

# June 2020

## Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



### Welcoming Men & Women

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Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp
Past President	Don Crowder

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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

As with the rest of the country, we are starting to return to normal. Since our June Speaker has graciously invited us to his place of business, we will have a June meeting. We may need to continue to look for alternate locations for board meetings and regular meetings, so keep wearing your thinking caps.

We had a good start to this year adding new members. Now that we should start meeting on a regular basis again, it is time to invite people to our upcoming meetings. We have listed the July and August meetings in the Newsletter for your reference. As a goal, try to invite at least one guest to a meeting before the end of the year. New members are crucial to the ongoing vitality of the club.

This Saturday is our quarterly litter pick up on Pine Street. Please come out at 8AM if you can.

Members of the Men's Garden Club will have a special treat for our June meeting which will be very appropriate and very welcome during this pandemic when we are spending more time at our homes.

Rick McAbee, owner of [Roebuck Nursery](#) will give us a tour of his nursery, answer horticulture questions and tell us about some of the landscape projects his company has completed in the Spartanburg area. Rick, more commonly called "Ricky", grew up in the family business near Roebuck.

The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Don't miss the opportunity to invite visitors to attend this special meeting. And, more importantly, invite some of our own members whom we haven't seen in a long time. They may not have seen this newsletter!

Everette

PS Next month's program will feature our own Linda McHam speaking about plant propagation from cuttings. You too can save money by propagating your own plants.

**Roebuck Greenhouse 864.576.0875**  
2980 Stone Station Rd  
Roebuck, SC 29376

#### Directions:

(from Spartanburg)  
Head south on US-221 South  
Continue to follow US-221 S 6.0 mi  
Turn left onto SC-215 S/Stone Station Rd 0.8 mi  
Turn right onto State Rd S-42-9287  
Destination will be on the right.



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.*



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Photography by Linda McHam



## 2020 Litter pickup schedule

**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** and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



Blueberries are coming in!



Magnolia grandiflora seedling



Hydrangea 'Nikko Blue'

## Future Programs

**July 20** – "Propagation of Plant Cuttings" to be given by our own Linda McHam, Master Gardener, former M.G.C. President, landscape design specialist and much more.

**August 17** – "The Garden of Sacred Space" by Dr. Kirk H. Neely, Master Gardener, Author, Counselor, Bible Teacher and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church.



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### **Member Musing** By Phil Abers

On a trip to the Dakotas, Edie and I decided to make a detour through Winnipeg, Manitoba. While Manitoba would never be classified as a bucket list item, we were close enough to go there. We stayed in Bismark the previous night and had an interesting drive meandering through North Dakota. We went through Rugby, North Dakota, which is about 25 miles south of the Canadian Border. The US Geological service has designated Rugby as the geographical center of North American.

From Rugby it was a short trip to the Canadian and the International Peace Garden, which is located on the border. The park has 1451 acres in Manitoba and 888 acres in North Dakota. While this park is off the beaten path, it has many interesting features. There is a 120 foot tall Peace Tower representing immigrants from around the world. There is a very nice Interpretive Center and Conservatory that house numerous cacti, succulents and orchids. There are large plantings of annual flowers and an elaborate floral clock. A Peace Chapel is a nice place to sit and reflect on the Gardens and Park. There is also has hiking, camping and biking available within the park. Come visit the gardens and pick your activity of choice.

#### **Floral Clock**



History of the club continues on the following pages.

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

The efforts of the Club and this coalition were quite successful. Wal-Mart agreed to complete compliance with the City's new landscape ordinance on planting multiple shade

Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* 12-25-2009

#### CITY FORTUNATE TO CARE ABOUT TREES

By Betty Montgomery

Spartanburg is fortunate to have many individuals and organizations interested in landscaping our community with trees.

Trees are planted for the enjoyment and enhancement they bring today and will bring in the future. Many residents over the years have taken pride in Spartanburg, and you can see the difference they have made throughout the city. They have planted willow oaks, maples, ginkgos and others that Spartanburg now enjoys.

With their hard work, we continue to be a city of trees.

Henry Pittman, Hans Balmer Roger Milliken, in conjunction with the Men's Garden Club, Spots of Pride and the Noble Tree Foundation, have been dedicated to planting trees that we enjoy as we drive from place to place.

With Pittman's leadership, the Men's Garden Club planted willow oaks on East Main Street, maples on North Pine Street, maples and dogwoods on Drayton Avenue, a variety of trees by Highway 221 and about 7 miles of trees on 1-85, just to name a few of the tree-planting projects.

Balmer came up with the idea of beautifying our city by planting traffic islands and areas around town. After an ice storm in 2005, he took on the planting of trees in Converse Heights to make sure there were trees for future enjoyment in this area.

Milliken is responsible for the willow oaks on 1-85, and these trees have made for a lovely entrance to Spartanburg. He has also been involved with planting other areas around the town and for providing educational forums on the value of trees.

Harold Hatcher, W. O. Ezell, Coe Irwin, George Johnson, Kurt Zimmerli and the city of Spartanburg have also made a difference in beautification with the planting of trees.

#### Trees have benefits

There are many benefits, some unforeseen, of planting trees. Trees prevent us from becoming a heat island, essentially an upside-down bowl of heat over our city. People often forget that trees help prevent flooding, as they break the force of rain as water comes down through the leaves and branches.

Tree roots help absorb water and slow its force. This helps prevent erosion. Trees also absorb the pollinates and debris in the air.

Several years ago, Atlanta was growing at such a fast pace that the removal of trees caused a heat and air quality problem. The city ultimately lost federal highway funding. To curb the problem, Atlanta planted trees.

Atlanta also had recent problems with flooding. At one time, according to Marcia Bansley, head of Trees Atlanta, the city was losing 50 acres a week to development. Now you realize why Atlanta is battling -continued

trees in the parking lots, creating an enhanced building facade, and in saving of many trees at the entrance. The entrance street is officially named "Dawn Redwood Drive" in honor of the six ancient trees located there. They were planted by property owner, Cane, from some of the earliest seedlings available in the United States after the Oriental species was re-discovered in the 1940s after having being thought to be extinct. Landscape designer Kevin Parris led the way in saving these magnificent Redwoods. The pond behind the building remains pristine and is now a part of the adjacent homeowners' neighborhood.

Although the Club has been busy with beautification projects in the city for over 60 years, it is not the only organization to have contributed to the beauty of Spartanburg. Under

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the remarkably well-organized and successful leadership of Hans Balmer, the Spot of Pride project was initiated in 2000 as an outgrowth of the PRIDE Task Force. The SOP project



now consists of over 80 sponsored garden spots in the greater Spartanburg community. The first two SOPs were created as demonstration gardens. One is at the intersection of North Church Street and Asheville Highway. This garden was sponsored and financed by the County and PRIDE Task Force.

The other—and perhaps the finest SOP in the city—is the Ezell Spot of Pride, a cooperative venture of the City and the Club; it is located on W. O. Ezell Boulevard. The professional plan was improved a bit by the

Club's input and was funded by \$2,000 from the Club and an equal amount from the W. O. Ezell Fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation plus City funds. The Ezell granite marker was moved by the SC Department of Transportation from its original location further west on the Boulevard near the original location of Dorman High School, to this garden. This MGC/City Ezell Spot of Pride was officially dedicated on April 26, 2001, with a large crowd in attendance. City Manager Roy Lane along with MGC president Bill Wilson and Henry Pittman gave presentations honoring Ezell who had set such a high standard for city beautification.<sup>4</sup>

The Club added the three magnificent Chinese Fringetrees and roses around the Ezell monument and maintains annuals along its face. The City provides excellent ongoing maintenance to the entire garden which has an

automatic irrigation system. In 2001 a background of Loropetalum was added adjacent to the marker, and five Green Giant Arborvitae were planted at the west end of the SOP to block the view of the adjacent laundry building; these Arborvitae are now some 50 feet tall and provide the envisioned background and view break. The added plants were financed by a \$400 Club contribution.



**The Club's Sherrill Garden on East Main Street.**

<sup>4</sup> A copy of this presentation at the Ezell Spot of Pride dedication is located in Appendix 4.

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

This Ezell Spot of Pride and the Sherrill Garden Spot of East Main Street are the two areas still maintained regularly by Club volunteers. And both are genuine enhancements to the community. Dr. Bob Reynolds, Don Crowder and Charlie Covert have been active on West Main, and Jess and Allene Taylor, Tasso Ghionis, Joyce and Charles Crescenzi, Meg Hollaway and Henry Pittman—and others— have provided caretaking of the East Main garden.

The Club has continued to provide ongoing support and encouragement to Hans Balmer's Spot of Pride program. In 2003, the Club sent a "thank you" letter to the some 60 Spot of Pride sponsors to encourage their continued support. It worked closely with Balmer in the 2006 planning and later execution of his median gardens on Business Interstate-85 as the Club's 300-tree shoulder treescape project was underway. In fact, Balmer's voluntary agreement to provide the required ongoing maintenance for the Club's shoulder trees saved the project from possible default.

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has been one of the leaders in community beautification, but Spartanburg's great beautification is the result of an almost unbelievable combination of private and public organizations working for years, often completely independent of each other, to accomplish not so much a current "City of Flowers," but an extensive "City of Plants, Water Features and Beauty."<sup>5</sup> The spontaneity of much of these organizations over the past decade was encouraged by the foresight, vision and perseverance of two individuals whose efforts have been particularly fruitful and appreciated—the former city manager, Roy Lane, and the former city mayor, Bill Barnet.

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In a thank-you letter to a Club member who had made a contribution to the Noble Tree Foundation a few years ago, Mr. Milliken said, "Spartanburg is changing, is becoming even more beautiful, and we hope this trend will continue for years to come." The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club should be proud of its legacy and contributions to this change. But the job is not completed; all should realize that it must continue.

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<sup>5</sup> Many of these organizations and individuals are cited in Appendix 20.