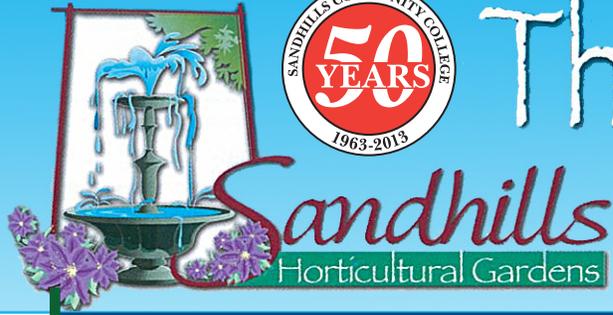




The Bloomin' News



Sandhills Community College

Vol. 16, No. 4

Winter 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.

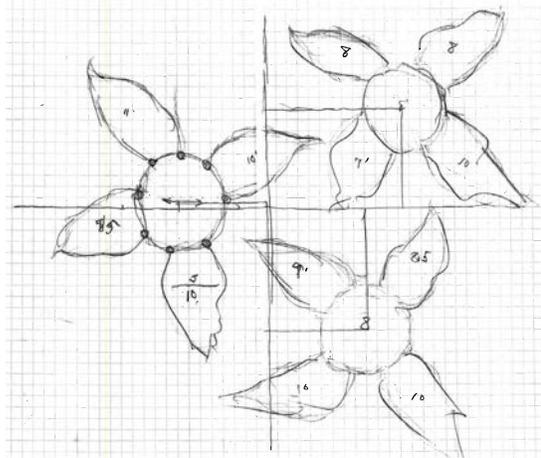
“What Goes Around Comes Around”

Jim Westmen

On behalf of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, the Sandhills Horticultural Society, and Sandhills Community College I would like to say thank you again to everyone involved in the realization of the Patrick Dougherty art sculpture ‘What Goes Around Comes Around’ built here in the Gardens. This is the story of the sculpture’s construction.

The sculpture is located behind the Ball Garden Visitors Center to the left on the side lawn area for a couple of reasons. First this site was chosen for easy access by the visiting public to allow everyone the opportunity to experience and enjoy the sculpture as it was being built as well as completed. The second reason is the location also facilitated in the building of the project. Delivery and staging of all building materials, scaffolding, and equipment were brought to the site through the garden visitors parking lot. Freshly cut branches of willow were used to build the sculpture and came from a grower in Canada. These branches were shipped and delivered on two large tractor trailer trucks and came in three different sizes both in diameter and length. They were off loaded, sorted, and staged for use prior to starting construction. The construction of the sculpture began the first week of June 2021.

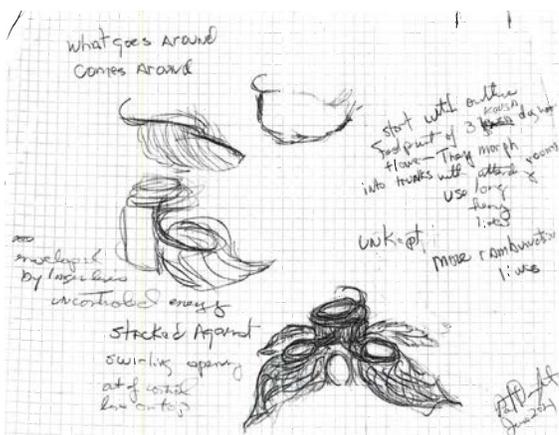
of a Chinese Dogwood, *Cornus kousa*. The shape of the flower structure with four pointed bracts and a round cluster of blooms in the center was repeated three times in this sculpture’s design.



The conceptual design was then transferred by Patrick and his son Sam from the sketch to the ground with marking paint and wire flags. This pinpointed the hundreds of spots that would then be drilled with a 6” bit to a depth of about 2 1/2” - 3” deep for the largest branches to be installed creating the beginning armature. Luckily, we only damaged three underground irrigation pipes through this process that we immediately repaired and continued on with the construction. Three long willow branches about 2”-3” thick and 20’ long each were placed into every hole drilled. This created a framework of vertical branches that resembled a tree like forest in a way. Surprisingly, even some visitors asked us what type of trees we were planting. This inquiry offered an opportunity to explain the sculpture project being installed.

Once all the uprights were installed and properly backfilled with soil, Patrick began his shaping and bending of them to arrive at the forms they started to become. The forming of these branches comes from what he visualizes and desires as well as what the branches tell him how they will move and bend.

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Like most pieces of art, the artist’s inspiration can come from many places. Patrick Dougherty’s inspiration for this sculpture came from the bloom





The sculpture continues to take shape with cross pieces added and weaving branches through and around to create the effect he's looking for. Creating direction, movement, and uncontrolled energy through weaving medium and smaller branches into the sculpture at the same time making the whole sculpture feel more solid and strong.

Through all this Patrick is working with all the volunteers in each shift to teach and instruct while offering direction and encouragement. An enthusiastic team of volunteers showed up every day during the build, consisting of 2 four-hour shifts. Each shift had 4-5 volunteers sometimes more as needed. Volunteers consisted of the local public, SCC students from multiple programs, SCC colleagues and faculty, Garden volunteers, Garden staff, Sandhills Horticultural Garden board members. Tasks included leaf stripping, trimming, and bundling branches, branch weaving, material hauling and cleaning up at the end of each day.

The building process lasted three weeks with the first two weeks working straight through the weekend as well. Arriving at 7 or so each morning and finishing up around 5 each afternoon. Many volunteers filled multiple time slots and filled in when more help was needed. Each of the three flowers were started in succession of each other and then all worked on in different stages until complete. Volunteers used their own artistic side along with being physically engaged in the construction of the sculpture each day. Many volunteers and I have expressed that we would miss the experience we had when completed.

Weaving together nature and environment has truly created a space that speaks to the spirit and soul. Each day was a pleasure, and we were eager to begin every day. Great Teamwork.

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.

The sculpture is temporary and one day will be gone, but the experience we take away will live on forever.

Dedicated in Honor and Memory of Jane Hobbs McPhaul.

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

Check out this video:

Link to Time Lapse video by John Gessner - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-j8gYH83lxI>



Winter Garden Tips

- January and February is the time to prune your grapes and fruit trees.
- Winter is a great time to prune most deciduous shrubs and trees. It's easier to see their shapes and structure.
- Don't prune early spring flowering shrubs. Most have set their blooms for the spring and you will be removing flowers.
- Now is a great time to test your soil. The Cooperative Extension office will provide the boxes and information you need.
- Applications of a pre-emergence weed control on your lawn in February will help prevent summer weeds.

Plant Sales Return!! Mark your calendars Now!!

Sandhills Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale

Scheduled for Saturday April 9th, 2022,

8AM-Noon- Homer Parking Lot

Perennials, woody plants, and bulbs will be for sale.

For information or to preorder call 910-246-4959.

Horticultural Society members receive 5% off orders of \$100 or more.

Annual Bedding Plant Sale- Benefits Student's Field Trip

Scheduled for April 25th - April 29th

Are you interested in becoming a Garden Volunteer?

Please Contact:

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

Horticultural Society Talks & Workshops

Tracye Reiland

What an awesome fall season we have had with beautiful weather to visit and enjoy our lovely Gardens and a successful return of our talks and workshops. Your continued support is very much appreciated. We hope you can continue to join us in our winter line-up.

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.

Stained Glass Christmas Tree Workshop

December 7 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Diane Flanagan from ARTworks Vass returns to assist you in creating a one-of-a-kind stained glass Christmas Tree decoration. You will be provided with all supplies including a wooden stand on which to display your creation. The finished tree measures approximately 6.5" h x 5" w. The class size is limited to 12 so sign up early. Cost for members is \$49, nonmembers \$54.

Discover the Benefits of a Plant Based Diet

December 13 (Monday) FREE, 10:30 a.m.-Noon

Retired Emergency Medicine and Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab physician, Dr. Darrel G. Simpkins, will speak on the benefits of following a Plant Based diet. He will discuss the history of this type of diet, types of protein in meat verses vegetables, health benefits, and how to start a Plant Based Diet..

Pruning Workshop

January 11 (Tuesday) FREE, 10 a.m.-Noon

Conducted by Moore County Cooperative Extension Agent Savannah Laur. Savannah will discuss the dos and don'ts of pruning and provide guidance on pruning techniques. Weather permitting, she will provide an outside demonstration of how it's done. You will leave feeling more confident when it's time to pull out your pruners!

Chocolates in time for Valentine's Day

February 8 (Tuesday) FREE, 11:00 a.m.-Noon

Meet Scott Hasemeir, owner of V Form Chocolate, Pinehurst and observe how he makes his delectable creations. He will also have chocolates to purchase for your Valentines' gifts or just to treat yourself!

Paint Pouring with ARTworks Vass

February 22 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m.-Noon

Join Angela Price to explore the many facets of Paint Pouring. Color, composition, and technique will all be discussed before the pouring begins. You will have the opportunity to finish one 12 x 12" canvas

Trees and Shrubs for Fall Color

Johanna Westmen

Fall has always been my favorite time of the year - cooler temperatures, amazing sunsets, my birthday and most importantly - fall color! Every year I look forward to visiting the mountains just to appreciate the beautiful colors that the hardwood trees offer. I have discovered that we in the Sandhills can also have the beauty of fall by choosing plants that offer amazing colors as the temperatures change and the daylight decreases.

One of the staples in our personal garden are Japanese Maples. If you know my husband you know that he has a passion for Japanese maples. The last I counted we have over 25 named cultivars planted and approximately 15 more in containers, large and small. I can't describe the range of fall colors that appear, from burgundy red to yellows and shades in-between. One of my favorites is Margaret B. We purchased five from Rex McDonald many years ago and they remain my favorite to this day. Japanese maples are easy to grow if you provide for their needs, based on their cultivar. There are many cultivars that tolerate full sun and some that require full shade. Be sure to read up on the cultivar you select so you can provide the exposure needed for them to perform their best. Another favorite tree selection, even though they may not be well known, is the Serviceberry or Amalanchier. Serviceberry trees offer a lot. They have beautiful early white blooms and their leaves turn orange red in the fall. Their purple-black fruits are edible and are loved by wildlife. One that we tend to not think of for fall color, as we do their beautiful spring white blooms, are our native Dogwood. Dogwoods turn the most beautiful red and purple in the fall and bluebirds love the red berries! Other native trees that are underrated for fall color are the Sassafras and the Sourwood trees. Sassafras trees turn yellow, orange, scarlet and purple in the fall and their uniquely shaped leaves add interest to any garden. Sourwood trees, besides blooming beautifully in the spring with their pendulous racemes, offer intense deep burgundy foliage in the fall. If you are lucky enough to have one in your garden, you will learn to appreciate them. These trees are prized by beekeepers as honeybees love their blooms in the summer. Other trees for fall color include the Stewartia and Crapemyrtle. Stewartia offers camellia shaped flowers that bloom during the summer and in the fall their leaves turn pretty shades of orange, yellow and red. Many people appreciate crapemyrtles for their summer flowers but fail to appreciate the colors they offer in the fall with shades of red and orange. I love the way they look in Sir Walter Raleigh Garden over the tops of the clipped green hedges in the fall. If I had to pick just one tree to have for fall color it most certainly would be the Ginkgo. There is nothing as spectacular as a Ginkgo tree when it turns



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bright yellow in the fall, especially since the leaves tend to all drop at one time, creating a beautiful blanket of yellow under the tree itself. As Bryce Lane would say, it's like they send an email out to each other to all let go at once. I guess today, that would be a text!

If you don't have room in your garden for a few, or many, of the above listed trees you can always add fall color with shrubs and perennials. A few of my favorite include the versatile Blueberry, which provides beautiful color in the fall as well as edible fruit. Witchhazels provide beautiful golden-yellow fall color and beautiful scented blooms in January when there is not an abundance of color in the garden. The little known Fothergilla has honey scented springtime flowers along with blue-green foliage in spring and summer. However, the real show comes in the fall when the leaves turn to warm shades of gold and orange. Virginia sweetspire is another shrub that can bring an abundance of color in the fall by turning into shades of purple red as well as offering fragrant white flowers in the summer. There are many other shrubs such as Viburnums and Hydrangeas that can add interest in the fall with their colors. Perennials can also bring us fall color. One of my favorites is Blue Star or Amsonia. Blue star has steely blue flowers in the early spring but in the fall the foliage turns golden yellow. The narrow leaf blue star is especially breathtaking with its thread like foliage. Hosta leaves also turn yellow in the fall and can add a nice color to your garden.

Sometimes all we need to do to appreciate fall color, besides driving out of town, is to choose plants for our garden that offer this dual beauty and joy. By adding trees and shrubs that provide fall color we can enjoy it all right here in the Sandhills.

