



**FRIENDS OF THE
UT GARDENS**

THE GARDEN POST

Volume 12 No. 3
April 15, 2005

Please join me in a cause for rejoicing!

We welcome two persons into new part-time contractual positions recently approved by the Board of the Friends of the UT Gardens:

**Mary Collins-Shepard
Fundraising/Event Coordinator**

Mary is well known as an indispensable member of the leadership of FOG. For two years she has led the enormous Blooms Days effort and she continues in this third year. Our contract with her now makes that role official. We'll NOT let her get away!

**Carolyn Crowder
Administrator**

Carolyn recently obtained a second degree from UT in Plant Sciences and Landscape Systems with concentration in public horticulture while continuing in her 28th year as a flight attendant with Delta. She will organize and improve many of the basic processes that have become more complex as FOG has grown in numbers and in the extent of our fundraising work.

My husband tells me that he thought he might have to scrape me off the ceiling of my home office when these two fine women called to say that they'd agree to undertake these management roles this year. We have a lot to do and it will take all of us to accomplish our goals.

I am absolutely delighted to have them join our volunteer leadership and administrative team.

You all will be, too!

Theresa Pepin, President

Editorial Board

Bettie Corey
Sandra Leach
Theresa Pepin
Emily Smith

Board Members

Laura McFee-Adams
Faye Beck
Deedee Blane
Sandi Burdick
Sherry Chobanian
Mary Collins-Shepard
Carolyn Crowder
Julia Huster
Sandra Leach
Michael Moore
Theresa Pepin
Karen Petrey
Jason Spence
Mary Spengler

**Coming next issue:
Special Events**

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NEWS

It's no secret,
so we want
you to know ...

Workshops and Trips:

Saturday, June 4, 2005 -- One-day bus trip to the **Don Shadow Nursery** in Winchester, TN.

Shadow Nursery is a wholesaler specializing in woody ornamentals as well as rare and unusual plants. Don Shadow is a master plantsman and will host the group and lead a tour of his extraordinary nursery and exotic animal farm. The collection of exotic animals is a vital part of the nursery and keeps him in touch with plant and animal lovers around the globe. An additional stop will be made at a well-known nursery on the return trip to Knoxville with an opportunity to purchase plants.

Depart at 8:00 a.m. from the parking lot on the UT Agriculture Campus in front of the entrance to the UT Gardens. Return at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members, and includes transportation, lunch and snacks. Lunch provided by the Blackberry Patch with a choice of menu: club sandwich or homemade chicken salad. Reserve by May 27 and send check to Friends of the UT Gardens, P.O. Box 51394, Knoxville, TN 37950-1394. For more information call the Infoline 865 525-4555.

FOG Garden Society Member the **East Tennessee Hosta Society's Annual Plant Sale** will be Saturday, May 1, 2005 at the entry to the UT Gardens from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Featured plants include the 2006 Hosta of the Year 'Stained Glass'; an assortment of dwarf hostas; and bleeding hearts. Hostas are also the subject for a talk on "Hostas and the Hosta Garden" by Bob Solberg, hybridizer and owner of Green Hill Farm on Saturday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. on the UT Agriculture Campus in Ellington Plant Sciences Room 125. The talk is free and open to the public.

FOG Garden Club Member the **Knoxville Garden Club** will sponsor the appearance of noted nursery owner and plantsman Andre Viette. He will speak on the topic of "Easy Gardening with No Work" at the Knoxville Museum of Art Auditorium on Wednesday, May 11 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Viette hosts a live, nationwide call-in program answering garden questions. The talk is free and open to the public.

FOG Business Friend **Honey Rock Herb Farm** will hold its Herbal Celebration at the Farm on Saturday, May 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free and open to the public. Visit www.honeyrockherbfarm.com for more details.

Don Shadow Nursery Trip - June 4, 2005 RESERVATION FORM

Name _____ Email _____

Additional members in your party _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Lunch choice _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Friends of the UT Gardens"

Where Are They Now?

Callaway Gardens

Have you ever wondered what happens to UT students after graduation? To be quite honest, they begin by shouting for joy, then immediately go into panic mode the moment they realize those precious school loans they once depended on are about to drain their bank accounts. Sure, the fear of entering the real world crosses their minds, but mostly they are filled with the excitement and anticipation of what is yet to come. With diploma in hand, they begin the great search for THE perfect job. Many of our recent graduates in the program have moved on to very exciting opportunities in the field!

The public horticulture concentration is a unique specialization offered within the Plant Sciences Department at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The program focuses on preparing students for careers in education, interpretation, collection management, nonprofit and business management, garden writing, working in the media, horticulture therapy and much more.

Many of our recent graduates have moved on to exciting positions in botanical gardens and arboreta across the country. But there seems to

be a direct tunnel leading from UT to Callaway Gardens, where many of our recent graduates have been transplanted! Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, in Pine Mountain, Georgia, Callaway is comprised of 14,000 acres of gardens, a resort and a nature preserve. The grounds consist of the Virginia Hand Callaway Discovery Center, Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center, John A. Sibley Horticultural Center, Mr. Cason's Vegetable Garden, Callaway Brothers Azalea Bowl and miles of nature trails showcasing the beautiful surroundings.

Jayme Tims, class of 2002, is now an Interpretive Horticulturist at Callaway Gardens. Working in the education department, Jayme plans and implements programs for children and adults, utilizing the gardens and grounds at Callaway to teach them about plants and the environment. Jayme earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees from UT. During her time at UT, she was actively involved in the UT Gardens as well as Friends of the UT Gardens.

Katie Steinhoff finished her Master's degree in Horticulture in August 2003. With a solid background in plant identification and the desire to work in a public garden, Katie recently joined the horticulture staff at Callaway Gardens. As Head Horticulturist at the Discovery Center, Katie has a wide range of responsibilities, including plant care, design, garden tours, workshops, as well as managing her crew.

Nicole Gamble has a B.S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design and a M.S. degree in Entomology and Plant Pathology from UT. Following graduation in 2002, Nicole joined the staff at Callaway as a floral designer. Combining her interests in entomology and horticulture, Nicole moved up to the position of Manager of the Day Butterfly Center at Callaway in January 2004. In the most recent, exciting news, Nicole has climbed the ladder once again by stepping into the position of Acting Director of the Gardens.

If you've never visited, head south soon and see what our UT graduates are up to! For more information, check out their website at www.callawayonline.com.

From the Curator of the UT Gardens

James Newburn

New flowers in the Annual Trials

Last issue Dr. Hamilton mentioned some exciting changes that are happening in the UT Gardens regarding our new annual flower trial beds and the fact that they are being redesigned to improve drainage and aesthetics. I thought it might be of interest to let you know some of the plant material we anticipate evaluating this year in those new beds.

As you have heard mentioned before, seed companies are constantly breeding for improvements in flower color, growth habit, and disease resistance to give them an edge on their competition towards the next “wave” of hot new plants that will send gardeners scrambling for the new “must have.” Think of the sensation that ‘Purple Majesty’ *Ornamental Millet* is still causing because of its great color and height, lending itself to many spectacular uses in the landscape. Here are some new cultivars, some not yet commercially available, that you will have an opportunity to enjoy this season:

‘Lotto Appleblossom’ *Begonia* - Benary

This should be a new soft pink color in a series of fibrous begonias known for their large flowers and stately habit in sun and shade.

‘Fresh Look Orange’ *Celosia* – Benary

Sure to be very popular in Tennessee if it performs as well as the other award winners ‘Fresh Look Red’ and ‘Fresh Look Yellow’, this orange addition to the series is supposed to have large flower plumes and the same uniform self cleaning habit but with the added color attraction that yells “Go Vols!”

‘Serena White’ *Angelonia* – PanAmerican Seed

A plant that tolerates heat and humidity, it is ideal for borders and containers to add height and structure. This seed grown selection in white is valued for its branching and continuous blooming habit that requires no deadheading.

‘Purple Baron’ *Ornamental Millet* – Ball Seed

“Look out, Your ‘Majesty’ !” -- this new selection from Ball has the potential for usurping the former AAS Winner. Because of its more compact growth habit ‘Purple Baron’ may prove a better proportioned candidate for containers while still adding outstanding color and interesting texture.

Let’s all keep our eye on these upcoming trials and see just how outstanding they may be!

From the Graduate Student Staff of the UT Gardens Susan Conlon

Plant of the Month: Lenten Rose



Photo by
Hugh Conlon,
UT Extension
Area Ornamental
Horticulture
Specialist.

Winter is almost over, and the spring garden has almost sprung. During the winter, did you ask yourself, “What plant has interest that I can enjoy throughout all the seasons?” Lenten Rose, or *Helleborus x hybridus*, may be the answer. Lenten Rose is a durable perennial that performs well in shade gardens, has evergreen foliage and produces colorful blooms in early spring.

Lenten Rose has recently been named the 2005 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association, a national organization dedicated to the promotion of perennial plants. (See news about their upcoming conference elsewhere in this issue of *The Garden Post*.)

There are several reasons to include this plant in your garden. In late winter to early spring, Lenten Rose starts to bloom and will continue to do so for up to three months. Bloom colors range from white and light pink to red and deep purple. There are single- and double-flowering forms and bicolor blooms, too.

After flowering, enjoy the clean, dark green foliage that makes this plant a must-have in any shade garden. Clumps are generally two feet wide by two feet tall, and the foliage adds a unique bold texture to the shaded landscape. Lenten Rose is a perfect backdrop for the delicate blooms of spring-flowering bulbs and other perennials, such as Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*). If the foliage gets tattered and rough-looking in late winter, simply cut it back as the new leaves emerge. Doing this prior to blooming also improves the display of the blooms.

This easy-to-grow plant prefers a rich, well-drained soil. It should be planted in a partial shade to full shade location. Once established, Lenten Rose is a tough, drought tolerant perennial.

Lenten Rose also requires very little care. Unlike many other garden perennials, Lenten Rose does not typically require dividing every 3-5 years. According to the Perennial Plant Association, established clumps of Lenten Rose can be left alone for up to 20 years. If your Lenten Rose needs dividing, keep in mind that it will take the divisions a little time to recover. This plant recovers from dividing slower than most, so it will appreciate a little patience and tender care.

Lenten Rose is a great shade perennial to pair with other plant textures and colors like ferns and impatiens. This plant is also a good companion to other early spring bloomers, such as Barrenwort (*Epimedium* sp.).

Lenten Rose is used quite nicely as either a specimen plant or in masses in a shade garden. Allow this plant to naturalize in a woodland setting. Because flowers can hang just below the foliage, consider planting Lenten Rose on a slope or hillside to enjoy viewing the flowers from a lower angle. For those whose gardens are typically buffets for deer, there is good news: Lenten Rose is a deer-resistant perennial!

Plant Lenten Rose in your garden now and enjoy its evergreen foliage all year. When it gets to be late winter next year, and there seems to be nothing to enjoy out in your garden, your Lenten Rose will signal that it’s time to look forward to spring.

Who Are They Now?

Holly Jones



Holly Jones is an undergraduate in the public horticulture concentration and the Perennial Curator for the UT Gardens. She has worked in the garden for the past two years. Born and raised in the mountains of east Tennessee, her love for the natural environment is deeply instilled. During a year long break from university, she worked for a gardening company on a small island in Washington state. Working with plants was so natural and rewarding that

she decided to pursue a degree in horticulture. Holly recently spent a semester in Manchester, England. While there, she spent her time living with the natives, hiking in the countryside and studying environmental management and moral philosophy. Where exactly the future will lead is unknown, but however it unfolds, she looks forward to helping people learn about and appreciate the wonderful art of gardening.

New and renewing members include:

Student

Peggy T. Evans

Individual

Lori Carmichael
Carole Copenhaver
Nissa Dahlin-Brown
Donna Dixon
Ellie Gardner
Karen Krieg
Betty Leverett
Shelley Newman
Beth Wolfe

Family

Don and Linda Fike
Ron and Susan Hamilton
Charlie and Emily Jernigan
Judy and Peter Kopp
Nancy and Hal Robinson

Contributing

Bobbie Congleton
Robert and Jan Hall

Sustaining

Jenny Arthur
Lucy W. Gibson
Barbara Levin

Garden Club/Society Friends

UT Arboretum Society

Business Friend

Ellenburg Nursery
Ridge Greenhouse and Florist

ADOPT-A-BED

Gold

East Tennessee Hosta Society

Bronze

Susan and Ron Hamilton
Steve and Tonya Wilson
in honor of JoAnn and Richard Wilson

Shape Up for Spring!

Winter can wreak havoc on your body and yard. Gardening and yard work are great ways to burn calories, build muscle, tone up flab, and strengthen bones.

Instead of spending time and money at a gym, get outside and workout for free. You can work at your own pace and your yard (not to mention your body) will be the envy of the neighborhood. Remember, before doing any kind of physical exercise you should seek your doctor's approval. Once you've gotten the okay, start with small, easier projects and work your way up to the more difficult.

Follow these key rules to get the most out of your workout:

1. Stretch before and after in order to prevent injury and excessive soreness.
2. Hydrate well by drinking plenty of water or sports drinks.
3. Exaggerate movements to achieve maximum use of muscles.
4. Switch direction regularly to balance the use of muscles.

Garden Task

Digging & shoveling
Digging & squatting
Lawn mowing
Hedge trimming
Weeding
Raking

Fitness Benefit (based on 30 minutes of activity)

Strengthens arms and shoulders. Burns 250 calories.
Tones thighs and buttocks.
Strengthens arms and shoulders. Burns 195 calories.
Shapes biceps.
Burns 105 calories.
Strengthens arms, shoulders, and legs. Burns 100 calories.



HAPPY GARDENING!

Advice courtesy of FOG Business Member **Vicki Baumgartner** (owner of The Garden Cottage) and FOG Board Member **Mike Moore** (owner of Fitness Focus).

Apologies, Omissions and Corrections

[Sigh]

Our new administrator will, first and foremost, help us improve our processing of memberships. In the meantime, our apologies for delays in acknowledging new members while we spent time verifying our main database of members past and present.

It must be tempting fate to schedule anything too close to the Ides of March. Despite our best efforts, a proof for the newly re-designed March 15th issue of **The Garden Post** apparently fell through the cracks when it was relayed as a digital file. (There are days we ALL wish we'd never heard of a "digital" ANYTHING.)

Our biggest apology goes to a member of our own editorial staff: **Bettie Corey**. (Bettie did the thorough proofing of the CORRECT final proof!) Attribution was left off her "Spring into Action" poem because of a glitch in Pagemaker versions. Bettie has a new book of poetry out that our members will want to know about: The book is titled *Still Life*. It costs \$10 and can be purchased from her directly. (Add \$1 for shipping if you want her to send it to you. Order from Bettie directly by email: bettjcor@esper.com.)

Other corrections: Our "unfailingly gracious" bus driver is the wonderful **Henry Lenoir**. The bus he drives is owned by the marvelous **Bill Gentry** of Gentry Motor Coach, who sent us a card of appreciation for our business.

Despite all of that, we've tried to respond to your suggestions for the newsletter this year. If you like what you see-or if you think we can do even better-let us hear from you.

Infoline is 865-525-4555.

Email is friendsoftheutgardens@utk.edu.

Website is www.friendsoftheutgardens.org.

Mailing address is P. O. Box 51394, Knoxville, TN 37950-1394.

Spring into Action

Like upside-down
seahorses
young fern fronds
emerge,
curled tight with
potential.

The strength
of promise
fuels the season —
buds,
shoots,
and hearts
rife with hope
of the possible.



©Bettie Corey

Business Friend Announcements

Erin's Meadow Herb Farm offers too many great classes to list here. Don't miss checking on them at www.erinsmeadowherbfarm.com.

Mr. Bob Solberg, Hosta hybridizer and owner of **Green Hill Farm, Inc.** will give a free talk on Saturday, April 30 at 7:00 pm at the Ellington Plant Sciences Building, Room 125. He will speak on "Hostas and The Hosta Garden".

Honey Rock Herbal Celebration at **Honey Rock Herb Farm**, Saturday May 7 from 10:00 to 5:00 pm. Free to public. Check out www.honeyrockherbfarm.com for details.



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HELP!

FOG Business Friend **Ruth Baumgardner** is also site chairperson for the Perennial Plant Association (PPA) symposium that will be held this summer in Knoxville. The cities of Knoxville and Nashville will both host the five-day meeting this year, which is expected to attract many of the leading perennial growers and experts from the US and Europe. In all, 1,000 PPA members are expected to attend.

Ruth asks FOG members to let her know as soon as possible if you can help by being a bus captain for private garden tours on Monday, July 18; Wednesday, July 20; and/or the tours going to Nashville on Friday, July 22. A bus will return to Knoxville on the night of July 22. Registration for the day you serve as bus captain is free.

For additional information, call Karen Petrey at 865-983-4196 or email Karen at ksgarden@bellsouth.net.



Coming Up On The Calendar:

April 16	WORKSHOP	Making a Trellis/Tuteur
April 25		Board Meeting
May 7	SALE	Spring Plant Sale
May 15	DEADLINE	June 15 Newsletter
May 17	IN THE GARDENS	Twilight Walk, 6:00 PM
May 23		Board Meeting
May 27	IN THE GARDENS	Books & Blooms Story Time, 10:30 AM
June 4	TRIP	Don Shadow Nursery, Winchester, TN
June 9	IN THE GARDENS	Books & Blooms Story Time, 10:30 AM
June 25-26		Blooms Days

In Appreciation

We have early Blooms Days sponsors already signing up. They include: Platinum--UT Federal Credit Union and Pilot Oil; Gold--The Icearium, The Trust Co., First Tennessee Bank, Fi-Shock, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Stanley's Greenhouses and SunTrust Bank; Silver--Kinsey Gardens, Dalen Products, K. Petrey Gardens, Proffitt and Goodson, Inc., Pam & Tom Reddoch, Sid & Linda Wallace, Tennessee Flower Growers Association and Sherri Lee; Green--Schmid and Rhodes Construction Co. and Mark Fuhrman Landscape Services.

Many thanks to *Tennessee Farm and Home*. Their mention of our **Gardening Guides** resulted in LOTS of sales from across the state of Tennessee and quite a few new members as well.

A note of thanks has been received from **Past President Karen Petrey** in acknowledgement of the marble pedestal we presented her at the annual membership meeting in November 2004 to honor her service to FOG. The gift was crafted by FOG Business Friend **Bruce Bennett of Custom Marble and Design**.

We appreciate Business Friend **Popes Garden Center** allowing us to promote memberships and sell Gardening Guides at their April Spring Fling again this year. If you know of other shows that would allow us to promote memberships and support for the UT Gardens, please let us know. Even better, if you can also volunteer for this type of activity, get in touch with us immediately.



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April 15, 2005

THE GARDEN POST

Saturday, May 7, 2005 - **Annual Spring Plant Sale of the Friends of the UT Gardens** --
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the entrance to the UT Gardens.

Some of the **plants** that will be available include: *Sun coleus* in a wide range of colors & textures, some of which have not been previously offered; assorted herbs; *Acalypha* (copper plant); *ivy geraniums*; *Salvia greggii* 'Navajo Dark Red' and 'Dark Purple'; *Erysimum* (wallflower); *Verbena* 'Homestead'; *Lobelia cardinalis*; *sedum* (lots of varieties); *creeping phlox*; water plants (*lotus* and *water lilies*). We will also have many unusual and special plants contributed from our members' gardens.

In addition to plant sales, **talks** are scheduled in the garden at: 10:00 a.m. FOG Past President Karen Petrey will put together companion plantings using plant sale material; 11:00 a.m. Dr. Stephen Garton will discuss the care and maintenance of water plants; 12:00 noon Natalia Bjorklund will discuss plants that are new to the UT Gardens.

We need volunteers to assist at the plant sale. Please call Deedee Blane ASAP 865-558-0338 to let her know you can help.

