

January 2021

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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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

We start the new year with much hope. Almost everyone I have corresponded with is happy that 2020 is over and are looking forward to 2021. The SMGC is also looking forward to a great 2021. We have added both regular members and corporate members last year and expect to do even better this year.

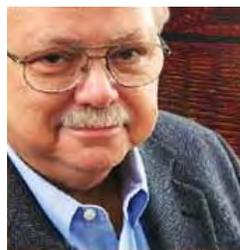
Our programs for the year are nearly finalized. When talking to prospective members, please share our program schedule for 2021. The most important action we can take this year is to continue to build membership.

We have also organized a committee to review our participation in the Street Tree Program on South Pine. The committee is looking at ways to upgrade the quality of trees to some appropriate for our growing zone. The goal is to have great looking street trees that the SMGC is proud to sponsor.

The January Program will be presented remotely, however we still plan for those who prefer, to meet in person at the SCC Health Science Building. For the remote presentation, Stephanie Rice will send two links. The first link will be for 7 PM to discuss the club business. The second link will be for 7:30 when Dr Neely will make a presentation to the club. Let's make 2021 a great year for the SMGC!"

Phil

Kirk Neely



SMGC Speaker January 19, 2020

"The Garden of Sacred Space."

Dr. Neely is well known locally as the retired pastor of the Morningside Baptist Church, Adjunct professor of USC Upstate, author of several widely circulated books, pastoral counselor, and of special interest to all of us, Master Gardeners. His presentation will be given virtually because of the Covid-19 Virus. Be sure to invite someone to attend with you. For several meetings now, we have had a good response to the necessity of wearing masks and keeping a safe distance from others. We thank you for keeping others and ourselves as safe as we can.



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

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Spartanburg Men's Garden Club – Organized in 1948, where local gardeners – male and female – come together to fellowship, learn and volunteer their talents to make Spartanburg a special place to live.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7PM, except there is no meeting in December. They take place in the Community Room of the Health Sciences Building at Spartanburg Community College.

Future programs already scheduled are:

January 19 – (Tuesday) "The Garden of Sacred Space" by **Dr. Kirk H. Neely**, Master Gardener, Author, Counselor, Bible Teacher, and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church.

February 15 – "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*

March 15 – "Home Gardening Exemplified" with **Jon Stauffer**, Colonial Milling Co.

April 19 – "Growing Bonsai Plants" speaker will be **Dan O'Neil**

May 17 – "Making Good Soil" Speaker will be **Leslie Rodgers**, Director of Education of Atlas Organics. Program will be about recycling garbage in the Spartanburg-Greenville area.

June 21 – "New Plants for Today's Garden" with **Dwight Sanders**, South Pleasantburg Nursery, Greenville

July 19 – "The Fall Garden" to be given by our own **Phil Abers**, our President

August 16 – "Controlling Unwanted Visitors in Your Garden" Clemson Extension Service

September – Annual Picnic - T.B.A.

October 18 – "Gardening for Life – Transforming Your Landscape", **Dr. Patrick McMillian**, virtual presentation

November – Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers for 2022

Be sure to put all of the above dates on your refrigerator or message board!

Check us out, <https://dirtdaubers.org>



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.



2021 Litter pickup schedule

March 13 rain date **Mar 20**

June 12 rain date **Jun 19**

Sept. 18 rain date **Sep 25**

Dec. 4 rain date **Dec 11**

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 2021 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

Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia' with Cedrus deodara in the snow.



Amaryllis 'Super Star'.



Canine Border Collie x Hound
 'Lily McHam' playing in the snow.



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Member Musing By Phil Abers



This month we are still in the Philadelphia PA area. This time a trip to the Morris Arboretum is on the agenda. The Arboretum is located in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia on the northwest side of town. The Arboretum was found by a brother and sister team of John and Lydia Morris. The Morris's money came from an iron manufacturing firm started by their father.

John and Lydia traveled the world and brought back many plants in addition to the art work they collected. The Morris's had plans to for a school and laboratory on their estate. In 1932 the site became the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Arboretum is home to over 13000 identified plant of 2600 varieites. The plants are from around the world especially from North America, Europe and Asia. The Arboretum has many of the local area tallest trees (trees of record), much like Congaree NP has many trees of record for South Carolina. The Morris Arboretum notes the Katsura, Engler Beech and Trident Maple as three of the most notable "Trees of Record". The Arboretum is home to the Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery, the only remaining freestanding Victorian fernery in North America.

We first learned of the Morris Arboretum in 1994 when they hosted a Mother's Day plant sale. We purchased a small oak and an old fashion rose bush. Both were flourishing when we escaped New Jersey in 2015. Besides the impressive trees, (I like the weeping beech), there are events throughout the year. There is a Garden Railroad that is operational during the summer and the Christmas Season.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

With encouragement which resulted from this letter, the committee—and particularly Milliken's landscape horticulturist Jack Bracken—asked Pittman to develop a treescape plan for all of North Pine Street. The fact that the Milliken Research property bordered that street may have been a minor reason for Bracken's encouragement, but he surely had a greater mission in mind. A November letter to Red Fleming, local Highway Department head engineer, stated in part, "...the Men's Garden Club would like to continue landscaping and beautification of I-585/US-176/North Pine Street from I-85 to E. Main." This letter documented the review with the State Highway Landscape Architect, Timothy Edwards and City Manager Wayne Bowers, both of whom had enthusiastically approved the proposal.

The Club applied for and received the required Highway Department Encroachment Permit in December. The Committee then ordered 15-gallon-sized trees and made arrangements with a recently retired Milliken employee, John Belue, to plant them for \$10 each. Belue had a background of plant handling, having been a former employee of Spartanburg Landscape. He did a first class job of planting and mulching. The long, 100-foot center placements worked well and became the standard for future SMGC street and highway planting projects. This method combines good, professional-looking enhancement with enough space to minimize blocking of the view of adjacent

THE PAPER Wednesday, January 14, 1987

Men's GC completing North Pine Street beautification'

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is completing an extensive tree planting landscaping project on North Pine Street (I-585, U.S. 176) from Interstate 85 to Main Street.

About half of these trees are on private property and half on public property. Excellent cooperation has been received from the City of Spartanburg and the South Carolina Highway Department, both of which have fully approved the project, and from the dozens of private property owners along this heavily traveled artery into Spartanburg, according Walter Soderberg, club president.

Most of the trees used are an improved and patented variety of red maple called Red Sunset which is known for its excellent bright red foliage in the fall. Where planting space was limited or overhead power lines encroached, a smaller growing red maple named Trident was used.

Where space was available and with consent of the property owner, these new trees were planted on both sides of North Pine Street. The spacing is 100 feet apart which is close enough to give a feeling of continuity and good planning, but not so close as to impair view of businesses or reduce safety.

This is part of an ongoing community beautification project called "Beautiful North Pine" which the MGC initiated three years ago (1984) to encourage property owners on that street to work toward improving the landscaping, up-keep and general appearance of their property.

North Pine is one of the most important entry-ways into Spartanburg and its appearance influences the general opinion of many people about the entire Spartanburg Community, Soderberg said.

With success on this project, the MGC would like to continue this concept of community beautification to other parts of Spartanburg.

Financing of this project was a joint and cooperative effort involving contributions from many of the private property owners on North Pine, from the Spartanburg Board of Tourism, and from the MGC.

They have planted 173 trees. About 15 others are awaiting permission of private property owners. A few have been approved for planting, but are being held until site construction is completed (SCN Bank, Daniel Morgan Associates and Dr. John Guthrie).

This is the first time the Spartanburg MGC has undertaken a tree planting project where all the planting labor I was contracted out.

"This one was just too big for us to handle with our volunteer labor. And I was such a great opportunity to continue Spartanburg beautification, we didn't want to wait," said Soderberg.

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business property—a “win-win” situation.

In late 1986 and early the next January, implementation of the project was completed with more than 190 Red Sunset cultivars of Red Maple trees (strongly recommended by Bracken) on the three miles of shoulders of North Pine from St. John Street northward to I-85. This project was called “Beautiful North Pine.”

A news release was issued in January of 1987 and the local weekly *The Paper* published a fine article describing the project. The Club received many compliments and “thank-yous” for this large tree-planting project. Club implementation participants in addition to the committee included Club President Walter Soderberg, Julian Foster, Don McClure, Jess Taylor, John Nevison and Bob Almond.

A huge boost in value and health of these trees was the gift of funds from Mr. Milliken in 1999 for professional pruning of these Red Sunset Maples as well as the Club’s later-planted Willow Oaks on East Main Street. These are referred to as “SMGC” trees, but actually they are on public rights-of-way and are the property of the city.



Like this ramp on North Pine at SC-9, many of the Clubs 1976 projects have been updated as Spots of Pride.

3 West Main Street at Interstate-26 - 1988

Harold Hatcher took the lead—and did most of the work—in treescaping a number of the cloverleaf areas of the interchange at West Main Street (US-29 toward Greenville) and I-26 in 1988. Almost 300 hardwood trees, including Oaks, Maples, and Crape Myrtles, were planted.

A significant enhancement to this interchange was made in 1999 by the new Trees Spartanburg organization created by the PRIDE Task Force and headed by Co Irwin. Some 50 Willow Oaks were planted on the shoulders of the ramps. This area was upgraded again in 2004 by the SCDOT and it is a great asset to the community.

4 East Main Street “Beautiful East Main” - 1989, 1992, 1994

This major project began in 1989 and involved advice and help from the City, the Highway Department and Milliken. Hand-drawn plans by Henry Pittman, with valuable advice from and consultation with the S. C. Highway Department Landscape Architect, Timothy Edwards, involved 125 Willow Oaks (purchased in 15 gal. containers) and 85 Natchez Crape Myrtles (grown in the SMGC nursery at Hatcher Garden by Harold Hatcher from his rooted cuttings).

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All of the planting sites were flag marked by volunteer Club members. Most were planted on the "MGC standard 100-foot centers,"³ six feet from the curb on the highway right-of-way, but a few were planted on adjacent private property with permission. Planting labor was again contracted to John Belue. Financing was from a tourism grant and contributions from adjacent property owners, the Milliken Foundation and the Club. Major



The Club's 1989 Natchez Crape Myrtles on East Main Street in 2007

Club volunteers included Jess Taylor, John Nevison, Tom Bartram, Harold Hatcher, Bob Powell, Walter Soderberg, and Pittman. The planting was completed in early 1990.

Even with no watering, 90% of the trees survived the first year. In late 1992, an additional 6 Willow Oaks and 11 Crape Myrtles were planted as replacements

Club members performed light pruning and fertilization of the trees in 1992 and 1993, and have continued such attention most years since. Major professional pruning of the Willow Oaks (along with the

Red Sunset Maples on North Pine Street), was contracted to local professional arborist John Martin, and was completed in January 1999. The \$12,500 cost was underwritten by Mr. Milliken and the W. O. Ezell fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation, plus \$3,000 of Club funds.

McCracken Junior High School students added to "Beautiful East Main" on a Saturday in December 1994, by planting 10 additional Willow Oaks in front of Wal-Mart on East Main Street (now the location of the Lowe's Home Improvement store). About 30 students, 10 parents and several teachers worked with Club members on the project. Sheila Sistare, science teacher and sponsor of the school's Science Club, told the Spartanburg



The 1989 Willow Oaks on East Main in 2009.

Herald-Journal reporter, "I am pleasantly surprised at the large number of students. When I

³ While leading a group of volunteers marking planting sites for the Crape Myrtles under the high voltage power lines at Halfway Creek, Jess Taylor said, "Oh, let's plant them a lot closer here under the power lines." And this was a good idea; they have done well.

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mentioned the project to them, they were very excited.” Paul Teodorie, local Wal-Mart manager, contributed these trees as part of the company’s emphasis on protection and enhancement of the ecology and environment. All of these trees have survived and flourished which is quite a compliment to “student labor!”

When the John Floyd property east of Halfway Creek was developed, grading resulted in the destruction of seven or more of the Oaks there. Fortunately, new treescaping has been added to the shoulders at that location by the new developer.

In summer of 2002, Duke Power did a massive pruning of some of the Club’s Willow Oaks near power lines adjacent to the LanYair Golf Course. While citizens were vocal with complaints and unhappiness about the damage to the symmetry and beauty of these near-mature trees, Pittman voluntarily admits these pruned trees were planted too close to the Duke lines and had become possible sources of damage to the utility and its customers. Fortunately, today the trees have overgrown the distorted shape and are again very handsome, but this probably means a second, and more aesthetically damaging, pruning will occur. The Club made a proposal to Duke for a cooperative project involving planting small-maturing trees such as Crape Myrtles and Kousa Dogwood in between the Oaks as “second generation” trees and as they matured after a few years, removing the Oaks. Duke never agreed. Perhaps the best solution to this conflict is for the utility lines to be moved underground; this would be a major beautification enhancement. But now the former golf course is being considered for business and residential development; this may result in elimination of the power-line conflict.

5 North Pine at Beaumont Mill - 1991

1991 was the year the Club took the leadership in improving the landscape of the Beaumont Mill campus on North Pine Street. A year earlier, Mr. Milliken had suggested to Henry Pittman that there was a great opportunity for the Club to improve the beauty of the area by adding landscape plants to the old, but active, mill site—at the corner of North Pine and Isom Street—to block or soften the view of the unattractive white wooden frame warehouse on the corner of the Beaumont complex. Mr. Milliken advised that his landscape architect, Rick Webel of the New York firm Innocenti & Webel, might volunteer to help develop a plan. And, indeed, he did; he worked with Pittman in completing the initial proposed plan.



Appreciation of Service

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

in recognition of your 31 years with Adopt-A-Highway



Henry McMaster

Governor of South Carolina

Sanah Kyles

Executive Director, PalmettoPride