

Retired chiropractor enjoys the planting life

Charlie Covert never thought he would own a nursery, but he does now. He has spent his life as a holistic chiropractor in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and South Carolina.

After he retired a couple of years ago, his first job was working for Helen Wells at Creekside Garden and Nursery, 1940 Drayton Road. Helen saw his potential and made him the manager for a year. When she decided to take a different direction and sell the business, Charlie bought it.

Today, he enjoys spending

time with the customers and loves plants.

Charlie doesn't intend to make a lot of money there, but just wants to keep it open and play with plants. If it takes care of itself, he will be very happy.

He is a member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and is its new vice president, so his knowledge and love of plants runs deep. He is also a master gardener.

Charlie's grandfather, Monford Melroy, had the plant gene

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Linda Cobb

Garden Cameos



Charlie Covert is now the owner of Creekside Garden and Nursery on Drayton Road. He is a former holistic chiropractor who has decided to focus on plants for his retirement career.

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and grew everything from seed. Charlie hung out with him and helped him in the garden. As an adult, Charlie's always had a nice garden. After the Air Force, he took some horticulture classes but gave it up for the study of chiropractic medicine.

"I treasure my memories of helping my grandfather in his rather large (1.5-acre) garden," he said. "Although we didn't use many modern conveniences such as power tools or automatic irrigation systems, it was a great deal of fun and (an) opportunity to learn about nature and life. I think a lot of modern kids are missing out in this regard."

At the garden center, Charlie has a lot of perennials and some ornamental grasses, trees and shrubs. In the future, he wants to get in some unusual plants and spends time looking for them. He has 42 differ-

ent varieties of Japanese maples — this is his favorite line of trees. He hopes to have more maples in by winter.

Taking care of a garden center is no easy task, especially during the summer months. Watering is quite a job, along with trimming plants and weeding.

"It can be very laborious in this hot weather, but I like the work," Charlie said. He plans to be open year-round to serve his customers.

Above all, Charlie finds the work therapeutic.

"It is connecting with nature, and you can be grounded by it. The plants appreciate the attention you give them," he said. People say keep busy — he is doing that.

Creekside Garden Center's hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

**Reach master gardener
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