

March 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

Article 2, Section 2.4 of the SMGC bylaws states as an objective of the club: "to promote community beautification through charitable, educational and scientific means." Our club has done beautification work as witnessed by our Street Tree Program and the Spots of Pride. Our donation of trees to the Mary Wright School Project and our contributions to SCC have been greatly appreciated. We also do quarterly litter pick up on Pine Street. On Saturday, March 5, we had an excellent turn out to remove invasive species at Peter's Creek Nature Preserve. We do excellent volunteer work and contribute financially to beautification projects.

Our main funding source for projects comes from our biannual plant sales. We need everyone to help make our plant sales successful. Would you like to come help us with the plant sale on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2? Do you have any plants that can be potted to fill up our container garden? Do you have friends, family or acquaintances who need plants or advice? Invite them to come to our plant sale. Who knows, you may have recruited the newest member of our club!

Jason Bagwell and Kevin Parris, Ph.D.

SMGC Speakers, March 21, 2022

"The Sustainable Agriculture Program at Spartanburg Community College"

Sustainable agriculture is the production of food crops using environmentally friendly methods. Jason discusses the basic concepts of the program at SCC. Then straw bale gardening is presented by Kevin, which is ideally suited for small properties.

The public is always invited to attend meetings.

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.



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Photography by Linda McHam

This garden belongs to Tylney Hall (Small Luxury Hotel) in Rotherwick, Hook, Basingstoke, England.

See <https://www.slh.com/hotels/tylney-hall-hotel-and-gardens>



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 McCravey 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.

"Not many people are familiar with the name Gertrude Jekyll outside the world of gardening, but for those with green fingers and others in the know she is one of the great English garden architects and designers.

The years she spent replanting the gardens here at Tylney Hall represent a lifetime's achievement. So it is of little surprise that we have heaped just as much loving care on restoring the gardens and grounds as we have spent bringing the Hall back to its former glory.

Our Head Gardener, Paul Tattersdill, and his team have been tending the gardens for over 25 years, and his vision is only now nearing completion. At the last count, there were over 250,000 trees and shrubs on the estate which sprawls over 66 acres, and Paul and his team are never happier than when they are showing fellow garden enthusiasts around the estate."

Excerpt from the hotel's website.



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Member Musing

By Will Hawkins

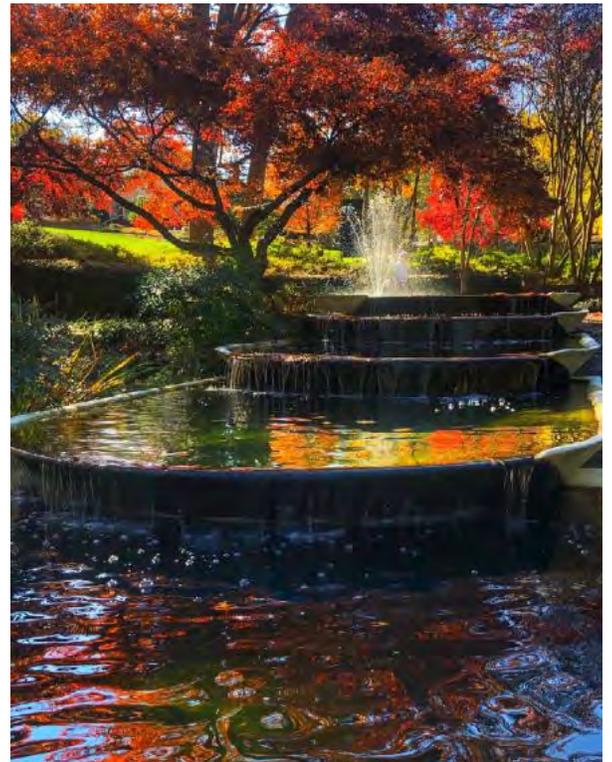
Glencairn Garden

I attended college at Winthrop University. While there I was delighted to find a beautifully landscaped public park in Rock Hill near Winthrop known as Glencairn Garden. It is a perfect place to go take a walk, have a picnic, for Winthrop University students to study and have weddings.

Glencairn was started back in 1928 by Rock Hill residents David and Hazel Bigger when they were given a few azaleas. By 1940, they had over 400 azaleas and in that year they opened Glencairn Garden to the public. It is named in honor of Dr. Bigger's Scottish origin. In 1958, Hazel Bigger deeded the 11 acre garden to the city of Rock Hill.

Landscape architect Robert Marvin further enhanced the botanical experience with a tiered fountain and a Japanese footbridge built over a brook that runs through the park.

Perhaps the best time of year to visit is the last week of March through mid April when over 3000 azaleas are in bloom. In addition to the azaleas, there are dogwoods, wisteria, camellias and hardwood trees that are planted on the grounds for visitors to enjoy.



Even though spring is the loveliest time of year to visit with all the azaleas, doublefile viburnums, tulips, dogwoods, redbuds and many other plants in bloom, visitors are sure to enjoy the garden any day of the year. In the summer, there is plenty of shade from the hardwood trees and the daylilies, crape myrtles, and annuals are blooming. In the fall, sasanqua camellias and pansies bloom to accent the changing foliage. In the winter, dozens of camellias will be found blooming along with daffodils and Lenten roses. Be sure to pay Glencairn Garden a visit if you are in Rock Hill!



Betty Montgomery's Garden Tour

Betty Montgomery's garden will be open for visitors on Saturday, April 9 from 10 to 4 and Sunday, April 10 from 2 to 5. If it is raining on those dates, the garden will be open Saturday, April 16. Betty's garden is located at 100 Forty Oaks, Campobello, SC 29322.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

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For the next thirty years Hatcher worked in conjunction with his wife, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, and many other volunteers and civic groups, to develop and expand the Garden into what we know and treasure today. Over the years, the Men's Garden Club has been a vital partner in Hatcher Garden and continues to support it with money and volunteers.

Hatcher joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in the early 1970s, about a year after moving to Spartanburg. He became a very active member right away. His garden was



1992 Picture of John Nevison and Dave Kennemur—Two stalwart members of the MGC and supporters of the Garden

in the early stages of development in 1974, and there was available space that could be used by the club for growing trees. Hatcher was the prime mover for propagating plants and trees for sale by the club. The spring and fall sales, which were very informal affairs in those days, consisted of bare root seedlings sold in plastic bags. These tree sales, which are treated in detail in the next chapter, produced the operating funds of SMGC, much of which was used to benefit the development of Hatcher Garden.

Never president of the SMGC, Hatcher nevertheless was a de-facto leader serving as secretary for two years and editor of the Club's monthly

newsletter for 13 years. Similar to the old business adage, "He who holds the chalk, controls the meeting," the newsletter editor had similar power.

Walter Soderberg was also new but quickly became an important member. He joined the SMGC in 1970, became a close friend of Hatcher and began a wonderful and close working relationship in the garden's development. Soderberg is said to have been the most active member of the club in helping Hatcher transform the eroded gully area into the Garden.

There are many great stories of the working relationship of Soderberg and Hatcher. Soderberg even rescued Hatcher from one of the Garden's ice covered ponds when Hatcher fell in while sawing down a cypress tree on a cold winter day. Joe Mullinax remembers this story told to him. "Walter Soderberg, SMGC member and close friend of Harold Hatcher, told me that he once saved Harold's life. He came out one winter day after an ice storm to the Garden and found Harold balancing on a downed tree in the Bald Cypress Pond with a chainsaw, trying to clean things up. He slipped and fell into the cold, icy water. Luckily, Walter was there to pull him out. Without that fortunate timing, we might not have Hatcher Garden today."

Mullinax continues, "Walter also told me the story of how he and Harold built the 10-foot waterfall, by hand, when they were both in their 70's. Walter said he used to like to smoke cigars, but his wife didn't like him smoking in the house, so he would come out to the Garden and Harold would let him smoke as long as he helped him. When they built the waterfall, Walter tied a rope around his waist, put the rope around a tree, tied the other end to a rock and lowered the rock down to Hatcher who was standing at the bottom of the waterfall. Hatcher then mortared the rocks into place. If you've seen the waterfall, you know those are some large rocks!"

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Soderberg continued as an active member of SMGC and supporter of Hatcher Garden until his death in 2004. His family commemorated his love for the garden by donating a memorial Ericaceous Garden in his honor that was planted and dedicated in 2006.

As Hatcher worked in the Garden, he became known for his frugality almost as much as for his gardening expertise. His daughter, Alice, recalls how her father liked to put any spare money into additions to the garden. She remembers the story about when Hatcher was robbed. “Dad liked working at the Men’s Garden Club ‘tree farm,’ which was on some unused city property behind Prince Hall apartments. While working by himself one day, he was approached by a thief who took his wallet when no one else was in sight. Dad showed no concern for any physical safety issues (that worried my mother) when he returned to work in the same spot by himself the next day, but he regretted that he could have bought lots of baby trees with the \$40 that was taken from him.”

John Nevison, another enthusiastic leader of Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club for many years, became great friends with Hatcher after he joined the Club in 1969. Mike Hembree in page 53 of *Seasons of Harold Hatcher*, notes that Nevison was a dedicated worker at the garden:

“Nevison worked at Hatcher Garden two or three days a week, leaving home early in the morning to be in the garden soon after daylight. He and his blue pickup truck ran numerous garden-related errands, both in town and around the state.” In 1999, a permanent memorial from the Club to Nevison was erected and dedicated at Hatcher Garden: the *John Nevison Amphitheater*.

Although Hatcher was enjoying the physical and monetary support of SMGC in developing the garden, he still didn’t like to waste anything. Club members tell many stories about his use and re-use of things he found on the properties he bought along Reidville Road. One of the several houses Hatcher bought to expand the Gardens included an ancient, termite infested chicken house that he used to store building materials and garden tools for maintaining the adjacent houses. According to Jess Taylor, “this tumbled down shack was an eyesore.”

Taylor recalls this encounter with Hatcher: “One day in 1987 while I was visiting the area, Hatcher said to me, ‘Jess, why not just cover this building with 4 by 8 sheets of plywood so it won’t look so bad from the rest of the gardens.’ After examining the dilapidated structure, I replied, ‘this thing won’t survive another wind storm. Let’s demolish it and build a pole-type structure in its place. SMGC has plenty of funds to put up a real building.’ And so we built a substantial replacement with lavatories, work shop, and a drinking fountain especially for Hatcher’s use. As the old chicken house was demolished and hauled away to the dump, Hatcher stood by with a sad look on his face but later told me it was a good move.” In 2003, this pole structure known as the “Potting Shed” was officially named the “Jess Taylor Pavilion” by the Hatcher board in appreciation for



The Club and the Garden Club Council financed the deck—one of the great additions to the Garden.

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Taylor's many valuable contributions to the Garden. It is used today as an outdoor classroom and volunteer work station.

Taylor also recalls Hatcher's reluctance to demolish another original structure at the Garden. "One of the building lots Harold owned on Reidville Road contained a brick garage that was in the way of a new Garden entrance SMGC wanted to fund. Harold really didn't want to demolish it. John Nevison, Tom Bartram, and I were standing around the structure, discussing with Harold his approval to tear it down. Harold was reluctant. Then John knocked off some of the crumbling mortar revealing a salvaged used brick. Harold saw the recycling possibilities. He later assembled a group of 'judge appointed community service volunteers' and went about recycling the old garage." According to Joe Mullinax, the brick columns that are now on either side of the driveway at the entrance to the parking lot were built from those recycled bricks.

Hatcher was also known for being able to get the last possible use out of a piece of equipment. He preferred putting his money into land and plants, so he was always receptive to donations of tools and equipment to get the work done. An SMGC member recalls the difficulty of working with some of this *recycled* equipment. "Someone in the remote past donated two electric riding lawn mowers to the gardens. Volunteer SMGC work crews during plant sale seasons used these machines to haul plants and materials when assembling plants for sale. When pulling soil and plants up-hill, three or four members got behind the machine and helped push the struggling thing up-hill. The down hill trip was an altogether different matter. The machines had long ago worn out the brakes and it was 'Watch out! Every man for himself.' After several near accidents, the Club convinced Hatcher to junk the monsters and the SMGC funded a new John Deere tractor."

Linda McHam, who joined the Club in 1991 and later became the first woman president of the club, recalls introducing Hatcher to the value of the tiller attachment. "I took my riding mower which has a two-foot tiller attachment out to the tree nursery at Fairforest Creek and tilled up the hard clay for him. He couldn't believe how much work it did in two hours. It would have taken him about two days to do the same amount. Bob Almond told me that Harold immediately asked the SMGC to purchase a similar attachment for the Garden."

After heart surgery in 1985, Hatcher (probably reluctantly) began thinking of future plans for the garden's life. After so many years of "fire in the belly" personal development of the garden, it was probably hard for Hatcher to share responsibility with others. By the late 1980s, the work of maintaining the Garden—even with help from active SMGC members—was getting to be a bit much. By 1987 Hatcher was almost 90 years old and was concerned about the Garden's future. According to Hembree's book, Hatcher "was wondering all the time about what would happen when I was gone...Would there be enough people to appreciate it, to keep it up, to not let it grow up in vines again?"

In December 1986, he and his wife, Josephine, deeded the Garden to the Spartanburg County Foundation with an agreement with the leaders of Spartanburg Technical College (now Spartanburg Community College) that the college would provide ongoing maintenance. This maintenance cooperation began to wane after a year or so. For 10 years, there was essentially no change in the operation of the garden—and no contingency plan to carry it forward—or even maintain it without Hatcher. During this period, there were multiple *ad hoc* meetings at the County Foundation offices with Jim Barrett to coordinate

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activities at the Gardens. These meetings included club members Almond, Nevison and Taylor, along with Harold Hatcher and Barrie Bain. But no plan evolved then.

Even without a plan to insure future health and growth, the Club, based on faith that such an important venture would survive, continued strong support, both labor-wise and financial. In 1986, the first new building in the Garden—the Potting Shed, later named the Jess Taylor Pavilion in honor of its champion—was financed by the club. In the late 80s, it financed asphaltting of the garden paths and, with the Garden Club Council, provided funds for the Observation Deck deep in the wooded area. During the first half of the 1990s, the Club funded other multiple capital projects which included the pole-structured Equipment Building behind the Potting Shed, paving of the parking lot, some dozen benches and tables (constructed by Club members), additional paved paths, the first Irrigation System for the Garden's beds and the Club container garden, and partnered with the Garden Club Council in funding the Gazebo. This "hardscaping" was done while Frank Cunningham, Soderberg, Bartram, John Fincher and Almond shared the presidency and while Taylor was treasurer. They were the champions of this work along with Nevison and Bob Oldham. And in 1993, Hatcher donated to the County Foundation three of his houses fronting on Reidville Road which blocked viewing the garden from the street. This provided an important expansion to Hatcher Garden.

Pittman recalled a 1996 MGC Board meeting in the pavilion at Jim Bagwell's home during the "Almond-Bartram-Pittman-Soderberg Co-Presidency" when Jane Bagwell was secretary, that the very question that Hatcher was asking himself was seriously discussed. "*Why was there no long range plan? How would the garden survive without Harold?*" There was current discussion of the possibility of financing a greenhouse for Harold. Deliberation focused on the Club expenditures over the past decade totaling over \$40,000 "and now we are considering contributing a \$4,500 greenhouse—all of this with no idea of how the garden can possibly continue if something happens to Harold!" Clearly, a long range plan was in order! Bartram's "Gardening & Beautification" newsletter of February, 1997, said, "In conjunction with the Spartanburg [County] Foundation, we're represented on a [new] committee undertaking the task of formulating plans for the future of the Garden. Our representatives are Bob Almond, Bill Gaston and Jess Taylor." Action was on the way!

This Advisory Committee formed by the Foundation began serious discussions on the future of the Garden when Harold would no longer be able to participate. The club decided to proceed with financing the greenhouse that year.

After a year of studying the question, "*Does Spartanburg need a public garden?*" the committee answered, "Yes!" So, in 1998: real success! The Foundation, under the directorship of Jim Barrett, created a Board of Directors for the Garden. It included active Club member Bartram, plus Barrie Bain, Gaston, and McHam (soon afterwards, they became Club members) and Jamie Cobb. Later that year another long range decision was made. The new Hatcher Board hired its first Executive Director, Kelly Petoskey. She was previously associated with the South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson. In 1999, one of Spartanburg Tech's star graduates, Jeff Hall, was hired by Petoskey and became Hatcher's "star" horticulturist. Hatcher was pleased with this new organizational structure.

This was the beginning of present-day Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve which at that time was called Hatcher Garden, and previously Hatcher Horticulture Gardens.