelyn Moyers
Gail Nichols
Mrs E.L. Nicholson
Jim Reca*
Dan & Eva Robbins
Jason & Tina Smith
Ray Smith*
Jenni & Randy Wylie*

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. 

___Please send only an electronic copy of the quarterly newsletter, Branches.

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

Board of Directors

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

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David Alspaugh
Janet Bigelow
Debi Boody
Janet Cushman

Ex Officio
Kevin Hoyt
Evelyn Lorenz

Branches Editor
Emily Jernigan

Webmaster
Charlie Jernigan

Database Manager
Charlie Jernigan

Plant Sale Chair
Norm Dobbs

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 fulfilled its pledge of a $500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The UT Arboretum Society has contributed over $76,000 to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum. We have received pledges for more than $700,000 for the Auditorium and think we will break ground soon.

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 a check payable to the “University of Tennessee Foundation” and indicate in the memo line to credit your contribution 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.

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Thanks!
Kris Light and Charlie Samuels led Wildflower Walks.
Peggy Mahoney and Joann Johnson recruited volunteers of the Plant Sale.

Design, writing, and editorial services donated by Emily Jernigan, WordsWorth
UT ARBORETUM SOCIETY

Upcoming Events

Oct.  4  Ag Day at UT
Oct. 11 Fall Plant Sale
Oct. 25 Meet & Greet at the Arboretum
Oct. 25 Owl Prowl
Nov. 11 Annual Dinner & Silent Auction
Nov. 15 Holly Work Day