

July 2022

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Gardening & Beautification

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 nominating committee led by Darvin Helvy has done a good job developing a slate of candidates for 2023. If you would also like to be on the board, let Darvin know.

To keep the SMGC viable, we must plan for the future. At the end of 2023 multiple directors will have served four years. We need other members to step forward. Our current officers are nearing their "term limits" at the end of 2023. The nominating committee and current board member may approach you about serving in 2024. Please keep an open mind. Besides, we are a fun group of people!

Lawson Revan SMGC Speaker, July 18, 2022

"Tyger River Foundation"

The July meeting of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club will feature a presentation by Lawson Revan who will discuss the mission and activities of the Tyger River Foundation. The Tyger River Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It is dedicated to long-term conservation efforts within the Tyger River Basin. The foundation promotes, protects, and restores the natural and historic resources of the Tyger River Basin. The Foundation encourages an active outdoor lifestyle.

All are welcome. The Seminar is open to the public free of charge.



<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

Sept. 17 rain date **Sept 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



Ceratostigma plumbaginoides
(Plumbago)



Purple Coneflower
(Echinacea) and
White Petunias



Seed Pods from a
Golden Rain Tree
(*Koelreuteria elegans*)

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 Mark Carlson

Visiting Savannah



If you are looking for a spring getaway that does not require getting on an airplane, consider visiting Savannah, Georgia. The historic district in Savannah dates to the mid-1700s when Georgia was originally settled. There are many beautiful old houses that have been restored in the original residential area very close to the river. When the city was initially laid out, 20 mini parks were created in a grid pattern within the residential area. It is relaxing to stroll through the historic area taking in the different parks. The parks typically contain Live Oaks, Chinese Fringe Trees, azaleas, and frequently Giant Leopard Plant (*Farfugium japonicum* var. *giganteum*, formally *Ligularia*). To catch the azaleas in bloom plan to visit in late March or very early April. As a seaside tourist town there are lots of restaurants, and many of them offer fresh seafood.

The downtown area includes a maritime museum, art museums, and a history museum in the visitor center on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The railroad museum provides some of the finest remaining examples of Victorian railroad architecture and design, and is the most intact antebellum railroad repair complex in the country currently in operation. There are bus routes in the city that you can hop on and off at various points to take in all the sites. The Bonaventure Cemetery and Forsyth Park are also excellent places to wander through.

The Savannah Botanical Gardens are a modest affair on 10 acres that is not far from the city center. An excellent side trip for a morning or afternoon is the Wormsloe Historic Site on the Isle of Hope. The main entrance is set off by a 1.5 mile allée of live oaks. The remains of a fortified house built on the site are made from tabby (a crude type of concrete made from oyster shells and lime). The mountains of oyster shells left by Native Americans made it possible to utilize this type of construction. Walking through a Live Oak, Southern Magnolia and Sabal minor palm forest provides a very different experience compared walking through forests in the Upstate and the Blue Ridge.



Tybee Island is home to three miles of beautiful beaches, locally caught seafood and historic sites including a lighthouse. At Fort Jackson, live fire demonstrations of a muzzle loading cannon are available. Where else can you find someone wearing a backpack that is a plastic bubble which houses a parrot that can see the sights as you do?

History of the club continues on the following pages.

7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

The Dogwood program was extremely successful. The Fairforest Nursery was essentially depleted of Dogwoods—some 2500-3000 trees were distributed in the spring, so collection of seeds for the Salem nursery was continued in 1991. During the spring of 1992, the Club received an additional 4,000 two-year old Dogwood seedlings from the Forestry Nursery for treebank planting. During the fall of 1992, 2,800 Crape Myrtles and Dogwoods from the State were sold.

A new marketing partnership was initiated in 1993 involving a cooperative *spring* plant sale with the Spartanburg Realtors Association. The Club supplied 2,000 bagged, bare-root native White Dogwood trees for that first sale. This became a “win-win-win” for the Club, the realtors and the community. This spring Realtor’s Sale was continued for many years while the Club continued its very successful fall sales, which ran for four and five Saturdays during the months of October and November. All of these trees from Fairforest were hand dug, and loaded into plastic bags³ with damp mulch—this, along with the hours of volunteer time spent in planting, growing and tending became a huge chore for Club members, even though city jail prisoners were occasionally recruited for work. Most of the faithful member participants were rather mature retirees—almost none were youngsters! Evidently, a change of procedure and approach was needed.

It was in early 1993 that a committee consisting of Ben DeLuca, Dick Look and John Nevison, with Jess Taylor and Winston Hardegree as co-chairs, began work on developing an alternate program—and the current *Container Plant program* was born. Initially, it was thought of as a “cottage industry” whereby members would propagate from seed and rootings and grow container plants at their home, but over the years it has evolved to include purchase of professionally grown inexpensive liners and seedlings and even “ready to sell” potted trees and shrubs.

Beginning in the mid-1980s through the early 1990s, Taylor and Hardegree began the difficult job of replacing Hatcher in promoting and teaching asexual propagation of plants by stem and root cuttings. This type of propagation insures the true reproduction of the plant’s properties, while propagation from seed sometimes allows changes to occur in plant properties, particularly in hybrids and other improved cultivars. Promoting good propagation procedures and education has, over the years, been good for both the club and for the individual club members.

An experienced and gifted writer, Taylor has written many personal memoirs pertaining to his many years of providing leadership in the SMGC. Two of these essays which shed important light on the Club’s plant sales can be read in Appendix 19.

The newsletter of April 1993 presented the following report from the previous club meeting (it has been abbreviated a bit for this publication):

Container Gardening Project Winston Hardegree ably filled in with a rundown on the plans for our new major project. Dick Look enthusiastically related his experiences propagating a number of plants by the recommended procedures. All present seemed to enjoy the presentation of the new program, and, by show of hands, indicated that we will have sufficient participation to make the project financially worthwhile for the

³ These bags were contributed by the Cryovac Division of W. R. Grace Company, a relatively new and highly respected technology related company in Spartanburg. Club member Jane Turner, a Cryovac employee, arranged the contribution. She was one of the five “pioneer” females who joined the Club in 1990 after the bylaws were changed.

7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

Club.

Since that meeting, our Chairmen, Taylor and Hardegree, have been busy and are ready to start the program. At this stage we need about 15 participants who will be supplied with the materials and methods by members of the committee to start about 100 plants each with the object of having plants for sale in spring, 1994. Additional growers will be accommodated later. Growers will need to commit an area about 15' x 15' in a partially-shaded area (some afternoon shade preferred) with a water supply nearby. Growers should be ready with materials in place by early June in order to start with softwood cuttings of their choice (azaleas, rhododendron, holly, forsythia, butterfly bush, weigelia, hydrangea— or whatever). *To volunteer, make an appointment with either Winston Hardegree (576-2347), or Jess Taylor (579-3880).* They will supply the materials and help with any information needed. The materials include a cold frame, rooting and growing medium, fungicide, and containers.

Some small trees ("liners") in larger pots will be made available for growers. The present supply is about 200 Leyland cypresses. More on this later.

And so, the new *container program* was under way, and with large and essential member participation. In Jess Taylor's home workshop, he, John Nevison and Dick Look constructed 12 propagation boxes designed with portable plastic covers and delivered them in Look's truck to the member propagators. The July, 1993, the newsletter reported, "Hardegree's and Taylor's cottage industry continues to show new growth with cold frame boxes now tended by the following: Ruth and Bill Hudnut, Virginia and Walton Scott, Dan Koshack, Mary Potter, John Nevison, Joe Maple, Linda McHam, Jess Taylor, Winston Hardegree, Doug Postell, Bob Almond, Harold Browning, Don Oldham, and Walt Soderberg.⁴ Also, several [members] are tending liners of Dogwoods and Leyland Cypress. It's still not too late to start a box this summer, and in November you are invited to participate in the winter hardwood cutting gala."

Nevison's "little blue pick-up" was an invaluable asset to the Club's projects. During the three or four years when Dogwood seedlings were being provided by the Salem Forestry Nursery, Nevison delivered dozens of truck loads of plants to Spartanburg. Hardegree had an old truck that provided similar essential service including delivering rhododendrons from Asheville and transport of trees from the nursery to Hatcher Garden for processing and sale. It finally died on the highway during a Men's Garden Club mission.

Material for the fall 1994 plant sale came from the Fairforest nursery, with digging scheduled "for Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday Mornings to assure fresh trees for sale and pickup Saturday afternoons. Volunteer diggers please contact Harold Browning..." This highly successful, but also highly labor intensive program at Fairforest was phased out the next year.

Initially, and for many years, the sale area at Hatcher Garden was located in the grassy area in front of Harold's favorite tree—the large Pecan which later was used as the logo for the garden. This 16th Annual MGC Fall Plant Sale ran for 10 Saturdays in October and November of 1994 when there were some 2,000 potted plants available. Beth Sabin (later she became Mrs. Winston Hardegree) chaired the sale program that year.

Master Gardeners, trained by the Clemson Extension course, shared their required 40 hours of volunteer work with the Club in plant potting and preparation, and the next year there were another some 2,000 plants available for the fall sale; it included the last of the

⁴ Note the large number of women who were active in the club at this time.

7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

bare-root plants from the abandoned Fairforest nursery. Again, it ran for 10 consecutive Saturdays and again Beth Sabin led the effort.

The 18th fall sale included new plants—azaleas, butterfly bushes, rhododendrons, etc. The 1996 Spring Realtor's sale consisted of some 1,000 potted plants; this sale was managed by George Gunter. The following year, the spring sale was located at The Beacon and for the next few years was held at the old Piedmont Natural Gas building on Blackstock Road, north of Westgate Shopping Center.

Steve Patton and Walter Soderberg chaired this important fall sale in 1997 and Bob Fussell chaired the spring 1998 Realtors Sale. Steve Patton chaired the plant sale that October and November when not only shrubs and trees were sold for five Saturdays, but also thousands of bulbs from Dutch importer, Jack DeVroomen. Under Patton's leadership the next spring the Realtor's Sale was successful and almost a thousand commercial plant liners were purchased and potted by members for future sales. Another Realtor's Sale at Piedmont Natural Gas was managed by Bill Wilson in 1999; it included 150 Rhododendron plants.

In 2000, the Club's nursery was moved to the left of Hughes Lane at the back of the Sikes property which had then been purchased by Hatcher Garden. Most of the grove of trees near the rear of this property had been removed at that time. Bob Sutherland led the development of this program and transformed the previously very productive, but rather "amateur" project into a much more "professional" one by lining the entire plant lay-out area with fiber reinforced ground cloth, and, in 2001 leading the MGC Board into purchasing the wooden storage building that has since become the "headquarters" for all Club plant sales at Hatcher Garden. Also during that year it became evident that the irrigation system, designed and installed by member Bob Odom in 1993 for the watering of the potted plants, had outlived its usefulness and needed replacing. Sutherland led in developing the necessary improvement and its financing by the Board.

Four years later, the irrigation system was improved further to an even more professional level. And in 2007, Hatcher Garden added the fence to the nursery area to increase both security and aesthetics.

It was probably in 2001 that the Realtors Association decided to discontinue the joint Spring Sale and, under Sutherland's leadership, it became an exclusive Men's Garden Club sale supplemental to the historic Fall Sale. Over 700 plants were sold that spring at Hatcher Garden.