

# July 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

Can you believe that it is time to start planning fall gardening activities? The presentation this month at the regular meeting is "The Fall Garden". Planning is very important for gardening as there is no "instant gratification". Preparing the soil, weeding, ordering plants, watering during dry conditions are among many of the activities that we gardeners undertake to have lovely looking yards.

As with gardening, good planning is the key to success in many of life's endeavors. July is an important time for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (SMGC) to ensure the future success of the club. We will be looking for board members and officers this month, so that we can have an excellent slate of candidates to continue to lead the club into the future. Please consider becoming involved on the SMGC board. Please contact Darvin Helvy, nominating committee chairman, or any of the current board members to express your interest.

### Phil Abers

SMGC Speaker

July 19, 2021



#### "The Fall Garden"

The speaker for the July 2021 regular meeting is our club President, Phil Abers. Phil has been gardening with modest success since owning his first home in 1978 at Garland, TX. After retiring to South Carolina, Phil has spent a good deal of time gardening and working with the community. He became a Master Gardener in 2016. He is an active participant and board member of the Trees Coalition pulling up invasive plants that would make the late Newt Hardie smile. In addition to gardening Phil likes trains and played soccer for many years. Phil's presentation will be about Fall Gardening.



<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.*



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**Photography by Linda McHam**



Echinacea purpurea and white petunias



Arum italicum seed pods

## 2021 Litter pickup schedule

**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.)



Dwarf plumbago

### 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.

**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



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## Member Musing By Mark Carlson

There are 37 gardens in and around Philadelphia. Many of these gardens are less an hour's drive from each other. This makes it easy to visit a number of gardens and still stay in the same hotel. A well-known garden in this area is Longwood Gardens. The property was originally purchased in 1700 by George Pierce, a Quaker farmer, from William Penn's commissioners. Two of George's grandsons had an interest in natural history and started an Arboretum of native and non-native plants that eventually covered 15 acres. By the middle of the 1800s the Arboretum boasted an excellent collection of trees, and the locals enjoyed re-unions and picnics in what became Pierce's Park. In the late 1800s the heirs had little interest in the property and allowed the Arboretum to deteriorate, and eventually sold the property. In 1906 a subsequent owner contracted a lumber company to clear the land. Fortunately, Pier du Pont purchased the farm in July before any of the trees were removed. Initially du Pont's goal was just to save the Arboretum. A few years later du Pont decided to convert the Arboretum into a place where he could entertain his friends and turn the farm into a leading horticultural display garden.

Today the garden has over 1,077 acres. DuPont traveled extensively for business and pleasure. He was able to get ideas from all over the world and it is reflected in the variety of the different garden areas. There are over 40 different garden areas and collections. The gardens include formal, informal, natural, and indoor gardens, woodland areas, and meadows. They have over 12,000 taxa including the plants they have in their conservation and research areas. The current Conservatory is over 4 acres and includes the several areas of lawns.

What is unique about Longwood are the extensive fountains, and the number of different events and educational offerings. They have roughly 300,000 gallons of water circulating through two formal fountains, and water features in many of the gardens. The largest of the two computer controlled fountains covers a couple of acres and has hundreds of nozzles that can throw water 100+ feet into the air to put on quite a show. There are frequent daily performances of the fountains, and they can be accompanied by live music, light shows, and fireworks. Events include many kinds of live music, theater, and horticultural related events. They offer many horticultural related classes. The online classes include plant taxonomy of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, vines, and cacti. I was pleased with the online course that I took on taxonomy of trees and shrubs last summer.

Longwood has an extensive endowment as a result of being a project of Pier du Pont. They are constantly in the process of rebuilding different gardens in creating brand-new gardens. The current project is called "Longwood Reimagined". They are totally changing 17 acres of the garden. Longwood has created a number of different videos available on YouTube that are quite interesting. Visitors are not allowed to bring food into the garden. The food offerings available are expensive.



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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

### SPARTANBURG AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

#### ROAD ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

366 North Church Street, Suite 700  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303

**TO:** Property Owners on Southport Road **DATE:** March 14, 2000  
**FROM:** Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) Road  
Enhancement Committee  
**SUBJECT:** "Beautiful Southport Road" Treescape Project

As part of the widening project for Southport Road (Reidville Road to US-221), a plan of planting trees in the South Carolina Department of Transportation right-of-way is being prepared.

We believe this treescape plan will enhance the appearance of this highway corridor and generally strengthen the appeal of businesses in the area. Trees are great for the environment—they provide shade and moderate temperatures, absorb carbon dioxide, create oxygen, trap dust, block sound, etc.—they add aesthetic value to any community.

We invite you—and encourage you—to attend a brief meeting to review and comment on these landscape plans which will be available for viewing at the meeting.

**Where:** Woodland Heights Elementary School  
**When:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000  
**Time:** Anytime between 4:00 and 6:00 PM  
**Who:** All property owners on Southport Road (SC-295) from Reidville Road to US-221

This proposed landscape plan is endorsed and encouraged by many groups in Spartanburg including the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, the Spartanburg Pride Task Force, Trees Spartanburg, SPATS, the SPATS Enhancement Committee and others.

**Your support of this project is most important.**

Financing will come from Federal funds (80%) and Spartanburg County funds (20%). We are **not** asking for contributions. But it is important to have the enthusiastic support from you who own adjacent property on what we believe will become "Beautiful Southport Road".

If you have an opportunity before the meeting, take a new look at the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club's Willow Oaks on East Main St, particularly from Hillcrest to Zion Hill Rd; these are on the proposed 100-foot centers. And look at their new small-growing Kousa Dogwoods on Drayton Road; they are on the proposed 50-foot centers.

The final project plan consisted of 122 large-growing trees (Willow Oak, October Glory Red Maple, Chinese Elm, London Planetree and Loblolly Pine) and 211 small-growing trees (Natchez, Tuskegee and Osage Crape Myrtle, Kousa Dogwood and Yoshino Cherry).

The contract was awarded to Eagle Construction Company and the sub-contract for treescaping to Rod Wall, owner of Greenway Articulates Landscape of Greenwood. Planting began on schedule in late fall 2002 and was completed in December. Unfortunately, Wall was not aware of the requirements of the landscape specifications in the contract; this resulted in an awkward and somewhat difficult situation for Pittman, the volunteer manager. The project was successfully completed through the good management of DOT engineers

## **5 - TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY**

Dennis Garber and Jeff Jordan, and advice and council of the County's Jim D'Amato and with much consultation and advice from Club members.

In addition to the many shoulder trees, the clover leaf interchange at US-221 was landscaped, as well as a special circular planting of Kousa Dogwood was added above the interchange adjacent to the Dunbar Mortuary property. Because of many necessary on-the-spot modifications to the plan, extra trees were available. They were planted on the shoulders south of US-221; this extended the treescape some thousand feet. This project's landscaping of all four quadrants of the interchange at SC-295 and US-221 was further enhanced by Phase II of the Club's US-221 treescape project which followed in 2004. As required, the sub-contractor replaced a number of dead trees in late 2003 and early 2004. While DOT maintenance allowed a few of the shoulder trees to become weed infested, most of the trees survived and are maturing. This treescape is a great improvement to this important community highway and should result in appreciation of adjacent property.

### **13 US-221 Phase I - 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 Medians and Shoulders on South Church Street Extension**

The Club's Board of Directors began discussing—and encouraging—the treescaping of US-221 south of the city in 1999, but the Club's projects on Drayton Road and Isom Street, on the interchange at US-176 and I-26 and on SC-295, took precedence. But in 2001, with strong support and help from fellow club members Hollis Taylor, Lyn Enderby and Bob Almond and important input from Jim D'Amato, Bill Lonon and Chris Story of Spartanburg County, Henry Pittman began consultations with SCDOT's landscape architect Timothy Edwards.

While the plan was slow in developing due to the other street treescaping projects, Pittman began to pull it together and his most massive and detailed plan was completed in early 2002. The CAD plan covered the five miles of US-221 from the intersection with SC-295 (Southport Road) southward past the new Dorman High School to the large interchange at Interstate-26 toward Columbia. This plan, which was later identified as Phase I, included some 400 trees—medium-growing Crape Myrtles for the medians, and small and large-growing trees for the shoulders. The initial plan did not include landscaping the two interchanges. As with other MGC tree projects, to minimize costs while providing the good aesthetics of a landscaped highway, all trees were planned to be planted on long, 100-foot centers.

Funding was discussed multiple times at MGC board meetings. The Club decided to apply for its first federal grant. The local county SPATS Committee that is responsible for advice to the SCDOT on highway planning has a sub-committee (the SPATS Road Enhancement Committee) involved with highway beautification and similar matters. This sub-committee was the primary approval group for Spartanburg's portion of the SC's TEA-21 funds from Washington. With assistance from other members, Pittman submitted a detailed application and preliminary plan for the estimated \$100,000 project, and it was approved.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

However, SPATS, SCDOT and TEA-21 rules require three critical commitments—1) that for 80% of the total funds to be approved, the remaining 20% must be provided locally, 2) that the project be approved and officially sponsored by a “local government entity,” and 3) that the local sponsor agrees to provide ongoing maintenance of the project. A proposal to Spartanburg County Council resulted in the County’s agreeing to be the official sponsor. However, the County would not provide the required 20% match and would not take on-going maintenance responsibility. So, there were two big hurdles to overcome. Almond joined Pittman in approaching the local community group, Roebuck Improvement Association (RIA) which represented the neighborhood adjacent to much of the highway, in supporting the plan. Alvin McAbee, owner of the Roebuck Greenhouse, came forward with the first encouragement and then Mark West, president of the RIA, and up-coming president Kelly Banks, manager of Arthur State Bank located in Roebuck, joined in.

After much discussion and consultation, the MGC Board agreed to provide \$5,000 toward the required match, and the RIA agreed to provide the remaining \$15,000. So that hurdle was accomplished.

The maintenance requirement was a significant problem. The DOT stood strong that there must be a clear agreement for local ongoing maintenance and responsibility for the trees. The argument and proposal was (with support from many City, County and State officials and friends of beautification) that the MGC, the RIA and County were providing a great service to the SCDOT in improving this five mile section of *their* highway with absolutely no cost to the DOT. The DOT should, therefore, welcome the opportunity to accept ongoing maintenance responsibility.

After weeks of discussion and pushing, a “tide-turning” meeting with many local and state leaders<sup>10</sup> was held at Dorman High School on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2002. This resulted in a special visit two weeks later by Jim Feda, SCDOT Director of Maintenance from Columbia, along with his colleagues Fred Fleming, Jeff Zittle and Steve Weathers. Feda agreed that the ongoing tree maintenance, grass cutting, etc. would be provided by the DOT.<sup>11</sup> This saved the project!



<sup>10</sup> Local and state leaders at this meeting included: Sen. Jim Ritchie and Glen Breed (County), Bobby Welborn (City), Daryl Owings (Dorman High School), and Vivian Patterson, Timothy Edwards, Steve Weathers and Fred Fleming (SCDOT), Kelly Banks and Mark West (RIA), and Bob Almond, Bill Wilson and Henry Pittman (SMGC).

<sup>11</sup> See a copy of the confirming memo to Fieda and his Email agreement in the Appendix 23.

**Spartanburg Men's Garden Club**

*Proposed Resolutions*

**Articles of Incorporation (Board and Members)-**

WHEREAS, Article 6(b) of the Articles of Incorporation for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (the "Club") provides that upon dissolution of the Club, the remaining assets of the Club shall be distributed to "The Spartanburg County Foundation (a 501(c)3 corporation)"; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to change the foregoing designation to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, which is also a 501(c)3 organization in compliance with the requirements incumbent on the Club;

NOW THEREFORE, in furtherance of the foregoing, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

RESOLVED, that Article 6(b) of the Articles of Incorporation of the Spartanburg Men's Club be and the same is hereby amended by deleting The Spartanburg County Foundation therefrom and substituting therefore the Spartanburg Community College Foundation so that after amendment, said Article 6(b) shall read as follows:

*"Upon dissolution of the corporation, consistent with law, the remaining assets of the corporation shall be distributed to: the Spartanburg Community College Foundation."*

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Articles of Amendment consistent with the foregoing be prepared, executed and filed with the South Carolina Secretary of State by the President of the Club.

**Bylaws (Board and Members)-**

WHEREAS, Article XII of the Bylaws of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (the "Club") provides that upon dissolution of the Club, the remaining assets of the Club shall be distributed to "The Spartanburg County Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation"; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Board to change the foregoing designation to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, which is also a 501(c)3 organization in compliance with the requirements incumbent on the Club, said funds to be divided equally between the Jimmy Painter Horticultural Scholarship Fund, the Donald R. Crowder Book Fund, and the Arboretum Fund;

NOW THEREFORE, in furtherance of the foregoing, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

RESOLVED, that Article XII of the Bylaws of the Spartanburg Men's Club be and the same is hereby amended by deleting The Spartanburg County Foundation therefrom and substituting therefore the Spartanburg Community College Foundation so that after amendment, said Article XII shall read as follows:

*"The Board, by a two-thirds affirmative vote, may recommend that the Club be dissolved. Such recommendation shall be submitted in writing to all members and voted upon at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at this special meeting shall result in the dissolution of the Club. After all financial obligations have been paid, the remaining assets shall then be transferred to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Corporation, said funds to be divided equally between the Jimmy Painter Horticultural Scholarship Fund, the Donald R. Crowder Book Fund, and the Arboretum Fund. "*