

# October 2019

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



*Welcoming Men & Women*

## Officers:

President Don Crowder  
Vice President Bob Reynolds  
Secretary Denie Crowder  
Treasurer Mary Ann Hipp  
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Phil Abers  
Mark Carlson  
Charlie Crescenzi  
Sami Elhassani  
Jack Turner  
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## Gardening & Beautification

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

## Nominating Committee:

### Officers and new Directors Election this month

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

The following Officers have been nominated:

President: **Phil Abers**

Vice-President: **Everette Lineberger**

Secretary: **Denie Crowder**

Treasurer: **Mary Ann Hipp**

New Directors Nominations: Two year term

**Linda Savoie, Will Hawkins**



## President's Report:

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

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

## SMGC Speaker October 21, 2019

### Jenks Farmer

#### "Funky Little Flower Farm"

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



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



# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

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

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

**Photography by  
 Linda McHam**

From the Railroad  
 Museum installation  
 last October (2018).



## 2019 Litter pickup schedule

**Dec. 7      Rain date Dec. 14**

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

Our history of the club continues on the following pages.



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

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

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

Bring check or cash & completed  
 form to Joyce Crescenzi.

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

## CHAPTER 2

### Early Iconic Leaders: LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

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

- John Gardener

**S**urely the original organizers of the “Dirt Daubers” in 1948<sup>1</sup> had not only a personal love for gardening but also a desire for promoting its importance beyond the home garden and into the community.

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

#### Charles Lea

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

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



## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

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

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

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

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

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

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

### NOTES and NEWS about and for MGCA Members



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

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

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### W. O. Ezell

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

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

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

### Men’s Garden Club Organized Here in 1949

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

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

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

Membership was limited to 25.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

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

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

***Herald Journal, November 23, 2008***

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

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

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

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

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

He served as club treasurer from 1986 to 1992.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Membership Application

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club  
DirtDaubers.org



## 2020 Membership

Yes, I (we) wish to support the work of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, a 501(c)(3) organization, with my (our) membership. Dues are paid between September 1 and

December 31, 2019 for the following year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_    City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_    Zip: \_\_\_\_\_    Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Corporate telephone (business/home): (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
[DirtDaubers.org](http://DirtDaubers.org)



# Service. Beautification. Education.

Join the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

Your contribution makes a difference.

Come join us today!

## Green and Clean: Making Spartanburg Better.

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

