

February 2022 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:
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

Have you visited our website recently? I know that my visits are too infrequent. Last year a neighbor gave me an old Spartanburg Magazine from the Spring of 2006. The reason he gave it to me was the article on page 40 about the Dirt Daubers. I thought this would be a great article to reprint in our monthly newsletter. I checked with the publisher about the approval needed to reprint the article. Unbeknownst to me, the publisher advised me that we have a link to that article on our website. I guess I need to spend more time looking at the website. Go to our DirtDauber.org website, look under the About tab, and click on SMGC in the News. Scroll down and there it is!

I doubt I am the only one in the club who does not regularly visit our website. Take the time to visit our website. We have good information there. Under the gardening help tab we have a number of articles about trees and propagation. There is a very good presentation on Roses by Vahl Wilson that Lou Adams posted a few years ago for our benefit. While visiting the website, make some notes and let us know of any updates, changes or additions you feel will enhance our website.

Dr. Gillian Newberry SMGC Speaker February 21, 2022

"The Making of Peter's Creek Heritage Trust Preserve"



Meet Dr. Gillian "Gill" Newberry, retired USC Upstate Professor and local champion for rare plants and nature. Dr. Newberry established the Upstate herbarium that has over 18,000 specimens and led research projects at the Peter's Creek Heritage Preserve. During her presentation, Dr. Newberry describes how she found this 180-acre site that is now open to the public and discovered its many natural attributes including rare plant species. See how one person can make a difference!

Spring Plant Sale
April 1st - 2nd, 2022
Fri 8am-1pm and Sat 8am-1pm
Hundreds of Plants
Reasonable Prices



<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.



2022 Litter pickup schedule

March 19 rain date **Mar 26**

June 18 rain date **Jun 25**

Sept. 17 rain date **Sep 24**

Dec. 3 rain date **Dec 10**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravy Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

Renew Now 2022 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



Hellebores



Hellebores



Narcissus 'Dutch Master'

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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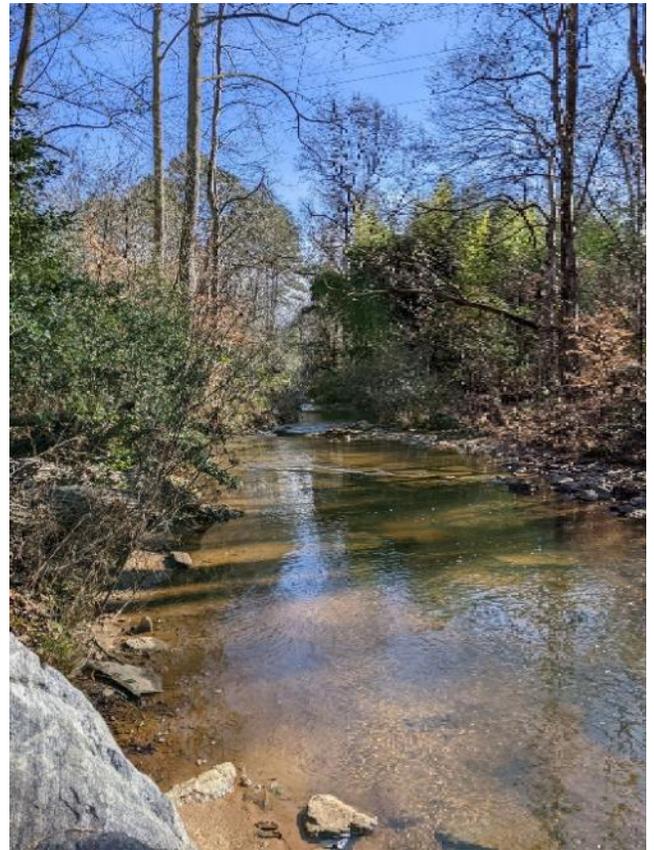
Member Musing

By Bruce Fraedrich

Peter's Creek Heritage Preserve

After moving to Spartanburg and buying a twenty-year-old house three years ago, I typically make the pilgrimage to the Home Depot several times a week. The route to the home improvement mecca takes me down Gossett Road to Cannons Campground Road on the east side of Spartanburg. Less than a mile from the turn off on Cannons Campground, there is a sign for Peter's Creek Heritage Preserve next to a gravel road. For years, I have been meaning to check out what is at the end of the gravel road and on a warm afternoon in late December, Lyn and I finally visited the site. We should have visited Peter's Creek sooner- it is a unique gem in Spartanburg.

The preserve is only 180 acres but contains many diverse and unique habitats. The north facing slopes above the creeks support a mature hardwood forest comprised mostly of oak, hickory, and beech. Several species of oak not normally found in Spartanburg are growing on these slopes. The young beech in the understory retains much of their foliage in the dormant season and the tan color provides considerable winter interest. Trees along the stream bottoms are sycamore, elm, sweetgum, and red maple. The understory has numerous American hollies with bright red berries in winter and stands of mountain laurel that typically blooms in late April. The site also supports several rare and endangered plants.



Over seven miles of trails meander through the preserve-most trails occur in loops so there is minimal back-tracking. Trails are wide and well-marked, and the slopes are rather gentle which provides for an easy hike. The trails cross the creeks in several locations, which requires a little dexterity to keep from getting your feet wet.

Peter's Creek was once the site of several water mills dating back more than 150 years. Remains of a mill dam and pond are present near the parking area at the preserve entrance. Many of the trails were once wagon roads leading to the mills.

Peter's Creek is open to the public free of charge daily from dawn to dusk. Learn more about Peter's Creek at the February meeting when Dr. Gillian Newberry, the force behind the preservation of this site, will be our guest speaker.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Chapter 6

Creating Spartanburg's Treasure: HATCHER GARDEN AND THE SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

*Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to a community.
When people plant corn they are saying,
"Let's stay here." And by their connection to the land,
they are connected to one another.*

- Anne Raver

There is no corn in Hatcher Garden, but the visitor will find many trees and flowers, shrubs and waterfalls, meandering streams and ponds, benches and picnic tables along shady winding paths throughout the ten acre public botanical garden just minutes from downtown Spartanburg. And there are many, many people for whom Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve has become a connection to Spartanburg and to each other.

Located at 820 John B. White Boulevard, the old Reidville Road, Hatcher Garden, as it is known by the locals, is an oasis in the middle of a mixed commercial and 1940's -1950's residential neighborhood. It came into being as a result of the vision, persistence and penny pinching of Harold Hatcher and his wife, Josephine. From the beginning, there has been a strong connection between Hatcher Garden and Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. Joe Mullinax, former Executive Director of Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve, credits the SMGC with being an essential part of the development of the garden. "I always say that this Garden would not be here without the involvement of the Men's Garden Club," Mullinax says. "This Garden is for the community and built by the community. The SMGC fingerprints are all over this place—from the nursery to the gazebo to the waterfall."

6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

Alice Hatcher Henderson, Hatcher's daughter, agreed with Mullinax's sentiments. "Dad considered the help he got from Jess Taylor and other Spartanburg Men's Garden Club members to be the happiest surprise that resulted from moving to Spartanburg for he had labored on various smaller projects in Indiana by himself."

Over the years the Garden has been heavily landscaped with thousands of trees, shrubs, perennials and annual flowerbeds, and hardscaped with winding paths, rock-lined streams, numerous ponds and several buildings. Many of these additions have been a result of Club activity.

The development of the garden was begun shortly after 1969 when Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher moved to Spartanburg and started enlarging their "back yard." This was done slowly as adjacent property became available. As more and more houses and lots were acquired, Henry Pittman once jokingly accused Hatcher of, "You only want to own the *adjacent* property." The Garden now encompasses 10 acres along one of Spartanburg's busiest streets. Recent roadside enhancements attract Garden visitors with colorful perennial beds and ornamental trees, eye-catching sculptures and an ever-changing marquee sign announcing the latest events at Hatcher Garden. Visitors from every state in the United States and forty foreign countries have visited Hatcher Garden and have been impressed with its beauty and tranquility.

Hatcher was no neophyte gardener when he lived in Indiana. There, he was not only an active personal gardener, but a volunteer leader in community beautification projects. Relocating to Spartanburg in 1969 as the new director of the federally funded anti-poverty agency, "Piedmont Community Action," the Hatchers purchased the house and small lot at 124 Briarwood Road on Spartanburg's westside. The primary appeal of the property was the untamed woods in the back. In his wonderful book about Hatcher's life in Spartanburg, *The Seasons of Harold Hatcher*, Mike Hembree describes what the land that is now Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve was like when the Hatchers bought it.



Potential—but little else. The land, once home to cotton fields, was badly eroded. Big gullies cut slashes across the property. The ravines had become dumpsites for refrigerators, mattresses, tires and other refuse. It was not a pretty sight, but it sparkled in Hatcher's mind's eye. He could see what it might become. . . . It was land that had been robbed of its nutrients by cotton farming and cleared of its topsoil by rushing rain waters. To Hatcher, though, it was magic waiting to happen."

¹ Hembree, Mike. *The Seasons of Harold Hatcher*. Spartanburg, SC: HubCity Writing Project, 2000: 3-4.