

# May 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:

WebmasterSMGC@Use.StartMail.com

### President's Corner

Have you been to the SMGC Container Garden recently? If not, please come by and see what your Garden Club Nursery looks like. You will see by the lack of plants how successful our spring plant sale was. We have purchased some plants from wholesale nurseries and have potted them for future plant sales. We will order more plants to help restock the nursery.

You may be able to help us with some plants from home. One Spartanburg homeowner emailed us asking if we needed any canna lilies. We will be potting her canna lilies shortly to prepare for the fall sale. Do you have plants that can be dug or separated for replanting? Please consider donating some good quality plants to the Container Garden. I plan to dig some re-blooming day lilies for the Container Garden. Do you have an interesting plant that can be sold? Let's fill up the container garden for the fall plant sale!

### Leslie Rodgers

SMGC Speaker

May 17, 2021



#### "Making Good Soil"

Leslie is Education Director and Compost House Coordinator at Spartanburg-based Atlas Organics. The program is about recycling organic material in the Spartanburg-Greenville area.

**Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.**

Creekside Garden & Nursery  
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve  
Piedmont Farm & Garden  
Roebuck Wholesale Nursery  
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care  
Wofford College



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



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

**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



The "sputnik" azalea: a native azalea from Beasley Nursery in Lavonia, GA.



Clematis 'Niobe'



Rosa 'Graham Thomas'



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## Street Tree Purchase

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is working to revitalize the trees planted along South Pine St. The Cherry trees are beautiful in the spring for two weeks, but do not have much interest the remainder of the year. Cherry trees are not the best tree to use along a busy street. The Club is interested in adding diversity to the current cherry tree mono-culture. The trees listed below are better adapted to growing along a busy street. They also have multiple seasons of interest with interesting blooms, good fall color and bark that is interesting in the winter after the leaves are down. The thought is to add these new trees as the cherry trees reach the end of their lives. This will obviously take money to purchase new trees. The cost of each tree from purchase to planting is estimated to be about \$100. The trees we are looking to plant include:



**Persian Iron Wood, Parrotia**



**Oklahoma Red Bud**



**Tokyo Tower Fringe Tree**



**Kousa Dogwood**



**Murshino Zelcova**

Would you like to help us with the Street Tree Project? A \$100 donation will allow us to plant one street tree. If \$100 is too much to ask a smaller donation will still help. While we are sourcing these trees from high quality nurseries, there is a small chance that an individual tree may not perform well. However, be reassured that the tree species being chosen should thrive in this area. Let's keep Spartanburg beautiful!



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### Member Musing By Will Hawkins

May is one of my favorite months. The uncertain weather of early spring is a thing of the past, but the summer heat isn't here yet either. Days are long, trees and grass are green and flowers are blooming. What could be a better time to get reacquainted with the garden and what could be a better time to go to the beach. My family and I used to take annual beach vacations to Edisto Island each May. While there we discovered Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area.



Botany Bay Plantation began as Sea Cloud and Bleak Hall plantations or 2 separate entities. Both plantations grew Sea Island Cotton which was some of the finest cotton in the world. Both plantations endured and survived the Civil War. Cotton was grown there until 1917 until the boll weevil put an end to its production.

In the early 1930s, the 2 plantations merged to form one after the purchase by Dr. James Greenway. Botany Bay was purchased by John Meyer who bequeathed it to the state under the stipulation that it would remain home to his wife Margaret and that is what happened. She died in 2007 and in 2008 it became Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve/Wildlife Management Area. It is now managed by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.



Botany Bay is covered with Spanish moss draped live oaks, pine needle cushioned trails and untouched beaches. The beach is accessible with a shell packed trail through marsh and a maritime forest. You will see plenty of beach wildlife on the hike and on the beach. The beach is sometimes referred as "Boneyard Beach" due to the fallen trees-whitened by the sun-that rest in the sand and weather-worn trees in the weather. The untouched beach shows fine nature like sun bleached white sand, sea creatures & seashells and awesome views.

Visitors can also expect to see crops of sunflowers, pine trees, palm trees, sea oats, wildflowers, and century-old live oaks as well as many animals. If you make it to the lower state, make sure you check out this awesome historic plantation!

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

As the Club's South Pine Street Yoshino Cherry planting project was being completed in early 1998, the City was contacted through its head engineer, Mike Garrett, about another cooperative program—on the portion of the road within city limits, i.e. from E. Main Street north to Skylyn Drive.<sup>7</sup>

Garrett and City Manager Roy Lane gave their enthusiastic approval to a cooperative plan involving treescaping this portion of Drayton Road with the Club committee managing

*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

**Men's Garden Club/Spartanburg County  
1998 Cooperative Treescape Project  
on  
Drayton Road - Isom Street  
and  
Proposal For A 1999 Cooperative Project**

**1998 Summary—**

We in the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club hope that County Council is as pleased as we are with the results of our 1998 "cooperative" tree planting project on Drayton Road-Isom Street.

Last fall we proposed we would do all the work if the county reimbursed us for our actual out-of-pocket expenses; we estimated this would be less than \$20,000 for the county's section from North Pine Street to Skylyn Drive (the City financed the section from Skylyn to E. Main). The actual total cost to Spartanburg County was \$12,234 (\$7,766 under budget) for an average cost of \$56 per tree; this included layout design, management, planting, mulching, fertilizing, etc.—a real bargain for our County.

**1999 Proposal—**

We suggest that this type cooperative program continue in 1999 and have asked that you make \$20,000 available. With your approval of the project and the funds, we will seek your advice on an appropriate planting site and begin working toward execution for late next fall. As in 1998, we will work with Mr. Bill Lonon on details of approval and execution.

Henry Pittman, May 26, 1999

the project and the City reimbursing it for all actual costs. Garrett's Encroachment Permit to the SCOT and Pittman's design were approved and the project was ready for implementation in late 1998.

Similar negotiations were begun mid-year with County leaders for their portion of this throughway. A huge number of letters, telephone calls and personal contacts were made by members of MGC Board to encourage County participation. The Club supported the project and Hollis Taylor, Jim Bagwell, and President George Gunter were active participants.

Jack Turner represented the Club as an active member of the local SPATS Road Enhancement Committee and the County gave consideration to seeking a Federal ISTE A grant to finance planting its section of

this throughway. However, it was soon decided that it would be much easier for the County to handle the project directly with the Club's management (as the City had done earlier on South Pine Street) and it began planning for its portion of Drayton Road.

In October, based on County Administrator Roland Windham's recommendation, Spartanburg County Council approved the cooperative project for their section of Drayton Road-Isom Street (the major portion), so the project was ready for implementation. John

<sup>7</sup> The section of this highway between East Main St. and the Southern RR (near Skylyn Dr.) is in the city. The section adjoining that to Boundary Road intersection is in the County. The section adjoining that to North Pine St. is in the City.

## 5 - TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Belue was again engaged to do the planting and mulching, and container-grown trees were ordered from Phillips Tree Farm in Campobello.

The initial and primary planting of 285 trees on the Drayton Road-Isom Street Project was completed in May, 1999. The City section included 67 trees (39 Red Maple cultivars—October Glory, Autumn Flame and Red Sunset—24 Kousa Dogwoods and four Shawnee Brave Bald Cypresses) for a total cost to the City of \$3,980.

The County planting included 218 trees (75 Maples, 142 Kousa Dogwoods and one Bald Cypress). The total cost to the County was \$12,234. These totals included tree and other material costs and planting labor. This total was under \$60 per tree, another landscaping bargain.

While a number of communications had been made with adjacent property owners to solicit their cooperation and support, John Woodward made personal contact with all of them in February of 1999 and hand delivered an informational flyer describing the project and not only its beautification value, but also its potential for property value appreciation. The flyer also solicited assistance in watering and maintaining the trees. Taylor and Pittman made a verbal report to County Council in May with the encouraging results, and a suggestion that another joint project be considered.<sup>8</sup>

The "Gardening and Beautification" newsletter of September 1999 reported on the project. "Our trees planted last November-January have been damaged severely by the drought and heat. The Kousa Dogwoods seemed hurt the most, but a number of the Red Maple cultivars have also been lost. This is in spite of multiple waterings by the City of Spartanburg and the Drayton Volunteer Fire Department. And the City also added heavy mulch to all the trees, those in the City and in the



### **Trees for the future B'NAI ISRAEL: Students observe Jewish Arbor Day at Hebrew school**

By Debra g. Lester

Many people don't plant trees properly, 10-year-old Elizabeth Litoff learned Wednesday.

But Elizabeth and her classmates in Hebrew school at Congregation B'Nai Israel now know the correct planting technique and have hands-on experience.

The youngsters, ranging in age from 7 to 12, learned how to properly plant a tree from Henry Pittman, affectionately known as "Mr. Tree" by other members of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

"I learned if a tree has roots wrapped around it, it can strangle," said Elizabeth, describing what had happened to at least one of the trees they were replacing.

Jacob Blumenfeld, 10, said he learned how to find the root flare—the widest part of the tree trunk — and how important roots are to a tree's health.

- Continued

<sup>8</sup> Later this developed into the cooperative landscaping of the US-176 and Interstate-26 interchange in 1999, see details in the next section.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

County. Multiple members have worked at attaching watering bags and watering.”

This emphasizes the good cooperation between City, County, Fire Department and Club. The “watering bags” were the creative idea of a member—35-gallon black plastic garbage bags, tied securely to the trunk, filled with some 20 gallons of water and a small nail hole added at the bottom, allowed slow “drip irrigation” to feed the root ball. Without this device, and the help from the two fire departments, the summer drought would have done much more damage.

**Drayton Road-Isom Street Replacements in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002.** The hot, dry summers resulted in significant tree loss. Fortunately the Club was able to provide replacements over the years.



**The October Glory Maples on the overpass bank have prospered.**

In November of 1999, the Club provided funds for John Belue to replace 42 of the trees lost during the first year. He completed the planting, which included 13 Maples, 26 Kousa Dogwoods and three Bald Cypresses in December.

The March, 2001, newsletter reported this Drayton Road activity: “5 October Glory Maples and 5 Kousa Dogwood have been installed in spots where most needed. Let’s

hope for a better season than last year to save what we have.” These were financed by the Club using a \$600 contribution from Duke Power Co. to replace trees killed the previous summer by herbicide treatment at their transmission line area near Boundary Road.

A very special planting occurred on Drayton Road behind Hardee’s in January, 2002 B’Nai Israel Synagogue youth planted three October Glory Maples under the supervision of Jess Taylor and other Club members and adults from the synagogue. This project was covered by a major article and action picture in the Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* on January 31. Rabbi Ben Romer was quoted as saying, “It shows our commitment to the community.” Financing of these trees which are located on the north side of Drayton Road was from Harry Price and the Club.

Also during that month, the Club financed replacing another five October Glory Maples and five Kousa Dogwoods on Drayton Road-Isom Street.

The County and the City maintain the shoulders of their sections of this throughway which is far more handsome today as the shoulder trees begin to mature.