



The Bloomin' News



Sandhills Horticultural Gardens

Sandhills Community College

Vol. 16, No. 3

Fall 2021

The Sandhills Horticultural Society - dedicated to the support of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens since 1987. Please help the Gardens grow by becoming a Society member.

New Signs for the Gardens

Jim Westmen

If you have visited the Gardens recently, you already have seen the new signs throughout the gardens. The individual named garden signs, the main kiosk signs with 3-D maps and the way finding signs altogether add to your experience when visiting. The signs will give you an idea of what you can see in each area of the thirty-two acres and better help you find your way around to each of them.

This is an improvement that was highly needed and has really made navigation of our gardens much easier. The impressive new Sandhills Horticultural Gardens entry sign on Airport Road has also helped to connect and tie the Gardens to the rest of the Sandhills Community College campus. I would like to thank SHG board member Kirk Adkins for working so very hard with me to make this happen. I couldn't have done it without you.

I am so happy to see the increased number of people bringing their friends and families to the Gardens. I hope if you haven't yet, you come and visit us soon. There is always something new to see and more additions and improvements on the way.

The Gardens in the years ahead will continue to improve and make upgrades to the garden displays, facilities, educational experiences and continued public outreach. Plans to address and improve walkways in many areas, the addition of new plant labels in the gardens and additional informational and educational signage are all on next year's budget. All these investments to the Gardens are only capable because of the many supporters over the years. The years of forethought, leadership and involvement of board members and friends of the Sandhills Horticultural Society and Gardens have placed us in a better financial situation than ever before. I have been teaching here at Sandhills Community College in the Landscape Gardening Program since 1988 and know what it was like before any of this was possible. I personally cannot thank you enough for our current reality.

As always, thank you for your continued support and patronage of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. Come and visit us.



The Value of a Tree

Jim Westmen

What is the value of a tree? Many times, we might wonder what we would do without a tree in our landscapes and what effect it may have. Often, we may take our trees for granted until we lose one. When a tree dies or is removed from an area what all is lost? How do we place value?

An arborist may be asked to do an appraisal of a tree that has been killed or lost for an insurance claim of property damage. Appraisal methods would consider many factors to come up with a dollar value for the tree. The tree's genus and species, the size and age would be put into the equation. The tree's location in the landscape and what valuable function it might serve would be noted. The overall health of the tree is also a contributing factor in evaluating value. Is the tree's replacement even possible and at what cost? We can move and install large trees with specialized equipment and proper planning and care given but this is usually very expensive.

I would also look at many of the things we lose when a tree is gone. Environmental benefits such as providing shade and shelter for people and wildlife. Their aesthetic appeal adding beauty and interest. Their role in the plant community for providing environmental conditions for other adjacent plantings. Their symbiotic relationship with the insects, birds and animals that have relied on this habitat for nesting and foraging and ultimately their survival. All these benefits are lost when a tree is no longer there. Trees help with sequestering carbon in the environment which is a contributing factor of global warming. There are just so many hidden influences that are positive.

A sense of maturity and place is appreciated when old growth trees are preserved and included in the landscape design of new developments. The forethought of saving and properly preserving these trees is an important part of site analysis.

I would like to introduce you to 'Rex' as we have nicknamed it. A thirty

plus year old Coral Bark Japanese Maple, (*Acer palmatum* cultivar; Sago-kaku). Rex is in the front landscape of Steed Hall and faces a similar challenge of survival. I hate to see any tree removed but I understand the many reasons and the challenges trying to keep one poses. Both our maintenance department on campus and the construction company have investigated efforts to work around this tree if possible and I am so appreciative of all their efforts. The maple has



survived two previous encounters with construction on campus already. Rex has withstood each with our helping hands and personalized care. This tree has served as part of the image represented on many previous logos used in the past for tee shirts, hats and stickers advertising the Landscape Gardening Program. As of now this tree is still standing. If it still turns out that Rex must be removed, I understand completely but will still miss him and say "Goodbye to my Old Friend"

Hopefully it will stand proud in its current location for many more years.

A Huge Thank You

Jim Westmen

On behalf of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens and Sandhills Community College I would like to say thank you to everyone involved in the realization of the Patrick Dougherty art sculpture 'What Goes Around Comes Around' built here in the Gardens.



Thank you to all the donors, both big and small, that came to the call of financial support to make this happen. Thank you to the Horticultural Gardens Board and the current leadership for all their hard work to make this dream a reality. Thank you to the college foundation and Dr. Dempsey

for supporting this idea from the very beginning. Thank you to the local community town leadership for supporting this art build. Thank you to the local news outlets for covering the total experience with captured photos and wonderfully written articles and insight. Thank you so much to the many volunteers that worked so hard having fun weaving, building, and sweating together. Thank you to all my colleagues and Garden staff that volunteered on the build and supported all the necessary work required behind the scenes to pull this off. Thank you to all our students on campus, from multiple programs, for getting involved and being a part of it. It really was a lot of 'good work and fun' that I looked forward to everyday of the project. I have missed that feeling greatly since its completion. I am also thankful for the many new relationships and friendships created as a result.

Most of all I would like to thank Patrick Dougherty and his son Sam for bringing their artistry in design and construction and graciously inviting us to be a part of it. Their involvement with the volunteers and the public during the build was truly special and a once in a lifetime opportunity for most.

Even though the sculpture is temporary and one day will be gone the experience will live with me forever and I thank you for that.

Please come to the Gardens and see this enchanting piece of art.

Thanks Carol Lucas, Stephen Gaydica, III and the Botanical Garden Club for your recent donations. 'Stick With Art'.

Horticultural Society Talks & Workshops

Tracye Reiland

Well folks after a long hiatus we are finally back! Although we were unable to offer our talks and workshops, I know many of you continued to visit the Gardens and find a measure of peace and contentment during an unsettling time. It was also very encouraging to notice that

many newcomers in the community discovered the Gardens as a safe place to bring the family and enjoy the outdoors. We are very much looking forward to seeing you back at the Ball Center!

Upcoming Events at the Ball Visitors' Center...

Registration required for all events.

To register for workshops & classes please call 910-695-3882 or e-mail at landscapegardening@sandhills.edu to reserve a space. If you call, please leave your name, phone number, and mailing address.

All events are free unless noted. If your workshop requires a fee, please send your payment with the name and date of workshop to: **Sandhills Horticultural Society 3395 Airport Road Pinehurst, NC 28374.**

A portion of the workshop fee goes to support the Gardens.

Covid-19 Protocols:

As of August 5, 2021, **masks are required indoors on SCC campus.** For all up-to-date SCC Covid-19 protocols, please visit <https://www.sandhills.edu/safetyatscc/>

Due to social distancing requirements, spaces are limited. Events are subject to cancellation depending on Covid-19 concerns.

Lunch & Learn – Cover Crops for the Homeowner

September 9 (Thursday) FREE, Noon – 1PM

Come meet Savannah Laur, Moore County's new Extension Agent, as she kicks off our Fall Lunch & Learn series. Savannah will describe how cover crops provide many benefits for your soil and can help a garden thrive. This practice has been utilized by farmers for decades, but cover crops are not just for farmers. Learn the principles of cover cropping so you can reap all the benefits!

Lunch & Learn – Fire-Resistant Landscaping in North Carolina

September 14 (Tuesday) FREE, 11:30-AM - 12:30PM

Laurel Kays, Extension Agent & Southern Fire Exchange Outreach Coordinator, NCSU, will discuss how to create and maintain a fire-resistant landscape and reduce your risk of damage from a wildfire while achieving other landscape objectives.

Burlap Sunflower Wreath

September 24 (Friday) Noon – 2:00PM - Workshop

Join us to make this popular poly burlap mesh Sunflower wreath. All supplies are included in the price and will be prepped and ready for you to complete this lovely wreath in two hours. There will be two instructors to assist you. Perfect for your home décor from September through Thanksgiving.

Class size: Limit 10. Price: Members: \$65, Nonmembers: \$70

Fantastic Fall Foodscapes

October 7 (Thursday) FREE, 11:00AM – 12:30PM

Join best-selling author Brie Arthur for a fun program all about foodscaping in the fall! Combining expert advice from both of her books, Brie aims to inspire attendees to think creatively about planting veggies in the border of your landscape. Easy planting strategies are explained to make the most of the cool season, including creative ideas for deterring deer, rabbits, groundhogs, and voles. This is a fast paced, informative presentation that is sure to leave you inspired and ready to foodscape!

This presentation is jointly sponsored by the Sandhills Horticulture Society and the Moore County Council of Garden Clubs

Succulent Pumpkin Centerpiece

October 19 (Tuesday) – 11:00AM – Noon – Workshop

Join us in the gardens and create your very own living succulent pumpkin centerpiece! Fresh pumpkins topped with an assortment of succulents; this arrangement will last you through Thanksgiving. There will be a variety of succulents to choose from. Participants will leave the class with their very own unique, succulent-topped pumpkin; care and replanting instructions; and the confidence to make more when they get home.

Class size: Limit 12. Price: Members \$45, Nonmembers \$55. Includes 10-12" pumpkin, succulents, and all adornments.

How the Natural History of the Sandhills Created Its Rich Cultural History

October 28 (Thursday) FREE - Noon – 1PM - Lunch & Learn in the Gardens

Jessie Wimberley, Coordinator of the Prescribed Burn Association, will describe how the North Carolina Sandhills, a unique geological strip of land straddling the Piedmont and Coastal Plains and lying in a natural zone between the Northern US and Southern US, has created a suite of plant and animal adaptations. This presentation explores how this natural history has created the cultural history we have come to enjoy such as golfing, equestrian sports, and a tourism-based economy.

Identifying Edible Mushrooms

November 12 (Friday) FREE - 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Frank Hyman, owner of Cottage Garden Landscaping in Durham, NCSU educated horticulturist, author and columnist, will be giving a talk based on his latest book, How to Forage for Mushrooms without Dying. With his signature humor and style Frank will speak on how to distinguish edible mushrooms, "if it's hollow, you can swallow," by giving expert foraging advice so that you can be confident on which mushrooms you can safely eat and which to avoid.

Santa in the Gardens

November 28 (Sunday) FREE – 1:00PM – 4:00PM

Mark your calendar!! More details coming soon!

Note: The October 2021 SHS and Student Plant Sale has been canceled.



Sandhills Community College
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 SCC Landscape Gardening, Horticultural Society & Horticultural Gardens

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Fall Garden Tips

- Leave a couple of brush piles undisturbed for insect habitats over the Winter
- Collect soil samples of Garden areas to have analyzed
- Fall is a great time to divide many perennials
- Plant your cool season annuals and vegetables

Are you interested in becoming a Garden Volunteer?

Contact Amy Davis, Garden Technician/
Volunteer Coordinator - davisa@sandhills.edu



Student Plant Sale!
landscapegardening
To

The Holidays are coming!!

Keep an eye out for student plant sales. We will have poinsettias, amaryllis and other seasonal plants for sale!

 **Sandhills**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LANDSCAPE GARDENING &
TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT