

January 2019

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers:

President	Don Crowder
Vice President	Bob Reynolds
Secretary	Cecelia Miller
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp
Past President	Darvin Helvy

Directors:

Phil Abers
Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Sami Elhassani
Dick Schelat
Jack Turner
Ben Waddell

Communications:

Cecelia Miller
Publicity@DirtDaubers.org

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Linda McHam
Yahoo! Group
GroupMail@DirtDaubers.org

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Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

From the President, Don Crowder:

Thanks to Bob Reynolds for purchasing and leading the assembly of a new shade structure. This one is 20' by 36', which really makes our original one look VERY small. It will really help with the winter wind damage and summer sun issues with both newly-potted plants and other mature plants that need the protection.

According to some older newsletters in our archives on the web site, it's not too late to plant daffodil and tulip bulbs, but you need to do so NOW.



Director Emeritus, Joe Maple passed away on Christmas Eve this past December. Joe has been a long-time member of the Club, and was active in the Club's leadership for many years. Linda Cobb had a very nice article in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal on January 9, which can be read on their web site at goupstate.com.

Oakleaf Hydrangea

Here's another native North American plant with several seasons of interest. The Oakleaf Hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, has huge panicles of white flowers in the summer that turn an attractive pink as they mature. The foliage, which resembles large oak leaves, turns an amazing shade of red in the fall. And the cinnamon colored bark exfoliates which is interesting in the winter. Although they can take a good bit of sun, in our area they will be happiest with at least afternoon shade. We have two varieties of Oakleaf Hydrangea in the container nursery, 'Pee Wee' and 'Ruby Slippers'. Both are considered dwarf varieties as they mature at 3 -4 feet tall and wide.



<https://www.facebook.com/SMGCDirtDauber/>



Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org

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MEETING DATE CHANGE:

Remember the meeting date this month is on TUESDAY, January 22 at SCC.

We are meeting on TUESDAY since SCC will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Renew Now

2019 Membership

Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at
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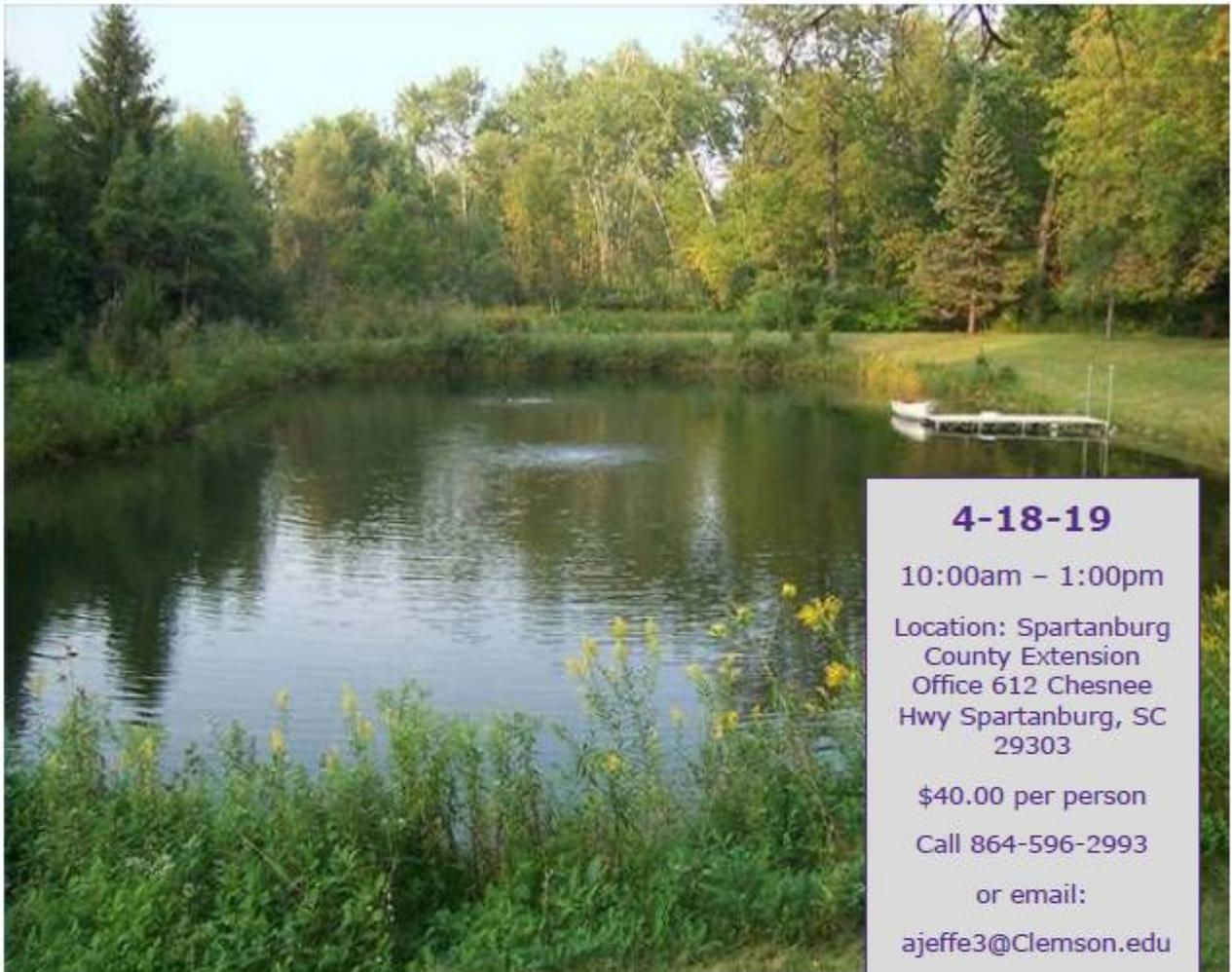
Photography by Linda McHam

Daffodils start blooming early when most everything else is brown.



Crocus also bloom early.





4-18-19

10:00am – 1:00pm

Location: Spartanburg
County Extension
Office 612 Chesnee
Hwy Spartanburg, SC
29303

\$40.00 per person

Call 864-596-2993

or email:

ajeffe3@Clemson.edu

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From the President, Don Crowder:

The upcoming Spring Plant Sale will be on April 12 and 13. We need help with parking, helpers in the container area, people to recommend plants and more. We will also need help getting the plants ready for the sale. Mark Carlson and Mary Ann Hipp will be coordinating the preparation for the sale. We will also need help getting the plants ready for the sale. Mark Carlson and Mary Ann Hipp will be able to better discuss what needs we have.

Propagation; We had a potting session January 18 to pot up the cuttings we had taken last summer. The plants were put into one gallon containers and stored in the old shade structure. There were 277 cuttings potted, with some still left to pot at a later date, since they had not developed adequate roots to re-pot. This is a tremendous help for the Club since it adds more stock with very little costs associated with it. We will have another propagation session to stick buddleia, osmanthus, crape myrtle and other plants in March for future plant sales.

Winter Blooming Shrubs

by Mary Ann Hipp

Just when you think winter is never going to end, its always nice to have a shrub that blooms in February. It's even better when those blooms smell heavenly. Edgeworthias, with their honeycomb blossoms, smell fabulous and are in full bloom now at Hatcher Garden and at Spartanburg Community College. One that is a little more finicky but worth the effort if you have really good drainage is Daphne Odora. It doesn't like our clay soils though, so it tends to be short lived in our



area. Another colorful winter blooming native shrub is Witch Hazel. Depending on the variety, it has yellow to orange to red frilly blooms that beg for a closer inspection. We are lucky to live in an area where there is always something in bloom so get outside and enjoy our winter blooming shrubs!

SMGC Speaker February 18, 2019

Jack A. Turner,

"A land of plenty- The Watersheds of Spartanburg County"

Jack was born and raised in Colorado. He and his wife Jane have been married 52 years and have raised two daughters plus two grand children. He has a BS in Soil Science from Colorado State University (1966); a MS in Bacteriology from South Dakota State University (1969); and a PhD in Microbial Ecology from the University of Oklahoma (1974).

Jack served in the Peace Corps, in Niger, French West Africa from 1962-1964. He taught at University of South Carolina Upstate from 1974 until he retired. In addition, he has served on the following Boards and organizations to the community: Men's Garden Club; a commissioner with Spartanburg Soil and Water Conservation District; Land Use committee of the Comprehensive Plan for Spartanburg County; SPACE board; a Director of the Friends of Lawsons Fork, a Director Watershed Ecology Center. He received the State Environmental Awareness Award in 2002.



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Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

This will be at the County Offices on Church Street on March 23 from 9 AM to 2 PM. They need volunteers to work this event in 2.5 hour shifts. Please contact Jim Weeks at ??? if you can help.



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NOTE:

The litter pickup will probably be in March, but SCDOT has not provided the exact date. We will forward the date when received.

Photography by Linda McHam

Galax leaves in the winter turn bright red and then go green during the spring and summer.

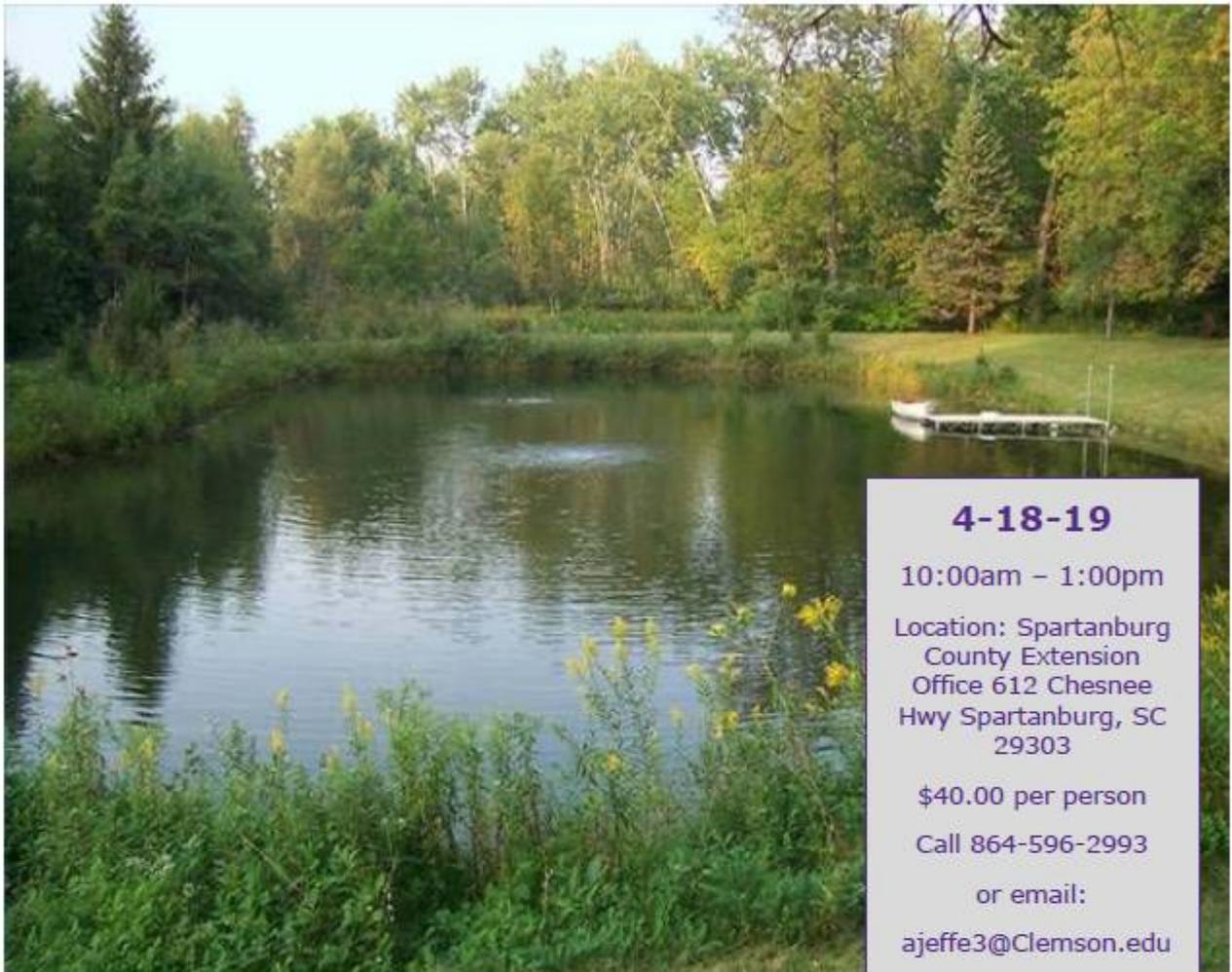


Hellebores are fabulous winter plants. Most have burgundy flowers. A few varieties have other shades from pink to yellow to white. The flowers last for more than a month.

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President's Corner

I hope all is going well with everyone. The Club is expecting a FANTASTIC Spring Plant Sale on April 12th and 13th. Everyone's help is needed with this event, from parking directors to plant experts, as well as people willing to haul and put sold plants in vehicles. Please help as best you can.

The new Board is energetic and motivated in directing the Club in a positive direction. Please help by inviting new potential members to attend meetings. Once there, I think we have a welcoming team to encourage them to become members. The Club is a community based organization that has been in existence for over 70 Years. We pride ourselves on the accomplishments that both past and current members have made, and continue to promote good gardening for the community.

Gillian Newberry

After teaching botany forty years at the USC-Upstate, in retirement, Gillian has written and recently published two new books – Tales from a Wandering Mind and A Year of Waiting. She has also compiled a digital collection of photos compiled from years of teaching and being in the field. These will be available for purchase after the presentation, and all proceeds will be donated to Conserving Carolina to help continue conservation efforts in the area.

SMGC Speaker
March 18, 2019

"Wildflowers of Iceland"



Fothergilla

by Mary Ann Hipp



Fothergilla (witch-alder or witch-hazel) is another great multi-season native shrub with fragrant white bottlebrush flowers in April to May and fabulous red to orange foliage in the fall. It is happiest at the edge of the woods where it gets partial shade. 'Mt Airy' is a Michael Dirr introduction that gets to be about 5 feet tall, thrives in average well-drained soil, and has no serious pest or disease problems. There is a lovely stand of Fothergilla at the corner of the P. Dan Hull building near the Health Sciences building on the Spartanburg Community College main campus. Check it out and then pick up one for yourself at the container nursery.



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- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| March 23 | Rain date March 30 |
| June 22 | Rain date June 29 |
| Sept. 21 | Rain date Sept. 28 |
| Dec. 7 | Rain date Dec. 14 |



We meet at the parking area behind Chamber of Commerce off Oakland Ave at 8AM.

Pleached Hornbeams



Photography by Linda McHam

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April 2019

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President's Corner

I trust everyone is getting started in their yards and gardens with the arrival of warmer weather. It's sure nice to have some weather that is conducive to working in the gardens without putting on raincoats! Of course, spring brings us new pollen issues, along with other related problems, but they only last a few weeks.

We have been very active in the garden both potting up new liners as well as up-potting a number of previously propagated plants. At this point, we have potted more than two hundred newly propagated ones.

Refreshments provided for the April Meeting by Bruce and Linda Fraedrich.



Randell Bowen "Irises Galore"

SMGC Speaker
April 15, 2019

He will offer much in the growing and types of irises. Please join us for his speech!

7:00 PM at the Health Science Building at SCC

PLANT SALE:



Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, beginning at 8 AM each day, in conjunction with the Spartanburg Community College sale the same dates! HELP is needed each day!

Fringe Tree

by Mary Ann Hipp



The aptly named Fringe tree, with its snow white spring flowers, is a lovely small ornamental tree that is available in two varieties.

Chionanthus virginicus, known as Granddaddy Graybeard, is a native variety with large leaves and an open airy feel. It likes some shade and plenty of moisture.

Chionanthus retusus, also known as Chinese Fringe tree, blooms a couple weeks earlier than the native variety, is more dense, and can take full sun. There are several of the Chinese variety planted around Morgan Square and on the campus of Converse College.

Look for the Chinese variety for sale in our container nursery.



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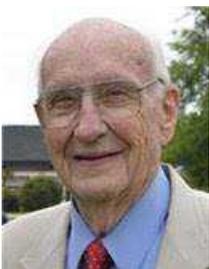
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**Photography
 by Linda McHam**



Mike Georgion, a long-time member and former Board member, passed away February 21, 2019. He was a true and faithful supporter who worked many hours

helping with the Club's projects and potting efforts. Please remember Rosalind and her family in their loss.



Renew Now

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President's Corner

The Spring Sale was a tremendous success due to the advertising from so many different people and entities, including Spartanburg Community College. We had the biggest revenue for a weekend sale since we have been at SCC. The turnout on Friday was unbelievable, and without help from SCC, we would not have been able to handle the traffic. We will work with SCC in the coming months to try to alleviate this problem.

Thanks to all who helped as well as all the customers who came!

SMGC Speaker May 20, 2019

Linda Tiller McHam

“Hub City Railroad Museum: Laying out a small garden, the English Way”



Linda McHam has been a member of SMGC since 1989. She is a past president of the club (2007/2008). Her career has ranged from graphic design to developing her own custom garden tours to England, Scotland, Belgium and France. Linda created her own website in 1997 and, from it, took 24 people to England to see the Chelsea Flower Show in 1998. She has visited many of the top gardens in England and learned various English gardening techniques that can help create amazing gardens here in the US. This talk will feature the Hub City Railroad Museum and demonstrate how it was designed and installed "the English Way."

Native azaleas range from white to yellow, orange and deep pink or red.



Photography by Linda McHam



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Spartanburg Community College. If you are looking for a stately tree for your yard, think about Bald Cypress. And yes, we have them for sale in the garden club container nursery!

Only a few members of the conifer family lose their needles in the fall and spend the winter with bare branches before leafing back out in the spring. One of the most common of these is the Bald Cypress. This tree gets big (50 – 70 ft) but has a beautiful pyramidal form. It is native to the southeastern United States and grows well in a variety of conditions. In a wet or swampy habitat, like the ponds at Hatcher Garden, you can see the distinctive 'knees' sticking up out of the water. Wofford College has planted Bald Cypress trees in the storm water run-off area near the Richardson Center for the Arts. These trees will also grow happily in drier environments as evidenced by several mature ones on the campus of

by Mary Ann Hipp

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President's Corner

Thanks to all who helped with the potting session this past month. There were over 225 liners and all were potted! We still need weeding for some of the containers. Any help is appreciated, and you can go anytime you like. SCC (namely, Jason Bagwell) has moved some of the mulch piles in our parking area, and has also used some of the demolished asphalt pavement from an expansion project to fill some of the holes in our parking area. Thanks to all who have helped!

SMGC Speaker June 17, 2019

Greg Freeman

“Seven Plants No Upstate South Carolina Garden Should Be Without”

Greg is an author, editor, songwriter, and recording artist. He grows a variety of plants, and is a daffodil exhibitor, hybridist, and judge. Greg is a former editor of The Daffodil Journal, and has written for The American Gardener. His websites are Southern Edition and Greg Freeman's Garden Chronicle.



Cotoneaster

by Mary Ann Hipp

Sometimes we grow plants for their beautiful flowers or foliage. Other times we grow a plant for the fruit or vegetables it provides. Then there are the plants we grow mostly because they solve a landscaping problem for us. Cotoneaster is one of those plants for me. When the road in front of my house was moved many years ago, an eight foot bank was left that is steep, unattractive, and nothing



but red clay. I tried several plants there and finally hit on cotoneaster. Cotoneaster is a low growing, evergreen (in the South) plant with inconspicuous flowers in the spring and red berries in the fall. It loves full sun and is great for mass plantings as a single plant will spread 6 – 8 feet wide. The variety we have for sale in the container nursery is ‘Scarlet Leader’ and is known for heavy crops of scarlet berries.



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'Endless Summer' Hydrangea



Hypericum 'Hidcote'
(St. John's Wort)



'Near East'
Crape Myrtle

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Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

July 2019

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers:

President Don Crowder
Vice President Bob Reynolds
Secretary Denie Crowder
Treasurer Mary Ann Hipp
Past President Darvin Helvy

Directors:

Phil Abers
Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Sami Elhassani
Dick Schelat
Jack Turner
Ben Waddell

Communications:

Darvin Helvy
Publicity@DirtDaubers.org

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Linda McHam
Yahoo! Group
GroupMail@DirtDaubers.org

Gardening & Beautification

is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge. Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:
Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

Thanks to Linda McHam, Mark Carlson, and Will Hawkins for potting up the remainder of the cuttings in the propagation frame. Also, thanks to Bruce Fraedrick for his instructions and demonstrations on pruning the trees/shrubs at the Club this past month! It was a very informative session. The timer for the misting system for the propagation frame was "fried" by lightning for the second time in two months. Linda McHam has ordered a battery-operated system to replace the dead one.

September Picnic: Jack Turner will get info for this event in the next month, but the Club will provide the meat and club members will be asked to furnish the other dishes. More details to follow from Jack.

Litter Pickup: Thanks to Charlie Covert for organizing and heading up this effort in June once again. We had a total of six participants, and the area looks much nicer now.

SMGC Speaker July 15, 2019

Linda Tiller McHam

"Your Health: Could It Be Better?"

"Feeling bad is not normal. Don't let anyone tell you that it is. — Dr. Peter Osborne".



If you were born after WWII, you likely have chronic health issues, no matter your age. Young and old are experiencing health problems to such an extreme, that it is being termed an "epidemic." Here are just a few major health issues that over half the people in the US are dealing with: Heart disease, RA (rheumatoid arthritis), MS (multiple sclerosis), Crohn's disease, Celiac disease, Lupus, GERD, Psoriasis, Eczema, Obesity (over 60% of the population), Diabetes, Gluten sensitivity, and too many more to list. In the past 10 years, alternative health care and functional medicine have eclipsed traditional medicine, moving away from pills and surgery to the recognition (outside the mainstream) that many of the foods we eat today are killing us.

Linda has been a Club member since 1989. She is a past president of the club. Her career has ranged from graphic design to developing custom garden tours in England.



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As well as sharing gardening interests, the club has planted over 5,000 trees in Spartanburg, assists with many area beautification projects, teaches a gardening class to the public, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.

Photography by Linda McHam



Vegetable container gardening made simple.



Red basil and red strawberries for summer.

2019 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 21 *Rain date Sept. 28*

Dec. 7 *Rain date Dec. 14*

We meet at the parking area behind Chamber of Commerce off Oakland Ave at 8AM.

Renew Now

2019 Membership

Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at **DirtDaubers.org/Membership** and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



Sweet onions, asparagus and squash in a small area.



<https://www.facebook.com/SMGCDirtDauber/>



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Shade Trees *by Mary Ann Hipp*

Welcome to July in South Carolina! It's hot and muggy and generally miserable outside. Unless you have a swing, a glass of sweet tea, and a tree to sit under! If you are lucky enough to have a full-grown shade tree in your yard, thank someone who may have planted that tree a long time ago. When we plant shade trees, we are not necessarily planting them for our own enjoyment. Trees take a long time to mature to the point of really shading your yard or house. But what a difference they can make to those who live there after you! Mature trees can lower your cooling bills, add resale value to your house, and have a profound ecological effect. They provide food and shelter for local wildlife, their composted leaves improve the soil, and they convert vast quantities of carbon dioxide back into breathable oxygen. Consider adding an oak, maple, or any of the other trees we have available in the container nursery to your landscape this fall.



The Spartanburg Mens' Garden Club was founded in 1948. In 2010 a retrospective was published by The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, E. Henry Pittman, author, and Dianne S. Fergusson, PhD, editor. Some copies are still available through the Club, and the entire book can be read online at https://DirtDaubers.org/Shared/PDF/SMGC_History_13-12-12r.pdf

We plan to include excerpts from the book over the next year or so. So many members have come and gone through the years that we would like to re-acquaint our current members and friends of the Club with our past. There is much to be learned, and we hope that you will enjoy becoming familiar with all of the past and present Club activities. There is so much that is worthy here. It would be a shame for our history to be forgotten. We hope you agree.

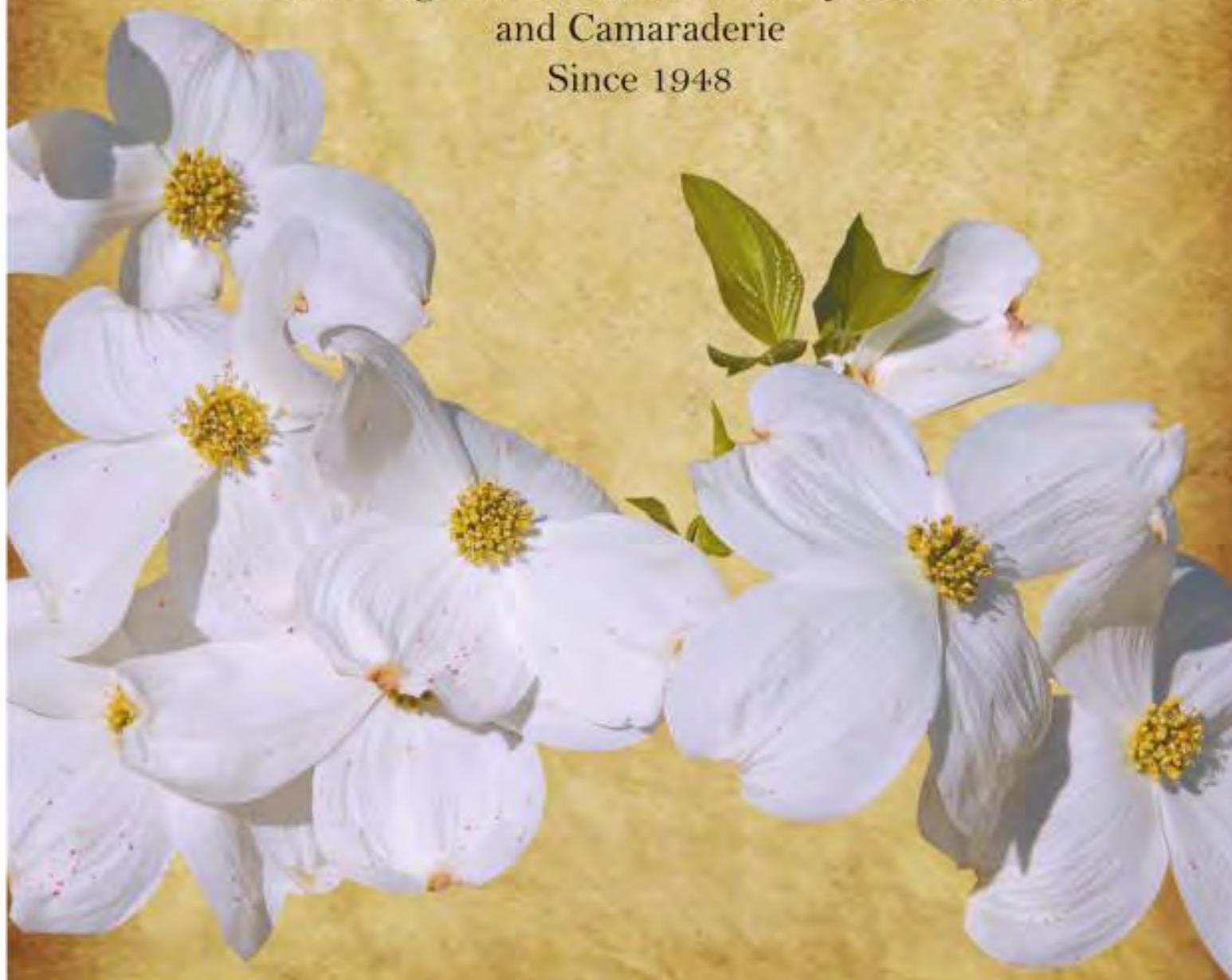
And the Trees Remain

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

An Unofficial History

Of Gardening Education, Community Beautification
and Camaraderie

Since 1948



E. Henry Pittman

Dianne S. Fergusson, Ph.D., Editor

NOTES ABOUT THE CLUB FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS

This history captures, with pride and deserved satisfaction, the efforts of a group of caring Spartanburg citizens whose contribution to the aesthetic attractiveness of their community was, and is, quite remarkable. If you want to know how terrific people can make a difference and build a lasting legacy for those who follow, read this compendium of good deeds and consider what you might do to further support their vision.

Bill Barnett
Former Mayor, City of Spartanburg

For more than 60 years, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has partnered with the City and led efforts to make this community more attractive. The club's work on litter control, garden spots and street tree plantings has enhanced the quality of life for all citizens and is a legacy of beautification and conservation that will serve the City and its citizens for future generations. The City is grateful for the work of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and looks forward to continued future collaboration and partnership.

Junie White
Mayor, City of Spartanburg

I commend the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club for its contribution to the beautification of our community for the last 60 some years. Your organization did much to raise the awareness by the public at large to recognize the positive impact the planting of trees, bushes and flowers has on our environment.

The results can be seen all over our community.

Kurt Zimmerli

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has supported USC Upstate in many ways. It has donated many plants for our new arboretum, it has lent its efforts and expertise to the University's pursuit of the "Tree Campus USA" designation of the National Arbor Day Foundation, it always participates in our Arbor Day festivities in December and it is a strong promoter of our campus green space throughout the community. It is a great partnership.

Congratulations on your 62 years of service and we look forward to many more years of making our community, the University and the Upstate of South Carolina green.

Dr. John Stockwell
Chancellor, University of South Carolina Upstate

I've applauded the Men's Garden Club over the years for its many contributions to our community—for its valuable partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in landscape evaluations and encouragements to local businesses and organizations to improve, for its many street and highway tree planting projects, for its support in building Hatcher Garden, for making Spartanburg "The City of Flowers" in the 1950s and 60s, for its ongoing fight against litter—and its many other enhancement activities.

Roger Milliken
Chairman, Milliken & Company

The Spartanburg Men's Garden club has played a major role over the years in the vastly improved physical appearance of not only the city of Spartanburg, but also in all business sites as well. Gibbs International is proud to be a supporter of the Men's Garden Club, and the tireless efforts of the Club have aided us in our awareness and pride of our campus appearance. Their annual evaluation project of business sites, along with their recommendations for improvements, is deeply appreciated and something that we, as well as our ground maintenance crew takes great pride in.

J. Brian Honeycutt
Executive Vice President, Gibbs International, Inc.

Spartanburg County Master Gardener Course Fall 2019



SOUTH CAROLINA

Master Gardener

A CLEMSON EXTENSION PROGRAM



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

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College level information taught in an easy to learn format!

Over 50 hours of class time and hands on learning!

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Fee includes the book and the course.

TO REGISTER ONLINE:

https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569_ustores/web/classic/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=3256

CLEMSON
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through

12-3-19

**At the Spartanburg
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9:30am – 1:00pm

Cost: \$300.00

Contact: Drew Jeffers

864-596-2993

ajeffe3@Clemson.edu

[SPARTANBURG COUNTY
EXTENSION WEBPAGE](#)

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President's Corner

Thanks to all who have participated in the weeding and propagation sessions the last month! These have made a tremendous improvement in our area, as well as the appearance of the overall program. Also, thanks to Charles Covert for leading the Litter Pick-up program for the Club. His diligence in this endeavor has been a tremendous help in beautifying our community and roadways.

We had a tremendous response to Linda McHam's presentation last month. Hopefully, there are a lot of people who have engaged in changing their diets based on her presentation.

Congratulations to Joyce and Charlie Crescenzi who celebrated their 50th ANNIVERSARY on August 9!

(Can you believe Joyce put up with him for that many years? - Charlie's words...)

SMGC Speaker August 19, 2019

Jason Bagwell

"Sustainable Garden Program"

Horticultural Department Head at Spartanburg Community College.

He will be speaking on the Sustainable Garden Program they have started and run for the last two years.



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YAHOO!
GROUPS



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Summer Bloomers by Mary Ann Hipp

While spring is generally peak blooming season in South Carolina, there are some shrubs that wait until the heat of summer to bloom. One of my favorites is the native Clethra, also known as Sweet Pepperbush or Summersweet. The variety we have in the nursery, Ruby Spice, gets four to six feet tall, grows in part shade, and has beautiful pink, bottle brush blooms that



are very attractive to butterflies and other pollinators. It likes consistently moist soil, so don't let it dry out. Another favorite for butterflies is Buddleia or Butterfly Bush. These lovely shrubs come in all shades of purple, white, pink, and even yellow. There are a variety of sizes to fit any garden from eight foot giants to dwarf ones that only get two feet tall at best. We have some of the taller ones in the nursery that we have propagated, and we also have the named variety 'Pink Micro Chip' that is a dwarf one. Plant Delights Nursery describes butterfly bush as 'the absolute best butterfly attracting bush you can grow' and lists 24 varieties of butterflies for which it is the host plant.



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INTRODUCTION

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club was formed in 1948. For the past 62 years, it has been a leading force for the beautification and the greening of Spartanburg. I have had the pleasure of being associated with it for 49 years, although I was away from Spartanburg for four of those years. This Club has been a vital part of my life, but more important, of the life of the Spartanburg Community.

In early 2008, as the Club approached its 60th anniversary and was planning a big celebration at the Piedmont Club, someone suggested I try to develop a detailed history of the Club and its activities for distribution at the celebration. Well, that deadline was missed by a couple of years! If I had known the time and anguish (and, yes, mixed with joy and excitement) of the work ahead, I may not have asked five of our oldest members to join me for lunch and plan a “writing group.” But they were enthusiastic and probably as naïve as I, so we began thinking back, reviewing old files, talking and listening to others—and writing. But it was the influence, help and guidance of one of our newer very active female members who, with her English teaching background, agreed to join us as our chief editor and advisor of what was proper and what would not pass a ninth grade writing assignment that made the project work. With draft after draft, we now have a real book, a *history* book, of an important Spartanburg organization and its many activities and accomplishments.

This history is an effort to preserve that legacy and pass on to future generations of Spartanburg gardeners the story of how the Club was formed, how it evolved, and how it has influenced the appearance of Spartanburg. Some of the major public landscaping projects in Spartanburg, both in the City and in the County, have been either the result of direct involvement of the Club or have been influenced by the Club’s work. Just as with a good garden, SMGC has grown and developed over the years, growing from a small group of probably 13 men in 1948 to today’s membership of over 150, comprised almost equally of men and women gardeners and would-be gardeners. The original emphasis on education for the members continues but has been expanded to include service to the community as well.

As the author of this history, I have availed myself of the great knowledge and experience of many other members of the Club. The acknowledgments page contains a list of all those who have helped with the development of this book. As the author, however (and even with the dedicated “editing and advising” service mentioned above), I have reserved to myself some “authorial license,” and I take full responsibility for any quirks and deviations of punctuation that the reader may note in these pages (capitalization of all tree names, for example).

I hope this history will be of value in influencing and promoting at least another 62 years of quality gardening education and community beautification. Please read it with care and excitement.

Best Regards—and go plant a tree,

Henry Pittman April, 2010

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This history could not have been created without the help and encouragement of the *Group* which met for lunch in early 2008, for the *special one* who joined our ranks later, and for the many knowledgeable and capable friends who have advised and suggested along the way. The Group, which consisted of Tom Bartram, Jess Taylor, Dr. Bob Reynolds, Jim Bagwell, Bob Hamilton, and Bob Almond, agreed to work together in helping document a proper history of the Club as a special gift at its upcoming 60th anniversary. They all are personal friends and long-time club members, as well as long-time leaders of the club.

Dr. Bob Reynolds is the “senior” in Club membership, having joined in 1959, and served as president in 1978, ’79. He also chaired and ran the Rose Show from 1982 until 1999 and worked single handedly on maintaining our entry garden spot at Duncan Park for many years. His help on writing the Rose Show chapter was indispensable. Bob is currently serving as Club’s vice president and the leader of our essential plant propagation and sale project.

Tom Bartram joined in 1982 and has been a proven leader in many areas—as president for three years (1990-1992), as secretary for two years earlier, and as editor or assistant newsletter editor from 1991 until 2006, for 16 years. And like the old Milliken saying about meetings, “He who holds the chalk, controls the meeting.” He was also our Board member with the additional responsibility on the Hatcher Garden Board as liaison, and was an active Garden contributor in many ways, even a new one to be announced later this year. He was my main back-up on the Newsletter chapter and he contributed and helped edit a number of others. Tom served on National’s board for two years and was active in the Club’s leadership in the Blue Ridge Region

Jess Taylor, good old friend Jess, was essential in both writing and encouragement. His membership goes back 25 years to 1985. Jess was a close confidant, friend and worker with Harold Hatcher in the Garden and served as Club treasurer from 1987 through 1992 when he led the Club into developing and contributing many of the buildings and hardscapes of the Garden. Propagation of plants has been a gifted hobby and he continues to use it prolifically in enhancing the Clubs plant sales. His hobby of writing personal memoirs, many of which revolved around his Club and his Garden involvements, served as a great background for his writing contributions to multiple chapters and his early editings of this history book.

Bob Hamilton’s membership began in 1986 and it has been highly productive. Bob was the faithful treasurer of the Club from 1997 through 2001, was treasurer of the Blue Ridge Region for years, as well as of the national convention we hosted in Spartanburg in 2006. I thank Bob for his help on the TGOA/MGCA chapter and for background on the Region. We will miss Bob; he is now in the process of moving back to his old home in Minnesota.

Jim Bagwell may be the “new boy” in the Club, having joined in 1994, but his contributions and knowledge are extensive. He was president in 1999 and 2000 and followed as treasurer for six years early in this decade. He was our liaison board member with Hatcher Garden, and has served on the Board of Hatcher Garden for several years. Jim found national conventions to be enjoyable and stimulating, and has served National well as a member of its

Board of Directors since 2007 and serves now as a member of its important financial Endowment and Investment Committee—and now is slated to become a vice president of National. Thanks to Jim for his help on the chapter about our relationship with the Men’s Garden Clubs of America. No one has set such a high standard of personal home gardening as Jim and Jane Bagwell—they received the first place National Home Landscape Award from TGOA/MGCA in 2006.

Long time friend and colleague Newt Hardie provided important help in writing the chapter on the Kudzu Coalition and its relationship with the Club.

Recently, we welcomed Gail McCullough as somewhat of an “honorary member” of the Group, representing the Club’s Board. Surely, the Board must have questions about the possibility of ever getting this history completed. But soon!

Last, but not least, that *special one* mentioned earlier is Dr. Dianne Fergusson who, after teaching English at Irmo High School in Columbia, moved to Spartanburg and became a leading member of the Club. She served on the Club’s board, led many of its youth-oriented projects, edited the newsletter, co-chaired the essential plant sales for two years and was the organizer and hostess of our 60th anniversary “bash” dinner celebration at the Piedmont Club in 2008. (Did someone say this history was supposed to be available then?).

But the most “special” thing about Dianne is that, even though she moved last year from Spartanburg to Mississippi to be nearer her family, she continued her pledge to be the chief editor of this history book. And what an essential service this has been, not only *editing*, but *guiding* and *advising* in so many ways to help this country boy become a reasonable writer. Not only I, but the entire Men’s Garden Club owe her a huge thank you!

During the writing, I was fortunate to have Ed Wilde, Tom Bartram, and Jess Taylor review and advise on a few special chapters. And for an important final edit, a huge thanks go to Allene Taylor, Joyce Crescenzi, Gail McCullough and Ed and Tom. A special thanks to my Milliken friend, Lou Adams, for his help in scanning so many old documents and for his invaluable leadership and perseverance in solving the many computer-related problems that plagued the final preparation for printing.

How did it all get finalized, printed and bound? Lyn Murajda volunteered to represent the Club in working directly with the printer, solving all the last minute formatting problems with the assistance of one of her artists, and supplying copies to the Club for distribution.

My good wife, Margaret, has had amazing patience with the days and days I’ve spent at the computer when I could have been being a better husband, and she has continued to wonder, “Who do you think is going to read all of that?” But it is about finished, Honey, and I’ve enjoyed every tiring hour of it—well almost.

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has earned a wonderful reputation in this community, and its name is highly respected. So, I’m sure all the Group and Dianne join me in hoping this non-author’s literary work (ha!) will be of value in showing the value of where this Club has *been*, but, even more important, where *it might, and should, go*. Spartanburg is counting on you!

Thanks for this opportunity—and, yes, go plant a tree,

Henry July 2010

September 2019 Gardening & Beautification

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President's Corner

PICNIC: We will have our annual picnic at the SCC Horticultural Pavilion on Monday, September 16, at 6:00 PM. Please note the change in time from the normal 7PM. Please bring a side dish for the BBQ that will be provided by the Club. Jack and Jane Turner have done a tremendous job in keeping this tradition going for a number of years. If you would like to know what may be appropriate, please contact Jack at 864-503-5711

The Plant Sale is Friday and Saturday, October 4th and 5th. Please keep this in mind so you can both spread the word and help at the sale!

Please note that the Spartanburg Herald Journal published an article in the Spartanburg Magazine on Newt Hardie and his work around Spartanburg.

The 2020 Slate

Below are the current nominee for the Board of Directors 2020. Also listed are the current members (one year) left to serve.

President: **Phil Abers**

Vice-President: **Everette Lineberger**

Secretary: **Denie Crowder**

Treasurer: **Mary Ann Hipp**

New Directors Nominations: Two year term

Linda Savoie, Charlie Crescenzi, Will Hawkins

Current Directors: One year left

Mark Carlson, Charlie Crescenzi, Sami Elhassani, Jack Turner, Ben Waddell

I have not had anyone else express interest so unless we get someone before this posting this is the Slate of Officers and Directors we are recommending for 2020 year.

Darvin Helvy / Nominating Committee Chair





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Crepe Myrtles by Mary Ann Hipp

Although Crepe Myrtles are actually not native to this area, they sure seem like they were made for South Carolina heat.

They have been beautiful for a couple months now and some will continue to put on a show as their leaves turn bright orange before they drop. We will have several varieties available at the fall plant sale, from Diamond Dazzle that only gets about three feet tall, all the way to Natchez that can reach thirty feet or more.

Crepe Myrtles come in red, white, all shades of pink, and even lavender. Some even have purple leaves that stay dark all summer. Another nice feature of Crepe Myrtles is their exfoliating bark. Natchez especially has great cinnamon colored bark that makes it instantly recognizable. Make sure to visit our fall plant sale, October 4 th and 5 th and check out our great selection!



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CHAPTER 1

Dirt Daubing: THE EARLY YEARS

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

- Margaret Meade

The original "Dirt Daubers Club" organized in 1948¹ was renamed "Spartanburg Men's Garden Club" in 1950. The past 62 years have been significant and beneficial for the Club and for Spartanburg.

An early handwritten document of unknown authorship lists the charter members as W. P. Rich² as president through 1951; A. T. Grant, Secretary; James M. Culcleasure, Treasurer; and Clyde Burwell, Historian. Others at the first meeting were L. B. Boswell, G. G. "Pat" Dobson, Guy Gowan, George Ladd, Paul Tysinger, Major M. L. Craine, Lamar Knox, Ernest Burwell, and probably Charles Lea. W. O. Ezell is often thought to have been a charter member, but he joined later, probably in 1951 when his friend, Charles Lea, was president.

In January, 1953, probably because of encouragement from Lea and Ezell, the Club affiliated with the national organization, The Men's Garden Clubs of America. There were 26 members' names on that charter list.³

Membership was limited to 25 men at the Club's inception, but there is no indication of this numerical limit in later documents. The Club changed its bylaws many times but probably the most significant was in 1989 to eliminate its gender requirement or reference.

¹ Some documents indicate The Dirt Daubers Club was organized in 1949, but prevailing evidence indicates 1948 is the organizing year. This history is based on that year.

² Early records show his name spelled both Rich and Ritch, the later being on the MGCA Charter Membership Roll of January 1953, but the former is most prevalent.

³ This MGCA Charter Membership Roll is in Appendix 16.

1 -- THE EARLY YEARS

In 2009, the Club had almost 150 enthusiastic men and women members as well as many corporate members.

Early emphasis of the club was gardening education for members, apparently the basic reason for its formation. While education continues as a primary objective, community beautification, which began in the '50s, rivals it in importance. Beautification efforts were initiated by early MGC leaders W. P Rich, Charles Lea, and Karl Selden, but particularly by early member W. O. Ezell, "Mr. W. O." He was indeed a giant and inspirational leader in this movement here in Spartanburg. In recognition of the importance of Mr. W. O.'s leadership in enhancements, West Main Street was renamed "W. O. Ezell Boulevard" in 1970, and the MGC and City designed and financed the second Spot of Pride (the first was at the fork of N. Church and Ashville Highway) in 2001 on "his highway"—and in his honor.

The club has continued garden spot creation and maintenance, albeit at a hugely reduced effort from Mr. W. O.'s. At one time in the 1990s, more than 20 small beautification spots, including the entrance to Duncan Park and the Club's 1997 Montgomery Flag Garden at the headquarters of the public library, were maintained by the Club. With the current great emphasis on Spots of Pride, the Club now has fewer community garden spots than in early years. The two most prominent that are currently actively maintained are the Ezell Spot of Pride and the Claude Sherrill Garden on East Main Street.

Garden seminars and training courses were provided to the community in the 1970s, and during that time an annual Rose Show was initiated that continued under Dr. Bob Reynolds' chairmanship for 27 years—until 1999.

Mr. W. O. knew that no public garden spot could be beautiful if it were surrounded by refuse and debris, so he began a massive litter control program in local schools in 1972. This program was later expanded to public streets and has helped to greatly reduce public litter and increase awareness of the problem. Litter pickup by Club volunteers on North Pine Street began in 1974 and continues multiple times per year.

In the 1970s the Club shifted its emphasis from community garden spots toward trees, propagation, growing, and planting. This shift was prompted in part by the influence of



Gardening Course Planned

The Men's Garden Club is sponsoring a Gardening Short Course which begins March 29 at Spartanburg High School. Roy King, left, chairman, Frank Cunningham, center, and George Drummond, right, open mail and handle pre-resistance forms for the course. Sessions covering a wide variety of 'how to do it' subjects such as lawns, landscaping, flowers, vegetables, botany, soils, fruit, shade and wild flowers will be presented by a group of lecturers from Clemson and Spartanburg. (Photo By B&B Studio)

Spartanburg Herald Journal, March 1973

1 -- THE EARLY YEARS

Harold Hatcher, a retired social worker who moved to Spartanburg in 1969 from Indiana where he had been active in community beautification. Just as Ezell's flowers and shrubs deteriorated when he was no longer able to physically provide his special maintenance, Hatcher reported sadly to the club that, during a trip back to Indiana, he found all of his former garden spots abandoned—"but the trees remained!"

Hatcher was the instigator of growing of trees from low cost seedlings and by root propagation and their free distribution to schools and public parks. During the 70s, thousands were donated by him and with help from Club members. About 1980 the Club began a tree and shrub nursery in the old "gas bottoms" area on North Pine Street. That project was shifted to and greatly enlarged on City property near Fairforest Creek behind The Beacon in 1986, and then to Hatcher Garden in 1994 until its move to Spartanburg Community College in 2010. Periodic public plant sales have become a hallmark activity for the MGC and are its primary source of income for community beautification.

From growing, contributing and selling trees and shrubs, the Club moved on to street and highway treescaping. This project now totals almost 2,000 trees planted along the streets of Spartanburg, both ends of Pine Street, East Main, Business I-85, US-221, and the I-26 interchanges on West Main Street and on US-176 plus another 3,000 as a direct influence of the Club. As a continuing expanding aspect of the emphasis on gardening education, the Club has emphasized proper tree planting and maintenance as a high priority.

While most of the projects of the Club have been very "hands on," one of its most productive projects is less labor intensive. Begun in the very early 1960s with the Chamber of Commerce, the cooperative evaluation of institutional landscapes is a program to encourage local institutions and businesses to enhance their properties through landscaping for the beautification of the community. The Club continues to work in close cooperation with the Chamber on this annual event. Early on, Club volunteers painstakingly documented the strengths and suggested possible improvements in both spring and fall; now it is a May activity. An awards ceremony at the conclusion of the evaluation celebrates all of the participants while acknowledging the winners.

These many Club activities and projects have had a significant influence on community beautification, but MGC is not alone in working for the improvement of Spartanburg. In recent years many other garden clubs and The Garden Club Council, the PRIDE Task Force, the former Trees Spartanburg (it was created by the PTF and was a sub-committee of SPACE), the anonymous Group of 100, the Graffiti Group, and the Master Gardeners—and



1 -- THE EARLY YEARS

many others⁴ have all been engaged in this on-going enhancement. The City of Spartanburg has made great strides in tree planting and general beautification. Probably the greatest single influence and example has come from Mr. Roger Milliken and his demonstrated dedication to world class beautification at the Milliken grounds, the Airport and Wofford College through his personal leadership activity and the work of his promotional organization, "The Noble Tree Foundation."

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club affiliated with the Men's Garden Clubs of America in 1952 (now named The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America) and retained that valuable affiliation until 2009. Many of the Clubs members have served on the Board of Directors of that national organization as well as in various other leadership capacities, and have matured as gardeners by participation in national conventions around the country.

The Club's success and fine reputation are due to its dedication to enhancing gardening education, to its many community beautification projects and to its strong leadership from many outstanding Spartanburg citizens.⁵

Sixty years after its founding, Spartanburg Men's Garden Club continues to work for the beautification of Spartanburg. Post cards and color folders depicted the City as the "City of Flowers" in the 1950s and '60s, and it surely was. Through the work of MGC and many other dedicated gardening and environmental groups, Spartanburg will continue to be a "City of Flowers" AND of *Trees*! This history presents a portrait of the men and women and activities that have made Spartanburg Men's Garden Club one of the most well known and respected civic organizations in the county.

The writers of this history believe Spartanburg will continue to benefit if this Club will continue to grow and prosper for another sixty years!

⁴ Many of these other groups and organizations are discussed in Appendix 20.

⁵ All Club presidents and leaders are included in the chart in Appendix 2.

October 2019

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers:

President Don Crowder
Vice President Bob Reynolds
Secretary Denie Crowder
Treasurer Mary Ann Hipp
Past President Darvin Helvy

Directors:

Phil Abers
Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Sami Elhassani
Jack Turner
Ben Waddell

Communications:

Darvin Helvy
Publicity@DirtDaubers.org

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Linda McHam
Yahoo! Group
GroupMail@DirtDaubers.org

Gardening & Beautification

is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge. Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:
Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

Nominating Committee:

Officers and new Directors Election this month

We will elect officers for the coming year, as well as directors for the next two years at the October meeting. All of the nominees have agreed to serve. If anyone would like to nominate someone else for any position at the meeting, that will be acceptable as long as the individual has agreed to serve prior to nomination.

The following Officers have been nominated:

President: **Phil Abers**

Vice-President: **Everette Lineberger**

Secretary: **Denie Crowder**

Treasurer: **Mary Ann Hipp**

New Directors Nominations: Two year term

Linda Savoie, Will Hawkins



President's Report:

· We had a very good sale for the recent Fall Sale. It was better than expected, per Mark Carlson, Nursery Chair for the sale, along with comments from Mary Ann Hipp, Treasurer.

· Mark Carlson and I replaced the fascia boards on the front of the main building – they were rotten. We plan to replace the ones on the back (north) side this winter, but they can wait due to their condition.

SMGC Speaker October 21, 2019

Jenks Farmer

"Funky Little Flower Farm"

He is the former director of Riverbanks Botanical Garden and founding horticulturist of Moore Farms Garden. His designs for homes, museums, and businesses have received recognition and awards ... Jenks has written for popular publications since 1990. Rodale's Organic Gardening, Fine Gardening and Horticulture. And he's been published in professional journal such as Botanic Gardens Conservation International and The Public Garden.



Post Office Box 1502
 Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org



Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Founded in 1948 as the "Dirt Daubers" the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club welcomes men, women and corporate members with an interest in nature.

As well as sharing gardening interests, the club has planted over 5,000 trees in Spartanburg, assists with many area beautification projects, teaches a gardening class to the public, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.

**Photography by
 Linda McHam**

From the Railroad
 Museum installation
 last October (2018).



2019 Litter pickup schedule

Dec. 7 Rain date Dec. 14

We meet at the parking area behind Chamber of Commerce off Oakland Ave at 8AM.

Our history of the club continues on the following pages.



The buddleia (butterfly bush) and the Sheffield daisies are doing very well, as are the other plants.

**Renew Now
 2020 Membership**
 Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
 Corporate \$100

Forms are located at
DirtDaubers.org/Membership
 and will be available at the next
 general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed
 form to Joyce Crescenzi.

ALL MEMBERS of SMGC should join the **SpartanburgMGC Yahoo Group**. It's the only way for members to know what is going on on a timely basis. It can be useful for reminders of upcoming events, to ask for help with various projects, and to be notified of last minute changes of schedules and venues. Only half the membership has joined, which means that YOU may be missing out on our activities! Send an email to (Linda McHam) and she will send you an invitation to join. You need to complete the process by signing up and joining the group after you receive your invitation.

CHAPTER 2

Early Iconic Leaders: LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

Leaders can conceive and articulate goals that lift people out of their petty preoccupations and unite them in pursuits worthy of their best efforts.

- John Gardener

Surely the original organizers of the “Dirt Daubers” in 1948¹ had not only a personal love for gardening but also a desire for promoting its importance beyond the home garden and into the community.

Spartanburg is a better place because those early members founded an organization that has been an important source of gardening education and a great influence on the beauty and environment of the community. They set in motion an organization that has grown in numbers and strength due to the leadership of many men and women over the years. But there are three early members who made such a profound impact on Club and community that they must be highlighted in this history: Charles Lea, W. O. Ezell and Harold Hatcher.

Charles Lea

Current Spartanburg citizens know the name *Charles Lea* because of the highly respected Charles Lea Center which is so very important in the life of our special youth who need special care. He had a great interest in these needy young people and worked in many

¹ Most documents list 1948 and the founding year, however others list 1949. The former is the most likely and is used in this history.

2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

ways for their care and betterment in organizing the Center in the early 1970s in Spartanburg. His influence and contributions go much beyond this organization, however.

Born in England in 1886, he came to America in 1898, worked in banking in Texas, and came to South Carolina in 1920. He served many organizations as a volunteer. He was extremely active with the Boy Scout movement in Texas and North and South Carolina; he served as Scoutmaster and Executive in multiple Councils in South Carolina and was a member of the Executive Board of the Palmetto Council for 11 years. He was an active member of the Spartanburg Rotary Club and served as secretary for many years and taught the Bible Class of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg for 29 years.

He became Executive Director of the six-year-old Spartanburg County Foundation in 1949 and led its growth to become the 31st largest among American community foundations. He held that important position until his death at age 80 in 1967.

These activities were indeed important for the entire Spartanburg community and equally important are his leadership contributions to the newly formed Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. He joined, when it was a year or two old, probably in about 1950 while the original president, W. P. Rich, was still the leader. This was the year the name was changed from "Dirt Daubers." He replaced Rich in 1951 and served as the second president for two years. His friend W. O. Ezell probably joined the Club in 1951.

He also quickly became active in the national organization, Men's Garden Clubs of America, and spearheaded the Club's

participation with it. A biography obtained from the Spartanburg County Foundation dated 1964 states, "he ... has been a member of the national Projects Committee [of the Men's Garden Club's of America] since 1958, and Chairman of that committee for three years. He is also President of the Blue Ridge Regional, and has been since it was organized two years ago."

Unfortunately, there is little documentation of activities of those early years of the Club other than its initiating affiliation with the national organization during his presidency in the fall of 1952. There were 27 member names on the Application Form.² This was approved

NOTES and NEWS about and for MGCA Members



Charles Lea of Spartanburg, S.C., was for years the organizer and "push" that made MGCA National Projects a reality. Asked year after year to allow his name to be placed in nomination for president of MGCA, Charlie consistently demurred, asking instead that he be allowed to continue to serve MCCA in the job he new best, chairman of the MGCA National Projects Committee. He gave unstintingly of his energies, even long after his physical strength was low. Only when the end was near did he ask for relief. At the Kansas City meeting of the directors Charlie was named Permanent Honorary Chairman of the MGCA Special Projects Committee. Charlie died on Jan. 21. A Charles Lea MGCA Memorial Fund is being established.

² This original application form to the MGCA is shown in Appendix 16, "Charter Membership Roll"

2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

in February, 1953, when Karl Selden was president. This association was a major undertaking which had great positive influence on the Club over the years.

During those early years of the Club, apparently the major interest and objective was education—to share gardening experiences and to work toward improving the personal gardening expertise of the members. Camaraderie must have been important also during the time when all other garden clubs were women's clubs.

Lea's greatest contribution to the Club probably began in the late '50s when he began a nine or ten year stint as secretary of the club and editor of its newsletter called "Gardenettes" which he signed as "Glowworm." This monthly publication covered Club activities and was strong in multi-page (often four type-written pages) education-oriented articles on specific garden topics. Probably of most importance, the newsletter undoubtedly served to keep the members informed of Club and community garden-related activities just as its current newsletter, "Gardening and Beautification," does. The newsletter can probably be credited with bringing the group together as a coherent organization on a mission, as well as promoting that mission to the broader community. Fortunately, copies of these publications from 1957 through 1961 are available.

W. O. Ezell became a member in about 1951 and spearheaded the beginning of Spartanburg's many-faceted beautification program. This gave the Club clout and recognition. Lea and Ezell, working together as they did, were a powerful team. In addition to their Club leadership and partnership, Lea served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Spartanburg Beautification Committee when Ezell was chairman. They were growth-oriented leaders and partners of great consequence.

Lea wrote a highly complimentary article about the Men's Garden Clubs of America after attending his first national convention hosted by the Jackson, Mississippi, club in 1959; he had brought home a cherished seedling of a champion Southern Magnolia which he planted in Duncan Park. That is undoubtedly the magnificent Magnolia in a central location of the park today. It should be recognized as a memorial to this Spartanburg leader.

Charles Lea died in 1967 after great service to both the local Club and to the national organization. A tribute article in *The Gardener* magazine praised his service and the high regard with which he was held, and it reported that he had rejected the many attempts to place his name in nomination for president of MGCA in hopes of continuing his leadership of the National Projects Committee.

An icon in the Club, in National, and in the Spartanburg Community, his contributions will be long remembered and appreciated. Spartanburg would not be such a special and quality community, and surely the Club would not have grown as it did, if it had not been for Charles Lea's quiet but insightful leadership.

W. O. Ezell

A well known name today in Spartanburg, this is due to W. O. Ezell's high profile involvement in the early years of the Men's Garden Club. Not a charter member, he joined the Club in about 1951 just after the current name was adopted, and just before it affiliated with the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

Until the time he joined the Club, its orientation was primarily education—personal education and encouragement of members to become better home gardeners. But his special and unquenchable “fire-in-the-belly” for planting flowers and shrubs to make Spartanburg beautiful added a new dimension to the Club and made him an authentic famous citizen. He

Men’s Garden Club Organized Here in 1949

[Editor’s Note: Other documents show the club was organized in 1948. EHP]

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club began life under another name when it was organized in October 1949. It was organized as the “Dirtdaubers.”

W. B. Rich was the first president and other charter members included: A. T. Gant, Secretary; James M. Culcleasure, treasurer; Clyde Burwell, historian; L. B. Boswell; W. G. Dobson; Guy Gowan, George Ladd; Paul Tysinger; Maj. M. L. Craine; Lamar Knox; and Ernest Burwell.

Membership was limited to 25.

W. B. Rich served as president until 1951 when Charles Lea took over and the membership was enlarged. W. O. Ezell became active in the club at this period and later both he and Lea served as directors for the National Club, Ezell serving for six years.

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club became affiliated with the National Garden Club of America. Carl Selden was president at the time.

In 1961 the club undertook the ambitious project of beautifying the 3,000 foot strip of land between Southern Railroad and Pine Street across from Pine Street School. J. M. Culcleasure was president at the time and many businessmen and firms contributed to the beautification effort. Club members worked on the strip during their off hours.

The club is now the sponsor of a number of such beautified strips throughout the city, including W. O. Ezell Boulevard.

Past Presidents include: W. B. Rich, Charles Lea, Carl Selden, W. O. Ezell, Grady Stewart, Wardlaw Hammond, Tom Butler, Jack Lemmon, James M. Culcleasure, M. Nance, W. M. Walker, Willard Morgan, S. K. Moorhead, Dr. Paul Cook, Julian Foster, Claude Sherrill and Henry Pittman.

served the Club in many leadership rolls, including its presidency in 1954 and became chairman of Spartanburg’s new City Beautification organization in 1956.

This amazing man had multiple names—Walter Orlando Ezell, but usually W. O. Ezell. He was affectionally known as “Mr. W. O.” by his young admirers and on at least one public appearance, was called “Mr. Beautiful.”

Born in 1888 (two years after Charles Lea), he moved from Landrum to Spartanburg in about 1912 when he joined Geer Drug Co. where he later became head of the marketing operation. While his job undoubtedly consumed much of his time, gardening was not only an avocation, but was entrenched in his children; Margaret (Mrs. Clyde Wells) was an avid gardener with leadership in the PRIDE Task Force. Bertha and her husband Emmett McArthur possibly

attended more national conventions of the Men’s Garden Clubs of America than any other Spartanburg members, and his sons, Frank and Earl, were strong supporters of their father in MGC activities and in community service

The Men’s Garden Clubs of America was also served well by this man. In 1964 he was chairman of the National City Beautification Committee where he shared Spartanburg’s enhancement activities and learned from other communities. At the national convention in Asheville four years earlier, he had been awarded MGCA’s Certificate of Commendation for

2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

this local beautification success. During the 1960s he served on the MGCA Board of Directors. His knowledge was shared as the feature speaker at the 1968 MGCA's Carolinas-Virginia Regional meeting. He was a very busy man!

Mr. W. O.'s work on developing gardens in Duncan Park, Cleveland Park, Morgan Square, the libraries, and more and more, as well as his leadership as head of the City

Herald Journal, November 23, 2008

**Nov. 17 named Men's Garden Club Day
Jess Taylor Award of Merit presented.**

Founded in the fall of 1948 through the effort of a small group of talented and dedicated gardeners, Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is celebrating 60 years of service to the community.

These services include community beautification projects, from garden spots to Habitat Villages to tree-scaping projects, landscape design awards, scholarships for horticultural students, and support of individual gardeners with spring and fall plant sales offering good-quality trees and shrubs to the community at low prices.

Mayor Bill Barnet honored the club with notification of the Men's Club Day proclamation during the club's 60th anniversary gala dinner Nov. 13 at the Piedmont Club.

Club member Jess Taylor was awarded the club's newly instituted Award of Merit, henceforth to be known as the Jess Taylor Award of Merit, for his high standard of participation, dedication and enthusiasm.

He served as club treasurer from 1986 to 1992.

A retired engineer, Taylor has overseen many projects for both the Men's Garden Club and Hatcher Garden. He has shared his knowledge of propagation techniques with club members and has provided innumerable plants for the club's plant sales. His generosity and enthusiasm inspire club members to get involved and give back to the community.

Beautification Committee are presented in detail in the Chapter Four, "Spartanburg Beautification and MGC Garden Spots." He was truly an iconic leader of not only the Men's Garden Club, but also the entire community and of the national organization.

A new young president of the Club recalls visiting with Ezell for council and advice in 1972. The advice that Pittman received, and rather unsuccessfully passed on to the Club in 1989 when it was discussing admitting women was, "Cooperate with the women, but keep your distance." In Mr. W. O.'s hey-day that was perhaps good advice—advice that he had indeed followed in his highly successful cooperative work with so many women, men and organizations. But there comes a time to make important changes, and that was done.

The City of Spartanburg honored Ezell at a dinner at Dorman High School in 1973. Mayor Bob Stoddard praised him highly as did other speakers. Club President Snow Marshall made a moving tribute which Mr. W. O. seemed to particularly appreciate.³

His great contributions brought many personal reorganizations and awards—national, state, regional and local. Presenters included Sertoma, Lions, and Kiwanis Clubs, Woodmen of the World,

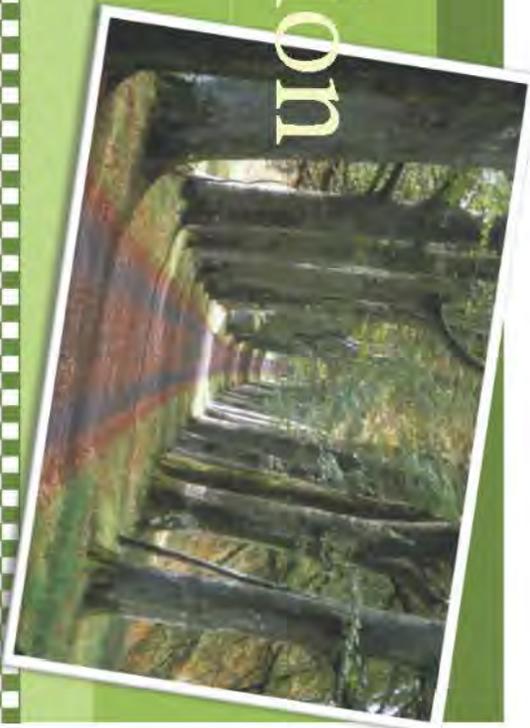
the national Men's Garden Club, and local and state governments. Wofford College named him the prestigious Algernon Sidney Sullivan award recipient. In 1970, the important highway entrance, West Main Street, was re-named W. O. Ezell Boulevard and it was in 2001 that the city and the Club created the Ezell Spot of Pride on his highway.⁴

³ See the Appendix 3 for Marshall's presentation at the Ezell dinner in November, 1973

⁴ See the Appendix 4 for Pittman's presentation at the dedication of this Spot of Pride on April 26, 2001.

Membership Application

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club
DirtDaubers.org



2020 Membership

Yes, I (we) wish to support the work of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, a 501(c)(3) organization, with my (our) membership.

Dues are paid between September 1 and

December 31, 2019 for the following year.

A list of the membership will be published in January 2020 and contains all members who paid their dues in the fall. Don't wait — mail your check today!

Make your check payable to The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and mail it, along with your application, to SMGC Treasurer, P.O. Box 1502, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304.

Please be sure to return the completed application with your check. This helps us with recordkeeping!

*If your email address will not be used for any other purpose. All photographs © Linda McFann, 2009.

Dues: () \$20 Single () \$28 Family () \$100 Corporate () \$5 Student

Additional Contribution: \$ _____ Check No.: _____ Date: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ () New Member () Renewing Member

If you are a new member, name of the person who invited you: _____

Your Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

Provide an email address* if you would like to join our Yahoo Group: 1) _____

and/or receive our club newsletter: 2) _____

If you are a Corporate Member, give name of the contact for SMGC: _____

Corporate telephone (business/home): () _____

Your talents and/or interests beyond gardening: _____

(Examples include computers, history, walking, cooking, photography, art, etc.)

Areas in which you would be willing to serve: _____

(Examples include Refreshments, Membership, Bylaws, Litter Pick-up, Street Trees, Container Nursery, etc.)

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org



Service. Beautification. Education.

Join the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

Your contribution makes a difference.

Come join us today!

Green and Clean: Making Spartanburg Better.

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club celebrated its 71st anniversary in 2019. If you would like to learn more about SMGC, we invite you to attend our meetings, held on the third Monday of the month at the Community Room in the Health Sciences Building, Spartanburg Community College, 7:00 pm. We look for people who are motivated to help and we welcome all men and women regardless of their knowledge or expertise. Visit our web site DirtDaubers.org for more information about the Club, its programs and projects.



November 2019 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers:

<i>President</i>	Don Crowder
<i>Vice President</i>	Bob Reynolds
<i>Secretary</i>	Denie Crowder
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mary Ann Hipp
<i>Past President</i>	Darvin Helvy

Directors:

Phil Abers
Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Sami Elhassani
Jack Turner
Ben Waddell

Communications:

Darvin Helvy
Publicity@DirtDaubers.org

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Linda McHam
Yahoo! Group
GroupMail@DirtDaubers.org

Gardening & Beautification

is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge. Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:
Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner:

It has been a privilege to serve as president of this Club for the past two years (in addition to three previous terms). The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has a legacy in this area that is second to none. The leadership of the people on this Board has been tremendous, and I really appreciate all that they have done in support of me. I would also like to recognize Bob Reynolds for his TREMENDOUS support and endeavors as Vice-President the last two years. He has been instrumental in a number of initiatives and helping spread the name of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. His selection of programs over the last two years has been the best we have seen in a long time, and I thank him for those programs. He is a Director Emeritus who has worked tirelessly to further the Club. A significant contribution has been made to the club for these efforts in his honor..

Once again, I thank all those who have supported me the past two years, and look forward to helping the Club in the future as it moves forward with other initiatives.

Thanks,

Don Crowder

The Fall Plant Sale went better than expected. The number of customers was about what was expected (much lower than the Spring Sale), but the ones that came were buying in large quantities! We really appreciate all those who came and purchased.

The Club will provide refreshments for the meeting. Please let us know if you are planning to attend. Contact either Jack Turner at 864-503-5711 or Don Crowder at 864-580-1829 if you plan to attend so we can have an approximate number of attendees.

The following officers were elected at the October meeting and will be installed at the November Membership Meeting:

President: **Phil Abers**

Vice-President: **Everette Lineberger**

Secretary: **Denie Crowder**

Treasurer: **Mary Ann Hipp**

Two Year Directors: **Linda Savoie, Will Hawkins**



SMGC Speaker November 18, 2019

Dan Shook Garden Manager for Hatcher Garden
"The Past and Future Upgrades"



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DirtDaubers.org

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Our history of the club continues on the following pages.

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 and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



Gardening & Beautification

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Photography by Linda McHam



**Acer palmatum
 'Osakazuki'**



**Vaccinium (Highbush);
 common name: blueberry
 bush in fall color'**



**Camellia japonica
 'Leucantha'**



**Camellia japonica
 'Nuccio's Pearl'**

ALL MEMBERS of SMGC should join the **SpartanburgMGC Yahoo Group**. It's the only way for members to know what is going on on a timely basis. It can be useful for reminders of upcoming events, to ask for help with various projects, and to be notified of last minute changes of schedules and venues. Only half the membership has joined, which means that YOU may be missing out on our activities! Send an email to (Linda McHam) and she will send you an invitation to join. You need to complete the process by signing up and joining the group after you receive your invitation.



<https://www.facebook.com/SMGCDirtDauber/>

2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

Even though he slowed from his beautification efforts in the early 1970s due to a severe case of shingles, he continued to care about the beautification of Spartanburg until his death in 1979 at age 91. The Club has been blessed with unique leaders like Mr. W. O. Ezell, leaders interested in and gifted in a love of gardening and horticulture, but also leaders who were highly respected community citizens. This was true from the beginning, and it is true today.

Harold Hatcher

It was in 1969 that Harold Hatcher and his wife, Josephine, moved from Indiana to Spartanburg. That was a very good year for Spartanburg and the Men's Garden Club.

Harold joined the Club shortly afterwards, probably in 1971 because he is listed on roster the next year. He and Josephine, in 1972, purchased their home on Briarwood Road which adjoined a desolate 6 1/2 acre tract of badly eroded scrub-tree gullies, an absolute wasteland. Two years later, he retired from his city job as director of the Piedmont Community Action program (he was a professional in helping people) while Josephine continued teaching at Spartanburg Methodist College

About this time they began the project that would consume the remainder of their lives—the clearing and transformation of this worn out property behind their home into a lush horticultural park. He graded, built dams and ponds and paths, and planted countless azaleas, hundreds of Dogwood, and dozens of other types of trees and shrubs. Bob Powell, Club member and retired head of the Botany Department of Converse College, once said, “He took a sow's ear and turned it into a silk purse.” His work in developing Hatcher Garden is covered in detail in Chapter 6

But this garden could not have been created without the help of the MGC which was a strong contributor of both labor and encouragement during the garden's early days. The Club's Walter Soderberg was a special volunteer laborer and later members including Jess Taylor, Tom Bartram, Dick Look, John Nevison, Jack Turner, and many others were partners with Hatcher as were supporters from many women's garden clubs, civic and nature groups, and the public in general. It was a special labor of love for Harold Hatcher as well as many Club members

As important as the relationship between the Club and the creation of Harold's public garden was, his leadership in the Club was hardly in second place of importance. From the mid '70s until his death at age 96 in 2003 he was the undisputed most active member of the Men's Garden Club. While never agreeing to serve as official president, he was an ongoing director (later emeritus) and edited or co-edited the club's monthly newsletter for 13 years. In addition, he was active in many other community groups concerned with beautification and preservation of things green.

Harold was responsible for re-orienting the club's interest and objectives in about 1972 or 1973 when he made a report to the club on his recent trip back home to Indianapolis. Henry Pittman recalls that, “He stood with shoulders bent a bit and with facial sadness, and related, ‘All of the flower beds, the shrubs, the roses, etc. that I was a part of planting all around the city have been neglected and abandoned—they are all gone.’” Mr. Ezell might have had similar remarks about the neglect and demise of dozens of the gardens he had developed somewhat earlier in Spartanburg. “But then, Harold stood tall and with a smile, and with a thrust of his fist into the air, said ‘But the trees remained!’” This observation had

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profound influence on Pittman—and on the Club. Trees have been a priority project, for both community enhancement and for fund raising, since then.

Early in his Club membership, his interest in propagating and raising plants to beautify the community and to help fund projects was evident. While some of this was done in the Garden, he was instrumental in getting a cooperative project with the City of Spartanburg established on city property on North Pine Street a few blocks from East Main—Gas Bottoms, it was called. Rooted plants and tree seedlings were purchased, or grown by members or cooperatively with the State Forestry Commission, and planted there. Chapter 7, “Plant Propagation and Plant Sales,” details much of Hatcher’s influence on that area of activity.

“Harold organized and led other club members, most of them older, retired men, in tending these plants until they were sufficiently mature for moving to permanent planting sites in the community,” recalls Jess Taylor who was one of those faithful Club helpers. Until the late 1970s, most of these trees were contributed to and planted on public property, primarily school yards and parks. The total at that time to the city and county was thousands of trees.

Hatcher initiated the Club’s community tree and plant sale program in 1979, was an asexual propagator of plants for both the Garden and the Club, and provided space in the Garden for many Club activities. The Club thrived due to his leadership and participation.

The importance of Harold Hatcher, when he was club secretary in 1974 and replaced Ezell and Claude Sherrill as editor of the monthly newsletter, was evident when the publication’s name was changed from “*Garden Tips*” to “*Gardening and Beautification*” in 1975. Harold continued giving garden advice, but with more emphasis on Club and community activities. More information on his editorship is given in Chapter 14, “The Newsletter.”

Spartanburg MGC Member Receives Highest SC Award

Spartanburg Herald-Journal article dated Nov. 20, 2001

Harold Hatcher, 95 and a long time member of the Spartanburg (SC) Men's Garden Club, was given the Order of the Palmetto Award at the club's annual meeting on November 19. Presented by former Congresswoman Liz Patterson on behalf of the Governor of SC, it is the highest state award given to a civilian.

After "retiring" at age 65 in the '70s, he began work on restoring eight acres of eroded, red clay land that was behind his home in Spartanburg. The result is Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve—a site of beauty and serenity near downtown. Most of the planning and physical work on the conversion which includes six ponds, winding paths through recovered hardwood forests, and a huge perennial garden was done by Harold with help from many MGC members and other volunteers.

The MGC has also strongly supported the effort financially. Its additions include asphalt parking lot and garden paths, the two utility buildings, the greenhouse, the gazebo, and partial financing of the observation deck. And it has recently renovated and updated the area of the garden which is used for the club's annual plant sales.

In 1986, Harold and his wife, Josephine, donated the garden to the Spartanburg County Foundation to insure its community use in perpetuity.

While it is now governed by a volunteer board of trustees and is managed by an employed executive director and a professional horticulturist and assistant...Harold continues to work in the garden every day!

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As if the Garden wasn't enough to fill his time, he was chairman of the City-County Beautification Committee for many years in the 1970s. He was the driving force behind the county-wide litter and trash pick-up program. One year, as chairman, he arranged employment of a dozen underprivileged youths to not only collect litter, but to analyze it in a scientific manner for valuable statistics on its origin. He was a prime mover and organizer in Spartanburg County's participation in the state competition called the Governor's Award for Community Improvement and Beautification through which the county was honored many years. Of major importance is his and Mrs. Hatcher's leadership in founding and nurturing the County's Nature Science Center where he served as both Director and as Treasurer.

He received many awards and recognition, most of which were a result of his creation of Hatcher Garden, but all also included his important contributions to the community through his work with the MGC. All the Sertoma Clubs in Spartanburg selected him for their joint "Service to Mankind Award" in 1988.⁵ But the most significant was South Carolina's highest civilian award—the Governor's Order of the Palmetto — sponsored by the Club and presented at its Annual Meeting in November 2001.

As a volunteer, he set the highest example of dogged giving of one's self to the community since the late beloved W. O. Ezell; Harold Hatcher's stamina, ambition, foresight and vision will be seen, felt and realized in the quality of life in Spartanburg for decades to come.

After his death in 2003, the Club, under the leadership of Bob Almond, presented a permanent memorial to Harold Hatcher—the beautiful memorial stone mounted in the Garden under his favorite tree, the huge old pecan. The bronze plaque not only lauds Hatcher for the Garden contribution, but cites that, "His example inspired the community of Spartanburg that now takes great pride in maintaining and expanding the gift he gave us."

Yes, Harold Hatcher was indeed an early and important iconic leader of Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has been blessed with unique leaders like Mr. Charles Lea, Mr. W. O. Ezell and Mr. Harold Hatcher, leaders interested in and gifted with a love of gardening and horticulture and the ability to share that gift and inspire others. The fact that such leaders have also been highly respected community citizens has enhanced the Club and increased its impact in Spartanburg. This was true from the beginning, and it is true today.

⁵ See Appendix 5 for a copy of the text of the Sertoma nomination.

Membership Application

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club
DirtDaubers.org



2020 Membership

Yes, I (we) wish to support the work of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, a 501(c)(3) organization, with my (our) membership.

Dues are paid between September 1 and

December 31, 2019 for the following year.

A list of the membership will be published in January 2020 and contains all members who paid their dues in the fall. Don't wait — mail your check today!

Make your check payable to The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and mail it, along with your application, to SMGC Treasurer, P.O. Box 1502, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304.

Please be sure to return the completed application with your check. This helps us with recordkeeping!

*If your email address will not be used for any other purpose. All photographs © Linda McFann, 2009.

Dues: () \$20 Single () \$28 Family () \$100 Corporate () \$5 Student

Additional Contribution: \$ _____ Check No.: _____ Date: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ () New Member () Renewing Member

If you are a new member, name of the person who invited you: _____

Your Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

Provide an email address* if you would like to join our Yahoo Group: 1) _____ and/or receive our club newsletter: 2) _____

If you are a Corporate Member, give name of the contact for SMGC: _____

Corporate telephone (business/home): () _____

Your talents and/or interests beyond gardening: _____
(Examples include computers, history, walking, cooking, photography, art, etc.)

Areas in which you would be willing to serve: _____
(Examples include Refreshments, Membership, Bylaws, Litter Pick-up, Street Trees, Container Nursery, etc.)

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org



Service. Beautification. Education.

Join the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

Your contribution makes a difference.

Come join us today!

Green and Clean: Making Spartanburg Better.

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club celebrated its 71st anniversary in 2019. If you would like to learn more about SMGC, we invite you to attend our meetings, held on the third Monday of the month at the Community Room in the Health Sciences Building, Spartanburg Community College, 7:00 pm. We look for people who are motivated to help and we welcome all men and women regardless of their knowledge or expertise. Visit our web site DirtDaubers.org for more information about the Club, its programs and projects.

