

September 2019 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers:

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

Directors:

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

Communications:

Darvin Helvy
Publicity@DirtDaubers.org

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

Linda McHam
Yahoo! Group
GroupMail@DirtDaubers.org

Gardening & Beautification

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

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

Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

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

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

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

The 2020 Slate

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

President: **Phil Abers**

Vice-President: **Everette Lineberger**

Secretary: **Denie Crowder**

Treasurer: **Mary Ann Hipp**

New Directors Nominations: Two year term

Linda Savoie, Charlie Crescenzi, Will Hawkins

Current Directors: One year left

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

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

Darvin Helvy / Nominating Committee Chair





Post Office Box 1502
 Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org



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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 3, 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.

Crepe Myrtles *by Mary Ann Hipp*

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

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

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



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

CHAPTER 1

Dirt Daubing: THE EARLY YEARS

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

- Margaret Meade

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

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

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

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

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

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

³ This MGCA Charter Membership Roll is in Appendix 16.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Gardening Course Planned

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

Spartanburg Herald Journal, March 1973

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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