Gardens (Fall/Winter 2010)

UT Institute of Agriculture

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The University of Tennessee Gardens located in Knoxville and Jackson are part of the UT Institute of Agriculture. Their mission is to foster appreciation, education and stewardship of plants through garden displays, collections, educational programs and research trials. Some 4,000 annuals, perennials, herbs, tropica ls, trees, shrubs, vegetables and ornamental grasses are evaluated each year. Both gardens are Tennessee Certified Arboreta and American Conifer Society Reference Gardens. The gardens are open during all seasons and free to the public. Visit http://utgardens.tennessee.edu and http://west.tennessee.edu/ornamentals for more information.

**UT Gardens Staff**

Dr. Sue Hamilton, director  
James Newburn, assistant director  
Jason Reeves, Jackson research horticulturist  
Bobby Cooke, assistant curator  
Emily Smith, education and special events coordinator  
Beth Willis, trial and volunteer coordinator  
Fiona McAnally, Kitchen Garden manager

**Student Interns**

Marie Binger, Kitchen Garden intern  
Joe Cope, Garden intern  
Jennifer Crumley, Kitchen Garden intern  
Robert Moser, Turfgrass intern  
Corbin Perkins, Beall Family Rose Garden intern  
Morgan Sharp, Beall Family Rose Garden intern  
Beth Sanders, Greenhouse intern

**Stories** 3 From the Director 4 Announcements 5 Winter Shrubs 6 Fall Harvest Display 8 In the Garden 10 Spring Planning 11 Event and Education Calendar 15 Update 16 Winter Flowers 18 Public Horticulture 19 Book Review 20 Development 23 Friends of the Gardens

**On the Cover** Paperbark Maple *Acer griseum*; photograph by Dr. Alan S. Heilman, retired University of Tennessee Botany professor.
There have been lots of changes taking place at the Gardens. Some you may have noticed, like the new rock garden, herb spiral and completed kitchen garden. Other changes have been more subtle, like the new electrical substation providing the Gardens’ electricity.

However, physical changes are not all that have been happening. With the addition of our education and special events coordinator, Emily Smith, we’ve seen more children, families and grandparents engaged in the Gardens. Emily offered an incredible array of summer camps and classes like we have never had. Her fall offering looks to be just as exciting. If you have children or grandchildren, you won’t want to miss the Gardens’ first ‘Trick or Trees’ event on Saturday, October 30. Be sure to check out her new tear-out Educational Program and Special Events Calendar to keep handy for your use.

Speaking of special events, our eighth annual Blooms Days Festival had 1,800 visitors. We hope you were able to join us on the eve of the opening, when Friends were able to take a free sneak peek of the marketplace while enjoying a glass of locally produced Tennessee wine.

Horticulturally, despite having record days of excessive heat and periods of drought, our Beall Family Rose Garden, sunny meadow wildflower garden, and annual variety trials prevailed and really put on a summer show. In other horticultural news, thanks to you—our Friends—your financial support enabled us to provide valuable Gardens work-study internships for nine students aspiring to be professional horticulturists. Their comments in the following pages underscore the important role of your financial support in funding internships that help teach and train our future environmental leaders.

All in all, the Gardens enjoyed a great spring and summer. I hope you enjoy this issue of our Gardens magazine; our staff expounds on many of the items I have mentioned while also looking ahead and sharing some exciting tips and ideas for 2011. I appreciate and thank you for your support as a friend, sponsor, volunteer and advocate of the Gardens.

I hope to see you in the Gardens!

Dr. Sue Hamilton
Director, UT Gardens
The results are in! Once again we have wrapped up our summer variety trials at our Knoxville and Jackson locations. I hope that each of you had the opportunity to come by one or both locations to see them on display and pick your personal favorites. We were excited to include varieties from new trial sponsors Suntory and Takii this year, and we look forward to adding even more sponsors for our 2011 trials. Our trials provide valuable feedback for major plant breeders, allow us to make sound recommendations to our regional green industry professionals, and let our visitors make first-hand evaluations of new and unusual plants before adding them to their own gardens.

Speaking of visitor evaluations, this year we asked for your help. We installed a mailbox with cards in one of our lower annual beds so you could record your favorite trial varieties and other comments. Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide a vote for your favorite trial variety. We considered your feedback when we compiled our trial results and made out our Best and Beautiful Report, which details the top varieties of annuals and other types of plants.

While nothing can take the place of viewing each variety in the landscape, our website runs a close second. And it has several advantages: you can visit it anytime day or night, there's no need to worry about weather, and you'll be able to view ratings and comments from both trial locations as well as see pictures of each variety. Be sure to visit http://utgardens.tennessee.edu and click on Annual Trials to see the 2010 trials results or to download our Best and Beautiful Report. While you're on the website, check out the new calendar we've added, too. It's a great way to keep up-to-date on the many workshops, classes, tours and camps we are offering at the gardens.

By Beth Willis

Volunteer Update

As always, huge thanks are due to our volunteers! Their hard work and dedication help keep the UT Gardens looking beautiful throughout the year. This year it's not too difficult to spot a volunteer. Many of them are sporting purple paint splotches from their time spent painting our kitchen garden, grape arbor and tool shed. They are involved in our trial program from start to finish—from sowing and transplanting seed trials and potting up rooted cuttings, to planting out in our display beds, to maintaining those display beds during the long summer months. They helped construct and decorate rain barrels, presented informative programming, and assisted with our plant sales. They also play an integral role in our two biggest fundraising events: the Blooms Days Festival in June and Holiday Express in December. From planning and preparations to breakdown, our fantastic volunteers are there to lend their energy, enthusiasm and expertise! If you would like to lend your talents and volunteer in the Gardens, visit http://utgardens.tennessee.edu.

By Beth Willis

New Staff Member Joins the Gardens

Fiona McAnally is doing more than studying public horticulture. The new master’s student in plant sciences is also assisting the UT Gardens in its work with corporate and community partners, managing the kitchen garden, and supervising two interns.

McAnally has a wealth of experience, most recently as senior director of corporate and community relations for AC Entertainment, where she specialized in community outreach, fundraising and corporate partnerships. AC Entertainment manages the Bijou and Tennessee theatres locally, and produces projects such as the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival.

As a student focusing on garden and landscape history, McAnally plans to continue work with heirloom plants and seeds that she began several years ago with John Coykendall, a volunteer at the UT Gardens and noted regional expert on heirloom vegetables. Her interest in historic gardens and heirloom plants is a result of her activities as a volunteer, director of a historic site, Tennessee farming heritage, and as a gardener.

McAnally is originally from Loudon County, where she was raised on a beef cattle farm. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
lowering shrubs are often prized in the garden, but are especially appreciated on gray winter days. A surprising number of easily grown shrubs bloom in winter and make fantastic landscape additions.

Winter jasmine is a multi-stemmed shrub of sprawling habit, hardy through zone 6 and in protected sites of zone 5. The growth habit lends itself to massing, and is especially useful for covering slopes as it will often root where the trailing stems touch the soil, helping anchor the soil. The massive numbers of green stems create a dense cover, usually enough to retard other plants from encroaching, and give the plant good winter interest, even when not in flower. It is also stunning when positioned where its fine green stems can spill over to soften and accent retaining walls or raised beds.

Winter jasmine blooms in late winter, sometimes as early as the beginning of the year, giving rise to another common name for the plant, January jasmine. Its scientific name, *Jasminum nudiflorum*, is a good description of the flower display, as the small yellow flowers stud the nude stems at the leaf axils. Though a very cold snap may damage open flowers, there are many more buds yet to expand, so the flower show is quite reliable and occurs over several weeks. Winter jasmine can be grown in sun or part shade, and has only one strict requirement, which is well-drained soil.

Winter honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*, is a treasured heirloom plant, and venerable specimens can often be found in older neighborhoods as testimonials to its durability. It can reach 10 feet tall and wide, or even larger, but can be easily limbed up, or cut back if space is limited. Stick your cuttings, as it roots easily and qualifies as a pass-along plant that isn't common in retail centers. The small, creamy flowers that often begin in January and bloom sporadically through March, aren't very obvious, but the fragrance is lemony and delicious. The foliage is blue green and persists in zones 7 and 8, while it is mostly deciduous in zones further north, being hardy to zone 4. In its most southern realms, it has been reported to reseed, but has shown little tendency to do so in most of Tennessee. Though it could never be described as a handsome shrub, its fragrance and ease of culture make it a friend in the garden. Hungry bees are especially glad to find it on late winter days when a warming sun may draw them out to hunt for nectar. It prospers in any soil but soggy.

The oddly named cornelian cherry is not a cherry at all, but a dogwood, *Cornus mas*. It grows into a small tree, 20 feet tall and wide, often multi-stemmed with a rich brown papery bark. Depending on winter weather, the flowers may appear as early as January, but usually wait until February and into March. The small flowers are a bright yellow, and are followed by brilliant red fruits as large as the end of your finger, which are eaten avidly by wildlife. If you can salvage any for yourself, they are also consumed by humans, especially in European countries. Fruit quality varies from clone to clone and some are quite sour, but still may be used for jellies and syrup.

This tree is resistant to many of the problems that plague our native dogwoods and is adaptable to a wide range of soils, except excessively wet. It is hardy to zone 4, but unhappy in zones warmer than 7. Several selections have been made for superior flower or fruit.

It takes a certain discipline to look for winter blooming plants, since so many of us are excited by the flowers of spring, which is when we do most of our shopping. You will find that adding these low maintenance plants to your landscape will give you a lift long before last frost.
By Jason Reeves, UT Gardens, Jackson research horticulturist and curator

Make an Unforgettable Fall Harvest Display

There’s nothing like the colors of pumpkins, gourds and squash to put you in the mood for fall! Colorful displays featuring these fruits of the harvest along with garden mums, pansies and violas are becoming more and more popular in front yards across the South. And that’s especially true at the UT Gardens, Jackson.

Each year as part of the Pumpkin Field Day at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, I create a fall display that draws thousands of visitors. For the past eight years, I have been growing and evaluating a large selection of cucurbits—pumpkins, gourds and winter squash—for disease tolerance in the hot and humid growing conditions of West Tennessee. The data we collect on our trials assists commercial growers in choosing the most reliable varieties for our region. After the harvest and evaluations are completed is when the fun really begins for me. I start scheming and planning what can be done with so many cucurbits and the end result is one of the largest, and I like to think one of the most imaginative, fall displays in the South.

The following tips will help you create a striking fall display as part of your landscape:

- When choosing cucurbits for your display, look for ones with stems intact, firm to the touch, without nicks or cuts and heavy for their size. Use care in transporting so as not to damage them. Any damage can cause premature decay.
- When making your selections for your display, choose one or several large or unique specimens to use as your display’s focal point. Then choose multiples of the same species to contrast with your focal point(s). Multiples will make more of an impact in your display and make your focal point really pop. You will need multiples of contrasting sizes and shapes. Deep orange, blue, light and dark green, white and beige will contrast nicely with each other and with the typical jack-o’-lantern orange.
- Before making your display, wash any dirty cucurbits in a mild bleach solution to kill any fungus or bacteria. Rinse with clean water.
- Choose a base for your display: your patio or deck, straw bales, wheelbarrow, wagon or any combination you like. Cucurbits will last longer if they are not placed directly on the ground, which tends to be cold and wet in the fall. For those that need to be set on the ground, several inches of straw, pine straw or mulch will help prevent decay.
- Select a focal point for your display, such as a large pumpkin(s), cornstalks, scarecrow, pots of seasonal flowers, or a combination of those. Working with your focal point, place larger pieces first then begin filling in with multiples of the same kind. Massing like kinds will make more of an impact in your display. Next, place a grouping of a contrasting color beside the first. Repeat until you’ve completed your design. Any gaps can be filled in with smaller gourds. Stacking flat cucurbits, such as the selections ‘Cinderella,’ ‘Rumba’ or ‘Long Island Cheese,’ to make a cucurbit tower can add height to your display. Cut the stems off so you can stack them well. Another option is to make your display somewhat a mirror image, repeating the same kind, color or shape from one side to the other. Most importantly, have fun!
- Check your display every few days for deteriorating cucurbits. Remove and replace with extras as necessary. With proper care and a bit of luck, your display should last until Thanksgiving!
- For details about our 2010 Pumpkin Field Day, results of our pumpkin evaluations, and additional photos, visit http://west.tennessee.edu/events.
As we continue to expand the Gardens to their full extent, I would like to draw your attention to one of the oldest parts of the Gardens and one of the newest sections.

What has in the past been called the Woody Ornamental Garden, the Tree and Shrub Garden, and most recently the Garden Rooms has now been combined with what we call our Arboretum Beds. These are the newer display beds located along the greenway parallel to Neyland Drive. These two sections together now form what we refer to as our Perimeter Garden. This area has some of our most fascinating specimens and is being refurbished and refocused to make it more user-friendly and compliant with our plant collections policy.

The Perimeter Garden has a dual emphasis. One is as a collection of species, the other a collection of cultivars. As a public garden concerned with conservation, it is important to us to maintain our collection of straight species, that is, how a plant is found in the wild. These plants are of tremendous educational value for teaching plant identification and of conservation and ecological value for maintaining the “true” living species. Equally important is our desire to showcase new and improved cultivars, or cultivated varieties, which may be hybrids, crosses or sports of plant species. Often these are the specimens that provide the foliage color or texture, the growth habit, or disease resistance that make them more appealing to landscape professionals and home gardeners.

A good example is *Cornus kousa* or Kousa dogwood. In the Perimeter Garden we have the straight species—a wonderful landscape plant—so you can see just how it grows in nature (with the benefit of maintenance pruning). But we also have a wonderful cultivar of *C. kousa* called ‘Akatsuki,’ which is valued for its variegated pink, white and green foliage. Other examples are in the *Aceraceae*, or maple, family. We have the *Acer* species *rufinerve*, or redvein maple, and *A. tataricum* or tatarian maple, which may not be as familiar to people as *A. palmatum* or Japanese maple (of which we have more than 20 cultivars).

As we increase the number of dogwood species in our collection, be sure and check out *Cornus pumila* or compact shrub dogwood. This is a low-growing (about 5 feet) multi-branched shrub with small white inflorescences. In their book “Dogwoods” Paul Cappiello and Don Shadow say, “The most amazing aspect of this species is that it somehow became ingrained in American horticulture. Not that one will find this everywhere … but it is more available than some relatives that may be considered far showier.” Although we also have the far showier shrub or twig dogwoods, we think it is of equal importance to maintain this lesser known species for education, research and breeding.

Many of the improvements to this area are near completion or will soon be started. These include the addition and continuation of a compacted crushed stone Perimeter Walk that will connect with the existing Power Plant and Kitchen Garden and the old Garden Rooms area. This project will provide wheelchair access and a path that encompasses the entire garden. Upcoming projects include greenway access, and increased plant, interpretive and directional signage. All these improvements should make this area more accessible, informative and enjoyable for visitors.
To ensure your garden is bright and cheerful for spring, plant spring-flowering bulbs this fall. With all the nutrients a flower needs already “packaged” inside its bulb, it is hard to make a mistake. Just follow these easy instructions and leave the rest to Mother Nature.

**Bulb selection** — If you’ve been to the grocery store and bought onions, you already know something about buying bulbs since onions are bulbs. Use the same criteria you use for selecting onions: select firm, high-quality bulbs which are not bruised, damaged, soft or moldy.

**Planting time** — Planting bulbs from November through the end of December is the ideal time for the Southeastern region of the United States since autumn temperatures finally get cooler and rainfall becomes more abundant. It is best to plant before the ground freezes so the bulbs can establish a healthy, vigorous root system, making them capable of rapid growth and development in the spring.

**Soil preparation** — Bulb performance depends on proper soil conditions during growth as well as dormancy. Most bulbs prefer loose, well-drained soils high in organic matter. Lighten heavy soil by working in sand or compost or make raised beds.

**Planting depth** — In general, plant most bulbs approximately three times their height deep and three times their width apart on center. ‘On center’ means from the middle of one bulb to the middle of the next one. Depth is measured from the bottom of the hole to the soil surface.

**Mulching** — Cover your planting bed with 2 to 3 inches of mulch. This practice helps prevent weeds, holds moisture, and keeps the ground temperature more constant during “seesaw” weather. Pine needles are ideal, but light pine bark or finely shredded hardwood bark also work well.

**Fertilizers** — Fertilize newly planted or even established bulbs in the fall when they initiate new roots, as this is when they more actively absorb nutrients. Applying fertilizer as a ‘topdressing,’ where it is scattered evenly over the top of your planting, is the best method of application. Do not put fertilizer in the bottom of the planting hole in that you run the risk of burning and killing roots as they are initiated. Also, do not use bone meal as it is not a complete bulb fertilizer and it can attract rodents and dogs that may dig up your bulbs. Select a complete bulb fertilizer like 9-9-6 that contains all of the nutrients required by bulbs to perform well. Ones that are slow-release will give bulbs a continuous supply of nutrients from the time they initiate root growth until the foliage matures and flowering begins. Whatever you choose to use, be sure to follow label directions.

**Good things come in threes** — Enthralled by colorful catalogs, beginners often make the mistake of ordering too many different species and colors. Limit yourself to three colors—five at the most—and about the same number of species. Once you’ve chosen three colors, repeat them throughout the landscape.

**The more the merrier** — For greatest impact, plant each variety in drifts or masses. Plant at least 12 of each variety for large bulbs and 25 for smaller bulbs. Think in terms of flowing arcs instead of straight lines.

**Variety is the spice of life** — Interplanting can mean combining different bulb varieties that bloom simultaneously, combining bulbs that bloom at different times throughout the season, or planting annuals and perennials between the bulbs.

For an incredible, show-stopping display, plant spring bulbs that all bloom at the same time. Planting tulips and daffodils this way can’t be beat. For a prolonged spring season with color coming and going, plant a variety of bulbs, and for sure, ones with different bloom times. The impact will not be as impressive as bulbs all blooming together but your garden will have color for a much longer period.

If you combine bulbs with different bloom times, plant groups of early flowering bulbs beside groups of later-flowering bulbs. The later flowers draw your eye away from the dying foliage of the early flowering types. For example, planting winter-hardy annuals such as pansies, violas and snapdragons between the bulbs provides fall and winter color in your garden, helps hide dying foliage of the bulbs, and doubles the flower power in your spring garden.
Take a look at our NEW seasonal programming for adults, families and children. Blossom with your preschoolers in our Garden Sprouts series; each month, we will focus on a different garden topic showing how fun nature can be for you and your little ones.

Our adult classes and workshops offer many opportunities to learn about gardening, floral design and more. Fall and winter are also very exciting times for children, so we are offering many fun-filled programs for children on topics from pumpkins to gingerbread. Grandkids Growing is a new monthly series designed specifically for grandparents and grandkids to learn and grow together in the garden! There are also many fun activities for you and your family to enjoy together this season.

See you in the garden!

Emily Smith
Education & Special Events Coordinator
October

**Trick or Trees**
Saturday, October 30
Noon to 4 p.m.
Scare yourself silly at the UT Gardens! Put on a costume and join us for our first ever Trick or Trees. Hike through the garden and enjoy trick-or-treating at five different activity stations. Learn about pumpkins, spiders and other creepy crawlies, and make a few ghoulish crafts to take home. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain or shine. The cost is $5 per child (12 and under), which can be paid on the day of the event. Due to limited capacity, advance registration is required. RSVP to 865-974-7151 or esmith27@utk.edu by end of day Thursday, October 28.

November

**Garden Sprouts: Harvest Fun!**
*Preschool program*
Friday, November 5 OR Saturday, November 6
10-11:30 a.m.
Have fun while learning about the magic of the harvest season! We will learn why corn, squash and pumpkins are such good friends in the garden. Come and enjoy a harvest story, a fall craft and a tasty harvest treat. Dress warmly as we plan to spend time outside exploring the fall garden. This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult.
$8/member, $13/nonmember

**Garden Buds: Seed Scouts**
*Children’s program*
Saturday, November 6
2-4 p.m.
Did you know that seeds can act like parachutes or like Velcro? And that fall is the best season to hunt for the places they have landed or where they have “stuck” themselves until spring? This class will explore what happens to seeds during winter, the germination process and where they end up the following season. Be sure to plant yourself in this fun class. This program is designed for children ages 6 to 9.
$10/member, $13/nonmember

**Flower Arrangement of the Month: Happy Harvest**
*Adult workshop*
Presented by the UT Gardens and the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum
Saturday, November 20
10-11:30 a.m.
Come and harvest ideas as we create a unique arrangement using fresh flowers and fall accents. We will take you step by step through the design process, giving you tips for making a long-lasting, visually pleasing arrangement. All materials included.
$30/UT Gardens and Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum member, $35/nonmember

December

**Garden Sprouts: Evergreens**
*Preschool program*
Friday, December 10 OR Saturday, December 11
10-11:30 a.m.
Explore the world of evergreen trees in the garden. This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult.
$8/member, $13/nonmember

**Garden Buds: Gingerbread**
*Children’s program*
Saturday, December 11
2-4 p.m.
Do you like gingerbread cookies? Join us as we discover how cookies are made from plants like ginger! Each Garden Bud will create a fun gingerbread craft to take home. This program is designed for children ages 6 to 9.
$10/member, $13/nonmember

**Holiday Wreath Workshop**
*Adult workshop*
Sunday, December 12, 1-2:30 p.m. OR Monday, December 13, 6-7:30 p.m.
Join us for this annual workshop that adds a little cheer to your home. We will be using fresh evergreens, pinecones, winter berries and other holiday materials. It will be a great way to kick off the holiday season. Sign up early, as this class is sure to fill up fast! All materials included.
$30/member, $35/nonmember

**Family Wreath Making**
*Family workshop*
Sunday, December 12
3:30-5 p.m.
Patterned after our annual holiday wreath workshop, this class is for families who wish to create their holiday wreath together. We will be using fresh evergreens, pinecones, winter berries and other holiday materials. Each family will construct one wreath. This class is designed for children ages 6 to 12 accompanied by one adult. (Please, no more than two children per adult.) All materials included.
$30/member family, $35/nonmember family

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$30/member family, $35/nonmember family

**Flower Arrangement of the Month: Holiday Cheer**
*Adult workshop*
Presented by the UT Gardens and the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum
Saturday, December 18
10-11:30 a.m.
This class will focus on the holiday season. We will create a holiday arrangement of the month, using fresh evergreens, pinecones, winter berries and other holiday materials. Patterns will be provided to inspire you. All materials included.
$30/UT Gardens and Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum member, $35/nonmember
Grandkids Growing: All Aboard!
Grandparent/Grandchild program
Saturday, December 18
2-4 p.m.
Put on your overalls, and grab your conductor hat; this program is all about trains! We will be train conductors for the day, read a train story and go “choo-chooing” through the UT Gardens’ Holiday Express! This program is designed for a grandparent and grandchild, ages 5 to 9.
$20/member team, $25/nonmember team

January

Garden Sprouts: Pajama Party
Preschool program
Friday, January 7 OR Saturday, January 8
10-11:30 a.m.
Shhh! Everyone is sleeping. Have you ever wondered what happens in the garden during the cold winter? Where do garden critters sleep? Come and explore the winter garden and learn who snores throughout the winter! Put on your favorite pair of pajamas and join us as we learn all about the winter sleepers. This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult.
$8/member, $13/nonmember

Birdie Buffet
Family workshop
Thursday, January 6
6-7:30 p.m.
As winter approaches and the temperature drops, so does the amount of food available for our feathered friends! By creating a few ornaments for a wildlife tree in your own yard, you can help birds find food and shelter during the cold winter months. Each family will make several ornaments using natural materials such as pinecones, ornamental grasses, cranberries and raisins. This family workshop is designed for children ages 6 to 12, accompanied by an adult (please, no more than two children per adult). All materials included.
$20/member family, $25/nonmember family

Grandkids Growing: Winter Birds
Grandparent/Grandchild program
Saturday, January 15
2-4 p.m.
Did you know that birds do not have teeth, spend most of their time looking for food and are one of the oldest living creatures? Can you identify the types of birds living in your yard? In this fun program, we will learn how to identify birds living in our area, determine favorite foods of various birds, and take a nature hike to identify several birds. This program is designed for a grandparent and grandchild, ages 5 to 9.
$20/member team, $25/nonmember team

February

Garden Sprouts: Hot Chocolate Fun
Preschool program
Friday, February 4 OR Saturday, February 5
10-11:30 a.m.
Did you know that chocolate comes from a tree? Come celebrate chocolate and other snacks that come from plants! We will read a delicious story and make a few chocolate treats to take home. Grab your taste buds, this class is sure to fill your tummy! This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult.
$8/member, $13/nonmember

Grandkids Growing: Homemade Ice Cream
Grandparent/Grandchild program
Saturday, February 26
2-4 p.m.
In this program, we will all scream for ice cream! Did you know that many favorite kinds of ice cream are flavored using plants? Each grandparent team will make a batch of vanilla ice cream and a
delicious ice cream topping. All materials included. This program is designed for a grandparent and grandchild ages 5 to 9. $30/member team, $35/nonmember team

March

Garden Sprouts: Totally Trees
Preschool program
Friday, March 4 OR Saturday, March 5 10-11:30 a.m.
Have fun learning about trees! We will hike through the garden to find short trees, tall trees and trees in between by giving them big hugs around their trunks. This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult. $8/member, $13/nonmember

Flower Arrangement of the Month: Spring Forward!
Adult workshop
Presented by the UT Gardens and the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum
Saturday, March 12 10-11:30 a.m.
Are you ready for the sights and smells of spring? Set your clocks, and join us for this hands-on workshop as we create a beautiful spring arrangement to brighten your home. All materials included. $30/UT Gardens and Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum member, $35/nonmember

Garden Buds: Nature’s Treasure Chest
Children’s program
Saturday, March 12 2-4 p.m.
Grab your imaginary treasure maps and metal detectors as we search for hidden treasures in the garden! We will follow various clues that will lead us through the garden. We will wish we had four-leaf clovers since we will need all the luck we can get! This program is designed for children ages 6 to 9. $10/member, $13/nonmember

Wedding Flowers—Do It Yourself
Adult workshop
Tuesday, March 15 6 to 8 p.m.
Do you or a friend hear wedding bells in the near future? In this hands-on workshop, learn the basics of filling that special day with flowers. Each participant will make a bouquet, corsage and boutonniere. We will also share several ideas for reception centerpieces and decorations using natural materials. All materials included. $40/member, $45/nonmember

Grandkids Growing: Am I Green?
Grandparent/Grandchild program
Saturday, March 26 2-4 p.m.
Ever wonder what it means to be green? We will explore what it means to be green, organic and eco-friendly. Each grandparent team will decorate a special recycling box to take home. All materials included. This program is designed for a grandparent and grandchild ages 5 to 9. $30/member, $35/nonmember

Make Your Own Rain Barrel
Adult workshop
Saturday, March 26 9-11 a.m.
Do you know there is more nitrogen in rainfall than in one application of fertilizer? Drought or no drought, we should all conserve water. Beth Willis, UT Gardens volunteer coordinator, will show you how to capture this precious resource in your own 55-gallon catch barrel. Each participant will make and design a rain barrel to take home. Please bring an appropriate vehicle to transport it home. All materials included. $40/member, $45/nonmember

How to Register
Preregistration required for all classes and programs except where noted. Please call Emily Smith at 865-974-7151 or e-mail esmith27@utk.edu to register. Registration deadlines are one week before classes. Please register early; class sizes are limited or classes may be cancelled due to low early enrollment. Additional students are not added to sold-out courses; however, we will place your name on a waiting list and notify you if there is a cancellation. To hold your space in class, payment is due with registration using check or cash.

After You Register
We will contact you the week of the program to confirm your enrollment. Please dress accordingly for the weather for all outdoor programs. No rain or snow dates are planned. Upon arrival at the gardens, please check in at the entrance to the UT Gardens. Classroom doors are open 30 minutes before starting time.

Materials Fees
Unless otherwise stated, class fees include all materials.

Cancellations and Refunds
Courses cancelled due to low enrollment or hazardous weather conditions are refunded automatically. You will be notified by phone if a program is cancelled. In cases of inclement weather, call 865-974-7151 to check the status of the program. If you must cancel your registration for a program, your registration fees will be refunded if notice is received at least one week before the program.
Holiday Express at the UT Gardens

Climb aboard the Holiday Express at the UT Gardens! UT Gardens and Mark Fuhrman have partnered again to bring East Tennessee an event that will delight visitors young and old this holiday season. Visit this year and experience 12 garden-scale model trains, thousands of lights and a miniature landscape featuring rivers, waterfalls and more than 100 buildings decorated for the holidays.

Thanksgiving Weekend:
November 24-27 12-8 p.m.
November 28 12-6 p.m.

December 4-January 2
Friday & Saturday 12-8 p.m.
Sunday 12-6 p.m.

Additional Days
December 24 & 25 12-6 p.m.

Cost is $5 per person; children 4 and under are admitted free.

Check Out Our New Herb Spiral

Never heard of an herb spiral? Well neither had I until landscape contractor Mark Fuhrman approached me about building one in the UT Gardens. After a little research I found that an herb spiral is actually a garden that pulls together many permaculture design principles and follows the shape of a spiral that is commonly found in nature. It's really a simple and efficient way to grow herbs in your landscape while at the same time providing a unique and beautiful focal point. It's also a ‘no-till’ garden because you mound soil on top of the ground while building it up with stone or brick or rock in the shape of a spiral. Together, the mound and the stones provide a range of niches and micro-climates that will suit the cultivation of many different herbs. Plant sun-loving and drought-tolerant herbs at the top and south side of the spiral and those that like more moisture and less direct sun towards the base and north side of the spiral. The spiral design also allows you to reach all parts of the spiraled-garden without stepping on it, so soil compaction is avoided. Compact and colorful, the raised, spiraled garden bed built up with rocks and soil is truly an ecosystem unto itself once planted with beautiful and useful herbs. Spirals range in size from 4 to 5 feet across and 2 feet high to 10 to 15 feet across and 3 feet high. As a result, the spiraled bed provides more growing area than traditional garden rows.

Our herb spiral was built and donated to the UT Gardens by Mark Fuhrman Specialty Landscapes and is dedicated to the memory of Thoni Schultz (1958-2010), self-educated horticulturist, herbalist and culinary expert who spent 31 years employed with Mark Fuhrman Landscaping.
Pansies (Viola spp.) are really violas. New cultivars possess better cold and heat tolerances, extending their flowering period to almost eight months. Pansies and violas are planted in early fall after the summer color explosion has faded. Both also thrive in above ground containers without the need of winter protection.

Shop for vigorous, dark green plants at local greenhouses and garden centers. Closely inspect for lots of white, growing roots. Don’t buy short or spindly seedlings or those with yellowing leaves. Purchase sturdy 1801 plants (18 3½-inch plant cells per tray) or larger pots. Smaller-sized pansies tend to be more disease susceptible. To avoid deadly root rot diseases in garden soils, move pansy/viola beds every three years.

For most of Tennessee, the completion date for planting pansies and violas is October 15. Back up a week or two earlier if planting in gardens at higher elevations. An earlier fall planting date allows plants adequate time to root down into the warm autumn soil. Deeply rooted plants bloom heavier through the fall and winter seasons.

Large-sized plants start off quickly and fall-winter flowering is better. Deeply rooted pansies and violas provide better anchorage, which reduces the chance of winter freeze heaving. Once soil temperatures drop below 45 degrees F, plant growth slows and flower numbers decline.

There are many series of pansies and violas to choose from in colors ranging from white, yellow, pink, red and purple shades. Color patterns may be clear, blotched or picotee. Four popular pansy series are Delta, Matrix, Panola and Majestic Giant II. Among the popular viola series are Sorbet, Rocky, Penny and Velour.

Prepare the garden bed or containers prior to planting. Pansies should be planted in well-drained, organically rich garden soil or container media mix. An acidic soil pH ranging between 5.2 and 5.8 avoids deficiencies.
To grow pansies successfully, follow this four-step program:

1. Purchase healthy plants.
2. Plant by mid-October or earlier.
3. Water in the fall and winter as needed.
4. Fertilize monthly through the winter and spring months.

Pansies are spaced 6 to 8 inches apart and violas at 4 to 6 inches. The large flowered Majestic Giant II, Colossus and Mammoth series are set 8 to 10 inches apart. New cultivar series like Matrix and Rocky are more heat tolerant and bloom into late June. Wider plant spacing avoids plant overcrowding and provides for better air circulation to prevent diseases.

To create spectacular color displays, group pansies or violas together in color blocks. For example, plant a solid yellow cultivar next to purple, orange or white shades. In a small garden space select one dominant color or cultivar as your color statement. Bright, cool colors (yellows, blues, purples) provide the showiest bang in the space. Mix pansies with spring-flowering bulbs.

Pansies and violas thrive with constant nutrient feeding. Option one is to broadcast an agricultural grade fertilizer (10-10-10 or equivalent) every 8 to 10 weeks. A second option is to feed twice monthly with a water soluble fertilizer (Miracle-Gro or equivalent) in the fall and winter months. In early March, switch to a slow release feed (Osmocote or equivalent) to finish out the pansy season in mid-May.

After planting in the fall, tuck 1 to 2 inches of mulch around plants to insulate the soil, to conserve soil-heat and moisture, and to prevent a weed invasion. Acidic-type mulches such as pine needles (pine straw) and pine mini-nuggets are better choices for growing great pansies.

Pansies may be injured from dry, chilling winds in open areas. Planting a pansy bed at the base of walls, fences, evergreen hedges or dense deciduous shrubs provides wind protection and increases winter blooming. Snow and ice both insulate and hydrate plants during the winter.
Public Horticulture

By Andy Pulte, Plant sciences public horticulture lecturer

A Diverse Career Path

Public horticulture is a rapidly expanding area of horticulture that places an emphasis on people and their knowledge, interaction and enjoyment of plants. Many of our students in public horticulture go on to work for public gardens. But did you know that working in a public garden is just one of the many career opportunities in this field?

Zoological gardens provide great opportunities for our graduates. Many zoos have moved toward zoo exhibits that make you feel like you’re within the habitat of the animals. It takes trained professionals to set the horticultural stage for such an exhibit, which takes into consideration the health and well-being of the animals, plants and zoo visitors.

Other students have gone on to careers in horticultural education. This area includes providing information to the public on everything from lawn care to sustainable living. Getting the word out about horticulture and gardening happens through the Web, television, radio and a variety of print media. Many of our graduates now make their living through sharing their knowledge and passion of horticulture.

One of those graduates is Jayme Tims-Grzebik, who is now an urban horticulturist for the University of Hawaii. While earning a bachelor’s (’01) and a master’s (’03) at UT Knoxville, Jayme developed her horticultural skills working at the UT Gardens. That knowledge served her well when she landed a job with the National Tropical Botanical Gardens in Hawaii. After moving from Kauai to Oahu, she began work for the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service as an urban horticulturist. Working with and educating the public about horticulture makes Jayme a great example of someone in the field of public horticulture.

These are just a few examples of jobs in public horticulture. Over the next few years we hope to expand our enrollment, which will mean expanded use of the UT Gardens. Students from a variety of different disciplines come to the gardens to experience it as a living laboratory of learning. Thank you for your support of the gardens and public horticulture!

Students on the Move

This summer, P. Allen Smith picked UT Gardens volunteer and Plant Sciences student Ben Ford for a summer internship. Ben is an impressive student and has shown enthusiasm for everything horticulture. Ben has learned some sustainable design principles, given tours and worked with film crews outside of Little Rock, Arkansas.
When Tracy DiSabato-Aust spoke at the Knoxville Museum of Art several years ago, there was a good crowd gathered to hear her. We were expecting a middle-aged garden lady in conservative garb (suit, poly blouse) and sensible shoes, someone knowledgeable and no nonsense. As I recall, the audience gasped in unison when she appeared: our speaker had a femme-fatale figure and a full mane of blond hair, and she was dressed in a sassy outfit of leather jacket, skirt and cowboy boots. She was sexy, with-it and oh, yes, knowledgeable, too.

DiSabato is a horticulturist with a B.S. and an M.S. from the Ohio State University, a garden designer with 35 years experience, a photographer, a tri-athlete and “fitness fanatic” (her words), and a professional speaker. Her “The Well-Tended Perennial Garden” (1998) is one of a handful of garden books for the home gardener with a focus on maintenance, and it is on all the short lists of best garden books, perhaps because it anticipates so many of the what-if and how-to questions we ask after plants get set out. Her most recent book is “50 High-Impact Low-Care Garden Plants” (2008). Her second book, “The Well-Designed Mixed Garden: Building Beds and Borders With Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals, and Bulbs” (Portland: Timber Press, 2003) covers a great deal more territory than either of the aforementioned two. It is longer by far, with a tremendous lot of information in the 460 pages—so much, in fact, that it is daunting for any would-be reviewer. I will only outline its major sections and mention a few outstanding features.

The book is in three major divisions, followed by three alphabetical appendices, but do not be misled: the appendices comprise over one-third of the pages. Part One is Mixed Garden Design Basics, in seven chapters with color photographs, diagrams and designs. The emphasis is clearly on principles of garden design throughout the book, but bless Tracy—practical to the core, she can’t not talk about maintenance. The last chapter in Part One is on maintenance, discussed by plant type, starting with whether or not and how to mulch deciduous trees and ending with how to store tender plants and bulbs through the winter. The author’s writing style is easy-going, not too formal, just direct and down to earth, with practical first-person asides.

Part Two, Mixed Garden Design Examples, is two chapters on designing small, medium and large gardens, with photos of the author’s own large garden and on gardens she designed. The photographs here and elsewhere are by the author, with a few exceptions, and they are as stunning as they are numerous. Moreover, they are clearly labeled so you know exactly what you’re looking at. In at least one instance (p. 146), she photographed a garden when it was being planted and again a year later at the same spot. Good idea!

Part Three is an Encyclopedia of Plant Combinations, with 27 of them, two to five plants per combination, with (again) gorgeous photographs on one page and plant description and maintenance information on the facing page. For example, combination 18 is gladiolus and love-in-a-mist. On the opposite page the plants are described separately (height, width, light requirements, and flowering month) in brief outline, followed by maintenance information in text format. Full information for all the plants is in the appendices. The combinations are unusual and exciting, and wonderfully clear. Usually when one sees illustrations or photographs of plants growing together it is difficult or impossible to discern which is which, even with little numerals plastered on top of them.

Appendix A is a nine-page list of scientific and common names of plants mentioned in the book, arranged alphabetically by the former. (Should you know the common but not the scientific name, you can find it in the book’s index.) Appendix B is over 130 pages long; it is a list of plants by design characteristics, with notes such as, “Adds light to the shade garden,” under each, and 11 characteristics charted out across the double-page spread. Those pictured in the book have plate or combination reference numbers, so they are easily found elsewhere. At the end of Appendix B is a list of flowering plants by color, broken down by annual-perennial-shrub-woody vine, etc. Appendix C, Plants by Maintenance Characteristics, is equally helpful, albeit somewhat shorter (about 50 pages). There are still more helpful lists in the appendices that I have left for you to discover.

And that’s not all: there follow a glossary of terms, a bibliography, a list of plant sources, and a good index. Not every plant you know will be in “The Well-Designed Mixed Garden,” but many you don’t will be, with excellent ideas for using them. In sum, part manual, part inspiration, this is a book that every reader will wish she had read and absorbed before she ever took trowel in hand.
Thanks to the tremendous contributions of Hank Bertelkamp (in memory of his wife, Jane Smith Bertelkamp), Richard and Julie Hogg, Mary and Chris Albrecht, Dennis and Janet Superczynski, Jim and Libba Wall, Mark and Judy Fuhrman, Jeanne Lane and many other Friends of the Gardens, nine students are completing valuable work-study internships in the Gardens.

“Interning in the Beall Rose Garden this summer has truly been an amazing experience for me, and without Sam and Mary Anne Beall, this blessing could not have been made possible. This internship has taught me the tender loving care that goes into rose garden maintenance ... [and] has allowed me to meet an abundance of wonderful, knowledgeable people that have helped guide and teach me through this work-study experience. I believe the knowledge that I have gained and the connections that I have made through this internship will help me in my pursuit of becoming a professional landscape designer.”

—Corbin Perkins, senior in plant sciences

“As a Beall Family Rose Garden intern, I have been given hands-on experience concerning the proper care for roses in the East Tennessee climate. Dr. Mark Windham and his amazing knowledge of roses have helped me gain a vast understanding of the rose pests and how to apply proper treatments. With the preventative routine application every week of fungicide and fertilizer, I feel that the Beal Family Rose Garden has become a top-performing garden within the UT Gardens and the surrounding community. My favorite part of this summer internship has been speaking with visitors about how they can grow roses like ours in their gardens at home. ... I never believed that roses in East Tennessee could perform this well and that anyone can grow them just like we have done!

—Morgan Sharp, senior in plant sciences
“...without Sam and Mary Anne Beall, this blessing could not have been made possible.”

“I have been given hands-on experience concerning the proper care for roses in the East Tennessee climate.”
For more than 25 years, the Friends of the Gardens have been investing their time, talents and resources into making the UT Gardens outstanding. Contributions from this group, as well as our many volunteers, made possible the Friendship Plaza, the Don Williams endowment and numerous student internships. Their contributions also enhance the overall maintenance and well-being of the Gardens. Now, it is with great pride that we announce the latest achievement made possible by the Friends of the Gardens: the Friends of the Gardens Endowment.

The Friends of the Gardens Endowment, established with an initial gift of $25,000 in August 2010, will forever commemorate the vital role Friends of the Gardens have played in making the Gardens successful. Furthermore, earnings from the endowment will provide support for the Gardens in perpetuity.

“What’s unique about this endowment is that every member of Friends of the Gardens can take pride in knowing this is made possible because of their contributions,” said Mark Clark, associate development director for the Institute of Agriculture. “We’re very thankful and appreciative of the many donors who have made this possible and we look forward to seeing the endowment grow, along with the Gardens, in the years to come.”

If you would like to make a contribution to the endowment above and beyond your annual membership contribution, you may do so by returning your gift in the enclosed envelope and noting that it is for the Friends of the Gardens Endowment.

If you would like to learn more about this endowment and other ways you can support the Gardens, contact Mark Clark at mclark4@utk.edu or 865-974-5315.
New and Renewing Donors

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The following donors were mistakenly omitted from our last issue. We sincerely apologize for the error and greatly appreciate your support and understanding.
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Donations recorded for this newsletter were received from March 15, 2010, through July 25, 2010. Please let us know of any corrections or additions by calling 865-974-8265 or e-mailing utgardens@utk.edu.

You may join Friends of the Gardens or contribute online at utgardens.tennessee.edu/membership.html.

Thank You For Your Support
New UT Gardens Merchandise Available

Looking for great gifts for birthdays, Christmas, housewarmings, thank yous? UT Gardens now offers items that make wonderful, thoughtful gifts for your friends.

**Fall Notecards:** A set of two each of four different designs. All photos by Alan Heilman. $5

**Spring Notecards:** A set of two each of four different designs. All photos by Alan Heilman. $5

**Poster:** Coleus (*Solenostemon*) Photo by Alan Heilman. $10

**T-shirts:** A wide variety of colors and sizes

Click [https://web.dii.utk.edu/agstore/default.aspx](https://web.dii.utk.edu/agstore/default.aspx) to purchase online or call 865-974-8265.

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Pumpkin Field Day and Harvest Display
Field Day, Thursday, September 30, 1-4 p.m.
Pumpkin Harvest Display, September 30-November 28
UT Gardens, Jackson
West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center
Free admission

**Fall Plant Sale and Garden Lectures,**
**UT Gardens, Jackson**
Friends of the UT Gardens Preview Party
Wednesday, October 6, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, October 7
Outdoor Talks and Plant Sale, 2-6:30 p.m.
Indoor Lecture 6:30 p.m.
Free Admission
[http://west.tennessee.edu/events](http://west.tennessee.edu/events)

**Fall Plant Sale, UT Gardens, Knoxville**
Friends of the UT Gardens Preview
Friday, October 8, 4-6 p.m.

Public Event
Saturday, October 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

utgardens.tennessee.edu