



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETTY MONTGOMERY

Under the leadership of the Tree Coalition, volunteers from Spartanburg Day School clean up invasive plants at Glendale Shoals.

## Thank volunteers who beautify town

Spartanburg is fortunate to have many people in our community who have worked hard over the years to make Spartanburg County a more beautiful place.

Groups such as the [Men's Garden Club](#), Tree Coalition, Spots of Pride, Group of 100, Trees Spartanburg, Noble Trees and others have taken on projects to make our county attractive.

All these groups have worked diligently to beautify our landscape by doing things such as planting a local street corner with lovely shrubs, planting an alec of oaks along St. John Street, cleaning up places that were unsightly and removing invasive vines and plants.

These efforts need to be encouraged and congratulated. The planting of trees and the cleaning up of ugly sights is important in attracting new businesses to our area as well as making us proud of our city and county.

The collective efforts of all these people have made a memorable impression on companies looking for a place to locate or people wanting to move to this area. We all should applaud these efforts that



**Betty Montgomery**

Garden Cameos

have jointly improved our landscape.

One group that has been quite active in recent years is the Tree Coalition. This group finds a spot with invasive plant material and organizes volunteers to clean it up. They fight kudzu, privet, English ivy, wisteria and other plants that are taking over an area. They try to save trees that are covered with vines, work to clean up trees that need pruning and more.

Under the leadership of Newt Hardy and others, they seek to enlist volunteers in a neighborhood to gather and work together.

Recently, under the leadership of Tree Coalition, students from the Spartanburg Day School went to work in two parts

of the county to remove privet and vines.

They worked on a section of the Mary Black Rail Trail to remove privet, ivy and other plants in order to make this section more open, safe and beautiful.

Another group of SDS volunteer students worked on improving the Glendale Shoals walking trail by removing invasive privet and making the trail more open in order for the walkers to view the river. It is wonderful to see our young people take on these beautification projects with enthusiasm and vigor.

Other projects that I am aware of going on recently under the Tree Coalition are projects like the one in Hampton Heights where leaders in the neighborhood gathered to clean up Brookwood Street and plant trees. Residents of Duncan Park went to work to remove English Ivy that was killing the trees and a group of volunteers has done a masterful job tackling the privet and ivy along Sherwood Circle and Woodburn Road. Highlands, Oak Creek, the Northside and Saranac neighborhoods have also organized and are working to make their neighborhoods better.

The Noble Tree Foundation has been instrumental in landscaping the Spartanburg Downtown Airport with lovely trees and the Group of 100 is busy working on plans that they will unveil soon. The Northside project is also taking on a new look with the leadership of Bill Barnett at the helm.

If you happen to drive out Highway 176 to I-85, you will see that all four corners along the interstate are being re-landscaped. Pacolet-Milliken, a local company is in the process of beautifying this important intersection to our city. This gateway, when finished, will be the sight that will welcome newcomers to our city who travel on this road.

Thank you to these wonderful volunteers. I hope some of you will join in with one of these groups to get more trees planted or to clean up unsightly areas.

You will get great satisfaction in doing this and it will certainly put our city on the map of beautiful places to visit.

**Betty Montgomery, master gardener and author, can be reached at 864-585-9213 or [BMontgomery40@gmail.com](mailto:BMontgomery40@gmail.com).**