The UT Gardens includes plant collections located in Knoxville, Jackson and Crossville. Designated as the official botanical garden for the state of Tennessee, the collections are part of the UT Institute of Agriculture. The mission of the UT Gardens is to foster appreciation, education and stewardship of plants through garden displays, educational programs and research trials. The Gardens are open during all seasons and free to the public.

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UT GARDENS STUDENT INTERNS
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Beall Family Rose Garden Makai Edwards and Greg Meyer
Steve and Ann Bailey Public Horticulture Alice Kimbrell and Cody Fitts
Cumberland County Master Gardener Internship Terri Brimigion

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Editor April Moore Massengill
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SPECIAL THANKS
The faculty and staff of the UT Gardens would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers, members and supporters in Jackson, Crossville and Knoxville who continue to help our UT Gardens grow.

utgardens.tennessee.edu
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ON THE COVER
Volunteer Pride (Parkhill 05) Bearded Iris - Introduced by Knoxville iris breeder, Tom Parkhill. The Botanical Photography of Andy Pulte, Copyright Andy Pulte, 2013.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

GREETERS FROM THE STATE
BOTANICAL GARDEN OF TENNESSEE!

If you are like me, you are excited that winter is finally behind us and green grass, flowering trees, shrubs, and perennials abound! With the growing season here, we have many exciting things happening in our UT Gardens sites across the state.

In Knoxville, construction of our Children’s Nature Discovery Garden and Children’s Treehouse is underway. With the support of our Friends, we raised more than $25,000 toward these two projects. The winning treehouse from our competition last year is The Nest by Sanders Pace Architecture — a unique structure that every kid will love!

Upon completion of the children’s area, we will begin work on a constructed wetland in the lowest floodplain area of the Gardens. A UT landscape architecture class designed this new space, which will include a 1,300-foot boardwalk that takes visitors through low marsh, high marsh, and deep pool zones of the wetland. I can just imagine the wonderful school field trips and educational classes that will happen in this garden!

We also will begin construction of a new garden that will house a collection of 800-plus hostas and companion plants given to us by Cornelia Holland, a hosta enthusiast from Franklin, Tennessee. Not only is Cornelia donating her collection to the Gardens, she is funding construction of this new space and will be providing an endowment for its sustainability.

Finally, we held our second annual UT Gardens Gala, A Rainbow of Iris, on April 25, where we honored Tom Parkhill, whose Volunteer Pride is featured on the cover of this issue. HGTV host and designer Vern Yip emceed the event, which was presented by HGTV HOME. To see photos of the gala, visit hurleycophoto.com/gala. Thanks to all who made the evening a success!

The Crossville Gardens held its first plant sale May 16-17, and we hope this successful event was the first of many! You’ll also find many wonderful classes being taught at the Crossville Gardens highlighted in the magazine.

In Jackson, you won’t want to miss the unique hanging bottle wall that horticulturist Jason Reeves has been constructing. It will debut at Summer Celebration July 10. This amazing structure will contain 1,600 bottles and will be 44 feet long and 12 feet tall! There will also be thirty or more bottle trees of various shapes and sizes placed throughout the Gardens.

Finally, in an effort to better advocate the conservation and protection of Tennessee’s water resources, I’m pleased to announce that the UT Gardens has formed a partnership with Tennessee Smart Yards. We will work with this UT-based program to guide Tennessee residents and neighborhood associations on practices they can apply in their landscapes to create beautiful and healthier living spaces and communities. You’ll find Tennessee Smart Yard demonstration gardens at all of the UT Gardens across the state. As a public garden promoting conservation and sustainability, it’s a perfect partnership.

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

Sue Hamilton
Director, UT Gardens
As one of the premier art and garden destinations in the Southeast, Cheekwood is a quiet oasis at Nashville’s edge with 55 acres of expansive views, a beautifully preserved historic mansion, and meticulously tended grounds with incredible seasonal gardens. It’s more than a garden destination, however—expert educational programming blends history, nature, and art to make Cheekwood a family-friendly attraction without sacrificing an ounce of its splendor. The organization truly engages its community with opportunities for all ages, interests, and walks of life to enjoy, and it just so happens that spring is one of the best and most beautiful times to do it.

**CHEEKWOOD’S HISTORY**

As a historic site, Cheekwood represents one of the finest remaining American Country Place Era estates in the United States today. The grand home of Leslie Cheek and Mabel Wood—early investors in the Maxwell House Coffee enterprise—the 1932 estate is considered Nashville’s own smaller-scale Biltmore.

The 30,000-square-foot mansion overlooking the grounds now houses an impressive permanent collection of fine art, and the expansive grounds and gardens provide the perfect natural setting for outdoor sculpture and installation art. Renowned international artists such as Dale Chihuly and Bruce Munro have transformed indoor and outdoor spaces with innovative sculpture exhibitions, drawing tens of thousands of visitors each year.
BIG BUGS, BIG FUN

Cheekwood is hosting David Rogers’ Big Bugs this summer, an enchanting outdoor art exhibition featuring ten enormous insect sculptures created from fallen or found wood, cut saplings, twigs, raw branches, bark, and other natural materials. In addition to the giant bugs, Cheekwood has planned interactive activities and components designed to engage you, enrich your experience, and draw connections between art and nature.

This is the second time Cheekwood has hosted David Rogers’ Big Bugs, first opening the popular exhibition in the summer of 2001. This year’s showing includes the same giant ants, praying mantis, and dragonfly sculptures that thrilled visitors 13 years ago, plus many more predators, pollinators, and critters to enjoy.

Cheekwood is open until 10 p.m. on Friday nights during the summer to give you a chance to enjoy the grounds after dark. Even if you’ve experienced the sculptures during the day, seeing these giant bugs lit up across our grounds will add an entirely different and dramatic dimension to the installation.

To further enhance your Big Bugs visitor experience, two Nashville architecture firms have designed special interactive pieces for climbing, exploring, and learning.

Pfeffer Torode Architecture has created Get Your Wings: The Butterfly Experience. This inviting wooden play sculpture abstractly depicts the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly using large wooden “ribs” curling through the landscape, floating wings, and a “spine” that doubles as a slide.

Tuck-Hinton Architects has created The Hive, giving you an opportunity to experience a bee’s habitat on a grand scale. Climbable honeycomb walls, tunnels, and passageways inside the structure lead to a tree at the center representing the queen bee. The project’s materials and design abstractly represent the process of making honey.

Both interactive pieces will remain on Cheekwood’s grounds for the duration of the exhibition. David Rogers’ Big Bugs opened at Cheekwood May 23 and will close September 1, 2014.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE: PATRICK DOUGHERTY’S STICKWORKS

A giant outdoor sculpture came together piece by piece and day by day at Cheekwood in the month of March. As the organization’s 2014 Martin Shallenberger Artist-in-Residence, sculptor Patrick Dougherty gave visitors a front-row seat to his artistic process as he used locally harvested saplings to create a major, site-specific version of his acclaimed woven-wood “stickworks.” Over the last two decades, Dougherty has created more than 200 pieces in private and public spaces around the world. See Little Bitty Pretty One through March 2015.

CHEEKWOOD YEAR-ROUND

From garden tours to live music and all-ages interactive programs, Cheekwood is a one-of-a-kind place to experience and celebrate spring . . . and summer, fall, and winter, too. Each season holds something new at Cheekwood, with seasonal programming, exhibitions, and activities designed to combine art and nature into memorable experiences. Cheekwood is meant to be explored year-round, whether you’re keeping up with excited children running toward the tree house or enjoying a quiet, reflective stroll through the tulips. Find a full schedule of all events and programs at www.cheekwood.org.
In Part One of this article, published last fall, I discussed four extremely drought-tolerant evergreen perennials. This second installment covers three more perennials: rosemary, desert spoon, and whale’s tongue. Two you may not be familiar with, but they have proven to be great performers in both the Jackson and Knoxville locations of the UT Gardens.

With a little extra effort in the beginning, you too can grow these sun-loving beauties in your garden.

Rosemary—Rosmarinus officinalis

What garden would be complete without rosemary? I was interning at Longwood after completing grad school when I first fell in love with the plant. I came into the house one evening to the most incredible smell of fresh-baked focaccia bread, courtesy of one of my housemates. The only breads I knew at that time were biscuits, cornbread, and the occasional sourdough. That warm bread laced with fresh rosemary stole my heart and charmed my taste buds. It wasn’t long before my housemate was giving me lessons on baking bread.

The smell and flavor of rosemary’s fragrant needlelike leaves are hard to describe. It has a unique, refreshing lemony-pine scent. Fresh or dried leaves add excellent flavor to breads, meats, fish, vegetables, and vinegars.

Rosemary is deer resistant and has many ornamental as well as culinary uses. Bees are attracted to the small blue to pale blue flowers that appear along the stems in late winter and early spring. Its evergreen, fine-textured foliage can be gray-green to deep green and contrasts nicely with many perennials and shrubs. It works well grown in shrub and perennial borders, trimmed into a hedge, as a specimen, or in a foundation planting. Keep in mind it will be less rangy when given plenty of room and not crowded or shaded by neighboring plants. Pruning is best done just after flowering once the danger of...
frost has passed. When left unpruned, many cultivars take on an attractive naturalized form.

Native to the Mediterranean, rosemary will not tolerate wet soil, especially in the winter. If the soil is poorly drained, build up the area by mixing in pine bark, crushed rock, or both. It can be grown in containers but will not be as winter hardy. The pot can be moved into the garage or indoors for added winter protection. As drought tolerant as rosemary is in the landscape, it is not very forgiving if allowed to dry out in a pot. Gardeners who attempt to grow rosemary indoors in winter may find that the low humidity makes it a challenge. A cool, more humid room such as a sunroom works better, but I find an enclosed garage is best, as it allows the plant to enter a period of dormancy.

**Hardier cultivars include:**

‘Salem’, a fast-growing, rounded, upright form with dark green shiny leaves reaching 3 feet tall and wide. Its bold flavor makes it a great culinary choice. Zone 7.

‘Tuscan Blue’ is a large columnar selection that can reach 4 feet to 6 feet tall and 2 feet to 3 feet wide. It has stubby, succulent-looking leaves with a good flavor. The flowers are darker blue than most other cultivars. Zone 7.

‘Arp’ is said to be the hardiest selection, surviving to 10 degrees below zero. In the heat of the South, it tends to have a more open and rangy form, reaching 3 feet to 4 feet tall and 4 feet to 6 feet wide. Of the hardy cultivars, it is the least preferred by some for its culinary flavor. Zone 6.

‘Hill Hardy’ with its lush, dark green foliage is held thickly on semi-upright stems and is much more compact than ‘Arp’, maturing at about 3 feet tall. The foliage aroma is soft but assertive. It is reported to be hardy to at least 0 degrees. ‘Hill Hardy’ is considered by many to be the same as ‘Madeline Hill’. Zone 7.

‘Athens Blue Spire’ is a newer selection that has been a standout in the UT Gardens, Knoxville. It is known for its incredible vigor, excellent branching, upright habit, and profusion of light blue flowers. Zone 7.

Note: Most of these rosemary selections did not survive this past winter, indicating that rosemary winter hardiness can be quite variable.

**Desert spoon—Dasylirion wheeleri**

If you’re looking for a dramatic, architecturally interesting plant in your garden, desert spoon is the plant for you. The narrow, blue-gray leaves are armed on their margins with small, toothed barbs that catch the morning light beautifully. Each tough, leathery leaf ends with a little soft curl. The leaves radiate straight out from the center providing an optical delight in the garden any time of day. The common name, desert spoon, comes from the shape of the leaf base when it is removed from the crown.

Native to New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas, desert spoon will reach 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide and typically begins flowering after about five years in the garden. During the summer, thousands of small, creamy white to greenish yellow flowers open on a towering 10- to 12-foot-tall, beanpole-like spike. Unlike agaves, Dasylirion does not die after flowering.

**Whale’s tongue agave—Agave ovatifolia**

Along with the desert spoon, the whale’s tongue agave is the most asked about plant in the dry-bed garden in Jackson. The two specimens planted in 2008 are now 3 feet wide and 2 feet tall and will mature to 5 feet wide and 3 feet tall. The rounded rosette made up of broad ovate, blue-gray leaves are cupped near the base and resemble a whale’s tongue. The leaves have small teeth along their edges and a 1-inch spine at the end. As new leaves unfurl from the crown, they leave behind the impression of their teeth on the next leaf, adding to its uniqueness and beauty.

Whale’s tongue agave does not produce offsets, or pups, like many other agaves, leaving its symmetrical form intact. With age, the agave will send up a 10- to 12-foot-tall flower spike producing small, yellowish green flowers. Unfortunately, the plant dies after it flowers, so seed should be collected and sown.

Although extremely drought tolerant, this agave grows much faster and larger when kept well watered during summer months. It has proven to be the best agave in Jackson’s wet winters and has outperformed all other hardy agaves in our collection by leaps and bounds.

The cultivar ‘Frosty Blue’ has a more pale aquamarine hue and was added to the collection in Jackson this spring.
Our Student Internship Program is integral to our mission as a university and public garden. Students gain valuable hands-on work experience to help prepare them for their horticulture career.

Terri Brimigion has been awarded the Steve and Ann Bailey Public Horticulture internship. Alice Kimbrell has been awarded the public horticulture internship. Makai Edwards has been selected as a new Beall Family Rose Garden intern alongside veteran student Greg Meyer. Cody Fitts is a student at Mississippi State University. He will graduate in spring 2016 with dual majors in landscape architecture and contracting and dual minors in business and horticulture.

Relocating from the oldest established settlement and port in the United States, St. Augustine, Florida, plant sciences major Terri Brimigion now calls the Cumberland Plateau home. Terri brings with her 10 years of hands-on experience in plant propagation, fertilization, disease identification/treatment, and also landscape design. She will be found helping the Cumberland County Master Gardeners in the demonstration garden, assisting UT AgResearch staff with ongoing ornamental and vegetable research trials, creating an educational video for broadcast on local television, visiting local horticultural venues, and much more. Crossville is pleased to welcome Terri as its 2014 Summer Intern.

Makai Edwards has been selected as a new Beall Family Rose Garden intern alongside veteran student Greg Meyer. Makai was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, where his family owns and operates the landscape company Teacup Gardener. He began working in gardens in high school and has since developed a love for horticulture. Makai is a junior majoring in plant sciences, with a concentration in horticulture science and production. He fondly remembers his first visit to the UT Gardens and is extremely proud to be working here. Upon graduation, Makai hopes to return to Nashville and focus all of his newly acquired knowledge and experience directly into his family business.

Alice Kimbrell has been awarded the Steve and Ann Bailey Public Horticulture internship. Alice was born in Banner Elk, North Carolina, where she grew up on her parents’ Christmas tree farm. In 2001, she moved to Kingsport, Tennessee, where she was still surrounded by plants because her parents worked in the floral industry. Alice is a junior majoring in plant sciences with a concentration in public horticulture. She is excited to work at the UT Gardens because she wants to inspire others and teach them about the value of plants.

Samantha Ellis was born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, but moved to a small town called Covington in West Tennessee in 1998. As a child, she was never very passionate about plants, despite being on her grandparents’ farm all the time. Her interest was sparked by chance when taking a mandatory science class at UT, and she has since really grown to love plant science. She is a senior majoring in plant sciences with a concentration in horticulture and production, and hopes to one day own and manage her own greenhouse. Samantha is excited about the experience and knowledge she’ll gain working at UT Gardens, and plans to apply it to her future career in horticulture.

Cody Fitts is a student at Mississippi State University. He will graduate in spring 2016 with dual majors in landscape architecture and contracting and dual minors in business and horticulture. Cody is interning this summer with the UT Gardens, Jackson, to further his horticultural experience and knowledge. He hopes the internship will help him build a solid foundation as he moves toward his goal of working as a landscape architect and contractor.
1. Ben Cordes directs a UT facilities equipment operator on placement of a stone slab bridge as part of the extensive renovation and expansion of the Shade Garden. New plant additions, including collections of gardenias and camellias, were placed in the garden in memory of Marie Compere, a local humanitarian and environmentalist.

2. Staff horticulturist Bobby Cook reshapes the beds in the herbaceous perennial garden, which received major renovations and additions. Plant gurus Ruth and Erbin Baumgardner, formerly of Mouse Creek Nursery, donated their design expertise as well as the needed plants to make the perennial garden renovation possible.

3. Books and Blooms began May 8 and will run every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to noon through the summer. The event is targeted to children 12 and under, and no preregistration is needed. Just show up and enjoy a great time of storytelling, crafts, and music. Be sure to bring your children’s bathing suits for sprinkler time afterwards.

4. A student volunteer shows the magic seeds found inside a pumpkin to an enthralled group of kids at Trick or Trees. The annual event is always a fun time of costumes, treats, and learning.

5. One never knows what wonderful surprises can be pulled out of the ground in the Kitchen Garden! Summer camps provide a great opportunity for fun and discovery in our beautiful garden setting.

6. With all the activity that goes on throughout the year in the Gardens, it is sometimes best to remember the old adage and “stop and smell the roses”. Here a visitor enjoys the fragrance of a freshly cut rose provided by one of our interns.
1. Twelve demonstration classes welcomed 339 gardeners during 2013. Here, Master Gardener Bev Beers uses the compost demonstration area to share successful tips regarding home composting.

2. Realizing Economic Agricultural Potential... One Garden at a Time, affectionately referred to as REAP, received the 2013 Search for Excellence Innovative Award by the Tennessee Master Gardener Association. This gardening kit includes nineteen varieties of seed, fertilizer, worm casings, compost, plant markers, and directions for three seasons of a 4 foot by 4 foot garden plot.

3. Master Gardener volunteers donated 2,494.75 hours growing and maintaining the UT Gardens, Crossville, last year alone. Routine workdays are scheduled one day per week, but volunteers can be found working throughout the weekdays on special projects.

4. A unique partnership between the Crossville Chamber of Commerce and Gateway Productions allows gardening videos to be taped. These videos are aired across five local cable channels throughout the gardening season and also can be viewed on YouTube.

5. Our summer intern experiences ten weeks at the UT Institute of Agriculture’s Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, where scientific theories are tested under real-life conditions. Here Landon Smith, 2013 intern from Tennessee Tech, checks hydrangeas in Mark Windham’s ornamental research trial.

6. The “From Garden to Table” series was launched and offers community members the opportunity to learn new recipes as foods are harvested from the family vegetable garden, as well as safe and proper food preservation techniques. Here, Chef Dean Towers demonstrates just how easy it is to prepare scrumptious jams and jellies.

7. As children interact within the natural environment, both spontaneous and intentional learning occurs. The Kinder Garden was designed for children between the ages of 3 and 7 years and will be completed in 2014. Here Maira and Brenna Schaerer take a stroll within the labyrinth.

8. The fifth annual Fall Gardeners’ Festival registered more than 800 visitors for a day filled with twelve educational sessions, educational exhibits, “Ask-the-Expert” opportunities, free soil testing, wagon tours of the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, walking tours of the demonstration garden, greenhouse tours, and the opportunity to shop from incredible garden vendors. The 2014 Fall Gardeners’ Festival will be held Tuesday, August 26.

9. Establishing native plants in the landscape usually requires every bit as much work as non-native species. However, once native plants are established, gardeners will enjoy savings in time, energy, and money. The Native Plant area added to the UT Gardens, Crossville, features sun-loving native plants.

10. In addition to adding beauty to the home landscape, a rain garden can help protect water quality by reducing storm water runoff. Following the slope from a roof, driveway, and other impervious surfaces, a rain garden utilizes a natural or dug depression to collect and soak rainwater into the ground. Here, participants from the “Rain Gardens for Tennessee Smart Yards Train-the-Trainer Workshop” prepared the site for native shrubs and perennial plants to be planted in the depression off the parking lot.

11. To assist visitors to the Gardens, Master Gardeners designed a walking tour brochure. By simply matching numbered stakes in the garden plots to descriptions in the brochure, guests are guided through the demonstration and trial beds available at the UT Gardens, Crossville.

For further information and to learn about opportunities at the UT Gardens, Crossville, please visit the Gardens webpage on the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center website, plateau.tennessee.edu, or follow us on Facebook.
1. Pictured left to right, Josie, Jon Hudson, and Jackson Jones won the annual Thai Giant Elephant Ear Contest in the kids’ division and took home an assortment of pumpkins and gourds for fall decorating.

2. UT Extension horticulturist Carol Reese leads a walking tour of the finest plants for attracting butterflies at the 2013 Summer Celebration.

3. UT Gardens, Jackson, curator Jason Reeves introduces visitors to a few of his favorite shrubs at the annual Summer Celebration Lawn and Garden Show.

4. 2014 marks the 25th annual Summer Celebration Lawn and Garden Show. This one-day event features speakers on a variety of garden topics, a vast plant sale, garden tours, and homegrown recipe ideas. Always on the second Thursday in July, this year’s event falls on July 10.

5. Helen Mullins is one of many volunteers who works at special events and sales, donates plants and other materials, and helps keep up the grounds at UT Gardens, Jackson.

6. Carol Reese talks redbuds at Landscape Review, an annual educational event for those working in the green industry.

7. Summer Celebration is known for its plant sale, coordinated by the Tennessee Master Gardeners of Madison County.

8. Jason Reeves and Henry Wilhite load trailers for the Fall Plant Sale. The upcoming Fall Plant Sale and Garden Lecture Series will be on Thursday, October 2, 2014.

9. Composed of more than five thousand pumpkins, gourds, and winter squash, this artful autumn creation is a must-see when in the Jackson area.

10. UT Extension vegetable specialist Annette Wszelaki gives a report on different pumpkin varieties at Pumpkin Field Day. This free event will be held Thursday, September 25, 2014. Preregistration is required.

11. Staff at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center harvest more than two acres of pumpkins, gourds, and winter squash to be used in the Pumpkin Display.

12. The UT Gardens, Jackson, Pumpkin Display shows a little school pride.
BOOK REVIEW
By Joan Worley, Tennessee Master Gardener, Blount County


Second Nature: A Gardener’s Education is a book of essays, some of them previously published, some unabashedly autobiographical. The first chapter, “Two Gardens,” is the story of the author’s weedy childhood garden and his grandfather’s vegetable garden writ large. There’s a portrait of the old man, a real estate magnate, driving about town distributing baskets of his homegrown vegetables as he called on bankers and business associates, and an extended story of the suburban front lawn his father refused to mow. The chapter that follows, “Why Mow?,” includes a brief history of lawnmowers, thoughts on the all-American lawn, and moral concepts of mowing: “So we rolled out across this infinitely various country a single American lawn . . .”

Pollan is not your usual garden writer. He may discuss particular plant cultivars, but the essays are far-flung thoughts on weeds, compost, roses, etc.—unequal parts of botany, sociology, history, philosophy, environmental science, and ethics. Especially ethics. The heading may be “Planting a Tree” and indeed, the author describes his selection of a Norway maple and the digging of the hole to put it in, in sweaty detail, but along the way we will hear from William James, Russell Page, American Indians, Henry David Thoreau, and Sir James Fraser, among others. We will learn about an almost universal tree worship (the Puritans’ “hard attitude toward trees” excepted), take a side trip into eighteenth-century European tree planting (“the Political Tree”), and dip into climate change (“Think of the tree as the Earth’s breathing apparatus”). Reflections and ruminations withal, Second Nature is not a difficult read. The author blends his topical research into a reasoned, often witty discourse that holds together. Anecdotes and clever chapter titles—“Compost and Its Moral Imperatives,” “Weeds Are Us,” and “Made Wild by Pompous Catalogs”—are part of the mix. Plus, Pollan writes beautifully.

In sum, the essays are a joy to read. There is but one minor flaw: The essays are organized into twelve chapters grouped into Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. One wonders why, since the seasonal categories are an unnecessary and artificial construct. The absence of a bibliography is not a flaw. I call it a sin. Books and authors are mentioned in every chapter, some well-known, some new to me. Must we keep a running list?

The author has won many awards, ranging from the 2008 Truth in Agricultural Journalism Award from the American Corngrowers Association to a 2009 President’s Citation from the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Lennon Ono Peace Prize (2010). Second Nature: A Gardener’s Education, Pollan’s first book, won the QPB New Vision Award, and it’s a winner in my book, too.

Other Books by Michael Pollan
event & education calendar
W e continue to see new growth and excitement around the variety of educational programming offered at the UT Gardens, Knoxville. Check out all that the Gardens has to offer and come garden with us!

**Adult Workshops**

These make-and-take workshops will teach you how to create a variety of garden-related projects for your home.

**Garden Sprouts**
Get your youngest ones gardening with our preschool program. These activities are designed for preschool-aged children and at least one adult.

**Growing Together**
Gardening takes a team. Parents, grandparents and children, come out to the UT Gardens to make memories and learn fun and new gardening ideas.

**Garden Trips/Go Garden**
Schools, visit the Gardens and take part in our educational program called Garden Trips. If your school cannot make it to the Gardens, we also offer a traveling program called Go Garden. Cost is $5 per student.

**Home Grown**
Enhance your home-school program with hands-on fun and educational sessions. If you cannot make the scheduled program, contact our gardens educator to set up a special session for your group of home-school families.

**Therapeutic Horticulture**
Do you have a group of individuals with disabilities or health issues? Gardening is a powerful therapeutic tool. We can design a custom program to meet the needs and goals of your group. Sessions are scheduled by request.

**Sunday Garden Talks**
Join us once a month for a variety of garden talks. This benefit is free to members and $5 for nonmembers.

**Group Tours**
Take a tour of our Gardens. Tours last about an hour and will give you a look at the history and future of the UT Gardens as well as other gardening knowledge. We ask for a $5 per person donation for group tours. Tours are scheduled by request.

All classes require preregistration. Contact Derrick Stowell, HGTV-UT Gardens educator, at 865-974-7151 or dstowell@utk.edu for more information or to register.

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**June**

**Adult Workshop:**

**Green Roof Birdhouses**
Saturday, June 21, 1–2 p.m.
Learn how green roofs are gaining popularity, then plant a green roof on a small scale. Materials, including plants and birdhouses, are included.
Cost: $50/members, $60/nonmembers

**Growing Together:**

**Making Paper**
Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.–noon
Bring the entire family and learn how to make paper from recycled materials and garden materials. Families will go home with paper and a frame to make more paper at home.
Cost: $20/member family, $30/nonmember family

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**July**

**Sunday Garden Walk**
Sunday, July 13, 3–4 p.m.
These free tours offer visitors a chance to learn about the UT Gardens. Tours are rain or shine and will be canceled in the event of lightning. All tours depart from the Friendship Plaza. Call 865-974-7151 or email dstowell@utk.edu to preregister.

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**August**

**Gardening with Children Symposium**
Saturday, Aug. 2, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
This symposium is for teachers, community organizations, and volunteers who work with children. Sessions will focus on curriculum standards, creating lesson plans, and creating activities to get children and students excited about gardening. Cost: $30/members, $40/nonmembers

**Sunday Garden Talk:**

**Plant Families**
Sunday, Aug. 10, 2–3:30 p.m.
Knowing about plant families can help you identify plants, diagnose diseases, and plan your garden design. This class will demystify plant families and provide tips and resources for learning more.
Cost: free/members, $5/nonmembers

**Adult Workshop:**

**Hypertufa**
Saturday, Aug. 23, 1–3 p.m.
Learn to make your own garden containers and art in this workshop. Participants will make a hypertufa container to take home. Cost includes price of materials.
Cost: $25/members, $35/nonmembers

**Growing Together:**

**Terrariums**
Saturday, Aug. 23, 10 a.m.–noon
Terrariums are a fun way to teach children about gardening and nature. Families will build one of these miniature indoor gardens to take home.
Cost: $30/member family, $40/nonmember family

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**September**

**Adult Workshop:**

**Fall Container Gardening**
Saturday, Sept. 13, 1–3 p.m.
Bring your favorite container and learn how to plant it for fall. Cost includes soil and plant materials.
Cost: $20/members, $30/nonmembers

**Growing Together:**

**Recycled Bird Feeders**
Saturday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.–noon
Feeding birds is a great way to learn about nature and help our feathered friends during winter. This class will teach families how to make bird feeders from common household items. Participants will leave with a bird feeder to take home.
Cost: $20/member family, $30/nonmember family

**Sunday Garden Walk**
Sunday, Sept. 14, 3–4 p.m.
These free tours offer visitors a chance to learn about the UT Gardens and see what’s new. Call 865-974-7151 or email dstowell@utk.edu to preregister.

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**Home Grown:**

**Buggy Business**
Wednesday, Sept. 17, 1–3 p.m.
What is a bug? What is an insect? Learn how to find and identify some creatures in the garden that are helpful and some creatures that are harmful.
Cost: $5 per student

**Garden Sprouts:**

**Fall Fun**
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10–11:30 a.m.
Celebrate the first day of fall at the UT Gardens. Learn how plants and creatures change as fall turns into winter and make a fun fall craft to take home.
Cost: $5/members, $10/nonmembers
October

Sunday Garden Talk: Vermicomposting
Sunday, Oct. 12, 2–3:30 p.m.
Vermicomposting is a great way to compost in small spaces. Amanda Plante will teach you how to build and take care of a worm bin during this session.
Cost: free/members, $5/nonmembers

Home Grown:
Ecology or Mythology
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1–3 p.m.
Discuss common myths about the environment, explore the Gardens, and learn how plants and animals are dependent on each other for survival.
Cost: $5 per student

Trick or Trees
Saturday, Oct. 18, 1–3 p.m.
Trick or treat at the UT Gardens and learn about Halloween and creepy crawlies. Plenty of candy and scary fun for children await! The winner of the costume contest will receive a free, one-year family membership to the UT Gardens.
Cost: $6 per child, ages 12 and under

Garden Sprouts:
Pumpkin Chunkin'
Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.–noon
Explore the history and uses of pumpkins and see why this garden creation is a fruit. Make a tasty pumpkin treat, then play the pumpkin chunkin’ game to see who can chunk the pumpkin the farthest.
Cost: $5/members, $10/nonmembers

From Garden to Table: Freezing and Drying Foods 101
Thursday, July 10, 9–11 a.m.
UT Extension agents Kelli Bottoms and Jan Williams will teach the principles for freezing and drying foods properly.
Cost: $5

Bonsai!
Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Bring a brown bag lunch and learn the Japanese art of shin-zen-bi—growing and cultivating Bonsai trees! Owen Reich will lead the class in pruning, cutting, and pinching techniques needed to nurture these miniature trees. Each participant will establish and take home a bonsai tree.
Cost: TBD

From Garden to Table: Jams and Jellies
Thursday, July 24, 9–11 a.m.
UT Extension agents Kelli Bottoms and Jan Williams will share the process for creating jams and jellies from the garden harvest.
Cost: $5

Fall Gardeners’ Festival
Tuesday, Aug. 26
Registration opens at 8 a.m.; Event 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Enjoy a day in the Gardens learning from twelve educational sessions, visiting educational exhibits, shopping from garden vendors, strolling through the demonstration garden, taking a wagon tour of the AgResearch Center, seeking consultation at the “Ask the Expert” area, receiving a free soil analysis, and much more! Event specifics will be posted on our websites no later than Aug. 1. (ccmga.org or plateau.tennessee.edu).
Cost: Registration and parking are free, but come prepared to shop with our incredible garden vendors!

Summer Celebration Lawn & Garden Show
Thursday, July 10, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
A one-day adventure for gardening enthusiasts. More than a dozen lawn and garden talks, amazing plant sale, cooking demonstration, and free diagnostic center. Special guest: horticulturist Felder Rushing
Admission: $5

Landscape Review
Thursday, Sept. 4, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Commercial ornamental horticulture field day. Includes informative presentations that will earn you pesticide certification points.
Admission: Free

Pumpkin Field Day
Thursday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Learn all about pumpkin production, from seed to market. Lunch included. Preregistration required.
Admission: Free

Pumpkin Harvest Display
Pumpkins, gourds, and squash, oh my! These fall fruits make for a beautiful work of art. Stroll through and spot your favorite cucurbits or use as a family photo background.
Admission: Free

Autumn Fest Plant Sale & Garden Lecture Series
Oct. 1–2
Friends of the UT Gardens
Preview Party—Wednesday, Oct. 1, 5–7 p.m. (Friends of the Gardens only)
• Friends enjoy early shopping, light refreshments and special discounts. You can become a Friend the night of the party.
Garden Talks and Plant Sale—Thursday, Oct. 2, 2–6:30 p.m.
• Plant Sale Preview by Carol Reese at 2 p.m.
• Plant Sale runs from 3–6:30 p.m.
• Indoor Lecture at 6:30 p.m.
For more information on all events, visit west.tennessee.edu or call 731-424-1643.
GRANDS & ME
Grandparent and Grandchild
(ages 5–9)
Make memories while gardening with your grandchild. Participants should bring a sack lunch.

Flower Power
Monday, June 30
9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Flowers and plants are very powerful. This class will explore how flowers and plants are used today. Walk through the power plant garden and see what scientists are doing to create energy from plants. Learn how color and flowers can help make you happy and plant a container to take home and grow.
Cost: $15/member family, $20/member family

Where the Wild Things Grow
Tuesday, July 15
9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
This class will look at a fun children’s book and then explore the things growing out in the Gardens. Learn what plants need to grow and how to take care of them with the help of your grandparent.
Cost: $15/member family, $20/member family

Garden Greats
Friday, Aug. 8
9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Gardening is great. It’s even better when you can garden with your grandparent. This class will take a look at some great plants to grow, and participants will take a plant home to grow with their family.
Cost: $15/member family, $20/member family

LIL’ GARDENERS
4- to 5-year-olds
These half-day camps are designed to be shorter in duration for your little gardeners. A snack will be provided each day.

Buried Treasure
June 16–20
9:30 a.m.–noon
Healthy soil means healthy plants. This session will explore what is under our feet—worms and other creatures that make soil even better! Campers will dig in and learn about compost and other ways to help garden plants grow. They will also treasure hunt in the Gardens.
Cost: $50/member, $75/nonmember

Get Buggy
Monday, July 14
9:30 a.m.–noon
Learn about insects and other creatures crawling around the garden. Find insects and figure out what they are doing. Some pollinate, some eat your plants, and others eat the bad bugs. See how insects change as they grow and walk through the Gardens as we identify insects in their different stages of growth.
Cost: $10/member, $15/nonmember

Exploration Station
July 28–Aug. 1
9:30 a.m.–noon
What makes a seed grow? Can plants clean? Why are bees so important? This session will answer these garden questions and many more. Campers will learn how plants clean the air and water and will perform experiments to test the new things they have learned.
Cost: $50/member, $75/nonmember

Fairies & Gnomes
Tuesday, Aug. 14
9:30 a.m.–noon
This session will explore the Gardens and add a little fun with the mythical world of fairies and gnomes. Campers will learn how these creatures live, explore a few of our fairy gardens, and create items to take home and build their own fairy gardens.
Cost: $10/member, $15/nonmember

GARDEN EXPLORERS
6- to 12-year-olds
These full-day camps are longer in duration for your older children. A snack will be provided, but campers will need to bring a sack lunch each day.

Garden to Table
July 7-11
9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Join the UT Gardens and the Pellissippi State Culinary Institute in a weeklong camp focusing on where our food comes from and what to do after we harvest it. Campers will learn about growing vegetables, preparing food from the garden, and improving cooking skills.
Cost: $75/member, $100/nonmember

Dragons & Ladies, Garden Heroes
Friday, July 25
9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Dragonflies and ladybugs are two of the best creatures you can have in your garden. They are nature’s pest control. Campers will explore the life of these two creatures and learn how to attract more beneficial insects to the garden.
Cost: $15/members, $20/nonmember

Dirty Jobs
Monday, Aug. 4
9 a.m.–3 p.m.
It’s a dirty job but someone has to do it. This session will look at soil and what makes it so important in a garden. Campers will see what lurks underground and learn about worms, slugs, and other garden creatures.
Cost: $15/members, $20/nonmember
**ARE YOU GETTING E-NEWS?**

Our monthly e-newsletter highlights upcoming programs, our plant of the month, regional gardening tips, and other information relevant to our members and area gardeners. This e-newsletter is free and no membership is required to sign up for it. If you are not receiving the monthly e-news, you can subscribe to it on our homepage at utgardens.tennessee.edu. You also can subscribe to an educational newsletter that is sent out every other month. This newsletter details upcoming classes, lectures, workshops, and other programming for children, families, and adults. We do not share, rent, or sell member email addresses. You may unsubscribe at any time.

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

Shortly after joining or renewing your UT Gardens membership, you will receive a membership card in the mail. This card will have your renewal date on it. You can use this card throughout the year to receive your member discount at our plant sales, to access the member pricing for our educational programming, and to provide proof of membership at gardens participating in the Reciprocal Admission Program. Please allow four to six weeks to receive your card. If you have questions about membership, or would like further information, please contact Beth Willis at 865-974-2712 or ewillis2@utk.edu.

**MEMBER BENEFIT: BETTER HOMES & GARDENS SUBSCRIPTION**

Through the UT Gardens’ membership in the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), we are excited to extend the offer of a complimentary one-year subscription to Better Homes & Gardens magazine to anyone joining or renewing a Gardens’ membership after October 24, 2013, through September 2014. You will receive a BHG subscription card with your UT Gardens membership card. To claim your subscription, fill out and mail the postage-paid card to BHG. Current subscribers will have the option to extend their subscription.

**MEMBER BENEFIT: RECIPROCAL ADMISSION PROGRAM**

The UT Gardens is proud to be participating in the American Horticultural Society’s Reciprocal Admission Program. This is a great benefit for our members, who can enjoy free or discounted admission at nearly 300 participating gardens across the country. Certain gardens may ask to see your membership card to verify that your membership is active. If you cannot find your card, contact us in advance of your trip so we can supply a duplicate. We also suggest that you carry with you a current list of participating gardens in case there are any questions about a particular garden. The most up-to-date list can be accessed at utgardens.tennessee.edu. Go to our Links page and then to the Reciprocal Admission Program link.

**BECOME A KNOXVILLE GARDENS VOLUNTEER**

The UT Gardens, Knoxville, is always in need of new volunteers! Volunteers play a vital role in the UT Gardens, and we invite you to join this dedicated team. Whether you like getting your hands in the soil, prefer to help with special events or educational programming, or enjoy office duties, we have volunteer opportunities just for you.

Contribute to your community, form new friendships, and learn new skills—all while having a lot of fun! Volunteer opportunities also exist for students and teens.

To learn more, contact Beth Willis, volunteer coordinator, at 865-974-2712 or ewillis2@utk.edu.

**VOLUNTEER REPORT FOR 2013**

In 2013, 118 volunteers contributed just over 2,870 hours—a 65 percent increase over volunteer hours in 2012. That translates to a value of $64,718 to the UT Gardens (according to Independent Sector’s valuation of volunteer time to nonprofit organizations). From help with plant sales and special events, to assistance with educational programming, to pitching in each week in the greenhouses and gardens, our volunteers are invaluable to us.

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AND KICKOFF LUNCHEON**

The Volunteer Appreciation and Kickoff Luncheon was held on Monday, February 19, at the UT Visitors Center. Seventy-eight people, a mix of new and veteran volunteers, were in attendance as we recapped the accomplishments of 2013 and looked forward to an equally exciting volunteer season in 2014.

The event was also the Gardens’ opportunity to celebrate two of its outstanding volunteers. Mary Wigger was recognized as the 2013 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of the 145 hours she logged as a volunteer last year. To put that into perspective, that is 5 percent of the 2,870 total hours logged by all volunteers in 2013. The Gardens was thrilled to honor longtime volunteer Faye Beck as the recipient of the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award, designed to honor an individual who, through volunteer service, has contributed greatly to the UT Gardens over the course of many years. Faye has been involved with the Gardens in various roles since the early 1990s. We have come to rely on her horticultural expertise, her willingness to help with various events and tasks, her organizational skills, and, last but not least, her enthusiasm and sense of humor.
Top Annuals of 2013

Best in Show: Dahlia XXL Hidalgo
Best New Variety: Petunia ‘Tidal Wave Silver’
Best Repeat Variety: Evolvulus ‘Blue My Mind’

Top Twenty Annuals

Agastache ‘Astello Indigo’
Angelonia AngelMist Spreading Dark Purple
Artemisia ‘Parfum d’Ethiopia’
Begonia Surefire series
Begonia ‘Fire Balls’
Bidens ‘Bidy Gonzales BIG’
Calibrachoa Superbells Pomegranate Punch
Calibrachoa Mini Famous Double White
Capsicum ‘Black Olive’
Capsicum ‘NuMex Twilight’
Capsicum ‘Prairie Fire’
Catharanthus ‘Titan Burgundy Improved’
Catharanthus ‘Titan Rose Halo’
Chamaesyce ‘Stardust Super Flash’
Chamaesyce ‘Stardust White Flash’
Cleome ‘Senorita Blanca’
Cleome ‘Senorita Rosalita’
Fragaria ‘Toscana’
Ipomoea ‘Bright Ideas Black’
Ipomoea ‘Bright Ideas Rusty Red’
Lobularia ‘Blushing Princess’

Top Perennials for 2013

Dasylirion wheeleri
Dendranthema ‘Fireworks Igloo’
Echinacea ‘Cheyenne Spirit’
Echinacea ‘PowWow Wildberry’
Echinacea ‘Southern Bell’
Gaillardia ‘Mesa Yellow’
Gaura ‘Sparkle White’
Geranium ‘Azure Rush’
Hibiscus ‘Brandy Punch’
Hibiscus ‘Peppermint Schnapps’
Rudbeckia subtomentosa ‘Little Henry’
Top Roses 2013

California Dreamin Hybrid Tea
Livin’ Easy Floribunda
Scentimental Floribunda
Sweet Drift
Tahitian Treasure Grandiflora

Magnolia grandiflora ‘Southern Charm’ Teddy Bear — Teddy Bear Southern Magnolia
Taxodium distichum ‘Peve Minaret’ — Peve Minaret Baldcypress
Ulmus americana ‘Valley Forge’ — Valley Forge American Elm

Top Edibles for 2013

Basella rubra (Red Malabar spinach)
Curcuma longa (Turmeric)
Cucumber ‘Alibi’
Purple podded pole beans
Sweet bell pepper ‘Orange Blaze’

Top Trees and Shrubs for 2013

Cercis canadensis ’JNJ’ — The Rising Sun
Eastern Redbud
Chaenomeles Double Take Series — Japanese Quince
Hydrangea paniculata Royal Majestics — Baby Lace Panicle Hydrangea
Juniperus conferta ‘All Gold’ — All Gold Shore Juniper
Loropetalum chinense var. rubrum ‘Zhuzhou Fuchsia’ — Chinese Fringe-flower
Home, Sweet Bluebird Home

By Carol Reese, UT Extension Western Region ornamental horticulture specialist

Photos by Gary Lanham

Top
The first-born bluebirds will often help feed the succeeding clutch of summer fledglings.

Bottom
Bluebirds eat lots of caterpillars, helping control pests in your landscape naturally.
I rounded the corner of the house to see a wild fight in the grass. The combatants fought with such fury that the early morning dew flew high in the air. They were two male eastern bluebirds, accompanied by one female who chattered incessantly as she hopped round and round them, occasionally launching herself into the fray to throw a quick blow or peck. I glanced up to see a second female perched on a wire, keeping tabs on the fight, but too demure to get involved.

The pair that fought together drove the others away and seized control of the nearby bluebird house, the reason for the battle. I laughed to myself that the noisy female must have been expressing her urgent need to have a place to lay her eggs. It must have been pressing.

There were other bluebird houses on my property, but this one was the most prized. It was no different than the others except for its siting, which was near perfect in the bluebird world, facing east across the lawn.

Bluebirds like open fields, and will not nest in brushy or heavily wooded areas, which would provide cover and access for predators. However, a couple of small trees or tall shrubs a short distance from the nest are good, since the birds will often stop there to observe conditions before approaching the nest. Plus, when young birds fledge, these plants provide a destination and safe cover. Another consideration is that the nest opening should face away from the prevailing winds and storm fronts. While you would not want a tree or structure too close to the house, if it can catch a little shade in the hottest part of the day, this will help to keep it cool during the later nestings.

Usually it is best to put up a post where all of these conditions are best met, rather than trying to utilize an existing post that is not as well sited. Using a tree trunk is not advised, as it is an easy matter for a snake to drop into the birdhouse from above.

A metal pipe or conduit tapped into the ground is one of the simplest solutions. It is an easy matter to put a sturdy metal strap vertically on the back of the post that can be bent into a hook shape and dropped into the hollow top of the pipe.

Wooden posts aren’t difficult to set, though wooden posts are easier for predators to climb. Snake and predator guards are always a good idea, even though my dogs keep the area well patrolled. There are many different types of predator guards that work well should you live in an area where chicken snakes and rat snakes are common.

Whatever the support, the box height from the ground should be about 5 feet. This will allow you to monitor the nest which should be done weekly or so. Why should you monitor the nest? To make sure wasps, fire ants, or bees have not usurped the box, or to remove broken eggs or dead baby birds. Do not continue to monitor the nest as the fledglings are beginning to develop mature feathers, as you may accidentally flush them from the nest before they are ready. Monitoring the nest does not scare off the parents.

I check on the box frequently even during non-nesting times of the year to prevent other critters from building inside the box, though you may be as excited as a friend of mine was to find flying squirrels in hers.

Box specifics can vary, but in general, the roof should be slanted for runoff and have a good overhang over the hole. The hole itself must be one and a half inches in diameter for eastern bluebirds. After having many of my boxes ruined by woodpeckers enlarging the hole for their own needs, I have come to prefer a box with a metal plate surrounding the hole. A deep box is helpful for discouraging predators such as raccoons from reaching in and grabbing the eggs or baby birds.

Holes for drainage and ventilation are desirable, but a balance must be sought, since early nests may be exposed to cold weather. In fact, adult bluebirds will sometimes roost in the boxes, sometimes communally, during severe winter weather.

While some of these needs are very specific, such as the size of the hole, there are actually many styles that make great nest boxes. An amazingly detailed resource can be found online at www.sialis.org, where a thorough perusal of nest box style pros and cons reveals that different styles may be better in different parts of the country, dependent on the more prevalent predators or regional weather conditions.

There is also the North American Bluebird Society that provides great information and even regional hotlines to address any urgent questions or bluebird emergencies. How great is that? That web address is nabluebirdsociety.org.
The year 2012’s low population number of sixty million monarch butterflies now seems great compared with the fewer than three million that have shown up as of November 2013. Some biologists speculate that their spectacular migration could be near collapse. Unusually cool temps in the North this spring may slow their migration, which is dependent on the availability of milkweed and nectar-bearing annuals and perennials.
Asclepias milkweed can kill damaging parasites. The health of monarchs. Some species of being food sources, are also beneficial to biodiversity. Native plants, in addition to and shrubbery have greatly reduced streets, and parking lots. Monocultures created biological deserts of highways, sprawl of urban and suburban areas has cropland is not the only problem. The pollinated by insects. Loss of open non- Some 80 percent of our food crops are food source for monarch butterfly larvae, an important source of nectar and vital feeding species important for migratory birds and insects. How gardeners can help... Many yards and gardens have lost their biodiversity. They lack the choice plants for attracting monarchs. Planting a wildflower meadow in the front yard instead of maintaining a lawn will aid bees and butterflies, particularly monarchs. From Canada to Mexico, gardeners are called upon to halt the decline of the monarch butterfly populations across North America. The best way to help is to fill your garden with the monarch’s favorite flowering nectar plants and milkweeds (Asclepias spp.). Plants should be sited in open full sun and moist, well-drained soil. Avoid spraying pesticides within several hundred square feet of the designated butterfly planting.

Nectar plants are a food source for adult butterflies. Butterflies feed on the nectar, which also helps pollinate flowers. Select brightly colored flowers native to your area. Common nectar plants for monarchs include blackeyed Susan (Rudbeckia spp.), beebalm (Monarda spp.), anise hyssop (Agastache spp.), cosmos, aster (Symphyotrichum spp.), purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), lantana, Mexican sunflower (Tithonia), ironweed (Vernonia lettermannia), butterfly shrub (Buddleia spp.), marigold (Tagetes spp.), tall growing sedums (Sedum spectabile), Joe-Pye (Eupatorium spp.), blazing star (Liatris spp.), and zinnia. Add larval-host plants to attract more butterflies to your garden. All need larval-host plants upon which to lay their eggs. In the case of monarch caterpillars, the host plants are the milkweeds (Asclepias spp.). Some favorite milkweed species include common milkweed (A. syriaca) for large acreage gardens and swamp milkweed (A. incarnata) for smaller garden plots. Showy milkweed (A. speciosa), variegated milkweed (A. variegata), whorled (A. verticillata), and butterfly milkweed (A. tuberosa) are some others. Swan butterfly weed (Asclepias physocarpa) and blood flower (Asclepias curassavica) are two annual butterfly weeds that will reseed that are great for monarch. A. physocarpa flowers later in the season and is great when other butterfly weeds are finished. It is also a favorite for the caterpillars. Note that green antelope (A. viridis) contains a high level of cardiac glycosides, which become poisonous to the feeding larvae (caterpillars).

For best results, add a varied number of flowering plants with staggered bloom times to keep butterflies grazing in your garden through the entire growing season. A local garden center may offer additional nectar-gathering plants not listed here. Searching for monarch-friendly plants? Prairie Moon Nursery, 32115 Prairie Lane, Winona, MN 55987

Milkweed Farms, 19187 Foggy Bottom Road, Bluemont, VA 20135

Sunlight Gardens, 174 Golden Lane, Andersonville, TN 37705
TENNESSEE GARDENING LEGENDS

LOIS VAN WIE
DAFFODIL HYBRIDIZER

By Margot Emery, UT Institute of Agriculture Marketing and Communications
Photos by Tom Stettner
Developed from her experiments in hybridizing daffodils, Lois Van Wie introduced a graceful new variety called Cherokee Tumble to the world. It was her own tumble, though, that contributed to her fame in daffodil circles.

In 2004, Van Wie was weeding her garden on Knoxville’s Cherokee Bluff when her trowel slipped a little way down the hill. As she retrieved it, Van Wie lost her footing and began sliding down a steep 280-foot drop to the Tennessee River. An exposed tree root stopped her fall, saving her life. The firefighters responding to her husband’s 911 call were able to put her on a stretcher and pull her up the slope. By this time, news crews were on the scene covering the dramatic rescue. Sizing up an opportunity, Van Wie told the reporters, “Boy, could I use you for publicity on the daffodil show?” Her sense of timing broke them up. “They thought this was a riot,” she said. In fact, several of the reporters called Van Wie after their stories ran to find out if she had gotten the publicity she wanted. Actually she got a little more than she intended. Attracted by the novelty of the story, Fox broadcast it on national television and radio news. Daffodil enthusiasts across the U.S. took note, and Van Wie, already respected as a judge of regional and national daffodil shows, became legendary for show publicity.

Her fall down the bluff brought something else, as well. It gave Van Wie a name for an award-winning seedling that people had been urging her to register. And so Cherokee Tumble was born.

“I took up daffodil hybridizing on a dare from my husband,” Van Wie said. “I was a pure amateur. I’d go into the garden and say I wonder what you and you would look like put together, and that’s the way I did it. So then you’d get the seeds, which are tiny black things, and you’d work through various processes for four to five years until you had your first bloom. Some were real dogs. You’d destroy those bulbs, and then you sometimes decided one bloom was a lot better than the others. Cherokee Tumble was the best I ever had.”

Van Wie says it’s fun to cross daffodils. “The American Daffodil Society says that hybridizing is something that any serious daffodil grower should try at least once, and I agree.” She recommends the society’s judges handbook as a way to learn how.

If you’re interested in getting started with daffodils or wish to deepen your knowledge of these beloved flowers, Van Wie suggests that you visit the American Daffodil Society’s website at daffodilusa.org. There you can find resources and listings of society chapters near you. By joining, you’ll get to know people who enjoy daffodils and are knowledgeable about growing them. Master Gardeners are also a great source of help. And watch for local bulb sales in the fall. These often feature daffodil and other plant varieties known to do particularly well in your area.

Van Wie no longer hybridizes daffodils, but she continues to enjoy judging daffodil shows. Her younger daughter is also now a judge. “It’s great when your children take on your hobby,” Van Wie says with justifiable pride.
One of my favorite native trees is Eastern redbud, botanically called *Cercis canadensis*. This spring-flowering native is found throughout eastern and central North America from Connecticut to southern Ontario and the Great Lakes south to Western Texas and Florida. It is found in open woodlands, thickets, woodland margins, limestone glades, and along rocky streams and bluffs. It also makes a great ornamental tree for commercial and residential landscapes.

Redbud is best known for its stunning floral display of lavender-purple blossoms in March and April. Its bare branches are literally covered with a profusion of pealike flowers that brighten the spring landscape. Flowers are followed by flattened, leguminous beanlike seedpods (2-4 inches long) that mature to brown in summer. Each pod has six to twelve seeds. Pods may remain on the tree into winter. Fall foliage is not noteworthy, turning pale yellow to greenish-yellow. Redbud is cold hardy from zones 4 to 9.

Redbuds are regarded as understory trees that can reach 25 feet tall and 30 feet wide when mature. They thrive in full sun to partial shade and prefer a moist but well-drained soil. Redbuds suffer dramatically from excessive stress, be it lack of water, excessive moisture, or mechanical injury. You can keep redbuds vigorous through regular watering and fertilization. A weakened tree is more susceptible to canker and *Verticillium* disease.

The redbud’s open, vase-shaped form with a rounded top makes it an attractive specimen. The tree often branches low on the trunk and, if left intact, forms a graceful multi-trunked habit. Prune off lower branches if you prefer a single, sturdy trunk. If lower branches are more desirable, prune off those that form a
tight V union to the tree and keep those with a more open U union. Prune so that branches are spaced about 6-10 inches apart along the main trunk.

**GARDEN USES**

Redbud has many uses in the landscape. It’s nice as a single specimen tree or planted in small groups. Site it in a lawn area, shrub borders, woodland or naturalized settings, or around patios. While the native species is very attractive, numerous cultivars are available that can add even more interest to the garden through unique growth habits and variations in bloom and foliage.

**FOLIAGE VARIATIONS**

‘Forest Pansy’ is a burgundy-leaved cultivar. Foliage fades to green in summer.

‘Merlot’ is a burgundy-leaved cultivar holding its color better than ‘Forest Pansy’.

‘Silver Cloud’ has blotched creamy white and green variegated foliage. Performs best with some shade since foliage can burn in hot, afternoon sun.

‘Floating Clouds’ has green and white variegated foliage with more pronounced white than ‘Silver Cloud’. Less likely to burn in hot afternoon sun than ‘Silver Cloud’.

‘Hearts of Gold’ has bright yellow leaves that mature to pure yellow and pale to green in summer.

The Rising Sun has new growth that is golden orange maturing to yellow and then green in summer. Grows 12 feet tall and 8 feet wide.

**BLOOM VARIATIONS**

‘Appalachian Red’ has unique, eye-catching neon pink blooms.

‘Alba’ and ‘Texas White’ are both white-flowering forms.

‘Don Egolf’ is a Chinese redbud (Cercis chinensis). This upright, multi-stemmed shrub form typically matures to 10-12 feet tall and just as wide. It is a sterile cultivar noted for producing abundant rosy mauve flowers but no seed pods.

‘Oklahoma’ typically matures to 12-18 feet tall. Its flowers are rosy magenta to wine red, and its leaves are a richer green with unusually shiny leaves.

‘Tennessee Pink’ is noted for producing clear pink flowers (purple coloration found in most of the redbuds is absent).

‘Ruby Falls’ is a weeping redbud with burgundy foliage that grows as tall as it is trained with branches that droop downward.

‘Traveller’ has stiffly arching and weeping branches. It builds on itself to form a broad dome. Foliage is leathery and a dark glossy green.

‘Hearts of Gold’ is noted for producing clear pink flowers (purple coloration found in most of the redbuds is absent).

**GROWTH HABIT VARIATIONS**

Lavender Twist (‘Covey’) is a weeping form with contorted stems producing an umbrella-shaped crown. Needs staking to develop a tree-like habit.

‘Little Woody’ has unique, thick leaves that are closely spaced along its stems on a shrubby, tightly branched framework that grows 10-12 feet tall.
In early spring, tender herbs have yet to establish in the garden, but those that are winter-hardy are ready to enhance a variety of foods and bring a welcome taste of the garden to the table.

Rosemary is just such an herb.

A favorite recipe shared by members of the Memphis Herb Society shows off the wonderful flavor of rosemary in an unusual, sweet way. The society’s rosemary shortbread cookies are a breeze to make. These treats are exceptionally delicate and tender. Establish rosemary in your garden and store pecans in the freezer, and you’re ready to make this recipe at any time.

**Rosemary Shortbread Cookies**

- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped rosemary
- 2 sticks butter at room temperature
- 2/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- dash salt
- 2/3 cup toasted chopped pecans

Mix all except pecans in a food processor until smooth. Remove and stir in nuts. Roll dough into small balls. The size of malted milk balls is ideal. Flatten to 1/4 inch using a jar dipped in granulated sugar. Bake at 350 F for 15-20 minutes or until light brown. Cool. Store in an airtight container. Makes about 75 cookies. This recipe is courtesy of Angela Mullikin.

The Memphis Herb Society is partnering with the UT Gardens to share herbal recipes in our magazine. The society is a dynamic organization that meets monthly at the Memphis Botanic Gardens. Their meetings feature nationally recognized herb authorities, and members help maintain the Botanic Gardens’ extensive herb garden. They also bring a wealth of herbal foods to share at their meetings and feature them in the several herb cookbooks they have published. Guests are welcome at meetings, so join them if you’re able. For more information on the society, visit their website at memphisherbsociety.com.
Last fall, The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust awarded to the UT Foundation $20,000, which will be used to support staff in the UT Gardens this year. This is the second time the grant has been awarded in support of the UT Gardens in the last three years, Sue Hamilton, director of the UT Gardens, said. Hamilton applied for the grant in August and received notice of the award in November. The $20,000 grant, which supports education and research in ornamental horticulture, is the largest amount awarded by the trust.

“Grants supporting staff and salary are not very common and to receive it twice in three years is pretty special,” Hamilton said. “It’s allowed our staff to grow and enhance the Gardens’ capabilities.”

The first award, received from Stanley Smith in 2012, was used to help establish a garden educator in the UT Gardens. The position quickly grew by providing education and outreach programming for youth and adults alike. As a result, Hamilton and Derrick Stowell, the new garden educator, have motivated industry leaders and members of the gardening community in East Tennessee to help support the position for the long-term.

According to Hamilton, this new educational programming increased the need for beautiful and functional garden structures to support horticulture education, which is why she applied for the Stanley Smith Trust again in fall 2013. In the second request she asked for support for a new horticulturist. Ben Cordes is now on staff as horticulturist and is the newest addition to the team. His impact has already been seen with new structures and garden spaces, Hamilton said.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust was created in 1970 by May Smith in memory of her late husband. The trust pursues the advancement of research in ornamental horticulture, public access gardens for educational purposes, environmentally responsible practices, and education activities furthering ornamental horticulture.
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