

# January 2023

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## Welcoming Men & Women

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### Communications

Louis W. Adams, Jr.  
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org  
Phil Abers  
President@DirtDaubers.org  
Mark Carlson  
PlantSales@DirtDaubers.org

### 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

It is here! 2023—the 75th year of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club! What can we do to make this a memorable year? What ideas do you have for the anniversary year? How can you promote the club? One easy action is to talk about the club whenever the opportunity presents itself. We have a great history and there are many knowledgeable gardeners in the club. Let's brag about the club and invite people to meetings and the plant sales. A goal for this year is to bring in 23 new members in 2023. If each current club member recruits one new member, that goal will be easily reached. Let's have a great 75th Anniversary year!



### January Meeting

Please note that the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Meeting is **Tuesday, January 17th**, at 7 PM on the Spartanburg Community College Campus. Although our regular meetings are normally on the third Monday of each month, we moved it to Tuesday due to the Martin Luther King Holiday. We hope to see you at the meeting.

### Linda Tiller McHam SMGC Speaker, January 16, 2023

Linda Tiller McHam has been a member of SMGC since 1989. She is a lifelong gardener coming from grandparents who were florists and agricultural chemical manufacturers. Martha and Wendell Tiller, her parents, instilled a love of the out-of-doors and growing plants as far back as the 1950s. Linda has operated several businesses and one of her most enjoyable ventures was taking people from the USA to Europe, primarily England, to see historic designs and cutting edge techniques in the horticultural world. One of the most memorable gardens she has visited is Great Dixter, the home of Christopher Lloyd (died 2006) and his protégé Fergus Garrett. Take a break from the dreary, cold, winter weather and bring a friend to refresh yourselves in the exquisite beauty of the gardens of Great Dixter, UK.

### Greetings Members of SMGC:

This year is our 75th Anniversary as a club and we are excited to tell you that our theme for this year is Green and Clean: Making Spartanburg Better—75 Years. Our plan is to highlight our annual plant sales throughout the year, and to host an event for Spartanburg community families.

We also plan to highlight our history, current club activities, and promote a goal of 23 new members in 2023. Our final event is a dinner on November 9th, 2023 at the Piedmont Club for SMGC members and invited guests.



<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**



## 2023 Litter pickup schedule

**TBA**

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.)



*Lycopodium obscurum*  
(ground pine)



*Fagus grandifolia* (beech tree)  
felled by a beaver.



Access to pond by beaver  
hauling felled trees

**Renew Now  
 2023 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
- Peggy Wilson, Realtor
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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[DirtDaubers.org](http://DirtDaubers.org)



## Member Musing

By Phil Abers

Our common interest in the Garden Club is the great hobby we share. How do people get interested in gardening? I am sure there are many stories that explain how we became gardeners. Many stories include parents or grandparents, whose hobby was passed on to lucky folks like us.

Some people have not had the great opportunity to be exposed to gardening. Perhaps these people lived the city life. Maybe they live in an apartment or condominium that has no space for a garden plot. That is a sad thought for those of us who want to garden, but do not have a place for it.

Recently, the club was the recipient of a large donation of plants from Charlie Covert and his Creekside Nursery. He also entrusted us with an additional large number plants to maintain. These additional plants are being made available to Habitat for Humanity. We showed this bonanza to the construction manager for Habitat and she is very pleased to have these plants. She also saw plants in our container garden that Habitat may purchase for some of their new houses.

The Habitat houses are landscaped just before closing and the plants we have available are typically the ones chosen for those projects. It is great to be able to work with another non-profit organization to help improve Spartanburg.

I mentioned in the opening paragraphs about getting involved in gardening. Many of these new Habitat homeowners have never had a house before and do not have any gardening experience. Habitat has classes for homeowners on various gardening topics. These new owners are potential garden enthusiasts. With this generous donation from Charlie, we may have a new generation of plant lovers. What can be more exciting than bringing a new group of people into the gardening world!



History of the club continues on the following pages.

## 9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Smith served as chairman for eight years. Julian Foster was chairman of the project from 1970 to 1975. During this period, evaluations were made in both spring and fall. Awards were presented in 1972 to 18 local firms and organizations during ceremonies at the Chamber headquarters by both Club and Chamber leaders. Recognized as top performers were Deering Milliken, Scharer Textile Machine Works Inc., The Erwin Company, Dr. Clyde O. Wells, Jr., Spartanburg County Health Department and Mary Black Memorial Hospital.

*Spartanburg Herald-Journal, June, 1997*

### **Businesses earn area awards for landscaping**

Spartanburg businesses are reaping rewards from civic leaders for planting flowers, shrubs and trees to enhance and beautify the landscape around their offices.

The Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Men's Garden Club presented awards recently to several companies in a landscape beautification contest. A reception was held for the winners last week at the Chamber.

Recognition was given to 20 companies for their landscaping efforts... "These winners are a big asset to the community because they go through a lot of trouble putting out mulch, shrubs and trees," said Jane Bagwell, chairwoman of the landscape judging committee. "The more landscaping work the businesses do, the better Spartanburg looks."

Bagwell said about about 46 companies competed and 17 received first place awards or honorable mention.

Several achievement awards were given to Flagstar, Milliken & Co., and Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. "The achievement awards were given to these three businesses

A hundred landscapes were judged in 1974; twelve members constituted the judging team. Charlie Hart became chairman working with the Chamber for the spring and fall judging of 150 firms by 12 MGC teams in 1975. The Club's 1980 newsletter reported that approximately 1,000 man hours were contributed by members to the spring and fall judgments. A hundred firms were evaluated in 1976.

Two hundred landscapes were evaluated in 1982 by 30 members in the spring when Archie Lawson was chairman. Excellent and Good certificates were awarded. This was probably the year that spring and fall judging was abandoned in favor of judging in the spring only.

Tom Bartram became chair in 1985 and served for three years. His group evaluated 88 organizations in 1988. Perrin Hayes chaired the project in 1989, and John Fincher chaired in 1993 when 19 members evaluated in June; awards were made at the Chamber headquarters in July. In 1994, 14 members participated in landscape judging of 41 businesses, cooperatively with the Chamber of Commerce. Jim Collier was chair. In 1995 and 1996, Bob Hamilton was the club leader.

Jane Bagwell chaired in 1997 when 50 businesses were evaluated by 32

members. Tom Bartram again directed the project in 1998.

Bob Almond became the long time project leader and served for eight years, from 1999 to 2006. During those years, 35 to 40 properties were appraised each spring by Club

## 9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

members. Terrie Rourke led in 2007 and Frank Faulk for the next three years, with similar business and Club participation.

Over time, the program has progressed. The rating standards have been more closely defined and the title of the program has changed from “Judging” to “Landscape Evaluation” and all participants are considered winners. Before the mid 1990s, the evaluation sheet was quite arbitrary. It involved checking Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor for Selection and Care of Landscape Areas, of Foundation Plantings, Lawns, Fence Plantings and Trees. Then, one of the Club’s early female members, Virginia Scott, developed the current, and much more discriminatory appraisal form<sup>1</sup> which gives specified maximum points for broad areas of excellence: 20 points for Design (5 each for Plant Selection, Color, Originality of Design and Unity of Planting), 30 for Execution (10 each for Placement, Vigor and Mulch), 30 for Maintenance (10 each for Removal of Weeds, Litter, Dead or Sick Specimens), and 20 for Overall Impression (Eye Appeal). Member evaluators are encouraged to add comments, with emphasis on encouragement and positive suggestions. The result is a more definitive report on how the property appears to the average discriminating citizen—perhaps a customer or client. Annual participation has increased to a range of fifty to sixty properties considered each spring. Outstanding properties are selected in a number of categories defined by business type and size. Plaques are now presented not just to the highest point participants, but to all participants.

*Spartanburg Herald-Journal*  
June 16, 1998

### **When businesses take time to beautify, the entire community reaps the benefits**

By Phillip Caston

Each year, a number of Spartanburg County businesses strive to beautify the landscape surrounding their buildings by creating gardens, building fountains and planting trees.

When Spring arrives, they reap the benefit of what they have sowed.

For some, the benefits include recognition of their efforts by the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

For the past 26 years, the two groups have sponsored a beautification contest open to all Spartanburg County businesses.

The contest really benefits the community,” said Cindy Beacham, the chamber’s vice president of community relations. “We recognize businesses doing whatever they can do to make the city beautiful.”

Members of the Men’s Garden Club travel around Spartanburg County in groups of two visiting each of the contestants. They judge each entry on such aspects as vigor of plants, color of the plants, quality of the mulch and the landscape design, said George Gunter, president of the Men’s Garden Club.

(This article went on to announce these first place “winners”: Industry A and B – Kohler Co. and Zima/Kusters, Commercial – West Gate Mall, Professional – Henson Law Firm, Public Service A and B – Converse College and Spartanburg County Library, and Apartments/Hotels/Motels – Hunt Club Apartments.)

<sup>1</sup> A copy of this currently used evaluation form is shown in Appendix 26.

## 9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Many participating Companies have enthusiastically supported the evaluation program, including large operations like Milliken, the regional airport, Kohler, and non-profits such as First Presbyterian Church and Wofford College. Additionally, local motels, physician



offices, libraries, small businesses have received awards. Many Men's Garden Club members led and participated in the project.

Cyndi Beacham had been an active leader in the Chamber but is now Director of Promotion for the Charles Lea Center. "In the late 1990s or early 2000s it became evident that a few organizations were dominating the 'winners' each year— Milliken, GSP Airport. To generate more 'competition' they were given 'Lifetime Achievement Awards'; this allowed other organizations to be more properly recognized," said Beacham in an interview in 2008. She pointed out that even with this change, Milliken continued to respond to the Chamber's annual request for sign-ups with a request for evaluation because, "We can always improve!"

Beacham emphasized that the basic reason for the project was for owners to get suggestions and insight from "non-professional" gardeners and landscapers on how their property looked to the general public, and how it might be improved. Constructive comments were always the objective of the Club's evaluators. She pointed out that Kurt Zimmerli was an early supporter and participant (just as he was an early corporate member of the Club) and that it was common for him to join his grounds keeper, Ted Petoskey, at each Recognition Ceremony. Over the years, it has become much more common for the professional landscape maintenance contractors to attend the ceremony.

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Surely, this cooperative program of the Men's Garden Club and the Chamber, plus the Club's multiple and major street and highway tree plantings, have combined to have Spartanburg nationally recognized as one of the most beautiful cities in the country! A recent example of this recognition was by a member of the Men's Garden Clubs of America who attended that organization's national convention here in Spartanburg in 2006. He was so impressed by the enhancements in this community that, two years later, he was instrumental in bringing some 150 young members of the National Junior Horticultural Association here for their four-day national convention.