

GARDENING & BEAUTIFICATION

Friday, March 13, 1981

SHORT MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CHARLES HART

A big THANK YOU to the following members who worked from three to thirty hours each on this year's Tree Sale:

Jack Bracken
Clayton Brown
Morris Chesney
William Clement
Frank Cunningham
Gerhardt Dobslaw
George Drummond
Sidney Dunlap
Mike Georgian
Richard Gwinn
Daniel Harris

Charles Hart
Harold Hatcher
Marvin Hevener
David Kennemur
Archie Lawson
Judson McCaleb
Donald McCLure
William McPherson
Patrick Moore
R. A. Moore
Sidney Moorhead

William Morgan
John Nevison
Henry Pittman
Kenneth Prince
John Sabin
Everett Seixas
Griff Smith
Walter Soderberg
Stanley Stull
Durward Thayer

MARCH MEETING

"What Botanists See in Plants"
by Dr. Robert Powell, Converse College
Monday, March 16
Education Building, Advent & Kennedy Streets

A POETIC and/or PHILOSOPHIC VIEWPPOINT

He who plants a tree

He plants love;
Tents of coolness spreading out above.
Heaven and earth help him who plants a tree,
And his work its own reward shall be.

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AFTER THOUGHTS ON TREE SALES by Harold Hatcher

In MGC's first Tree Sale 2 years ago we couldn't buy enough trees to the demand. We solved that problem on the second Sale, except for pink dogwoods, but we had the problem of terrible weather for the Sale. What trees were left we planted in the Tree Bank and in two members' garden and sold them this year.

We did not want to be short of pink dogwoods this year as we were on previous sales. We bought a truckload from the grower in Tennessee. We had nice weather for the Sale. Then what happened?

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 red crape myrtles which were less than half the price of 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.

A significant development this year were the orders placed before the Sale by neighborhood organizations in Hillbrook, Oak Forest, Wood Winds and in the town of Wellford.

These first three Sales have added over 15,000 flowering trees to the area, for which we are proud.

This writer is left with one deep concern: How can we make future tree distributions without such exhorbitant investment of members' volunteer labor? This includes buying, packaging, loading and unloading, selling, planting those left over, cultivating and digging them for repackaging and sale. This non-profit community beautification project deserves more efficient methods.

Any ideas?