

Growing Cooper-Young's Tree Canopy
by Kim Halyak

The next time you stroll through the Spanish Park Memorial, stop to admire the nine newly planted trees. Judi Shellabarger, Cooper-Young's official Arboretum chair and Mike Larrivee, Beautification Committee worked tirelessly with the park commission to get permission to add more tree canopy to our neighborhood park. Judi met numerous times with the park commission landscaper, Keith Schnadelbach, to determine suitable native trees and the best places to plant them. Many of the old trees in the park are dying, so these trees ensure our community park stays lovely and inviting. They were selected because of beauty, hardiness, and ability to attract pollinators.

The nine trees include: 2 American Hornbeam, 1 Roughleaf Dogwood, 1 Japanese Cryptomeria, 3 "Autumn Brilliance" Apple Serviceberries, 1 Celestial Flowering Dogwood, and 1 Cherokee Brave Flowering Dogwood.

The trees were paid for by garden club members in honor or memory of loved ones. As the garden club and arboretum group continue to look for ways to add more trees and shrubs to the neighborhood canopy, residents will have the opportunity to purchase plantings.

Other neighborhood volunteers that helped plant, mulch, stake and water included: Mike Larrivee (Beautification Chair + garden club member), who also transported the trees from Dabney's nursery, Robbie Dixon, (garden club member), who dug holes even with a torn rotor cuff injury, Robert Hatfield (garden club member), Caroline Smart, (CYCA treasurer), John Browning (garden club member), who delivered the mulch, and Judi Shellabarger, (garden club secretary and arboretum chairwoman).

2 other amazing volunteers were Jan Castillo + Linnea West, members of both Urban Forestry and the Memphis Botanic Tree Team. These two women have been great supporters of our arboretum project and have double checked our tree identifications several times.

A thank you also to Dr. Tower, whose animal clinic abuts the Spanish Park. He helps maintain the area and let us use his water to soak in our trees.

It was a beautiful day to plant and much fun was had by all. If you didn't get a chance to help plant this time, we invite you to join us for future plantings.