

# October 2021

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



*Welcoming Men & Women*

## Officers

President Phil Abers  
Vice President Everette Lineberger  
Secretary Denie Crowder  
Treasurer Mary Ann Hipp

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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:

Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

## President's Corner

This October plant sale was a success. It was our best fall plant sale in recent years. That means we need to acquire more plants for future sales. About 70% of the plants sold were purchased and potted up by the club. The other 30% were either propagated by the club or given to the club.

Do you have plants that others may enjoy? Well, how about giving them to the club? This year we sold daylilies, Sheffield chrysanthemum, gardenias and other plants that were given to the club. If you need help digging plants, let Mark Carlson or me know. We can use all the plants we can get to restock the container garden nursery. Let's be prepared for more great plant sales in 2022.

## Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation:

The board has agreed to submit the Articles of Incorporation to the State stating that the beneficiary upon dissolution of the SMGC will be the Spartanburg Community College Foundation. The allocation to the three sub-funds will be specified in the SMGC by-laws.

## Patrick McMillan SMGC Speaker October 18, 2021



### "Gardening for Life — Transforming Your Landscape"

The October meeting on October 18, as scheduled, will be a video presentation, "Gardening for Life— Transforming Your Landscape" by Dr. Patrick McMillan. Dr. McMillan was a former faculty member of Clemson University and host of a PBS program entitled "Expeditions." This particular program features hundreds of photographs of wildflowers and plants. Patrick's purpose is to show that we can have all types of "green space" in our home landscape instead of being satisfied with mulch. All of the photography was done at the Clemson Botanical Garden. Who knew they had a landscape copied from a Mexican desert? Come see for yourself and invite one or more friends!



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



Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
**DirtDaubers.org**



## **Spartanburg Men's Garden Club**

### **2022 Officer/Director Member Candidates**

#### **Officers**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Phil Abers  
Bruce Fraedrich  
Denie Crowder  
Mary Ann Hipp

#### **Directors - 1<sup>st</sup> Year of Term**

Linda Savioe  
Will Hawkins  
Phillip Marchant  
Curtis Marshall

#### **Directors - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of Term**

Mark Carlson  
Charlie Crescenzi  
Ben Waddell



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**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**



Propagation area cleanup



Lycoris aurea  
(yellow spider lily)



Callicarpa dichotoma  
(beautyberry)

## 2021 Litter pickup schedule

**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.

**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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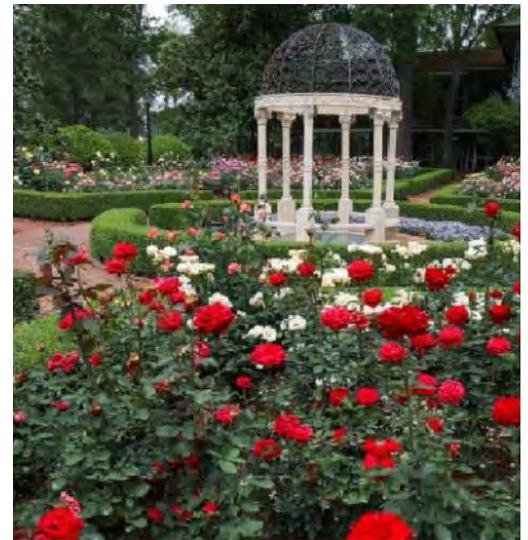
### **Member Musing**

**By Denie Crowder**

### *Day Trips in South Carolina*

This month I would like to introduce you to four gardens that are easy day trips from Spartanburg. You might read about a familiar garden or find a new one to visit.

The first garden is a very easy drive from Spartanburg. It is the Janie Earle Furman Rose Garden on the campus of Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. It features eight hundred (800) rose bushes, a 19<sup>th</sup> century gazebo and a charming fountain. Of course, you would want to visit it in the summer to enjoy the roses in bloom. Also, on the campus is the Bell Tower from the original campus. It is surrounded by the campus lake and views of the beautiful mountains of the upstate. You will also be able to enjoy the beauty of the entire campus.



The South Carolina Botanical Gardens on the campus of Clemson University is a diverse 295 acres of natural landscapes, display gardens, the Bob Campbell Geology Museum and the Fran Hanson Discovery Center which has exhibits by local artists. The garden offers adult education classes, children's programs, nature walks and museum tours. The Friends of the Garden also holds plant sales in the spring and fall to which members are allowed advance entry. There is no admission fee for the garden. When you finish your visit to the garden, be sure to drive over to the Hendrix Student Center and go to the '55 Exchange for a delicious ice cream treat.

Another day adventure is the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia. The Riverbanks Zoo is home to more than 2000 animals and the gardens are among the nation's most beautiful and inspiring. The grounds feature dynamic natural habitat exhibits, scenic river views, spectacular valley overlooks and significant historic landmarks. Also on the grounds is a children's garden. There is an admission fee for the zoo and gardens. While in Columbia, plan to visit the Memorial Garden at 1919 Lincoln Street (820 Calhoun Street on the GPS) which adjoins the Governor's Complex. It is owned by the Garden Club of South Carolina and is a memorial to World War II veterans. The garden has been placed on the National Register of Historical Places under three criteria 1) on landscape design of a master—Loutrel Briggs, 2) on the fact it was the first Memorial Garden to World War II veterans, 3) on the outstanding accomplishment of women.

Edisto Gardens in Orangeburg is another easy and enjoyable day trip. It is a 175-acre site with many rose varieties, themed-gardens and parks, plus disc golf and a fine arts center. It displays past and current award-winning roses. Included are 4800 plants representing at least 120 labeled varieties of roses. Winners are displayed in the main rose garden after the two-year evaluation.

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

## 5 - TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Unfortunately, Phase II did not progress as smoothly and efficiently as Phase I—the Love Grass on the steep banks germinated poorly, many trees died and fewer trees than planned were planted at the I-26 Interchange, and some trees are missing at the SC-295 crossing. Maintenance by the

**The Interchange at US-221 and SC-295 looks good.**



**The Interchange at I-26 had problems from the beginning, but Club work is improving it in 2010.**



SCDOT has not been as consistent as expected. Nevertheless, both interchanges have been greatly improved. Even though execution of Phase II of the US-221 project was not easy or entirely satisfactory, the resulting enhanced beautification of these important Spartanburg entry sites adds greatly to the value of Phase I and was worth all of the effort.

### 15 Interstate-85 Business, 2006 – 2007 “Veterans Highway”

The county’s Intermodal Transportation Plan developed by the SPATS Committee in about 2004 was an important Long Range Enhancement Master Plan. It was developed by Jeff Caton with strong support from Lisa Bollinger. Its intent was to prioritize beautification projects related to transportation.

Second to continuation of the Spot of Pride program<sup>13</sup> was improving Interstate-85 Business, the important corridor around the north side of Spartanburg. It was the original I-85, but renamed I-85 Business when the new I-85 Bypass was completed in 1995.<sup>14</sup>

The Club’s active representative on the SPATS Road Enhancement sub-committee for many years had been Dr. Jack Turner; he was replaced by Henry Pittman.<sup>15</sup> Actively looking for a new Club tree project, Pittman began a proposed shoulder treescape plan for I-85 Business. He developed a detailed plan for the south half of the seven miles, and with MGC board approval, submitted it to the SPATS group in early 2005 with the request for approval of a TEA-21 federal grant of \$44,000. This was contingent upon County Council

<sup>13</sup> This was an ongoing and very active program initiated in 2000 by the PRIDE Task Force and under the very able and active direction of Hans Balmer..

<sup>14</sup> Treescaping of the new I-85 Bypass in 1996 is covered earlier in this chapter.

<sup>15</sup> Club president Dr Ed Wilde replaced Henry Pittman as MGC representative to the SPATS Committee in 2008.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

approval as the “official local government sponsor.” SPATS approved and Pittman proceeded to complete the plan for the entire project.

County Council was enthusiastic in approving sponsorship of the project with the MGC as manager but as with the US-221 treescape project, it would provide neither the required 20% local dollar match nor the required ongoing maintenance responsibility. So, if the project were to be developed, the Club had to find a way to procure these necessities.

Parallel with the MGC funding request, Hans Balmer requested SPATS’s approval of \$90,000 for a Spot of Pride project involving creating multiple landscape areas on I-85 Business in existing medians protected by guard rails. The SPATS Sub Committee and the local full SPATS Committee approved both projects, and later they were both approved by the SC Department of Transportation. The prospects were bright for a significant enhancement of this important highway north of the City.

After multiple consultations and revisions, Pittman completed the plan for the Club’s entire project in September of 2006. It contained strict details on placement of MGC trees near billboards to insure the 300-foot non-planted open space for viewing of each active billboard side. This is a strong requirement of the SCDOT due to its special relationship



**In addition to shoulder plantings, there are multiple groups like this one at Viaduct Road...**

with the billboard industry. While the designer and, in general, the Club believed this to be an improper restriction which results in “dis-enhancement” of our highways, the plan clearly demanded respect for these requirements. SCDOT’s Joyce Gardener was the primary guide and consultant on the billboard protection requirements.

The plan also detailed the 100-foot spacing of trees and their placement relative to existing fences (at 3-foot distance, spaced like Milliken’s Willow Oaks of the 1960s) and specified mulching to be gradually widened and then

narrowed to minimize mowing difficulty. In addition to requiring that all trees be located at least 22 feet from the edge of the travel lane, the plan also specified they be located at least 80 feet in front of and 20 feet behind SCDOT road-signs. The plan also contained a listing with common and botanical names of the 276 trees specified.<sup>16</sup>

During the fall of 2006, multiple review meetings were held with local DOT Maintenance Manager Fred Fleming and his supervisor, District Engineer Jason Allison from Greenville. Mike Garrett, Spartanburg County Director of Public Works, was the County’s active representative in both planning and executing this project. Garrett’s input was extremely valuable and essential. Lisa Bollinger and Hans Balmer were frequent

<sup>16</sup> This list is a part of Appendix 29.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

participants as was MGC President Everett Lineberger. In anticipation of the contract including plant warranty and maintenance for three years (as did the Club's US-221 project), the estimated cost of the project at that time was near \$64,000.

The two remaining problems to be solved were the source of the required 20% local



**...but this group had to be moved because of this dilapidated billboard...**

funding, and the guarantee of ongoing maintenance. The Club, under Lineberger's leadership, accepted the matching funds challenge and provided approximately \$12,000, but could not accept responsibility for ongoing maintenance. The SCDOT would not waive this requirement, as it had for the US-221 treescape project. But Hans Balmer, who was planning the companion project--the landscaping of

multiple *median areas* on this highway--volunteered his Spot of Pride program to provide this maintenance service for the MGC/County *shoulder* project. His confirming letter to Allison in August cleared the way for the September approval by the SCDOT of the required Encroachment Permit submitted by the County. This was a happy day for the County and the Club.

The original plan was to contract the project similar to the previous one for US-221, with three years of plant warranty and maintenance. However, Timothy Edwards, SCDOT Landscape Architect in Columbia, who, for years, had been such an ongoing source of encouragement and help to the Club in all of its street and highway projects, pointed out that maintenance was not

allowed to be financed by the Federal TEA-21 program. It was for implementation only and could not be properly used for ongoing maintenance, not even for two years of it.

In an attempt to solve this problem, two contracts were created, a basic one to cover implementation with a one-year warranty, summer watering and year-end maintenance (properly financed with the Federal Funds), and a maintenance contract to provide for a second and third year of warranty and maintenance (to be financed by Balmer's Spot of Pride program).



**...that looked like this on the back.**