

# January 2024

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### **Officers**

*President* Phil Abers  
*Vice President* Beth Waddell  
*Secretary* Denie Crowder  
*Treasurer* Sheila Middlebrooks

### **Directors**

Charles Covert  
Darvin Helvy  
Curtis Marshall  
Joan Marshall  
Linda McHam

### **Communications**

Linda McHam  
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org  
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Mark Carlson  
PlantSales@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:  
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

## **President's Corner**

Happy New Year to everyone! This month we start the second 75 years of our club. We had very successful plant sales in 2023 and are working to have more success in 2024. With the revenue that has been generated, we are planning to develop new projects this year. All ideas are welcome!

To maintain our container garden and execute projects, we need active members. Our goal this year is to add many new members to help continue our mission. I will be asking our members to invite at least five people each to a membership meeting this year. We will also be developing some initiatives to help in our membership drive. More information will follow in the next few months. Put your sales hat on and extol the virtues of our club!

## **Beth Waddell SMGC Speaker January 16, 2024**

### **"A Tour of Butchart Gardens"**

Our Tuesday, January 16, program will feature a tour of Butchart Gardens through the magic of Power-Point. Each year over a million visitors flock to see and experience these beautiful display gardens. In 2004, the gardens were inducted as a National Historic Site in Canada, and it is consistently named one of the most beautiful gardens in the world.

The speaker will be Beth Waddell, a retired music teacher, who is a Spartanburg native. She and Ben have experienced many trips to Europe and Hawaii, as well as the Caribbean and Alaska. The world is a beautiful place to visit, but Spartanburg is home.



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



Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
**DirtDaubers.org**

*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, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.*



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March 9	rain date	Mar 16
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**Photography  
by Linda McHam**



*Cornus canadensis*  
(Bunchberry dogwood) in  
Yoho National Park, Alberta,  
CA.

Clematis blooming on  
November 22, 2023.



Propagation of *Camellia sinensis* and  
*Camellia sinensis* 'assamica' by seed.

**Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.**

Creekside Garden & Nursery  
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve  
Piedmont Farm & Garden  
Peggy Wilson, Realtor  
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care  
Wofford College





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## Member Musing

By Bruce Fraedrich

### *Louisville Kentucky*



Louisville, Kentucky is a great place to visit for tree geeks and bourbon lovers—I will address the botanical attractions in this musing. The Louisville area supports a wide diversity of plants: southern species such as Southern Magnolia perform well, but cool climate species such as sugar maple, spruce and fir are equally at home. Two “don’t miss” horticultural attractions near Louisville are the Cave Hill Cemetery and Arboretum and the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest.



Cave Hill is a rural cemetery found just a few miles from downtown Louisville. Rural cemeteries became popular in the second half of the nineteenth century when American cities began to expand and living space was at a premium. These cemeteries were sited within an hour's carriage ride from the city and designed as a park-like setting with many trees, gardens, winding roads and ponds. Rural cemeteries were the first parks for urban dwellers. Cave Hill is sited on 300 acres of hilly land and contains approximately 6,000 trees, many that date to the cemetery's establishment in 1850. We visited in late October when the sugar maples and blackgum were still at peak fall color. The “signature” tree in the Cave Hill collection is a massive Ginkgo that alone is worth the visit. Several mature Amur cork trees with their unique branching habit and thick, corky bark, were also at peak fall color. Cave Hill is the permanent resting place for many Louisville notables including Muhammed Ali, Colonel Harlan Sanders (think “fried chicken”) and George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War General and brother of William Clark of Lewis and Clark fame.



Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest is located about 25 miles south of Louisville on 16,000 acres of forested land. The 600-acre arboretum is an Olmstead Brothers design and contains more than 8,000 plant taxa, vegetable and children's gardens and a restored prairie. Over 40 miles of trail wind through the forests at Bernheim. We had only a few hours to spend at Bernheim on a rainy morning in October, but plan to return in spring to take advantage of the early native wildflower display and spend time in the arboretum collections.

**History of the club continues on the following pages.**

### 13 – THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT

And so it went though to the end of 1986.

This is not the end of the story, however. Sweetgums are tough trees. They put up suckers from the flush-cut trunk stubs during the summer and after a couple of years, with some pruning to create a single trunk, they were *real* trees again! After an amazingly short period of time, with a little probable fertilizer pushing by Club members, they essentially caught up with their un-cut siblings. Today, they are equal in all respects.

Certainly the destruction of the MGC's row of Sweetgums on North Pine Street was a catalyst for the issue of billboards vs. trees in both the Club and in the community. Controversy and unhappiness are not to be sought after, and the Club would not want to undergo another tree cutting episode, but the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club received a huge amount of publicity—most of it excellent publicity—over this. The incident, and its ensuing controversy, enhanced the name and reputation of the Club, probably almost as much as did Mr. W. O. Ezell's great beautification efforts in the 1960s and 70s. So, good can come out of bad.

Interestingly, an *ad hoc* group called "Citizens Group for Sign Control" formed later in 1986 with Ann S. Allen as its leader and member participants including noted Wofford professor Dr. Gibbes Patton, Corrie Whitlock, Dr. Bob Powell, architect Al Jolly, Sid Moorhead, Dave Kennemur, Dr. Gil Hooper, Art Justice, Margaret Wells, Margaret Hayslip, Claire Sasser, Jim Wagner, and Henry Pittman. In August, Allen sent a letter to many citizens with the opening statement, "A group of concerned citizens has organized recently to combat one of the area's most blatant abuses—the proliferation of giant BILLBOARDS along our roadways. The May incident of Naegele's tree cutting on 585 prompted our action. Fearing that the scenic beauty of our countryside is seriously threatened by this type of commercial onslaught, we are uniting our efforts to halt and eliminate BILLBOARD growth."

The September, 1986, "Gardening & Beautification" newsletter reported the upcoming Club meeting with the announcement that Ann Allen, Jim Wagner and Pittman would make a presentation on "Billboard proliferation." It brought members' attention to the fact that, "The topic is an active one in conversations, news media articles, letters and legislative action. The speakers will present an awareness slide program and up-date on local control activities and report on county inventory of billboards." The October newsletter reported, "We commend those [who] brought us up-to-date on Billboard Proliferation concern at our September 16 meeting. We follow further regulation development—local, state and national—with interest."

That fall, an interesting survey had been made by Allen's group which reported a count of 985 billboards in the City and County and an estimate that the total number was actually over 1,000. Naegele owned over 50% of them, followed by Carolina Poster, Daisy, National 3M, Ed Yarborough, Abbot, and eight others. Examples of "billboard blight" were the 22 on Drayton Ave (equivalent to 24 per mile), and 37 on South Pine St. (25 per mile). On I-26 between US-29 and I-85 and on North Pine St. between Milliken and Main there were 14 billboards per mile.

The group worked closely with the national organization "Coalition for Scenic Beauty" (now named "Scenic America") and made personal pleas to City and County organizations and to the U. S. Congress to develop ways to control the proliferation of the signboards. It

### 13 – THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT

was a part of the national effort to further improve the “Lady Bird Johnson” highway beautification effort. Unfortunately, however, little progress was made.

The conflict between trees and billboards hasn’t been solved or ended, but the attitude of both the general public and Club members may not be as “anti-billboard” as it was earlier. However, in 2007, the Club’s large treescape project on Interstate-85-Business triggered a conflict. This discord was between the Club and Spartanburg County (partners in the project), and the SC Department of Transportation and its agreements with the outdoor advertising industry. Through the effective efforts of the latter’s strong lobby in Columbia and Washington, the SCDOT has a strong agreement to protect billboards. It insures a 150-foot open viewing window for each billboard face—no trees, no obstructions on the shoulders (public property) of the highways. Some of the Club’s 2007 shoulder trees were erroneously planted inside the sacred windows, and some were purposely planted in front of two billboards which had been abandoned and were in shambles—genuine highway eyesores. The DOT forced the project’s contractor to move them all, even though there are even larger “weed trees” still growing in those “windows.” The Club’s trees were all moved successfully and are enhancing this important highway in different locations without disturbing billboards.

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Surely there are differences of opinion about billboards today as there were in the 1980s. The Men’s Garden Club board, and many of its members, may not publicly promote billboards as a type of *highway litter*, as proclaimed by the national organization, *Scenic America*. There may be a general or even widespread uneasiness about the proliferation of these highway structures, particularly as huge electronic ones are becoming more popular.

While the early motto of the Noble Tree Foundation was, “Trees are the answer!” may be questioned by some, the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has continued its tree planting projects not to compete with billboards, but to beautify and improve our ecology. Ogden Nash’s chapter opening quotation indubitably has some ongoing value.



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## President's Corner

At the January meeting, I passed out envelopes containing 5 club brochures and two club business cards. I asked that everyone distribute these cards and brochures to folks you meet who express an interest in gardening. Have you had a chance to hand out any cards and brochures yet?

Don't worry if you did not attend the January meeting because I have more envelopes to pass out! It is very important that this and other initiatives we pursue this year help us add members to the club. We are looking at a few projects and have a container garden to maintain. Please help us bring in new members and grow the club. We have much to offer.

## Mary Ann Kirby SMGC Speaker February 19, 2024

### "Floral Design"



SMGC welcomes Mary Ann Kirby, a Master National Accredited Flower Show Judge, as our February guest speaker. She is a native to our area and has held many positions in district, state and national garden clubs. Mary Ann searches for beauty in her surroundings, and her floral designs reflect her artistry.



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## Upcoming Events

### Betty Montgomery Garden Tour

April 13, 10 AM - 4 PM, and April 20, 10AM - 2 PM.

### Dr. Parris has agreed to lead a plant tour of the SCC Campus

May 11 or a rain date of May 18 at 10AM.

Club members will meet in front of the Health Science Building.

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**Photography  
by Linda McHam**

Time to start planting your  
onion sets and garlic bulbs.  
Photo by unknown.



Mary Ann Hipp' s *Camellia oleifera* (Tea-oil camellia). Photo by Mary Ann Hipp.



Yoshino cherries at the Horticultural Garden's at SCC. Photo by Linda McHam 2/7/24.

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## Member Musing

By Dan Shook

I was asked recently, by a person who is not a gardener, what I did in the winter at Hatcher Garden. I am sure that we have all been asked that question once in our gardening lives. My answer, depending on my mood, usually leads to a short educational process. Doug Talamy stated in his book "The Living Landscape" that "No matter how much any individual garden may seem like a separate place, a refuge, or an island, it is in truth part of the larger landscape, and that in turn is made of many layers." It is the many layers that keep us busy all the time.

What are some of those layers? His was a reference to the various habitats that show up in a garden, from the soil to the tops of the trees. But a garden also has emotional layers that help us live our lives at a higher level. I planted trees for caterpillars over ground cover that gave them wintering cover to support our birds and pollinators. Today, a daffodil greeted me which was planted to let me know spring is coming. Visitors to the garden bring with them lives that are often difficult, and a garden is a place that does not judge us. As we explore our styles, it also reminds us that patience is a virtue.

A garden is a place that will teach you something every day if you are paying attention. Early one spring I watched a turtle and a snake travel around our upper pond together for several days. I learned that the snake was following the turtle to see if it laid eggs so it could have a meal. Contrast that situation with a child blind since birth who finds a garden to be a noisy place. I had to learn how to create quiet spaces that served him well.

I know that we fail to learn from the garden to our peril in both physical and emotional ways. Why do we garden? I don't know about you, but I garden because I have no choice!



History of the club continues on the following pages.

## Chapter 14

### Keeping in Touch: THE NEWSLETTER

*If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it.*  
- Margaret Fuller

The Club's newsletter, now titled "Gardening and Beautification," has an important and invaluable history of publication since the mid 1950s, not long after the Club's founding in 1948. And it is, in many respects, responsible for the high regard and respect the Spartanburg community has for the Club.

The early mission of the Club apparently was to bring a group of men together who were interested in gardening, and becoming better gardeners; gardening *education* was the orientation. The first newsletters were, therefore, rather informal letters to members by officers containing gardening hints and reports concerning new plant availability.

Charles Lea served as Club Secretary as well as newsletter editor for at least ten years, probably from 1957 until 1966. His predecessor is not known, but Sid Dunlap may have followed him. Lea was a prolific writer, first with letters to members on various horticulture subjects, he then evolved into publishing a scheduled, detailed newsletter including Club activities and projects as well as community beautification activities. Various titles "The Gardenettes" or "The Grapevine," and often signed "Your Glowworm," the newsletter kept members informed and connected. Some articles were written by members and others were copies of published pieces. Lea often wrote long detailed accounts (sometimes a half dozen or so pages) and covered a wide variety of subjects.


It is not clear if Sid Dunlap edited the newsletter after Lea (he was known to be Treasurer in the early 1970s), but clearly it was continued on a fairly regular basis by W. O. Ezell and Claude Sherrill under the name "Garden Tips." These men, two of the Club's best known early leaders, edited it from 1972 until Harold Hatcher became its editor in 1974.



Hatcher re-titled the publication "Gardening and Beautification," its present name. Hatcher edited the newsletter on a near-monthly basis for 12 years until 1986, when John Nevison began to assist him, and then Nevison assumed the editor's role in 1989. At this juncture, the newsletter began to be regularly written over the weekend following the Club's monthly Board of Directors meeting and was hand delivered on Mondays to Bomar Printing of Spartanburg for photo-setting and printing on various shades of green paper stock. For many years, Walter Soderberg not only sorted and transported the printed copies to the Post Office for delivery before the upcoming Monday evening membership meeting, but also carefully maintained a list of members and also of the many area luminaries who were recipients of the regular distribution.

John Nevison had a unique friendly style of composition, often with pleasantly candid humor. His knowledge of details about Club activities and individual members was an especially important feature of his writing.

In 1991, Nevison's good friend, Tom Bartram, began assisting in the preparation of the newsletter (or bulletin, as it is often called) and eventually assumed the editor's job.



## GARDENING & BEAUTIFICATION

January 1999

**Meeting:** Monday, January 18, 1999 7:30 PM  
**Place:** The Arts Center, 385 Spring Street, Spartanburg, SC  
**Program:** **THE CITY'S NEW EMPHASIS ON BEAUTIFICATION**—City Manager Roy Lane will bring exciting news on City projects and suggestions on how the MGC and other organizations can help expedite them. Bring a friend along.

**New Year.** We look forward to a year of great leadership from President Jim Bagwell and his cadre of officers. But they solicit help from all our members.

**Street Tree Planting.** Since 1976, the MGC has planted some 1,500 street trees plus we were the catalyst for the 6,000 trees and shrubs planted on the new I-85 in 1996. Because of wonderful contributions from Mr. Miliken, the W. O. Ewell Beautification Fund and the Spartanburg County Foundation, plus \$3,000 from our own funds, we are ready to finance a \$12,500 project of "limbing up" and general pruning of our trees on N. Pine and E. Main and at W. Main & I-26. Arborist John Martin will contact this work for us.

**Claude Sherrell Memorial Flower Bed.** With financing by Wal-Mart, labor by the McCracken Junior High Environmental Club, a plan by Henry Pittman, and leadership from Allene and Jess Taylor, this bed is now in top notch condition. Check it out at E. Main St. and Hillcrest Blvd.—you'll be proud.

**Rose Show.** Due to unfortunate weather conditions, participation was low and we didn't quite break even financially this year, but it was a fine "community service." Great thanks go to Bob Reynolds, perennial chairman, and Vahl Wilson along with all the others who worked on the project. They and Lyn Saver are appraising future show plans.

**Fall Plant Sale.** Thanks to Steve Patton, leader of this project, and Past President George Guntter plus our many, many volunteers, this year's project was the most successful in recent years—a \$2,700 gain over last year. With ongoing support from Steve, new Chairman Lisa Gabory (a new member !!) has scheduled two potting sessions for the '99 project. Mark your calendars for the Saturday mornings of February 20 and March 20 and plan to be at Hatcher Garden to help. This project is essential for our ongoing community beautification activities. And it provides great camaraderie!

**Special December Meeting.** Miliken and Company was kind to invite us to use its fabulous facilities to view new inspirational and educational videos created by the company. One promoted a great "Vision for Spartanburg" by noted landscape architect Rick Wadler; the other emphasized the value of "Noble Trees" by world famous horticultural Mike Dir. If you missed this due to the inclement weather, seek an opportunity to see these dynamic presentations.

**John Nevison Memorial.** His widow, Dorothy, has made a special contribution which the Board of Directors is suggesting be used at Hatcher Garden in John's honor. He was a powerful force in the MGC as President, Newsletter Editor, Hatcher worker, tree planter and general promoter of a greener and more beautiful Spartanburg. Details on this later.

**501(c)(3) Compliant.** Through the good help of our national organization, The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America, we now officially have this IRS status. This opens new opportunities for both tax exempt contributions, and also the possibility of personal deductions for out-of-pocket project expenditures! Thanks to Ron Haggan, TGOA/MGCA Treasurer.

**George Guntter** gave us exemplary leadership as our president for the past two years. We are indebted to you and salute you, George !!!

**Spring Realtime-MGC Plant Sale.** While details have not been developed, we look forward to this cooperative project. Our leader this year will be Bill Wilson.

**Bulbs, Bulbs, Bulbs.** Dick DeVriesman, wholesaler of Dutch Bulbs in Greenwood, has come through for us again. He presented our program in September and then provided thousands of bulbs to augment the last day of our Fall Plant Sale. Now he has donated bulbs for our use in landscaping at the SC School for the Deaf and Blind. Thanks, George Guntter, for arranging this.

**Drayton Road/Isom Street Treescape.** Our big cooperative project with the City and the County is well over half completed, thanks to the hard and diligent work of our designated tree planter, John Balus. When completed later this month, we will have added another almost 300 trees to the community. Drive this important new thoroughway and see if you approve of the Red Maple (October Glory and Autumn Flame) and Kousa Dogwood.

**Future Street Tree Planting Opportunities.** Ideas, suggestions? Advise your officers.

**Building New Clubs.** HELPFUL Who will take the lead in organizing new MGC Clubs in surrounding areas? One of our members often says, "If our MGC is good for both our members and for our community, then a Men's Garden Club will be good for Gaffney, for Union, for Anderson, for Columbia, for Charlotte..." Excellent how to organize literature is available from TGOA/MGCA.

**National Convention.** It is not too early to plan to attend in Green Bay, Wisconsin July 14-17. A great way to get to know good gardeners from across the country and see The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America in action.

**1999 Member Dues.** Some of you have not yet responded to the "invoice" in the Dec. newsletter; your 1999 dues are already late, but NOT TOO LATE. Quickly send your check for \$25 (\$30 to include a spouse) to **Treasurer Bob Hamilton, 279 Harrell Dr., 29307.**

**Typical 1999 Newsletter, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, printed front and back**

Bartram's editorship of "Gardening and Beautification" continued faithfully until 2007—some 16 years—and Soderberg continued to be the Club's liaison with the Post Office. Bartram was succeeded by the very talented Dr. Dianne Fergusson who faithfully maintained the tradition of timely and factual reporting for two years.

Immediate Past President Linda McHam became editor in 2009. That was the year that the Board and the membership approved a number of changes in the operation of the Club to improve its financial conditions. These changes included terminating the 57-year affiliation with the national organizational, The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America, and also the termination of the widespread US postal distribution of the newsletter. In its stead, an upscale color version of "Gardening and Beautification" was developed by McHam. It is now emailed to most members, while members who so request and community leaders receive copies by mail. So, in a different format, the newsletter/bulletin continues its mission. Jeff Hayes assumed the position of Editor beginning in 2010.

Another form of communication for the Club was created in 2007 when Karen Ward, with limited assistance from a small committee (Nancy Williamson, Jeff Hayes, Lou Adams and Linda McHam), created the Club's first web site, [www.dirtclubbers.org](http://www.dirtclubbers.org), honoring the Club's original 1948 name. This site contained approximately seven primary pages (fifteen total) and was simple in its goals. Ward and her husband, Jim, moved from Spartanburg after two years and the Club has missed their involvement. The web site languished for six months, until Linda McHam and Lou Adams began a six-months ambitious revamping of the site. What they created together was a central database of the history, activities and projects of the Club as well as a single point source to provide educational instruction for members and the public. It contains copies of all of the available newsletters, including Charles Lea's "Gardenettes" of the 1950s and 60s. McHam developed the design, style palette and chose the template while Adams optimized the coding of the content. Adams also became the web master and gatekeeper, ensuring standardization of all materials and fast loading. The new web site was taken online in July 2009. It is hoped that it will supersede other forms of documentation and communication to further the "green" component of the Club and make all of the data accumulated available to the entire membership as well as the public.

A related communication feature for SMGC, developed by McHam, is the "Spartanburg MGC Yahoo Group" an Email news group with approximately 60 members. It provides quick and efficient communication between members on meetings, projects, activities, etc.

Over the years (particularly with the reduced postal-rate permit which the Club enjoyed when the mailing list for an issue exceeded 200), the mailing list was greatly expanded beyond active members to include former and national leaders and members, a large group of local businesses and government leaders, and other "movers and shakers" of the community. This broad distribution of the newsletter promoted not only club business, but also broad community activity, particularly associated with beautification enhancements, making the newsletter an essential tool in the SMGC's success.

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The newsletter has been instrumental in not only the internal growth and health of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, but also for the high and valuable regard and respect the organization has in the community. It has provided not only "connectivity" for Club members but also exposure of the Club and its goals to the community.

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### **President's Corner**

Spring is near. The daffodils are blooming and we just started day light savings time. Our spring plant sale is only a month away. The plant sale provides the community with good plants at reasonable prices. It also provides our Garden Club and our Spartanburg Community College partners a chance to promote our respective organizations.

We will be placing an advertisement in newspaper and using social media to spread the word. Look for information about the plant sale, including the plant list, on the club website and our new Facebook page. We need to remind our family, friends and acquaintances about the plant sale and the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. An enthusiastic member is an excellent advocate for the SMGC. See you at the plant sale on April 12 & 13.

Our March program will feature Jon Stauffer and the Colonial Milling Company. Jon and Michelle live in a restored colonial home in the Pauline area and grow corn from heirloom seeds.



The best of the corn each fall is hand selected, and they grind it with a pink granite stone mill in small quantities to enhance the flavors. You will find their stone ground grits on many area restaurant menus. Come join us to learn more about Jon's farming adventures.



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## 2024 Litter pickup schedule

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We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)



## Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

## Upcoming Events

**Spartanburg Men's Garden Club & SCC**  
present our *Tree, Plant and Shrub Sale!*

complete plant list at  
**DirtDaubers.org**  
cash/checks/cards

*Hundreds of plants  
Reasonably priced*

Fairforest Road  
Exit 2C  
Business I-85  
South North

# Sale

**Friday April 12th  
and Saturday April 13th  
from 8 AM to 1:30 PM.**

**75TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
SALE!**  
Azaleas, Dogwoods,  
Native Plants  
And lots more!

**Dirtdaubers.org**

at the Horticulture Gardens SOC I-85 Business at New Cut Road

150-04367321

## Betty Montgomery Garden Tour

April 13, 10 AM - 4 PM, and April 20, 10AM - 2 PM.

## Dr. Parris has agreed to lead a plant tour of the SCC Campus

May 11 or a rain date of May 18 at 10AM.

Club members will meet in front of the Health Science Building.

### Renew Now 2024 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.





Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
**DirtDaubers.org**



**Photography  
by Linda McHam**

Mahonia



Mary Ann Powell Kirby was our speaker in February. Denie Crowder and Beth Waddell helped Mary Ann improvise a floral arrangement.



Cornus mas, or Cornelian Cherry Dogwood.

**Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.**

Creekside Garden & Nursery  
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve  
Piedmont Farm & Garden  
Peggy Wilson, Realtor  
Wofford College



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## Member Musing

By Mary Ann Hipp

### *Camellias*

One of the signature plants of the South is the camellia, although they are actually natives of eastern and southern Asia. These beautiful, evergreen, flowering shrubs are available in a wide range of sizes and colors and, depending on the species, enjoy full shade to at least part sun. They are supposedly deer resistant, although my neighborhood deer have obviously not read the plant tags.



There are several species of camellia that grow well in the Spartanburg area. *Camellia japonicas* are in full bloom right now and sport 3-5" blooms in every shade of white to pink to red with some bi-colors and tri-colors thrown in for good measure. Some of my favorites are 'Professor Sargent', the double red that we saw at the February meeting, 'White by the Gate', a double white, and 'Taylor's Perfection', a semi-double pink. Another popular camellia species in this area is *Camellia sasanqua*. These beauties bloom in the fall with slightly smaller blooms and smaller glossier leaves than the *japonicas*. 'C. Shishigashira' is a gorgeous 4-5" variety with rosy pink semi-double blooms. Another popular *sasanqua* is 'Yuletide' which has single red flowers with yellow centers.

*Camellia sinensis* is the shrub from which tea is made and is another widely grown variety in the area. The smaller young leaves and leaf buds are used for making green tea, the older larger leaves for oolong and black tea, and the flower buds for white tea. While I am not a tea maker, I do enjoy having some tea camellias in my yard. They have lovely white flowers in the fall, can grow in a good bit of sun, and make a great hedge.

I recently saw a *Camellia handelii* for sale in Greenville that looks remarkably like a mystery camellia that I have in my yard. When I bought mine, I was told "Some guy wanted me to order this and then he didn't end up buying it. I don't remember what variety it is". Always a sucker for something unusual, I took it home and planted it. It blooms in January to February with white blooms all up and down the branches.

If you are interested in camellias, there are some nice ones at Hatcher Garden, and the South Carolina Botanical Garden in Clemson has a beautiful collection. Be sure to buy your camellias in bloom so that you know exactly what you are getting.

**History of the club continues on the following pages.**



## Appendix Contents

Appendix Number and Title		Page No.	Ref. Chap.
1	History Summary	145	All
2	Men's Garden Club Presidents and Leaders	149	2, 3
3	Marshall's 1973 Presentation re Ezell	150	2, 4
4	Ezell Spot Of Pride Dedication Remarks	152	2, 4
5	Hatcher Award Nomination - Sertoma	154	2, 6
6	MGC Folder "Tree Planting Procedure"	156	5
7	Additional "Minor" MGC Tree-Related Projects	158	5
8	Convention Newsletter Article "Enhancing the Enhancements", 2006	163	4, 10
9	<i>Birmingham News</i> "Spartanburg Boasts of MGC" 1973	166	4
10	<i>Herald-Journal</i> Tribute to Hans Balmer's "Spot of Pride"	168	4
11	Jess Taylor's Contributions to Hatcher Garden	171	6
12	<i>Spartanburg Magazine</i> Article "Women Are Attracted" 2005	172	3
13	<i>Herald-Journal</i> Article "Woman Takes Over the Men's Garden Club" 2006	174	3
14	Letter of Thanks to Mr. Milliken, 1999	174	4
15	Examples of Correspondence re Treescaping	177	5
16	MGCA Charter Membership Roll	180	1, 10
17	<i>Herald-Journal</i> Article "Crape Murder" 2004	181	4, 5
18	Interstate-85 Bypass Summary Memorandum	183	5
19	Propagation and Plant Sale Memoirs by Jess Taylor	184	7
20	Organizations and Individuals Who Contribute to Community Enhancement	187	4, 4
21	<i>Southern Living</i> Magazine Article "SMGC's Recognition in Southern Living Magazine" 2007	189	4, 5
22	<i>Southern Living</i> Magazine Article "Plant Sale in Hillbrook Forest" 1982	190	7
23	Maintenance Agreement from SCDOT re US-221 Treescape	191	5
24	2003 Fall Plant Sale List	193	7
25	<i>Herald-Journal</i> Article "Hatcher Creates a Garden" 1977	196	2, 6

## Appendix

Appendix Number and Title		Page No.	Ref. Chap.
26	SMGC-Chamber Landscape Evaluation Form	198	9
27	SMGC Brochure, "Crape Myrtles: Four Seasons of Beauty"	199	
28	Club Contributions to Hatcher for Buildings and Hardscape	205	6
29	I-85 Business Treescape Tree List	207	5
30	I-85 Business Treescape Dedication Remarks	208	5
31	City Map of MGC Trees	209	5
32	Master Street Tree Planting List of All Projects	210	4, 5
33	US-221 Treescape Dedication Remarks	212	5
34	Convention Planning Organization Chart of 2006	123	10
35	Objection to 1989 Bylaw Change re Women Members	214	3

# April 2024



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### **Officers**

President Phil Abers  
Vice President Beth Waddell  
Secretary Denie Crowder  
Treasurer Sheila Middlebrooks

### **Directors**

Charles Covert  
Darvin Helvy  
Curtis Marshall  
Joan Marshall  
Linda McHam

### **Communications**

Linda McHam  
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org  
Phil Abers  
President@DirtDaubers.org  
Mark Carlson  
PlantSales@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:  
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

## **President's Corner**

One of the missions of our club is to educate the public. How can we accomplish this mission? A number of options are available to help the club attain this goal.

We:

1. Provide presentations at our regular monthly meetings
2. Assist customers with advice at our biannual plant sales
3. Impart knowledge when working on community projects
4. Make presentations to organizations interested in gardening

If you see an opportunity for the club to be involved in a project or a presentation opportunity, please let the board know. Spartanburg County will benefit from our knowledge and the community will reap the benefits of the gardening world. Let's help make Spartanburg a hot bed of horticulture!



Our April 15 meeting will be a gardening delight! Our own Spartanburg Men's Garden Club member, **Dan Shook**, will be our speaker on "The Children's Garden" located at the Hatcher Gardens and Woodland Preserve.

Dan owned a very successful landscape business for thirty years and later moved to Hatcher Gardens to become the Garden Manager. His children and grandchildren have been part of his inspiration for the playful garden, and it is his hope that it will be shared with children of all ages. Choose a day soon to walk through "The Children's Garden" to admire the latest developments and enjoy being surrounded by the fantasy and whimsy that awaits you.



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





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and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Shelia Middlebrooks.



## Gardening & Beautification

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## Upcoming Events

**The Piedmont Carolina Iris Society iris show is on Thursday, April 25, from 1 - 5 PM at the St. Johns Lutheran Church on South Pine Street.**

## Dr. Parris has agreed to lead a plant tour of the SCC Campus

May 11 or a rain date of May 18 at 10AM.  
Club members will meet in front of the Health Science Building.

## Presentations for 2024

May 20	Native Perennials	Davis Sanders
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July 15	A Guide to Wildflowers of SC	Dr. Douglas Rayner
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September, 16	Club Picnic	
October 21	Birds	Irvin Pitts



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## Member Musing

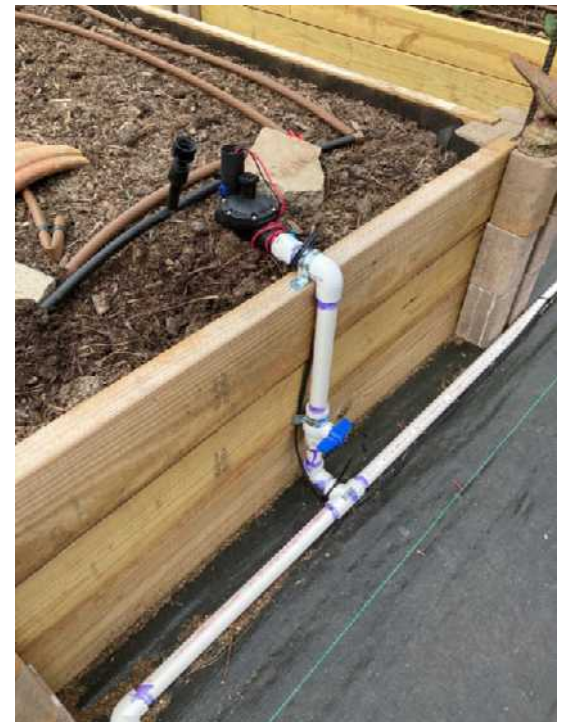
By Linda McHam

It's April: time to prepare your vegetable garden! April 15 is the last frost date in our area. It should be safe to set out your tomatoes and other vegetables and/or seeds on or after this date. Whether you have a lot of space, or your space is very limited, here are some ideas for making the most of what you have. Assess how many beds (or containers) you want to work with. Check your water supply and see if it is convenient to make a connection for your beds. Draw a simple sketch and measure it so that you know how much lumber or containers you need. You will also need to know how much potting mix and compost you need. If you are starting a vegetable garden for the first time, don't make it too complicated. Using this modular method, you can make tweaks and improvements each year. The important thing is to just GET STARTED!



This is the configuration for my vegetable garden. I installed these raised beds around 2005. I would not recommend making them this deep (approximately 36 inches deep) now, unless you have health issues. Half that height is plenty of soil to grow most vegetables. Plus, the amount of money to purchase enough soil to fill these is not worth spending. Each year about two inches of mushroom compost is needed to top up the beds due to leeching.

A close-up of the irrigation solenoid and piping arrangement for my sister's raised beds.



The solenoid is not necessary but makes things easier for you if you choose to go that route.





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### Member Musing By Linda McHam



Using a modular layout, you can create any kind of configuration that works for your setting. It is not necessary to use 8 or 10 ft boards. You can cut each board in half and make a 4 X 4 container.



Detail of a modular method of making raised beds. These can be assembled easily and dismantled and moved when necessary.

History of the club continues on the following pages.



## Appendix 1

### History Summary

**1. The Early Years.** The Dirtclubbers was organized in 1948 with W. P. Rich as president. The club's name was changed in 1950 to the Men's Garden Club, and in 1953, it affiliated with The Men's Garden Clubs of America.

**2. Early Iconic Leaders.** No organization can be truly great without great leaders. The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club surely has had great leaders, those who not only have been dedicated to strengthening the Club, but who have been broadly respected community leaders. This combination has been a win-win for the Club and the community. Chapter 2, Early Iconic Leaders, emphasizes the importance of Charles Lea, W. O. Ezell and Harold Hatcher.

**3. Membership Over the Years.** Until the By-Laws were amended in 1992 it was an organization of all men. While the change was resisted by many (including the writer), it has been proven to be a valuable change to include women as not only spouses, but active members. The current membership of over 150 is composed of almost half women. Details of the growth of the Club are found in the Membership Chapter.

**4. Spartanburg Beautification, and MGC Garden Spots.** W. O. Ezell—"Mr. W. O."—is undoubtedly the father of Spartanburg beautification having labored both personally and corporately for some two decades as both a pace setter for the SMGC, but also for the early, local Piedmont Beautification Committee. He created the *City of Flowers*. The Leaders Chapter is rich in details of this great gardener. Over the years, many individuals and organizations have not only kept the movement alive, but have "fanned the flame"—these include Harold Hatcher, Roger Milliken, Hans Balmer and his Spot of Pride movement, the Garden Council, the PRIDE Task Force, the Group of One Hundred, the Graffiti Group—and the MGC with its emphasis on "garden spots" and treescaping.

**5. Treescaping in City and County.** The Club began an extensive street and highway tree planting program in 1976 which has continued to the present. While Mr. Ezell developed garden areas, and Mr. Hatcher was an avid propagator, distributor and planter of trees in parks, school yards, it was Harold's heart-felt proclamation that "the trees remained" that really moved "street trees" to the forefront of Club projects. Details of the nearly 2,500 street trees are given in the Treescaping Chapter and a tabulation is in the Appendix.

**6. Hatcher Garden and the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.** Spartanburg has never been the same since Harold Hatcher bought the 6 acres adjoining his home in 1970, joined the Men's Garden Club and began what has become a tremendous asset to the community—the 13-acre Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve. Chapter 6 on the Garden and the Club gives details of the ambitious personal challenge of Harold and his wife, Josephine, and the strong influence the Club had on the undertaking, particularly the help and underwriting of members like Walter Soderberg, Jess Taylor and so many others.

**7. Plant Propagation and Plant Sales.** Mr. Hatcher may have been the Club's "father" of multiplying plant numbers, and passing them in volume via free distribution and income producing plant sales, but Jess Taylor has followed him and become the Club's great teacher, promoter and practitioner. Internally member-propagated plants plus those grown from purchased liners and seedlings—and more recently, fully mature plants—have been the basis

## Appendix

of the Club's annual public plant sales. These sales have not only provided "quality plants at reasonable prices" that have encouraged and enhanced landscapes across the community, but they have been the main source of income to the Club for other projects. Jess Taylor has provided many of the details for the main Hatcher Garden chapter.

**8. Litter Control.** Mr. W. O. Ezell probably was responsible for the emphasis on "cleanliness" in the first decade of the Club. In the 1970s, he and the Club distributed some 90,000 "comic books" on the importance of environmental responsibility to local school children. Soon after that, probably 1974, North Pine Street became, and continues to be, the favorite street for litter pick up and other enhancements over the years.

**9. Landscape Evaluation With the Chamber.** It is the writer's opinion that this 47-year continuous project, run cooperatively with the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce which probably began in 1962 has been one of the major influences in the growth of quality corporate and private landscaping in Spartanburg. Bob Almond has written much of Chapter 9 on this subject.

**10. TGOA/MGCA National Organization.** The local Club was the 50<sup>th</sup> American club to affiliate with the Men's Garden Clubs of America in 1952 and has been one of the largest and leading clubs of the organization. The Club has provided many members of National's Board of Directors as well as committee leaders. Not only have local members enjoyed and participated in many of the MGCA's nationwide conventions, the Club hosted a very successful one here in 2006. Conventions always provide new insights into personal gardening as well as community beautification, and are the source of many quality friendships. At its height, there were at least six active Men's Garden Clubs in the Blue Ridge Region of MGCA. The Spartanburg club was a leader in hosting and participating in many of the Region's annual sharing and learning meetings. Great inner-club camaraderie and friendships resulted from this association. Unfortunately, particularly for the other cities, ours is the only active club in the region, and it disaffiliated with national in 2009.

**11. The Kudzu Coalition.** The Coalition was created as a Club project in 2004 because of kudzu invading the Club's Yoshino Cherry Trees on S. Pine. The Kudzu Coalition that Newt Hardie built is an amazing organization of adults and youth who fight this invasive vine.

**12. The Rose Show.** Officially began in 1973 with the encouragement of John Cantrell and "Snow" Marshall, and it was an annual exhibit for the next 27 years, most of which were chaired by Dr. Bob Reynolds.

**13. The Billboard Conflict.** While a negative Club attitude on billboards has never been an official Club position, it began to be the general point of view that billboards oppose community beautifications. This attitude began in 1986 when the largest local billboard company willfully destroyed 15 of the Club's almost-mature bicentennial trees on N. Pine St. No other action has provided the Club as much media attention.

**14. The Newsletter.** While probably not published every month, they began in the 1950s by the multi-year Secretary, Charles Lea. Leading editors have been Harold Hatcher, John Nevison, Tom Bartram, Dr. Dianne Fergusson, Linda McHam, and now, Jeff Hayes. Newsletters are considered essential for maintaining a coherent, knowledgeable membership. Not just supplied to members, but to a large group of community leaders, newsletters are a prime reason for the MGC's prestigious reputation.

# May 2024



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

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## **President's Corner**

We had an excellent plant sale thanks to the hard work of our membership. We have also added a few new members. Although it is too early to tell, it appears that the prospects for the Garden Club and the garden industry are brightening. What could be the cause? Some people point to COVID reintroducing people to gardening as other activities were limited.

Other talk about Millennials having a greater interest in gardening than their predecessors, Gen X and Gen Z. Some misguided souls may say the dynamic club president has made a difference, although that is hard to believe. It is most likely that the Millennials and the COVID restrictions greatly benefited the gardening world. Whatever the reason, let's take advantage of our good fortune and ride the wave of gardening popularity.

## **Davis Sanders SMGC Speaker May 20, 2024**



### **"Native Perennials"**

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is excited to have Davis Sanders, a fabulous designer from South Pleasantburg Nursery in Greenville, as our May speaker.

With over forty years experience in various aspects of horticulture, landscaping and retail plants, Davis will speak on the subject of "Native Perennials." Davis is a regular guest panelist on the SCETV program "Making It Grow" as he showcases new and unusual plants and helps to diagnose troubled specimens. Make your plans now to join us as Davis shares his wisdom, wit and wonder!



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**Photography  
by Linda McHam**



The Club had a terrific Spring Plant sale this year. We even had special visitors take a tour through the inventory.



On Friday morning, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, plants flew out the door. We have depleted our inventory (a good thing), but now we need to restock!



One of the azaleas that we will try to propagate in June. A single plant with three or more types of flowers on it.

---

**Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.**

Creekside Garden & Nursery  
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve  
Piedmont Farm & Garden  
Peggy Wilson, Realtor  
Wofford College





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## **Member Musing** **By Bob Reynolds**

### *Tree Banks of the Past*

In the early 1970's, Harold Hatcher obtained permission from the city to use Urban Renewal property for a tree bank. This property was located at the corner of Pine Street and Danial Morgan. The Honda Auto Dealership is now located on this location. It contained good river bed soil, but a lot of building debris. Harold had an old Gravely driven tiller and John Nevison had a new Gravely driven tiller. When both were tilling the rows, we accused them of racing the tillers to see who had the fastest. Trees were grown in this nursery for about four years. The last trees (some about 10 ft tall) were planted where the QS1 Building is now located. This planting occurred on a cold winter day with a strong wind. Clayton Brown and I were working together digging and planting. The ground was hard and both of us were freezing. Harold never let weather be a consideration when work needed to be done.

Harold Hatcher and several of his helpers at Hatcher Garden with his John Deere riding mower.



*Linda McHam, who joined the Club in 1991 and later became the first woman president of the club, recalls introducing Hatcher to the value of the tiller attachment. "I took my riding mower which has a two-foot tiller attachment out to the tree nursery at Fairforest Creek and tilled up the hard clay for him. He couldn't believe how much work it did in two hours. It would have taken him about two days to do the same amount. Bob Almond told me that Harold immediately asked the SMGC to purchase a similar attachment for the Garden."*

The next Tree Bank was located on the Fairforest Creek flood plain behind the Beacon. This sandy soil made easy digging and planting. This area was used for several years. Later, the Tree Bank was moved to Hatcher Garden for our last in-the-ground nursery. Maintaining and then digging the trees became more difficult. A decision was made to convert the nursery to container plants. However, the containers still required weed removal and watering. An automatic watering system was installed for watering the containers. There is no easy way to grow plants. Our nursery still requires work from our members.

**"And The Trees Remain" by Henry Pittman**

**History of the club continues  
on the following pages.**



## Appendix

### Appendix 2

#### Club Presidents and Leaders

Updated 3, 2010, ehp

	PRESIDENT	V. PRES.	SEC.	TREAS.	EDITOR	NOTES
1948	W. P Rich		A. T. Grant	Jas. Culcleasure		Organized as "Dirt Daubers"
1949	W. P Rich					
1950	W. P Rich (?)					Name changed to SMGC
1951	Charles Lea					W. O. Ezell joined
1952	Charles Lea		Karl Selden			
1953	Karl Selden		Frank Powell			Affiliate with MGCA.
1954	W. O. Ezell					
1955	Grady Stewart					
1956	Wardlaw Hammond					WOE Chair of City Beautification
1957	John Cantrell		Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea "Gardenettes" ?	
1958	Tom Butler	Jack Lemmon	Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea "Gardenettes"	32 members
1959	Jack Lemmon	Jas. Culcleasure	Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	34 members
1960	Jack Lemmon	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	David Stoltz joined
1961	Jas. Culcleasure	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	S. Pine Beautification, Landscape Judging with Chamber of Commerce
1962	Jas. Culcleasure	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	WOE Kiwanis Citizen of Year.
1963	Clyde Burwell		Charles Lea			
1964	W. W. Walker		Charles Lea	Cecil Haney		Henry Pittman joined
1965	Willard Morgan		Charles Lea	Cecil Haney	Charles Lea	
1966	Sid Moorhead	Bob Hickland	Charles Lea	Cecil Haney	Lea/Dunlap	Bob Reynolds joined
1967	Paul Cook					
1968						WOE Blvd. named
1969	Julian Foster					
1970						Walter Soderberg joined
1971	Claude Sherrill					Harold Hatcher joined
1972	Henry Pittman	John Cantrell	Everett Seixas	Sid Dunlap	Ezell & Sherrill	Begin public garden course
1973	Henry Pittman	Gil Hooper	Gil Hooper	Sid Dunlap	Claude Sherrill	

# Appendix

	PRESIDENT	V. PRES.	SEC.	TREAS.	EDITOR	NOTES
1974	Ed "Snow" Marshall	Gil Hooper	Gil Hooper		Sherrill & Hatcher	
1975	Ed "Snow" Marshall	Gil Hooper	Harold Hatcher	Geo. Drummond	Harold Hatcher	
1976	Gil Hooper	Bob Reynolds	Harold Hatcher	Geo. Drummond	Harold Hatcher	N. Pine Bicentennial Proj.
1977	Gil Hooper	Bob Reynolds	Wm. Morgan	Henry Ramella	Harold Hatcher	
1978	Bob Reynolds			Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	1st year of Plant Sale
1979	Bob Reynolds			Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	
1980	Charles Hart			Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	
1981	Charles Hart			Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	
1982	John Nevison	Pat Moore		Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	Tom Bartram joined
1983	John Nevison	Pat Moore	Morris Chesney	Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	
1984	Pat Moore	Frank Cunningham	Raymond Tessmer	Harold Fredrickson	Harold Hatcher	
1985	Pat Moore/Frank Cunningham		Tom Bartram	Harold Fredrickson	Harold Hatcher	
1986	Frank Cunningham	Walter Soderberg	Tom Bartram	Harold Fredrickson	Hatcher/John Nevison	Potting Shed at H Garden
1987	Walter Soderberg	Tom Bartram		Jess Taylor	Hatcher/Nevison	Equip. Building At Hatcher Garden
1988	Walter Soderberg	Tom Bartram	Dick Look	Jess Taylor	John Nevison	
1989	Tom Bartram	Bob Powell	Dick Look	Jess Taylor	John Nevison	Bylaws changed to eliminate gender reference
1990	Tom Bartram	Charles Burdell	Dick Look	Jess Taylor	John Nevison	
1991	Tom Bartram	John Fincher	John Nevison	Jess Taylor	Nevison/Bartram	Geo Gunter and Winston Hardegree join
1992	John Fincher	Bob Almond	Darvin Helvy	Jess Taylor	Nevison/Bartram	Paving at H. Garden
1993	John Fincher/Bob Almond	Bob Almond	Shirley Marshall	Winston Hardegree	Nevison/Bartram	
1994	Bob Almond	Winston Hardegree	Ben DeLuca/Paul Dingle?	George Wegrzyn	Tom Bartram	
1995	Bob Almond	Winston Hardegree		George Wegrzyn	Tom Bartram	
1996	Almond, Bartram, Pittman, Soderberg	George Gunter	Jane Bagwell	George Wegrzyn	Tom Bartram	
1997	George Gunter	Jim Bagwell	Jane Bagwell	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	Greenhouse at H. Garden, Flag Garden at Library
1998	George Gunter	Jim Bagwell	Dottie Scott	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	Nat. Convention at Asheville
1999	Jim Bagwell	Clyde Wells	Dottie Scott	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	Nat. Directors S'burg. Nevison Amphitheater

### Appendix

	PRESIDENT	V. PRES.	SEC.	TREAS.	EDITOR	NOTES
2000	Jim Bagwell	Bill Wilson	Dottie Scott	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	
2001	Bill Wilson	Jack Turner	Henry Pittman	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	WOE Spot of Pride
2002	Bill Wilson	Jack Turner, Don Crowder	Henry Pittman	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	
2003	Don Crowder	Everette Lineberger	Henry Pittman	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	H. Hatcher died
2004	Don Crowder	Everette Lineberger	Linda McHam	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	Walter Soderberg died
2005	Everette Lineberger	Harold Wolfe	Linda McHam	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	Gil Hooper died
2006	Everette Lineberger	Harold Wolfe	Linda McHam	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	Nat'l Convention in S'burg
2007	Linda McHam	Tasso Ghionis	Don Crowder	Jim Bagwell	Bartram / Dianne Fergusson	Hatcher Memorial dedicated
2008	Linda McHam	Ed Wilde	Tasso Ghionis	Ben Waddell	Dianne Fergusson	
2009	Ed Wilde	Bob Reynolds	Lyn Murajda	Ben Waddell	Linda McHam	
2010	Ed Wilde	Bob Reynolds	Lyn Murajda	Ben Waddell	Jeff Hayes	Moved meetings to SCC



# June 2024



*Welcoming Men & Women*

## Officers

President Phil Abers  
Vice President Beth Waddell  
Secretary Denie Crowder  
Treasurer Sheila Middlebrooks

## Directors

Charles Covert  
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# Gardening & Beautification

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## President's Corner

Section 2 of the Club's By-Laws states "The objectives of the Club are..." Item 2.4 states: "to promote community beautification through charitable, educational and scientific means". Our club has had a great history of doing community beautification work. You can read about many instances of our work in the club history written by E. Henry Pittman in "And the Trees Remain".

We have not executed many projects in recent years. However, this year we are working with St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic. We have put some nice plants into their landscape in the Meditation area and are working to provide benches for the site. This week we will discuss a new project for the Spartanburg VFW. The project will include planting some under-story trees like dogwoods and red buds. Various shrubs will also be planted. The area in front of the VFW is large and we can do modest size projects over the years. It is great to be getting involved in community projects again. Please come out and help when you can.

## Linda Tiller McHam SMGC Speaker June 17, 2024

### "Japanese garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden"



Linda Tiller McHam has been a member of SMGC since 1989. She was the first female President of the club in 2007 and 2008.

She comes by her love of gardening naturally from her parents and grandparents. Her mother's parents owned Albemarle Greenhouses in Albemarle, NC, specializing in carnations.

Her father's parents founded Southern Agricultural Chemicals, based in Kingstree, SC with a satellite operation in Hendersonville, NC.

Linda has traveled the world photographing amazing gardens as well as taking small groups of avid gardeners to England, Scotland, France and the Netherlands. Join Linda as she gives us a walking tour of a magnificent Japanese garden in the heart of Fort Worth, Texas.



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



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August 19	Skin Care for Gardeners	Dr. Christopher Thompson Dermatologist
September, 16	Club Picnic	
October 21	Birds	Irvin Pitts



Photos are from the Fort Worth Botanic Garden in Texas.

Join us for a slide show on Monday, June 17th, featuring the Japanese garden.





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**Photography  
by Linda McHam**



Spaghetti squash are easy to grow.  
Just give them room to spread



Hydrangeas, yellow day lilies and Italian cypress  
look great in May.



Tomatoes are  
beginning to turn  
red. Tomato  
sandwiches  
coming soon!

**Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.**

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Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve  
Piedmont Farm & Garden  
Peggy Wilson, Realtor  
Wofford College





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## **Member Musing** **By Beth Waddell**

### *REPOTTED*

One of my favorite friends that I am blessed to know recently gave me a tea towel that reads, "I'M NOT OLD. I JUST NEED TO BE REPOTTED!" After a round of laughter and childlike giggles from the group, I am proud to announce that she is still one of my most favorite friends. After the lunch meeting, I resumed thinking about the possible wisdom from the towel. I looked up the words repotted and potted in the dictionary (and even thought of many definitions after that dictionary edition was printed), all ranging from nouns and adjectives to verbs.



So, what is the purpose of repotting a plant? Perhaps it has grown so profusely that the roots are bound by the pottery sides. Possibly it is repotted to make several plants from the one that was enclosed to spread throughout your garden or share with friends. Maybe the soil needs to be replaced because there are no longer any nutrients or minerals to sustain the plant's life. Possibly the plant was ailing or dead from neglect and needed to be separated from the other healthy plants.

So how can I repot myself into a more effective and efficient individual? Possibly, I should dig myself up and start anew with a soil test of my attitudes, strengths and desires. Old baggage and behaviors should be thrown out like the soil that has lost its nutrients. Innovative ideas should replace the old tried and true methods for life choices. Kindness and compassion could rain upon the newly repotted plant to be shared with the community. Roots could be free to grow into new directions and into new missions of service. Gone are the dead and ailing excuses or desires, and they should be replaced with new and inspiring dreams for a better world.

I shall smile each time I encounter the tea towel, and I will remember the purpose of a life repotted daily.

**History of the club continues  
on the following pages.**

## Appendix

### Appendix 3

#### Marshall's 1973 Presentation re Ezell

This is a copy of President E. W. (Snow) Marshall's presentation to Mr. Ezell on November, 1973, at a "thank-you" dinner at Dorman High School sponsored by the City.

---

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome again to Ladies Night Annual Meeting of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

I want to thank Henry Pittman with all my heart for the privilege of recognizing one of our pioneer leaders in the beautification of the City and County of Spartanburg-- Mr. Walter Orlando Ezell.

May I tell you a little bit about his background. He was born in Cross Keys, N. C., June 30, 1891 and his family moved when he was a baby to Landrum, S. C. and later to Chesnee. His mother was a great gardener, and W.O. (as we all call him) immediately became interested, in helping his mother while his brother was off hunting. The records do not show how many of the flowers he pulled up in place of weeds when he was a small boy.

Mr. Ezell moved to Spartanburg in 1912 to work for the Geer Drug Co. on Magnolia Street and after 50 years he retired as Vice President and Sales Manager of the Company. He is recognized as one of the standing authorities in wholesale drugs all over the United States.

In 1951 Geer Drug Co. moved to its present location on W. O. Ezell Boulevard, and then Mr. Ezell showed his real talent as a flower lover. I was working at the Fairforest Finishing Division of Reeves Brothers at the time and saw the building going up, and a bulldozer leveling off a red clay gully which ran across the East side of the lot.

Slowly but surely and under the close supervision of Mr. Ezell this red ugly gully was transformed into a lovely flower garden with blooming flowers from early spring to late fall. I believe I saw Mr. Ezell performing all types of jobs except driving the bull dozer, and he might have been doing this.

The story is told that one day his preacher came along after the garden was so beautiful and said, "Mr. Ezell, look what the hand of the Lord can do," and Mr. Ezell's answer was, "You should have seen it when the Lord had it by himself".

After completing the garden at the Geer Drug Co., he continued his plantings and beautification westward until it now reaches the Blackstock Road just beyond Dorman High School.

A granite marker was erected near Dorman in 1970 which reads as follows:

*W. O. Ezell Boulevard*

*Dedicated in 1970*

*By appreciative officials and citizens to W. O. Ezell  
for making Spartanburg the City of Flowers*

May I inject at this time what a happy family occasion is approaching for Mr. and Mrs. Ezell, for on Christmas day, they will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary—and that is the Diamond one.

## Appendix

May God bless you with many more.

Mr. Ezell's local, state, national and international honors are too many to relate during my limited time.

He was a charter member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club when it was organized in 1936

He was a Charter Member of the City's Beautification Committee with 2 other members of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and 2 other interested citizens.

He was instrumental in beautifying Cleveland Park, Duncan Park and many cross streets in the city where the right of way permitted.

And Oh! How we loved his radio program which continued for years.

He published this book entitled "Carolina Garden Guide" which now is a collector's item. To indicate Mr. Ezell's wonderful humor this quote is on the cover

"Old gardeners never die - they just spade away"

And to show his love for his Lord and Savior this lovely poem:

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth."*

Mr. Ezell traveled to many places in the United States for he served on the National Board of the Men's Garden Council, and he went to Europe twice, especially to Holland to study their famous tulip gardens. My wife and I were at the Charles Towne Landing during the Tri-Centennial Celebration, and in the parking lot started talking to a family from Michigan. The man of the family asked us where we were from in South Carolina, and when we answered Spartanburg, he said "Do you know Mr. W. O. Ezell? I went out of my way to visit him in Spartanburg, because I had met him at one of the National meetings and loved him like everyone else does."

Before closing I would like to read these two short poems, some of the words you have heard all your life.

First from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life"

*Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Foot prints on the sands of time."*

And second from John Keats

*"A thing of beauty is a joy forever,  
Its loveliness increases, it will never pass into nothingness;  
but still will keep a bower of quiet for us and a sleep full of sweet dreams and health and quiet breathing."*

Mr. Ezell, Mrs. Ezell, and their daughter Mrs. Bertha McArthur—  
And now may I present this plaque which has the National Men's Garden Council Bronze Medallion showing a gardener with his big hat on, a flower in one hand, and a hoe and rake in the other.

This plaque reads,

IN TRIBUTE TO W. O. EZELL  
FOR HIS TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION IN CITY BEAUTIFICATION.  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB, 1973

Congratulations, Sir. May God Bless you all.

---



# July 2024



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### **Officers**

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Beth Waddell
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Shelia Middlebrooks

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## **President's Corner**

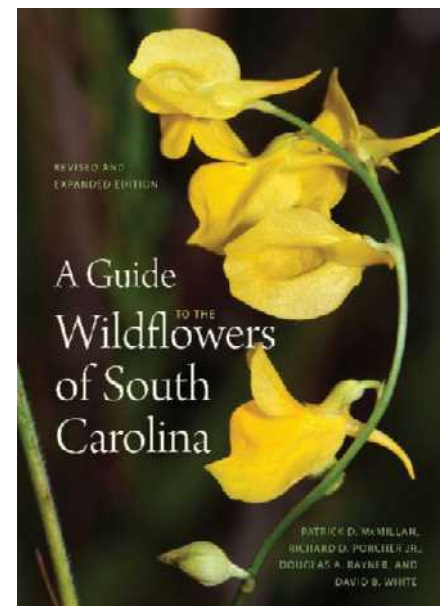
We are now more than half way through the year. This means our nominating committee is springing into action to provide a good slate of candidates to lead the club in 2025. Again this year, Ben Waddell has agreed to chair the nominating committee. We expect to have many of the current board members and officers sign on for another year. The nominated slate of candidates needs to be set by early August, so that it can be published in the August and September newsletters.

We do need to get some members who have not served on the board previously to consider doing so this year. Our bylaws do include term limits, so we will have some turn over by 2026 at the latest. It is not too soon to show interest in becoming a board member. Please let Ben or one of the board members know if you are interested. If we are fortunate, we may finally get a dynamic president to come in and lead the club. Let's hope so!

## **Dr. Doug Rayner SMGC Speaker July 15 2024**

### **"A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina"**

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is delighted to have Dr. Douglas Rayner as the guest speaker for our July program. Dr. Doug was the first botanist hired by the Heritage Trust in South Carolina and was a beloved professor at Wofford College for thirty-one years. During these years, he taught ten different courses, including field courses studying plant and animal recognition. He inspired and motivated many students about the study of science and nature. Along with the talents of Patrick D. McMillan, Richard D. Porcher and David White, their wonderful research guide entitled, "A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina" has been revised and expanded. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Dr. Rayner and get excited about this amazing research guide!





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September 16	Club Picnic	
October 21	Birds	Irvin Pitts
November	Annual meeting and installation of officers	



Mark Carlson, in charge of the SMGC nursery, also took time to stick cuttings for the plant sales.



Will Hawkins helps stick cuttings to provide plants for our plant sales.



<https://facebook.com/groups/smgc1948>





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**Photography  
by Linda McHam**



A tomato variety from Pam Datwyler at the April SMGC meeting: she gave me this whopper called 'Goat Bag'!



My first attempt at growing chick peas (aka garbanzos). Lesson learned: you need to plant a lot.



Another first attempt: Elderberries. This variety is called 'Ranch'. *Sambuccus canadensis* 'Ranch'.

---

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Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve  
Piedmont Farm & Garden  
Peggy Wilson, Realtor  
Wofford College





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## **Member Musing**

**By Will Hawkins**

### *Pittsburgh*

In May I took a trip to Pittsburgh, which is a city I have wanted to visit for a few years. The images I have seen of Pittsburgh looked like it is a beautiful city with its three rivers and beautifully designed bridges, in addition to being located near Mount Washington. Plus, I wanted to visit Pittsburgh as it is the home of one of my childhood heroes, Mister Rogers. I also wanted to see the Braves play the Pirates there.

While I was in Pittsburgh, I paid two beautifully landscaped areas a visit. Point State Park is right at the confluence of the three rivers (where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet to form the Ohio River. Point State Park commemorates and preserves the historic heritage of the area during the French and Indian War (1754-1763). There are three granite traceries present in the park, marking the former Fort Duquesne (1754) and Fort Pitt (1759) and outlining the original confluence of the three rivers and the point. The Fort Pitt Museum located there gives you plenty of details about the War and Forts. Surrounding Point State Park are not only the three rivers and fort, but there are woodlands and forested areas along the riverfront promenades.

Over 54,000 native trees, shrubs and flowers with identifying signage can be found here. The 2009 renovation of the woodlands received over 7,000 new plantings such as blooming phlox, dogwood, redbud, honey locust, blueberry, hydrangea, wild phlox, mayapple, wild geranium and hay-scented fern, just to name a few, and an irrigation system and new stone edging along the walkways. Point State Park really is a gardener's delight in addition to having an historic aspect. Right at the confluence of the rivers is a majestic fountain which shoots 150 feet in the air. It operates seasonally, but it is a must-see feature in the warmer months.

I also rode up to Mount Washington on the Duquesne Incline. From there, you get a wonderful view of Pittsburgh, the rivers and Point State Park. Mount Washington also has many beautiful trees and shrubs. It is beautiful to see any time, but I am sure if a trip is timed to Pittsburgh at the peak of fall foliage or spring blooms, it really would be a sight to behold.

To get another great view of Pittsburgh, I recommend taking a Gateway Clipper River Cruise. The cruise covers all of Pittsburgh's rivers and you can get a view everything I mentioned while learning all kinds of Pittsburgh history.

Pittsburgh has made an effort to become more "green." In recent years, they completed a "Pittsburgh Redbud Project" in which the city planted 3,770 redbud trees! If I take another trip to Pittsburgh, on my bucket list will include a visit to the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.



**History of the club continues  
on the following pages.**

## **Appendix**

### **Appendix 4**

#### **Ezell Spot of Pride Dedication Remarks**

This is a copy of Henry Pittman's presentation at the official dedication ceremony of the Ezell Spot of Pride on West Main St. on June 1, 2001.

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##### ***THE SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB'S "SPOT OF PRIDE" PROJECT***

The Spartanburg (South Carolina) Men's Garden Club has been heavily involved in community beautification for over 50 years. So, it is natural that it should enthusiastically get on-board and support a new beautification project initiated by another closely associated organization, "Spartanburg PRIDE Task Force". PRIDE is a very loosely organized group of folks interested in saying thank you to organizations that are found doing something good and right, and not afraid of occasionally rapping knuckles of those who litter, fail to maintain their landscape, leave abandoned buildings unattended, etc.

The new project is public/private cooperation between the City and private organizations. It involves locating dozens of areas in the community that have landscape potential, developing preliminary landscape plans for those areas along with estimated costs for both initial construction and annual professional maintenance, and soliciting local organizations to adopt the areas. Plans, photographs, maps, cost sheets, etc. comprise promotional notebooks which are used to explain and sell the project.

In order to insure quality construction and ongoing maintenance, sponsoring organizations must agree to up-front depositing of substantial funds in a special account administered by a local endowment group—these funds equal costs for initial construction plus three years of maintenance. The City and PRIDE jointly handle and supervise contracts with professional maintenance companies.

The Men's Garden Club had no trouble in deciding to sponsor an early demonstration "Spot" using funds from its treasury and a matching grant from a philanthropic fund established by its beloved deceased member and former MGCA Director, W. O. Ezell. This was done cooperatively with the City which not only added additional funds, but also managed construction and will provide ongoing maintenance.

This demonstration "Spot of Pride" is on a prominent 250 foot long triangle on West Main Street which was renamed "W. O. Ezell Boulevard" a number of years

## **Appendix**

ago; the street is a memorial to this MGC member who was instrumental in giving Spartanburg the reputation of being "the city of flowers". This new SOP not only contains flowers, shrubs, trees, lawn and oriental grasses, and has an automatic irrigation system, but the large granite Ezell commemorative marker has been relocated to a prominent area in the garden.

Currently, over 40 potential new SOPs have been identified in Spartanburg, six have been adopted and a dozen have been reserved by potential sponsoring organizations. So the MGC is enthusiastic that with its demonstration Spot of Pride officially dedicated in May, it will become one of many to be developed in the community over the next few years—and will indeed serve as a reminder of the great beautification work of "Mr. W. O."



# August 2024

# Gardening & Beautification

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## President's Corner

Gardening is a hobby that gets high marks for being a healthy activity. Gardeners are usually outside breathing the fresh air and enjoying the sunshine. The physical activity keeps us in good shape. Most gardeners enjoy a good mental state of being. There is something about digging in the dirt that brings peace to our beings.

Gardening is wonderful, but there are risks that need to be managed. One obvious issue is sun damage to the skin. Those of us with Northern European ancestry, like me, are particularly susceptible to sun damage. The August meeting will have a very important presentation on protecting our body from too much sun. We hope to see you Monday, August 19.

## Christopher Thompson **SMGC Speaker August 19 2024**

### "Skin Care for Gardeners"



As avid gardeners, our skin is exposed to many hours of sunlight. Perhaps you have already been concerned about the effect upon your skin's health. Our August SMGC meeting will feature Christopher Thompson who is a certified physician assistant who specializes in both medical and surgical dermatology.

Chris is skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of all dermatological disorders, including skin cancer. Please join us as we learn how to protect our skin (the largest organ in the body) so that we can enjoy our gardening time to the fullest!



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**Club Picnic**

**October 21**

**Birds**

**Irvin Pitts**

**November**

**Annual meeting and installation of officers**

## Candidate Slate for 2025

### Proposed Officers for the coming year

President: Phil Abers

Vice President: Beth Waddell

Secretary: Denie Crowder

Treasurer: Sheila Middlebrooks

### Proposed Directors for the coming year

**Returning for 2nd year of a 2 year term**

Darvin Helvy

Charles Covert

### New directors for a 2 year term

Will Hawkins

Charles Crescenzi

Ben Waddell

Mark Van Natta

Ed White

Roberta White

Curtis Marshall

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### Member Musing

By Jim and Regina Weeks

When first married in 1972, we didn't have the conditions for the orchids we tried; Regina has done quite well with them here. Our first success was an African violet under a grow light. We were truly hooked when Crockett's Victory Garden appeared in 1975. We joined the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, allowing pre-admission to the Philadelphia Flower Show, the oldest and largest indoor show. Entering Medical School at age 31 didn't leave a lot of time to garden, although we had a perennial garden in Philly, getting plants mail order from an Ohio business that became Wayside Gardens in Hodges SC. A favorite was Lythrum, now known as a bane in wetlands. We did find time for frequent trips to Longwood Gardens, and later to the botanical gardens in Pittsburgh while I trained at Pitt.

Coming to Spartanburg in 1985, we became garden center groupies, frequenting Underwood and S. Pleasantburg nurseries in Greenville, in addition to those in Sparkle City. Woodlanders in Aiken provided a host of mail-order plants. After the Master Gardener course in 2006, I did PAR (Plant a Row for the Hungry) in Cowpens for 12 years. I distinguished myself as the only Master Gardener to run over his leg with a rototiller! We both also joined the Men's Garden Club and are long time members. These days are spent mostly fighting deer, which our neighbors are luring in with food.

*Some favorite plants on our property:*



**Golden Rain Tree**



**Grancy Graybeard**



**Morris Arboretum**



**Kolkwitzia Amabilis**



**Viburnum Carlcephalum**

History of the club continues on the following pages.



Appendix 5

**HATCHER AWARD NOMINATION – SERTOMA**

This is a copy of Henry Pittman's public citation when Mr. Hatcher was presented the "Service to Mankind" award by the eight Sertoma Clubs of Spartanburg on Feb. 10, 1988.

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NOMINATION OF MR. HAROLD O. HATCHER  
FOR THE  
SERTOMA SERVICE TO MANKIND AWARD  
by  
Piedmont Sertoma Club

Shortly after moving to Spartanburg in 1969 from Indiana, Harold O. Hatcher joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and began an avocation of community beautification and concern that has had everlasting benefit.

Sixteen years ago he purchased a home on Briarwood Rd. which adjoined a desolate 6 1/2 acre track of badly eroded scrub tree gullies- -an absolute wasteland. After retiring in 1972, he, along with his wife, Josephine who recently retired from a teaching career at Spartanburg Methodist College, envisioned transformation of this worn out property into a lush horticultural park. He graded, built dams, installed pumping systems, terraced and eventually formed five ponds which not only use water from a stream which passes through the property, but collects and controls street water from the surrounding residential area. An extensive irrigation system moves this water and provides sustenance for the thousands of native and improved plants which he has added to the area. He built two miles of natural winding paths, many built along steep banks and the rolling hillsides adjoining the ponds; they join areas containing 200 hybrid rhododendrons, countless azaleas, hundreds of dogwood, and dozens of other types of trees and shrubs. A large area is devoted to native wild flowers, another is the home of dozens of varieties of perennials, and yet another is a pond-side grass terrace where numerous marriages and other ceremonies have been held. Garden clubs, civic and nature groups, and the public in general have been welcomed by the Hatchers to tour his park at will. Most of the vast improvements made in the Hatcher park were from the personal labor of Mr. Hatcher. He has converted a large area on the back side of the property adjoining Reidville Road into a combination vegetable garden and an auxiliary tree farm for the Men's Garden Club; literally hundreds of loads of waste leaves from the city have been used to improve the soil and drainage of this nursery section.

While still in good health (he had multiple heart bypasses two years ago) and while continuing to work personally many hours each week improving the park, Mr. Hatcher has in December set up a trust into which the ownership of the park was donated. The Spartanburg County Foundation is the holder of the Trust with Spartanburg Technical College as the planned primary recipient. The college plans to not only maintain the property and use it for horticultural teaching purposes, but to eventually make it a full public park. Mr. Hatcher donated an adjoining house and lot on the Reidville road side of the property which can become the public entry.

Mr. Hatcher has been the undisputed most active member of the Men's Garden Club over the past years. While never agreeing to serve as official president, he has

## Appendix

been an ongoing director (now emeritus) and has edited or co-edited the club's monthly newsletter for years and has directed many committees and work groups. He initiated the MGC's massive community tree sale program in 1979 through which 20-thousand dogwood, crape myrtles and other trees were purchased wholesale and passed on to citizens, schools and civic groups at almost cost. He then envisioned and has been the prime mover in developing the MGC Tree Bank, where tree seedlings are purchased, or grown from seed cooperatively with the State Forestry Commission, and planted on City property in cooperation with the Parks~ and Recreation Department. He organizes and leads other club members (most of them older, retired men) in tending these plants until they are sufficiently mature for moving to public areas for community beautification projects. Over 600 of these trees have been planted on City or County public property at no cost to the recipient during the past five years. An additional 12,500 have been provided at low cost to citizens, neighborhood associations, community groups, schools, etc. for landscaping. In total, Mr. Hatcher is directly and personally responsible for the successful planting of at least 40-thousand trees in the Spartanburg community in the past 8 years.

Mr. Hatcher continues to serve on the City-County Beautification Committee where he was chairman for a number of years.

He has for many years been 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 has been 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 we have been honored as a winner the past six years.

Mr. Hatcher's creativity, imagination and determination for getting the job done efficiently is demonstrated by his initiating the successful use of Community Service Personnel (persons convicted of DUI, etc.) as supplementary labor in many of his tree-planting projects and clean-up projects.

He serves on the Spartanburg City Tree Board which has broad responsibility for protection and enhancing of trees in the city. Also, he has had many personal activities pertaining to the Tree City Award which Spartanburg has been awarded six times, commencing when he was chairman of the City Beautification Committee. Indeed, we would not have received these recognitions had it not been for Harold Hatcher's activity.

In addition to his example of horticultural stewardship, Mr. Hatcher initiated a community-wide oil reclamation program in 1984 which has been conducted successfully with the Spartanburg City Fire Department.

Of major importance is his and Mrs. Hatcher's leadership in founding and nurturing the County's Nature Science Center. He has served as both Director and as Treasurer. This organization has been and will continue to be a recipient and user of Hatcher Park.

He is an active member of the local Unitarian Church.

Prior to his retirement (can this be called retirement??) 14 years ago, he directed the Piedmont Community Action program in Spartanburg where he was a professional in helping people.

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

Thank you, Harold O. Hatcher!

# September 2024 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### **Officers**

President Phil Abers  
Vice President Beth Waddell  
Secretary Denie Crowder  
Treasurer Shelia Middlebrooks

### **Directors**

Charles Covert  
Darvin Helvy  
Curtis Marshall  
Joan Marshall  
Linda McHam

### **Communications**

Linda McHam  
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org  
Phil Abers  
President@DirtDaubers.org  
Mark Carlson  
PlantSales@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:  
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

## **President's Corner**

We are already getting ready for the Fall Plant Sale. The container garden looks great thanks to Mark Carlson and the support crew. The third shade structure has been very helpful. It protects sensitive plants from too much sun in the summer and high winds in the winter. A special thanks to Bob Reynolds for his assistance in acquiring the two large shade structures.

The propagation effort has been successful the past two years, which has helped build our plant inventory. The plants look great and we have many to choose from. We are set up to have an excellent fall plant sale. All we need now to have a successful plant sale is customers. We will have ads in the paper and post the sale information on our website and social media. I am asking all members to put on your sales hats and help bring in customers. Let's make the Fall 2024 Plant Sale a Winner!

## **2024 Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Picnic**

Please join us for the September 16th SMGC (Monday) meeting as we celebrate with food, fun and fellowship. Our annual picnic will be moved from the SCC Pavilion (due to renovations) to the Community Room in the Health Sciences Building. We will gather at 6:00 PM. Once again, the club will provide the hamburgers, buns and all the fixings. Club members with last names starting with A-L are responsible for the desserts. Members with last names starting with M-Z are responsible for side dishes. Mark your calendars!







Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
**DirtDaubers.org**

*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, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.*



## 2024 Litter pickup schedule

**December 7 "snow" Dec 14**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

## Renew Now 2024 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 Shelia Middlebrooks.



## Gardening & Beautification

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## Presentations for 2024

**September 16**

**Club Picnic**

**October 21**

**Birds**

**Irvin Pitts**

**November**

**Annual meeting and installation of officers**

## Candidate Slate for 2025

### Proposed Officers for the coming year

President: Phil Abers

Vice President: Beth Waddell

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### Proposed Directors for the coming year

**Returning for 2nd year of a 2 year term**

Darvin Helvy

Charles Covert

### New directors for a 2 year term

Will Hawkins

Charles Crescenzi

Ben Waddell

Mark Van Natta

Ed White

Roberta White

Curtis Marshall

**Our Corporate Members are listed below.  
Please support them.**

Creekside Garden & Nursery

Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve

Piedmont Farm & Garden

Peggy Wilson, Realtor

Wofford College



<https://facebook.com/groups/smgc1948>



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## Member Musing

By Mark Carlson

In addition to death and taxes, gardeners need to worry about one more fact of life: when is the next invasive going to arrive? For South Carolina, the next to arrive will probably be the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). It is a planthopper indigenous to parts of China and Vietnam. It was first found in the United States in 2014 in southeastern Pennsylvania. Its preferred host is the (invasive) tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Unfortunately, it infests crops including soybean, grapes, *Malus* spp., *Prunus* spp., *Vaccinium* spp., and also feeds on a wide range of plants including trees (black walnut, river birch, willow, sumac, oaks, black locust, tulip tree and maples) and herbaceous plants including some vegetables. Since 2014, the spotted lanternfly has spread rapidly through the eastern states. The closest sighting so far to South Carolina was in Lake Toxaway, NC in September of 2023.

### *Spotted Lantern Fly*



SLF has one generation per year in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States where it is currently found. Eggs are deposited in masses of thirty to fifty and covered in grayish, inconspicuous waxy deposits. The eggs can be hard to spot on plant material, but can also be found on non-plant material, such as rocks, vehicles, and equipment, increasing the risk of increasing their distribution. Adults grow to about an inch long with wings and are most visible from August through September.

CLike most piercing sucking insects spotted lanternfly produces a sticky liquid, honeydew, that can collect on the ground or surrounding vegetation. This results in the growth of sooty mold, which can discolor and kill the plant, and attract other insects, negatively impacting the surrounding area, and interrupting crop harvests. In 2019, Pennsylvania State University estimated statewide costs of the spotted lanternfly to be \$99.1 million in agricultural losses, and \$236.3 million to the forestry industry, annually.

A few natural predators (parasitic wasps) have been identified in the lanternfly's native habitat in China, and a couple are being tested as potential control measures. Four species of fungal entomopathogens native to the United States have been identified to cause death in the spotted lanternfly. A number of insecticides are also effective at controlling the spotted lantern fly.

We may not yet have the spotted lantern fly in South Carolina. This insect is on the move. Please scout for this insect in your gardens when you are making your rounds. It is important to find it as early as possible in order to limit damage to our state's agriculture and natural resources. If you think you have found a spotted lanternfly, please take a picture of it and contact your local Clemson Extension office **864-596-2993**, or the Clemson Department of Plant Industry at **864-646-2140**.

**History of the club continues on the following pages.**

Appendix 6

**MGC Folder "Tree Planting Procedure"**

*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*



**TREE PLANTING PROCEDURE**

*Trees are important! If they aren't properly planted, they may die; they certainly won't prosper. This procedure is based on the best currently available professional advice.*

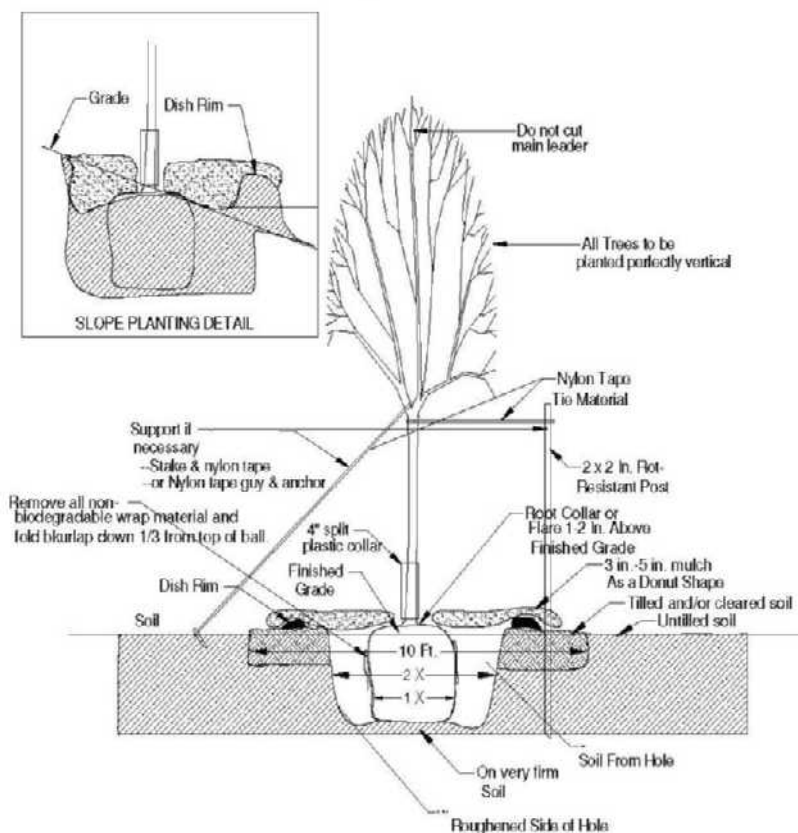
1. Planting Period is between Nov. 21 and Feb. 1, unless special provisions are made for watering and protection.
2. Pre-Watering. Before moving plant material to the planting area, make sure it is well hydrated.
3. Nutrients (optional). Normally withhold until tree is established. *Use no nitrogen at planting.*
4. Clear an area of weeds and brush in a 10 ft. area around planting site.
5. Till (optional) a 6-8 ft. diameter area around the planting location, 6 inches deep—unless this tilling will damage nearby plants. Modify till area as necessary to avoid damage. Rake the area level.
6. Locate Root Flare. Before digging the planting hole, **locate the top of root flare** carefully as follows...
7. B&B Plant—Loosen tie material from around the trunk, and turn down wrap material if necessary (avoid breaking root ball).
8. Container Plant—Remove the root ball from the container if necessary for examination.
9. Carefully remove soil from the top of the root ball to locate the root flare or root collar. (The root flare or collar is where the large roots join the wide part of the bottom of the trunk). Remove soil so the root flare is exposed and visible—*it must not be covered*.
10. Interior Circling or Girdling Roots. Check carefully at and under the root flare and close to the trunk for indication of circling/girdling roots. Cut these circling roots, or *reject the plant*.
11. Measure the new depth of the root ball from the exposed root flare (Par. 4, above) to the bottom of the root ball. This dimension is necessary to know how deep to dig the planting hole. If this dimension is significantly less than the original root ball depth (i.e., it may be a smaller root ball), the root system may be insufficient—*consider rejecting the plant*.
12. Dig the planting hole depth to the new dimension of the root ball (*shallow*) so the root ball will sit in it with the **root flare 1 or 2 inches above the finished grade**. Dig the hole with *sloping sides* and at least *twice as wide* as the ball. *Roughen the sides* of the hole.
13. Roughen and taper augured hole sides before planting
14. Check depth. If the planting hole is too deep, back fill and pack the bottom *very firm* to assure proper depth.
15. Container Grown Plant—
16. Remove the root ball from its container.
17. Circling roots. Make 3 cuts 1-2 inches deep down the side of the root ball through the surface roots.
18. Bottom roots. Make 2 cuts 1-2 inches deep across the bottom of the root ball through the surface roots.
19. Protect roots from drying out. Do *not* allow roots to be exposed to drying conditions. Keep root ball moist and minimize sun exposure.
20. Set the root ball in the hole in proper upright position.
21. Check planting depth and if too deep (Par. 7, above), stabilize root ball to avoid breaking, lift and adjust as necessary. Assure root ball rests on undisturbed or very firmly packed soil.
22. Back fill 1/2 the hole. Use native excavated soil (normally *not amended* with humus unless it is of unusually poor quality) and work soil around the root ball carefully to eliminate voids or air pockets.



## Appendix

23. Remove all straps, cord, wire, wrap, etc. from the top half of the root ball. Assure there are no restraints around the trunk.
24. Turn burlap wrap (biodegradable) fabric down to side of ball so it will be completely buried.
25. Remove any synthetic wrap (non-biodegradable) fabric completely. Handle the root ball carefully to not break it.
26. Check root flare location again. Remove any soil above the root flare carefully and check to make sure the root flare is 1 or 2 inches above the surrounding soil elevation. Correct the planting depth if necessary.
27. Complete backfilling and firm with moderate foot pressure. **Do not fill above root flare.**
28. Water retention ring. Rake the top of the backfill soil to form a raised ring of soil outside of the edge of the planting hole and 2 to 3 inches high. Make sure this ring is level so that it will hold water.
29. Water thoroughly (desirable, but optional depending on weather and season). Do not damage water retention ring.
30. Protective Collar. Place a 12 in. long 4 in. diameter slit plastic collar around base of tree.
31. Mulching. Add 6-foot diameter, 3-5 inches (not more) thick of hardwood chip or bark mulch inside and outside the water retention ring. Keep mulch 6 inches *away from trunk* ("donut" shape). Where tree is adjacent to fence, add mulch to fence as a sweeping line to make grass mowing efficient.
32. Tree Supports (avoid if possible). If truly necessary, install guys or stakes immediately after planting. Exercise care to avoid injury to trunk or crotches. Remove after first year.
  - A. Guying--Attach 3 nylon tape guys to the tree 6-8 ft. above ground. Attach guys firmly to 3 stakes located around tree to form a 45° angle with the ground.
  - B. Staking--Drive approximately 8-ft. long stakes 2 ft. deep into firm soil outside of the planting hole. Secure the tree to these stakes with nylon tape.
23. Destroy the water ring after the third year (pull away from trunk and use care to not fill soil over root flare). Correct mulching as necessary.

8-15-06, chp



Pittman Gardens, 8-15-06

# October 2024

# Gardening & Beautification

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## **President's Corner**

We concluded a successful plant sale last weekend. Although our revenue was not as high as recent plant sales, we did quite well, considering the short notice, due to rescheduling because of Hurricane Helene. We had some of our regular customers, but also a number of new clients. It is encouraging that we are reaching an ever-increasing clientele.

One memorable event during the sale occurred when a large van representing a senior community stopped to shop. The driver, who worked for the facility, was there to buy a few plants. She brought a couple of the residents along with her for an outing. One lady was very happy to be among all the plants. She reminisced about the garden she and her husband had at their home. We talked about what a great hobby gardening is and that it provides enjoyable physical activity. Gardening also gives its participants a life time of wonderful, happy recollections. Let's continue to create cherished memories as we share this great hobby.

We are excited to have Irvin Pitts as our guest speaker for the meeting on October 21. Irvin is a native of Spartanburg and has a lifelong love for birds. He retired from the SC State Park Service as Chief of Resource Management, and he served as a State Parks Biologist working as a Ranger/Naturalist. Earlier in his career Irvin worked at both Table Rock and Caesar's Head State Parks. Invite your friends to join us as we learn more about inviting beautiful birds into our gardens.



Table Rock State Park



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**Photography  
by Linda McHam**

Several of the 30  
trees that came  
down during  
Hurricane Helene.



Clean up of a very large (5 ft diameter) oak tree that came up from its roots. This one tree took an entire day to remove

A group of young men from Rome, Georgia, came to Spartanburg to help with the clean-up the day after the storm. I was fortunate to work with them for four days while they cut and moved the fallen trees from around our property to the road for the City to pick up at some future date. The owner, Michael Hogan, is at the left.



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Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve  
Piedmont Farm & Garden  
Peggy Wilson, Realtor  
Wofford College





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## Member Musing

By Darwin Helvy

### *Vegetable Gardening is more than low cost, great taste or freshness*

Summer or winter, gardening is just good fun for gardeners. Only a few enterprises about the home give as much satisfaction and big net returns as the vegetable garden. I often think about the low cost, taste and freshness as I look at what's growing in my garden each year. There is a lot that goes into gardening. All the planning, using the 3 S's (seeds, sun and soil), recording or tracking in a garden diary year-to-year, loving the harvest time and reflecting on all the work that goes into making your garden a success. The best part is enjoying eating and sharing the bounty throughout the gardening season.

For the last 3-4 years I have just tried to keep it simple by selecting plants that I believe will grow well from seed and flourish in this climate. The plants I choose are tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, green beans, lettuce, basil, parsley, and oregano. All fresh vegetables are high in vitamins and nutrients, but we generally are not aware of their nutrient value ([Vegetables\\_122107\\_S \(fda.gov\)](https://www.fda.gov/food/vegetables-122107-s)). I know vegetable are good for me, but "why" is the question. There is no single most healthy vegetable, but eating a variety of vegetables can improve health and well-being. All vegetables contain healthful vitamins, minerals, and [dietary fiber](#) — but some stand out for their exceptional benefits. I did not grow the above list of veggies for their nutritious options. I grew them because it's what we like and for the low cost, great taste and freshness, but I will take the extra health benefits.



Two of my favorites (peppers and tomatoes) have the following benefits ([15 healthiest vegetables: Nutrition and health benefits \(medicalnewstoday.com\)](#)) For example, bell peppers contain 38.7 calories, 190 mg of vitamin C, 0.434 mg of vitamin B6, folate, and beta carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. How to eat bell peppers? Bell peppers are extremely versatile and are easy to incorporate into many dishes, such as pasta, scrambled eggs, or a salad.

Tomatoes are technically a fruit, but most people treat them like vegetables and use them in savory dishes. Each cup of chopped, raw tomatoes contains 32.4 calories, 427 mg of potassium, and 24.7 mg of vitamin C. Tomatoes also contain lycopene, a powerful antioxidant. Research Trusted Source suggests that lycopene may help prevent prostate cancer, and the beta carotene in tomatoes also helps combat cancer. Meanwhile, other potent antioxidants in tomatoes, such as lutein and zeaxanthin, may protect vision. How to eat tomatoes? People enjoy tomatoes raw or cooked, and cooking them releases more lycopene. They are also great sliced with a side of guacamole or my wife's favorite – a tomato sandwich.

Eating vegetables every day is important for health. They provide essential vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients, such as antioxidants and fiber. Research consistently shows that people who eat at least five servings of vegetables a day have the lowest risk of many diseases, including cancer and [heart disease](#). Enjoy a range of vegetables daily to reap as many health benefits as possible.

P.S. Your Peppers may even smile for you ☺

**History of the club continues on the following pages.**

## Appendix 7

### Additional “Minor” MGC Tree-Related Projects

In addition to the Club’s “major” tree planting projects described in Chapter 5, there are many other “minor” landscape enhancements of value to the community, and possibly of historical significance.

This group includes these projects:

- US-29 Treescape, South to Wellford.
- Trees Spartanburg.
- Professional Pruning – E. Main and North Pine.
- Reidville Road (SC-296) Treescape
- Coalition to Encourage Wal-Mart Landscaping
- Tree Planting Bi-Fold
- Crape Myrtle Maintenance and Brochure
- Landscaping of the Georgia Cleveland House (now the St. Luke’s Free Medical Clinic on Dean Street in mid 80s
- Landscape enhancement of Glen Park
- Treescaping of the New Day Clubhouse near Asheville Highway in the 90s.
- Landscaping of T.O.T.A.L. Ministries on S. Pine Street and the Safe Home in the 90s.

Many of these are briefly described below:

**US-29 Treescape, South to Wellford.** The Club was an encourager and members were consultants to Sally Peak, Wellford’s Mayor, as she began promoting landscaping the six-mile-long medians on US-29 toward Greenville. Mayor Peak had identified the location of potential planting sites and requested help in plant selection and other details. Jack Turner, George Gunter and Henry Pittman developed a list of 29 suggested suitable trees—small, medium, and large growing—and they and other SMGC members met with Peak in 1999 for encouragement and a discussion of procedure and maintenance.

The project was financed with Federal TEA-21 and the City of Wellford funds. Spartanburg City engineer Mike Garrett developed the final detailed plans and worked with Wellford officials on the implementation. Turner continued as prime consultant to Peak and Garrett through installation in 2000. This median treescape is a significant enhancement to that part of Spartanburg County.

**Trees Spartanburg.** For a number of years in the 1990s when hardware store owner Co Irwin was its chairman, the PRIDE Task Force discussed how an expansion of, or complement to, the Men’s Garden Club’s tree planting program might be created to enhance Spartanburg even more. PRIDE members including Tracy Hannah, Julie Lowry, Hans Balmer and Henry Pittman joined Irwin in strongly endorsing and supporting the new exploration. PRIDE had developed great respect for the extensive treescaping done by Trees Atlanta under



## Appendix

the leadership of Marsha Bansley who was also a consultant to Mr. Milliken's Noble Tree Foundation.

Following the success of Atlanta's "Trees Atlanta," Irwin was successful in putting the new organization named "Trees Spartanburg" together as a functioning group with new ties to SPACE (the Spartanburg Conservation Endowment) in 1998. Gary Henderson's newspaper article of July, 1998, praised the new program and its planned Willow Oak plantings on the new library grounds.

The first large project of Trees Spartanburg was the planting of rows of Willow Oaks on the shoulders of the entry and exit ramps of all four clover-leafs of the I-26 highway at US-29 (West Main Street) in 1999. With Club encouragement, Pittman worked with Irwin in creating the design for the project which was similar to the Club's 1989 treescape of East Main Street. The row of European Hornbeams on the shoulder by the warehouse at the corner of Union and Kennedy Streets was another early TS project.

Many other successful street tree plantings were completed by Trees Spartanburg, most with cooperation and help from the City of Spartanburg, but many were planted by local volunteers. But, unfortunately, the trees organization was not a good fit with SPACE and the partnership was terminated in the early decade.

**Professional Tree Pruning.** Without the financial underwriting of Mr. Roger Milliken and the W. O. Ezell Beautification Fund at the Spartanburg County Foundation, the Club would not have been able to organize and manage the professional pruning of its 1989 Willow Oaks on E. Main Street or its 1986 Red Sunset Maples by the professional arborist, John Martin in 1998-1999.

**Reidville Road (SC-296) Treescape.** The influence of the Men's Garden Club was strong in the minor treescaping of Reidville Road (SC-296) from Anderson Mill Road, west to SC-290 in 2000. This road was being widened and the SPATS Road Enhancement Committee wanted it treescaped as Southport Road (SC-295) had been done earlier. But SCDOT wanted trees to be secondary to bridge enhancements.

With Club help and encouragement, Bill Lonon of the County and Pittman developed a plan which was executed in 2004 with some 100 shoulder trees. Not heavily planted with trees, the beauty of this highway was improved considerably by this project and input by the Men's Garden Club.

**Coalition to Encourage Wal-Mart Landscaping.** During the summer of 2000, the Club took the leadership in organizing an *ad hoc* coalition to work with the City and Wal-Mart's management, and its landscape architect, to insure the company's new proposed East-Side store would be properly landscaped and existing trees would be saved. The location is at the site of the community's oldest and largest plant nursery—the former Spartanburg Nursery and Landscape. The coalition consisted of representatives of the Garden Council, SPACE, Trees Spartanburg, PRIDE Task Force and the SMGC. While the grading and destruction of existing trees was extensive, the coalition's objectives were generally met and many trees were saved—particularly the specimen Dawn Redwood trees which Kevin Parris championed. Wal-Mart agreed to a significantly improved building facade and followed the City's requirement for parking lot shade trees. This is a rare example of early and constructive "preventive action" that would not have occurred without the early action of the Club.



**November 2024**

*Welcoming Men & Women*

# Spartanburg Men's Garden Club *Gardening & Beautification*

## Officers

President: Phil Abers  
Vice President: Beth Waddell  
Secretary: Denie Crowder  
Treasurer: Shelia  
Middlebrooks

## Directors

Charles Covert  
Darvin Helvey  
Curtis Marshall  
Joan Marshall  
Linda McHam

## Communications

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charge. Sign up for the emailed  
newsletter by sending your  
request to  
[Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org](mailto:Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org)*

## President's Corner

We have nearly reached the end of our 2024 Garden Club schedule. It has been a very good year. The plant sales went very well and our propagation effort is showing promising results. We have added some new members to the club, including some of the younger generation. Unfortunately, we lost long time member and contributor, Jack Turner. May we be able to replace his talent and ability.

I would like to thank the current board members for their efforts in 2024 and welcome the new members who will be installed at the November Annual Meeting. May their leadership help the club growth and fulfill our mission statement. I hope the New Year rings in a great year for the SMGC.



## November Presentation:

Are you searching for pristine beauty and adventure? Our November 18th meeting could fulfill your adventurous spirit and will feature our own SMGC President, Phil Abers. Phil and his brother recently took the trip of a lifetime to the remote areas of Alaska to visit the National Parks. Most of the native Alaskans have probably never experienced these remote sites, but you can enjoy them in the comfortable setting of our meeting room at Spartanburg Community College. Bring your adventurous spirit and join us as Phil takes us on a wonderful adventure to Alaska, the Last Frontier!

### Litter Pickup

December 7, 2024

*Our area for litter control is Pine Street from Palmetto Street to McCravy Drive. We meet in the parking area behind the Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Avenue).*

### Membership Renewal

Single \$20

Family \$28

Student \$5

Corporate \$100

Dues for the following year are due starting in September.



Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304

## Installation of Officers & Board Members 2025

Elected at the October meeting, the following people have agreed to serve in 2025: These Officers and Board Members will be installed at the November meeting:

President:	Phil Abers
Vice President:	Beth Waddell
Secretary:	Denie Crowder
Treasurer:	Shelia Middlebrooks

Proposed Directors for the coming year:

Returning for year two of a two-year term:

Darvin Helvy  
Charles Covert

New Directors for a two-year term:

Will Hawkins  
Charles Crescenzi  
Ben Waddell  
Mark Van Natta  
Ed White  
Roberta White  
Curtis Marshall

## Special Recognition of Bob Reynolds

As a long-time member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, we are pleased to honor Bob Reynolds as Director Emeritus. He has been a lifetime supporter of the club for well over 50 years. Please join us on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Bob's considerable contributions to the club.



Left: Bob and his wife at the 75<sup>th</sup> SMGC Anniversary dinner at the Piedmont Club. Right One of the shade structures that Bob donated to the club.

