

# November 2019 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### **Officers:**

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

### **Directors:**

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

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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

## **President's Corner:**

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

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

Thanks,

Don Crowder

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

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

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

President: **Phil Abers**

Vice-President: **Everette Lineberger**

Secretary: **Denie Crowder**

Treasurer: **Mary Ann Hipp**

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



**SMGC Speaker November 18, 2019**

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



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, teaches a gardening class to the public, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.*

## 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.

**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.



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Photography by Linda McHam



**Acer palmatum  
'Osakazuki'**



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



**Camellia japonica  
'Leucantha'**



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

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



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

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

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

### Harold Hatcher

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

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

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

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

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

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



## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

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

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

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

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

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

### **Spartanburg MGC Member Receives Highest SC Award**

**Spartanburg Herald-Journal article dated Nov. 20, 2001**

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

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

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

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

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

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

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

He received many awards and recognition, most of which were a result of his creation of Hatcher Garden, but all also included his important contributions to the community through his work with the MGC. All the Sertoma Clubs in Spartanburg selected him for their joint "Service to Mankind Award" in 1988.<sup>5</sup> But the most significant was South Carolina's highest civilian award—the Governor's Order of the Palmetto — sponsored by the Club and presented at its Annual Meeting in November 2001.

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

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

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

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

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<sup>5</sup> See Appendix 5 for a copy of the text of the Sertoma nomination.

# Membership Application

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club  
DirtDaubers.org



## 2020 Membership

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

December 31, 2019 for the following year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
[DirtDaubers.org](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.

