

PRESS RELEASE

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Makes "Room to Grow" with Move to Spartanburg Community College

Spartanburg, SC, - January 29, 2010,

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is proud to announce that it is moving to Spartanburg Community College (SCC). The container garden will move during the summer of 2010 from its present location at Hatcher Garden and the monthly membership meetings will be held at SCC beginning this February.

Ed Wilde, president of the club, describes this as a "win – win – win" opportunity for the club, for Hatcher Garden and for Spartanburg Community College. He says, "We are thinking of this as a new beginning for our 62-year-old club. It will give us a place to put down roots where we will have room to grow our container nursery and our educational programs."

Wilde continues, "By leaving Hatcher Garden we vacate space giving them room to expand their plant propagation area and possibly add a greenhouse. Hatcher has grown and become a terrific public garden – already a regionally recognized garden. Our club is proud of our contributions to that end – approximately \$90,000 in gifts and capital improvements since 1986. We're grateful for the home they've given us and hope to continue a mutually beneficial relationship."

He adds, "Spartanburg Community College is becoming a hub for the gardening community - especially where education is involved. They have the only 2-year horticulture program in the Upstate and have recently become the new home for the Clemson Extension Master Gardener Program. Our presence there will complement the other horticultural programs, providing opportunities to partner with the other groups through this unique alliance."

The move to SCC will develop the framework for future sustainability of the club by providing a much larger area to expand their propagation program, room to grow its educational programs with opportunities for sharing resources and interacting with highly skilled and knowledgeable

horticulturists. Spartanburg Community College is home to a nationally recognized arboretum, providing an attractive location for the club as well as expanded parking for the club's plant sales.

The club has been very active in community beautification from its beginning 62 years ago. Today, the club's projects include planting street trees along major roads in Spartanburg County, maintenance of three public garden spots in the city, Pine Street litter pick-up, educational programs through membership meetings, and 48 years of Landscape Evaluation for commercial, institutional and industrial properties in Spartanburg County, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. Trees and shrubs grown in the club's nursery are sold inexpensively to the public, putting plant material within reach for many. The club also donates trees to schools and charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

Dr. Para Jones, President of Spartanburg Community College says, "We are excited to have the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club coming to campus. It will raise the visibility of both our programs and present opportunities for great dynamics between them." Jason Bagwell, Horticulture Department Chair, adds, "SCC will provide educational opportunities for the club membership such as classes, seminars, and classroom availability. We want to help the garden club grow and feel that their physical presence on our campus will be mutually beneficial. We see unique opportunities for interaction and collaboration. We hope our graduates will be encouraged to join the SMGC as they move forward in their lives and careers and see it as an opportunity to serve this community and develop a greater appreciation for horticulture in the years to come."

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is a 501(c)3 organization and is open to men and women with an interest in gardening. The club meets the third Monday of each month except December and visitors are welcome. More information about the club, including a calendar of events, can be found on its website: <http://www.dirtclubbers.org>.

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If you'd like more information on this topic or to schedule an interview with a club officer, contact Nancy Williamson.
