

June 2022

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge. Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

The 75th Anniversary of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (SMGC) will occur in 2023. Our garden club has a great history in Spartanburg. People like W. O. Ezell, Harold Hatcher and Henry Pittman have helped make Spartanburg an attractive city. The SMGC has contributed many hours of labor and money to Hatcher Gardens when it was in its infancy. Many projects have been done in the past to beautify the roadways in Spartanburg including our ongoing Street Tree Program on Pine Street.

We are planning to celebrate this wonderful past with a 75th anniversary gala next year. Not only we will be celebrating our past, but we will be showcasing our future. We hope to use this event to attract attention to the club and gain new members. To make sure we have a successful celebration, we have formed a 75th Anniversary Committee. This committee is chaired by Darvin Helvy. Ben Waddell, Denie Crowder, and Charlie Crescenzi have agreed to assist. Do you have any ideas for our 75th Anniversary and would you like to join the committee? Let's make the next 75 years better than the first 75 years!

Dan Shook SMGC Speaker, June 20, 2022

"Plants, Programs, and Plans at Hatcher Gardens"



Dan discusses Hatcher Garden's recent plant additions, educational programs, and plans for expansion. He has a special passion for educating children about gardening and nature, which is one of his major areas of emphasis at Hatcher.

The public is always invited to attend meetings.



<https://www.facebook.com/SMGCDirtDaubers/>



Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org

Founded in 1948 as the "Dirt Daubers" the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club welcomes men, women and corporate members with an interest in nature.

As well as sharing gardening interests, the club has planted over 5,000 trees in Spartanburg, assists with many area beautification projects, teaches a gardening class to the public, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.



2022 Litter pickup schedule

June 18 rain date **Jun 25**

Sept. 17 rain date **Sep 24**

Dec. 3 rain date **Dec 10**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

Renew Now 2022 Membership

Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at DirtDaubers.org/Membership and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



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Photography by Linda McHam



Hydrangea 'Lady in Red' lace cap in foreground; Nikko Blue in the background.



Buxus sempervirens suffruticosa, Hosta aureomarginata and Hydrangea lace cap.



Blueberries are starting to ripen. They will be ready on July 4.

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Legacy Real Estate
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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Member Musing

By Mary Ann Hipp

Viburnums

Are you looking for a shrub that is a tall screening plant, or maybe a short specimen plant, or something in between? One that is deciduous, or evergreen? Grows in sun or shade? One with red berries, blue berries, black berries, or no berries? One with shiny leaves, or pleated leaves, or wrinkled leaves? Native or imported? There's a viburnum for that! Some viburnums have very fragrant flowers and some have no fragrance at all. Some have snowball flowers, some have a layered look more like a dogwood, and some have relatively insignificant flowers. I have at least fourteen varieties of viburnums in my yard and am always on the lookout for more.

One of my favorites is the Chinese evergreen snowball viburnum (*viburnum macrocephalum*). This is a semi-evergreen shrub that likes full sun and can get huge. Mine is at least 12' X 12' and is only nine years old. It is a showstopper, and we have them for sale in the container nursery. Other favorites are the *viburnum plicatum* with their pleated leaves and layered look. 'Shasta' has flowers similar to dogwoods and 'Popcorn' has snowball flowers. I also like the fragrant viburnums, *burkwoodii* 'Mohawk' and *carlesii*. These both have pink buds that are beautiful even before they open and smell fabulous. White Flower Farm describes *carlesii* as 'one of the most gloriously fragrant shrubs known to man. We will have some of these for sale this fall. 'Moonlit Lace' and 'Spring Lace' are two relatively new evergreen hybrids with shiny leaves and pretty white flowers. 'Moonlit Lace' is available in the nursery too as is *viburnum* 'Spring Bouquet' (*viburnum tinus*). Can you tell that I'm the one who orders in a lot of the plants we sell? So if you have an empty spot that needs a spring blooming shrub, consider a viburnum. And come to the club's plant sale this fall to get one!



History of the club continues on the following pages.

7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

The second year, the Club heeded his observation and was better prepared with both home grown and Salem Nursery grown White Dogwood and Dayley Crape Myrtles, and also with purchased grafted and more costly Pink Dogwood. That year the weather was very un-cooperative and sales volume was disappointing. Many of the unsold plants had to be heeled out and later planted for the year at the tree bank at Gas Bottoms and at the homes of members.

Not discouraged, in 1981, the Club purchased a truck load of grafted Pink Dogwood from a nursery in Tennessee for the sale to supplement the white ones and the Crape Myrtles. What happened? Hatcher explained in the “Gardening & Beautification” newsletter of March, 1981.

When prospective buyers got through filling their gasoline tanks and paying for their week's groceries, they decided the grafted pink dogwood, also at inflated prices, was a “luxury” they could do without, at least for this week. Instead they went for non-grafted white dogwoods and the red crape myrtles which were less than half the price of the pink dogwoods. So we sold out of the cheaper trees early in the sale. I presume we will go to the Tree Bank with the one-third of the truckload that was left over.

He went on to say that a significant development that added greatly to the success of this the third annual sale was the many advanced orders placed by neighborhood organizations in Hillbrook, Oak Forest, and Wood Winds and in the town of Wellford. Landscape Architect Shirley Carter had worked with the new Hillbrook Forest Neighborhood Association, on Spartanburg's east side, and developed a landscape theme including lazy triangles of either Dogwood or Crape Myrtles (depending on the amount of sunshine available) for both sides of front yards that had no major existing trees. Neighborhood leaders staked proposed planting sites at many homes in advance, and took many orders. On the May Saturday of the sale, John Nevison and his famous “little blue truck” were nearly overworked in delivering trees. *Southern Living* magazine covered this neighborhood activity and, in October 1981, ran a full page picture story on the 2,000 or so trees which were sold into the neighborhood from Henry Pittman's carport and Nevison's pick-up truck.²

Harold Hatcher reported, “These first three sales (years) have added over 15,000 flowering trees to the area, for which we are proud.” Proud indeed, this was considered a rather super accomplishment for a club of some 100 amateur men gardeners.

As it is today, the original purpose of the plant sale project was two-fold—to encourage community and personal property beautification and to provide Club funds for other projects (primarily those involving community beautification).

Before moving from Gas Bottoms in the fall of 1983 to the Fairforest Creek flood plain area of the city near the Beacon, the last trees—Sycamores—were planted at the parking lot where QS-1 is now located. Harold Hatcher's “Gardening & Beautification” newsletter dated November 17, had this report.

TREE PROGRAM. Responses to our treelet offering are still coming in, with total requested items now at about 850. These are from 25 towns, schools, neighborhood groups and individuals. These requests will be filled first to those planning Arbor Day plantings, then in order of receipt. Arthur Justice and Harold Frederickson lead in

² A page of this article is in Appendix 22.

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response from neighborhood groups. There will be a succession of therapy opportunities for willing members to get these orders filled.

A major change in Tree Bank operation is in the mill. The Pine Street property is to be sold by the city. The Bank will move to Fair Forest Park at the south end of Highland Ave. The city wishes to continue their cooperation with the Club in this project. About 1/4 mile of stoned roadway has been laid to facilitate access for city leaf dumping and tree culture. This 30+ acre park is the third largest in the city. Fair Forest Creek, considerable woods and about 10 acres of open flood plain suggest possible development of a city arboretum in this park. A committee of club directors was named to explore this possibility. (Hatcher, Chairman; Bob Powell, Bob Reynolds, D. P. Goodwin, Charles Frost and John Nevison.)

He reported in the newsletter of October, 1985, that this Fairforest Creek Nursery project was proceeding and he gave this optimistic summary: "The 71 treelet species available for plantings this '85/'86 dormant season have been listed in a September 30 memo forwarded to about 135 county schools, city & county offices, civic and neighborhood associations, local radio-TV stations and local newspapers." The newsletter also reported that approximately 3,000 treelets were available and that, "There is a very good supply of Crape Myrtles (2 to 8 ft.) this year: dwarf and regular white and red, and regular pinks. Dave Kennemur has handled the distribution and publicity effort on this year's tree list. The trees will be available from November 20, 1985, into March 1986." It is interesting to note the very long period—some three months—during which the sale continued.

The extremely valuable cooperative program with the South Carolina State Forestry Nursery continued for a number of years and returned huge numbers of young Dogwood seedling trees to the Club. In 1989, 4,500 of these small, one-year old Dogwood seedlings from the Salem State Nursery were ready for planting in the Fairforest Tree Bank, along with 5,000 Crape Myrtle cuttings for rooting, most of which were propagated by Hatcher.

Among the Club members active with Hatcher in the Fairforest Nursery were John Nevison and Jess Taylor. Taylor wrote in a 1999 memoir, "John had a blue pick-up truck that made several trips to the State Nursery at Sumter, S. C. We picked up dogwood and Leyland Cypress seedlings for transplanting in the MGC Fairforest Creek Nursery. I recall riding shot-gun on at least six occasions and listening to his tales of high adventure while he was bird-dogging Englehart Company interests in Europe." Taylor continued, "For many years John worked as a member of the four man digging team supervised by Harold Hatcher to scientifically dig up trees for the bare root tree sales program."

Originally the soil at Fairforest was poor, but over the years Hatcher's addition of leaf compost improved it greatly. Water for this new nursery was an ongoing problem. It was in 1989 that Jess Taylor considered solving this problem by engineering a pumping system for creek water. But city engineer Mike Garrett suggested that it would be much more efficient to pipe city water to the nursery; he engineered and provided this along with much valuable advice. This type of help and cooperation from Garrett and the city were common and extremely valuable.

Also that year, 85 six-foot tall white Natchez Crape Myrtles were dug from Harold's large rooting bed on the Sikes property in what is now the grass parking area in front of the fenced nursery area at Hatcher Garden; these bare-root trees were planted by John Belue as part of the Club's 1989 "Beautiful East Main" shoulder treescape project and they are an essential part of the beauty of that street today.