

January 2020

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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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

Welcome to 2020. We are excited to be starting a new year at the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. We are lining up programs that we hope will provide gardening insights while being entertaining. Our mission is to "educate and inspire the public about better gardening practices and products." To help us achieve our mission, please invite guests to our meeting so that they may learn from our speakers.

This year we are focusing our club efforts on "growing" our membership. Please talk up our club when the opportunities arise. Regarding individual membership, we are setting a goal for each member to recruit one new member.

We also want to rebuild our corporate membership. At our January Board Meeting Charlie Crescenzi agreed to work on getting new corporate members. If you have any ideas on companies we should solicit to become corporate members, please contact Charlie or me.

If you have other suggestions for improving the club, please contact one of the board members. Let's have a great year!

A SERIES OF PROGRAMS for the new year has been announced by Program Chair, Everette Lineberger. Our January meeting will take place on **Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 pm** instead of Monday when we originally meet. Everette will speak on "The Sex Life of Plants – Reproduction and Propagation." Or "Birds, Bees and what?"

Future programs already scheduled are:

February 17 – "Growing Organically" with Ethan Jarrett of Cragmoor Farms. This is a USDA organically certified farm operated by District Six Schools and a private farm.

March 16 – "Looking Forward to Spring Bloom" to be presented by Betty Montgomery, MGC member and syndicated garden writer whose column appears in the Herald Journal. She is the author of Hydrangeas: How to Grow, Cultivate & Enjoy, and A Four-Season Southern Garden

April 20 – "Apples for Everyone" including information on new cultivars and new ways of growing them in a small space. The program will be presented by Jon Klimstra of TK Family Farm in Rutherfordton, NC.

Everette Lineberger SMGC Speaker January 21, 2019

Everette is the current Vice President and Program Chair, and is a former President and is an Emeritus Member of our Board. From 1988 to 2008 he and his wife, Ann, operated Quail Hill Gardens, specializing in irises and daylilies. He has had a life long interest in gardening, grew up on a farm in North Carolina, and is a previous Regional Vice President and Board Member of the American Iris Society. He has won numerous ribbons and medals for entries in iris shows and at one time grew 750 cultivars of irises, 500 daylilies, and 50 peonies.



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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



Camellia cuttings taken in 2018.

This is the result when you take your own cuttings: *Camellia japonica* 'Nuccio's Pearl'.



Our history of the club continues on the following pages.



L-R: Don Crowder, Bruce Fraedrick, Will Hawkins, Alan Lemieux, Mary Ann Hipp, potting up rooted cuttings.

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

Forms are located at [DirtDaubers.org/Membership](https://www.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.44

CHAPTER 3

Gardening Together: MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

Perhaps our best hope for gardening as an art is that gardening is an activity whose never-achieved aim is progress towards a never-completed work of art.

— Geoffrey Charlesworth

Membership in the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has always had a certain prestigious connotation. Its members come from all walks of life. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, landscape architects, nursery men and women, public servants, writers and others who are successful in their careers and interested in their community have been members through the years. Many members are well known personalities in Spartanburg and others are low-profile individuals interested in gardening. As a group, SMGC members are respected for their high interest in making their homes and the community better with trees and shrubs and flowers and grasses and fruit, making things green, beautiful and good for the environment. They have loved growing in knowledge of plants and how to use them, and the friendships made with fellow gardeners have been important and valuable.

While an official roster of those Dirt Daubers who were the charter members in 1948 is no longer available, the following were part of the original organization and are considered "Charter Members": W. P. Rich, the first president; 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. There are other records that indicate that Karl Selden may have been a charter member. Henry Pittman says that of these, only Jim Culcleasure was still active in the 1960s when he joined and Mr. Culcleasure was a pallbearer for Charles Lea's funeral in 1967. But Pittman says he knew of Clyde and Ernest Burwell of Burwell Chevrolet and somewhere along the way met

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the first president, W. P. Rich. This small group of men began an active and productive organization that has grown to include almost 200 men, women and corporate members today.¹

It is interesting that the Club was originally limited to 25 members; it is obvious that this rule didn't last long. Fortunately, two important men—W. O. Ezell and Charles Lea—joined soon after the chartering of the Club, probably about 1950 or '51. Their contributions and leadership were essential to the growth of the Club, and to the quality growth of Spartanburg.²

While it may not be clear that the Club grew steadily from those first twelve members, or how soon the maximum of 25 was achieved, it clearly prospered and strengthened over the years, and the community benefited from its growth. The member limit had obviously been abandoned in 1958 when there were 34 members paying the four dollar dues and meeting in the basement Community Room of First Federal Building and Loan's headquarters on North Church Street. That remained the meeting location until it was moved to the Piedmont Natural Gas Building near First Presbyterian Church on East Main Street in 1972 with 177 members.

An existing record indicates the 1959 roster included Rich, Culcleasure, and Gowan, but also newer members—Charles Lea, Karl Selden, John Cantrell, J. P. Carlton, W. O. Ezell, Dr. Wardlaw Hammond, M. P. Nantz, Claude Sherrill, Dr. W. A. Wallace, William B. Littlejohn, Jack Lemmon, Dave Kennemur, Tom Butler and, Dr. David Stoltz and others for a total of 35. David Stoltz, the most senior member, is still active in the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

Charles Lea deserves special credit in that he served both as Secretary of the Club, and also as its newsletter editor during the formative years from 1957 or 1958, when John Cantrell and Tom Butler were presidents, until 1966. In addition, he was an early leader of the important Spartanburg County Foundation and he held many community positions supporting the Boy Scouts and other youth-oriented organizations.³

The Club year of 1964 was interesting from the perspective of past, current and future performance. An old roster of 1964, when W. W. "Buster" Walker was president, shows the total membership was a high of 101. It included eight former presidents (Tom Butler, John Cantrell, Jim Culcleasure, W. O. Ezell, Wardlaw Hammond, Charles Lea, Jack Lemmon, and Karl Selden). Also active that year were six future presidents (Dr. Paul Cook, Gil Hooper, Willard Morgan, Sid Moorhead, Henry Pittman and Claude Sherrill). In 1965 there were 88 members five of whom are current active members.

¹ Appendix 2 contains a chart of SMGC presidents and other leaders by year.

² Chapter 2 on Iconic Members pays great tribute to these two men, and provides considerable details on their work and contributions.

³ Charles Lea is featured in Chapter 2 on Iconic Members

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1969 was a very good year for the Club—Dr. Bob Reynolds and Harold Hatcher joined. Recruitment of new members exploded that year under Julian Foster’s presidency. A membership roster is not available, but National’s magazine, *The Gardener*, reported in January, 1970, “W. O. Ezell has run the membership of the Spartanburg, S. C. club up to 227 members.” This is a 158% increase over the 88 members in 1965. (However only 35 of those 88 were active in 1970, so retention had not been good.) *The Gardener* reported in April 1970 the recruiting technique:

Our friends in Spartanburg, S. C. took a different tack. They cleaned up some eyesores around town and planted them, and other areas to grand floral displays. Then they asked luncheon clubs to give them five minutes to tell about the work they had done, and about men’s garden clubs. At every program they brought in new members: seven, nine, as many as fifteen at a time. That’s hard to beat.

THE PAPER/Wednesday, January 15, 1992



ON THE GRILL — Above, members of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club annual picnic committee gather near the grill. Committee members from left are David Kennemur, Harold D. Hatcher, John Fincher, Jack Turner, Walter Soderberg, John Welsh and Tom Bartram. Below, the 87 members and guests of the club relax and enjoy food prepared by club members Jack Turner and Robert Almond, the chief hot dog and hamburger cooks. The event took place at Hatcher Horticulture Center.



Camaraderie has always been important in the MGC.

That summer, Ezell attended the Convention in Des Moines and led a workshop on his favorite subject, “The City Beautiful.” *The Gardener* reported, “...his beautification projects are so successful that W. O. has outstripped everyone in gaining new members and new clubs in MGCA.” While a bit confusing, it reported another high compliment in August, that the SMGC, with 178 members, was the second largest; Syracuse was the largest and Des Moines and Chapel Hill, N. C., followed Spartanburg. An available 1970 Club roster lists 191 men. It was probably Ezell’s growing reputation as a leader in city beautification that attracted so many new members.

Membership didn’t grow continuously; in 1975 it was down to 76, but up the next year to a healthy 143 when dues were \$14.00, \$7.50 of which went to National. In 1977, Jess Taylor, a very valuable addition to the roster, joined, and four years later, Tom Bartram became a member.



December 2, 2019

Mr. Phil Abers
Spartanburg Men's Garden Club
PO Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304-1502

Dear Phil:

Thank you for your charitable gift of \$500.00 to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation for the Horticulture Textbook Fund. Scholarships play an important role in the financial package of a student and every dollar is appreciated.

The SCC Foundation is providing student support through scholarships at a level never before possible; nurturing businesses and the minds through many programs; graduating more students across all disciplines: mechatronics, health care, horticulture, cyber security and many more. SCC provides over 70 programs in the three county area of Spartanburg, Union and Cherokee.

Your gifts to the SCC Foundation make you a shareholder in our success. Together we are expanding higher education's potential to inspire change and transform lives.

Thank you for your generous support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bea'.

Bea Walters Smith
Executive Director

A handwritten note in cursive script that reads 'Thanks a bunch - Happy Holidays!'.

No goods or services were given in exchange for this donation. All gifts to the SCC Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our tax ID is 57-0751500.