



GARDENING & BEAUTIFICATION

January 13, 1977

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fellow Gardeners: Christmas and the Super Bowl are passed. Many of the seed and flower catalogs are here. It's time to get back to serious thoughts of gardening and the planning of this year's projects. Will it be flowers, vegetables, a special effort on the lawn or an overhauling of the shrubbery?

MGC also faces a new year, a time when we must ask ourselves again "What do we want to do and what do we want to be?" Fortunately our Club has a long and successful history to draw on, and many seasoned and dedicated members make meaningful contributions. We need some good thinking and ideas on how to accelerate a beautification program.

This year we will host the regional meeting of Men's Garden Clubs. You will recall that "Snow" Marshall is Regional Chairman and we want to support him with a great show.

I am looking forward to seeing you on the 17th.

—Gil Hooper

MEETING MONDAY ON WHAT AND HOW TO PRUNE

MGC starts its 1977 educational meetings with a session on something we should all do this month — PRUNING. Let's reduce the number of valuable plants that we manhandle and mangle for lack of information about the pruning requirements of the various plants around our homes.

Our answer-man will be Jack Bracken, Senior Horticulturist at Millikens Research Center, with years of professional experience.

This regular monthly meeting is at the usual time and place: Monday, January 17 at 7:30 at Satterlee Hall, Advent & Kennedy Sts.

REAL GOOD NEWS ON MEMBERSHIP DUES

Members are paying their 1977 dues much more promptly than in recent years. 67 had mailed in their checks by the first week in January. Many always pay at the January meeting. A final statement will be mailed out February 1 to all who have not paid prior to that date. This will be followed by a personal call where necessary. Hearty thanks to Secretary Bill Morgan and his helpers for performing this sizeable chore.

Men's Garden Clubs of America cited the Spartanburg club for its healthy increase in membership in 1976.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ANNOUNCED FOR 1977

At the meeting of the MGC Board of Directors January 4 the following committee chairmen were appointed:

Exhibit at Interstate Fair: Rodney Moon, 576-4162

Finances: Henry Ramella, 576-4269

Landscaping Survey: Charles Hart, 583-6442

Membership Recruitment: Ernest Halstead, 582-5920

Programs for Meetings: Richard Gwinn, 576-2218

Regional Meeting of MGC: Henry Pittman, 579-0532

Rose Show: Robert Reynolds, 583-3943

Special Projects: Harold Hatcher, 576-9482

It would be greatly appreciated if club members would call a committee chairman offering their assistance – rather than waiting to be drafted!

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN

O, ye who are groaning under the burden of large heating bills, rejoice and be of good cheer. The days are getting longer, the buds are swelling and the witch-hazel and winter daphne are beginning to bloom. It's time to start your 1977 Garden Diary or Record Book with dates of unusual weather, plantings by varieties, fertilizing, spraying, blooming, harvest. The record will help you avoid mistakes the following year.

LAWN: If it has not been raked, limed or fertilized this winter now is the time. The mower should be readied for work: plug cleaned or replaced, air filter cleaned, oil changed, gas drained and blade sharpened. Don't get caught in the spring rush at the mower repair shop.

SHRUBS & TREES: This dormant season is the best time to plant bare root stock or to move or transplant all woody plants so they become established before growing season. Also for pruning and dormant spraying at first warm spell. Very few days in January and February suitable for this important spray for scale, mites, aphids, eggs, red spiders. It's either too cold, rainy, or windy . . . Use your wood ashes for fertilizer but not on acid-loving plants . . . Last chance to make hardwood cuttings 6 to 8 inches long to be rooted in spring. Store until then in moist media in cool dark place . . . Fertilize your camellias now.

VEGETABLES: Make your plans, order your seeds, prepare a spot for early plantings of garden peas, cabbage plants and mustard all before February 15th. Lime and organic matter should be worked into soil ahead of time. A garden started with tools in poor repair – could end in failure and gardner in despair!

HEARING MONDAY EVENING ON NEW TREE ORDINANCE

Should Spartanburg enact an ordinance which would require the protection or planting of trees in specified situations? Citizens are invited to express their opinions on the subject at a public hearing before the City Council next Monday, January 17 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The Men's Garden Club both locally and nationally have been actively involved in planting more trees as a means of improving the quality of city life.

DUNCAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

The Citizen's Advisory Committee has voted high priority to use of available federal Community Development funds for making Duncan Park more useful to the community. This, the city's largest park, contains 90 acres with a 16 acre lake fed by a yearround stream and lined by hundreds of ancient trees of many varieties. Yet there is not even a footpath to these civic treasures. Furthermore serious erosion from open ditch surface drainage is filling in and polluting the beautiful lake.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee has recommended that the City Council approve the Park Department's request for funds to stop the erosion and pollution, to construct a picnic area and dock for paddle boats on the west side of the lake, and to construct comfort stations, drinking fountains and a nature trail through the wooded and swamp areas. This project was initially approved by the Park Department's Recreation Committee and its Beautification Committee.

The City Council will hold a hearing on the proposal in February to determine what the citizen's wishes are.

A STATEWIDE LITTER CLEANUP has been announced by the Governor's office for the last Saturday in April, to coincide with national "Keep America Beautiful Day". The Community Resources committee of Clemson Extension Service of which MGC members Harold Hatcher and Stanley Stull are members will take an active role in the campaign in Spartanburg County with the cooperation of garden clubs, civic and youth organizations.

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&
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EDITORIALS ON SPARTANBURG BEAUTIFICATION

The editorial in The Spartanburg Herald on December 1 contained this statement about a recent visit to Spartanburg by The President of Firestone Tire & Rubber Company: "He recalled how impressed he was with the roadside beautification program and said of the Men's Garden Club: "Your civic pride did not go unnoticed when we were shopping for a location to build." The Firestone executive stated also that "the Spartanburg plant added a minimum of \$12,800,000 to the local economy" last year and is providing over 700 jobs.

The WSPA Editorial on December 9 was entitled "Spartanburg's Beautification Program to be Eliminated" and contained the recommendation: "WSPA appreciates the budgetary problems facing the city of Spartanburg, but there are times when cities as well as individuals can become penny wise and pound foolish. In view of what Mario DiFederico, new President of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company told the Spartanburg Rotary Club recently, the City Council should take another look at its budget and see if funds could not be found to continue the flower beds which were established by W. O. Ezell and the Men's Garden Club."

After his doctors ordered Mr. Ezell, then in his 80's, to give up gardening a couple of years ago many feel that this "City of Flowers" began to lose its distinctive look. When the local newspaper in recent weeks asked a number of residents to list the city's good points not one called it physically attractive, a feature which had impressed Firestone officials and other in previous years.

All cities do not have to look alike. One of them can look clean and green. The choice is not between flowers and factories. Our choice is flowers and factories. The need is for somebodys who care enough to work at it. Is that somebody you? Yes _____, No _____ .