

# February 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

Thanks to Everette Lineberger for an inspiring January Program to kick off our 2020 year. We have a great list of programs planned through June. Please look at the program listing and mention our upcoming programs when inviting guests to attend our club meetings.

Speaking of guests, it was great to see that we had three guests at the January Meeting. Having guests is a very good sign for our club's future and having some younger folks involved is especially significant. Please try to bring a guest to one of our upcoming meetings.

We are working on rebuilding our corporate membership as mentioned in our January Newsletter. Letters soliciting corporate members have been sent to recent corporate members. We are open to all suggestions on adding corporate members. Please let the board members know who we can solicit.

I am also encouraging members to contribute articles to the newsletter. Have you travel to an area with unique fauna? Have you been to a botanical garden that you found interesting? Let us know by writing a brief article for the SMGC newsletter. Please see my contribution in this month's newsletter about plant life in South Africa.

## Ethan Jarrett



## SMGC Speaker February 17, 2019

Mr Jarrett is the Farm Manager of Cragmoor Farm, a 49 acre Certified Organic source of fresh vegetables for 15 District 6 schools. The farm is located near the Walnut Grove Plantation and is a cooperative effort of Cragmoor, District 6 Schools, Spartanburg County Foundation, and Upstate Forever. Jarrett is expected to answer such questions as:

- 1) What kind of organic fertilizer do you use?
- 2) How do you control insect pests?
- 3) Do you sell produce to the public?
- 4) How difficult are the requirements to be declared "certified organic"?

## Future programs

**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.



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



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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



Squash being grown in 15 gallon containers.



Tomatoes and Kale grown in containers.



A simple composting bin.



5 gallon buckets to hold rainwater from the downspout.



## 2020 Litter pickup schedule

**March 14** rain date **Mar 21**

**June 13** rain date **Jun 20**

**Sept. 12** rain date **Sep 19**

**Dec. 12** rain date **Dec 19**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

### Renew Now 2020 Membership

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

Forms are located at [DirtDaubers.org/Membership](http://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



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### Member Musing By Phil Abers

#### South Africa

From June 2002 into early 2005, Edie and I lived in South Africa. Besides the wild animals, the coast line with two oceans and the Drakensberg Mountains, South Africa has interesting flora. My brother, Larry, was a phenomenal amateur botanist. When he came to visit us, he chose the month of September, because that is the beginning of spring and a time when the flowers are at peak bloom in this mild climate.

Our first stop was at Kirstenbosch Garden, which is just outside of Cape Town and is on the backside of Table Mountain. The Protea bloom was spectacular in September 2004. The Protea plants range from shorter shrubs to small trees in size and have a wide range of colors. The King Protea is the national flower of South Africa.

From Cape Town, we drove north to Namaqualand, which is a semi-desert area. When the winter rainfall is sufficient, the spring wild flower bloom is breathtaking. The year we went, there were some fields of wildflowers in certain areas, but it was not as impressive as the years with the super bloom.

South Africa is also home to many species of cycads. These prehistoric plants grow in a columnar shape with leaves only at the top of the plant. South Africa has 38 species of cycads. It is also home to a collection of plants called fynbos. The "biome" of coastal South Africa is the home to the fynbos. Indicator plants that are a core part of the fynbos include heath, protea, iris, lilies.

If you are a plant lover and would like to see some unique plants, consider visiting there.



**History of the club  
continues on the  
following pages.**

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

But the big change in Club membership, not so much numbers but quality, began in the 1980s. The national organization, MGCA, lead the way in responding to pressure, both legal and political, to open membership to women and this major change in its bylaws occurred in about 1985. Women, mostly spouses of members, had long been active in local Club activities in a kind of auxiliary capacity, but they were not formal members of the Club. Some wives attended (some to drive at night), but were not active in project or program work. But Linda McHam and Jane Turner—and others—were exceptions; they helped with MGC projects prior to becoming official members.

It may have been the result of local member John Nevison representing both the Club and the Blue Ridge Region as National Director at the November Board meeting in San Antonio, or the forward attitude of Tom Bartram (and his legal background and influence)



**Monthly meetings were held in the Arts Center on Spring Street in 2005**

that encouraged the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club to open its membership to women. “Probably the most compelling reason for admitting females was not just John’s and my feelings, but was the new federal law—Title VII of the Civil Rights Act,” Bartram recalls. “This had resulted in many organizations modifying their requirements for membership.”

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

Before official approval, the proposed change was discussed both openly and formally, and brought to a proper vote of the Club at its March, 1989, meeting. Even with obvious strong support for the change, Pittman says he “stood tall” in opposition and presented a carefully prepared paper consisting of seven hopefully well-thought-out points.<sup>4</sup> These included the uniqueness of the Club, the physical hard work desired from members, and the sad demise of other *men-only* clubs in the Blue Ridge Region that had integrated. Mr. W. O.’s often repeated advice of “work with the ladies, but don’t get too close” was cited, along



**The November “Annual Meeting” was held in the Downtown County Library in 2005.**

with the opinion that court action was unlikely. Other suggestions included the possibility of organizing a new “Men’s Garden Club” for women, and the opinion that an occasional “men’s night out” was important. These arguments were of no avail, however. As anticipated, the sage advice of Bartram and other major leaders prevailed and the change of the Bylaws to eliminate reference to gender was approved by a significant majority of the voting members at that March meeting of the Club.

It was a good change. Pittman, and almost everyone else, admits it was a good change. While many lady members are “tag-alongs” of their husband’s Family Memberships, there are more who are hardworking, dedicated gardeners who have added quality talents and leadership to the Club for many years.

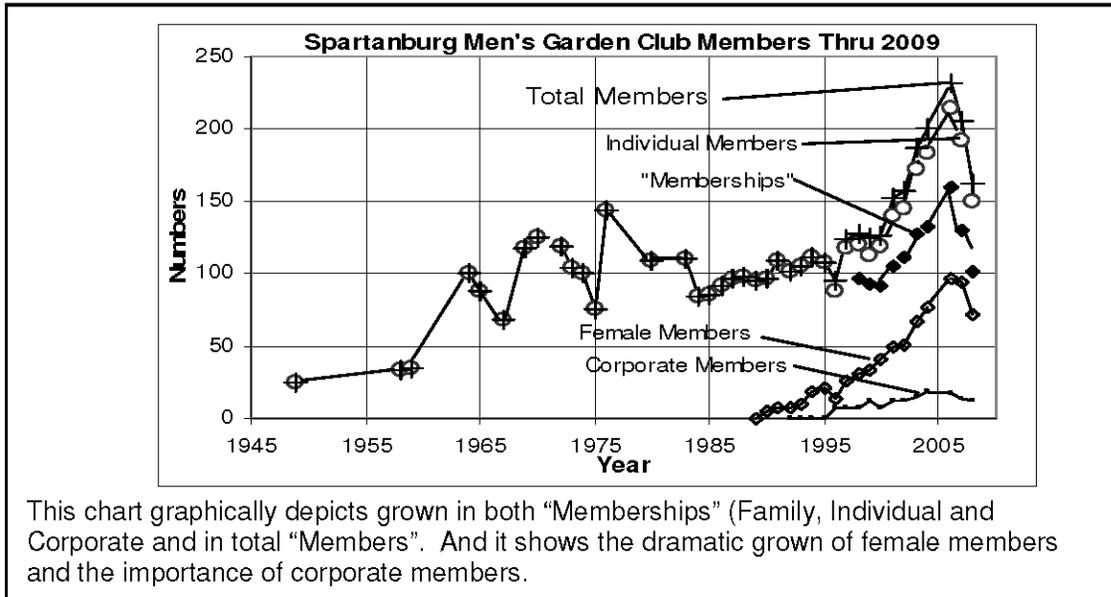
The 1990 Club roster shows there were 96 members including these five women: Wayne Burdell, Martha Edwards, Shirley Marshall, Sandra Powell and Jane Turner. By 1991 there were 109 members, seven of whom were women. Dianne Mallory, Linda McHam and Virginia Scott had joined the ranks. Female membership has continued to grow. Counting spouses of the new “Family Memberships” plus individual women, almost half of the Club members are now female.

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<sup>4</sup> A copy of his paper on objections is available in Appendix 35.

### 3 - MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

The Club broke another boundary in 2007 when it elected its first woman President, early member Linda McHam. Women have disproved Pittman's concern about the "physical hard work" required of Club members by participating fully in the work of the



Club. From 2006 – 2008, the most labor-intensive project of the Club, its Container Garden and Plant Sales, was capably directed by two women members, Dr. Dianne Fergusson and Valerie Hare.

Another category of club membership that has evolved is the Corporate Membership. In the 1980s, the Club had no formal corporate members but was fortunate to have ongoing support and encouragement from organizations including Kurt Zimmerli's Zima Corporation, Mr. Roger Milliken and TV Station WSPA. The Corporate Member category was officially initiated in 1996 with solicitation of businesses and other organizations to join and strengthen the Club. Dues were established at \$100 per year and appointment of an organization employee to directly participate in Club activities was encouraged. Corporate Members that first year were First Federal S&L; Henson Law Firm; Drs. Hull, Green, Woods, McLeod & Cothran; Kohler Company; Milliken & Company; Piedmont Natural Gas and Zima Corporation.

It was in 1996 that "Family Memberships" were begun to encourage husband and wife *teams* and to provide a slight reduction in dues. While this has resulted in some problem of identifying the size of the Club, two counts are usually specified: Memberships (singles plus couples plus corporate) and Members (singles plus the number of couples multiplied times two plus corporate).

Members are, of course, the backbone of the organization, and the Club needs as many as it can get. Some join for various reasons. More often than not, *gardening together* stimulates their interest which grows as they see how personal plant growing can improve living, and how community plant growing can enhance an even larger quality of life. Like many organizations, a large number of members has always been important to this Club and it has often promoted the concept of three member types: those who join primarily to show support of the Club's objectives, those who occasionally attend meetings, and those who

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

actively work on projects to strengthen the Club and enhance the community—all three types have always been welcomed in the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

One of the most important membership benefits was bestowed on Mort Sams and Martha Smith. In 1994, they were working with Newt Hardie on the Club’s important South Pine Street’s treescape of Yoshino Cherry Trees when they realized they not only loved trees but also each other. They were married shortly afterwards--a unique and cherished membership benefit!

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This history should place great emphasis on and give loud praise to the *quality* of MGC members over the years. They have included a broad range of citizens who have combined a love of personal gardening with the desire to use it as a tool to build a better community. They have been, and are, citizens from all walks of life, from the newcomers and unknowns to the top business and civic leaders of the community.