UT Gardens Magazine

2011

Gardens (Spring/Summer 2011)

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, tropicales, 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
Beth Willis, trial & volunteer coordinator
Fiona McAnally, Kitchen Garden manager
Carol Reese, UT Extension Western Region ornamental horticulture specialist
Andy Pulte, plant propagator and plant sale coordinator

STUDENT INTERNS
Joe Cope, Garden
Jennifer Crumley, Kitchen Garden
Ben Ford, Beall Family Rose Garden
Will Mayfield, Garden
Daniel Moriarty, Beall Family Rose Garden
Drew Patrick, Garden
Beth Sanders, Greenhouse
Eric White, Turfgrass
Kim Whitlock, Garden

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COVER Kalanchoe thyrsiflora ‘Flapjack’ – Flapjack kalanchoe; photograph by Dr. Alan S. Heilman, retired University of Tennessee botany professor. ‘Flapjack’ is the UT gardens Plant of the Year and will be available at Blooms Days.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring from the UT Gardens!

Even though we just weathered one of the coldest and snowiest winters in many years, my heart is warm as I reflect upon the hundreds of children and their families and friends who delighted in our third annual Holiday Express at the UT Gardens, Knoxville. More than 9,200 visitors enjoyed this winter’s train extravaganza. I appreciate and thank Mark Fuhrman Complete Landscape Service for making possible this event, which attracted folks from around the region.

We hope our new UT Farmers Market in the Knoxville Gardens will attract folks as well. An array of local farmers and growers, including UT student farmers, will offer fresh, locally grown produce each week beginning in mid-May. The market will also feature an ever-changing assortment of music, crafts, educational activities, cooking demonstrations, and a dinner buffet prepared with fresh local produce by the UT Culinary Institute student chefs.

May will be a busy month for us. Not only are we launching the new Farmers Market, but we are moving our annual Blooms Days Market Place and Festival to Mother’s Day weekend, May 7-8, to beat the heat and humidity. The date change puts Blooms Days at the beginning of the gardening season—a great time to be adding plants to your garden and a great time to peruse the incredible selection of plants and related items for sale from the 30-plus event vendors. In addition, our Beall Family Rose Garden will be in the peak of bloom along with the rest of the Gardens’ collection of iris, clematis, species tulip, peony and some choice spring ephemerals. Exciting things are happening at the UT Gardens, Jackson as well. More than 150 different perennials and shrubs have been added around the gazebo area, and the two mass plantings of dwarf yaupon holly at the education building entrance have been replaced with a variety of exciting plant material. You’ll want to check out how Jason Reeves, Jackson Gardens research horticulturist, shows off his theme for the Gardens this summer, ‘Come Check the Mail.’ He will provide a twist on “mailbox gardening” like you’ve never seen before. Be sure to check out Summer Celebration, too. The festival-like event takes place on July 14 at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center where the UT Gardens, Jackson, is located. You can enjoy a variety of educational talks and walks around the Gardens and splurge at the annual plant sale where you will find plenty of one-of-a-kind plants.

I’m pleased to announce that Tom Looney, director of development with the UT Institute of Agriculture, is working with the Gardens as our development officer. Tom brings a wealth of experience and ideas to help us grow and further develop the Gardens. If you have interest in talking with Tom, you can contact him at 865-974-8622 or tom.looney@tennessee.edu.

In closing, please know how much I appreciate and thank you for your continued support as a friend, sponsor, volunteer and advocate of the Gardens—you help keep them growing! I hope to see you in the Gardens.

Dr. Sue Hamilton
Director, UT Gardens
Updates from the UT Helping Hands Kitchen Garden

By Fiona McAnally, Kitchen Garden manager

As the Kitchen Garden in Knoxville begins its second season, several exciting initiatives are underway to expand our efforts in edible gardening.

Begun in 2010, due in large part to a grant from the UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists, the Helping Hands Kitchen Garden is a demonstration garden for home vegetable gardening as well as a showcase for methods of accessible gardening. The eye-catching purple fence is easily spotted from Neyland Drive and, during its first year, has attracted lots of interest.

Building on the interest of edible gardening, this year we will be presenting a weekly UT Farmers Market, expanding public programs in vegetable gardening, and highlighting regional heirloom vegetables.

UT FARMERS MARKET
From spring through fall, the UT Gardens, Knoxville will be collaborating with the UT Organic & Sustainable Crop Production Program to present a weekly UT Farmers Market at the Gardens on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Goals of the farmers market include providing a weekly fun and family-friendly gathering place, providing an additional source of fresh, local produce, and providing public education through outreach activities. In addition to selling produce and plants grown by UT students, growers and farmers throughout East Tennessee are invited. We also hope to showcase students through cooking demonstrations from the UT Culinary Institute.

UT’s Organic & Sustainable Production Program offers internships to students to learn about hands on production—from planning to production to direct marketing. Produce is grown on the UT Organic Farm and will be offered, in addition to other produce, prepared foods and entertainment.
HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES

Heirloom vegetables keep gaining in popularity, and we are including many in the Kitchen Garden this year. Three heirloom seed resources that are providing inspiration for our garden this year are from Seed Savers Exchange, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange and Comstock Seeds.

Seed Savers Exchange is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Decorah, Iowa, and has a great selection of heirloom seeds that they have built over 35 years from across the world. Many of their seeds are certified organic. New selections this year include a Parisian pickling cucumber and Mountain Rose potato. In addition, transplants are available for tomatoes and peppers in case you run out of time for starting seeds. If you find the catalog overwhelming, I recommend starting with the sampler “Heritage Farm Favorites” or “Heirloom Lettuce Collection”—each at $13.50. Online at www.seedsavers.org.

Southern Exposure Seed Exchange is cooperatively owned and operated by Acorn Community Farm in Lousia County, Virginia, and are active with Monticello’s Heritage Harvest Festival each September. Whimsical illustrations and supplies make this catalog a fun and valuable resource. Online at www.southernexposure.com.

Comstock Seeds is a new resource that has resulted from the merger of two heirloom seed companies: Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. in Mansfield, Missouri, and New England’s oldest seed house in Wethersfield, Connecticut (home of the Red Wethersfield Onion). The Wethersfield Seed Gardens has been providing seed for more than 200 years and has most recently operated as Comstock, Ferre & Co. The result is a wonderful, quirky catalog that makes a tremendous resource. Online at www.comstockferre.com.

Not only are these seed catalogs full of full-color photographs of vegetables, herbs and flowers, but they contain useful gardening information. Books too can be great resources for growing vegetables. At $2.50 to $2.95 per seed pack, you can afford to try something new.

GARDEN RECIPE: MARINATED ASPARAGUS BUNDLES

Nothing can replace the taste of fresh-picked vegetables, and they rarely need much to improve the flavor. However, if you want to impress your guests for a gathering such as a bridal shower or picnic, these marinated asparagus bundles are eye-catching. Asparagus is one of several perennial vegetables that you can plant in your garden. Though it takes a couple of years to get established, it’s worth the wait! We are looking forward to harvesting ours in the Kitchen Garden soon.

INGREDIENTS

Note: If pressed for time, recipe can be made without marinade.

2 ½ pounds asparagus
10 green onions
2 red bell peppers, cut into 20 thin strips
1 cup finely chopped onion
1 cup red wine vinegar
½ cup water
2 teaspoons sugar
1 teaspoon each: dried oregano, dried tarragon, mustard, Worcestershire sauce
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

DIRECTIONS

Snap off tough ends of asparagus. Cover and cook in small amounts of boiling water for 5 minutes or until crisp-tender. Drain and rinse under cold running water (to keep bright green and stop the cooking). Drain well.

Trim white portion from green onions and set aside. Place green onion tops in a bowl and add boiling water to cover. Drain immediately and rinse under cold running water.

Gather asparagus into 10 bundles (may vary on thickness of asparagus), and add 2 bell pepper strips to each bundle. Tie each bundle with a green onion strip. Place bundles in a 13-by-9-inch baking dish or serve as is, without marinade.

Combine chopped onion and remainder of ingredients in a bowl; stir well. Pour over asparagus bundles. Chill and cover for 2 to 4 hours.

To serve, remove asparagus bundles from marinade, and discard marinade (or save for another use). Arrange asparagus bundles on a serving platter.
Virginia bluebells, columbine and woodland phlox are my much-loved spring-flowering plants. They are a welcome sight after a dreary winter. The combination of these three wildflowers makes for a charming woodland garden. If your garden is absent of these beauties, right now is a great time to find them at your local nurseries and garden centers.

By Jason Reeves, UT Gardens, Jackson, research horticulturist
**VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS**

Virginia bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, is my all-time favorite native wildflower. No other herbaceous plant says ‘spring’ to me like its lush foliage and nodding flowers. Virginia bluebells emerge with blue-green, oval-shaped leaves that age to a light green. Shortly after the first leaves emerge, clusters of seven to 20 1-inch nodding tubular flowers appear on stems that mature to around 18 inches. The buds and young flowers start out pink and age to lavender-blue, attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. In the South, the leaves melt away with the onset of summer, leaving a bare spot in the garden. Hosta and ferns are great companion plants that can fill in their summer void. Virginia bluebells prefer organically rich, moist soil and partial to full shade. Tap-like roots will slowly form a colony, and seed will self-sow under the right conditions. The only negative thing I can say is that it can be hard to find this plant for sale. Seeking out nurseries that specialize in native plants is always a good place to start.

**EASTERN COLUMBINE**

There are more than 60 species of columbine and many more hybrids. The flowers come in almost every color and can have beautiful nodding or upright blooms, depending on the species. My favorite of the group is *Aquilegia canadensis*. Sometimes called Eastern or Canadian columbine, *A. canadensis* is native to most of Eastern North America and can be found growing wild in at least 37 states and much of Canada. It may not be as showy as some of the hybrids, but its flowers have a certain grace and elegance others lack. The drooping, bell-like 1- to 2-inch reddish and yellow flowers are produced in April and May on 2- to 3-foot stalks. Hummingbirds find these blooms irresistible. In addition, they make good cut flowers. Columbine’s glaucous, blue-green, compound leaves are held in groups of three by long petioles, giving the plant a beautiful frilly skirt when in flower. As compared to other species and hybrids, *A. canadensis* is less susceptible to leaf miners, which do little long-term harm, but can make the foliage unsightly.

In the wild, plants are found in a range of growing conditions, from moist semi-shady areas to dry, sunny, rocky bluffs. In the garden, they perform best in full sun to partial shade. However, they will grow in a wide range of soil types as long as the drainage is good. Plants freely self-seed and will naturalize in the garden. From seed they will flower the second year and live for three to four years in the garden. Columbine is in the *Ranunculus* family, which is less appetizing to deer and other pests.

**WOODLAND PHLOX**

Woodland phlox, *Phlox divaricata*, is one of the earliest of more than 50 species of native phlox to flower. It produces lightly fragrant 1-inch flowers in loose panicles on 12- to 15-inch stems in April and May, attracting bees and butterflies to the garden. Blooms are most commonly light blue but can be lighter or darker in color. Flower stalks can be trimmed back after flowering to encourage new growth.

There are many cultivars available selected for color or compact size. ‘Dirigo Ice’ (icy blue) and ‘Fuller’s White’ (white) are two good, slightly more compact cultivars. Woodland phlox’s leaves are oblong, 1 to 2 inches long and dark green in color. Plants spread slowly by creeping rhizomes and will also self-seed in the garden. It can be found growing wild in the eastern third of North America. Phlox will grow in a wide range of soil and moisture levels, but performs best in moist well-drained soil in partial shade. Occasionally spider mites and powdery mildew will infest woodland phlox, but are much less a problem than on the more commonly grown garden phlox, *P. paniculata*. Beware, rabbits and deer find woodland phlox quite appealing!
Blooms Days 2011 will be here before you know it—both literally and figuratively! Blooms Days is UT Gardens, Knoxville’s, biggest and most popular annual event. In the past it has been held the last weekend of June. However, for the past few years it has been unbearably hot and humid on that weekend. So this year we are moving it to May 7 and 8—Mother’s Day weekend—from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

In the past we reserved the second Saturday of May for our Spring Plant Sale, and it has consistently been well attended and has grown each year both in number of attendees and funds raised. After getting some very positive feedback from vendors, speakers and the public on moving Blooms Days to an earlier date, we decided to combine the two events into one.

What does this move mean for Blooms Days visitors? A festival that is sure to have something for everyone! For one thing there will be plants galore. Not only will the Friends of the Gardens booth be stocking our own UT-grown specialty plants as usual (including ‘Flapjack’ kalanchoe that everyone loved in the garden last year), but our plant vendors will have scores of trees, shrubs, perennials, summer bulbs, herbs, vegetables and annuals available. It will be one-stop plant shopping for old favorites and new varieties with plenty of time to get them in the ground before the heat stresses the plant or the gardener.

Need a Mother’s Day Gift? There will be something for everyone from a wide array of unique and specialty vendors. Soaps and lotions, garden art and sculpture, handmade baskets, paintings, gardening tools, jewelry, cards and stationery, and many more items will be available for the novice to experienced gardener, and for the hands-on to out-my-window flower lover.

This year our educational programming should be outstanding. Besides learning about turf care and gardening basics, we plan on adding two new tracts. With increased interest in healthy local and household food production we will offer an ‘edible landscape’ tract. You will get great ideas on everything from choosing vegetables, to growing them, to preparing incredible dishes. Our ‘rose tract’ will feature experienced rosarians giving great tips on how to grow roses successfully. These tracts will showcase our Helping Hands Kitchen Garden and the Beall Family Rose Garden, both of which will be in full bloom.

Because Blooms Days is being held earlier in the spring, we have planned for the Gardens truly to be blooming for the festivities. Our annual trials will not be out yet, but we have planted hundreds of late-blooming bulbs for a colorful spring show. Many of these are species-type tulips that are heat tolerant and hardy and will naturalize in our rock garden and garden room areas. These late-blooming bulbs, along with many new iris, peonies and daffodils, should make for an impressive display of late spring color.

There will be something for everyone—shopping, informative workshops, wonderful music, kids activities, food and fun all in the setting of the beautiful UT Gardens. The Knoxville Bonzai Society show and sale will even be on campus that weekend.

Set aside part of your weekend for this event that serves as the biggest fundraiser for the Gardens and supports our student intern programs and garden development. It should be a great time for the whole family and especially for Mom!
For beauty, durability and adaptability, fringetrees should head anyone’s list for spring flowering trees. You may choose from the American fringetree, *Chionanthus virginicus*, or the Chinese fringetree, *Chionanthus retusus*. These trees are similar, as you might expect, with glossy foliage and white lacy flowers in late spring.

On American fringetree, the flowers dangle below the stems in long fleecy panicles, hence its common names, grancy gray-beard, or old man’s beard. The long pointed leaves are a shiny dark green and look clean and polished through even the dog days of summer. Fall color may be a nice yellow, but rarely spectacular.

The tree is dioecious, and the male forms are thought to have superior flower show because of larger petals, though both sexes are effective. The females bear egg-shaped, blue-black drupes about a half-inch long.

A few selections have been given cultivar status. ‘Emerald Knight’ is taller than wide, has a darker foliage and nearly black stems. It can be found at the UT Gardens, Jackson.

There you can also find the dwarf fringetree, *Chionanthus pygmaeus*. This diminutive tree should mature at just 6 feet, but has an exceptional flowering display, even when quite young.

While the American fringetree is a great beauty, and the dwarf fringetree rare and stunning, if I could only have one, it would be the Chinese. The flower’s individual petals are larger, so the flowers appear a brighter white. Plus, the flowering panicles are borne above the foliage, almost like snow lying atop the dark green leaves. In fact, one of the best selections is called ‘China Snow,’ and was introduced by Tennessee premier plantsman Don Shadow from cuttings he collected in Knoxville several decades ago. The specimen at UT Gardens, Jackson, has been extremely impressive with its stunning floral displays each year, even when newly planted.

I particularly like the foliage on ‘China Snow’ as well. I have purchased more than one Chinese fringetree over the years, and there’s a lot of variability in the foliage characteristics. Invariably, the leaves are broader than American fringetree, but on some forms, such as ‘China Snow,’ the leaf is leathery and nearly round, with an undulated margin. This makes the already shining leaf multifaceted, so that it practically glitters in the sun.

The Chinese also has a more attractive bark, and is a bit more widespread than American, unless you locate the columnar form called ‘Tokyo Tower.’ Harald Neubauer at Hidden Hollow Nursery of Belvidere, Tennessee, reports that the parent plant was about 15 feet tall, but just 6 feet wide, and remarkably beautiful.

Chinese or American fringetrees are easy to grow in sun or mostly sun, and tolerate a wide range of soil, except extremely wet. You should expect them to be about 20 feet tall and wide. It’s a head-scratcher that these trees aren’t planted more.
On the Road: Tennessee Gardening Inspirations

By Sue Hamilton, UT Gardens director

One way to keep your gardening interests stimulated is by getting out of your own garden and visiting others. Road trips to interesting gardens, nurseries and garden centers can inspire you with new plant introductions, plant combinations and garden design ideas. Tennessee is full of opportunities for gardening inspiration. In fact, I have discovered some gardening nooks and crannies so enticing that I plan annual treks just to see what whimsies they have to offer. In each issue of our Gardens magazine, I’d like to share favorite horticultural hot spots from some of my Tennessee ‘plant nerd’ friends. Following are three hot spots worthy of a road trip this gardening season.

Ponds & Plants
Location: 1668 Rhea County Highway, Dayton, Tennessee 37321
Contact: 423-570-1234 or www.pondsnplants.com
Owners: Pauline, Keith and David Manser

According to gardening guru Faye Beck, Ponds & Plants is not your typical garden center or plant nursery. You’ll find some of the rarest and most unusual trees, shrubs, perennials, aquatic plants and fish. If you’re looking for any type of pond plants, fish or aquarium supplies, this is the place to visit. David recently installed two 3,000 gallon aquatic fish and reptile exhibits at the nursery. One depicts a Florida swamp with gators, turtles, fish and a swamp cypress, and one is a mountain stream with a 10-foot cascading waterfall. David travels the world and manages to find some of the most unusual plants and fish to use in his work. In addition to aquatic supplies, the nursery has more than 1,000 varieties of trees, shrubs and perennials. Pauline and David are knowledgeable plant collectors and their nursery is well worth a road trip.

Randolph’s Greenhouse
Location: 1690 Airways Blvd., Jackson, Tennessee 38301
Contact: 731-422-2768 or www.randolphsgreenhouses.com
Owners: Hamp and Rita Randolph McCall

Jason Reeves picked Randolph’s Greenhouse as one of his spots to shop. Located just four miles down the road from the UT Gardens, Jackson, Randolph’s Greenhouse offers some of the most exciting shopping for colorful plant material in the South. Ninety-five percent of the plant material is grown on site. The greenhouse features the largest selection of annuals and tropics in Tennessee, along with perennials, ornamental grasses, herbs and a few specialty shrubs. Rita is renowned for unique plant material for container gardens and hanging baskets. Her container combinations have been featured in many gardening magazines, such as Fine Gardening and Greenhouse Grower. Definitely worth a road trip if you are in the western part of the state.

Good Hope Gardens & Landscape
Location: 5237 Highway 126, Blountville, Tennessee 37617
Contact: 423-323-7200 or http://goodhopegardensandlandscapes.com
Owners: Rick Cowden and Thao Bui

One of Hugh Conlon’s favorite haunts is Good Hope Gardens & Landscape. Formerly Stone Drive Garden Center, it is located less than 0.2 mile north of exit 66 off I-81. It’s a full service garden center selling a wide variety of annual bedding and vegetable plants, ground covers and perennials. It maintains a large inventory of bonsai and water garden supplies including a good selection of koi. A florist shop is also on the premises. Good Hope’s staff satisfies your craving for unusual conifers, Japanese maples and an eclectic assortment of flowering shrubs not found elsewhere. The present owners moved to the Blountville location nearly five years ago.
It is with a sad heart that we say goodbye to our wonderful UT Gardens’ educator, Emily Smith. Emily left us at the end of March to pursue a new job opportunity in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the short year that Emily was with us she had launched many wonderful educational programs for all ages. Her programming had become quite popular, with many of her classes filling to capacity. Although our time with Emily was short, I feel we experienced some of the best educational programming that you could find at any public garden. With the help of Jennifer Horvath and Ben Ford, who worked with Emily last year, we are able to provide a portion of the educational programs Emily had planned for this summer. In the meantime, we will evaluate staffing and financial resources available to continue our commitment to increased educational programs for children and adults. Thank you for the wonderful support you showed Emily. If you have any questions about our programs, please contact us at 865-974-7151 or at utgardens@utk.edu.

May

Blooms Days
UT Gardens, Knoxville
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, May 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Save the date for Blooms Days 2011! Unique garden goods and plants from local growers, live musical performances, garden workshops, children’s activities and more make the UT Gardens Blooms Days a great destination for more than just gardeners. More than 20 workshops will be offered for everyone, from the novice to advanced gardener, covering a variety of gardening topics. Admission: $6 adults; free for children 12 and under.

UT Farmers Market
UT Gardens, Knoxville
Wednesdays
May 18-November 30
4-7 p.m.

From spring through fall, the UT Gardens, Knoxville, will be collaborating with the UT Organic & Sustainable Crop Production Program to present a weekly UT Farmers Market at the Gardens. The farmers will provide a weekly fun and family friendly gathering place featuring fresh, local produce.

JUNE

Garden Sprouts: Awesome Ants
Preschool program
Friday, May 20 OR Saturday, May 21
10-11:30 a.m.
Come and explore the world of ants from your backyard to the garden! We will read an ant story, make an ant craft and even eat “ants on a log!” Come and have a f-ANT-astic time learning about the world of ants. This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult.
$8/member, $13/nonmember

Woven Art Baskets
Adult workshop
Saturday, May 21
11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Learn to weave a beautiful basket using natural materials. Local fiber artist Nick DeFord will teach you the simple steps and process of weaving. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy this creative afternoon in the garden. Class fee includes all materials to make your own basket.
$50/member, $55/nonmember

Garden Buds: Ready, Set, Grow!
Children’s program
Saturday, May 21
2-4 p.m.
Get ready to “dig in” and learn what it takes to get your garden to grow! Buds will learn basic garden terminology and how to correctly identify and use garden tools. We will then put our green thumbs to use as we plant summer vegetables in the Helping Hands Kitchen Garden at the UT Gardens. This program is designed for children ages 6 to 9.
$10/member, $13/nonmember

Edible Container Gardening
Adult workshop
Saturday, May 22
5-6:30 p.m.
Learn the secrets of growing healthy and beautiful annuals for both containers and landscape beds. James Newburn, assistant director of the UT Gardens, will reveal his secrets for creating astounding annual flower displays. Participants will learn for themselves how to use colorful combinations and where to place that perfect plant for pizzazz. Get James’ tips on choosing, planting, deadheading and fertilizing and discover his must-have annuals for 2011. This class will be held in the UT Gardens, so please dress for the weather.
$8/member, $13/nonmember

Worms at Work
Adult class
Saturday, June 18
10-11:30 a.m.
Learn the fun and easy way to compost by letting worms eat your garbage! Join Kim Whitlock, UT Gardens student assistant, as she diggs into the basics of worm composting and learn step by step how to build and maintain a worm bin in your home.
$8/member, $13/nonmember

Worms at Work
Adult class
Saturday, June 4
2-4 p.m.
Take a step back in time as we unearth the mystery of how plants began in the garden. Did you know that there are about 400,000 species of plants in the world? The first plant appeared about 3 billion years ago. Buckle up and learn about some of the oldest plants on earth. Each bud will create a garden time capsule to take home. This program is designed for children ages 6 to 9.
$10/member, $13/nonmember

Woron Sprouts: Toadily Frogs
Preschool program
Friday, June 3 OR Saturday, June 4
10-11:30 a.m.
Leap into this fun class and learn all about frogs! From the lily pad to the garden, frogs are everywhere. We will learn where frogs live, how they grow and even what they eat. Get ready to have an un-“frog”-etable time as we read a frog story, look for frogs in the garden and make our own frog to take home. P.S. Be sure to wear green! This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult.
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Hydrangea Symposium  
Saturday, June 18, 2011  
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
UT Agricultural Campus  
156 Plant Biotechnology Building  
The symposium includes lunch, educational seminars, tour and sale. The UT Gardens is a member of the American Hydrangea Society. For more information, call 865-974-7972, email sueham@utk.edu, or visit http://utgardens.tennessee.edu. American Hydrangea Society Members: $50, UT Gardens Members: $50, Nonmembers: $65. Register online at http://tinyurl.com/symposium0611 or call 865-974-8265.

Grandkids Growing: Nature’s Lunchbox  
Grandparent/Grandchild program  
Saturday, June 25  
2-4 p.m.  
Did you know that some plants and critters are vegetarian while others prefer to add meat to their diets? No, not hamburgers and hot dogs, but insects, such as flies and ants. Grandparent teams will set out on a garden expedition, learning how to spot the herbivores, omnivores and carnivores of the garden. We will record observations of garden food chains and each team will take home a carnivorous plant. (Remember to feed it!) Get ready; this program is sure to be one sticky adventure! This program is designed for a grandparent and grandchild, ages 5 to 9. $20/member team, $25/nonmember team.

JULY

Garden Sprouts: Bug Zoo  
Preschool program  
Friday, July 8 OR Saturday, July 9  
10-11:30 a.m.  
Come meet the bugs living in the UT Gardens! Did you know that some bugs are friends to plants, while others are enemies? We will go on a bug hunt, read a bug story and build a bug condo for you to observe bugs at home. Get ready to “buggy” down in this fun program! This course is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult. $8/member, $13/nonmember.

Garden Buds: Garden Math  
Children’s program  
Saturday, July 9  
2-4 p.m.  
Can plants multiply? Learn the answer to this question and more as we discover plant propagation! Explorers will learn how to grow a plant from a single leaf, take several plant cuttings, and make a plant propagation container to take cuttings at home. This program is designed for children ages 6 to 9. $10/member, $13/nonmember.

Garden Buds: Game Sprouts  
Family workshop  
Saturday, July 30  
10-11:30 a.m.  
Jeepers, creepers! Look at all the critters living in the garden! Come explore how the garden provides a home for various creatures and how they help the garden. We will take a close-up look at the lives of frogs, toads, turtles and birds. Each family will make a critter habitat to take home. This class is designed for children ages 5 to 12 and an adult. (Please, no more than two children per adult.) All materials included. $30/member family, $35/nonmember family.

AUGUST

Garden Sprouts: Garden Fairies  
Preschool program  
Friday, August 5 OR Saturday, August 6  
10-11:30 a.m.  
There are fairies in the garden you know! We will find them as we tiptoe through the flowers in this fun class. Creating a fairy house, reading a fairy story; all will help us understand how to bring fairies to our own gardens. This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult. $8/member, $13/nonmember.

Garden Buds: Taste Buds  
Children’s program  
Saturday, August 6  
2-4 p.m.  
Guess what! We use herbs to flavor our favorite foods, like pizza. Garden Buds will tour and use all their senses while discovering the Helping Hands Kitchen Garden. After our garden tour, we will taste food made with herbs and make herb treats to share with your family. Bring your appetite for this deliciously fun program designed for children ages 6 to 9. $10/member, $13/nonmember.

Hypertufa Trough Workshop  
Adult workshop  
Tuesday, August 9  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Liven up your garden with a unique flower arrangement—perfect to adorn your dinner table or summer picnic! All materials included. $30/member, $35/nonmember.

SEPTEMBER

Secrets of Saving Seeds  
Adult class  
Tuesday, September 13  
5:30-7 p.m.  
Come and learn the ins and outs of seed saving from UT Gardens Trial Manager Beth Willis. Beth will share seed collecting techniques, tips on storage and more in this informative class. Spend the first half of class learning about how to collect, and then venture out to the Gardens in the second half to collect seeds. $8/member, $13/nonmember.

Garden Sprouts: Nuts for Nature  
Preschool program  
Friday, September 16 OR Saturday, September 17  
10-11:30 a.m.  
Fall is the time of year when we see acorns all around. What is an acorn? Come find out as we learn what trees they come from, what helps them grow, and who eats them and why. We will enjoy an acorn story, make an acorn hat, and have a nutty snack. This program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and one accompanying adult. $8/member, $13/nonmember.

Fresh from the Kitchen  
Adult workshop  
Saturday, August 27  
10-11:30 a.m.  
Take a break from the summer heat and plan to attend this refreshing floral design workshop. Inspiration comes from the kitchen by combining fresh vegetables and herbs with summer flowers to cook up a unique flower arrangement—perfect to adorn your dinner table or summer picnic! All materials included. $30/member, $35/nonmember.
Garden Buds: Plant Doctors
Children’s program
Saturday, September 17 2-4 p.m.
Does a plant protect itself from getting hurt? Buds will examine how plants protect themselves using thorns, bark or even offensive odors! We will explore the garden and then return to the classroom to make a plant doctor kit to take home. This program is designed for children ages 6 to 9.
$10/member, $13/nonmember

Fall Container Gardening
Adult workshop
Saturday, September 24 10-11:30 a.m.
In need of a creative place to grow your favorite cool-season plants? Look no more, and welcome to the wonderful world of container gardening! In this hands-on workshop, each participant will construct a container garden using a variety of unique plants. Participants will learn simple secrets to keep your containers looking beautiful all season long, as well as the basics of container design, placement and form. Please bring a 12- to 18-inch container with you. Remember, any container will work as long as it drains! We will supply the plants, soil and inspiration.
$30/member; $35/nonmember

Noon and Twilight Tours
Tours will be held every third Tuesday of the month: May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20 and October 18. The noon tour will begin at 12 p.m., and the twilight tour will begin at 6 p.m. Tours depart from the Friendship Plaza at the entrance to the UT Gardens.

Photography Walks
Learn how to capture a perfect garden photograph while enjoying an early morning walk through the gardens. A member of our staff will lead an hour-long walk focusing on the best lighting and garden location during that particular walk. This event is a unique opportunity to have time with fellow photographers and garden lovers while having some serious photography time in the garden. Photography walks will be held every third Friday: May 20, June 17, July 15 and August 19. Walks begin at 7:30 a.m. and depart from the Friendship Plaza at the entrance to the Gardens.

Family Nature Nights
Learn about the plants and animals that come out in the evening! Wear your walking shoes and let us guide you and your family through the Gardens during twilight.

Meet the Flowers – Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.
Explore your Senses – Tuesday, July 5, 6:30 p.m.
Taste Buds – Tuesday, August 2, 6:30 p.m.
Going on a Bug Hunt – Tuesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m.

Books and Blooms
Bring the kids to this popular summertime event! Join us in the Gardens for nature-themed stories and activities. After story time, the kids can enjoy fun under the sprinkler in warmer weather. To join an e-mail list to receive notices about Books and Blooms, contact Jennifer Horvath at utgardens@utk.edu or 974-7151. Books and Blooms is held every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. May 19 through October 27. FREE!

Garden Discovery Camps
Each summer, the UT Gardens offers a variety of day camps for children ages 4 to 12. These fun and educational camps teach children about gardens and nature. Visit the Gardens’ website, call 865-974-7151, or e-mail utgardens@utk.edu for more information.

Take a Stride and Learn at the UT Gardens!
Learn more about plants and gardening while enjoying special walks through the garden. We are excited to have a variety of monthly walks. Walks are rain or shine, and will be cancelled only in the event of dangerous lightening. All walks are FREE and meet at the entrance to the Gardens. (Advance registration appreciated, but not required.)

Holiday Express at the UT Gardens, Knoxville
The Holiday Express drew more than 9,200 visitors in its third year, raising public awareness for the UT Gardens. Because of the success, creator Mark Fuhrman has agreed to partner with the Gardens again this year to bring back the event.

In addition to the hard work of Mark Fuhrman and his business partner Jeanne Lane; the UT Institute of Agriculture Marketing and Communications office; and the UT Gardens staff, student interns and volunteers; Holiday Express would not have been possible without the generosity of the following sponsors:

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Sponsors
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Clarence Brown Theatre
Sustainable Future, LLC

2011 Holiday Express
UT Gardens, Knoxville
November 24-27
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
December 2 through January 1

Additional days of operation will include Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2. The attraction will be open Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day.
The University of Tennessee Gardens Presents

Best in Show

Dr. Sue Hamilton, director
James Newburn, assistant director
Jason Reeves, UT Gardens, Jackson, research horticulturist
Beth Willis, trial and volunteer coordinator
Betty Tipton, plant evaluation coordinator
If you’ve visited the UT Gardens in either Knoxville or Jackson, you’ve probably noticed the raised beds that feature a dizzying array of annual plants. While these beds certainly provide beauty, they perform a more important function as well. They are all entries in our Variety Trial Program. For those who aren’t familiar with this program, we receive seeds or rooted cuttings of plants that are pending or new from prominent plant companies. We grow those plants in our Knoxville and Jackson garden sites, and we evaluate their performance over the course of the growing season. These evaluations are provided to the plant companies published on our website and in our magazine, and distributed to industry and gardening groups in our region. Each year brings a new assortment of plant varieties to trial and it’s always exciting to see just how they will do in our gardens. We look forward to working with our new and established trial sponsors so that we can continue to bring you valuable information about top new plants. Whether you visit the gardens to view the trials in person or catch the published results at the end of the summer, keeping up with the UT Gardens Variety Trials is a great way to know which plants will perform well in our region. It is also a great way to keep up with the newest introductions from premiere plant breeders. You can also view the results online at http://utgardens.tennessee.edu by clicking on the Annual Trials tab.

**BEST IN SHOW ANNUAL**

*Calibrachoa Million Bells ‘Trailing Magenta’* from Suntory is a low-growing variety that impressed everyone with its season-long show of numerous bright pink blooms resembling miniature petunias. Due to its height (3 inches) and trailing habit, this carpet-like annual is best sited in the front or edge of a planting bed or placed in a container.

**BEST REPEAT ANNUAL VARIETY**

*Begonia Big ‘Rose with Bronze Leaf’* from Benary, produces masses of large, self-cleaning blooms above lush, glossy foliage. Tolerant of both shade and sun locations, this large, upright begonia is a standout in our gardens from early spring until frost. The Big ‘Red with Green Leaf’ variety, also from Benary, performed equally well.

**BEST NEW ANNUAL VARIETY**

*Pennisetum Vertigo* is a dramatic ornamental grass that featured broad, deep burgundy blades and reached a height of 3 to 5 feet. Because it produced no bloom, it can be an effective contrast to flowering plants in the landscape. From Proven Winners.
Top Annual Performers

Angelonia Serena series (Lavender, Purple and White)
Angelonia Angelmist ‘Spreading Purple Improved’
Anisodontea Slightly Strawberry
‘Avant-Garde Blue’ (Isotoma) Laurentia
Begonia Brandy Improved
Begonia Nightlife Blush
Begonia Volumia Rose Bicolor
‘Black Pearl’ (Capsicum) Ornamental Pepper
Bracteantha Dreamtime ‘Jumbo Light Pink’
Bracteantha Dreamtime ‘Jumbo Pure White’
Bracteantha Dreamtime ‘Jumbo Red Ember’
Calibrachoa ‘Liberty Blue Vein’
Calibrachoa ‘Liberty Magenta’
Calibrachoa Million Bells Brilliant Pink
Calibrachoa Superbells series (Blackberry Punch, Lavender and Yellow)
Carex ‘Amazon Mist’
Carex ‘Prairie Fire’
Celosia ‘Fresh Look Gold’
Celosia ‘Glorious Red’
Cleome Senorita Rosalita
Coleus (Solenostemon) Colorblaze Alligator Tears
Coleus (Solenostemon) Lancelot Cherry Cordial
Diascia Diamonte Coral Rose
Euphorbia Diamond Frost
Gomphrena ‘Audray Purple Red’
Gomphrena ‘Audray Bicolor Rose’
Hibiscus Luau ‘Peach Mai Tai’
Hibiscus Luau ‘Pink Paki’
Illusion series (Emerald Lace and Midnight Lace) (Ipomoea) Sweet Potato Vine
Impatiens ‘Patchwork’ series (Peach Prism and Pink Shades)

Impatiens ‘Super Elfin’ series (Cherry Splash, Red Starburst, Rose Starburst and Violet Starburst)
Laurentia (Isotoma) ‘Avant-Garde Pink’
Lobularia Snow Princess
Lysimachia Superstition
Melampodium ‘Casino Light Yellow’
‘Moonsong Deep Orange’ (Tagetes) Marigold
Nierembergia Augusta Blue Skies
Osteospermum Asti White
Petunia ‘Black Velvet’
Petunia ‘Pinstripe’
Petunia ‘Phantom’
Petunia Supertunia series (Vista Bubblegum, Vista Silverberry, Indigo Charm and Lavender Skies)
Petunia ‘Burgundy Trailing Type’
Petunia ‘Opera Supreme Pink Morn’
‘Rebel Rouser’ (Solenostemon) Coleus
Salvia ‘Coral Nymph’
Salvia ‘Lady in Red’
Salvia ‘Forest Fire’
Salvia ‘Red’
Salvia ‘Evolution’
Salvia ‘Fairy Queen’
Sweet Potato Vine (Ipomoea) Sweet Caroline series (Bewitched Purple, Bronze, Green Yellow, Light Green, Purple, Red, Sweetheart Light Green, Sweetheart Purple and Sweetheart Red)
Titan series (‘Apricot,’ ‘Icy Pink’ and ‘Dark Red’), ‘Cherry Halo,’ ‘Rose Halo’ and ‘Pacifica Orange’ (Catharanthus) Vinca
Torenia Summer Wave series (Large Blue and Large Violet)
Verbena Superbena Royale Chambray
Vinca (Catharanthus) ‘Pacifica Burgundy Halo’
Zinnia Zahara series (Double Cherry, Double Fire and Starlight Rose)
Zinnia Zowie! Yellow Flame

Bracteantha Dreamtime ‘Jumbo Light Pink’

Petunia ‘Black Velvet’

Hibiscus Luau ‘Peach Mai Tai’

Gomphrena ‘Audray Purple Red’
**Perennials**

- *Achillea ‘Summer Berries’*
- *Amsonia hubrichtii – Arkansas blue star, threadleaf blue star*
- *Coreopsis ‘Ruby Frost’ – Ruby frost tickseed*
- *Coreopsis ‘Cherry’*
- *Coreopsis ‘Citrine’*
- *Coreopsis ‘Pineapple Pie’*
- *Echinacea ‘Paradiso Mix’*
- *Echinacea Prairie Splendor*
- *Gaillardia x grandiflora ‘Arizona Apricot’*
- *Gaillardia x grandiflora ‘Arizona Red Shades’*
- *Gaillardia x grandiflora ‘Apricot Shades’*
- *Gaillardia x grandiflora ‘Mesa Yellow’*
- *Gaura ‘Summer Breeze’*
- *Gaura ‘The Bride’*
- *Lavender (Lavendula) ‘Ellegance Purple’*
- *Miscanthus sinensis ‘Gold Bar’ – Gold bar dwarf zebra grass*
- *Paonia x (Intersectional hybrid) – Itoh peony*
- *Phlox hybrids – Summer phlox. Flame Series (‘Pink,’ ‘Lilac’ and ‘Purple’)*
- *Physostegia ‘Crystal Peak White’*
- *Sedum ‘Crystal Pink’*
- *Stipa (Nasella) tenuissima ‘Pony Tails’*

**Tropicals**

- *Aechmea ‘Wally Berg’ – Wally Berg bromeliad*
- *Ananas comosum – Pink variegated pineapple*
- *Kalanchoe thyrsiflora ‘Flapjack’ – Flapjack kalanchoe*
- *Musa acuminata ‘Siam Ruby’ – Siam Ruby Banana*
- *Musa velutina – Pink velvet banana*

**Trees and Shrubs**

- *Acer palmatum var. dissectum ‘Red Select’ – Red select cutleaf Japanese maple*
- *Callicarpa americana ‘Welch’s Pink’ – Welch’s pink American beauty berry*
- *Camellia sinensis – Tea camellia or tea bush*
- *Cotinus coggyria ‘Grace’ – Hybrid smoke tree or smokebush*
- *Gardenia jasminoides ‘Kleim’s Hardy’ – Daisy gardenia*
- *Ginkgo biloba ‘Maiken’ – Maiken maiden tree*
- *Juniperus chinensis ‘Holbert’ – Holbert Chinese juniper*
- *Nyssa sylvatica ‘Zydeco Twist’ – Zydeco twist black gum*
- *Thuja occidentalis ‘Sunkist’ – Sunkist oriental arborvitae*
- *Thuja (Platycladus) orientalis ‘Franky Boy’ – Franky boy oriental arborvitae*
- *Thuja orientalis ‘Van Hoe Smith’ – Van Hoe Smith oriental arborvitae*
- *Viburnum setigerum – Tea viburnum*

**Roses**

- *Rosa ‘Carefree Marvel’*
- *Rosa ‘Kimberlina’*
- *Rosa ‘Lynn Anderson’ (pictured pg. 15)*
- *Rosa ‘Rainbow Sunblaze’*
- *Rosa ‘Tournament of Roses’*
Of making books there is no end. (Wait, I think somebody already said that.) Of making garden books there is no end. Think about it: we have how-to books and pretty books to look at, books on shade gardens and sun gardens, on urban gardens and water gardens, on Tennessee gardens, on one special garden (Longwood, say), on perennials and annuals, on specific types of plants (roses, conifers, you-name-it), on mulch, on common and uncommon garden problems … That’s just for starters, and I left out biographies and histories. Few of us set out to collect garden books, but before you know it, we are a shelf too short.

Recently I was given a garden book that represents a genre new to my happenstance collection: The Bedside Book of the Garden, by Dr. D. G. Hessayon (London: Expert Books, 2008). An anthology of bits and pieces about all sorts of gardening people and things, it is a beautifully designed book—lovely book jacket; heavy, cream-colored paper; etchy-looking illustrations. My first thought was oh, that will be nice to put on the bedside table in the guest room. Then I opened it. Oh, I said, this has to go on my bedside table, right now.

The Bedside Book (hereafter TBB) is an updated and revised version of The Armchair Book of the Garden (1983). Hessayon is the author of the Expert series, of which there are 23 (The Evergreen Expert, The Lawn Expert, etc.). The series, like the author, is English, as you’ve guessed by now. There are 333 pages, divided into seven sections: People (15 of the great, all dead, in alphabetical order, from John Bartram to E.H. Wilson, with at least one I never heard of); Plants (18, from Air Plants to Unusual Vegetables, with several surprises); Gardens (15, all extant, almost all of them English, with one American, one French, and one Spanish); Looking Back, my favorite section, which ranges from “How Grandfather Cut the Lawn” and “The Hanging Gardens of Babylon” to “Dear Sir: the Strange Story of the Reader's Pages in the 19th Century Magazines;” Wildlife in the Garden; Things to Do Indoors, which includes “How to Understand the Catalogues” and “How to Cook Flowers;” and This and That, a glorious hodge-podge of advice on how to shop at the garden center and a treatise on peat. Each of the seven sections has an introductory essay. The one introducing the chapter People closes with “... the gardens were actually made and cared for by millions of unknown people ... and that includes us.”

Those are the facts. I can’t do justice to the charm of the book, however, not in a stingy page or two. I have had to leave out the delight of coming upon The Beautiful Bark Dictionary, Working Class Plants, Silver Foliage, Olde Gardening Tools, the sometimes heartwarming quotations (“If you have two loaves, sell one and buy a lily.” Chinese proverb.), and the finance minister imprisoned for the rest of his life by Louis XIV, envious of the minister’s garden. Like you and everyone else in this world, I may be weird, and you may not be as enamored of it as I, but if you have the tiniest bit of interest in information off the beaten path and if you wish to add a few colorful scraps to your personal ragbag of knowledge, you will have an APB out on TBB, ASAP and 10-4.
Every Tennessee garden needs at least one hydrangea. Their summer blooms, ease of care, and adaptability to a range of site conditions have endeared them to gardeners worldwide. Blooms can be big and billowy or uniquely lacy. Bloom colors can range from pink to rose to blue or white. A number of species do well in Tennessee. When planted in a moist, well-drained and organically rich soil, most hydrangeas thrive with a half day of sun to partial shade, with the exception of panicled hydrangea, which likes full sun. Pruning is not a requirement but if desired, when to prune is critical. Some hydrangea species bloom on new growth and should be pruned in early spring, while others bloom on old growth—like azaleas and forsythia—and are best pruned immediately after flowering. Following are some of the best shrub species for Tennessee and selections definitely worth a place in your garden.

Smooth hydrangea (H. arborescens) is a native shrub that grows 3 to 5 feet high and wide. Its large flower heads may be cut for use in dry floral arrangements. Must-have selections include ‘Annabelle,’ which has large white flowers up to 6 to 10 inches wide. Incrediball with even larger white blooms, Invincibelle Spirit which has pink blooms, and Endless Summer Bella Anna, the newest pink selection on the market. Prune this hydrangea in late winter as it flowers on new growth.

Panicled hydrangea (H. paniculata) is a tall, vigorous shrub, up to 20 feet in height. Selections include ‘Grandiflora,’ (commonly called PeeGee) an old cultivar that grows 12 to 15 feet tall; ‘Limelight,’ which grows to 8 feet tall with large 10- to 12-inch flowerheads with lime green blooms; ‘Little Lime,’ a smaller variety of ‘Limelight’ that grows to 4 feet tall; and ‘Pink Diamond,’ with large 12-inch white flowers, which turn rosy-red with cool temperatures in late summer. Prune in late winter as it flowers on new growth.

Oakleaf hydrangea (H. quercifolia) is an American native, at home either in full sun or partial shade, except in West Tennessee where it prefers not to be in direct sun. Bold and coarsely textured foliage turns russet-red in the autumn. Height and flower size vary among cultivars. Prune only if necessary right after blooming. A short list of great selections: ‘Snowflake,’ which features 12- to 15-inch-long panicles of double white flowers; ‘Snow Queen,’ which grows 5 to 6 feet tall and features large 6- to 8-inch white flowers that stand upright; ‘Sikes Dwarf,’ a compact 4-foot shrub with 4-inch-long, white, cone-shaped flowers; and ‘Little Honey’ that produces beautiful gold foliage that makes it a standout plant even when not in bloom; ‘Munchkin,’ a compact 3- to 4-foot shrub with 6-inch-long flowers, starting white and turning medium pink in late summer; and ‘Ruby Slippers,’ a 5-foot shrub with 9-inch-long white flowers that turn deep rose in late summer. Both selections are new and may not be readily available for a year or two.

Bigleaf hydrangea (H. macrophylla) has large blue or pink flowers. Blooms are called “mopheads” and “lacecaps” because of the shape of the flowers. Winter temperatures can injure flower buds. Best planted on a north- or east-facing site sheltered from winter winds. South- or west-facing sites tend to force the buds to open prematurely on warm winter days. In colder locales, pile up a deep temporary layer of leaves or straw to protect lower buds from cold temperatures. Blooms best when provided morning sun and afternoon shade. Bigleaf hydrangea requires little pruning other than removal of deadwood in early spring. Pink or blue flowers are determined by cultivar selection and by soil pH level and the aluminum content in the soil. In an acidic soil (pH 5.0-5.8), a pink-flowered hydrangea will bloom blue. By adding aluminum sulfate to an alkaline soil, a pink-flowered form will bloom blue. By raising the soil pH with lime, a blue-flowered cultivar will bloom pink. White flower cultivars are generally unaffected by soil pH and aluminum levels. Research is ongoing to evaluate new cultivars for winter bud hardiness. So far, the most dependable reblooming cultivars are: ‘David Ramsey,’ Endless Summer, Twist-n-Shout and Blushing Bride from ‘All Summer Beauty,’ ‘Mini Penny,’ ‘Penny Mac,’ and ‘Pia.’

Mountain hydrangea (H. serrata) bears large blue or pink lacecap flowers best in dappled shade. Two popular cultivars are ‘Blue Billow’ and ‘Bluebird.’

Queen of the Summer Garden: Hydrangea

By Hugh P. Conlon, UT Extension area specialist (retired)
UT Gardens Hydrangea Symposium

Hydrangeas for Southern Gardens and Landscapes
A one-day symposium on how to grow and use hydrangeas in the Midsouth

Saturday, June 18, 2011
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Speakers and Topics:
“Great Hydrangeas for Gardens and Landscapes” – Elizabeth Dean, Wilkerson Mill Nursery

“Hydrangeas: Are They all Wimps When it Comes to Disease Resistance?” – Dr. Mark Windham, professor of Ornamental Plant Pathology, UT department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

“Plants with Stories to Tell” – Carol Reese, UT Extension Western Region ornamental horticulture specialist,

“New Hydrangea Introductions” - Dr. Sandy Reed, TSU Nursery Research Center

“Creative Garden Structures – One Man’s Trash is Another Man’s Trellis” – Jason Reeves, horticulturist and curator of UT Gardens Jackson

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
156 Plant Biotechnology Building
2505 E J Chapman Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996-4561

American Hydrangea Society Members: $50, UT Gardens Members: $50, Nonmembers: $65

Register online at http://tinyurl.com/symposium0611 or call 865-974-8265.

Come and learn all about the ‘queen’ of the summer garden and the new, unusual and most beautiful selections for your landscape. The day includes educational seminars teaching you how to grow and design your garden with hydrangeas combined with a guided walk through the UT Gardens hydrangea collection. The event will conclude with an exclusive hydrangea plant sale of some of the most beautiful and choice selections for the Midsouth.

The symposium includes lunch, educational seminars, tour and sale. The UT Gardens is a member of the American Hydrangea Society. For more information, call 865-974-7972, e-mail sueham@utk.edu, or visit http://utgardens.tennessee.edu.

UT West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center Garden Events

22nd Annual Summer Celebration
Thursday, July 14, 2011, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Admission $5

Landscape Review
Tuesday, September 13, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Admission $10
While open to the public, this program is meant to update the landscape industry on the best practices for controlling weeds and pests. Also featured are walking tours of the grounds, spotlighting colorful, low maintenance landscape plants.

Commercial Pumpkin Field Day
Thursday, September 29, 1-4 p.m.
Free admission

Ninth Annual Pumpkin Harvest Display
Thursday, September 29 – Sunday, November 27, Open daily
Free admission

Third Annual Fall Plant Sale and Garden Lectures
Friends of the UT Gardens Preview Party
Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 5-7 p.m.
Friends of the UT Gardens can avoid the plant shopping rush on Thursday and enjoy an evening of shopping and light refreshments, plus a 20 percent discount voucher on your first purchase of $100 or less.

Outdoor Talks and Plant Sale
Thursday, October 6, 2011, 2 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Indoor Lecture 6:30 p.m.
Free admission
You don’t want to miss this sale featuring hundreds of quality plants that will make great additions to your garden. Trees, shrubs and a wide selection of perennials and pansies will be available for purchase. The sale is from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Since 1992, the UT Gardens has received unprecedented support from Friends of the UT Gardens to grow its teaching, research and program activities. And last year was no different. More than 500 Friends gave nearly $50,000. And since the transition to become part of the university in 2009, Friends’ support has continued to grow. More work-study student internships are available, new educational programs and classes for all ages are growing and the expansion of plant collections continues.

Friends continue to give generously to the UT Gardens Support Fund, the Friends of the Gardens Endowment, the Jackson Gardens Gift Fund and the newly established Beall Family Rose Garden Endowment.

“All of these funds support garden programming and research and are a foundation to building a state-of-the-art garden to foster knowledge and encourage environmental sustainability,” Sue Hamilton, UT Gardens director, said. “Our Friends are helping us grow.”

In fact, nearly 14,575 people were touched last year through programs such as Books and Blooms, Blooms Days, the Holiday Express, Garden Sprouts, and many others. Emily Smith, UT Gardens education and special events coordinator, said more than 2,000 of those were children participating in youth garden tours, school field trips, educational programs and family events.

Carol Susano, Friend of the UT Gardens, said her grandkids Sophie and Jacob Susano participate in as many activities as possible. Sophie is 9 and Jacob is 7. Both attend Sacred Heart Cathedral.

“Sophie and Jacob go to all of Emily’s (Smith) classes,” Susano said. “I love what Emily is doing with the children and can’t wait to get this year’s schedule so I can bring them again.” Susano said she thinks the Gardens are a really important part of the community and enjoys strolling around the gardens with her husband, Judge Charles Susano.

“He is in a wheelchair and can get around very well in the gardens,” Susano said. “It’s well maintained and very welcoming.”

Many Friends have also helped by rolling up their sleeves and getting to work. Last year more than 102 garden volunteers put in approximately 1,273 hours helping with projects such as serving as tour guides, working special events and programs, assisting with plant records and labeling, and assisting the garden staff. Valued at $20.85 per hour, volunteer service brought a value of $25,542 to the UT Gardens. According to Beth Willis, UT Gardens trial gardens coordinator, the volunteers bring energy and expertise to the gardens programming and become part of a growing horticultural experience.

Friends have also helped make possible work-study student internships for 10 plant sciences students including Ben Collins, Cameron Moore and Beth Sanders from Knoxville; Marie Binger from Alcoa; Robert Moser from Clarksville; Jennifer Crumley from Greeneville; Frank Glavin from Nashville; Katlyn O’Connor from Smyrna; Neal Hansum from Omaha, Nebraska; and Joe Cope from Charleston, South Carolina.

“Our students get first-hand experience working with plants and preparing themselves for careers in the plant sciences,” Hamilton said. At the end of last year, Friends were challenged to support a student for a week at $155 and many members responded, Hamilton said.

So, if you are a Friend of the UT Gardens, thank you for your support and for making last year a great year. If you would like to make a gift now please fill out and return your donation in the enclosed envelope. To learn more about other giving options and how to leave a legacy in the UT Gardens please contact Tom Looney, director of development at 110 Morgan Hall, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4502, 865-974-8622, or tom.looney@tennessee.edu.
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You may join Friends of the
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Thank You For Your Support
As we work to make the UT Gardens more ‘green’ and environmentally friendly, we want to reduce the amount of printing and mailings that we do. In addition to this biannual magazine, we send a monthly e-newsletter to let us better stay in touch with our donors and to keep you informed in a timely manner about the horticultural aspects of the gardens, educational programs, and special events. We encourage you to share our e-newsletter with others who may have interest. You can sign up for our free e-newsletter by going to the Gardens website at http://utgardens.tennessee.edu.