

# February 2021

# 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

This month we see the first hint of spring and the wonderful rebirth of our gardens. The daffodils are visible and have received a dose of fertilizer at our home. What a joy to be a gardener!

We will be working over the next couple of months to prepare the container garden for the spring plant sale. We will have some weeding, repotting and other chores to complete. Please come help us get ready for the April Plant Sale.

We are working to revitalize the street trees along South Pine. Our committee has done excellent working developing a plan for the future of the street trees. Come to the monthly meeting for an update on our progress.

Our Monthly Meeting Presenter for February is Betty Montgomery. She is a very well known local columnist and gardener. We are lucky to have her talk to our club. Please use this great opportunity to recruit new members for the Garden Club. Share our list of programs by hard copy, email or other means. To have a viable club, we must continue to add new members. I hope to see you on February 15.

## Betty Montgomery SMGC Speaker February 15, 2020

### "Looking Forward to Spring Bloom"



Betty was in the first Spartanburg Master Gardener class in 1985 and is interested in all types of gardening. You may have seen her article about pruning trees and shrubs in a recent article of the Spartanburg Herald-Journal or her article in last March's issue of the "Spartanburg Magazine" on blooming cherries. She is planning a visual presentation

for us about spring-blooming flowers.

Remember to bring a guest with you. Perhaps they will want to join our group of men and women, like recent guests, who have become members in the last two months.



<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:

**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.*



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Photography by Linda McHam



## 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.

Galax leaves in the winter.



Hellebores (Lenten Rose) start flowering in February.

Crocus are some of the early signs of spring.





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**Member Musing** By Phil Abers



A three hour-forty five minute drive from the San Francisco Airport takes you to the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Once north of Marin County, the drive takes you into the Sonoma Valley and then to the Pacific Coast along Scenic Highway 1. The Garden is located between Highway 1 and the Pacific Ocean. How many botanical gardens are on the ocean? The Botanical Garden is just south of Fort Bragg, where you can have a nice meal overlooking the small harbor. If you watched the movie, "The Russians are Coming", you have seen Ft. Bragg.

The Botanical Garden is situated on 47 acres and has some very unique garden areas. The climate is zone 9B, but the weather almost never gets hot due to the coastal location and the summer fog. Mendocino Botanical Garden is home to one of the largest collections of rhododendrons. These bloom from April until June. The rhododendron collection includes 124 species and over 1000 plants. About 40 miles south is Kruse Rhododendron State Natural Reserve, where you can see native rhododendrons blooming in the wild.

Some of the garden areas you can visit include the native forests and bluff plants, heaths and heathers, Rhododendrons, Camellias, Fuchsias, Dahlias, Magnolias, Maples, Succulents, Begonias and Conifers. How many botanical gardens have a Fuchsia Garden? There are a variety of activities throughout the year. Bird watching seems especially popular. If you need a break, you can visit Rhody's Cafe for food and drink. A small nursery and gift shop are on the Garden Grounds. There are a number of other attractions on the north coast of California including the Skunk Train and the Coastal Redwoods. Check before you go as some areas have suffered fire damage in recent years. Enjoy your trip.

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Beaumont was one of the leading manufacturing plants of the large Spartan Mills textile company and was headed by President and CEO Walter J. Montgomery, Sr., of Spartanburg. Mr. Walter was a member of the Club and occasionally attended meetings.

The original plan was one with a Pittman-flavor, i.e. low key with modest cost. It and the proposed project were reviewed with Mr. Montgomery who seemed quite pleased with the suggested concept. But the modest plan was immediately rejected by him as inadequate; he wasn't interested in a minor, low-cost tree planting project but wanted a major top quality enhancement. Rick Webel worked with Pittman in completing the upgraded plan.

Mr. Walter further expressed the opinion that his employees would not be as enthusiastic about Spartan Mills financing such a project, so he wanted to make a personal financial contribution to the Club and have it developed and executed as a Club project. This challenge was accepted.

The final plan included a "grove" of Pine trees on the bank at the street corner (to block the warehouse view), a row of Red Sunset Maples inside the fence parallel to North Pine St. (continuing the "Beautiful North Pine" theme), groups of other large growing trees in the expansive area between the fence and the plant, special Chinese Elms near the office buildings, and Southern Magnolia between the Chinquapin Creek (it is actually a wide ditch at this location) and the plant. Working with the plant engineer, Lester Edge, Webel and



Pittman added an irrigation system to the plan, primarily for the row of Maples. Tom Bartram provided much advice and help on both the design and the selection of a contractor for plant material and planting. Bartram was responsible for adding the large evergreen Hollies on each side of the main entry gate. Other Club members active on the project included Gil Hooper, Darvin Helvy, and Jess Taylor. The total cost was well under the \$15,000 donated by Mr. Montgomery, but he insisted the MGC keep the entire contribution and use the extra on additional community beautification. The Club enthusiastically accepted this gift.

Today, the property is owned by Jimmy Gibbs who has removed all the buildings except the main multi-story and very handsome brick plant structure, which has been beautifully remodeled. When the unsightly warehouse was removed, the Pines were removed (there was no reason to block any of the handsome site), as well as the Elms and the Magnolias. But the row of Red Sunset Maples remains—100% intact—along with most of the groups of sycamore and other trees behind them and Bartram's entry holly shrubs. This landscaping adds a strong element of landscape quality to the section of North Pine Street.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Mr. Montgomery was a strong encourager of the Club over the years. When he died in



The Club's "Montgomery Flag Garden"

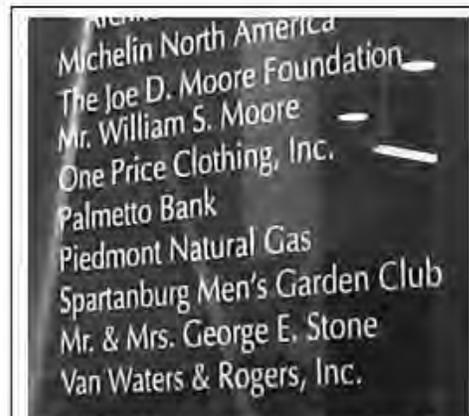
1996, his will included a generous \$10,000 gift to the Club. The next year, Kurt Zimmerli was in the process of providing quality professional landscaping to the new main Spartanburg County Library on South Church Street. The SMGC Board enthusiastically agreed to honor Mr. Montgomery by using his entire gift to create the Flag Garden at the library's front entrance. It was designed with help from the Columbia landscape architect George Betsill who was working with Zimmerli, and it was

planted in November 1997. For many years, the garden was maintained by Club volunteers but later was included in the responsibility of the library's regular grounds maintenance contractor. Known as the "Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Montgomery Flag Garden," it is a major asset to the Library—and the community. The Club is cited for this enhancement on the permanent wall recognitions in the main entry hall of the library. Mr. Montgomery's legacy lives on in so many ways.

## 6 Hearon Traffic Circle - 1994

It was in 1994 that the Club decided to provide a landscape upgrade to the important north side Hearon Traffic Circle at Asheville Highway and Interstate-85. This highly visible and very active intersection was completely void of plants other than weeds. The simple plan that included some two dozen trees, primarily Sweetgums, Crape Myrtles and Dogwoods, was planted by club volunteers under the leadership of Harold Browning and Henry Pittman, with some assistance from a local garden center owner.

Browning was also the leader in mulching the Hearon Circle trees with multiple loads of wood chips; others active in this were John Fincher and Tom Bartram. Even with the mulching and watering multiple times by the local fire department the first summer, some of the trees died, and follow-up maintenance was neglected. Of the many treescape projects of the Club, this may have been the least successful.



The Club's donation is recognized in the main foyer of the library.