Two Special Redbuds at the Spring Plant Sale!

~Emily Jernigan

This is UTAS’s 51st anniversary year and our 50th annual Spring Plant Sale! Hank Bruno, acclaimed horticulturist, gets things started with a talk on Thursday night, “Landscaping with Native Plants.” Then on Friday we’ll present four local nurseries in one location. Vendors offering flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, wildflowers, and edibles include Beaver Creek Nursery and Riverdale Nursery, Knoxville; East Fork Nursery, Sevierville; and Sunlight Gardens, Andersonville. We’ll also have plants grown by UTAS members and supporters. Dr. Will Witte will sell books from his personal horticulture library, consult with you about your specific needs, and answer your horticultural questions.

UTAS will offer a limited supply of both The Rising Sun™ Golden redbud and Alley Cat variegated redbud. Read more about these plants on page 5.

The sale is on Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16, at the UT Arboretum. The Members Only sale is from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 15. Not a member and want to shop early? You can join at the sale and take advantage of this membership benefit. Saturday’s sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., is open to all. On Saturday Dano’s Hot Dogs will offer an expanded menu including hot dogs, chips, and lemonade. Brad Greenwood Designs will have unique botanically-themed copper garden ornaments and steel features for your home and yard. He takes special orders, too.

Proceeds from this sale and other UTAS fund-raising events go toward the operating expenses and the endowment and auditorium funds for the UT Arboretum – as we’ve been doing for over 50 years.
Director’s Desk

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” ~ Leo Tolstoy

As I ponder this quote I am reminded of the plans and projects that have been undertaken this past winter before the Spring Plant Sale and the spring and summer events that will soon follow. We finished the major portion of Visitors Center facelift earlier this month, which included a new roof last fall, a fresh coat of paint, and a new concrete walkway entrance. This physical transformation, combined with the spring spruce-up of the associated flower beds by the UTAS Native Plant Group, has greatly enhanced the focal point of the parking lot area and nearby grounds. We continue to receive many favorable comments on these efforts from our visitors. Moreover, the crew and I are planning to complete the conference room’s wood deck extension project later this summer. This will complete the last phase of the Arboretum office building facelift, which was made possible through special funding from the UT AgResearch dean’s office deferred maintenance program.

The staff and I have begun planning for the Plant Sale, and we want you know that we stand ready to help make this year’s event another memorable success. We took advantage of the wintery rain and snow days to rebuild our traffic control structures and apply a much-needed fresh coat of paint to all the directional signs. The greenhouse water line has been repaired, and most of the Arboretum access roads have been regraded, including new rock aggregate that was applied to parts of the road system. Finally, we also plan to install new brown powder coated security gates to the front parking lot entrance road and the adjoining Kerr Hollow Road/trail soon.

The UT Arboretum is truly a magnificent resource for Oak Ridge, Anderson County, East Tennessee, and beyond. It is especially beautiful this time of year, with the daffodils, Magnolias and Redbuds in full bloom and dogwoods soon to follow. Visit us this spring to experience nature, take part in our programs, and see for yourself the office facelift that we are so proud of. I hope to see you at the Plant Sale, and at many of the full slate of events sponsored by the UT Arboretum Society and UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center throughout the year.

Please visit our website: [http://forestry.tennessee.edu](http://forestry.tennessee.edu)

~Kevin Hoyt, Director

Presidents’ Letter

UTAS, along with the UT Arboretum, hosts many outdoor and educational events to supplement and enhance our outdoor experiences and knowledge. This is the busiest time of the year with our Spring Plant Sale offering special plants to take home and put into their own yards. But the Arboretum and UTAS can never meet everyone’s similar needs here in our local area.

Luckily, we don’t have to. We are one of many organizations that rely on people who want to spend time in and around the natural world. The Smokies and Cumberlands aren’t far away. In the Oak Ridge/Knoxville area we have an abundance of green space and greenways for people to enjoy at a more leisurely pace. We have readily available opportunities to spend time on or near the lakes that our TVA dams have produced, including the world-class rowing venue right here in Oak Ridge. For those of us who enjoy biking we have greenways and more challenging courses like those in Oak Ridge’s Haw Ridge Park.

The UT Arboretum and UTAS succeed in large part because there is a high demand for our facilities and services right here. We don’t have to create that need; we just have to scratch that itch in a way that satisfies. During the Arboretum’s 50th anniversary in 2014, UTAS’ 50th anniversary in 2015, and our 50th anniversary of the Spring Plant Sale this year, we have significantly expanded our programs. In 2016 we will add a Butterfly Festival in what has been a pause over the hot summer. The new auditorium is available to those who wish to be married in a natural setting, and to those who want to hold a meeting, class, or business retreat in a place that is nearby but feels distant from a harried, everyday life.

While it is natural that we, the Arboretum and UTAS, are successful, it is not inevitable. Doing anything for 50 years is hard. The employees of the Arboretum and the membership and board of UTAS have done an excellent job of maintaining our user’s interests. Many of our new successful programs and events come from someone saying, “What do you think about...?”

This is what each of us can contribute. Ask us, “What you think about...” and it just might turn into the next successful UTSA/UTA event. Contact us with your idea.

~Charlie Jernigan, charlie@jernigans.net, 865-482-4836
~Janet Bigelow, janet_bigelow@tds.net, 865-675-3822

Co-presidents
There is much to learn from nature as we strive to create human few of the assumptions and practices that have been handed down. Callaway Gardens in Georgia and at Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, North Carolina. Describing his talk, Bruno said, “As the use of native plants gains widespread acceptance it is time to examine a few of the assumptions and practices that have been handed down. There is much to learn from nature as we strive to create human habitats that are restorative for man and the earth.”

**Upcoming Events**

Please check our website, [www.utarboretumsociety.org](http://www.utarboretumsociety.org), for updated and additional information on our events.

### Holly Days

**Saturday, April 2  9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  **Elmore Holly Collection**

Join the Holly Task Force and learn about hollies: planting, pruning, mulching. Complimentary holly information booklets for identifying and caring for your hollies will be available from the Holly Society of America. Our own Dr. Willard Witte will be there with expert advice on hollies. Earn Master Gardener credits while you support and help maintain the world-acclaimed Elmore Holly Collection in the University of Tennessee Arboretum.

Contact Dennis Superczynski, 675-8502, [jandport@tds.net](mailto:jandport@tds.net), for more information or to sign up.

**The Holly Task Force:** Carmen and Josie Gianforte, Fran Scheidt, Mike Stansberry, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Dr. Will Witte

### Spring Wildflower Walk with Kris Light

**Saturday, April 2 12:30 to 2 p.m.**  **Hawk Ridge Park on Edgemoor Rd.**

Kris Light will again lead a fun, educational and easy walk to hunt for the wildflowers blooming at the Arboretum. Kris is an expert naturalist, educator, and photographer. The walk is free and open to the public.

Participants may want to bring a camera to take pictures of the many wildflowers on the grounds. If you have a wildflower book, Kris suggests bringing that too.

### “Give it Up for a Cause” Chamber Event

**Tuesday, April 5  8 to 9:30 a.m.**  **Pollard Auditorium**

This Oak Ridge Chamber-sponsored Rise & Shine event is a gathering that provides networking opportunities for area not-for-profit groups. Kevin Hoyt and UTAS volunteers will have a table with information about the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center, the Arboretum and UTAS. Volunteer to help out or stop by and say hello.

### South Carolina Spring Garden Tour

**Tuesday, April 5 through Thursday, April 7**

The tour is all set with 24 participants this year. We’ll spend 2 nights and 3 days in South Carolina. We will return with happy memories, photos, souvenirs, and plants. Always plants!

### “Landscaping with Native Plants” talk by Hank Bruno

**Thursday, April 14  6:30 p.m.**  **Arboretum Auditorium**

Hank Bruno helps kick off our 50th annual Plant Sale on Thursday evening, April 14. His extensive background in horticulture and longtime interest in native plants will be a perfect introduction to the sale. He currently works on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina, for SSC Service Solutions of Knoxville. Previously he has held the position of Director of Horticulture at Callaway Gardens in Georgia and at Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, North Carolina. Describing his talk, Bruno said, “As the use of native plants gains widespread acceptance it is time to examine a few of the assumptions and practices that have been handed down. There is much to learn from nature as we strive to create human habitats that are restorative for man and the earth.”

### Spring Plant Sale

**Friday, April 15, 5—7 p.m.**  **Members Only - Join at the door.**

**Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.**  **Open to All**  **Arboretum**

We accept credit cards.  **Sale now ends at 2 p.m.**

Good news! A group of volunteers led by [Norm Dobbs](mailto:nobbs@utk.edu) potted up the 100 ‘Rising Sun™’ and ‘Alley Cat’ redbuds that will be sold at the Plant Sale. Come early - last spring the ‘Rising Sun™’ plants were gone in the first hour.

Our regular vendors, [Beaver Creek Nursery](https://www.beavercreeknursery.com) and [Riverdale Nursery](https://www.riverdale-nursery.com), [East Fork Nursery](https://www.eastforknursery.com), [Sevierville]; and [Sunlight Gardens](https://www.sunlightgardensnc.com), Andersonville will be there, helping support the Arboretum and UTAS. We’ll have plants from the UT Arboretum Society’s members and friends. [Dr. Will Witte](mailto:wwitte@utk.edu), the Society’s “Answer Man,” will be there to answer all your plant questions and help you choose plants suitable for your particular circumstances.

### Tellico Village Garden Club Visits

Fran Scheidt, Dennis Superczynski, Will Witte, and Kevin Hoyt will host this garden club on April 28. They will tour the Elmore Holly Collection and hear a presentation on holly at the Auditorium.

### Invasive Species talk by Dr. Scott Schlarbaum, Cosponsored by TCWP

**Thursday, May 5  7 p.m.**  **Arboretum**

Dr. Schlarbaum, director of the University of Tennessee’s Tree Improvement Program, will discuss invasive exotic insect pests and how they affect our forests. A faculty member of UT’s Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries since 1984, he has served in a variety of professional positions and committees regarding forest health and genetics. This program is presented in collaboration with [Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning](https://www.tcwp.org).

### Tour Lane Hays Garden

**Wednesday, May 18  1 to 3 p.m.**  **Members Only RSVP**

Thanks to UTAS board member [Gene Sanslow](mailto:gsanslow@utk.edu), UTAS members will be able to visit the garden of Knoxvillian [Lane Hays](mailto:lhays@utk.edu). Located on the banks of Fort Loudon Lake, the gardens include a pond and waterfall sited within a former marble quarry located on the property. Woodland gardens and another waterfall were added. Recent additions include cottage, rose, and moon gardens. This has been a Dogwood Arts Featured Garden and is a delightful and inspiring garden.

This visit is open only to UTAS members and requires a reservation. RSVP to [emily@jernigans.net](mailto:emily@jernigans.net) or [janet_bigelow@tds.net](mailto:janet_bigelow@tds.net) by May 16.

### Meet & Greet and a Father’s Day Hike

**Saturday, June 18  8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**  **Arboretum**

UTAS members will greet all UT Arboretum visitors with coffee, water, and snacks starting at 8:30 on the morning of June 18. Fathers and children or grandchildren of all ages are invited to come out for an easy walk on several of the trails to kick off Father’s Day weekend with some special family time outdoors. [Charlie Samuels](mailto:csamuels@utk.edu) and [Emily Jernigan](mailto:emily@jernigans.net) will head up this free activity.
Events Roundup

Water-Healthy Landscapes by Dr. Andrea Ludwig

Dr. Andrea Ludwig, Assistant Professor at the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science at the UT Institute of Agriculture, presented a discussion and demonstration about stormwater runoff, rain gardens, swales, and more tips for helping control rainwater runoff.

50K Tree Planting Day

A group led by Lynda Haynes planted more than 60 trees! David and Betty Lou Alspaugh, Janet and Tim Bigelow, Lynda Haynes, Gene Sanslow, and Charlie and Roseanne Samuels volunteered.

Garden Tools Workshop with Downtown Hardware

The workshop was led by Roger Clary of Downtown Hardware and David Waugh of Husqvarna and focused on the use and maintenance of chainsaws, lawnmowers, garden hand tools, and sprayers. About 25 people attend the free event offered by UTAS and Downtown Hardware, which donated many door prizes.

Committee Reports

Native Plant Group

Lee Ann Dobbs, chair of this group, reports, “Our group of 10 had a very productive workday on March 16. We planted 10 shrubs around the Visitors Center and weeded that entire area. Lynda Haynes also weeded the beds in the parking lot, her pet project.

If you like to work with plants (weeds are considered plants!), enjoy conversation with some knowledgeable plant people, and like to see the Arboretum grounds looking their best, join us on the 3rd and 4th Wednesday mornings. We will be happy to call you a “Groupie.”

Contact Lee Ann if you’d like to help with this group - 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net.

Stumped?

I’ve noticed a plant with heart-shaped leaves growing along the Oak Hickory Trail at the Arboretum. Is this plant related to Wild Ginger?

Little Brown Jug (Hexastylis arifolia) is a common plant along this trail and elsewhere at the Arboretum. It has unusual urn-shaped (or jug-shaped) flowers that are found at ground level, usually covered by leaves and other forest litter. The shiny, arrowhead-shaped leaves and glabrous flowers arise from an underground stem (rhizome). The sepals are fused into an urn-shaped, brown to reddish brown calyx tube (there are no petals) with pointed tips at the top. Within the urn are 12 stamens and a superior or partly inferior ovary having 6 styles.

Little Brown Jug belongs to the same plant family (Aristolochiaceae) as Wild Ginger (Asarum canadense), which has deciduous, dark green, velvety, heart-shaped leaves and a calyx tube that terminates in spreading or reflexed tips. The rhizome of both plants has an odor similar to ginger (as do the crushed leaves) and was used as a substitute for that spice by early settlers.

Bob Reed provided the information and the photo for Stumpy.

New & Renewing Members - Thanks!

| Jean Bangham | Joseph A. Mallard   |
| Sandra M. Barry | Harriet McCurdy |
| Bob & Marie Cantrell | Marese Nephew |
| Lynn Carlson | June E. Peishel |
| Terry & Betty Anne Domm | Davis & Susan Reed |
| Margaret Dory | Murray & Mimi Rosenthal |
| Betty Dreyer | Don & Vickie Searle |
| Brenda Dunn** | Ray Smith |
| Rebecca Fairbanks** | Dave & Tia Snider |
| Elwood & Roslyn Gift | Alan Solomon MD |
| Mel & Edith Halbert | Rita Trusley |
| Lynda & Chuck Haynes | Fred & Aase Vaslow |
| Mary Jellison** | Julie Watts/Robert Devault |
| Mary & Tom Kollie | ” Society Friend |
| Maryann Loiacono** | ** New Member |
| Peggy & Mike Mahoney | |

Jewel Tabor Donates Books

Jewel Tabor has donated some of her late husband’s book collection to the UT Arboretum. A graduate of NC State and Yale University, David Scanlon was a real fan of the Arboretum, hiking our trails often. David won the contest we held in 2008 to name what is now called the Cemetery Ridge Trail. So his contributions to the Arboretum go well beyond Jewel’s recent generous donation. Many of these books contain historical data about the area and will be added to the library at the Visitors Center office. We are grateful for Jewel’s kind contribution in memory of David.

Choose Email-Only Branches

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.
Two Special Redbuds This Year!

‘The Rising Sun™’ Golden Redbud and ‘Alley Cat’ Variegated Redbud

Accolades abound for these wonderful and hard-to-find plants that we are so fortunate to have at our sale. Thanks go to Norm Dobbs for choosing and finding these plants, to Kevin Hoyt, Center Director, for transporting the plants to the Arboretum, and to all those who helped pot them up. Both plants were chosen by UT Gardens’ Dr. Sue Hamilton as some of favorite new plants.

A native plant, Cercis canadensis ‘The Rising Sun™’ displays brilliant, golden tangerine and lime-colored heart-shaped foliage all summer. Heat and drought tolerant, it was a quick sellout last year. According to Jackson Nursery, the source of this plant: “A new and distinct variety of Cercis canadensis, an eastern redbud tree found and introduced by Ray and Cindy Jackson of Jackson Nursery. This native, heart-shaped leaf tree is a durable and rugged variety. It is heat and drought resistant and cold hardy also, and that’s just the beginning!” ‘The Rising Sun™’ is a vigorous grower that holds its buttery golden color through fall before dropping its leaves. In spring it is covered with rosy orchid-colored blooms that attract butterflies and bees. This striking plant grows 8—12’ tall and about 8’ wide. It tolerates light shade and glows best with sun.

‘Alley Cat’ is an appropriate name for this variegated, native species beauty. Allen Bush discovered a seedling with beautiful white streaked variegation growing in an alley near his garden and gave it to Harald Neubauer of Hidden Hollow Nursery in Tennessee to introduce. According to Saunders Brothers, “‘Alley Cat’ puts on a show in spring with an abundance of dark pink blooms before the leaves emerge. Once the heart-shaped leaves emerge, white splashes of variegation appear with coppery-pink tints among the white. By summer the leaves have green and white variegation. Even with the white variegation, you will not see burn on the leaves in full sun or reverting of the leaves.” Drought tolerant once established, plant it in full sun or partial shade. It grows to a height of 20—30’ and a width of 25—35’.
A Fond Farewell

~ Emily Jernigan

Branches made its debut in the fall of 2005, UTAS’ 40th anniversary year and the same time I made my debut as an editor. My Editor’s Note said, “The primary goal of Branches is to provide our membership with timely information about Society events and activities.” That first issue had only four pages and featured a one-time event, ArborFest. ArborFest was an expansion of our Fall Plant Sale to two days and was a collaborative effort headed up by Ann Arnold and me. Don Shadow presented a talk about Dogwoods and Ruth Pardue demonstrated bulb planting in containers. Dennis Superczynski was UTAS President. Richard Evans was the Director of the Center. He reported that the “UT Forest Resources Research and Education Center and Arboretum” had just celebrated its new name in a sign-unveiling ceremony. He also mentioned another name-changing ceremony that had just taken place at the Arboretum: the “Dr. Herman Postma Memorial Solway Bridge” was dedicated there. The most action-packed report of that issue was the University of Tennessee’s National Forensic Academy’s simulated plane crash, with real bomb detonations and a trail of drugs and murder in a training exercise made possible by internationally acclaimed author Patricia Cornwell. It was an exciting time for Branches to present a new look to UTAS members and friends.

Now, after 42 issues and almost 11 years, I’m stepping aside from Branches. A lot has happened in those 11 years with the Arboretum, UTAS, and Branches. Richard Evans retired after 39 years as Director and Kevin Hoyt has been here 5 years already. We have a brand new Auditorium, the result of many years of effort by a number of people at UT, the Center, UTAS, and our community supporters. Our Plant Sales are still going strong and have some new features like a blacksmith and food vendors. We’re offering more and different programs and events now. Our membership is growing again; our activities help introduce the beauty and expanse of the Arboretum to newcomers of all ages. The Auditorium is helping with that, and when a Program Coordinator becomes a reality – soon, we hope – we’ll have even more reasons for visitors to come out and enjoy this outdoor gem right here in Oak Ridge. I’d love to see another article in an upcoming Branches about Patricia Cornwell coming out here!

Heather Ferragut will take the editorial reins starting with the Summer issue of Branches. She’s going to be a terrific editor and I will be a senior advisor to her and her husband, Erik, who’s helping her. I’ve encouraged her to make Branches her own, so look for some changes along the way. It’s good to have fresh eyes and a new perspective. Heather will introduce herself there.

I’ll still be on the board so I’m not going away. UTAS will always have a special place in my heart because of what it represents, the people who are engaged in its success, and the ways I’ve grown because of the opportunities and challenges I’ve had during the last 11 years. I encourage all of you to say yes to UTAS, and to step forward with your own ideas, too.

It has been a privilege to get to know and work with so many of you. Thanks for your support, suggestions, and kindness.

The 50K Tree Planting Crew: Janet & Tim Bigelow, Betty Lou & David Alspaugh, Gene Sanslow, Lynda Haynes

~ Charlie Samuels

Jeff Holt Leads the Father-Daughter Hike

Lucy Jones and Dennis Superczynski at the Holly Day Spruce Up in the Elmore Holly Collection

~ Janet Bigelow
Thanks!

Dr. Andrea Ludwig presented a program on stormwater control, swales, and rain gardens.

Lynda Haynes organized a group to help with the 50K tree planting.

Downtown Hardware gave a workshop and provided door prizes.

Bob Reed contributed information and photos for Stumpy.

Dennis Superczynski and the Holly Task Force presented the Holly Days work day including Master Gardener credits.

Kris Light conducted the Spring Wildflower Walk.

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.utarboretumsociety.org

Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

Facebook: UT Arboretum Society

Via GPS: 901 S. Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

35.9995, -84.2259

Like us on Facebook. Go to Facebook.com and enter “UTAS” or “UT Arboretum Society” in the search box to find us. We post meeting notices, photos, events, and interesting tidbits on our page. We also answer questions. Join the conversation!

Design, writing, and editorial services donated by Emily Jernigan, WordsWorth

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 $101,000 to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum. We have received pledges for more than $700,000 for the Auditorium. It is now open!

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 Jernigan 865-482-4836

For more information on Planned Giving visit this UT website: www.utfi.org/give-now.

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. ______

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

Mail this form with your check to:

UTAS

P.O. Box 5382

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382
Spring Plant Sale
April 15  5 – 7 p.m.  Members Only – Become a Member at the Sale
April 16  9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  Open to All
Vendors: Beaver Creek, Riverdale, East Fork, and Sunlight Gardens Nurseries
Special Plants: “The Rising Sun™” Golden Redbud & ‘Alley Cat’ variegated Redbud

Check the mailing label for your membership renewal date.

Upcoming Events
April 5–7  Sweet Tea South Carolina Spring Garden Tour
April 14  “Landscaping with Native Plants” by Hank Bruno
April 15 & 16  Spring Plant Sale
April 28  Elmore Holly Collection Tour for Tellico Village Garden Club
May 5  “Invasive Species” by Dr. Scott Schlarbaum, cosponsored by TCWP
May 18  Lane Hays Garden Tour -Members Only, Reservations Required
June 18  Summer Meet & Greet and Father’s Day Hike
July 19  Geocaching for Kids Workshop with Janet Bigelow
July 30  Butterfly Festival at the Arboretum