



THE GARDEN POST

Annual Meeting Issue

Volume 15 No 6 October 2008

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17th Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of the University of Tennessee Gardens

DATE: Sunday, Nov. 2, 2 p.m., Ijams Nature Center

GUEST SPEAKER: Darrel G. Morrison, Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects

Much has been written about ecologically based design, particularly about the need to understand scientific principles and to integrate them into design. Many questions remain, however, about the form ecological design should take. Will the public have to accept a "messier" look? Will accepted and long-held aesthetic principles such as the English picturesque need to be discarded or modified? What about the psychological aspects of design?
--Mary Myers, "Design on the Prairie," *Landscape Architecture*, February 2007

A pioneer in his field, **Darrel Morrison** has worked for many years to address these questions. He suggests that the new model for evoking our disappearing natural landscapes and experiencing them will require active engagement: "It will require walking into more than just looking at—purely visual engagement will not reveal the nuances of complex prairie or forest landscapes. These new landscapes will need to be experienced through touch and smell as well as sight."

Morrison, considered by many to be the country's leading authority on restoring native plants, has accomplished plenty of educating in his 35 years of teaching, including educating many landscape architects who now work in East Tennessee. After a period of time at the University of Wisconsin, he went to the University of Georgia, where he served as dean of the School of Environmental Design from 1983-2002. He now is dean emeritus and professor, and he continues teaching, research and creative activities centered on ecologically based design with native plant communities to express the unique character of place. Morrison lives in New York City, and though semi-retired, he teaches periodically at such institutions as Utah State University, Rutgers University, Columbia University and Conway School of Landscape Design. He also consults on various ecologically based landscape design and management projects throughout the country. He is a Fellow of



the American Society of Landscape Architects and of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.

Morrison's work celebrates both the unique character of a space and its biological diversity—just in time for younger generations who are increasingly impoverished in their lack of direct experience with authentic and naturally evolving landscapes.

Says Morrison: "I always have had the optimistic view that if it is pretty and is also scientifically accurate and appropriate, people will gradually make the change. I think we are educating for a new aesthetic."

The program will begin at 2 p.m. and will include refreshments.



The Friends are an 800-member 501(c)(3) non profit founded in 1992.

Our mission is to advocate, promote, and raise funds for the Gardens from citizens on the university campus, in our community and across the state.

The Gardens will celebrate their 25th anniversary in 2008.

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The Garden Post publishes seven issues in February, April, May, June, September, October and December, plus occasional special issues. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the previous month. Questions for "Q&A" are also welcome.

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Dear Friends,

The University of Tennessee Gardens have been a campus and community destination point for 25 years. The lovely gardens have been host to countless weddings, parties and educational events. The annual Blooms Day event brings 4,500 visitors to view the gardens and to learn. For others, the gardens are a beautiful place just to sit quietly with a book or a sketch pad. Each year, more than 50,000 people visit the site.

In addition, the UT Gardens provide an important resource for delivery of horticultural programs. This blooming treasure along the banks of the Tennessee River remains one of the nation's prettiest science labs. The UT Gardens are part of the East Tennessee AgResearch Center, where some 4,000 flowers, plants, trees, vegetables and grasses are evaluated each year. The Gardens' mission includes research, education and outreach efforts, but it also is a beautiful place for the people to stop and enjoy.

With the completion of the Friendship Plaza project and the Silver Anniversary celebration, the Friends of the University Gardens look forward to a time of transition and preparation for the next 25 years and beyond. The Friends of the University Gardens will continue as before and will be an important part of developing the Gardens into the future, with a special focus on education and advocacy. And as a Friends member, you will notice continued improvements in the Gardens.

In early June, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture administration stepped forward with the decision to appoint Dr. Susan Hamilton as interim director for the Gardens. We are delighted to announce this next step in the growth of the University of Tennessee Gardens.

You are invited to attend the Friends' Annual Membership Meeting Nov. 2 at the Ijams Nature Center to learn more, to ask questions and to hear our speaker, Dr. Darrel Morrison.

Sincerely,

Joe DiPietro
Vice President for Agriculture

Faye Beck
Co-President

Mary Spengler
Co-President

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**In honor of
Lakemoor Hills Garden Club**
Jane Anen

In memory of Tom Gerkin
Jan & Pete Crawford

In honor of Paul Fortsch
Crestwood Hills Ladybugs Garden Club

Gift memberships have been given by
Gail Guinn
Clarke Harrison

Summer Secrets



is lush in great gardens, even in times of drought. And lessons of the gardening year are fresh in mind.

It would take pages to adequately express our thanks and appreciation for the education and enjoyment afforded us at the three Secret Garden Parties that took place in late August and September. Our gracious



For years, the Friends' community fund raisers mainly featured Secret Gardens in springtime. But there is something special to be seen and said about gardens as they arrive at the end of the summer season. Colors are rich, and they shimmer in the heat of day and the cool of night. Texture

and generous hosts were owner **Sam Beall** and head gardeners **Jeff Ross** and **John Coykendall** at Blackberry Farm Aug. 23; **Christine Hayworth** at Penrose Farm Sept. 12, with guest **Bill Claybough** of the Foothills Land Conservancy; and **Mike and Darlene Thompson** at Oliver Ridge Sept. 27, with water gardens expert **Mark Fuhrman**.

Absolutely first-class food and drink served *al fresco* in incomparable settings characterized each of these very different special places and successful events. A fuller report on each will be included in our last issue of the year coming up.



Coming Up On The Calendar:

Thursday, Oct. 9 IN THE GARDENS Books & Blooms 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 11 COURSE Beyond the Jack-o'-Lantern (UTPPD #291609)
Tuesday, Oct. 21 IN THE GARDENS Luncheon Walk 12 Noon Twilight Walk 6 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 23 IN THE GARDENS Books & Blooms 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1 DEADLINE December Issue
Saturday, Nov. 1 COURSE Beyond Dogwoods & Azaleas:
Less Common Trees and Shrubs for the Home Garden (UTPPD #291606)
Sunday, Nov. 2 EVENT Friends annual membership meeting. Guest speaker: Dr. Darrel Morrison
Saturday, Dec. 6 COURSE Holiday Wreaths with Greenery from the Gardens (UTPPD #291600)

This newsletter is available online in full color at www.friendsoftheutgardens.org.

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Coming Dec 1: Year End Issue

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