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# Men's garden club changes homes to community college

**S**partanburg Men's Garden Club and Hatcher Garden have been busy restructuring their relationship. For 20 years the tree and shrub program of Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (SMGC) has resided at Hatcher Garden. Business has been so good that they seem to have outgrown each other.



**Linda Cobb**

Garden Cameos

After a lot of thought, the SMGC has decided to pull up roots and move its tree and shrub operation to Spartanburg Community College Campus.

SCC is home to one of the state's best two-year horticultural degree programs.

"One of our goals in education is having more community involvement on campus," said SCC Horticulture Department Chair Jason Bagwell. "Having SMGC on our campus will



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Ed Wilde, president of Spartanburg Men's Garden Club; Dr. Joe Sidlowski, dean of instruction at Spartanburg Community College; Jason Bagwell, department chairman of horticulture at SCC; Don Crowder, a past president of SMGC; and Kevin Parris, director of the Arboretum at SCC will be working together with the garden club's move to the campus.

## CAMEO

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draw more community involvement. Our mutual efforts will help strengthen one of the best horticultural associations in this community."

Jason Bagwell and Kevin Parris, director of the Arboretum at Spartanburg Community College, have worked on making this move beneficial to everyone.

At Hatcher Garden, SMGC resides on the property and participates in the spring and fall plant sales.

SMGC will stay on site until after the Spring Plant Sale on April 24. They plan to have their move completed by June 1.

"Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve greatly appreciates the rewarding partnership and long-term support we have had for over 20 years with the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club," said Robin Vollmer, executive director of Hatcher Garden. "We understand the reasons they have chosen to move to Spartanburg Community College and we will assist them with their relocation efforts so the transition is seamless and uneventful. We wish them the very best with their new growth opportunities and know we will continue to support each other as we have done for all these past years."

Hatcher Garden has started daily plant sales 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Hatcher works on many projects each year and this year is focusing on their Garden for Hope and Healing, which is an inspirational and therapeutic designed healing garden for people facing life limiting illnesses. Vollmer is interested in driving people to visit the garden and the daily plant sales do that. It enables Hatcher's horticulturalist, Jeff Hall, to sell the newest plants for great prices. Selling plants will bring more traffic to the garden as well as increase Hatcher's bottom line. Hall's focus has

always been on educating the public on how easy it is to grow a wide variety of plants to enhance the home and garden.

"One of my personal goals at Hatcher Garden is to be a leader for our community by promoting and educating the public about plants. Harold and Josephine Hatcher would be proud of the growth of both organizations. I am excited about the partnership with the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and Spartanburg Community College. This will be a win-win for the Spartanburg community," Hall said.

Past SMGC President Linda McHam and head of the Relocation Committee agreed. "We have participated as a partner with Hatcher Garden for over 20 years and we look forward to continuing that support, but we are looking forward to our new affiliation with SCC with all of the wonderful opportunities that they will offer us," she said. "This is a new page in our history with a lot of room to grow. We were taking up space that Hatcher needed so this move will benefit both of us."

This upcoming change seems to be a benefit to all involved. "This represents growth for Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, for Hatcher Garden, and for Spartanburg Community College," said SMGC president Ed Wilde.

In recent years, Hatcher Garden has taken giant steps toward becoming a horticultural force in our community. The extra space will allow them to expand and put into action more of their long-term goals. Spartanburg Community College continues to catch the nation's eye as one of the best two-year horticultural programs available. In addition, SCC is home to the two new master gardener classes that are in session. SCC wants to be a horticultural "hub" in this community. Spartanburg Men's Garden Club just may be the catalyst that will help make all of this happen, for everyone.