

# August 2019

## Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



*Welcoming Men & Women*

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### Communications:

Darvin Helvy  
Publicity@DirtDaubers.org

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

Linda McHam  
Yahoo! Group  
GroupMail@DirtDaubers.org

### Gardening & Beautification

is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge.

Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:

Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

### President's Corner

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

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

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

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

### SMGC Speaker August 19, 2019

#### Jason Bagwell

#### "Sustainable Garden Program"

Horticultural Department Head at Spartanburg Community College.

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



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

**YAHOO!**  
GROUPS



Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



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



## Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

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

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

### 2019 Litter pickup schedule

**Sept. 21**      **Rain date Sept. 28**

**Dec. 7**      **Rain date Dec. 14**

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

Our history of the club continues on pages 4,5 and 6.

### Renew Now 2019 Membership

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

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

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.

## Summer Bloomers *by Mary Ann Hipp*

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



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

# Spartanburg County Master Gardener Course Fall 2019



SOUTH CAROLINA

# Master Gardener

A CLEMSON EXTENSION PROGRAM



## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

The SC Master Gardener Program is about learning more about gardening, and serving the community!

College level information taught in an easy to learn format!

Over 50 hours of class time and hands on learning!

**Topics include:** Soil fertility and conditioning, Composting, Herbaceous Plants, Basic Landscape Design, Lawn and Turf Care, Insects, Plant Diseases, and Weeds, Plant Propagation, Woody Landscape Shrubs, Urban Tree Care, Nuisance Wildlife Pest Management, Irrigation and Water-smart Landscapes and more!

Fee includes the book and the course.

### TO REGISTER ONLINE:

[https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569\\_ustores/web/classic/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=3256](https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569_ustores/web/classic/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=3256)

**CLEMSON**  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

### Tuesday Mornings

8-6-19

through

12-3-19

**At the Spartanburg  
County Extension  
Office**

**9:30am – 1:00pm**

**Cost: \$300.00**

**Contact: Drew Jeffers**

**864-596-2993**

[ajeffe3@Clemson.edu](mailto:ajeffe3@Clemson.edu)

[SPARTANBURG COUNTY  
EXTENSION WEBPAGE](#)

[FACEBOOK @  
SPARTANBURGCOUNTYEXTENSION](#)

Should you require special accommodations due to a disability, please notify our office ten days prior to the event.

# INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

Best Regards—and go plant a tree,

Henry Pittman April, 2010

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Henry July 2010